

Caesar's Airfreight



April - June 2025

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Vatican announces death of Pope Francis aged 88

Pope Francis, the first Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has died on Easter Monday aged 88.

The Vatican said he died following a stroke, less than 24 hours after appearing in a wheelchair at St Peter's Square to lead an Easter address in front of thousands of worshipers. The Pope's death follows a period of ill-health that saw him spend five weeks in hospital with double pneumonia.

Services have been held around the world as some 1.4bn Catholics begin to mark the Pope's death. Meanwhile, mourners have started to arrive at the Vatican.

Francis, who was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was elected as Pope in 2013. In a statement published by the Vatican early on Monday, Cardinal Kevin Farrell said the pope had "returned to the home of the Father".

A statement continued: "He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised."

The Vatican later confirmed Francis died after suffering a stroke and subsequent irreversible heart failure at about 07:35 local time (05:30 GMT; 06:30 BST).

Pope Francis's body will be moved to the Chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae, the Vatican guesthouse where he opted to live after becoming Pope, as opposed to the more lavish papal apartment used by his predecessors.



Cardinal Farrell - who holds the position of camerlengo, the cardinal who oversees the transition to a new Pope - will be joined by other senior church figures and Francis's family later on Monday when he presides over the official confirmation of the pontiff's death.

Francis will lie in state in St Peter's Basilica, where mourners will be able to attend to pay their respects, before a funeral is held, which usually takes place within four to six days after a Pope dies.

The Pope requested that some elements of the elaborate death rites which usually take place after a pontiff's death be dispensed with, including using an ornate coffin and displaying his body on a raised platform.

In his final testament, released by the Vatican late on Monday, he asked to be buried in Rome's Basilica of St Mary Major. Many of his predecessors instead chose St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

New Courtesy: <https://www.bbc.com/>

Terror attack on tourists in Indian-administered Kashmir leaves at least 26 dead

At least 26 people were killed and many others injured Tuesday, the vast majority of them tourists, when suspected militants opened fire on civilians in Indian-administered Kashmir, according to Indian authorities in the region. Tens of thousands of Indian security forces spread out across Kashmir a day after the attack, as police, army and paramilitary forces continued their manhunt for the perpetrators.

Many businesses were closed Wednesday to protest the brutal attack on civilians, heeding a call from Kashmiri religious groups and political parties.

The attack took place in South Kashmir's Pahalgam area, a scenic destination dotted with meadows and glaciers that attracts hundreds of thousands of Indian and foreign tourists every summer. That tourist traffic has increased over the last year, as militant violence in the wider Kashmir region, which is disputed between India and neighboring Pakistan, has waned.

"Our reports say that two-three militants appeared and opened indiscriminate fire at the tourists," The Indian Express newspaper quoted a senior police officer as saying, without naming him.

"The death toll is still being ascertained so I don't want to get into those details. They will be



officially conveyed as the situation becomes clearer. Needless to say this attack is much larger than anything we've seen directed at civilians in recent years," Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, wrote in a post on social media.

Abdullah called the attack "shocking beyond belief" and said no words of condemnation could be sufficient to chastise those behind the shooting.

U.S. President Donald Trump pledged his support for India after the deadly attack.

"Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir," Mr. Trump wrote on social media. "The United States stands strong with India against Terrorism."

New Courtesy: <https://www.cbsnews.com/>

Mol conducts major security campaigns in Jleeb, Salmiya

Under the direct supervision of Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) carried out two extensive security campaigns in the areas of Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Salmiya, aimed at enforcing the law and safeguarding public safety. In a press statement issued Saturday, the MoI said the first campaign targeted unlicensed commercial establishments operating within residential buildings in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

The operation was conducted by the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Department of Criminal Investigation, in coordination with several concerned government entities. Authorities identified numerous violations posing risks to the safety and security of the area’s residents. Over a five-day period, 40 violating properties were monitored, and 89 violations were recorded for unauthorized commercial activities. The campaign led



to the arrest of 147 individuals, who were referred to the competent authorities for necessary legal procedures.

Authorities also disconnected electricity to the unlicensed sites, while official warnings and seizure reports were issued in cooperation with the participating agencies. Meanwhile, the second security and traffic campaign was launched in

Salmiya on Friday, resulting in 2,841 traffic violations. Fifteen individuals were arrested for violating residency and labor laws, in addition to five absconders and 17 wanted persons.

The campaign also led to the arrest of three individuals lacking identification documents, the seizure of nine vehicles and motorcycles wanted by judicial authorities, and the confiscation of three motorcycles for traffic violations. Two individuals were also arrested, one for possession of alcoholic beverages and another wanted for criminal execution. The Ministry affirmed that its security operations are ongoing across all governorates to apprehend violators and uphold the rule of law. It urged the public to cooperate with security personnel and report any suspicious or illegal activity by calling the emergency hotline (112).

New Courtesy: <https://kuwaittimes.com>

Minister underlines the need for AI integration in higher education

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Nader Al-Jallal affirmed the ministry’s commitment to advancing Kuwait’s educational system through the integration of modern technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), in alignment with the country’s national development vision. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Abdullah Al-Salem University (ASU) Educational Summit on Wednesday, Dr Al-Jallal highlighted the importance of aligning education with global innovation trends to elevate Kuwait’s standing among developed nations.

The two-day summit, titled “Higher Education in the Era of Innovation: Benefits, Challenges and Functions,” is being held at the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Theater on the university’s Shuwaikh campus. The Minister emphasized that under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh



Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait views education as the cornerstone of human development and innovation as a key enabler of progress.

He stressed the need for higher education institutions to evolve into smart and agile environments built

upon modern technology, adaptive curricula, and robust partnerships with both public and private sectors. “We must align our educational outcomes with national aspirations,” he said, pointing to the role of academia in supporting the knowledge economy.

Dr Al-Jallal noted that the summit aims to address a range of critical issues in the digital era, including governance in higher education, cybersecurity, data privacy, and mechanisms for funding scientific research, in addition to nurturing national talent. In her address, Dr Moudi Al-Hamoud, Chairperson of ASU’s Founding Board of Directors, stated that the summit comes at a pivotal moment for higher education, as it undergoes a strategic shift away from traditional methods toward models centered on innovation and technology.

New Courtesy: <https://kuwaittimes.com>

Kuwait stresses need for stronger policies at global disability summit

Kuwait’s Minister of Social Affairs Dr Amthal Al-Huwailah emphasized the necessity of providing the required policies and programs to ensure the rights of people with disabilities and their integration into societies and labor markets. Her statement came after her participation in a key panel discussion during the third Global Disability Summit in Berlin, Germany, which serves as a platform for shaping global strategies on disability inclusion.

The panel, organized by the Arab League and titled “Technology and Innovation: Supporting Independent Living for People with Disabilities,” was chaired by Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, the Assistant Secretary-General of the League. During the discussion, Dr Al-Huwailah highlighted critical issues around empowering and integrating individuals with disabilities, focusing on the formulation of policies that guarantee them full rights and equal opportunities in all aspects of life.

Dr Al-Huwailah’s speech at the summit set the stage for the panel, where she reiterated Kuwait’s commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities in all societal aspects, including the labor market. She noted that effective integration requires policies that not only protect the rights of individuals with disabilities but also actively empower them, helping them thrive in both society and the workforce. Kuwait’s proactive approach aligns with global commitments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The country’s leadership in the GCC region has been particularly evident through its efforts in adopting policies that support the integration of persons with disabilities into the workforce. Dr Al-Huwailah acknowledged the progress made in countries like the

UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, which have passed laws ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, particularly in employment.

One of the standout initiatives highlighted by Dr Al-Huwailah was Kuwait’s “Partners for Their Employment” program, a collaboration between the

exchange of expertise and the development of innovative strategies to ensure the economic independence and social inclusion of people with disabilities. She also underscored the importance of ensuring that inclusive employment policies are developed and implemented in collaboration with



government, private sector, and civil society. The initiative has successfully trained and employed individuals with disabilities in specialized job paths, and Dr Al-Huwailah described it as a “model to be emulated” in the region. Despite these advancements, Dr Al-Huwailah acknowledged that challenges remain, particularly in addressing discrimination faced by individuals with disabilities in various sectors. She emphasized the need for continuous

international and regional partners.

