

Turko-Mongol ruler Tamerlane (Timur) destroys Baghdad, killing 20,000 people

Louisiana and South Carolina are the last states to ratify the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing civil rights



Surgeon Daniel Hale Williams performs the first successful open-heart surgery when he repairs the torn pericardium of knife wound patient James Cornish, without the use of penicillin or blood transfusion

British battleship HMS Vanguard explodes at Scapa Flow due to an internal explosion caused by faulty cordite, killing 804 crew members

## Modi visits Australia for minerals talks and rock-star welcome

AFP | Melbourne, Australia

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi lands in Australia yesterday ahead of talks tipped to focus on defence ties, critical minerals and securing prized uranium.

Modi is set to receive a rock-star welcome at a community rally held inside a Melbourne stadium on Thursday, with organisers anticipating more than 20,000 people could flock to the event.

India and Australia have grown considerably closer in recent years, a relationship partly driven by a joint desire to keep Beijing's military ambitions in check while cultivating trading partners outside China.

"It's historically been quite a difficult relationship, given India and Australia's differing



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks past members of the Australian armed forces upon his arrival at Melbourne International Airport in Melbourne

positions during the Cold War," said Teesta Prakash from the Australia India Institute.

"But now we are in a starkly different strategic environment."

Securing a reliable uranium pipeline is expected to be a key topic of discussion when Modi sits down with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese on Thursday.

## Trump tempers fury to end NATO summit on high note



Albania's Prime Minister Edi Rama, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, US President Donald Trump and Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer pose for a family picture of the NATO Summit at Bestepe Presidential Compound in Ankara, Turkey

AFP | Ankara, Turkey

US President Donald Trump offered NATO allies an unexpected warm embrace as they wrapped up a key summit Wednesday after earlier lashing out at them over their response to his war on Iran.

"It was a great meeting, there was a lot of love in that room, a lot of unity," Trump told reporters after the closed-door meeting of 32 heads of state at the NATO summit in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Behind closed doors, Trump had reassured them he wanted the US to stay in the military alliance, saying: "We want to remain with you", a source inside the session told AFP.

And that was reflected in the final declaration in which NATO leaders reaffirmed their "ironclad commitment" to the mutual assistance clause enshrined in Article 5 of the alliance treaty.

"An attack on one is an attack on all," it said, in wording that sought to ease concerns about Washington's commitment to the alliance.

But the day had not begun well with Trump lashing out over NATO allies' failure to back his Iran campaign just before the session, threatening to cut trade with Spain, and insisting he still wants NATO member Denmark's territory of Greenland.

"I'm very upset with NATO... because of what they did with Greenland, and... because of the fact that they didn't want to help us with the number one state sponsor of terror, that's Iran," he said.

### Bark worse than bite

But once he came face-to-face with the leaders behind closed doors, his tone changed markedly, according to the source who attended the talks.

"There is a strong contrast between what Trump

says in public and what he actually says inside," he told AFP.

He also dialled down his earlier rhetoric on Iran -- in which he described them as "scum" and "vicious, violent people" -- with his remarks on the matter "not as harsh", the source said.

And he made no further mention of Spain or Greenland.

### Boost for Ukraine

Stalled efforts to halt the Ukraine war were also back on the agenda, with Trump pledging to give Kyiv "the right to make" Patriot air-defence missiles as he went into talks with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the summit.

"We're going to give a licence to you to make Patriots. That's pretty cool, right," Trump told Zelensky, whose forces have been struggling to shoot down Russian ballistic missiles as supplies of crucial US-made Patriot interceptors run low.

## Arab League chief says blocked by Israel from visiting West Bank

AFP | Cairo, Egypt

The new secretary general of the Arab League, Nabil Fahmy, said yesterday Israel had blocked him from visiting

Ramallah, in what would have been his first foreign visit since taking office this month.

The regional bloc's secretary-at was informed by Palestinian authorities "of the Israeli occu-

pation authorities' rejection of a visit... to the occupied Palestinian territories" to visit Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, Fahmy's office said in a statement.

