

1612

First observation of Neptune - Galileo observes and records a "fixed star" without realizing it is a planet

1767

King Taksin is crowned King of Siam and establishes Thonburi as his capital



1860

Harriet Tubman arrives in Auburn, New York, on her last mission to free slaves, having evaded capture for eight years on the Underground Railroad

1908

Earthquake strikes Messina in Italy, killing nearly 80,000 people and causing widespread destruction and a devastating tsunami in the Strait of Messina

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TWEETS

01



Resilient communities are fundamental to preventing, and responding to, epidemics and pandemics. When communities are protected, we are all protected. Let's stop epidemics in their tracks.

@antonioguterres

02



As we remember Saint Stephen, the first Martyr, we seek his intercession for strengthening our faith and supporting the communities that suffer most for their Christian witness. May his example of humility, courage and forgiveness accompany those who, in situations of conflict, are committed to promoting dialogue, reconciliation and peace.

@Pontifex

03



Today I met with Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif (@CMShehbaz) in Islamabad to discuss opportunities to strengthen the historical and longstanding ties between our nations and peoples.

@MohamedBinZayed

04



Evidence-based scientific innovation is driving better health outcomes around the world. New medicines and vaccines are saving lives from diseases once thought to be among the most daunting.

@DrTedros

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

US strikes targeted IS militants, Lakurawa jihadists, Nigeria says

Exact targets of the strikes had been unclear



Residents and a motorcyclist move between destroyed structures in Offa

● **Islamic State Sahel Province group is active in neighbouring Niger**

● **It was unclear who among those targeted were killed**

AFP | Abuja, Nigeria

US strikes in Nigeria this week targeted Islamic State militants from the Sahel who were in the country to work with the Lakurawa jihadist group and "bandit" gangs, a spokesman for the Nigerian president told AFP yesterday.

The exact targets of the strikes, launched overnight Thursday into Friday, had been unclear.

Washington and Abuja previously said they targeted IS-

linked militants, without providing details on which of Nigeria's myriad armed groups were attacked.

"ISIS, Lakurawa and bandits were targeted," Daniel Bwala, a spokesman for President Bola Tinubu, told AFP on Saturday. "ISIS found their way through the Sahel to go and assist the Lakurawa and the bandits with supplies and with training," he said.

The Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) group is active in neighbouring Niger, as well as Burkina Faso and Mali, where it is fighting a bloody insurgency against the governments of those countries.

While Nigeria has long battled its own, separate jihadist conflict, analysts have been worried about the spread of armed groups from the Sahel into the west African country.

"The strike was conducted at a location where, historically,

you have the bandits and the Lakurawa parading around that axis," Bwala said.

"The intelligence the US government gathered, also, is that there is a mass movement of ISIS from the Sahel to that part."

There were casualties, but it was unclear who among those targeted were killed, Bwala added.

The site of the strikes -- in Nigeria's northwest state of Sokoto -- has puzzled analysts, since Nigeria's jihadist insurgency is mostly concentrated in the northeast.

Researchers have recently linked some members of the armed group known as Lakurawa -- the main jihadist group located in Sokoto State -- to the ISSP. Other analysts have disputed those links, however, and research on Lakurawa is complicated as the term has been used to describe various armed fighters in the northwest.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The NAS model of inter-ministry co-operation



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

In the critical minutes following a tomedical emergency, the boundary between tragedy and recovery is often measured by the speed and precision of a system. For decades, Bahrain's emergency response relied on a decentralized network of hospital-based fleets. However, the maturation of the National Ambulance Service (NAS)—a flagship collaboration between the Ministry of Interior (MOI) and the Ministry of Health (MOH)—has redefined the Kingdom's commitment to public health and safety, positioning it as a regional leader in pre-hospital care.

The genius of the NAS lies in its structural synergy. By placing the National Ambulance Centre under the operational command of the MOI while maintaining the clinical standards of the MOH, Bahrain has effectively bridged the gap between security and healthcare. This unified command, accessible through the 999 emergency line, eliminates the confusion of the past. It ensures that whether a call originates from a bustling Manama street or a quiet suburb in the Southern Governorate, the response is governed by a singular, high-stand-ard protocol.

The progress witnessed by late 2025 is a testament to this vision. The expansion toward 21 strategically placed centers ensures that life-saving intervention is never more than a few minutes away. Perhaps the most innovative leap in recent months has been the deployment of motorcycle first-responder units. By bypassing the gridlock of urban traffic to deliver immediate stabilization for cardiac or trauma patients, the NAS has demonstrated an agile, "patient-first" philosophy that transcends traditional logistics.

Furthermore, the integration of real-time electronic data sharing between ambulances and major institutions like Salmaniya Medical Complex and the BDF Hospital ensures that emergency departments are prepared before the wheels even stop. No longer is an ambulance merely a transport vehicle; it is a mobile intensive care unit.

As we look toward the goals of Bahrain's Vision 2030, the NAS stands as a blueprint for inter-ministerial success. It proves that when the state's security apparatus and healthcare experts align their goals, the result is a safer, more resilient society.

(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)

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Gaza hospital says receives fuel but only for about two days

AFP | Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories

A major Gaza hospital that had suspended several services due to diesel shortages said it resumed some operations on Friday after receiving fuel but warned the supplies would only last about two days.

Ravaged by more than two years of war, the Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza's Nuseirat district cares for around 60 in-patients and receives nearly 1,000 people seeking medical treatment each day.



A displaced Palestinian boy squats holding a water container in the Khan Yunis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip

Earlier Friday, a senior official involved in managing the hospital, Ahmed Mehanna, said "most services have been temporarily stopped due to a shortage of the fuel needed for the generators".

"Only essential departments remain operational: the emergency unit, maternity ward and paediatrics," he had told AFP, adding that the hospital rented a small generator to keep those services running.

He had warned that a prolonged fuel shortage "would pose a direct threat to the hos-

pital's ability to deliver basic services".

Under normal conditions, Al-Awda Hospital consumes between 1,000 and 1,200 litres of diesel per day, but it only had some 800 litres available.

Later Friday, Mehanna said that "this evening, 2,500 litres of fuel arrived from the World Health Organisation, and we immediately resumed operations." "This quantity of fuel will last only two and a half days, but we have been promised an additional delivery next Sunday."