The summit in Berlin, held from April 2 to April 3, also underscored the necessity of international cooperation in the area of disability inclusion. Discussions focused on creating a unified, global approach to ensure that individuals with disabilities are not left behind in society’s progress.

New Courtesy: <https://kuwaittimes.com>

Future Eye Theatre and Film Club Celebrates World Theatre Day with Iftar

Future Eye Theatre and Film Club marked World Theatre Day on March 27 with a special Iftar gathering at Mangaf Kalasadan Hall. The event began with a warm welcome from Secretary Unni Kaimal, followed by a Ramadan message delivered by Ismail Valliyoth. The evening’s chief guest, P.N.J. Kumar, CEO of Caesars Travel Group (Kuwait and India), highlighted the importance of theatre in addressing contemporary issues and fostering meaningful dialogue with society. A large number of artists, cultural enthusiasts, and theatre professionals attended the Iftar, reflecting the vibrant artistic community in Kuwait.

The club also paid tribute to Dr. Prasanthi, a dedicated member of Future Eye Theatre, who recently passed away. President Santhosh Kumar Kuttath delivered a



heartfelt condolence message, honoring her contributions to the team. As part of the celebration, Future Eye Patron Shemej Kumar read this year’s World Theatre Day message by renowned Greek playwright Theodoros Therzo Poulos, emphasizing the role of art in promoting harmony and cooperation. Additionally, a video message from Dr. Samkutty Pattom Kari and Dr. Sreejith Ramanan was screened for the audience.

The event also featured felicitation speeches from Abdul Aziz Mattuvayil, Assistant General Manager of Joy Alukkas Exchange, and Nash Varghese, Manager of Fly World Travels.

A lively open forum on violence in cinema encouraged active audience participation, with Shemej Kumar moderating the discussion. The cultural performances included a micro drama by Aneesh Adoor and his team, delivering a powerful message against drug abuse, and the one-act play "Traffic", presented by Govind Santha’s theatre group, Street Dogs, which captivated the audience.

The evening was elegantly hosted by Smt. Shatabdi Mukherjee, while Smt. Meera Vinod expressed gratitude with a vote of thanks.



FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE – CURTAIN RAISER “GRAND PRELUDE” LAUNCHES SHAASTROTSAV 2025 IN KUWAIT



The NSS College of Engineering Alumni Association – Kuwait Chapter (NSSCEAAK) successfully hosted the curtain raiser event, “Grand Prelude,” for its flagship Science & Technology Festival, Shaastrotsav 2025, on April 28, 2025, at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The event drew distinguished dignitaries, industry leaders, and professionals, underscoring Shaastrotsav’s growing prominence in Kuwait.

The keynote address by Mr. Fahad Salem Al Kharqawi, Deputy CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), highlighted the critical role of innovation in shaping the future. Dr. Bulent Yilmaz, Acting Dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture at GUST, served as Chief Guest and officially launched the revamped Shaastrotsav website (<https://shaastrotsav.com>).

The event featured insights from esteemed speakers, including:

- Mr. Issa Haidar, CTO, Ooredoo Kuwait
- Mr. Muhammad Hadi Abul, Head of Business Development (Drones & Robotics), Zain Tech
- Mr. Rexzey Williams, Brand Manager, Jetour – Budastoor Motors
- Mr. Nalin, representing Mr. Ahmed Ali J Al Sabah, GM, SATCO Energy
- Mr. Jasem Al Nouri, Deputy Managing Director, Nouri Industrial Establishment Co.

Their talks provided valuable perspectives on emerging technologies and cross-industry innovations.

Mr. Shemej Kumar, Convener of Shaastrotsav 2025, traced the festival’s evolution since 2009, emphasizing its role in promoting STEM education and nurturing young talent. He outlined the upcoming edition’s exciting lineup, including robotics contests,

coding competitions, Rubik’s cube challenges, robotic football, line followers, and innovation showcases. Kumar also announced a new monthly quiz competition starting in May 2025, open to all school students via the Shaastrotsav website.

Set for November 2025, Shaastrotsav 2025 promises to be the largest edition yet. NSSCEAAK extends an open invitation to the KEF community and the Indian diaspora in Kuwait to support and participate in this landmark event.

All guest speakers were honored with mementos. Mr. Joe Joseph, President of NSSCEAAK, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributors who made the “Grand Prelude” a resounding success and Mrs Sonali Jagath Prasad and Mrs Marihan Adel Ibrahim did the anchoring the event.

Saudi Arabia to get 'Westfield' branded shopping centers

The 'Westfield' brand is coming to Saudi Arabia. Westfield branded shopping centers are hugely popular in Europe and the US, and this is what Saudi shoppers will soon be getting.

It follows a partnership between Saudi entity Cenomi Centers and Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW) under a 10-year exclusive franchising partnership agreement. There is an option to extend for another 10 years. Under this, Cenomi Centers will obtain the exclusive licensing rights to the Westfield brand in Saudi Arabia from URW. It will 'tap into URW's best-in-class network and capabilities across a full range of support in key areas including leasing, operations, marketing, retail media'.

The Cenomi Centers' Westfield-branded malls will be 'top-of-mind destinations for consumers, tourists and brands'. Three malls - Jawharat Riyadh, Jawharat Jeddah and Nakheel Dammam - will be the first to be branded as Westfield centers in Saudi Arabia. The collaboration will extend 'across up to eight of Cenomi Centers' portfolio of top malls'.

Saudi Arabia's retail sector has been creating new destinations, and with no scarcity of ever bigger malls



packed with the latest in shopping and leisure options. Older facilities have also been put through makeovers, to be in step with what shoppers of today need. "This collaboration not only solidifies our position as the leading owner, operator and developer of contemporary lifestyle centers in Saudi Arabia, but

also aligns with the Kingdom's broader goals for economic growth and development in both the sector and region," said Alison Rehill-Erguven, CEO, Cenomi Centers.

New Courtesy: <https://gulfnews.com/>

Trump Tower Abu Dhabi: Buzz builds ahead of Gulf visit and Dubai success



Ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to the Gulf next week, the UAE's property market is buzzing with talk about how soon the next Trump-branded project will launch – and whether that will be in Abu Dhabi. Or Riyadh.

Talks about a Trump Tower for Abu Dhabi are 'pretty

serious', according to informed sources. On whether such an announcement would happen during the US President's visit to the UAE, they declined to comment.

But for now, there's lots happening on Trump projects in the Gulf. Sales at the 80-storey Trump

International Hotel & Tower in Dubai have got off to a brisk start, with two-bedroom apartments from Dh4 million and four-bedroom penthouses (of which there are only two) having a sticker price of Dh70 million plus.

Given its prime location at the entrance of Downtown Dubai, the price per square foot on the Trump Tower is as premium as it gets. Downtown Dubai has a mix of psf prices, in the main averaging Dh2,000-Dh8,000 and 'then pushing past that for signature developments such as Trump Tower and the Bugatti Residences by Binghatti', according to data from GCP.

The Dubai launch follows that of the Trump Tower in Jeddah – "Going by the response in Jeddah, Trump Dubai should soon be hitting its sales targets, that's for sure," said a property industry source. "And then there's the location in Downtown Dubai, which creates its own pull. What would be interesting to see is how soon those penthouses sell.

"With a hotel taking up 18 levels of the 80 storeys, that adds to the project's viability in the eyes of investors."

Both Trump Tower projects launched to date in the GCC will be built by Dar Global, which also has a tie up with Trump Organization for a niche super-exclusive golfing community in Oman.

New Courtesy: <https://gulfnews.com/>

Luxury is 'resilient': Four Seasons to bring more stays to UAE, Saudi Arabia

The market for luxury stays, including hotels and branded residences, in the UAE and Saudi Arabia continues its strong upward trajectory. And Adrian Messerli, President of Four Seasons hotel operations in the EMEA region, said the luxury group has time and again showcased its resilience by demonstrating sustained immunity against regional, local, and global economic and geopolitical turbulences.

