

Ottoman Sultan  
Suleiman the  
Magnificent oc-  
cupies Baghdad

Council of Trent holds its last ses-  
sion after 18 years, the last ecumen-  
ical council for more than 300 years



Thirty-eight colonists from Berkeley Par-  
ish, England, disembark in Virginia and  
give thanks to God, considered by many  
the first Thanksgiving in the Americas

Britain's "The Observer"  
is first published and  
becomes the world's  
oldest Sunday newspaper



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



People with disabili-  
ties drive progress  
that benefits us all. Yet  
too often, they are de-  
nied a seat at the de-  
cision-making table.  
When inclusion is real,  
everyone benefits. Let's  
commit to working side-  
by-side with people with  
disabilities to build more  
resilient societies.

@antonioguterres

02



On the International  
Day of Persons with  
Disabilities, we reiterate  
our commitment to al-  
ways ensuring dignity,  
access and opportunity  
for our Divyang sisters  
and brothers.

@narendramodi

03



Under Joe Biden, the  
avg American family  
lost over \$3,000 of house-  
hold income and over the  
first 10 months of this  
administration they've  
gained over \$1,000 of that  
income back

@VP

04



Together with First  
Lady Olena @Zelen-  
skaUA, we met with rep-  
resentatives of University  
College Dublin who are  
helping Ukraine imple-  
ment advanced frontline  
emergency medical tech-  
niques.

@ZelenskyyUa

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

# Lebanon, Israel hold first direct talks in decades

Talks at UN peacekeeping force's headquarters in Lebanon



Lebanese soldiers standing atop military vehicles in Alma Al-Shaab, near the border with Israel in southern Lebanon

## ● The United States has pushed for direct talks

## ● Netanyahu's office announced he was sending a civilian representative

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanese and Israeli civil-  
ian representatives held  
their first direct talks  
yesterday in decades, part of a  
year-old ceasefire monitoring  
mechanism in the war with mil-  
itant group Hezbollah, a source  
close to the talks told AFP.

The meeting was taking  
place at the UN peacekeeping  
force's headquarters in Leb-  
anon Naqura near the border

with Israel, the source said, as  
part of a mechanism to oversee  
the ceasefire that took hold in  
November 2024.

Morgan Ortagus, the US spe-  
cial envoy for Lebanon, also  
attended Wednesday's meeting,  
the source added. The United  
States has been piling pressure  
on Lebanon to rapidly disarm  
Hezbollah.

Ortagus's participation came  
a day after her visit to Jeru-  
salem where she met Israeli  
Foreign Minister Gideon Saar.  
Israeli media said she also met  
Prime Minister Benjamin Ne-  
tanyahu.

Until now Israel and Leb-  
anon, which have no formal dip-  
lomatic relations, had insisted  
on keeping military officers in  
the role.

The United States has pushed  
for direct talks between the two  
neighbours in a bid to stabilise  
the region and further weaken

Iran-backed Hezbollah.

Netanyahu's office an-  
nounced he was sending a ci-  
vilian representative to meet  
officials in Lebanon, in what it  
called a first attempt to estab-  
lish a basis for ties between the  
two countries.

Lebanese President Joseph's  
Aoun office also said yesterday  
that his delegation would be  
led by former ambassador Si-  
mon Karam and that it had been  
informed that Israel would in-  
clude "a non-military member  
in its delegation."

The appointment of a civilian  
on the Lebanese side came after  
Lebanon declared itself ready  
for negotiations with its south-  
ern neighbour.

Netanyahu has repeatedly  
indicated that Lebanon should  
join the Abraham Accords, un-  
der which a handful of Arab and  
Muslim countries have normal-  
ised ties with Israel.

## US opens new mega consulate in Iraq's Kurdistan

AFP | Erbil, Iraq

The United States inaugurat-  
ed a new mega consulate  
yesterday in Erbil, the capital  
of the autonomous Kurdistan  
region in northern Iraq.

Kurdish authorities enjoy  
strong ties with the US, which  
led the 2003 invasion that top-  
pled longtime Iraqi ruler Sadd-  
am Hussein, who had persecut-  
ed the Kurds.

The US has had a consulate  
in Erbil since 2011, but the  
new, larger complex spans 50  
acres.

The project "is a physical  
symbol of America's long-term  
partnership with Iraq and the  
Iraqi Kurdistan Region", Mi-  
chael J. Rigas, US deputy sec-  
retary of state for management  
and resources, said at the open-  
ing. Kurdistan presents itself  
as a relative oasis of stability in



The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) is an  
officially recognised autonomous region  
with its own parliament, security forces  
(the Peshmerga), and the authority to  
manage many of its internal affairs inde-  
pendently of the federal government.

Iraq, which has seen decades  
of turmoil but has recently re-  
gained a sense of normalcy.

Rigas said Washington saw

"the Iraqi Kurdistan Region as  
a dynamic entry point to Iraq's  
markets for American compa-  
nies".

## U-TURN WITH UK

## THE TOILET WAR AT 30,000 FEET...



P. UNNIKRISHNAN

Just as I took the final, emotional bite of my burger—yes, the  
sacred last bite—we ran towards the gate like contestants  
in a discount-day black friday race. We were flying to Lon-  
don for a weekend break. My wife, however, looked unusually  
serious while staring at the boarding pass.

Before I could ask, she declared with full drama, "Six and a  
half hours. And still no separate toilets for women on planes.  
Why?"

Now, this is a dangerous  
moment. A married man  
knows when to speak and,  
more importantly, when  
not to. So I waited until  
she settled comfortably,  
started her favourite movie,  
and her blood pressure  
returned to normal.

The reality is simple:  
aircraft don't have enough  
space. We barely have  
room for my knees—for-  
get extra toilets. And the  
world is slowly moving to-  
wards unisex everything  
anyway.

But the toilet debate  
didn't end there. My wife  
began passionately ex-  
plaining why men should  
never be allowed near a  
ladies' toilet seat. Accord-  
ing to her, men and toilet  
etiquette are two parallel  
lines that will never meet.  
My reply? "Maybe you  
just have a little OCD. Try  
counselling?"

She gave me that look.  
Instantly, I surrendered:  
"Yes, yes... you're abso-  
lutely right."

Then I added, "I have  
another solution: why  
can't airlines keep one  
separate toilet for men—  
especially for the handful  
who treat the toilet seat  
like a gymnastics beam?"

On our return journey  
to Bahrain, all I could  
see was a queue—a long  
queue near the check-in  
counter. A queue so long  
it looked like a movie pre-  
miere where the movie is  
terrible, but the popcorn  
is free.

We joined the line sole-  
ly to secure some cabin  
luggage space. Finally, the  
airline staff began calling  
zones. Suddenly, half the  
passengers realised they  
were not in the zone they  
had confidently claimed  
to be in. People drifted out  
of the queue like confused  
sheep searching for their  
shepherd.

And of course, there are  
always those brave war-  
riors who try to "nego-  
tiate" with the queue by  
sneaking in from the side.  
Nothing unites humanity  
more than the collective anger towards a queue-cutter.

Right now, when your fridge can talk, your watch can tell you  
to breathe, and your phone unlocks by recognising your mood,  
I fail to understand one thing:

Why are we still standing in queues like it's 1984?

Why can't there be a simple screen that displays:

"Seat 22A, please proceed to the counter."

You walk in calmly, nobody shoves, nobody pushes, nobody  
pretends to be sick—and for me, honestly, I can't stand this  
anymore!

(The author is the Chairman & Managing Director of The Daily Tribune)

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fridge can talk,  
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