

2333 BC

The state of Gojoseon (modern-day Korea) is founded by Dangun Wanggeom during the reign of Chinese Emperor Yao



52 BC

Vercingetorix, leader of the Gauls, surrenders to the Romans under Julius Caesar, ending the siege and Battle of Alesia

1922

First facsimile photo is sent over city telephone lines in Washington, D.C.

1990

Reunification of East Germany and West Germany; the West German flag is raised above the Brandenburg Gate at the stroke of midnight

G7 agrees deal to ease global energy supply concerns



French President Emmanuel Macron (C) speaks next to France's Economy, Finances and Industry Minister Roland Lescure (L) and Secretary-General of the Office of the President of the French Republic Pierre-Andr  Imbert (2ndR) following a videoconference with G7 leaders from the  lyse Presidential Palace in Paris

● G7 agrees 100 million-barrel release

● Reserves released over four months

● Diesel release starts within 20 days

AFP | Paris

G7 countries agreed yesterday to release 100 million barrels of diesel and crude oil from their reserves over four months to ease global energy supply concerns, leaders said, pledging not to impose export restrictions on energy.

The announcement came after G7 leaders held a video conference chaired by French President Emmanuel Macron, as the United States stepped up pressure on Europe to release strategic reserves and threatened a diesel export ban.

The talks, convened by Macron after a conversation with

US President Donald Trump, focused on coordinating a response to soaring fuel prices among the other G7 economies of Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The US-Israeli war with Iran has sent energy prices skyrocketing, coming back to bite Trump at home with high fuel costs that have become a key issue ahead of midterm congressional elections in a month.

Trump has floated the possibility of banning US exports of diesel, which is used in trucks and other hauling vehicles, an alarming prospect for the EU, which relies heavily on fossil fuel imports.

The seven countries agreed to a coordinated release through the International Energy Agency (IEA) of 100 million barrels "to begin immediately over four months, including a frontloaded substantial diesel release within the first 20 days," the leaders said in a statement released by Macron's office.

They also said there would

be no ban on diesel exports between them.

"We reaffirm our commitment to refrain from export restrictions on energy and energy products between G7 countries and call on all producers to refrain from imposing bans that could exacerbate market tensions," the leaders said.

"Our citizens' concerns about energy prices remain a top priority."

Trump said European countries had agreed to release a "massive amount" of diesel from their reserves.

"The process will begin immediately," he posted on his Truth Social network.

Earlier the EU pushed back hard against US threats to impose a diesel export ban, something Macron also warned against during his conversation with Trump.

"We fully reject any ban on diesel," European Commission spokeswoman Anna-Kaisa Iltanen said, warning it would "undermine our trust in the United States as a reliable partner."

Bahrain Needs Increased Urban Green Footprint



KOTA SRIRAJ

Strategically designed city plans comprising of lush green landscapes consisting of integrated green infrastructure such as parks, green roofs and native vegetation work in tandem to actively restore ecological balance of the city and peri-urban areas as well. This combined with rationalisation of concrete and paved surfaces along with green building architecture can play a major role in reducing the urban heat island effect and rein in ambient temperature spikes. This in turn reduces peak energy demand levels in the form of electricity for air-conditioning. High urban temperatures are a challenge for any nation and more so for arid and desert nations such as Bahrain.

Over the past one decade, urban Bahrain has experienced rising levels of heat in the urban areas. As a result, residents have been increasingly forced to be indoors. This has triggered unprecedented peaks in grid consumption sometimes exceeding 3798 Mw as residents rely entirely on high-capacity air conditioning systems. But interestingly, there is a lesser discussed collateral damage of rising temperatures, which is infrastructure fatigue. Prolonged thermal stress accelerates the wear and tear of roads, building materials, and physical utilities, reducing their overall operational lifespan and needing frequent repairs and replacements.

To counter this urban heat stress, Bahrain has actively prioritised the National Afforestation Plan. The commendable progress under this initiative is helping to build newly integrated vegetation networks that will ensure reduced land surface temperatures especially in urban areas. But to make a quantum progress, Bahrain must also scale up the cool roof mandate. This initiative will ensure that reflective high albedo coatings are made mandatory as they can slash surface temperatures by 10 degrees. Moreover, rain and moisture on the pavements, parking lots and walkways is lost due to non-porous solid concrete used. This can be altered to porous, water retentive surfaces that capture water and let it percolate to ground.