This apparent robustness in the luxury sector may also be a key motivation behind the increase in luxury projects currently in the regional pipeline. He said the group has not seen a dip in consumer demand but has adopted a watchful stance towards macroeconomic and geopolitical challenges.

Four Seasons, the iconic Canadian luxury hotel and resort company, majorly owned by tech mogul Bill



Gates (through Cascade Investment) and Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal (through Kingdom Holding Company), recently announced plans to assume management of a luxury beachfront resort located in

Al Zorah, Ajman.

New Courtesy: <https://gulfnews.com/>



Palace On Wheels

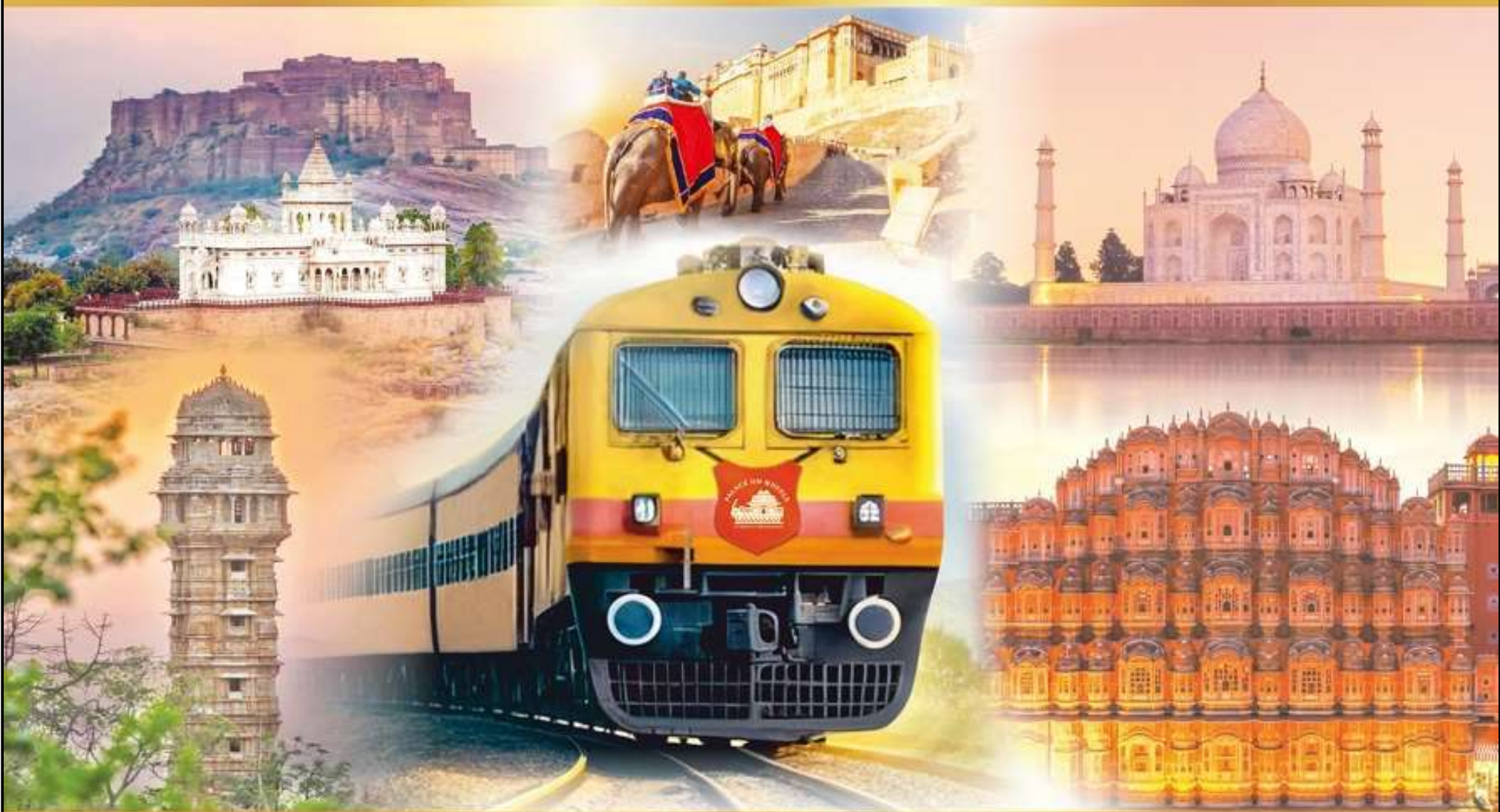
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Etihad Airways CEO says IPO decision is with its shareholder

Etihad Airways CEO Antonoaldo Neves has said that the decision regarding the IPO will be finalised by its shareholder, with many speculating that an announcement will be made this quarter.

Talks about the IPO of the Abu Dhabi carrier, owned by sovereign investor ADQ, have been widespread in the market, but the airline has not confirmed a timeline.

Speaking at the Arabian Travel Market conference in Dubai, Neves said Etihad is moving ahead with a progressive growth strategy, despite market volatility stemming from US tariffs and fluctuating oil prices. Last year, the airline revealed a \$7 billion investment plan over the next five years to double the size of its fleet by 2030.

“This year, we expect a growth between 15% to 20%, and very soon, we are going to have 100 planes in our fleet, with 20 to 22 aircraft to be added this year,” Neves said. “Over the next few years, we will add 20 planes per year to reach our planned fleet capacity of



170 aircraft and 30 to 33 million passengers by 2030.” Etihad, which debuted its Airbus A321LR aircraft at the ATM in a bid to deliver “wide-body comfort on short and medium-haul routes”, also has plans to

invest further in its first and business class segments as part of its growth.

New Courtesy: <https://www.zawya.com/>

Air Canada Flight Attendants May Go on Strike in 2025

Flight attendants may go on strike in 2025 as contract negotiations with the airline have stalled. Represented by the Air Canada Component of CUPE, over 10,000 flight attendants are affected, citing unfair wages and unpaid work as key concerns.

The union has entered into conciliation with the federal government, setting the stage for a potential strike as early as August 2025. Entry-level flight attendants reportedly earn just \$1,951.30 monthly, which the union says is unsustainable.

The labor dispute began when contract negotiations between the airline and CUPE (Canadian Union of Public Employees) broke down in May. CUPE President Wesley Lesosky expressed frustration, stating Air Canada “appears to be dragging their feet



and not taking the process seriously.” Flight attendants argue that current wages are no longer

viable in today’s economy.

Entry-level full-time crew members reportedly earn just CAD 1,951.30 per month, which the union claims is not a livable wage in cities like Toronto (YYZ) and Vancouver (YVR). The airline and union are now entering a formal conciliation process involving the federal Minister of Labour. This timeline makes early August the earliest possible window for legal strike action if no deal is reached. Union officials have emphasized that the current labor contract, signed in 2015, is outdated.

Over the last decade, flight attendants have absorbed increased responsibilities without commensurate pay.

New Courtesy: aviationa2z.com

Qatar Airways identified as launch customer for Mammoth 777-200LR converted freighter



Qatar Airways’ cargo division is to be the launch customer for the Boeing 777-200LR freighter conversion programme established by US-based Mammoth Freighters.

The disclosure follows the initial test flight of the

prototype converted aircraft (N705DN), designated the 777-200LRMF, following its modification at Aspire MRO in Fort Worth.

Mammoth says it has finalised an agreement for five aircraft with US sales and leasing firm Jetran.

“This additional freighter capacity will be instrumental in advancing our fleet growth and expanding the premium cargo services we provide to customers worldwide,” says Qatar Airways chief cargo officer Mark Drusch.

“The growth of our fleet with the Mammoth 777s reflects our commitment to operating the largest freighter network and fleet in the industry.”

Mammoth chief Bill Tarpley says the Qatar commitment demonstrates the “long-term value and capabilities” offered by the aircraft.

The conversion company, which is also developing a 777-300ERMF variant, has firm orders for 35 freighter conversions, and has seven 777s undergoing modification – five at Aspire MRO and two in the UK, at STS Aviation Services in Manchester.

