

US says ‘in
Europe’s best
interest’ to
cooperate on
fuel supply

Washington, United States

The United States said Thursday that Europe should cooperate with Washington on fuel supply issues after President Donald Trump’s administration reportedly urged EU governments to release diesel reserves to ease soaring prices.

“It is in Europe’s best interest to work with the United States as we pursue multiple pathways to boost the supply of refined products and lower costs for consumers,” a US official told AFP.

Tehran
international flights
drop 42% after US
ban: tracker

London, United Kingdom

Flights to and from Tehran’s main international airport have fallen by nearly half, 42%, since a US ban on Iranian airlines, but some popular routes remain, tracking data up to Wednesday shows.

On average 53 daily international flights have operated to and from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport since September 23, when the US ban took effect, compared to a daily average of 91 flights before the ban, according to data from tracking platform FlightRadar24.

Traffic had already fallen after Israeli-American strikes on Iran at the end of February led to the complete closure of its airspace.

Since flights resumed, only Iranian carriers operated services out of Iran.

Pre-ban September data shows that a typical week included services to 18 countries.

EU diesel hits
record 2.24 euros a
litre

AFP | Paris, France

The average price of diesel at the pump across the EU has hit a record of 2.24 euros per litre -- equivalent to \$9.60 per US gallon -- compared with 1.59 euros before war erupted in the Middle East, according to EU Commission data published Thursday.

Twelve EU member states recorded fresh all-time highs, including Belgium, Italy, Romania and Poland, according to an AFP analysis of data submitted weekly to Brussels by national authorities since 2005.

The data reflect prices at filling stations, either at the start of the week or at the end of the previous week, depending on the country.

HOW THE COCKPIT ATTACK UNFOLDED

Indian pilot injured, averts potential disaster; plane makes emergency landing

1 ON ROUTE TO TEL AVIV

A flydubai Boeing 737 was flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv when the incident occurred over northwestern Saudi Arabia.



2 SUDDEN ATTACK

According to Israeli officials, the co-pilot suddenly attacked the captain during the flight.



“During the flight, as they approached the country, one of the pilots stabbed the other pilot, and apparently tried to crash the plane with everyone on board.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

3 WHAT WAS THE WEAPON?

Officials have not confirmed what was used in the attack. Some reports suggest the plane’s “crash axe” may have been used.



A crash axe is a small axe kept in every plane cockpit for emergency situations.

4 CREW AND PASSENGERS SUBDUED ATTACKER

Despite being attacked, the captain and passengers were able to subdue the co-pilot and prevent further danger.



5 EMERGENCY LANDING IN SAUDI ARABIA

The plane made an emergency landing at the Saudi airport of Tabuk.



Tabuk Saudi Arabia

6 CAPTAIN SAFE, PROBE UNDERWAY

The captain, Indian national Smit Machchhar, was taken to hospital and is now out of danger.



The UAE has launched an investigation into a possible “terrorist” link.

Netanyahu said “another 9/11-style crash” had been prevented.

Saudi medic’s care for passenger goes viral after flight diversion

The video has drawn mixed reactions among a Saudi population

● Saudi Arabia rejected several Israeli requests to send aircraft to repatriate the passenger

● The message was communicated through the UAE and not directly with the Israeli

● Israeli airline El Al says will run rescue flights to return Israelis from Dubai

● Israeli President Isaac Herzog said yesterday he would present “heroism” awards to five Israelis who helped overpower the co-pilot and prevented him from crashing the plane.

● The United Arab Emirates said it was probing a possible terror link.

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

A video showing a Saudi healthcare worker in a black niqab examining



a woman in a tank top from an Israel-bound flight that was diverted to the kingdom has gone viral after being published by Saudi media and shared online.

The flight, heading to Tel Aviv from Dubai, was forced to make an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia’s Tabuk after one of the pilots allegedly tried to crash the plane and kill everyone on board.

In the footage, including images broadcast by Saudi channel Al-Arabiya, the healthcare worker takes the passenger’s blood pressure as she sits in a chair before exchanging a few words with her.



The vast majority of the 174 people onboard the flight are believed to have been Israeli.

“Medicine knows neither nationality nor politics. Treating someone does not mean approving of them; it is a humanitarian duty. Human life comes first,” one user commented on X under a post online.

The footage is all the more striking given the lack of diplomatic ties between the kingdom and Israel, with citizens from the two countries rarely coming into contact with each other.

The video has drawn mixed reactions among a Saudi pop-

ulation that remains largely supportive of the Palestinian cause.

“The generosity was misplaced,” wrote one reader under a post by Al-Arabiya.

Photos sent to AFP after the plane landed in Tabuk showed passengers, including children, gathered in an airport room, with some sitting on the floor. One man was wearing a white T-shirt and jeans stained with blood.

Passenger Almog Italie said the group received a “very warm” welcome after touching down in Tabuk.

Arab News also highlighted the reception, running a headline featuring a passenger’s account of Saudi hospitality.

Saudi Arabia, however, rejected several Israeli requests to send aircraft to repatriate the passengers, a Saudi source familiar with the matter told AFP on Thursday.

“They asked to send military warplanes. Two or three direct to Tabuk airport,” the source told AFP. “Turned down.”

“Then asked to send [El Al] commercial one. Turned down as well.”

The source also told AFP the message was communicated through the UAE and not directly with the Israelis, and rejected any notion that the incident could lead to a rapprochement between the two states.

There are no direct flights between Israel and Saudi Arabia, although the kingdom has allowed aircraft travelling to or from Israel to cross its airspace since 2022.

Riyadh has maintained that it will not normalise relations with Israel without a clear path to Palestinian statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was “in constant contact” with Saudi authorities, who he said were questioning the co-pilot.

Saudi authorities have not publicly commented on the circumstances of the incident.