

1731

British mariner Robert Jenkins' ear is cut off by Spanish Guarde Costa in the Caribbean, catalyst for a later war between Britain and Spain

1768

John Hancock refuses to allow two British customs agents to go below deck of his ship, considered by some to be the first act of physical resistance to British authority in the colonies



1865

Confederate General Robert E. Lee and 26,765 troops surrender at Appomattox Court House to U.S. Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Civil War in Northern Virginia

1992

John Major is elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom after his Conservative Party wins the most votes in British electoral history

## Pakistan PM says US-Iran ceasefire violations reported, urges restraint



Violations of ceasefire have been reported at (a) few places across the conflict zone which undermine the spirit of peace process,

PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHEHBAZ

Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said yesterday that violations of the ceasefire between the United States and Iran "have been reported" and pressed countries to respect the truce.

"Violations of ceasefire have been reported at (a) few plac-

es across the conflict zone which undermine the spirit of peace process," Sharif said on X.

"I earnestly and sincerely urge all parties to exercise restraint and respect the ceasefire for two weeks, as agreed upon, so that diplomacy can take a lead role towards peaceful settlement of the conflict."

## What is Iran saying?

● Iran has proposed a 10-point plan

AFP

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed that Tehran would allow safe passage for two weeks through the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes. Iran has proposed a 10-point plan for securing an end to the war, which Trump said was "workable".

While the plan could form the basis of potential negotiations later this week, it includes several sticking points which Washington has

previously said were unfeasible. The plan would require "continued Iranian control over the Strait of Hormuz, acceptance of enrichment, lifting of all primary and secondary sanctions," according to a statement released by the Islamic republic. While the uranium enrichment demand was not included in Tehran's English-language statement shared by the UN, it was part of the Farsi release circulated by Iranian state media. Other demands include: US military withdrawal from the Middle East, an end to attacks on Iran and its allies, the release of frozen Iranian assets and a UN Security Council resolution making the deal binding.

U-TURN WITH UK

## The Power of togetherness



P. UNNIKRISHNAN

Like many sectors, the life of journalists and media professionals was thrust into a relentless 24/7 cycle from the very first day of the recent escalations. In times of uncertainty, the media's responsibility extends beyond reporting—it becomes a duty to inform, guide, and reassure.

As frontline communicators, we found ourselves not only covering developments but also closely monitoring the pulse of society—particularly the anxieties, questions, and reactions unfolding across social media. What stood out was not just the volume, but the urgency of public sentiment.

In a single day, our WhatsApp channels received thousands of messages. Over 39 days, our digital platforms recorded more than 2.5 million interactions—each reflecting real human concerns.

We answered calls patiently—even as we wrote this column, we received queries about the airport reopening.

Some tenants had relocated to safer areas but were still being asked to pay the full rent. Others worried about overstaying due to flight disruptions. Some messages were deeply personal—questions as simple, yet profound, as: "Is it safe to sleep tonight?"

Even within our newsroom, amid long hours, moments of humanity stood out. A reader suggested replacing the siren with music to make it less distressing. It was a simple thought—but it reflected something deeper: even in tense times, people seek ways to make life gentler.

We responded to each concern with care and responsibility. What humbled us most was the trust people placed in us as a credible source during confusion.

As days passed, the tone began to shift. Alongside serious concerns came everyday queries—chartered flights, employment rights, routine clarifications. It was a quiet but powerful sign: life was finding its rhythm.

Perhaps the most remarkable takeaway was the resilience of Bahrain's expatriate community.

Despite alerts and anxiety, the overwhelming majority chose to stay. Travel was limited to emergencies or prior commitments. There was no widespread panic-driven exodus. On the contrary, many expressed a sense of safety in Bahrain—often more than in their home countries.

This confidence reflects deep trust in Bahrain's leadership and governance. Messages of appreciation for the Kingdom's preparedness and frontline efforts were consistent and heartfelt.