New Courtesy: <https://www.flightglobal.com/>

Air India sees Pakistan airspace ban costing it \$600 mn over 12 months, seeks aid

Air India expects to face around \$600 million in additional costs if a ban from Pakistan’s airspace lasts for a year, and has asked the central government to compensate it for the hit, a company letter seen by Reuters shows.

Indian airlines are bracing for higher fuel costs and longer journey times after Pakistan shut its airspace to the country’s carriers after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty in response to an attack on tourists in Kashmir’s Pahalgam last week.

Air India on April 27 asked the Indian government for



a "subsidy model" proportionate to the economic hit, estimating a loss of more than 50 billion Indian rupees (\$591 million) for each year the ban lasts, according to a letter sent by the airline to the Civil Aviation Ministry seen by Reuters.

Air India's letter was sent after the government asked its executives to assess the impact of the airspace ban on Indian carriers, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

New Courtesy: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>

Air Samarkand operates the first flight between Samarkand-Tel Aviv

Fast developing Uzbek carrier Air Samarkand has operated its latest international scheduled service, to the Israeli capital of Tel Aviv, and already announced a doubling of weekly capacity from July to meet surging customer demand.

The new weekly service operated for a first time yesterday (Sunday) with a modern Air Samarkand Airbus A330 aircraft and will continue every Sunday. The first flight departed from Samarkand in Uzbekistan on schedule at 06:00 am and arrived in Tel Aviv five and a half hours later, at 09:25 am local time. The return service departed from Tel Aviv at 11:20 am, arriving back in the historic city of Samarkand at 18:40 pm local time.

Passengers on these inaugural services were treated to a traditional welcome at both airports and were also presented with special gifts and treats.

Given high levels of passenger demand, Air Samarkand used the inaugural service to announce a doubling of route capacity starting from July, with a second return to be operated on every Thursday.

US, Canada, UK, Israel, Australia And India Flights Will Now Incur Extra Charges For Unaccompanied Minors On Air

Air India has officially rolled out new handling charges for unaccompanied minors flying on its network, impacting key international destinations such as the US, Canada, UK, Israel, and Australia, as well



as domestic routes within India. The airline stated that these charges have been introduced to ensure enhanced safety, comfort, and personalized supervision for children aged five to twelve who are travelling alone. This policy aims to align with global aviation standards and reflects the rising demand for structured assistance for solo minor travelers. Depending on the destination, parents will now pay additional fees ranging from five thousand to thirteen thousand rupees on top of regular ticket prices. The updated policy mandates that children flying without guardians be supported throughout the journey by trained Air India staff, from check-in to arrival handover.

India’s national carrier, Air India, has unveiled a new policy that introduces additional handling charges for unaccompanied minors, a move aimed at enhancing safety, personalized assistance, and care for children travelling alone. This change impacts children between the ages of five and twelve who are not accompanied by a guardian or parent during their journey.

Previously, Air India did not impose any extra charges for most destinations, barring the UAE where a nominal airport-based ground handling fee was applicable. However, the airline has now standardized and expanded its fee structure, citing the need for increased supervision, assistance, and comfort during the travel process for young flyers.

Air India stated that the primary motivation behind the policy update is to ensure child safety and a seamless travel experience.

New Courtesy: <https://www.travelandtourworld.com/>



Services will be operated by Airbus 330 (with 313 seats) or Airbus A321 (194 seats) aircraft according to load factors.

“The opening of regular flights to Tel Aviv represents an important step in the development of ties between Uzbekistan and Israel,” said Zafar Butayev, CEO of Air Samarkand. “We are seeing steady interest in this route from tourist, pilgrim and business travellers, and

are delighted to confirm a second service starting from July. This will meet growing demand for a convenient and competitive direct service that links our two culturally rich cities and represents another important step forward in the expansion of the Air Samarkand route network,” he said.

New Courtesy: <https://worldairlinenews.com/>

American Airlines to Partner With FIFA for World Cup 2026

American Airlines announced Thursday that it is partnering with FIFA for the 2026 World Cup, offering flights and promos to fans and teams during the tournament.

The partnership is with Qatar Airways, American’s Oneworld alliance partner. American said it is also offering members of its loyalty program the chance to win tickets to the World Cup.

Sports partnerships are common for airlines because it allows them to build customer loyalty among fans of a team, player, or league. Emirates inked a high-profile partnership with the National Basketball Association last year to rename the league’s in-season tournament as the “Emirates NBA Cup.” Seven-time Super Bowl winner Tom Brady has a partnership with Delta Air Lines, where he serves as



a “strategic advisor.”

New Courtesy: <https://skift.com/>

Air Kerala Gets its IATA Code, Launch by End of June 2025

Air Kerala, the upcoming ultra-low-cost airline backed by UAE-based investors, has secured its International Air Transport Association (IATA) airline code.

The carrier announced on Friday, May 2, that it has received the two-letter code “KD,” marking another significant step toward its launch, Gulf News reported. For Afi Ahmed, Dubai-based founder

April 15.

Kerala Minister of Industries P. Rajeev inaugurated the facility, with several Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly in attendance.

The modern headquarters features training facilities and can accommodate over 200 aviation professionals working simultaneously.



and Chairman of Air Kerala, the designation holds special meaning. “For us, ‘KD’ stands for ‘Kerala Dream.’ “While for non-Keralites, it could mean ‘Kerala to Dubai’ or ‘Kerala to Doha.’ This is another step towards making the Air Kerala dream come true,” Ahmed said.

The airline recently established its headquarters in Kochi, Kerala, opening a spacious 3-floor office complex near Aluva Metro station in Ernakulam on

Air Kerala, an emerging Ultra Low-Cost Carrier (ULCC), aims to transform affordable air travel across India and international markets.

Founded by UAE-based entrepreneurs Afi Ahmed, who serves as Chairman, and Ayub Kallada as Vice Chairman, the airline focuses on making air travel more accessible, cost-effective, and efficient for travelers.

New Courtesy: <https://aviationa2z.com/>



WELCOME TO KUWAIT

Kuwait to Boost Inbound Tourism



Group Organized by Caesars Holidays

Caesars Premium city tours,
Desert Camp for Groups
Luxury Yacht tours,
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Car rental & Buses

'We have designed
many Tailor-made
Packages, based on
the interest of
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coming to
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Papal conclave: Cardinals speak out on challenges new pope will face

Two cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church who will be voting in the upcoming papal conclave sat down with ABC News to discuss the challenges facing the church that the new pontiff will have to face and shared glimpses of the election process.

Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny, who was appointed by Pope Francis in 2019, said the clergymen of the Catholic Church are "united in their task" to select a new pope.

The cardinals, who have been getting to know one another in Rome following the days of Pope Francis' funeral, are not engaging in any kind of behind-the-scenes debates about issues of the church, Czerny said.

"This is not a political convention. We're not dealing and wheeling in order to create a consensus. We are entering spiritually, prayerfully, having listened to one another as deeply as we can," he said.

Czerny declined to say whether he wants a new pope whose views align with those of Francis nor would he discuss possible candidates for the next pontiff, but when asked what the church needs most at this time, he said: "It's very important that we're here in 2025, not 12 years ago or not 100 years ago, but now."

Once elected, Czerny said the new pope will face challenges regarding artificial intelligence, the proliferation of wars and the climate crisis.

"These are all things in which the church is involved because we're everywhere and these are the things



that are affecting people's lives," Czerny said.

Cardinal Chibly Langlois, the first and only cardinal from Haiti who was appointed in 2014 by Francis, told ABC News he is looking for a pope who will be able to tackle issues like technology, the sex abuse scandals in the church, interreligious dialogue, along with outreach to young people and isolated communities.

"If we try to understand what awaits the next pope, inside the church, outside the church and around the world, that will help guide the next pope," Langlois said.

International News

Europe launches drive to attract scientists, researchers after Trump freezes funding

The European Union launched a drive on Monday to attract scientists and researchers to Europe with offers of grants and new policy plans, after the Trump administration froze U.S. government funding linked to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

"A few years ago, no one would have imagined that one of the biggest democracies in the world would cancel research programs under the pretext that the word diversity was in this program," French President Emmanuel Macron said at the "Choose Europe for Science" event in Paris.

