

20 missiles and 23 drones shot down within 24 hours

TDT | Manama

The National Communication Centre confirmed that, according to the latest updates from the General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force, 20 missiles and 23 drones were intercepted and destroyed within the last 24 hours.

This brings the total number of missiles and drones that have been intercepted and destroyed since the onset of these flagrant attacks to 174 missiles and 385 drones — all directed against the security and safety of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The National Communication Centre reaffirmed the importance of adhering to guidance issued by the authorities, to verify information before sharing it, and to rely exclusively on official sources.

Refraining from spreading rumours or unverified content strengthens national awareness and solidarity in the face of Iran's treacherous aggression.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior announced that Civil Defence teams had controlled a fire that broke out at a facility targeted by an Iranian attack.

Bahrain bans use of drones

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior announced a complete ban on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), regardless of purpose, effective from yesterday until further notice. The measure comes as part of efforts to safeguard national security and enhance civil protection, following the repercussions of the recent Iranian attacks on the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ministry stated that any drone found in violation of the ban will be intercepted and destroyed, and legal action will be taken against those who breach the restriction.

Economy stable

MP Al Salloom: Bahrain's financial systems stay strong, thanks to long-term fiscal planning

● **Businesses, services operational despite regional tensions**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's economy has maintained its stability despite regional tensions and recent Iranian attacks on the Kingdom, MP Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said.

He added that services continue to operate, markets are still trading, and public agencies are performing their duties, reflecting the resilience of the country's economic system.

Al Salloom said years of work on Bahrain's economic and fiscal base had left the kingdom able to face outside pressure without throwing daily life off course or stopping business.

Challenges

"Financial stability is not measured only by the absence of challenges," he said. "It is measured by the state's ability to manage these challenges without upsetting its overall balance, disrupting people's interests or bringing economic activity to a halt."

He said Bahrain went into the current spell with strong institutions, up-to-date laws, a well-rooted banking and finance sector, and government policy built on fiscal discipline and long-range planning.

That, he said, had helped keep sectors open, services going and markets moving.

"What was achieved over the




The Kingdom's economic and financial base had been built over many years to support growth in calmer times and shield the economy in harder ones

MP AHMED AL SALLOOM

past years was not a temporary response," he said. "It was a real foundation for an economy able to face challenges and deal with regional and international shifts with confidence and calm."

Al Salloom said the Kingdom's economic and financial base had been built over many years to support growth in calmer times and shield the economy in harder ones.

Base

He said that base was wider than buildings and projects, covering laws, banking systems, oversight, fiscal policy, digital services, the investment climate, the speed of government work and the ability to take decisions



at the right time. "That is what gives the economy real strength," he said.

He said Bahrain's ability to absorb shocks also came from past experience in dealing with hard periods, adding that the current response did not begin from scratch.

Instead, he said, it drew on an administrative and economic system used to keeping things steady and stopping outside pressure from spilling into life at home.

Policy

On investor confidence, Al Salloom said government policy had helped by keeping fiscal order while still backing growth and key sectors.

Investors, he said, look first for stability, clear direction, quick procedures, working in-

stitutions and a state that is able to deal with pressure without disorder.

"When the investor sees that the state is working, that services are continuing, that institutions are doing their job and that economic life is not stopping, that sends a strong message of reassurance to the market," he said. He said easier procedures, quicker services and clearer laws had also helped build trust in Bahrain's market, while co-operation between the public and private sectors had given the economy extra room to keep going through a hard spell.

Partner The private sector, he said, had shown itself to be "a real partner in development".

Al Salloom said Bahrain's ability to recover quickly rested on clear direction from the leader-

ship, strong institutions, a fairly varied economic base and digital readiness.

He said the kingdom had spread activity across finance, logistics, tourism, trade and the digital economy, which helped it cope when pressure hit one part of the market.

Trust

The lawmaker also pointed to public and investor trust as one of the main supports, saying such trust had grown from steady institutional work, legal stability and clear policy over time.

"We look at Bahrain's economy with reassurance," he said, "not because there are no challenges, but because the foundations of strength and resilience in it are firm and clear."

Strategic arrival

US amphibious ship arrives in Middle East

Agencies | Washington

The USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault vessel carrying thousands of expeditionary

forces, has arrived in the Middle East, US Central Command said yesterday.

"US Sailors and Marines aboard USS Tripoli (LHA 7) arrived in the US Central Com-

mand area of responsibility, March 27," CENTCOM said in a statement.

The USS Tripoli serves as the flagship for an expeditionary force of about 3,500 sailors and

Marines, along with transport and strike fighter aircraft and amphibious and tactical assets, the command said.

Along with the elements from the 31st Marine Expeditionary

Unit that are aboard, the USS Tripoli are based in Japan. They were conducting exercises in the area around Taiwan when the order came to deploy to the Middle East almost two weeks ago.

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Strict timeline

Employees face 30-day limit to file unfair dismissal compensation

● Some companies lay off staff to cut financial strain

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Workers who believe they were unfairly dismissed have little time to act, with Bahrain's Labour Law giving them 30 days from the end of the contract to seek compensation, lawyer Jassim Al Issa said.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Al Issa said the point had taken on new weight after the recent attacks, when some firms let staff go on the grounds of cutting costs or cutting staff needs while work was being done from home.

"Some companies dismissed workers to cut financial strain, and others said they no longer needed staff because work was being done remotely," he said. "That made it necessary for us, as lawyers, to make clear to workers dismissed without



If the dispute is referred to the authority, then the claim must be brought within three months from the end of the proceedings before it

JASSIM AL ISSA, LAWYER



"If the dispute is referred to the authority, then the claim must be brought within three months from the end of the proceedings before it."

He also said an employer cannot wait until late in the case to raise every defence.

The plea that the worker's right to compensation has lapsed through time is not treated as a matter of public order, he said, so the employer must raise it during the labour case management stage.

Plea That plea cannot be raised for the first time after the case management stage before the High Labour Court has ended, he said, citing Article 132 of Labour Law No. 36 of 2012 for the private sector.

"Neither side in a labour case may submit new requests, or raise a plea or defence not already raised before the case management judge, unless it relates to public order," Al Issa said.

His remarks come as dismissed workers seek clear answers on how long they have to challenge an unlawful end to their employment.

lawful cause that they can ask for compensation for unlawful termination."

He said that right does not stay open for long.

Right

Under Article 135 of the Labour Law, a worker loses the right to claim compensation for unlawful dismissal if 30 days pass from the date of dismissal or the end of the contract without a case being filed.

There is one route that stops

that time limit.

Al Issa said that if both sides agree to refer the dispute to the Individual Labour Disputes Settlement Authority within those 30 days, the worker can then bring the case within three months from the end of the authority's proceedings.

Compensation

"The worker must be careful to file the claim for compensation for unlawful termination within 30 days from the date the contract ends," he said.

Young Bahraini dies in Saudi road accident



TDT | Manama

A fatal ending on the road

A tragic traffic accident early yesterday morning in Saudi Arabia claimed the life of a young Bahraini man and left five others with varying injuries while they were traveling to Mecca to perform Umrah.

According to initial reports, the accident occurred suddenly, resulting in the death of 23-year-old Khalil Ibrahim Ali at the scene.

The injured were immediately transported to a nearby hospital, where medical teams

are currently assessing their conditions. Authorities and fam-

ilies remain anxious about the severity of their injuries.

Al-Ayyam has learned that the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Saudi Arabia has launched urgent measures to monitor the condition of the injured and provide assistance.

The embassy is also coordinating the necessary arrangements to repatriate the body of the deceased so that he may be laid to rest among his family and loved ones in Bahrain.

Digital consent bill

Hasan Barakat

TDT | Maama

No one will be required to go digital without consent

under a new legislative proposal heading to Parliament, as Bahrain moves to strengthen trust in electronic services while preserving individual choice.

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Smooth voting process

Steady flow of business owners casts votes with ease and clarity at Bahrain International Exhibition Centre

● BCCI holds election

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

By early morning yesterday, the halls of the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre were already filled for Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 31st Board of Directors elections.

Business owners arrived steadily, some alone, others in groups, all moving with a shared purpose.

From the first step inside, the path was clear.

Signs, staff and quiet direction guided each voter forward, removing the hesitation that had defined parts of past elections.

Flow

The journey began at the main entrance, where voters were directed towards registration counters designed to minimise waiting.

Within minutes, names were checked, identities confirmed, and participation cards issued.

From there, movement continued naturally. A short wait, then into the voting hall.

No crowding, no confusion. Just a steady rhythm of people entering, voting and exiting.

Behind that simplicity was careful planning. Separate entry and exit points ensured movement never crossed.

Candidates remained in their designated areas, while voters followed a defined path from start to finish.

