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“More Than Capable”



The United States warned on Saturday it was “more than capable” of resuming its war with Iran after President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons.

The White House had signaled Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict.

US sources had told the deal was waiting on Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, while attending a defense summit in Singapore, said on Saturday that Washington was “more than capable” of restarting the war if necessary, adding “our stockpiles are more than suited for that.”

US Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on X that American forces “remain present and vigilant across the region.”

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Pilgrims Return Home

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Bahrain International Airport welcomed the first group of pilgrims returning from the Holy Lands yesterday, with more than 150 Hajj pilgrims arriving on the inaugural flight.

Three additional flights are scheduled to follow today, while the total number of returning pilgrims across four flights and

in the arrivals hall to welcome their loved ones with embraces, prayers, and heartfelt congratulations. Tears of joy and bouquets of flowers marked the touching homecoming, reflecting the deep longing felt dur-



the King Fahd Causeway is expected to exceed 1,000.

Emotional scenes unfolded at Bahrain International Airport, where families gathered

ing the pilgrims' absence.

Returning pilgrims expressed their happiness at completing the sacred duty of Hajj and their gratitude to God for granting

them the opportunity to perform the fifth pillar of Islam. They described their return home and reunion with family

as the most beautiful conclusion to a spiritually uplifting journey, one that will remain deeply engraved in their memories.

Gulf Families Choose Bahrain

Hotels, resorts and serviced apartments report near-full occupancy as Eid Al Adha drives a strong tourism rebound

● Demand led by Bahraini families, Saudi visitors, and GCC travellers

● Beachfront and family-friendly properties were the most sought-after

● Industry sees this as a meaningful recovery signal

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The hospitality sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain recorded a notable upswing in activity during the Eid Al Adha holiday. Industry professionals described this as an important sign of tourism gradually returning to its usual momentum following a period of regional uncertainty and its impact on travel and tourism activity across the Gulf.



Hotels, resorts, and serviced apartments across the country reported high occupancy levels throughout the Eid break and extended weekend, with several properties nearing full capacity. The surge was driven by strong demand from Bahraini families, visitors from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and travellers from across the GCC, alongside growing interest in family-friendly leisure destinations within the Kingdom.

Reports indicated lively activity across multiple hospitality locations, with many establishments having difficulty accom-

modating last-minute bookings during peak holiday days. Industry sources noted a significant rise in advance reservations as the Eid period approached, covering beachfront resorts, family-oriented accommodations, and city hotels in Manama.

Seaside resorts and beachfront hotels emerged as the most sought-after destinations, recording near-full occupancy. Limited remaining availability in some properties led to increased room rates due to heightened demand, while other hotels also reported strong booking performance, reflecting a broad recov-

ery in the sector.

Hotel operators said the Eid Al Adha holiday served as a positive milestone for the industry, not only in terms of occupancy levels but also in restoring confidence in Bahrain as a safe, stable, and attractive destination for Gulf families. They added that the performance provides a strong foundation ahead of the summer season, which is expected to bring further tourism activity and entertainment events.

Many hotels prepared in advance for the Eid rush by launching integrated offers and entertainment packages, extending beyond accommodation to include leisure activities, shopping experiences, and access to major tourist attractions. The momentum also aligned with promotional efforts by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, including its “We Miss You” tourism campaign aimed at strengthening Bahrain's appeal as a regional holiday destination.

Witnesses of War



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The 2026 WAN-IFRA Golden Pen of Freedom will be awarded to professional photo and video journalists working in Gaza, recognising their extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and commitment to reporting from a war zone.

The award will be presented on June 1 during the opening day of the World News Media Congress in Marseille, France. It honours local Palestinian media professionals who have continued to document the impact of the ongoing conflict despite extreme danger, as well as those who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

According to the award citation, journalists in Gaza have spent more than two and a half years documenting “death, destruction, and human suffering in unparalleled terms,” often while facing the same risks as the civilians they report on.

The conflict, which began after the Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023, has since resulted in the deaths of more than 260 journalists, most of them in Gaza. Reports from the Committee to Protect Journalists indicate that at least 64 were allegedly targeted by Israeli military forces, a claim that remains the subject of international concern and limited investigation.

With foreign media largely restricted from entering Gaza, reporting has depended heavily on local Palestinian journalists working under severe conditions, including power shortages, communication disruptions, and ongoing military operations.

David Walmsley, editor-in-chief of The Globe and Mail and president of the World Editors Forum, said there is “no replacing brave, independent journalism,” adding that Gaza's photo and video journalists have ensured the world could not ignore the realities of the war.

The award will be received on behalf of Gaza-based journalists by representatives of Agence France-Presse, The Associated Press, and Reuters, whose local contributors continue to deliver consistent coverage from the conflict zone.

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