"No one would have thought that one of the biggest democracies in the world would delete with a stroke the ability of one researcher or another to obtain visas," Macron said. "But here we are."

Taking the same stage at the Sorbonne University, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the EU's executive branch would set up a "super grant" program aimed at offering "a longer-term perspective to the very best" in the field.

New Courtesy: <https://abcnews.go.com/>

Israel launches airstrikes on Yemen a day after Houthi rebels strike Israeli airport

Israel's military said Monday that it carried out airstrikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen's Red Sea city of Hodeida, a day after the Iranian-backed rebels launched a missile that hit Israel's main airport.

The rebels' media office said the United States and Israel launched at least six strikes Monday afternoon that hit the crucial Hodeida port. Other strikes hit a cement factory in the Bajil district in Hodeida province, the rebels said.

On Sunday, a missile launched by Iranian-backed rebels in Yemen briefly halted flights and commuter traffic at Israel's main international airport. Four people were lightly injured. It was the first time a missile struck the grounds of Israel's airport since the start of the war.

New Courtesy: <https://abcnews.go.com/>



Caribbean island town shuts down following spat between mayor and council



The mayor of a small town on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe shuttered government agencies, cancelled classes and halted municipal services on Monday following a spat with city council officials who have called for an emergency meeting.

The closures in Le Gosier, a town of roughly 26,000

people located on the island's southern coast, are expected to last until Wednesday, according to an order issued by Mayor Michel Hotin.

The spat began in late April when Hotin, who was newly elected, failed to receive support from opposition city council members to create a general delegation. The delegation would act as an executive

branch, including a general manager and other officials who would have the power to authorize contracts and make other decisions on behalf of Hotin.

Hotin has said that the ongoing stalemate has effectively blocked him from managing Le Gosier because without a general delegation, all decisions would require a council vote. Hotin defended the closures in a statement, saying he cannot renew essential public contracts of state employees without a delegation.

On Monday, Guadeloupe's prefect, Xavier Lefort, said he would file an appeal before an administrative court to suspend Hotin's order. Guadeloupe is an administrative department of France, and the prefect is the top departmental official on the island.

Lefort also urged Hotin to take emergency measures to reopen the town and meet immediately with the council so it could authorize Hotin to renew or award public contracts absent a delegation.

New Courtesy: <https://abcnews.go.com/>

International Politics

Germany’s Merz fails to be elected chancellor in shock first-round parliamentary vote

Friedrich Merz failed to be elected German chancellor Tuesday, after he fell short of securing a majority in a shock first-round parliamentary vote.

Merz needed at least 316 votes to become chancellor and only 310 members of parliament voted in his favor. Germany’s Bundestag has a total of 630 members.

The result marks an unanticipated setback for Merz who was widely expected to secure the necessary votes and be officially sworn in later in the day.

After the result of the vote was announced the parliamentary session was halted to allow for discussion of next steps. The German Dax stock market index extended losses to trade around 1.4% lower by 10:07 a.m. London time.

A second vote needs to take place within 14 days, according to the German constitution, with an absolute majority needed once again. There are also protocols in place in case the second vote also fails to elect a chancellor.

Merz’ Social Democratic Union, alongside its sister party the Christian Social Union, won the biggest share of votes in Germany’s February election. They



were due to form a coalition government with the Social Democratic Party. Coalition governments are commonplace in Germany where it is very rare for a party to secure an absolute majority of over 50% in an election.

The parties on Monday signed their coalition agreement, titled “Responsibility for Germany,”

following weeks of negotiations that began soon after Germany’s February election.

Despite the setback, Merz is still expected to eventually be elected chancellor, economists and analysts said Tuesday.

“Friedrich Merz became the first chancellor candidate failing to be elected in the first round of voting in the Bundestag. However, he remains likely to win sufficient support eventually,” Carsten Nickel, deputy director of research at Teneo, said.

Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg, described the situation as a “bad surprise.” He echoed comments suggesting Merz would still become chancellor eventually, but “the unprecedented failure to be elected in the first round would still be a bad start for him.”

“It shows that he cannot fully rely on his two coalition parties. That will sow some doubts about his ability to fully pursue his agenda, damaging his domestic and international authority at least initially,” Schmieding said.

New Courtesy: <https://www.cnn.com/>

DOGE cuts could help Elon Musk companies avoid \$2 billion in liabilities: Senate report



Elon Musk may skirt more than \$2 billion in possible financial liabilities by exercising his influence over the federal government, according to a report Monday from Senate Democratic committee staffers.

Musk’s “Department of Government Efficiency” has brought sweeping changes to Washington with its slash-and-burn campaign to gut agencies and purge the federal workforce. President Donald Trump has avidly supported Musk’s cuts.

As he appears poised to step back from his DOGE work in the coming weeks, Democrats are accusing the world’s richest person of using his influence to “evade oversight, derail investigations, and make litigation disappear whenever he so chooses—on his terms and at his command.”

The report, compiled by Democratic staff of the Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, found that on the day of Trump’s inauguration, Musk and his companies were facing at least 65 “actual or potential” regulatory or enforcement actions from 11 federal agencies.

These actions totaled at least \$2.37 billion in potential liability, the memo says.

The companies include SpaceX, a space exploration firm, Tesla, an electric vehicle manufacturer; Neuralink, which produces brain implants; The Boring Company, a tunnel construction firm; and the artificial intelligence startup xAI.

New Courtesy: <https://www.cnn.com/>

Luigi Mangione pleads not guilty in federal court to murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO

Luigi Mangione pleaded not guilty Friday in New York federal court to the murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

Mangione faces a possible death sentence in the case if he is convicted in the federal case of murdering Thompson, who was gunned down on a Manhattan street in December.

The 26-year-old University of Pennsylvania graduate is separately charged in New York state court with the slaying.

Mangione is accused of fatally shooting Thompson on Dec. 4 as the CEO was walking into the Hilton Hotel in midtown. UnitedHealth Group, the parent of Thompson’s health insurance giant, was hosting an event for investors at the hotel that day.

Mangione was arrested five days later at a McDonald’s in Altoona, Pennsylvania. He is charged U.S. District Court in Manhattan with murder through use of a firearm, two counts of stalking, and a firearms offence.

The hearing occurred a day after the Justice Department formally notified Garnett that it would seek the death penalty in the case, arguing that Thompson’s killing was ideologically motivated by Mangione’s anger toward the health insurance industry.

In a court filing Thursday, prosecutors told Garnett there were several factors to warrant imposing a death



sentence in the case, including the allegation that Mangione “intentionally killed” Thompson, and “that the killing required “substantial planning and premeditation.”

“Mangione elected to murder Thompson under these circumstances to amplify an ideological message, maximize the visibility and impact of the victim’s murder, and to provoke broad-based resistance to the victim’s industry,” the filing said.

“Mangione presents a future danger because he expressed intent to target an entire industry, and rally political and social opposition to that industry, by

engaging in an act of lethal violence; and he took steps to evade law enforcement, flee New York City immediately after the murder, and cross state lines while armed with a privately manufactured firearm and silencer.”

U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi on April 1 first revealed that the Justice Department wanted to have Mangione executed if he is convicted.

On Friday, Garnett warned lawyers in the case to refrain from “public commentary that could impede Mangione’s right to a fair trial.

New Courtesy: <https://www.cnn.com/>

Tourist Boats Capsize in Sudden Storm in Southwest China, Leaving 10 Dead

Four boats capsized in a sudden storm at a tourist spot in southwestern China, killing 10 people, state media said Monday.

More than 80 people fell into a river when strong winds hit the scenic area in Guizhou province late Sunday afternoon, state broadcaster CCTV said.

The boats capsized after a sudden rain and hail storm on the upper reaches of the Wu River, a tributary of the Yangtze, China’s longest river. In one video shared by state media, a man could be seen performing CPR on another person, while one of the vessels drifted upside down.