Wind ventilation is yet another excellent way to diffuse rising urban heat levels. Bahrain must plan and redesign future urban geometry in such a manner that street layouts are visualised and constructed parallel to gulf breeze patterns. This breeze leverage can help increase wind velocity through urban heat pits and flush out stagnant hot air and anthropogenic emissions. This coupled with varied building heights can pay rich dividends in increasing urban thermal comfort as different building heights create pressure differentials which catch sea breeze and directs them downwards towards street level resulting in a cooler ambient climate. Add to this, Bahrain can deploy hyper-local pocket parks in all available empty plots. This will prevent these plots from absorbing thermal mass during peak solar hours.

Increased urban greenery can rein in spiking temperatures.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

South Korea warns ‘further measures’ if Ukraine refuses public apology

AFP | Seoul

South Korea's leader warned yesterday of unspecified "further measures" if Ukraine did not apologize for revealing that Kyiv had sent North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea.

Seoul has already summoned Ukraine's ambassador in the diplomatic row over the disclosure that South Korea said could expose the POWs' families to risk in North Korea.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced last week at the U.N. General Assembly the handover of the two North Korean troops who were captured while fighting for Russia.

South Korea maintains it had a confidentiality agree-

ment with Ukraine over the transfer, which Kyiv has not officially acknowledged.

"If Ukraine continues to refuse to acknowledge the facts and publicly apologize, we will take further measures," said South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung, accusing Kyiv of making him out to be a "liar."

Lee did not elaborate on what further measures could include.

Ukraine's embassy in South Korea did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

The South Korean leader has already spoken up against Zelenskyy's comments and Seoul has demanded an official apology from Ukraine, citing concerns for the safety of the POWs' families in North Korea.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Very good to speak with Finance Minister Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa & CBB Governor Humaidan. We discussed Bahrain's strong human capital, economic outlook and the importance of preserving stability.

@KGeorgieva

02



Millions of Yemenis are facing increasing hunger and displacement while growing insecurity and inadequate funding are making it difficult to deliver assistance. @WFP has been providing support but stocks are depleting. Without renewed funding, people will lose that lifeline.

@WFPChief

03



Mahatma Gandhi set an inspiring example of how to create deep, lasting change while holding fast to the principles of peace. Amid rising tension & conflict, his lessons speak to us with renewed urgency. Let's heal divisions through genuine dialogue & diplomacy, end suffering & build a peaceful world through non-violence.

@antonioGuterres

04



Good news from @WHO ahead of the weekend: people are living longer. Global life expectancy reached 73.3 years in 2023, almost fully recovering the years lost during COVID-19. Now we must make sure people don't just live longer, but live those extra years in good health. #HealthForAll

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Bihar pitches green energy investment opportunities

TDI | Agencies

Bihar is seeking investment in renewable energy, power generation and energy storage projects, with the state government outlining planned investments of Rs. 1.88 lakh crore in the sector at the Rising Bihar Investor Summit-2026.

Energy Minister Shailesh Kumar said Bihar offered significant opportunities in solar power, battery storage, pumped storage and other green energy projects as the state works to expand its power infrastructure.

The government has approved the solarisation of 2,554 agricultural feeders, involving solar power plants with a combined capacity of 2,585 MW under the PM-KUSUM scheme. Work is also under way to promote around 250,000 rooftop solar systems.

Energy Secretary Ajay Yadav said the state had approved its Green Hydrogen Policy-2026 and was pursuing projects covering generation, transmission, distribution and renewable energy.

The investment plan includes solar parks, biomass projects, Green Energy Corridors and



Pumped Storage Projects, alongside measures to strengthen networks supplying new industries.

The summit, attended by around 200-250 industry representatives, investors and financial institutions, included a dedicated energy session and meetings between investors and government officials. Discus-

sions covered renewable energy policy, energy storage, green hydrogen, solar projects, land availability and infrastructure requirements.

Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has set a target of attracting Rs. 5 lakh crore in investments by November 2026, according to a message issued for the summit.