



THE EARLY WARNING MONITOR

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Top of the Agenda

ISRAEL-IRAN: EUROPE PUSHES DIPLOMACY

Israel began attacking Iran last Friday, saying it aimed to prevent its long-time enemy from developing nuclear weapons. Iran retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel. Israeli air attacks have killed 639 people in Iran, the Human Rights Activists News Agency said. Those killed include the military's top echelon and nuclear scientists. Israel has said at least two dozen Israeli civilians have died in Iranian missile attacks. Israel has targeted nuclear sites, missile capabilities, while also hitting civilian areas, as it tries to shatter the government of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to Western and regional officials. The American President wrote on Tuesday while advising everyone to evacuate Tehran, that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon." Iran on the other hand, maintained that its nuclear program was a peaceful one. Iran is seen as a global threat.

Reuters: Europe pushes diplomacy as Israel-Iran air war enters second week 13th June, 2025.

Analysis

Declaring that Iran's nuclear weapons constituted an existential threat, Israel attacked Iran last Friday. Iran launched a missile and drone attack on Israel in retaliation. Before the two nations engaged in airstrikes against one another, their conflict was fought through a proxy system. Israel wants to incapacitate the Islamic State and eliminate Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, its supreme leader. About 639 people, including senior Iranian military personnel and nuclear scientists, have died as a result of the strikes as of right now. However, Israel should realise that civilians, particularly women and children more negatively impacted by war, and the attack is a violation of international law. Israel claimed that two dozen of its citizens have been killed, although this claim cannot be confirmed. Russia, China, and Turkey have denounced the attack on Iran, while the United States' is yet to determine whether to join Israel in attacking Iran. Trump has yet to declare whether or not to strike Iran, but he has already called for the Iranian leadership to be changed. As a result, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchito declared that Iran will not engage in negotiations with the United States, Israel's superpower ally, which he referred to as "a partner in crime," "until Israeli aggression stops." Diplomatic efforts by European countries and the Gulf States to de-escalate the conflict are ongoing. Analysts have spoken out against the war escalating and its potential to become a regional war.

NIGERIA

KILLINGS: WHAT WE ARE WITNESSING IN BENUE IS TERRORISM – SECURITY EXPERT

A security analyst, Bulama Bukarti, has described the wave of violent attacks in Benue State as “acts of terrorism”, urging the Federal Government to officially designate them as such and respond with a counter-terrorism strategy. Bukarti, who spoke on Channels Television’s Politics Today, dismissed the notion that the killings were mere communal clashes between herders and farmers. He said the scale, coordination, and frequency of the attacks bear the hallmarks of terrorism. “What we are witnessing in Benue State today goes beyond farmer-herder communal clashes. It works like terrorism, it talks like terrorism, and it kills like terrorism — and therefore, it is terrorism,” he said on Thursday. Citing casualty figures and the sophistication of the recent attacks, the expert criticised the Federal Government and security agencies for failing to identify the perpetrators. “From April to June alone, reports suggest that at least 400 people have been killed in Benue. That’s not a farmer-herder crisis or a communal clash. These are coordinated raids that destroy markets, schools, and civilian infrastructure. Whole villages are being razed. This is terrorism in the real sense of the word.

Channels: Killings: What We Are Witnessing In Benue Is Terrorism – Security Expert 20th June, 2025.

WEST AFRICA

WEST AFRICA WANTS DEALS WITH TRUMP BUT THE U.S ENTRY BANS A BARRIER, NIGERIAN MINISTER SAYS

West African nations want to strike deals with the U.S. over energy and rare earth minerals, but the Trump administration's looming expansion of travel bans risks derailing those efforts, Nigeria's foreign minister said on Wednesday. U.S. President Donald Trump this month implemented full or partial travel bans for foreign nationals from a dozen countries as part of his immigration crackdown. A possible broadening of the restrictions to an additional 36 countries would include nearly all of West Africa.

Reuters: West Africa wants deals with Trump but US entry bans a barrier, Nigerian minister says 18th June, 2025.

MALI STARTS CONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIA-BACKED GOLD REFINERY

Mali began construction of a new Russia-backed gold refinery on Monday, which the West African country's military leader said would take it closer to asserting control over its natural resources.

The 200-ton capacity facility, in which Mali has a controlling stake, will be built in partnership with Russia's Yadrin Group and a Swiss investment company. Mali's interim president Colonel Assimi Goita said last year that all mining companies will be required to process their gold domestically under a revised mining code, without providing a deadline. That reflects a broader regional shift extending across the Sahel, where Guinea, Niger and Burkina Faso have also revised mining codes to mandate local processing, adding value to their exports and boosting the economic benefits of their resources."Since 1980, Mali's gold has been exported for refining and sale to countries such as the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, and Switzerland," Goita said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new plant in Senou, outside the capital Bamako."This deprives our country of substantial revenues that could be used for the development of its economy."