Initial reports said two tourist boats had capsized, but state media said on Monday that four boats were involved. The other two boats had no passengers, and



the seven crew members were able to save themselves, CCTV said. Guizhou’s mountains and rivers are a major tourism draw, and many Chinese were traveling during a five-day national holiday that

ended Monday.
Chinese President Xi Jinping called for all-out efforts to find the missing and care for the injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said on Sunday. Seventy people were sent to a hospital, most with minor injuries.
CCTV said the capsized boats had a maximum capacity of about 40 people each and were not overloaded.

An eyewitness told state-owned Beijing News the waters were deep but that some people had managed to swim to safety. However, the storm had come suddenly and a thick mist obscured the surface of the river.

New Courtesy: <https://www.usnews.com/>

2 Dead as Slow-Moving Storms Flood Roads Across Oklahoma and Texas



At least two people drowned when their vehicles were caught in floodwaters in Oklahoma on Wednesday as slow-moving thunderstorms inundated

roads across parts of that state and Texas, authorities said, while Pennsylvania residents picked up from a powerful storm that left three people dead.
Heavy rains and severe thunderstorms will mean a heightened risk of flash flooding across the south-central U.S. through early Thursday, the National Weather Service said. Rains drench parts of Oklahoma and Texas

The storms drenched much of southern Oklahoma and northern Texas, flooding and washing out roads and causing hundreds of flights to be canceled or delayed at major airports.

One man drowned in Oklahoma after his vehicle got swept off a Pottawatomie County highway, said Sheriff Freeland Wood. “My deputy went in to try and save him, and he got caught up in the same mess,” Wood said. The deputy was treated at a local hospital and released, Wood said. Floodwaters closed nearly three dozen roadways in the county.
Another drowning was reported in neighboring Lincoln County after a driver’s vehicle got trapped in floodwaters along a highway northwest of Prague, Oklahoma Highway Patrol spokesperson Sarah Stewart said.

New Courtesy: <https://www.usnews.com/>

The World's Biggest Companies Have Caused \$28 Trillion in Climate Damage

The world's biggest corporations have caused \$28 trillion in climate damage, a new study estimates as part of an effort to make it easier for people and governments to hold companies financially accountable, like the tobacco giants have been.
A Dartmouth College research team came up with the estimated pollution caused by 111 companies, with more than half of the total dollar figure coming from 10 fossil fuel providers: Saudi Aramco, Gazprom, Chevron, ExxonMobil, BP, Shell, National Iranian Oil Co., Pemex, Coal India and the British Coal Corporation.

For comparison, \$28 trillion is a shade less than the sum of all goods and services produced in the United States last year.
At the top of the list, Saudi Aramco and Gazprom have each caused a bit more than \$2 trillion in heat damage over the decades, the team calculated in a study published in Wednesday's journal Nature. The researchers figured that every 1% of greenhouse gas



put into the atmosphere since 1990 has caused \$502 billion in damage from heat alone, which doesn't include the costs incurred by other extreme weather such as hurricanes, droughts and floods.

People talk about making polluters pay, and sometimes even take them to court or pass laws meant to rein them in.

New Courtesy: <https://www.usnews.com/>

A Magnitude 6.2 Quake Shakes Istanbul and Injures More Than 230 People

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 shook Istanbul and other areas of Turkey on Wednesday, prompting widespread panic and scores of injuries in the city of 16 million people, though there were no immediate reports of serious damage.
At least 236 people were treated for injuries they suffered while trying to jump from buildings or for panic attacks — most of them in Istanbul, where residents are on tenterhooks because the city is considered at high risk for a major quake.

The earthquake had a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (about 6 miles), according to the United States Geological Survey, with its epicenter about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Istanbul, in the Sea of Marmara.
It was felt in the neighboring provinces of Tekirdag,



Yalova, Bursa and Balikesir and in the coastal city of Izmir, some 550 kilometers (340 miles) south of Istanbul. Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said the earthquake lasted 13 seconds and was followed by more than 100 aftershocks — the strongest measuring 5.9 in magnitude.
The quake started at 12:49 p.m. Wednesday, a public holiday, when many children were out of school and celebrating in the streets of Istanbul. Panicked residents rushed from their homes and buildings into the streets. Authorities urged residents to avoid entering buildings that might have been damaged and said sports halls and mosques would be open to house residents not wanting to spend the night in their homes.

New Courtesy: <https://www.usnews.com/>

6 benefits of regular physical activity

Want to feel better, have more energy and even add years to your life? Just exercise.

The health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity are hard to ignore. Everyone benefits from exercise, no matter their age, sex or physical ability.

Need more convincing to get moving? Check out these seven ways that exercise can lead to a happier, healthier you.

1. Exercise controls weight

Exercise can help prevent excess weight gain or help you keep off lost weight. When you take part in physical activity, you burn calories. The more intense the activity, the more calories you burn.

Regular trips to the gym are great, but don't worry if you can't find a large chunk of time to exercise every day. Any amount of activity is better than none. To gain the benefits of exercise, just get more active throughout your day. For example, take the stairs instead of the elevator or rev up your household chores. Consistency is key.

2. Exercise combats health conditions and diseases

Worried about heart disease? Hoping to prevent high blood pressure? No matter what your current weight is, being active boosts high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, the "good" cholesterol, and it decreases unhealthy triglycerides. This one-two punch keeps your blood flowing smoothly, which lowers your risk of heart and blood vessel, called cardiovascular, diseases.

Regular exercise helps prevent or manage many health problems and concerns, including:

- Stroke.
- Metabolic syndrome.
- High blood pressure.
- Type 2 diabetes.
- Depression.
- Anxiety.
- Many types of cancer.
- Arthritis.
- Falls.

It also can help improve cognitive function and helps lower the risk of death from all causes.

3. Exercise improves mood

Need an emotional lift? Or need to lower stress after a stressful day? A gym session or brisk walk can help. Physical activity stimulates many brain chemicals that may leave you feeling happier, more relaxed and less



anxious.

You also may feel better about your appearance and yourself when you exercise regularly, which can boost your confidence and improve your self-esteem.

4. Exercise boosts energy

Winded by grocery shopping or household chores? Regular physical activity can improve your muscle strength and boost your endurance.

Exercise sends oxygen and nutrients to your tissues and helps your cardiovascular system work more efficiently. And when your heart and lung health improve, you have more energy to tackle daily chores.

5. Exercise promotes better sleep

Struggling to snooze? Regular physical activity can help you fall asleep faster, get better sleep and deepen your sleep. Just don't exercise too close to bedtime, or you may be too energized to go to sleep.

6. Exercise can be fun — and social!

Exercise and physical activity can be fun. They give you a chance to unwind, enjoy the outdoors or simply do activities that make you happy. Physical activity also can help you connect with family or friends in a fun social setting.

So take a dance class, hit the hiking trails or join a soccer team. Find a physical activity you enjoy, and just do it. Bored? Try something new, or do something with friends or family.

Exercise to feel better and have fun

Exercise and physical activity are great ways to feel better, boost your health and have fun. For most healthy adults, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends these exercise guidelines:

- Aerobic activity.** Get at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity. Or get at least 75

minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week. You also can get an equal combination of moderate and vigorous activity. Aim to spread out this exercise over a few days or more in a week. For even more health benefits, the guidelines suggest getting 300 minutes a week or more of moderate aerobic activity. Exercising this much may help with weight loss or keeping off lost weight. But even small amounts of physical activity can be helpful. Being active for short periods of time during the day can add up and have health benefits.

- Strength training.** Do strength training exercises for all major muscle groups at least two times a week. One set of each exercise is enough for health and fitness benefits. Use a weight or resistance level heavy enough to tire your muscles after about 12 to 15 repetitions.

Moderate aerobic exercise includes activities such as brisk walking, biking, swimming and mowing the lawn. Vigorous aerobic exercise includes activities such as running, swimming laps, heavy yardwork and aerobic dancing.

You can do strength training by using weight machines or free weights, your own body weight, heavy bags, or resistance bands. You also can use resistance paddles in the water or do activities such as rock climbing.