Trust

Inside the hall, the process felt visible.

Large screens displayed the proceedings, reinforcing a sense of transparency.

Election committee members monitored each step, while voters moved quietly between booths, marking their choices with focus.

It was not just about casting a vote. It was about confidence in how that vote was handled.

Voices

Across the day, one message was repeated in different words. In a special interview with The Daily Tribune, candidate



Voting made easy with clear guidance and setup



Sawsan Abualhassan Mohamed



Bob Thaker



Sonya Mohamed Janahi

Sawsan Abualhassan Mohamed described the day as important for both the Chamber and the private sector, calling on everyone to support the economy amid ongoing challenges.

She pointed to the strong turnout and praised the organisation.

Candidate Sonya Mohamed Janahi highlighted the diversity of participation, noting that

businesses of all sizes were present.

She described the turnout as a sign of trust in the Chamber despite a challenging economic year.

Bob Thaker described the day as historic, urging wider participation and stressing the importance of voting under current global and regional conditions.

He noted the smooth organisation and the ease of the process.

Shift

The race itself saw a quiet change. Candidate Dunia Fakhrawi withdrew, bringing the number of candidates down to 26, including 8 independents, while the "Estedama" bloc continued with 18 candidates.



Yet inside the hall, the focus did not shift. The process moved forward with the same steady pace, unchanged by the numbers.

Meaning

The significance of the day extended beyond figures or procedures.

For many, it was a brief pause from work, a step away from daily responsibilities, to take part in shaping what comes next. Conversations were short, movements were quick, but the intent was clear.

This was not just participation. It was belief.

Details

Voting took place yesterday, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre in Sakhir.

Ballots were cast through direct secret voting under the supervision of the Election Committee, with results to be announced after counting.

Members were required to settle their dues in advance and vote in person, selecting up to 18 candidates.

Future

By the time voters stepped out, the experience felt simple.

Walk in, follow the path, cast the vote, and leave.

But in those few minutes, between entry and exit, many felt they had done more than vote. They had taken part in shaping what comes next.

Ballots and brotherhood



Members of the Dawoodi Bohra community in Bahrain pose for a photo with officials after participating in the election at Bahrain Chamber yesterday.

Man acquitted of obstructing enforcement proceedings

● Insufficient evidence

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Second Lower Criminal Court has acquitted a man in his forties of charges of obstructing enforcement proceedings with the intent to evade compliance, as well as deliberately concealing part of his assets for the same purpose, citing insufficient evidence.

During the trial, defense lawyer Hameed Al-Sammak requested his client's acquittal



Hameed Al-Sammak, lawyer

and, alternatively, argued for the dismissal of the case after the disputed amounts were deposited into the enforcement file.

The defense maintained that the legal elements of the offense were not established and that the evidence presented was weak.

Certainty

In its reasoning, the court stated that after thoroughly examining the case and considering all its circumstances, it found that the prosecution's evidence was surrounded by doubt and uncertainty, falling short of the level of certainty required for a criminal conviction.

The court further noted that the case file lacked any conclusive material evidence proving

that the defendant intentionally obstructed enforcement proceedings or concealed assets.

It emphasized that the case relied merely on presumptions and suspicions, which do not amount to decisive proof sufficient for conviction.

Disclosure

Additionally, the court highlighted that the defendant had opened an enforcement file and submitted a disclosure form listing his assets, including a vehicle. He later stated that he had sold the vehicle at a time when no seizure order had been issued against it.

No expat hires since 2019

● Bahrainisation boost

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Education said it has not hired any non-Bahraini staff since 2019, citing a Bahrainisation scheme under which expatriate staff are being replaced in stages and their contracts ended over time. In its reply to remarks in the National Audit Office's 2024-2025 annual report, the ministry also defended spending above budget.

It said it provides core public services and cannot delay spending when there is a shortfall or urgent need in teaching services or classroom provision.

Spending

It added that teacher hiring had also pushed spending beyond the amount first allocated.

The ministry said many older computers were not repaired

because they had reached the end of their working life. It said it had already secured approval from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to replace them with new machines.

It also said it had carried out the recommendation on counting electronic assets.

According to the ministry, it already uses a dedicated system to record all assets, and electronic assets are now counted separately from other items.

Cloud

On its digital systems, the ministry said it was among the first state bodies to move towards cloud storage.

It added that it has a specialist unit that tracks risk in coordination with the Information & eGovernment Authority.

Recent tests, it said, showed the systems were ready for heavy use, with figures indicating that about 83 per cent of students across Bahrain could use the platform at the same time.

Manual waste bag distribution

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Residents left standing in front of unresponsive machines, unsure if they will return home with what they need, may soon see relief.

A municipal proposal calls for manually distributing waste bags following a technical fault in the "Sahl" system. Authorities are urged to temporarily open municipal offices for in person collection.

Firm rejection

Services Committee declines support 'in principle' for three pension, retirement amendments

● Shura Council to discuss reform proposals today

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council is set to discuss three draft laws during its 24th session of the fourth term in the sixth legislative chapter today, with a focus on proposed amendments to pension and retirement regulations across government, military, and private sectors.

At the center of deliberations are amendments to Article (87) of Law No. (13) of 1975 on government pensions and retirement bonuses, Article (41) of the Military Retirement Law under Decree-Law No. (11) of 1976, and Article (90) of the Social Insurance Law under Decree-Law No. (24) of 1976.

All proposals were submitted by the Council of Representatives.

After reviewing the drafts, the Services Committee stated it does not support the three laws in principle.

Framework

It underscored the importance of assessing the proposals within the broader legislative



framework jointly adopted by the executive and legislative authorities in recent years to reform pension and social insurance systems.

Ongoing reforms seek to recalibrate retirement benefits and obligations, ensuring financial sustainability, optimizing expenditures, and preserving the system's ability to meet both current and future commitments.

Concerns were raised that the proposed amendments, which aim to increase marriage grants for certain eligible groups, run counter to these reform objectives.

Measures

Such measures were seen as inconsistent with the core principles underpinning earlier reforms.

Adopting the proposals, the committee noted, would represent a departure from the established legislative direction aimed at balancing benefits and obligations within a comprehensive reform strategy.

It further stressed that any increase in pension or retirement benefits must be supported by sound financial and actuarial analysis, clearly demonstrating the impact on the fund's financial position and its capacity to absorb additional commitments without jeopardizing existing and future obligations.

However, the draft laws were found to lack the necessary financial assessments and technical studies, leaving them insufficient for informed legislative consideration.

Furthermore, the committee highlighted that pension and



The Services Committee said that pension and social insurance legislation requires stability, as its effects are long-term and cannot be measured by immediate results.

social insurance legislation requires stability, as its effects are long-term and cannot be measured by immediate results.

Amendments

Frequent amendments before evaluating the impact of previous changes would undermine financial and actuarial balances.

Any legislative change must consider the fund's financial capacity, especially given its current actuarial deficit, as imposing new obligations at this stage could threaten financial sustainability.

Rainwater floods Isa Town houses



Mohammed Darraj



Mubarak Faraj

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 40 complaints were reported after rainwater entered homes in parts of Isa Town, prompting criticism from members of the Southern Municipal Council.

They said poor coordination between the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and the Ministry of Works had slowed the response.

The Southern Municipality said its 20 tankers were being sent out by need, priority and the amount of rainfall.

The complaints came from the second constituency in Isa Town, covering blocks 809, 812, 813, 814, 840 and 841, where council member Mubarak Faraj said residents had spent the past week dealing with water around their homes.

Response

"I contacted those responsible at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs, but I found

no response from the departments concerned, and they do not answer calls," Faraj told The Daily Tribune. "The suction vehicles are not there, and we keep chasing staff to speed up the pumping out."

He said the problem was plain during Eid Al Fitr, when even the usual contact chain for municipal staff did not answer during the rain.

Mohammed Darraj said the problem did not stop with teams on the ground.

He said tanker supply contracts also needed to be reviewed, and argued that firms hired to provide tankers were not being held to the terms of their agreements as they should be.

"It is not right for there to be long-term contracts for dealing with pools of water during the rainy period," Darraj told The Daily Tribune.

"The contracts ought to be short-term, so that if a contractor fails to provide the required tankers, it can be replaced by another."

Waste bag delays prompt call for manual distribution

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Residents left standing in front of unresponsive ma-

chines, unsure if they will return home with what they need, may soon see relief.

A municipal proposal calls for manually distributing waste

bags following a technical fault in the "Sahl" system.

Authorities are urged to temporarily open municipal offices for in person collection.

CBSE introduces revised Class 12 evaluation for West Asia students

● Some parents raise 'concerns'

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

CBSE has introduced a special assessment scheme for Class 12 students after board exams were disrupted by the ongoing regional conflict, affecting students across the UAE, Iran, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Under the revised framework, students who have already appeared for their examinations will have their results based on their actual performance.

