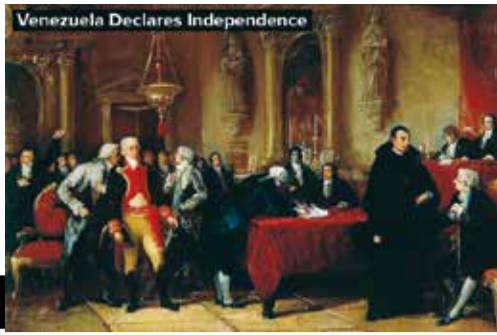


1687

Isaac Newton's great work, "Principia," is published by the Royal Society in England, outlining his laws of motion and universal gravitation

1811

Venezuelan Declaration of Independence: Seven provinces declare independence from Spain



1865 1994

US Secret Service begins operating under the Treasury Department

Amazon.com is founded by Jeff Bezos in Bellevue, Washington

Hundreds of firefighters battle to contain Portugal blaze

Lisbon, Portugal

More than 1,000 firefighters were trying to contain a growing forest fire in northern Portugal yesterday that has burned for several days as the country battles intense heat.

With temperatures expected to reach 44C in some places, the fire that broke out on Wednesday

in the Viseu district has devoured 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) so far, rescue services said.

Some 1,100 firefighters were battling to contain the blaze, backed by 380 trucks and eight planes and helicopters, they said.

A Spanish military unit was helping the efforts after Portugal asked for European help in

fighting the season's first major wildfire.

Nine people have been injured so far, including two civilians who are in a serious condition.

The government has ordered special measures including barring access to forests and restricting the use of some types of machinery in rural areas.

Russia says Ukraine drones downed over St Petersburg

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Russia shot down dozens of Ukrainian drones over Saint Petersburg, authorities said yesterday, with an oil terminal hit and drones falling on a key port as well as a historic palace complex.

The strikes on President Vladimir Putin's home city came after a massive Russian attack on Kyiv killed 30 people this week.

Ukraine has increasingly hit Russian cities far from the border in retaliation for Moscow's daily strikes in the offensive since February 2022.

"The strike hit the area of an oil terminal in the Kirovsk district of the city. The technical consequences have been resolved. There were no casualties," Saint Petersburg governor Alexander Beglov said on social media.

"Air defence forces shot down 72 UAVs, one of which crashed in Peterhof. There were no casualties or damage," he added.

The Peterhof palace is a giant estate of gardens and a palace built in the 18th century under



Soldiers of the Alcatraz Battalion patrol along the frontline town of Druzhkivka, in the Donetsk region, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine

Russian Tsar Peter I.

Drone debris also fell around the port of Vysotsk, north of Saint Petersburg and near the border with Finland, the Leningrad region governor Alexander Drozdenko said.

"Debris has been reported in the area of the port of Vysotsk. Details are being confirmed," Drozdenko said on social media.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed the Kronstadt naval base in Saint Petersburg was hit in the strikes.

"Ukraine's defence forces struck port oil infrastructure that generates revenue for Russia's war, and there were also successful strikes on Kronstadt -- an important military target," he said on social media.

Kyiv has upped its attacks inside Russia, hitting targets as far as the Urals, with Putin admitting that Moscow needed to improve its air defences as part of the offensive, which has become Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

'Super typhoon' Bavi heads for US Pacific islands

AFP | Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Residents of Guam and the Northern Marianas boarded up windows and stocked up as a monster weather system upgraded on Saturday to a "super typhoon" -- the equivalent of a category-5 hurricane -- approached the US Pacific territories.

Typhoon Bavi was moving west between the Marshall Islands and the Northern Marianas with sustained winds of 259 kilometers per hour (161 miles per hour) with gusts of 314 kph (195 mph), the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) said in its latest update at 7 am Guam time (2100 GMT Friday).

"Current forecast tracks continue to indicate a grim outlook for the Marianas," the US National Weather Service warned. "All residents across Guam and the [Northern Mariana Islands] should plan for and anticipate at least tropical storm conditions."

Just months after a major storm hit, cars in Saipan, in the Northern Marianas, queued at petrol stations on Saturday,



A restaurant worker boards up a restaurant ahead of the arrival of the forecasted Super Typhoon Bavi in Guam, Northern Mariana Islands

while residents thronged hardware stores to buy plywood and supermarkets for food, bottled water and other essentials.