If you want to lose weight, keep off lost weight or meet specific fitness goals, you may need to exercise more.

Remember to check with a health care professional before starting a new exercise program, especially if you have any concerns about your fitness or haven't exercised for a long time. Also check with a health care professional if you have chronic health problems, such as heart disease, diabetes or arthritis.

Blog Courtesy: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/>

The Inhalation of Harmful Chemicals Can Cause Irreversible Lung Damage and Lung Disease

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine¹ released a consensus study report that reviewed over 800 different studies.

That report made clear: using e-cigarettes causes health risks. It concluded that e-cigarettes both contain and emit a number of potentially toxic substances. The Academies' report also states there is moderate evidence that youth who use e-cigarettes are at increased risk for cough and wheezing and an increase in asthma exacerbations.

A study from the University of North Carolina found that the two primary ingredients found in e-cigarettes—propylene glycol and vegetable glycerin—are toxic to cells and that the more ingredients in an e-liquid, the greater the toxicity.²

E-cigarettes produce a number of dangerous chemicals including acetaldehyde, acrolein, and formaldehyde. These aldehydes can cause lung disease, as well as cardiovascular (heart) disease.³



E-cigarettes also contain acrolein, a herbicide primarily used to kill weeds. It can cause acute lung injury and COPD and may cause asthma and lung cancer.⁴

Both the U.S. Surgeon General and the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine have warned about the risks of inhaling secondhand e-cigarette emissions, which are created when an e-

cigarette user exhales the chemical cocktail created by e-cigarettes.

In 2016, the Surgeon General concluded that secondhand emissions contain, "nicotine; ultrafine particles; flavorings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease; volatile organic compounds such as benzene, which is found in car exhaust; and heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead."

The Food and Drug Administration has not found any e-cigarette to be safe and effective in helping people who use tobacco products to quit. If people are ready to quit smoking and using other tobacco products for good, they should call 1-800-QUIT NOW or talk with their doctor about finding the best way to quit using proven methods and FDA-approved treatments and counseling.

Blog Courtesy: <https://www.lung.org/>



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Caesars Travel Group Clinches 'Best Corporate Travel Strategy of the Year' at MALT Excellence Awards 2025



Caesars Travel Group has once again solidified its position as an industry leader by winning the award for 'Best Corporate Travel Strategy of the Year' at the prestigious MALT Excellence Awards 2025. This accolade was presented during a grand ceremony held at the Conrad Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi on February 20, 2025, recognizing Caesars' outstanding performance and innovative approach to corporate travel management.

This award marks the third consecutive year that Caesars Travel Group has been honored at the MALT Excellence Awards. Previous awards include 'Top Organization in Travel in the GCC' in 2023, as well as 'MICE and Travel Team of the Year' and 'TMC of the Year – MICE' in 2024.

This consistent recognition underscores the company's dedication to excellence and its significant role in shaping the travel industry in the Middle East.

With a strong presence across Kuwait, employing nearly 500 staff in 37 offices, Caesars Travel Group offers a comprehensive range of services, including ticketing, cargo, shipping, and holiday packages. Their strategic partnerships with leading global airlines and destination management companies have been essential in delivering customized travel solutions to a diverse clientele.

Kishore Vasudevan, Director - Operations of Caesars Travel Group, expressed his gratitude, stating, "We consider these honors a true reward for our unwavering dedication to excellence in all areas, particularly for our valued clients and the travel and tourism sector as a whole. We are committed to maintaining this level of quality in the years to come."

CEO P.N.J. Kumar also shared his thoughts, saying, "It's an amazing feeling to have won this award. We have now secured this honor for three consecutive years through excellent service, hard work, and total dedication to the travel industry. Above all, our passengers' trust, loyalty, and confidence have been pivotal to our success."

The MALT Excellence Awards, organized by QnA International, are renowned for celebrating outstanding achievements in the travel and tourism sector across the Middle East. Caesars Travel Group's ongoing success at these awards highlights its innovative strategies and steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences.

Ejaza Travel Opens Third IATA Office in Salmiya

Ejaza Travel is excited to announce the opening of its third travel office in Salmiya, a significant milestone in the company's commitment to expanding its presence and providing quality travel services across Kuwait. Conveniently located in the heart of Salmiya, this new branch aims to offer greater accessibility to customers in one of Kuwait's most vibrant commercial and residential districts.

The launch of the Salmiya branch highlights Ejaza Travel's continuous growth and dedication to meeting the evolving needs of travelers. Whether for leisure, business, or religious travel, the new office is fully equipped to provide a wide range of services, including flight bookings, hotel reservations, holiday packages, visa assistance, and more.

Ejaza Travel expresses its sincere gratitude to its loyal customers and partners for their ongoing support and looks forward to welcoming them to the new Salmiya location. This expansion reaffirms Ejaza Travel's mission to make travel planning seamless, reliable, and enjoyable for everyone.



IndiGo and Travelport Host Second Season of 11-a-Side Cricket Tournament in Kuwait

IndiGo, in collaboration with Travelport, successfully hosted the second season of their 11-a-side cricket tournament in Kuwait, bringing together travel industry professionals for a day of spirited competition and camaraderie.

The tournament took place at the Boulevard Cricket Ground in Salmiya on February 21, 2025, featuring a knockout format with several teams competing for the championship. The event culminated in an exciting final where Badur Travels triumphed over Q Go Aviation Travel.

Adding to the day's excitement, an exhibition match was held between a team from IndiGo and staff members from Caesars International, showcasing the spirit of friendly competition.

We were honored to have Mr. Satish Gopalakrishnan – Associate Director, International Sales, Mr. M Arshad Affandi – Senior Manager (AO&CS) – Kuwait, Mr. Rajesh R – Director (Commercial and Marketing), Caesars Travel Group, Mr. Babu Pillai – Senior Manager, IndiGo Kuwait, and Mr. Omar Baloch – Deputy General Manager, Travelport Kuwait, in attendance. Kudos to all the participants



and partners for making the event a success.

This event highlights IndiGo and Travelport's

commitment to fostering community and collaboration within the travel industry in Kuwait.

Ambassador of Bhutan Visits Caesars International Travel Co. to Strengthen Tourism Ties



His Excellency Chitem Tenzin, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bhutan to Kuwait, paid an

official visit to Caesars International Travel Co., a leading travel services provider in Kuwait. The

meeting, held at Caesars Travel's headquarters in Mirqab, Kuwait City, aimed to explore collaborative opportunities to enhance tourism and connectivity between Bhutan and Kuwait.

It is with great pleasure and immense honour that we welcome H.E. Chitem Tenzin, the Ambassador of The Kingdom of Bhutan in Kuwait, and the accompanying delegates, Mr. Kinga Singye, Counsellor, Ms Kamilia Ousama Srour, Personal Assistant to H.E, to Caesars Int'l Travel Co. W.L.L. We are truly privileged to host you at our office and extend our warmest greetings on behalf of our entire team.

Ambassador Tenzin emphasized the significance of the recently signed Air Services Agreement between Bhutan and Kuwait, which aims to establish direct flight operations between the two nations. He noted that the agreement would not only boost tourism but also strengthen economic and cultural ties.

Caesars Intl Travel Co. has long been committed to strengthening ties across borders. We have been proudly representing Druk Air as their exclusive General Sales Agent for the State of Kuwait, and we are delighted to explore closer relations with the Kingdom of Bhutan to further enhance tourism between the two nations.

China Southern Airlines and Royal Air Maroc Forge Enhanced Collaboration to Build a New Aviation Corridor Between China and Africa

In a significant move to bolster air connectivity between Asia and Africa, China Southern Airlines and Royal Air Maroc (RAM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at establishing a new aviation corridor linking China and Africa. This strategic partnership is designed to enhance passenger and cargo services, streamline travel routes, and foster deeper economic and cultural ties between the two regions.

Under the terms of the MoU, both airlines will expand their interline cooperation and implement a code-sharing agreement. This collaboration will enable passengers to access a broader network of destinations across Asia and Africa, reducing the need for complex connections through Europe or the Middle East. The partnership also encompasses joint efforts in cargo transportation and third-party services, aiming to provide more seamless and efficient travel experiences.