Bahrain once again proved it is more than a nation—it is a model of coexistence, where people of different backgrounds feel equally protected and valued. Having lived here for over three decades, I say with conviction that few places inspire such a sense of belonging.

As the region steadies, the economic impact remains. Yet recovery depends not only on policy, but on people. Expatriates are a vital pillar of Bahrain's economy, and their decision to stay, work, and contribute during uncertainty is itself a stabilising force. At this moment, their role becomes even more significant—by enhancing productivity, strengthening commitment, and prioritising overall wellbeing. Bahrain's true strength lies not just in its systems, but in its people.

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

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# What next?

Pakistan to host US-Iran ceasefire talks on Friday

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the ceasefire would start immediately, and the capital Islamabad would host delegates from both countries for talks due to begin on Friday.

The talks would be aimed at reaching a "conclusive agreement," he said.

Iran said it would allocate two weeks for the negotiations.

The White House was considering talks in Pakistan but plans were not finalized, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

Oil and gas prices plunged on Wednesday after the announcement that the Strait of Hormuz would reopen under the truce, with global supplies squeezed since Iran effectively closed the passage.

US President Donald Trump is sending Vice President JD Vance and other negotiators to the Pakistani capital for talks

## European, Canadian leaders urge 'swift and lasting end' to Iran war: statement

AFP | Rome, Italy

The leaders of France, Italy, Germany, Britain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and the European Union welcomed yesterday the US-Iran ceasefire and urged a "swift and lasting end" to the war.

"The goal must now be to negotiate a swift and lasting end to the war within the coming days. This can only be achieved through diplomatic means," read a joint statement. The leaders said they en-

couraged "quick progress towards a substantive negotiated settlement" to protect civilians, ensure regional security and avert a global energy crisis.

"We call upon all sides to implement the ceasefire, including in Lebanon," they said. Israel has said Lebanon was not included in the US-Iran truce. The two-week ceasefire between Washington and Tehran began early Wednesday, but talks between the parties are expected in Pakistan on Friday.

The statement was published in the names of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president Antonio Costa.

with Iran that will begin on Saturday, the White House said.

Trump "is dispatching his

negotiating team led by the vice president of the United States, JD Vance, special envoy (Steve) Witkoff and Mr (Jared)

Kushner to Islamabad for talks this weekend," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a news conference.

Trump says will be 'no enrichment' of uranium in Iran

## US will 'take' uranium if Iran does not give it up: Hegseth

AFP | Washington, United States

Iran will have to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium or the United States will "get it," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said yesterday, while remaining unclear on how that would be done.

The Pentagon chief said the United States has Iran's stockpile under observation and suggested that another bomb-

ing attack like one conducted against the suspected sites in June could be carried out. "We're watching it. We



They'll give it to us voluntarily, we'll get it, we'll take it, we'll take it out, or if we have to do something else ourselves, like we did Midnight Hammer or something like that, we reserve that opportunity.

DEFENSE SECRETARY PETE HEGSETH

know what they have, and they will give it up, and we'll get it, and we'll take it. If we have to, we can do it in any, any means necessary," Hegseth said.

"They'll give it to us voluntarily, we'll get it, we'll take it, we'll take it out, or if we have to do something else ourselves, like we did Midnight Hammer or something like that, we reserve that opportunity."

## Iran deal 'total and complete victory' for US

AFP | Washington, United States

President Donald Trump told AFP on Tuesday that the United States had won a "total and complete victory" after agreeing a two-week ceasefire deal with Iran.

In a telephone call, Trump said he believed China had persuaded Iran to negotiate, and said Tehran's enriched uranium would be "perfectly taken care of."

"Total and complete victory. 100 percent. No question

about it," Trump told AFP in the brief call when asked if he was claiming victory with the ceasefire.

"We have a 15 point transaction, of which most of those things have been agreed on. We'll see what happens. We'll

see if it gets there," Trump said.

Trump would not say whether he would go back to his original threats to lay waste to Iran's civilian power plants and bridges if the deal fell apart.

"You're going to have to see," Trump told AFP.