

## Maersk says its container vessel was targeted by a Houthi missile off Yemen, but the ship was not hit

COPENHAGEN/DUBAI: Danish shipping company Maersk on Friday denied a claim by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement that the militia carried out a drone strike on a Maersk vessel sailing toward Israel.

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## Communication blackout in Gaza amid Israeli bombardment

JEDDAH: Internet and telephone services were cut across the war-torn Gaza Strip on Thursday as Israel's bombardment took more Palestinian lives.

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## Palestinian PM calls for international intervention to end the decades-long conflict

RAMALLAH, West Bank: International pressure on the Palestinian Authority (PA) to overhaul its leadership and step up reforms are a distraction from the need for a political horizon to lay the basis for peace after the Gaza war, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said.

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## Mosque hit as raids, phosphorus bombs strike southern Lebanon front

BEIRUT: Israeli artillery shelling intensified on Thursday at various Lebanese border towns where Hezbollah is active.

War correspondents reported "the use of phosphorus bombs by the Israeli army in shelling the outskirts of the town of Khiam."

Israeli Channel 14 reported that the Iron Dome intercepted 20 missiles fired

from southern Lebanon towards the Galilee Panhandle.

The Israeli military launched a drone strike on a house located in the town center of Aita Al-Shaab.

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## **Iran abolishes visa requirements for 33 countries, including Saudi Arabia**

LONDON: Authorities in Iran are removing visa requirements for passport holders from 33 countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The move was confirmed on Thursday following comments after a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday by Minister of Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami, who said: "The government intends to open the country's doors to the world.

"The Islamic Republic has shown its readiness to open doors to people worldwide and provide more facilities for them so that they can easily visit our country and benefit from its advantages."