



Kuwait slams Iran aggression

10 soldiers injured in strike • Power, water systems stable • Food stocks sufficient

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fahmy new Arab League chief

CAIRO: Arab foreign ministers agreed unanimously on Sunday to nominate Egyptian diplomat Nabil Fahmy as secretary-general of the Arab League, succeeding Ahmed Aboul Gheit, whose second term in charge ends in June 2026. Fahmy, 75, said the role was a "great responsibility" to bear, given "the blatant violations of international law perpetrated by aggressors who have treacherously attacked our countries and our security, and by others whose prolonged occupation of our lands have obstructed our brothers from exercising their legitimate rights". Fahmy, Egypt's foreign minister from June 2013 to July 2014, also previously served as Egypt's ambassador to the US from 1999 to 2008 and to Japan between 1997 and 1999. — Agencies



AUB moves to online learning

BEIRUT: The American University of Beirut on Sunday said it would operate remotely over the next two days, following the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' threat to target US universities in the region after US-Zionist strikes destroyed two Iranian universities. "If the US government wants its universities in the region to be free from retaliation... it must condemn the bombing of the universities in an official statement by 12 noon on Monday, March 30, Tehran time," said a statement published by Iranian media. Several US universities have campuses scattered throughout the Middle East. — AFP



KUWAIT: (Left) Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah heads Kuwait's ministerial delegation at the 165th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States, held virtually. (Right) Undersecretary of the National Guard Lt Gen Hamad Al-Barjas visits one of the sites secured by the National Guard. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The defense ministry announced Sunday that the armed forces detected and intercepted 14 hostile ballistic missiles and 12 drones within the country's airspace over the past 24 hours. Defense Ministry Spokesperson Col Saud Al-Atwan said one military camp was struck, injuring 10 personnel who are receiving treatment, in addition to material damage at the site. A logistics warehouse belonging to a private company was also hit, causing material damage only, with no reported casualties. He added that since the onset of the attacks on Feb 28, a total of 307 ballistic missiles, two cruise missiles and 616 drones have been detected.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah reiterated Kuwait's strong condemnation of Iranian aggression against the country and the region, calling it a blatant violation of sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter. Speaking at the 165th session of the Arab League Council held virtually, he said the attacks have resulted in casualties, endangered civilians and damaged critical infrastructure. He also pointed to an expansion of the attacks through Iran-aligned militias in Iraq using missiles and drones against Kuwait and other Arab states.

He stressed Kuwait's right to self-defense under

Article 51 of the UN Charter and called for a firm international response to safeguard regional and global security. He also underlined the need to involve regional countries in any future negotiations with Iran and called for reform of Arab League mechanisms to better address evolving challenges.

The interior ministry said explosive ordnance disposal teams handled 11 reports of falling debris in the past 24 hours, raising the total number of such reports since the start of the attacks to 599. Interior Ministry Spokesperson Brig Gen Nasser Buslaib said sirens were activated 12 times in the same period, bringing the total number of alerts to 158 since the start of the attacks.

The ministry of electricity, water and renewable energy confirmed that power and water systems remain stable and under control despite damage to parts of the electrical grid caused by falling debris from interception operations. Spokesperson Fatima Hayat said seven overhead transmission lines were recently damaged, four of which were restored within 24 hours, followed by two more the next day. In total, 22 lines were affected, with 20 already repaired and work ongoing on the remaining two. She added that a fuel tank at Al-Subiya power and water distillation plant sustained damage in

recent weeks and is undergoing repairs, which may take longer due to the extent of the damage.

National Guard Undersecretary Lt Gen Hamad Al-Barjas conducted an inspection visit on Sunday of one of the sites secured by the National Guard. Al-Barjas stressed the importance of maintaining the highest levels of readiness and discipline to enhance the Guard's ability to support state institutions and reinforce the country's security and stability under its wise leadership.

The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition confirmed that food supplies in the local market remain sufficient, with inspection teams working around the clock to ensure the smooth flow and safety of imports under strict oversight. Officials said inspection campaigns have been intensified across cooperative societies, central markets and food factories to ensure proper storage and compliance with safety standards.

