

1680

Gottfried Kirch discovers the Great Comet of 1680 (Kirch's Comet/Newton's Comet)

1856

American Gail Borden is issued a patent for technology related to his invention of condensed milk



1896

Power plant at Niagara Falls begins operation

1994

First public trains run through the Channel Tunnel, linking England and France under the English Channel

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I congratulate the people of Iraq on the holding of parliamentary elections. The @UN is committed to supporting Iraq on its journey toward consolidating democratic gains & fulfilling the aspirations of all Iraqis for a peaceful and prosperous future.

@antonioguterres

02



Catholic Social Teaching is neither an abstract theory nor an unattainable utopia. Rather, it offers a path to transform the lives of people and institutions by placing Christ at the center of every human activity.

@Pontifex

03



We would welcome implementation aligned with the G20 Joint Finance & Health Task Force and the Pandemic Agreement. Together, we can create a safer, healthier world for all citizens.

@vonderleyen

04



India's fight against TB is achieving remarkable momentum. The latest WHO Global tuberculosis report 2025 highlights that India has recorded a commendable reduction in TB incidence since 2015 and it is nearly twice the global rate of decline. This is one of the sharpest drops seen anywhere in the world

@narendramodi

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

# Trump signs **bill to end** record-breaking shutdown

The 43-day funding freeze had paralyzed Washington



US President Donald Trump (C) shows the signed bill package to re-open the federal government in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC

● **Trump lashed out at Democrats as he put his signature to the bill**

● **Around 670,000 furloughed civil servants will report back to work**

● **Almost 1,000 flights cancelled yesterday**

AFP | Washington, United States

The US government was set to take the first tentative steps towards re-opening yesterday after President Donald Trump signed a bill to end the longest federal shutdown in US history.

The 43-day funding freeze had paralyzed Washington and left hundreds of thousands of workers unpaid while Republicans and Democrats played a high-stakes blame game.

The Republican-led House of Representatives voted on Wednesday, largely along party lines, to approve a Senate-passed package that will re-open federal departments and agencies, as many Democrats fume over what they see as a capitulation by party leaders.

Trump lashed out at Democrats as he put his signature to the bill later in the Oval Office, urging Americans to remember the chaos when voting in hotly contested US midterm elections in a year's time.

"Today we are sending a clear message that we will never give in to extortion," said Trump, surrounded by gleeful Republican lawmakers including House Speaker Mike Johnson.

Johnson had earlier pointed the finger at the minority party in a withering floor speech before the vote.

"When we come up to mid-terms and other things, don't forget what they've done to our country," Trump said. "So with my signature, the federal government... will now resume normal operations."

The package funds military construction, veterans' affairs, the Department of Agriculture, and Congress itself through next fall, and the rest of government through the end of January when lawmakers will again need to reach a funding agreement.

Around 670,000 furloughed civil servants will report back to work, and a similar number who were kept at their posts with no compensation -- including more than 60,000 air

traffic controllers and airport security staff -- will get back pay.

Several federal agencies, including the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services, told their staff to return to the office on Thursday, according to US media.

Travel delays looked set to improve but not disappear with almost 1,000 flights cancelled on Thursday, according to tracking website FlightAware. Authorities said air traffic controller shortages were easing and the transportation secretary on Wednesday released a fresh order for six percent of flights to be frozen -- lower than the eight to 10 percent expected under the previous emergency directive.

The deal also restores federal workers fired by Trump during the shutdown, while air travel that has been disrupted across the country will gradually return to normal.

Trump falsely accused Democrats of costing the country \$1.5 trillion. While the full financial toll of the shutdown has yet to be determined, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that it has caused \$14 billion in lost growth.

BY INVITATION

## Toward a National Authority for Construction and Skilled Trades to Empower Bahraini Workforce



EBRAHIM ALASMAKH (BO ALAA)

Despite the commendable efforts of the Labour Ministry and Tamkeen to train and qualify Bahraini citizens in technical and industrial fields, the Kingdom of Bahrain's labor market still shows a heavy dependence on foreign workers -- particularly in the construction sector.

According to recent official data, the construction industry employs around 138,000 foreign workers, representing roughly 35% of all expatriate labor in the Kingdom, which reached over 630,000 workers by mid-2024. This makes construction the most foreign-labor-dependent sector in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, most advanced economies -- such as the United States, China, Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Japan -- rely primarily on their national workforce in construction and skilled trades, supported by robust vocational training systems that preserve and develop local expertise.

In light of this, it is time for Bahrain to consider establishing a "National Authority for Construction and Skilled Trades", operating under a governmental framework and responsible for executing public and housing projects using qualified Bahraini professionals.

Such an authority could serve as a national hub for employment, training, and production, offering fair and safe job opportunities for Bahraini youth while gradually reducing reliance on foreign labor and improving overall quality in local craftsmanship and construction.

Establishing this entity would mark a strategic shift in Bahrain's labor landscape -- restoring the social and economic value of skilled trades, and positioning the Bahraini worker as a direct builder of the nation, not merely an overseer.

This initiative aligns perfectly with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, which emphasizes the development of the Bahraini citizen as the foundation of national prosperity.

Truly, the building of Bahrain must be carried out by the hands of its own people.

This proposal is a step forward toward a productive, sustainable, and Bahraini-driven economy.

(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)

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## NATO allies ditch Boeing for new **surveillance planes**

AFP | Brussels, Belgium

NATO countries have ditched plans to buy US-made Boeing aircraft to replace the alliance's ageing fleet of surveillance planes, after Washington pulled out of the programme, the Netherlands said Thursday.

The Western military alliance had announced in 2023 that members would acquire



six Boeing Wedgetail jets in one of its "biggest-ever" joint pur-

chases as it looked to bolster its capabilities against Russia.

But the Dutch defence ministry said that a consortium of six NATO countries had now decided not to go ahead with buying Boeing after the United States ended its involvement in July.

The move opens the door for the purchase of European-made aircraft as Washington's allies look to bolster their own pro-

ducers amid doubts over the reliability of US support under President Donald Trump.

"The withdrawal of the US demonstrates the importance of investing as much as possible in European industry," deputy Dutch defence minister Gijs Tuinman said.

The current fleet of NATO AWACS surveillance planes -- dubbed the alliance's "eyes in

the sky" -- will reach the end of their service in 2035.

NATO chief Mark Rutte said Thursday that he "will do everything to make sure that we speed up" the decision on their replacements.

The jets are operated centrally by the alliance out of its Geilenkirchen airbase in Germany, with intelligence shared among NATO's 32 members.