For subjects where examinations were not conducted, CBSE will follow an alternative evaluation system.

In 70 or 80-mark theory subjects, schools will submit scores from quarterly, half-yearly and pre-board exams, with the highest of the three taken for the final result.

For 60, 50 or 30-mark theory subjects, the final pre-board examination score will be considered.

Compartment candidates will also be eligible for supplementary exams expected in July.

Parents

Although the move provides clarity and reassurance for students and parents, some have raised concerns about its im-



Dr. K. Gopinath Menon



Monika Sethi

pact on further education.

Sangeeta, parent of a Class XII CBSE student said, "Although my son's provisional admission for further studies is done, final admission and any scholarship or fee waiver depend on board scores, and school assessments are often tougher than the actual board exams".

Another parent, Rashmi, added, "This may be the best possible solution for now, but I feel my daughter could have scored a few percentages more had she been able to sit for the exam."

Schools

School leaders however have described this as the best possible solution under these extraordinary circumstances.

Speaking with The Daily Tribune, Mrs Monika Sethi, Principal/ Head teacher, CBSE Curriculum, Al Noor International School said, "With limited time before universi-

ty applications close in India and abroad, CBSE's flexible and practical decision ensures students are fairly assessed without losing an academic year, making it a win-win situation."

She further added, "Although students usually put in extra effort towards the end of the year, preparation for Grade 12 now begins in Grade 11 in most schools. This is one such year where whatever students have done throughout the year is going to be put to the test. We cannot say such circumstances will not arise again. It is a lesson for all of us, including parents, students and all stakeholders that consistent performance throughout the year matters."

Dr. K. Gopinath Menon, Principal of New Indian School, said, "It is a fair assessment policy given the situation, though subjective to students' performance in pre-board and other assessments."

NOTICE

With regard to Masheed Captive Insurance Company B.S.C Closed (CR No. 72623- 1) (Ceasing the provision of all Services Regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain)

Pursuant to the provisions of Article (50) of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. (64) of 2006 as amended, **Masheed Captive Insurance Company B.S.C Closed, registered under C.R. No. 72623-1, a Masheed Captive Insurance Company B.S.C Closed** licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain, hereby declares its intention to cease providing all services regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain.

Written representations regarding the aforementioned cessation must be submitted to the General Director of Capital Markets & Investment Supervision at the Central Bank of Bahrain within 30 days from the date of publishing this notice to the following address:

Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Haji
General Director
Capital Markets & Investment Supervision
Central Bank of Bahrain
P.O. Box: 27, Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: 17547606/ 17547605, Fax: 17530399



BCCI polls mark key milestone for private sector, says Minister

Minister of Industry and Commerce Reviews Progress of the BCCI's 31st Term Elections

- Minister commended the successful organization of the Bahrain Chamber elections under the current exceptional circumstances

- His Excellency commended the smooth organization of the electoral process

Manama

H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, visited the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) election headquarters to review



the progress of voting for the Chamber's 31st Board of Directors term, at the Bahrain International Exhibition Center in Sakhir, in the presence of officials.

The Minister highlighted the Chamber's pivotal role in its strategic partnership with the government and its contribu-

tions to strengthening the national economy and advancing Bahrain's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and under the guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

On this occasion, His Excel-



lency the Minister commended the successful organization of the Bahrain Chamber elections under the current exceptional circumstances, praising the significant participation of the business community, which contributed to the success of this process for the benefit of Bahrain first and

foremost.

He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to those responsible for organizing the electoral process and their professional work.

He described the elections as a key milestone for private sector institutional work, reflecting the business community's sense of

responsibility and commitment to enhancing the economic environment and competitiveness.

His Excellency commended the smooth organization of the electoral process and the efforts of the supervisory committee and relevant entities in ensuring efficient procedures, underscoring Bahrain's high standards in managing institutional processes.

During the visit, the Minister met with candidates and reviewed their key programs, emphasizing the importance of initiatives that support business sector growth and development.

He concluded by wishing all candidates success, noting that their participation reflects a spirit of positive competition and collaboration in support of Bahrain's economic progress and development.

India Union Minister Piyush Goyal Unveils Malabar Gold & Diamonds' USD 24 Million CSR Initiative for FY 2026-27

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's fifth-largest retail jewellery group and a responsible jewellery brand, has today announced their CSR initiatives worth USD 24 Million for the financial year 2026-27 held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi in the presence of Shri Piyush Goyal, India Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.

At the CSR initiative, the Union Minister inaugurated the distribution of educational scholarships for 33,000 female students across India. The event was attended by Malabar Group Chairman Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Malabar Gold & Diamonds Managing Director - India Operations Mr. O. Asher, Malabar Group Executive Directors Mr. Nishad A.K. and Mr. Abdulla Ibrahim, Kerala House Resident Commissioner Mr. Puneet Kumar, IAS, Pratham CEO Ms. Rukmini Banerji, and Thanal Chairman Dr. Idris, among others.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal stated that the initiatives of the Malabar Charitable Trust align closely with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of empowering India's daughters through programs like Beti



Bachao, Beti Padhao.

He added that "Malabar Gold & Diamonds' decision to allocate USD 24 Million towards CSR will further strengthen the nation's progress," emphasizing that India's growth is rooted in the empowerment of its people - especially women and girls and appreciating the company's efforts in driving meaningful change through education."

"He also encouraged students and young citizens to dream big, aspire beyond limitations, and seize the vast opportunities India offers, urging them to contribute actively to the nation's

growth story"

Malabar Group, Chairman, Mr. M.P. Ahammad highlighted "Human resource development is the backbone of national growth. He noted that nurturing talent through quality education is essential, and that the scholarship programme enables students to achieve academic success and contribute to the country's development. He added that the group remains committed to creating sustainable, long-term societal impact through significant CSR investments."

During 2026-27, CSR projects worth USD 24 Million will be

implemented across more than 3,000 locations in 19 states in India, covering 15 major initiatives. These programmes are expected to benefit over 200,000 people.

A significant focus is on education with USD 14 Million allocated to initiatives such as micro-learning centres for street children and national scholarship programmes for girls. USD 3.6 Million has been earmarked for food distribution under the Hunger Free World project, and USD 1.7 Million for healthcare initiatives. Housing projects, including the 'Grandma Home' initiative for destitute mothers, will

receive 3 Million. Additionally, 0.82 Million will be allocated for other humanitarian activities and USD 1.2 Million for environmental protection.

As part of the Malabar Group's 33rd anniversary, scholarships will be awarded this year to 33,000 girl students from 284 districts across 18 states in India. Since its inception, the programme has benefited over 115,000 girls. All CSR initiatives are implemented through the Malabar Charitable Trust.

For the rehabilitation of street children, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has established 1,543 micro-learning centres across

17 states in partnership with Pratham Education Foundation, one of India's largest NGOs. The number of centres will be increased to 2,500 this year, with student enrolment expected to grow from over 64,000 to 100,000.

Under the Hunger Free World project, nutritious meals are provided daily to 115,000 people across India, Zambia, and Ethiopia. Other CSR initiatives include the 'Grandma Home' project, which provides free accommodation and care for destitute women, and Malabar-Thanal pharmacies that offer medicines at subsidized rates to the underprivileged.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds' operations are guided by ESG principles. Since its inception, the company has allocated 5% of its net trading profit towards CSR activities. These initiatives focus on women empowerment, healthcare, education, housing, hunger eradication and environmental protection, in collaboration with NGOs such as Pratham and Thanal.

These efforts have already brought positive change to the lives of over 1.8 million people across India.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

UNLESS ONE LIVES AND LOVES IN THE TRENCHES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER THAT THE WAR AGAINST DEHUMANIZATION IS CEASELESS
AUDRE LORDE

Iran military says targeted US vessel near Oman port
Tehran, Iran

Iran's military said yesterday that it had targeted a US logistics vessel near the Omani port of Salalah. "A logistics vessel supporting the aggressive US army was targeted by the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at a considerable distance from the port of Salalah in Oman," Ebrahim Zolfaghari, a spokesman for Iran's central military command said in a statement carried by state TV.

Significant damage to Kuwait airport radar in drone attack: authorities
Kuwait City, Kuwait

The radar system at Kuwait's international airport was heavily damaged in a drone attack on Saturday, Kuwaiti authorities said. The attack on the tiny Gulf country caused no casualties, a civil aviation spokesperson told Kuwait's official news agency, but the radar system was badly damaged.

Kyiv denies UAE drone depot hit

Kyiv denied Iran's claim that Tehran had targeted and destroyed a Ukrainian anti-drone system depot in the United Arab Emirates, calling it a "lie" and a "disinformation". Iran's military said it had hit and destroyed the depot, which it said was used to assist US forces.