Kuwait University announced the postponement of the academic aptitude test scheduled for April 4 due to current conditions. The university said registered students will retain their attempt without it being counted and will be allowed to sit for the test in future sessions without additional fees. New dates will be announced shortly. —KUNA

Zionists block Patriarch from Holy Sepulchre

JERUSALEM: Zionist police prevented the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem from marking Palm Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre "for the first time in centuries", the Patriarchate said, with police citing security concerns linked to the Iran war. Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Friar Francesco Ielpo were stopped by police while walking to the church, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem said.

"As a result, and for the first time in centuries, the Heads of the Church were prevented from celebrating the Palm Sunday Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre," it said in a statement. "This incident is a grave precedent and disregards the sensibilities of billions of people around the world, who during this week, look to Jerusalem."

"War will not erase the resurrection. Grief will not extinguish hope," Pizzaballa said at a Palm Sunday mass he held later at the Church of All Nations, also known as the Church of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives.

Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni criticized the police action and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on social media that he would summon the Zionist ambassador over the incident. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez denounced the action as an attack on religious free-



JERUSALEM: Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa leads a prayer service to mark Palm Sunday on March 29, 2026. — AFP

dom. "Netanyahu has prevented Catholics from celebrating Palm Sunday at the holy sites in Jerusalem," he posted on X. "With no explanation whatsoever. With no reasons or justification."

France's President Emmanuel Macron condemned the Zionist police's decision, which he said "adds to the worrying increase in violations of the status of the Holy Places in Jerusalem". US Ambassador to the Zionist entity Mike Huckabee said denying the Patriarch's entry to the church on Palm Sunday was "difficult to understand or justify". — Agencies (See Page 6)

Iran accuses US of ground attack plot as Pak hosts talks

TEHRAN: The speaker of Iran's parliament accused the United States on Sunday of plotting a ground attack despite publicly pushing for a negotiated deal, after a US warship with around 3,500 military personnel arrived in the Middle East. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf's comments came after more than a month of aerial bombardments of Iran by US and Zionist forces, and as key regional players held talks in Pakistan.

"The enemy publicly sends messages of negotiation and dialogue while secretly planning a ground attack," Ghalibaf said in a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency. "Our men are waiting for the arrival of the American soldiers on the ground to set them on fire and punish their regional allies once and for all," he added. Ghalibaf called for unity among Iranians, saying the war was "at its most critical stage".

Pakistan, acting as a go-between for Washington and Tehran, hosted foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt in Islamabad for talks on the crisis. At the end of the first day of talks, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said foreign ministers from the regional powers had discussed "possible ways to bring an early and permanent end to the war in the region," and had been briefed on po-

Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Egypt-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-Pakistan-Türkiye



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar meets his counterparts, Turkey's Hakan Fidan, Saudi Arabia's Faisal bin Farhan and Egypt's Badr Abdelatty, at the foreign ministry on March 29, 2026. — AFP

tential US-Iran talks in Islamabad.

In Tehran, the Qatari news channel Al Araby said a Zionist missile hit the building housing its office. Footage from inside the office showed broken windows and shattered glass. Outside, people could be seen clearing large piles of rubble. Despite making diplomatic overtures including proposing a 15-point plan to end the war, the US has also been sending more military assets into the region.

The USS Tripoli, an amphibious assault ship carrying around 3,500 Marines and sailors, arrived in the Middle East on Friday. The Washington Post reported the Pentagon was preparing plans for weeks of

ground operations — potentially including raids on sites near the Strait of Hormuz. Iran says it has closed the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane which previously accounted for a quarter of the world's seaborne oil trade and a fifth of liquefied natural gas shipments, to vessels from hostile nations.

Iranian forces said they had fired a volley of missiles and drones at plants belonging to two of the world's largest aluminium producers in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, targeting what they described as industries linked to the US military. In the Zionist entity, thick black smoke could be seen rising from an industrial complex in the Negev desert. — Agencies (See Page 5)