### WIDE ANGLE

## Borders, Passports, and the Price of Security



JOEL INDRUPATI

"Just 140 years ago, no visa was required to enter any country." When this line appeared on the screen at the end of a movie I was watching, I had to sit bolt upright.

It made me think of all the migration laws being debated in parliaments today and the anti-immigration protests taking place in different parts of the world.

Are passports, visas, and strict border controls, so recent? Apparently, that is the truth.

For centuries, people crossed borders freely to live, work and trade. Neither Megasthenes nor Xuanzang, neither Marco Polo nor Ibn Battuta, neither Columbus nor Vasco da Gama needed permission to enter new lands.

Rulers generally welcomed travellers, recognising the value they brought through knowledge, culture and, above all, commerce. The problems that sometimes accompanied such exchanges are another story for another day.

The passport and visa systems we know today are largely products of the post-First World War world. Following the 'Treaty of Versailles' and the creation of the 'League of Nations', governments sought greater control over the movement of people.

A landmark ruling came in October 1920, when the League of Nations convened the Paris Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and Through Tickets. It introduced much-needed standardisation. Passports became uniform booklets with prescribed dimensions, and further refinements to visa regulations followed at a subsequent conference in 1926.

The reasons were understandable. Countries emerging from a devastating war were concerned about national security, espionage, economic protection, employment and the management of refugees.

Empires were collapsing, nationalism was rising, new nations were emerging, and advances in technology had made warfare more destructive than ever before. Governments wanted to know who was entering their borders and why.

That is why, although the idea of a travel permit is ancient, the modern, standardised visa is a surprisingly recent invention.

The Bible records that around 450 BCE, the Persian King Artaxerxes I gave his Jewish cupbearer, Nehemiah, letters of safe passage as he travelled from present-day Iran to Jerusalem.

Some historians credit King Henry V of England in the fifteenth century with introducing what resembles the first English passport. The oldest surviving passport is believed to be a handwritten document signed by King Charles I in 1641, granting safe passage to an English nobleman travelling overseas.

Interestingly, it was on this very day, 8 July 1796, that the U.S. Department of State issued its first passport to the American diplomat David Humphreys.

While these may be good historical examples, it was only in the twentieth century that passports and visas truly became standard requirements for international travel.

History reminds us that immigration laws have never stood still. They have continually evolved in response to political realities, economic pressures and security concerns. That process continues today.

In the 2023 Bollywood movie, Dunki - that I had been watching - the character Hardy (played by Shah Rukh Khan) argues that borders are designed only for the poor, highlighting the unfairness of immigration laws. He says that while the wealthy can easily buy their way into a country, it is really the poor working-class migrants who are treated as criminals for seeking a better life.

Every government has a legitimate duty to protect its borders, safeguard national security and ensure opportunities for its own citizens. But, at the same time, nations cannot afford to become so inward-looking that they exclude the very people whose knowledge, skills and enterprise can strengthen their economies and enrich their societies.

That is the enduring challenge. Immigration is not simply about deciding who may enter a country.

It is about striking the right balance between protection and openness. Judging by history, that has never been an easy task—and it probably never will be.

(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)



TOP  
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TWEETS

01



I may feel intangible, but its footprint is not. Data centres already consume more electricity than most countries. I'm calling on every major AI company to measure & publicly disclose the full footprint of its systems & to commit to power every data centre with renewable energy by 2030.

@antonioguterres

02



President Trump and I spoke about some ideas that could strengthen our positions and bring peace closer. I count on our teams to follow up promptly on everything discussed today. We also talked diplomacy - we are trying to make it work. We will keep working productively to make it happen. Thank you!

@Zelenskyyua

03



The strong partnership between #NATO & the #EU is more important than ever and we are working ever closer together on rearming & re-energising the defence industrial base, so we can protect all our citizens & have a stronger Europe in a stronger NATO

@SecGenNATO

04



An Europe that invests, defends its sovereignty and strategic autonomy within NATO: we are there.

@EmmanuelMacron

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