Indonesia says tankers to pass Hormuz

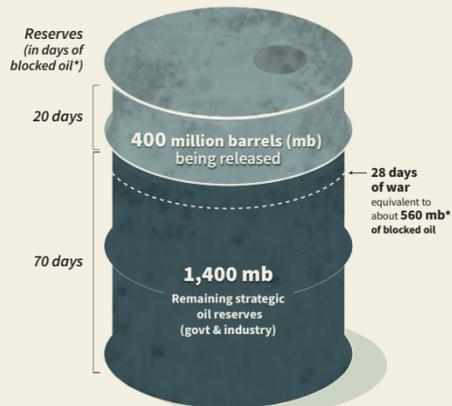
Indonesia is in talks with Iran to secure safe passage for its tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran responding favourably to Jakarta's diplomatic efforts, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Maersk halts Oman port ops

Danish shipping giant Maersk said operations had been temporarily halted at Oman's port of Salalah after a drone attack injured a foreign worker and damaged a crane. Maersk, whose subsidiary APM Terminals runs the port, said "it was immediately evacuated and operations across the facility were temporarily suspended", predicting it would remain closed for 48 hours. Iran said it had targeted a US logistics vessel "at a considerable distance from the port".

HOW MUCH OIL DO WE HAVE IN RESERVE?

How long would the strategic oil reserves of the 32-member countries of the IEA last, in terms of the oil blocked by the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz - where 20% of the world's oil normally passes?



Source: International Energy Agency *based on 20 mb/d of oil and oil products exported through the Strait of Hormuz in 2025 AFP



A speedboat move past as harbour tugboats and other vessels approach the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford at an anchor point off the Croatian coastal city of Split

Houthis enter war

The Houthis have in the past attacked shipping in the Red Sea in response to regional conflicts, but had so far not intervened in the latest war. "We affirm that our fingers are on the trigger for direct military intervention," the group said in a statement.



Israeli army soldiers stand next to a self-propelled Howitzer artillery gun positioned in the upper Galilee in northern Israel near the border with southern Lebanon

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Yemen's Houthis announced their entry into the Middle East war yesterday by launching a ballistic missile towards Israel, as the world struggled to contain the economic damage of a conflict now entering its second month. The intervention of Iran's Yemeni allies in Tehran's conflict with Israel and the United

States will spark concern about disruptions to Red Sea shipping, with trade from the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz already choked off. With Hormuz all but impassable, many shipments to and from the region go through the Omani port of Salalah, on the Arabian Sea, but Danish shipping giant Maersk said operations had been temporarily suspended there after a drone attack in-

jured one worker and damaged a crane. Pakistan, which has been a go-between between US and Iranian officials, is to host foreign ministers from regional powers Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt in Islamabad on Monday for talks on the crisis. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has thanked Islamabad "for its mediation efforts to stop the aggression", and Ger-

many's Foreign Minister Johann Wadepful had said on Friday that he expected a direct US-Iran meeting in Pakistan "very soon". US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said on Friday he believed Iran would hold talks with Washington within a week. "It could solve it all," he said. With no end to the conflict in sight despite Trump's optimism that US forces have oblit-

Iraq must not be drawn into 'escalation', Macron says
Paris, France

Every effort must be made to avoid Iraq being sucked up into an escalation of the Middle East war, French President Emmanuel Macron said Saturday after speaking with the head of the country's autonomous Kurdistan region. Macron posted his message on X after a deadly strike in northern Iraq against the former paramilitary group the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF). "Everything must be done to avoid Iraq being drawn into the current escalation," he said. The PMF -- now part of Iraq's army but which includes some pro-Iran factions -- said three of its fighters were killed in what it described as a US-Israeli attack. Iran's government fears armed Kurdish groups in northern Iraq could be sent in through its own Kurdish region.

erated Iran's military, a spokesman for the Houthis issued a video statement declaring that the group had launched ballistic missiles towards Israeli bases. A few hours earlier, the Israeli military had said it had "identified the launch of a missile from Yemen toward Israeli territory, aerial defence systems are operating to intercept the threat".

845

Paris is sacked by Viking raiders, probably under Ragnar Lodbrok, who collects a huge ransom in exchange for leaving

1516

Venice compels Jews to live in a specific area, establishing the first Jewish ghetto, in the city's the Cannaregio district.



1549 1901

The city of Salvador da Bahia, the first capital of Brazil, is founded

Edmund Barton is elected Prime Minister in Australia's first federal election

Iran conflict enters second month

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Gulf countries and Israel came under missile fire and Israeli forces struck Iran yesterday, as the war raged into its second month with Washington expressing hopes for progress in talks with Tehran. In a sign that the conflict may be expanding further, Israel's military said air defences responded to a missile launched from Yemen -- the first since the start of the war on February 28, and after threats from Iran's Houthi allies to launch attacks.

Emirati authorities said debris from a successful missile interception started fires at an Abu Dhabi industrial zone, injuring five Indian nationals. Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted a missile and several drones, and Bahrain said a blaze caused by the "Iranian aggression" had been brought under control.

In Israel, repeated air raid sirens sent people to shelters, including in Tel Aviv where one man was killed and two others wounded, and in the country's north, where media reported a simultaneous attack from Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

An Iranian missile and drone attack on the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia wounded at least 12 American soldiers, two of them seriously, according to The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, citing unidentified officials.

US President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff said Friday he believes Iran would hold talks with Washington "this week, we're certainly hopeful for it".

Trump reiterated his disappointment with NATO allies over their refusal to help secure the Strait of Hormuz, after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he had won G7 support to oppose Iran's attempts to impose a toll on the key sea lane for Gulf oil and gas exports.

Thailand on Saturday joined a handful of nations that have announced they were able to secure safe passage for their oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz in an agreement with Iran.

Rubio declared that Washington expects its military campaign to prove victorious within weeks.

Zelensky agrees air defence cooperation with UAE, Qatar

Agreement includes collaboration in technological fields



UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan (R) meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the United Arab Emirates.



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani receiving Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky at Lusail Palace in Doha

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Qatar and Ukraine signed a defence agreement yesterday which includes cooperation on countering threats from missiles and drones, the Gulf state's government said.

Earlier yesterday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky -- during a previously unannounced flurry of visits to Gulf nations -- said his country and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to cooperate on defence amid drones Iran launches in retaliation for US-Israeli strikes.

Ukraine also signed an air defence agreement with Saudi Arabia during Zelensky's visit to the kingdom, two senior officials told AFP on Friday.

"The agreement includes collaboration in technological fields, development of joint investments and the exchange of expertise in countering missiles and unmanned aerial systems," Qatar's defence ministry said in a statement during Zelensky's visit.

After meetings in Saudi Arabia on Thursday, Zelensky held talks in the UAE with Emirati President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Defence deals envisage '10-year cooperation', joint manufacturing: Zelensky

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that deals he signed with Gulf nations during a tour in the region envisaged a decade-long cooperation on defence, including on establishing joint production lines.

"We are talking about a 10-year cooperation. We have already signed a relevant

agreement with Saudi Arabia, we have just signed a similar agreement with Qatar, also for 10 years, we will sign one with the Emirates," Zelensky told reporters, including from AFP, at a briefing.

"Over these 10 years we will be engaged in co-production, building plants in both countries -- production lines in Ukraine as well as in these countries," he added.

"We agreed to cooperate in the field of security and defence. Our teams will finalise the details," Zelensky said on social media on Saturday.

"For all normal states, it is important to ensure stability and protect lives amid today's threats. Ukraine has relevant expertise in this area," he said.

Ukraine touts its anti-drone defences as the best in the world.

It has proposed swapping its interceptors for the vastly more expensive air-defence missiles that Gulf countries are using to down Iranian drones. Kyiv says it needs more of them to fend

off near-daily Russian missile attacks.

"Protection must be sufficient everywhere. That is why we are open to joint work that, in a strategic perspective, will certainly strengthen our peoples and the protection of life in our countries," Zelensky said on Saturday.

In the UAE, Zelensky met Ukrainian anti-drone experts, who "have been working here to help in protecting lives".

"Today, Ukraine not only needs assistance but is also ready to support those who support us," Zelensky said.

Pakistan to host Saudi, Turkey, Egypt for talks

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan's prime minister said he had a "detailed" call with Iran's president on Saturday, as foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey prepared to meet in Islamabad for talks on the war in the Middle East.

Shehbaz Sharif's government has emerged as a key facilitator between Iran and the United States as their war drags on, serving as an intermediary for messages between the two sides.

