

News in brief

Iran held a state funeral

Saturday for some 60 scientists and commanders killed in its war with Israel, after its top diplomat condemned the latest White House tirade against supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. State television aired footage of thousands of black-clad mourners chanting “Death to America” and “Death to Israel” as they held aloft photographs of the dead. “Boom, boom, Tel Aviv,” read one banner, referring to the retaliatory missile fire launched by Iran against Israel during their 12-day war. State television showed mock-ups of ballistic missiles like those Iran fired at Israel alongside coffins draped in Iranian flags.



Iran holds state funeral for top brass slain in Israel war

Iran condemns Trump’s ‘disrespectful and unacceptable’ comments on Khamenei



as to how effective they were. With those strikes, Washington joined Israel’s bombardments of Iran’s nuclear programme in the 12-day conflict launched on June 13. The foreign minister’s condemnation on Saturday came after Trump said on his Truth Social platform that he had saved the Iranian leader from assassination, accusing Khamenei of ingratitude. “I knew EXACTLY where he was sheltered, and would not let Israel, or the U.S. Armed Forces, by far the Greatest and Most Powerful in the World, terminate his life,” Trump posted.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned Saturday the “disrespectful and unacceptable” comments from Donald Trump, after the US president claimed to have saved Iran’s Ayatollah Ali Khamenei from an “ugly and ignominious death”. “If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran’s Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, and stop hurting his millions of heartfelt supporters,” Araghchi posted on his account on social media platform X. “The Great and Powerful Iranian People, who showed the world that the Israeli regime had NO CHOICE but to RUN to ‘Daddy’ to avoid being flattened by our Missiles, do not take kindly to Threats and Insults,” the foreign minister said. The United States carried out strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites last weekend, with no consensus

CAPTAIN’S CORNER

The trust deficit in our responses



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

By the Grace of Allah, we seem to have crossed the worst danger of war in our region. But the tense five to seven days, with their echoes of the Gulf War, showed us all how far we have gone in terms of technological adaptation and adjusting to potential crisis. As with every national crisis, Bahrain’s leadership and government moved immediately into top protection mode with siren drills, designating of shelter zones and communications on how to respond to any crisis if one is on the road or in the heart of a danger area. There was so much precision and transparency about all arrangements. Government officials met with essential service heads in public and private sector, ensuring that medicare, food supply and transportation were available to residents.

And still – we found ourselves receiving rumours on our social media and witnesses unnecessary panic-buying in stores and the filling of petrol so cars could travel long distances – to where? All exit roads led through danger areas after all! And now that the war has ended, they are left with excess supply of food stuff that will take them months to get through. An FMCG manager told me that, unlike popular perception that shops are happy with this over-spending, such panic buying is like a shock to the economic graph and will take the Kingdom months to recover from. For example, families will now have less money to spend on the regular beginning-of-the-month purchases or even on essential medical care like dental work. It all gets postponed.

And it is not as if citizens listened to the advise and warnings. I was at a prominent shopping centre one night when the sirens sounded and the way shoppers rushed and pushed their way out showed that despite the frequent informercials on how to manage a call to safety, nobody remembers when the moment hits. Worse, people behaved as if they were film-makers on the war front, pausing to film and upload videos on their social media with panicky voice-overs that spread fear even in areas far from the actual danger zone.

All of us need to play a stronger role in building trust – trust in our government’s ability to ensure safety and navigate the prickly pathways of peace, trust in each other as we respond to sudden emergencies and trust in ourselves to follow the rules. Only then can we defeat the enemy.

(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)

Europe **bakes**

Summer’s first heatwave as continent warms

Temperatures are set to rise to 37 degrees Celsius (99 Fahrenheit) in Rome

Two-thirds of Portugal will be on high alert on Sunday

Spain is expecting peak temperatures in excess of 40C (104F)

AFP | Marseille, France

Southern Europeans braced yesterday for their first heatwave of the northern hemisphere summer, as climate change pushes thermometers on the world’s fastest-warming continent increasingly into the red.

Temperatures are set to rise to 37 degrees Celsius (99 Fahrenheit) in Rome, driving the Eternal City’s many tourists and pilgrims towards the Italian capital’s 2,500 public fountains for refreshment.

With residents of the southern French port city of Marseille expected to have to cope with temperatures flirting with 40C (104F), the city’s authorities ordered public swimming pools be free of charge to help residents beat the Mediterranean heat.

Two-thirds of Portugal will be on high alert on Sunday for extreme heat and forest fires, with 42C (108F) expected in the capital Lisbon, while visitors to -- and protesters against -- Amazon tycoon Jeff Bezos’s Friday wedding in Venice likewise sweltered under the summer sun.

“There is no wind, a lot of humidity, we are sweating, and I’m suffocating at night,” Alejandra Echeverria, a 40-year-old Mexican tourist to Venice, told AFP on Saturday.

“I try not to think about it, but



People cool off underneath water fountains in the Madrid Rio recreation area during the first heatwave of the summer in Madrid

I drink a lot of water and never stay still, because that’s when you get sunstroke,” Srianne Mina, an Italian student, told AFP the day before.

Scientists have long warned that humanity’s burning of fossil fuels is heating up the world with disastrous consequences for the environment, with Europe’s ever-hotter and increasingly common blistering summer heatwaves a direct result of that warming.

The heatwave is forecast to become even more intense on Sunday.

Spain, which has in past years seen a series of deadly summer blazes, is expecting peak temperatures in excess of 40C (104F) across most of the country.

Outdoor work ban

According to the Spanish meteorological agency, temperatures may even register 42C (108F) in

some areas, including the Gualquivir, Guadiana, and Tagus regions.

The past three years have been the hottest in Spain’s history.

With peaks of 39C (102F) expected in Palermo, Sicily has ordered a ban on outdoor work in the hottest hours of the day, as has the Liguria region in northern Italy.

The country’s trade unions are campaigning to extend the measure to other parts of the country. In Nice, where the mercury hit 33 degrees Celcius at midday, residents and tourists sought refuge in misted parks and museums.

In Seville, where forecasts suggested temperatures could reach up to 43 degrees Celcius, locals and tourists used handheld fans and caps to shield themselves from heat.

According to Copernicus and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Europe has



By some estimates 2024, the hottest year in recorded history so far, saw worldwide disasters that cost more than \$300 billion.

been warming at roughly twice the global average since the 1980s.

As a result of the planet’s warming, extreme weather events including hurricanes, droughts, floods and heatwaves like this weekend’s have become more frequent and intense, scientists warn.

US sanctions on Sudan over alleged chemical weapons use take effect

AFP | Washington, United States

US sanctions on Sudan’s government -- imposed over what Washington says was the use by Khartoum’s military of chemical weapons in the country’s bloody civil war last year -- have taken effect.

The sanctions -- which include restrictions on US exports, arms sales and financing to the government in Khartoum -- are to remain in place for at least one year, the US government said in a notice published Friday in the Federal Register.

Assistance to Sudan will be terminated “except for urgent humanitarian assistance and food or other agricultural commodities or products,” it said.

However, certain measures will



The wreckage of cars lie on the remains of the Shambat Bridge, which connects Omdurman and Bahri

be partially waived because “it interests of the United States” to do so, it added.

“The United States calls on the Government of Sudan to cease all chemical weapons use and uphold its obligations” under the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty signed by nearly all countries that prohibits their use, the State Department said last month when it announced the sanctions.

The New York Times reported in January that Sudan’s military had used chemical weapons on at least two occasions in remote areas its war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Citing anonymous US officials, the newspaper said that the weapon appeared to be chlorine gas, which can cause severe respiratory pain and death.