The storm was expected to weaken very slightly by the time it arrived on Monday over Guam and the Northern Marianas -- which are still recovering from Super Typhoon Sinlaku in April.

Plans for celebrating the United States' 250th anniversary on Saturday have been quickly overtaken by storm preparations.

At the Pacific Islands Club Saipan resort, workers were boarding up windows, securing outdoor furniture and equipment, checking alarm systems and stocking first aid kits.

"Everyone has a role," the resort's sports, entertainment and activities manager Reymark Castro, 35, told AFP.

"From engineering to landscaping to operations, we're all working together to reduce damage and make sure we're ready to respond once the storm passes."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Happy 250th birthday to the United States! For more than 80 years, the U.S. has hosted the IMF headquarters, supporting global cooperation and economic stability. We are grateful for this enduring partnership and wish the American people a joyful Independence Day.

@KGeorgieva

02



Tonight, as we stand on the edge of our 250th year of independence, I am thrilled to declare that AMERICA IS BACK... This is our heritage, this is our history, & this is the destiny of America: to be the greatest, most incredible country to ever grace the Earth - POTUS

@WhiteHouse

03



Today, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the generations of Americans who have sustained our great nation for the past 250 years.

@VP

04



Today, we join our American friends in celebrating 250 years of independence. The Declaration of Independence gave birth to a new nation founded on the ideals of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For 250 years, our transatlantic partnership has been shaped by our shared values and family bonds.

@vonderleyen

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

GCC - GLOBAL PEACE ARCHITECT



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The June 2026 diplomatic tour by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to the Gulf Cooperation Council states underscored the bloc's growing leverage as the indispensable anchor of regional security. Convening in Manama, GCC leaders engaged Washington from a position of strategic strength, ensuring that the provisional U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding cannot be finalized at the expense of Gulf sovereignty, safety, or economic stability.

For the GCC, the potential resumption of hostilities remains a calculated risk managed through firm, conditional diplomacy. While welcoming the initial end to direct conflict, the bloc made it clear that lasting peace depends entirely on verifiable changes in Iranian behavior.

The GCC successfully codified a rigid baseline for any permanent agreement, mandating that Iran must unconditionally halt its ballistic missile proliferation, dismantle its drone networks, and permanently cease funding destabilizing regional proxies in Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen.

Should Tehran violate these clear parameters or attempt to obscure its nuclear ambitions, the GCC has ensured that all sanctions relief and trade investments under the framework remain fully conditional and reversible. By agreeing with Washington to explicitly acknowledge that regional proxy warfare constitutes a violation of the ceasefire, the GCC has effectively protected its borders from asymmetrical escalation.

Through cohesive and unified diplomacy, the GCC states extracted major concessions that protect their national interests and reinforce their geopolitical authority.

The GCC secured an absolute U.S. veto against Tehran's attempts to impose maritime tolls or fees in the Strait of Hormuz, preserving the unhindered flow of global energy and international maritime law. Furthermore, Gulf leaders forcefully rejected initial proposals hinting at regional contributions to a three hundred billion dollar Iranian reconstruction fund, guaranteeing that Gulf capitals will not foot the bill for Tehran's post-war recovery. Rather than passively accepting a Western-dictated roadmap, the GCC positioned itself as an equal architect of the peace framework, leveraging defense partnerships with global powers to ensure that no regional settlement can ever bypass Gulf consent.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

The GCC successfully codified a rigid baseline for any permanent agreement, mandating that Iran must unconditionally halt its ballistic missile proliferation, dismantle its drone networks, and permanently cease funding destabilizing regional proxies in Iraq

Germany summons Chinese envoy over reported training of Russian troops

Berlin, Germany

The Chinese ambassador in Berlin was summoned for urgent talks over media reports that Russian soldiers were being trained in China, the German foreign ministry said on Friday.

These "deeply disturbing" reports point to support for Russia from Chinese state actors, in particular the Chinese People's Liberation Army, it said. The envoy was summoned on Thursday, it add-

ed. "Anything that enables Russia to continue its war of aggression against Ukraine also represents a threat to our security," the ministry said.

The German government regularly stresses its concern over China's support for Russia.

This was notably the case during Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to China in February, the ministry said, adding that it is "addressing this issue in depth with its European partners."