Top diplomats from Riyadh, Cairo and Ankara are due in the Pakistani capital Sunday and Monday for "in-depth discussions on a range of issues, including efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region", the Pakistan foreign



Tents sheltering people displaced by war are pictured near the destroyed Hassaina Mosque by the seaport in Gaza City

ministry said.

They will be hosted by their Pakistani counterpart, Ishaq Dar, and a meeting with Sharif is also planned, a statement read.

Egypt also confirmed the

talks. As part of preparations, Sharif said he had a "detailed" telephone conversation with my brother President Masoud Pezeshkian of Iran earlier today (Saturday), lasting over one hour".

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Managing the Digital Frontline in Wartime



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

In 2026, the fog of war is no longer confined to trenches, borders, or the distant echoes of artillery—it has permeated our screens, saturating the digital space we inhabit daily. From West Asia to Eastern Europe, modern conflicts are no longer fought solely with conventional weapons; they are waged simultaneously in the realm of information. Social media platforms have evolved into a critical theatre of "hybrid warfare," where narratives are crafted, manipulated, and deployed with precision to influence public perception and, at times, destabilize societies from within.

For the average user, the privilege of instant access to global developments carries with it an often-overlooked burden: the moral and civic responsibility to engage with information conscientiously. In this environment, every share, comment, or reaction can inadvertently contribute to the spread of misinformation, amplifying narratives that may serve strategic, rather than truthful, purposes.

One of the most pressing challenges we face today is what may be described as the "synthetic reality threshold." Advances in artificial intelligence have enabled the creation of sophisticated deepfakes—fabricated satellite imagery, convincingly altered videos, and entirely synthetic yet hyper-realistic scenes of destruction. These digital fabrications are no longer easily distinguishable from authentic reporting, even to the trained eye. In moments of heightened tension, emotionally charged content travels fastest, often bypassing the filters of verification and critical thought.

Yet, in times of conflict, speed is the adversary of accuracy. The instinct to immediately share breaking content must be replaced with a disciplined pause—an intentional moment of scrutiny. Responsible digital citizenship demands that we question the origin, credibility, and context of the information we encounter before engaging with it.

To effectively navigate this complex information landscape, a "multipolar" approach to verification is essential. Relying on a single platform, or a cluster of ideologically aligned sources, fosters echo chambers that reinforce existing biases and erode objective judgment. Instead, individuals must actively seek diverse perspectives, cross-reference information across credible outlets, and remain vigilant against the subtle influence of algorithm-driven content.

Ultimately, safeguarding the integrity of the digital space is a shared responsibility. While technology companies continue to grapple with the immense challenge of content moderation, the true power to de-escalate digital tension resides with users themselves. Awareness, restraint, and critical thinking are no longer optional—they are essential tools of modern citizenship in an era where information itself has become a weapon.

(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)

One of the most pressing challenges we face today is what may be described as the "synthetic reality threshold." Advances in artificial intelligence have enabled the creation of sophisticated deepfakes—fabricated satellite imagery, convincingly altered videos, and entirely synthetic yet hyper-realistic scenes of destruction.

India opens 2nd international airport in capital

Noida International Airport will serve 12 million passengers a year in its initial phase

● Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the airport

● Once fully operational, a flight would take off every two minutes

AFP | New Delhi, India

India opened a second international airport in the capital New Delhi yesterday, as part of the country's rapid push to expand its air industry.

The Noida International Airport is 75 kilometres (45 miles) from the city, and will serve 12 million passengers a year in its initial phase, with the potential to grow to as many as 70 million.

It will also handle cargo, with the capacity to increase operations over time.

India's rapidly growing economy, and its 1.4 billion people, has opened the door for the country to become the world's fourth-largest air market, including domestic and international travel.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) riding an escalator after the inauguration of the Noida International Airport in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh state.



India's Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu (front L), Prime Minister Narendra Modi (front 2L) and chief minister of Uttar Pradesh state Yogi Adityanath (front C) looking at a model



The number of airports in India has more than doubled in the past decade -- from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024, according to aviation ministry figures.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the airport, a greenfield project in Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, the country's

most populous state with estimated 243 million people.

Modi said he hoped the airport would become a gateway to the wider Delhi region, and once fully operational, a flight would take off every two minutes.

"The airport would boost economic activity in western Uttar Pradesh, creating oppor-

tunities for farmers, small businesses and young people," he said.

It will complement the existing Indira Gandhi International Airport, 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the centre.

"Together, the two airports will function as an integrated aviation system, easing congestion, expanding passenger

capacity, and positioning Delhi NCR (National Capital Region), among leading global aviation hubs," Modi's office said.

The development of the air industry sector has been a priority for Modi since he came to power in 2014, and launched a drive to boost air links between small towns and megacities.

India approves \$25 bn defence buys, including Russian missile systems

New Delhi, India

India has approved defence purchases worth about \$25 billion, the defence ministry said, including additional Russian-made S-400 long-range missile systems.

The approvals were given by the Defence Acquisition Council, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, according to a statement issued late on Friday.

The ministry said it has cleared 55 proposals worth 6.73 trillion rupees (\$71 billion) in the 2025-26 financial year so far.



replace old AN-32 and IL-76 planes, additional S-400 air defence systems, drones and upgrades to Su-30 fighter jet engines.

The S-400 system will "counter enemy long-range air" threats, while the "Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft", or armed drones, will be capable of both attack and surveillance, the statement said.

For the army, the council approved an air defence tracking system, armour-piercing tank ammunition, radios, artillery, and an aerial surveillance system for battlefield monitoring.

It has also signed capital procurement contracts worth 2.28 trillion rupees (\$25 billion), the highest in a single fiscal year.

For the air force, the approved items include new medium transport aircraft to

IMF reaches agreement to unlock \$1.2 billion for Pakistan

● The South Asian nation is one of the largest debtors to the IMF after Argentina and Ukraine.

Washington, United States

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced on Friday that it has reached a staff-level agreement with Pakistan to unlock a new \$1.2 billion package as part of its support programs for the country.

The IMF in a statement praised the Pakistani authori-

ties' commitment to "pursuing sound and prudent macroeconomic policies to preserve the recent gains in macro-financial stabilization, while deepening structural reforms to accelerate growth and strengthening social protection to mitigate the impact of volatile energy prices on the most vulnerable."

The disbursement is subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board.

The agreement, if approved, would give Pakistan access to \$1 billion under the Extended Fund Facility and around \$210 million under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility, it said.

US lifts sanctions on Venezuela minerals sector, including gold

Washington, United States

The US Treasury Department said Friday that it had lifted more sanctions against Venezuela's gold and other mineral industries, as it pushes for greater access to the South American country's vast natural resources.

Besides gold and the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela also produces diamonds, bauxite and rare earths such as coltan, crucial for a range of high-tech products.

Sweet heist? Nestle says 12 tonnes of KitKat stolen

AFP | Geneva, Switzerland

A huge shipment of Nestle's crunchy KitKat chocolate bars was stolen in Europe, the brand said, warning that the heist risked causing shortages in stores right before Easter.

KitKat, owned by Swiss food giant Nestle, confirmed in a statement sent to AFP on Saturday that "a truck transporting 413,793 units of its new chocolate range has been stolen during transit in Europe".

The shipment, weighing



around 12 tonnes, disappeared last week while heading between production and distribution locations, it said.

"We've always encouraged people to have a break with KitKat," a spokesperson for the brand said, referring to its catchphrase.

"But it seems thieves have taken the message too literally and made a break with more than 12 tonnes of our chocolate."

The brand warned that "the theft may lead to a shortage of KitKats appearing on shelf", ac-

knowledging that "consumers, unfortunately, may struggle to find their favourite chocolates ahead of Easter".

The stolen truck had left central Italy and was making its way to Poland, with a plan to distribute the bars in countries along the way.

KitKat did not say where specifically the goods had gone missing, but said "the vehicle and its contents remain unaccounted for".

"Investigations are ongoing in close collaboration with lo-

cal authorities and supply chain partners," it said.

KitKat warned that the missing chocolate bars "could enter unofficial sales channels across European markets".

It said it was possible to trace the stolen goods by scanning the unique batch codes found on each bar.

"If a match is found, the scanner will be given clear instructions on how to alert KitKat who will then share the evidence appropriately," it said.