Qu Guangji, Executive Vice-President of China Southern Airlines, emphasized the significance of the agreement, stating that it aligns with China's Belt and Road Initiative and marks a new chapter in Sino-African aviation cooperation. Similarly, Abdelhamid Addou, Chairman and CEO of Royal Air Maroc, highlighted the partnership's potential to strengthen tourism, trade, and cultural exchanges between China

and Africa.

This collaboration comes on the heels of RAM's resumption of direct flights between Casablanca and Beijing in January 2025, operating three times a week. The renewed route is expected to play a pivotal role in facilitating travel and commerce between the two nations.

As Morocco prepares to co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, the enhanced air connectivity resulting from this partnership is anticipated to boost tourism and economic activity, positioning Morocco as a key gateway between Africa and Asia.

The establishment of this new aviation corridor underscores the commitment of both China Southern Airlines and Royal Air Maroc to meeting the growing demand for travel between China and Africa, while also contributing to the broader objectives of regional integration and economic development.

Discover Bhutan Kuwait - Roadshow

Discover Bhutan Roadshow Showcases the Kingdom's Charm in Kuwait

On May 4, 2025, the "Discover Bhutan" Roadshow made a significant stop in Kuwait City, marking a pivotal moment in Bhutan's efforts to promote tourism within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. Following its successful launch in Dubai, the event aimed to introduce Bhutan's unique cultural and natural offerings to the Kuwaiti travel market

Organized by Drukair, Royal Bhutan Airlines, in

cultural heritage, and the serene landscapes that make it a unique destination. Attendees were introduced to Bhutan's new tourism strategies, including the development of the Gelephu Mindfulness City project, aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth while preserving cultural values .

The roadshow's success in Kuwait underscores Bhutan's dedication to strengthening tourism ties with the GCC countries. By fostering direct engagement with Kuwaiti travel professionals, Bhutan aims to position itself as a premier destination for travelers

For more information on Bhutan's tourism initiatives and partnerships, interested parties can follow updates from Drukair, Royal Bhutan Airlines, and the Department of Tourism on their official social media channels.

After a successful launch in Dubai, the Discover Bhutan Roadshow landed in Kuwait on May 4th, bringing the spirit of Bhutan to the GCC.

We were proud to connect with over 30 key travel agents and showcase Bhutan’s unique charm



collaboration with Bhutan's Department of Tourism, the roadshow brought together over 30 key travel agents from Kuwait. They engaged with 18 Bhutanese trade partners, including tour operators and hoteliers, to explore potential collaborations and travel packages tailored for Kuwaiti tourists .

The event featured presentations highlighting Bhutan's commitment to sustainable tourism, its rich

seeking authentic and mindful experiences.

This initiative is part of a broader strategy to diversify Bhutan's tourism markets and promote the kingdom's unique offerings to a global audience. The positive response from Kuwaiti travel agents indicates a promising future for increased tourism exchanges between Bhutan and Kuwait.

alongside 18 Bhutanese trade partners. The event was graced by His Excellency Dasho Chitem Tenzin, Ambassador of Bhutan to Kuwait, and our CEO Mr. Tandi Wangchuk a testament to the growing importance of this vibrant market.

With direct flights now linking Bhutan to the GCC, we’re excited to open new doors for mindful travel, cultural exchange, and sustainable tourism.

Caesars Holidays Honored with 2024 Appreciation Award by Hotel Rack

Caesars Holidays, a prominent division of Caesars Travel Group, has been recognized with the prestigious 2024 Appreciation Award by Hotel Rack. This accolade underscores the company's unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional travel experiences and its significant contributions to the hospitality industry.Caesars Newsroom

Established in 2002, Caesars Holidays has consistently provided personalized holiday packages, catering to a diverse clientele seeking both leisure and business travel solutions. Their dedication to quality service and customer satisfaction has solidified their reputation as a leading travel provider in the region.caesarstravel.com

The 2024 Appreciation Award from Hotel Rack highlights Caesars Holidays' excellence in areas such as customer service, innovative travel solutions, and strategic partnerships. Caesars Travel Group CEO, Mr. P.N.J. Kumar received memento in the event ATM held in Dubai.

Mr. Harinarayanan A., Head of Sales & Operations at Caesars Holidays, expressed gratitude for the award, stating, "This honor reflects our team's dedication to crafting memorable travel experiences. We remain



committed to exceeding our clients' expectations and setting new benchmarks in the industry.

With this latest recognition, Caesars Holidays

continues to demonstrate its leadership and innovation in the travel industry, promising to deliver unparalleled services to its customers.

Editorial

Cyber Abuses – A Serious threat to the current world



Cybersecurity risks are becoming more systematic and more severe. Although the short-term impacts of a cyberattack on a business are quite severe, the long-term impacts can be even more important, such as the loss of competitive advantage, reduction in credit rating, and increase in cyber insurance premiums. They should not be ignored.

To address these concerns effectively, companies need to: 1) Have a cybersecurity champion on the board to help set the tone for the organization, and 2) develop a long-term cybersecurity strategy, which should be a priority for every organization. The reason for Cybercrime is growing use of the internet and business networks expand.

Today, more than ever, businesses of all sizes rely on their networks, data and internet connectivity to conduct business. The internet allows even the smallest firms to have a global impact. What began as an obscure network for researchers and scientist a few decades ago has grown into an \$8 trillion a year e-commerce enterprise connecting over two billion people. In the current scenario, most of the economic, commercial, cultural, social and governmental activities and interactions of countries, at all levels, including individuals, non-governmental organizations and government and governmental institutions, are carried out in cyberspace. Recently, many individuals, private companies and government organizations around the world are facing the problem of cyber-attacks and the danger of wireless communication technologies.

Today’s world is highly dependent on electronic technology, and protecting this data from cyber-attacks is a challenging issue. The purpose of cyber-attacks is to harm companies financially. In some other cases, cyber-attacks can have military or political purposes. Some of these damages are: PC viruses, knowledge breaks, data distribution

service (DDoS) and other assault vectors. To this end, various organizations use various solutions to prevent damage caused by cyber-attacks. Cyber security follows real-time information on the latest IT data. So far, various methods had been proposed by researchers around the world to prevent cyber-attacks or reduce the damage caused by them. Some of the methods are in the operational phase and others are in the study phase.

The aim of this study is to survey and comprehensively review the standard advances presented in the field of cyber security and to investigate the challenges, weaknesses and strengths of the proposed methods. Different types of new descendant attacks are considered in details. Standard security frameworks are discussed with the history and early-generation cyber-security methods.

In addition, emerging trends and recent developments of cyber security and security threats and challenges are presented. It is expected that the comprehensive review study presented for IT and cyber security researchers will be useful.

Sources of Cyber Threats

Cyber-security

Cyber security is an important issue in the infrastructure of every company and organization. In short, a company or organization based on cyber security can achieve high status and countless successes, because this success is the result of the company’s capability to protect private and customer data against a competitor. Organizations and competitors of customers and individuals are abusive. A company or organization must first and foremost provide this security in the best way to establish and develop itself-security includes practical measures to protect information, networks and data against internal or external threats. Cyber-security professionals protect networks, servers, intranets, and computer systems. Cyber-security ensures that only

authorized individuals have access to that information. As the use of internet and networked computers grows, and new technologies such as cloud computing enable even greater technological advances, the occurrence of cybercrime is expected to



grow as cybercriminals seek to exploit online and networked vulnerabilities in business networks. As the use of internet and networked computers grows, and new technologies such as cloud computing enable even greater technological advances, the occurrence of cybercrime is expected to grow as cybercriminals seek to exploit online and networked vulnerabilities in business networks

People believe that there is a security/convenience trade-off. After all, they are told to use strong, unique passwords for everything. That is something that (without help) is not a realistic thing to expect from people. As you and I know, once people start using a good password management system, they quickly reach a point where they can't imagine how they functioned without it. You know this, I know this; but trying to spell this out ends up sounding like a sales pitch.

Manthra (Unoriginal)



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