Reuters: Mali starts construction of Russia-backed gold refinery 17th June, 2025.

AFRICA

PROTESTS IN KENYA SET TO ESCALATE, WARNS POLITICAL ANALYST

Protests in Kenya are likely to intensify in the coming days, as public anger mounts over recent incidents of police brutality and unfulfilled demands for accountability, a leading political analyst has warned. Professor Herman Manyora, a political commentator and lecturer at the University of Nairobi, told the Associated Press that protesters feel their grievances remain unaddressed — particularly the perceived leniency shown to senior police officers implicated in recent abuses. "What the protesters and Kenyans in general want has not been done," said Manyora. Ojwang was arrested on June 6 in western Kenya for allegedly posting false information about a senior police official. Authorities initially claimed he died from injuries sustained after hitting his head against a cell wall, but a post-mortem report disputed the police version of events, fueling further outrage. Africa News: Protests in Kenya set to escalate, warns political analyst 20th June, 2025.

POLICE OFFICERS ACCUSED OF SHOOTING NAIROBI HAWKER REMANDED IN CUSTODY FOR 15 DAYS

Two police officers accused of shooting and wounding a street hawker were arraigned in a Nairobi court on Thursday and remanded into custody while detectives complete their investigation. The defendants are accused of shooting 22-year-old Boniface Kariuki on Tuesday during street protests over the death of blogger Albert Ojwang while in police custody. Kariuki's shooting has added to the growing anger against police brutality in the country. Ojwang was arrested on June 6 in western Kenya for what police called publishing "false information" about a top police official on social media. Police attributed his death to him "hitting his head against the cell wall," but activists have questioned the cause of death. As hundreds of protesters clashed with police in Nairobi, Kariuki is believed to have been caught up in a confrontation with two officers. One officer, who had concealed his face with a mask, shot him in the head as he walked away.

Africa News: Police officers accused of shooting Nairobi hawker remanded in custody for 15 days 20th June, 2025.

SOUTH AFRICA DECLARES STATE OF DISASTER FOLLOWING SEVERE WEATHER

South Africa declared a national disaster on Thursday following severe weather in several parts of the country last week. While the snow, heavy rains, and high winds have impacted several provinces, the area around the city Mthatha in the Eastern Cape was the hardest hit. The death toll from flooding in the region has increased to 92, with that figure likely to rise as mop-up operations continue. Officials say that 31 children were among the dead. At least two school children who were in a bus that was washed away are among the unverified number of missing persons according to local media reports.

Africa News: South Africa declares state of disaster following severe weather 20th June, 2025.

CHOLERA, MPOX OUTBREAKS SPREAD ACROSS AFRICA, SAYS CDC

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says the continent is grappling with a double public health crisis as cholera and mpox cases surge across multiple countries. The development has prompted urgent calls for coordinated action and increased investment in health infrastructure. Dr Jean Kaseya, the Director-General of the Africa CDC, said this on Thursday, during the weekly webinar media briefing. According to Kaseya, Africa now accounts for 60 per cent of all global cholera cases and a staggering 93.5 per cent of global cholera-related deaths reported as of May.

Punch NG: Cholera, Mpox outbreaks spread across Africa, says CDC 20th June, 2025.

RWANDA, DRC INITIAL PEACE AGREEMENT AHEAD OF SIGNING NEXT WEEK

Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo technical teams initialed a draft peace agreement that is expected to be signed next week, the two countries and the United States said on Wednesday, aiming for an end to fighting in eastern Congo. The provisional agreement, announced in a joint statement, could mark a breakthrough in talks held by President Donald Trump's administration to end the fighting in eastern Congo and bring billions of dollars of Western investment to the region, which is rich in minerals including tantalum, gold, cobalt, copper and lithium.

Reuters: Rwanda, DRC initial peace agreement ahead of signing next week 18th June, 2025.

THE GLOBE

US MOVES 30 JETS AS IRAN ATTACK SPECULATION GROWS

At least 30 US military planes have been moved from bases in America to Europe over the past three days, flight tracking data reviewed by BBC Verify has shown. The planes in question are all

US military tanker aircraft used to re-fuel fighter jets and bombers. It is unclear whether the US movements are directly connected to the conflict, but one expert told BBC Verify that the tanker aircraft flights were "highly unusual". The jet movements come amid reports that the US has also moved an aircraft carrier - the USS Nimitz, from the South China Sea towards the Middle East. The US has also moved F-16, F-22 and F-35 fighter jets to bases in the Middle East, three defence officials told Reuters on Tuesday.

Reuters: US moves 30 jets as Iran attack speculation grows 18th June, 2025.