Classifieds

VACANCIES AVAILABLE

HASSAN ALI ABDULLQADER ABUZEYAD has a vacancy for the occupation of DRIVER (HEAVY TRUCK), suitably qualified applicants can contact 39660484 or ALWESAM71@OUTLOOK.COM

Pure Skin Spa has a vacancy for the occupation of BEAUTICIAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17004018 or pureskin.bdm@gmail.com

BURGER ZOOM W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of FOOD SERVICE WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 17001720 or BURGERZOOMBH@GMAIL.COM

668 GENTS SALON has a vacancy for the occupation of BARBER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34245351 or HAMID-CHAUDHARY274@GMAIL.COM

DAY TO DAY DISCOUNT CENTER has a vacancy for the occupation of WORKER (SALES), suitably qualified applicants can contact 66634444 or JISHNA@DAYTO-DAYBH.COM

BOLDGREEN ELECTRICAL TRADING AND APPLIANCES W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of ACCOUNTANTS, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34404829 or Wajidgujar545@GMAIL.COM

ZAHERA STYLE FASHION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of TAILOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 36258287 or TABMECHANICAL@GMAIL.COM

DESI HANDI RESTAURANT W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of COOK (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 36753494 or desihandirestaurant@gmail.com

ASIAN BUSINESS CONSULTANCY CO. - BAHRAINI PARTNERSHIP COMPANY has a vacancy for the occupation of OFFICE ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 38029695 or mta03111@gmail.com

TRUMPET FASHIONS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SALESMAN, suitably qualified applicants can contact 39352551 or SHABEEDALAKKAT@GMAIL.COM

MALIK BAKERY has a vacancy for the occupation of BAKER (GENERAL), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33335079 or MALAIKA_IQ@YAHOO.COM

ORANGE TOWER FOR PACKAGING W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33875634 or ORANGETOWRBHRAIN@GMAIL.COM

HEALTH WELLNESS BY NISHA W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of MASSEUR, suitably qualified applicants can contact 66656707 or INFO@HEALTHWELLNESSBYNISHA.COM

AL ALIM CONSULTANTS owned by MOHAMMED SULEMAN SHAIKH has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSULTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33429009 or SALMAN_BAHRAIN@YAHOO.COM

CLEANING LEADERS W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR (SITE), suitably qualified applicants can contact 33347766 or PERWAIZ_I@HOT-MAIL.COM

ELAIGNAR PATHAI CONSTRUCTION W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of CONSTRUCTION WORKER, suitably qualified applicants can contact 33656333 or devantkpp@gmail.com

JOY'S SPICY PALACE W.L.L has a vacancy for the occupation of SUPERVISOR ASSISTANT, suitably qualified applicants can contact 34567966 or EDWARDJOYKALATHIL@GMAIL.COM

Foreign media association slams Israeli forces' 'violent assault' **on CNN crew**

The military said the incident will be probed

● CNN team was reporting on the aftermath of an assault by Israeli settlers

● The incident is the second such event involving CNN this month.

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

An international media association on Saturday condemned what it described as a "violent assault" by Israeli soldiers who detained a CNN crew in the occupied West Bank this week.

A CNN team was reporting on the aftermath of an assault by Israeli settlers and the establishment of an illegal outpost near the Palestinian village of Tayasir on Thursday when it was detained by Israeli soldiers, the Foreign Press Association said.

"The soldiers aggressively targeted the crew and Palestinian civilians present, pointing their rifles at them," the FPA said, even after the journalists identified themselves.

"The soldiers repeatedly tried to infringe the CNN crew's right to film, ordering the crew to stop filming and threatening to confiscate the camera.

"Later, an IDF soldier approached CNN's photojournalist from behind, placed him in a chokehold, slammed him to the ground, and damaged his camera," said the association,



Gear that was used by a media crew of journalists who were killed in an Israeli strike earlier is displayed near the husk of their destroyed vehicle along the side of a road leading to Jezzine in southern Lebanon

which represents hundreds of journalists in Israel and Palestinian territories.

CNN confirmed the details in its own report on the incident, identifying the photojournalist as Cyril Theophilos.

"This was not a misunderstanding... It was a violent assault on clearly identified journalists and a direct attack on press freedom," the FPA said.

"The use of force was excessive and dangerous. Pointing rifles at journalists and civilians, physically assaulting a cameraman, and detaining a crew are actions that cross every line.

"Such behaviour reflects a deeply alarming pattern of hostility toward the media and

cannot be tolerated under any circumstances," the FPA said, demanding an investigation into the incident.

The military said the incident will be probed.

"The soldiers' conduct and statements in this incident do not represent the IDF, go against what is expected of IDF soldiers and will be investigated," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani wrote on X.

"I apologised privately, and I will say it again — this shouldn't have happened. Our job is to maintain law and order, among that is allowing for freedom of the press."

The incident is the second such event involving CNN this

month.

Days ago, during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, a CNN producer was left with a fractured wrist following an "unprovoked assault" by Israeli police officers.

That incident happened when journalists were documenting worshippers praying outside the walls of the Old City in east Jerusalem.

Violence in the West Bank has continued unabated even after the October 2025 ceasefire in Gaza, and since the outbreak of the current war in the Middle East, there has been a fresh spate of deadly attacks by Israeli settlers.

An AFP journalist sits on the FPA board.

Iran navy arms complex hit

The Israeli military said it had struck an industrial complex in Tehran used for the research and development of naval weapons as part of a wave of attacks conducted overnight.

"This headquarters is responsible for the research, development, and production of a wide range of naval weaponry, including surface and sub-surface vessels, manned and unmanned equipment, as well as engines and weapons," the military said.

Syria repels drone attack

The Syrian army said that it had repelled a drone attack from neighbouring Iraq that targeted a southern Syrian base which previously housed US forces, state media reported.

Syria's official SANA news agency quoted the army as saying that its units were able to "repel a drone attack on the al-Tanf military base in the south of the country".

France foils Paris bomb attack outside US bank

AFP | Paris, France

French police stopped an apparent bomb attack outside a US bank in Paris early Saturday when they arrested a man about to set off a homemade explosive device, officials and sources close to the case told AFP.

The incident occurred around 3:30 am (0130 GMT) in front of a Bank of America building in the chic 8th arrondissement, a couple of streets from the Champs-Élysées.

Police grabbed the man just after he placed a device, made of five litres of liquid (1.3 gallons), believed to be fuel, and an ignition system, one of the sources said.

The ignition component had 650 grams (23 ounces) of explosive powder in it, according to an initial assessment. The whole device was taken to the Paris police's forensics lab for full analysis.

Missing Cuba-bound aid boats located, crew reported safe

Havana, Cuba

Two sailboats that disappeared while taking humanitarian aid from Mexico to Cuba have been located by the Mexican Navy and the crews are safe, organizers and Mexican authorities said yesterday. The Mexican Navy announced a search and rescue mission Thursday after losing communication with the vessels, which left from Isla Mujeres in southeast Mexico last week with nine people aboard.

Germany has a shortage of workers - so it's turning to India for help

BBC

Germany is continuing to struggle with a shortage of skilled workers, as elderly staff retire, and there are not enough young candidates to fill their roles. To try to alleviate the problem the country is increasingly turning to workers from India.

For Handirk von Ungern-Sternberg, it started with an email that dropped into his inbox in February 2021. It had come from India.

The gist of the message was: "We have lots of young, motivated people looking for vocational training and we're wondering if you're interested."

Von Ungern-Sternberg was working for the Freiburg Chamber of Skilled Crafts in southwest Germany, a trade body that represents skilled workers, from bricklayers and carpenters, to butchers and bakers, and the companies that employ them.

The email arrived at an opportune moment.

"We had a lot of desperate employers, who couldn't find anyone to work for them," says Von Ungern-Sternberg. "So we decided to give it a chance."

His first call was to the head of the local butchers' guild. Butchers all over Germany were having a particularly hard time. It



German bakeries and butchers are having to look overseas for staff

was a sector in marked decline.

From 19,000 small, family-run businesses in 2002, there were fewer than 11,000 left by 2021. Employers were finding it almost impossible to recruit young people to take up an apprenticeship.

"The butchery trade is hard work," says the butchers' guild head, Joachim Lederer. "And for the last 25 years or so, young people have been going in other directions."

Back in India, at Magic Billion, the employment agency that had sent that initial email, it managed to recruit 13 young people, who arrived in Germany in the autumn of 2022 to begin their butchery apprenticeships in small towns along the border with Switzerland. They would spend part of their time at college.

Among them was a young Indian woman, 21, who asked for her name to not be used. Like many of her cohort, it was the first time she had ever left India.

She remembers her excitement. "I wanted to see the world," she says. "I wanted to make my living standard so high. I wanted good social security."

She had come to work in the town of Weil am Rhein, in the far southwestern tip of Germany, up against both the Swiss and French borders.

Three years later a lot has changed. Von Ungern-Sternberg no longer works at the chamber.

He has instead set up his own employment agency, India Works, in partnership with Aditi Banerjee, of Magic Billion, to help bring more young Indian workers to Germany.

