

**Death toll from Israeli raid in West Bank hits 20 on third day of operation**

AFP | Jenin, Palestinian Territories

The death toll from a three-day Israeli raid on the occupied West Bank rose to 20 yesterday, Israel and the Palestinian Red Crescent said, while violence raged on in the Gaza Strip.

It came as US-based aid group Anera said an Israeli strike killed four Palestinians accompanying its convoy on Thursday. The Israeli military reported it had struck armed assailants.

The UN's World Food Programme on Thursday said it had suspended aid operations after one of its vehicles was hit by an Israeli strike.



**Zelensky dismisses Ukraine air force commander after F-16 crash**

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday dismissed the country's air force chief, a day after Kyiv said a US-made F-16 fighter jet had crashed in combat, killing the pilot.

In a video message Zelensky said he had "decided to replace the commander of the air force" to strengthen Ukraine's military leadership.

The crash of the F-16 was a high-profile setback for Kyiv, which had lobbied the West to send the advanced fighter jet for months.

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# Turbocharged

## Government services accelerated to new digital speeds



Ministers detail digitalisation initiative during Bahrain Television broadcast

**Government services have become much faster, with notable reductions in processing times for tasks such as school appointments, maritime registrations, and commercial registrations.**

TDT | Manama

Earlier, it took 15 minutes; now it can be done in just 7.

In Bahrain, this is the new time required for booking postal packages.

Making this possible are the newly installed standalone electronic platforms at postal centres, confirms the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

And know what, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Postal services are just one of the 90 services that have recently went supersonic, thanks to the directives of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop 500 government services.

Education, maritime, civil aviation, as well as industry and commerce are other beneficiaries.

In total, the postal department has digitised five of its services.

This was revealed jointly by the Minister of Education Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Mohammed bin Thamer Al Kaabi,

**Government services are now much faster and more efficient. The main difference is in processing time, which is now lower than ever**

MINISTER OF EDUCATION DR. MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA

**Procedures are now easier for investors, whether individuals, companies, or global entities, aligning with the government's overall vision**

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ABDULLAH BIN ADEL FAKHRO

markers now requires just a week," the minister added.

**Flight Information**

A new service now provides real-time flight information for departing flights. "With an average of 133 departing flights daily, the service utilises a mobile application to inform flight crews of weather and navigational data," the Minister stated.

**Investor-Friendly**

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has made a major leap by digitising 42 services across five departments.

Minister Fakhro said 33 services are for the Registration Department, three each for the Inspection and Standards, and Foreign Trade and Industrial Property Departments.

"We have also digitised two services in the Information Systems Department and one in the Consumer Protection Department," he added.

Procedures are now easier for investors, whether individuals, companies, or global entities, "aligning with the government's overall vision," he underscored.

**Commercial Registration**

By digitising commercial registration services, Fakhro said the ministry "aims to save time and effort for traders and investors, ultimately reducing project costs, especially in light of salary, bill, and bank loan obligations."

"To achieve this, the ministry has reviewed all services and streamlined the application process, reducing steps and requirements," he pointed out.

and Minister of Industry and Commerce Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, during a show on Bahrain Television.

They assured that government services are now much faster and more efficient. The main difference, Dr. Juma said, is in processing time, which is now lower than ever.

**Jobs in private schools**

Explaining further, he said the Ministry of Education has digitised 21 additional services, most importantly the appointment system for private schools. "Previously, this took months and extensive paperwork. But now, it takes just seven days or

less," the minister said.

"Schools, kindergartens, and nurseries can now fill their vacancies much faster."

**Curriculum**

"We have also developed a comprehensive curriculum database to help private schools get their curricula approved in record time," Dr. Juma revealed.

"Previously, schools had to wait for months to ensure compliance with Bahraini laws, customs, traditions, values, and principles."

**Fishing**

In the maritime sector, Al Kaabi said they have digitised 27 services, including registration for fishing and pleasure boats, renewals, and ownership transfers.

Previously, these processes required in-person visits to the registration office. They can now be completed in a day.

Port fees, which used to take two weeks, can now be processed in seven days.

"A task that once took 10 days to identify and locate marine

**Bahrain has digitised 90 services, including education, maritime, and industry, with significant improvements in processing times across various sectors.**

**AGU, Education Ministry announce HM King Hamad Academic Chair Scholarship**

TDT | Manama

The Arabian Gulf University (AGU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has announced the His Majesty King Hamad Academic Chair Scholarship for Digital Education for pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Digital Education.

This scholarship covers the programme fees for two academic years 2024-2025.

Interested applicants should submit a formal request for the scholarship to the email address Scholarship@moe.gov.bh, between today, Friday, August 30, and next Friday, September 6

**Israeli tourists, Egyptian workers wounded in hotel fight: state-linked media**

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

Three Arab-Israeli tourists and four Egyptian workers were wounded Friday in a hotel fight in the Egyptian seaside town of Taba, state-linked media reported.

One of the workers sustained "serious injuries" and was being treated at the local hospital, along with "three Arab 48 tourists", a security source told Al-Qahera News.

"Arab 48" is a term that refers to Palestinians and their descendants who remained in Israel following its creation in 1948.

Friday's fight broke out between hotel staff and the tourists "who attempted to obtain services from the hotel without charge", the channel reported.

Al-Qahera News, which is linked to state intelligence, reported security authorities were investigating the incident. A high-level security source denied Israeli media reports describing the altercation as a "stabbing operation". The incident occurred in the Egyptian town of Taba in South Sinai.