Bahrain Victorious set for 'In Flanders Fields'

Hussain Maskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Victorious takes on the Belgian cobbled classic "In Flanders Fields. From Middelkerke to Wevelgem" today, a 241 km UCI World-Tour one-day race previously known as Gent-Wevelgem. The race starts on the North Sea coast in Middelkerke for the first time, with the opening 70 km forming a completely new and exposed section.

Sports Director Michał Gołas outlined the team's approach: "The first part of the race is completely new and mostly exposed. Windy conditions can make the race demanding from the start, but our focus will be on conserving the leaders' energy for the second part. The race will then pass through the echelon-prone area of De Moeren before heading inland towards the hilly zone. It will be a very exposed first 130 km, so positioning into De Moeren (km 76) will be crucial. We need to commit as a team early on, as the wind can really change the dynamics of the race."

After De Moeren, the course returns to a familiar profile, featuring the climbs of Scherpenberg, Baneberg,



Team leader Alec Segaert

Monteberg, and three ascents of the Kemmelberg, along with three gravel sectors.

Gołas added: "Our plan is to position our leaders, Alec Segaert and Matej Mohoric, well before the first climbs and gravel sectors, and then follow the key moves."

The climbs around the Kemmelberg will shape the final selection. We should try to anticipate the decisive move before the last Kemmelberg. It's important to stay calm and fight until the end.

The last 30 kilometres are almost flat, and with a tail-crosswind the speed will be very high, reducing the chances for groups to come back together." Segaert will lead the team with Mohoric as co-leader, supported by debutants Borgo, Skerl, Stockwell, and Miquel. Gołas highlighted:

"For Pau, it will be one of his first experiences on Belgian roads, but if he makes it to the final and the race comes down to a reduced sprint, he could have his opportunity. While Skerl and Stockwell will support from the start, Borgo alongside Gradek will support in the second part of the race."

Martinez Secures Podium for Bahrain Victorious on La Molina

Hussain Maskati
TDT | Manama

Lenny Martinez of Bahrain Victorious claimed third place on Stage 5 of the Volta a Catalunya on Friday, earning a podium spot after a punishing day in the high mountains.

The 153.1-kilometre stage from La Seu d'Urgell to La Molina represented the first major general classification test of the race, featuring over 4,000 metres of climbing and a long final ascent. Strong winds near the summit forced organisers to adjust the finish in the closing kilometres.



Lenny Martinez

An early breakaway animated the stage, but the peloton regrouped ahead of the decisive climb, where the pace gradually thinned the favourites' group. On the final ascent, Jonas Vingegaard (VISMA) launched a solo attack to claim the stage victory, followed by Felix Gall (DECATHLON). Martinez rode his own tempo to secure third, ensuring Bahrain Victorious had a strong presence on the podium.

The result lifts Martinez to third overall in the general classification and hands him the lead in the young rider standings as the

race heads into the coming stages.

Reflecting on the stage, the Frenchman said: "It was a tough day. I didn't feel great in the middle, but my legs came back later. I got a gap early with Gall and Lipowitz, and tried to stick with Vingegaard once he bridged across. The pace was high, but I'm happy with third place."

With the GC already being tested on La Molina, Martinez and Bahrain Victorious will look to build on this strong showing as the Volta a Catalunya heads into its next mountainous challenges.

Di Giannantonio takes second straight MotoGP pole in Austin

AFP | Austin, United States

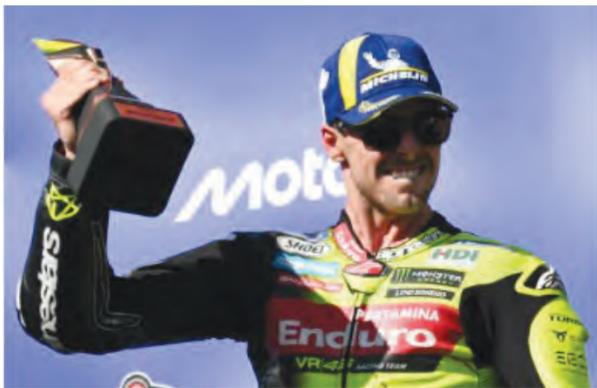
Italian Fabio Di Giannantonio made it back-to-back MotoGP pole positions in qualifying for the United States Grand Prix on Saturday, as reigning world champion Marc Marquez was only sixth fastest.

Di Giannantonio, who races for Valentino Rossi's VR46 team, edged out compatriot and early championship leader Marco Bezzecchi by 0.193secs.

Rising star Pedro Acosta completed the front row.

"It wasn't a perfect lap, but I really gave it my all and it was one of the fastest laps of my life," said Di Giannantonio, whose pole last week in Brazil was his first since 2022.

Marc Marquez's up-and-down start to his title defence continued as he could only round off the second row behind Francesco Bagnaia and



Pertamina Enduro VR46 Racing Team's Italian rider Fabio Di Giannantonio, who finished third, celebrates on the podium of the MotoGP Grand Prix of Brazil at the Ayrton Senna International racetrack in Goiania, state of Goias, Brazil

Joan Mir.

The Spaniard crashed out of the season opener in Thailand earlier this month before finishing fourth in Brazil.

Marquez, bidding for a record-equalling eighth top-

class world title this year, has impressed in the sprint races, though, with a win and a second-placed finish.

The sprint race in Austin takes place later Saturday.

Vingegaard nears Tour of Catalonia victory with stage six win

AFP | Berga (Spain)

Jonas Vingegaard blazed to stage six victory at the Tour of Catalonia on Saturday and tightened his grip on the overall lead.

The race favourite accelerated away from the lead group with just over two kilometres to ride to clinch back-to-back stage triumphs in the Pyrenees mountains.

Danish Visma-Lease a Bike rider Vingegaard, who dominated at Paris-Nice earlier in March, finished 10 seconds ahead of Lenny Martinez and Florian Lipowitz, who finished second and third respectively.

Vingegaard holds a provisional 1 minute 22s lead overall on Martinez, while Lipowitz is third and a further eight seconds behind the two-time Tour de France winner.

The 158-kilometre final mountain stage in the lower Pyrenees, starting in Berga and ending at the Sanctuary of Queralt, looked ripe for another



Team Visma-Lease a bike's Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard holds a provisional 1 minute 22s lead ahead of the final stage

Vingegaard triumph and so it proved.

Double Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel, who had fallen out of overall contention during a disappointing fifth stage, rode powerfully to help Red Bull team-mate Lipowitz.

However, Vingegaard broke clear of the German and Frenchman Martinez of Bahrain Victorious with just over two kilometres remaining, and they could not reel him in

after that. "We wanted to go for the stage again today," said Vingegaard. "I still had legs for an attack and that's what I did. In that moment I was able to drop the other guys from my wheel," he continued.

"It was a good day." Vingegaard is now well-placed to win the Tour of Catalonia in his first participation, adding it to a growing resume of high-profile stage races he has won.

Bahrain's 3×3 Teams set sights on Asia Cup and World Cup Pathway



Bahrain's men's and women's 3×3 teams with coaches Murtadha Mohammed and Ahmed Elias

Hussain Maskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's men's and women's national 3×3 basketball teams have departed for Singapore ahead of the FIBA 3×3 Asia Cup, scheduled from April 1 to 5. Both squads aim to make a strong impression in the continental tournament while keeping an eye on a pathway to the 2026 FIBA 3×3 World Cup in Warsaw, where 40 of the world's top national

teams will compete from June 1 to 7.

The men's team, coached by Murtadha Mohammed, features Nasser Al Mousawi, Isa Jassim, Mohammed Ghazwan, Al Wathiq Ali, and Salman Al Kaabi. Bahrain's men are drawn into Group D of the qualifying stage, facing Kazakhstan first, followed by Hong Kong, and concluding against India. Early performances will be key in securing a spot in the main draw and maintaining their pathway

to Warsaw.

Meanwhile, the women's team, also under coach Murtadha Mohammed, with team administrator Ahmed Elias, includes Bayan Salman, Shereen Abdulrahman, Noor Najaf, and Nouf Abdullah. Competing in Group C, they will face Chinese Taipei in their opening match, followed by Hong Kong, and finish the first day against Saudi Arabia. The group promises challenging encounters as Bahrain seeks to strengthen its pres-

ence in continental women's 3×3 basketball.

Both teams must navigate the qualifying stage before advancing to the main draw, which will ultimately determine their chances of securing a World Cup berth in Warsaw. With 24 men's teams and 22 women's teams participating, this edition of the Asia Cup represents one of the most competitive yet and a vital step in Bahrain's 3×3 development programme.



Manama's Hassan Nowrooz drives past Al Najma's Mohammed Kowayed in Game 1

Semifinal pressure mounts as Game 2 tips off

Hussain Maskati
TDT | Manama

Muharrag and Al Najma return to the court tonight aiming to build on their winning starts in the best-of-five Golden Square semi-finals of the 2025-26 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Defending champions Muharrag opened their series with a 90-73 win over Al Ahli and will look to extend their advantage to 2-0. Under coach Peter Schomers, the Red Wolves dominated Game 1 from the start, showing their all-around strength as they chase a fifth consecutive league title and a historic season treble.

Al Ahli, guided by Ahmed Jan, now faces a must-respond situation. Despite strong performances from Anthony Fairley and Maitham Jameel in the opener, the Eagles will need steadier scoring and tighter

ball control to level the series.

In the other semi-final, Al Najma will try to build on their dramatic 78-76 win over reformed 25-time champions Manama. Donovan Smith's late put-back secured the victory in a thrilling finish, stunning one of the league's most decorated sides. Najma will be keen to prove their opener was no fluke, while Manama, long regarded as the benchmark of Bahraini basketball, will look to respond and avoid falling 2-0 behind.

Both series continue at Khalifa Sports City Arena, with Game 3 scheduled for Wednesday. If needed, Games 4 and 5 are set for April 4 and April 7. The winners of the semi-finals will then meet in the best-of-five championship series, which will begin on April 5 if both semi-finals finish in three games, or April 8 if they go to four.

Kohli fires Bengaluru to big win after IPL remembers stampede dead



Virat Kohli (R) hit five fours and five sixes in his 38-ball 69 not out'

AFP | Bengaluru (India)

Virat Kohli hit an unbeaten 69 as defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru thrashed Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in the IPL season opener yesterday, after a tribute in memory of the 11 fans who died in a stampede last year.

The fans were honoured with 11 empty seats and a minute's silence ahead of the game, while the players wore black armbands at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Bengaluru won their first IPL

title in 18 attempts in the 2025 edition, but a victory parade turned tragic outside their stadium. On Saturday, a big crowd welcomed the home team with the loudest roar reserved for Kohli, who steered the team's successful chase of 202 in just 15.4 overs.

Kohli hit five fours and five sixes in his 38-ball knock.

Hyderabad posted 201-9 after being put in to bat first as stand-in skipper Ishan Kishan top-scored with 80 from 38 balls, with eight fours and five sixes.

New Zealand's RCB import

Jacob Duffy made an instant impact on his IPL debut to return figures of 3-22 from his four overs.

Duffy rattled the top-order, taking the key wickets of openers Abhishek Sharma (7) and Travis Head (11).

Kishan steadied the innings in a fourth-wicket partnership of 97 with South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen, who made 31.

England's Phil Salt took a stunning one-handed catch in the deep after covering lot of ground to dismiss Kishan off Abhinandan Singh. Bengaluru

lost opener Salt, for eight, early in the chase but impact substitute Devdutt Padikkal hit a string of boundaries in his 26-ball 61.

Padikkal put on 101 runs with Kohli, who hit some excellent shots including a straight six that hit the sight screen.

Kohli, who plays just the 50-over format for India after retiring from Test and T20 internationals, is still a key player for RCB. He finished the game with a six and three fours in successive balls to launch RCB's title defence in style.



Younis Kowayed in action for Muharrag vs Al Ahli last Thursday

Austin Ogukwa set to make Najma debut

Hussain Maskati
TDT | Manama

Al Najma have completed the registration of Nigerian-American import Austin Ogukwa, making him available for tonight's Game 2 in the semi-final series of the Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ogukwa joins Najma after a season with Sitra, where he was the standout performer despite the team missing out on premier division survival. He delivered several eye-catching scoring displays in Sitra's relegation play-offs, including a 52-point game and a 44-point effort in Game 2, proving his ability to perform under pressure.

Najma currently lead the series 1-0 following a dramatic 78-76 win over the



Ogukwa dunks for Sitra against Al Hala earlier this month in the relegation play-offs

record champions Manama, with Donovan Smith's late put-back deciding the opener. Ogukwa's arrival adds a new offensive dimension to Najma and strengthens their chances of extending their advantage in the best-of-five semi-final, which remains wide open.



Future Stars series delivers thrilling action

Second round sees tight competition at 26th race

Manama

Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) held the second round of the Future Stars Series, sponsored by Singapore Gulf Bank and dedicated to Bahrain-bred horses, as part of the 26th race of the 2025/2026 season.

The race was held for the Cups of Late Mr. Abdulla Ahmed Nass, sponsored by Nass Corporation and A.A Nass & Sons, the Applied Science University (ASU), the REHC, and Al Wasmiya. The racing evening took place at the Club's racecourse in Al Raffah, Sakhir.

The winners of the race cups were crowned, as Mr. Yusuf Osama Buheji, Member of the High Committee of REHC and Acting Chief Executive Officer, presented the first round trophy to the winning trainer, Adel Abdullah. His Highness Shaikh Sultan



Al Deen bin Mohammed bin Salman Al Khalifa received the third round trophy from Shaikh Hasan bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Deputy Chief Regulatory Officer at REHC, while Mr. Ebrahim Faisal Al Malki, Director of Media and Communications at REHC, presented the fourth round trophy to the winning trainer, Haider Ebrahim.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Nema, Director of the Jockey Foundation, presented the fifth round trophy to the winning owner, Abdullah Sami Nass, while Prof. Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ASU, presented the sixth round trophy to the winning trainer, Paul Smith.

Mr. Fawzi Nass presented the seventh round trophy to Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa.

The racing evening featured strong competitions across all ten races.

Antonelli leads Mercedes 1-2 as Verstappen suffers qualifying shock

AFP | Suzuka, Japan

Kimi Antonelli took pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix ahead of Mercedes team-mate George Russell on Saturday as Max Verstappen suffered another qualifying nightmare.

Mercedes have claimed one-two finishes at both grands prix so far in a flying start to the Formula One season and they were again dominant in dry conditions at Suzuka.

The 19-year-old Italian Antonelli became the youngest pole-sitter in F1 history two weeks ago in China and he made it two in a row with a fastest lap of 1min 28.778sec.

Early championship



(L-R) Mercedes' British driver George Russell, Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli and McLaren's Australian driver Oscar Piastri pose after the qualifying session ahead of the Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at the Suzuka circuit in Suzuka, Mie prefecture

leader Russell was second, 0.298sec behind, with McLaren's Oscar Piastri third and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc fourth.

Antonelli, who won the first grand prix of his

F1 career in China two weeks ago, said it was "a really clean session".

"There's still work to do in these big tracks with the energy, how to find a solution that allows us to push even more and drive without thinking too much," he said.

"But overall I think it was good fun."

Russell was fastest in Friday's first practice but he has trailed

his younger team-mate in every session since then.

The British driver said he was struggling with his car for most of qualifying and admitted it was "not ideal" going into Sunday's race.

"I've been really comfortable with the car this whole weekend, it's just in qualifying something didn't quite feel right," he said.

"Let's see tonight, maybe we'll get some answers, maybe I can adjust my driving style to compensate."

'Undriveable' Red Bull

Russell's problems paled into insignificance compared with those facing four-time world champion Verstappen, who exited in Q2 and starts from a lowly 11th on the grid for Red Bull.

The Dutchman, who has won in Japan for the past four years, took pole last year with a track-record lap time.

He has railed against new Formula One regulations that see a 50-50 split between conventional and electrical power,

and labelled his car "undriveable".

"The car never turns mid-corner, but at the same time this weekend, it's just oversteering a lot on entry," he said.

"It's really difficult, unpredictable."

Verstappen, who finished sixth in Melbourne and retired from the Shanghai grand prix two weeks ago, added: "We have problems that I cannot explain in detail here."

Verstappen was involved in a public confrontation on Thursday when he ejected a reporter from his news conference.

McLaren's world champion Lando Norris was fifth, followed by Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton and Alpine's Pierre Gasly. Verstappen's Red Bull team-mate Isack Hadjar was eighth, with Audi's Gabriel Bortoleto and Arvid Lindblad of RB rounding out the top 10.

Piastri will be desperate to make an impact in Sunday's race after missing the first two grands prix of the season.

The Australian said his qual-

ifying session was "pretty well executed" after also finishing fastest in Friday's second practice.

"It's nice to be closer," said Piastri of his third place on the grid.

"I think we're learning more and more about the car and about the power unit every weekend."

Esteban Ocon of Haas, Audi's Nico Hulkenberg, RB's Liam Lawson, Alpine's Franco Colapinto and Williams' Carlos Sainz went out in Q2 with Verstappen.

Haas driver Ollie Bearman, who finished fifth at the Chinese Grand Prix, was a shock faller in Q3 and will start from 18th. Cadillac pair Sergio Perez and Valtteri Bottas went out with him, as did Williams' Alex Albon and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll.

The Aston Martin pair, who have yet to complete a grand prix so far this season as they struggle with extreme vibration, finished bottom of the timesheets.

