

1457 BC

Battle of Megiddo: Egyptian forces of Thutmose III defeat a large Canaanite coalition under the King of Kadesh. First battle recorded with a reliable account.

1705

Queen Anne of England knights scientist Isaac Newton at Trinity College, Cambridge



1900 1948

US Post Office issues its first stamp booklets containing 12, 24, or 48 two-cent stamps [1]

Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) forms in Paris

11 nations urge 'coordinated' economic support amid Mideast war

AFP | London, United Kingdom

The finance ministers of 11 countries including Britain and Japan called yesterday for "coordinated emergency support" to help countries hit by disruptions from the war in the Middle East.

"We call on the IMF and World Bank to provide a coordinated emergency support offer for countries in need, tailored to country circumstances and drawing on the full range and flexibility of their toolkits," the ministers said in a joint statement issued by the UK government.

"Renewed hostilities, a widening of the conflict or continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would pose serious additional risks to global energy security, supply chains, and economic and financial stability," said the statement.

"Even with a durable resolution of the conflict, impacts on growth, inflation and markets will persist."

"We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine and

our determination to maintain economic pressure on Russia," it said.

"Russia's war in Ukraine, now in its fifth year, continues to negatively impact the global economy. Russia must not benefit from this conflict, and as market conditions allow to avoid exacerbating disruptions to supply chains and energy prices, we will continue collaborating on ways to increase pressure."

The countries that signed the statement were Australia, Finland, Ireland, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Britain's finance minister Rachel Reeves, who was attending the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's spring meetings in Washington, reaffirmed her country's willingness to play its part to ensure free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

"My Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and the French President Emmanuel Macron are hosting talks in Paris on Fri-

day this week about how we can, when there is a ceasefire, a proper ceasefire, how we can help that navigation through the Strait of Hormuz," she said at a forum organised by CNBC television.



A striking fact about the Middle East conflict is how critical one narrow waterway has become: nearly a fifth of the world's oil supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, making it one of the most strategically sensitive flashpoints in any regional war. Even minor tensions there can send global energy prices sharply higher.

China supports 'momentum of peace talks'

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Iranian counterpart that Beijing "supports maintaining the momentum of the ceasefire and peace talks" as Pakistani officials landed in Tehran to discuss a second round of US-Iran negotiations to end the war.

Israel hails Lebanon talks as chance to end Hezbollah

Israel hailed the opening of direct talks with Beirut as a "historic opportunity" that could end Hezbollah's grip on Lebanon.

Israeli government spokesman David Mencer also said there was "no ceasefire discussion" with the Iran-backed militant group.

U-TURN WITH UK

Words Really Matter!

P. UNNIKRISHNAN



The beauty of Bahrain lies in its ability to evolve. It is a nation that continuously embraces subtle yet significant change, reflecting the shifting mindset of a world constantly rethinking how societies grow, develop, and coexist.

Today, beyond the rhetoric of politics, ordinary people are becoming more conscious of how they speak, how they address one another, and how language itself shapes dignity.

It was therefore heartening to see recent discussions in Parliament proposing a shift in terminology—from "housemaid" or "house servant" to "domestic worker." Bahrain is also restructuring its penal system to replace the term "prison" with "Reform and Rehabilitation Centres". These are not merely changes in vocabulary; they represent a deeper transformation in how we perceive roles, responsibilities, and even human worth.

Yet, even as we make these corrections, there remains room to go further.

Take, for instance, the term "blacklist." Why do we instinctively associate negativity with the colour black? Why not simply use "blocklist"? Language carries the weight of history, and often, unconscious bias. Perhaps it is time we question not just what we say—but why we say it.

In everyday conversations, we still encounter outdated and insensitive terms. Words like "spastic" or "mentally retarded" continue to surface, despite more appropriate and respectful alternatives, such as referring to someone as a person with cerebral palsy or a person with an intellectual disability. These are not merely semantic corrections—they are about restoring dignity.

As a media organisation, it is time for us to replace Terms like "illegal immigrant" with "undocumented migrant," and "juvenile delinquent" with "at-risk youth." Even commonly used words like "addict" can be reframed as "a person with a substance use disorder."

At times, we may have used "war victims" instead of "civilians affected by conflict," or casually described situations as "clashes" when "escalation" or "exchange" would have been more accurate. On social media, we often see words like "riots" used in place of "unrest," and "fake news" instead of the more precise "misinformation."

I have often questioned why we label individuals as "poor," rather than "economically disadvantaged" or "low-income." Why refer to "slums" instead of "informal settlements"? Why speak of the "Third World" when "developing countries" more accurately reflects growth and potential? Even in education, the term "dropout" carries a stigma that "early school leaver" does not.

Then comes the question of gender in language. Words like "policeman," "fireman," "stewardess," and even "mankind" are gradually giving way to more inclusive alternatives—"police officer," "firefighter," "flight attendant," and "humankind." It raises a personal question: should I continue to be called a "Chairman," or is "Chairperson" a more appropriate reflection of the times?

Change, after all, begins at home. I have consciously moved away from terms like "master bedroom" and prefer "primary bedroom." In the workplace, we have begun referring to "office boys" as "support staff," and "drivers" as "professional drivers" or "chauffeurs."

When I recently tried to bring this conversation home, inspired by all these changes, I jokingly called my wife a "generation changer." She smiled, paused for a moment, and then asked a question that completely disarmed me:

"Fine... but how do we women remove 'men' from 'women'?"

While I was busy searching for an answer, she added, "Don't worry... men seem to have secured a permanent place—at least in 'mental!'"

(P. Unnikrishnan is the Chairperson & Managing Director of The Daily Tribune)

'Grand bargain'

Trump had pledged to "make Iran thrive" if it committed to "not having a nuclear weapon". "That's the kind of Trumpian grand bargain that the president has put on the table," The US vice president said adding: "Man, we're going to keep on negotiating and try to make it happen."

Iran military warns will block Red Sea if US naval blockade continues

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's military warned yesterday it would block trade through the Red Sea, along with the Gulf and Sea of Oman, if the US naval blockade on Iranian ports continues.

In a statement carried by Iranian state television, the head of the military's central command centre said if the US continues with its blockade and "creates insecurity for Iran's commercial vessels and oil tankers", it will also constitute "a prelude" to violating the ceasefire.



A US Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft refuelling a US Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft during Operation Epic Fury in the US Central Command area of responsibility

Iran firm on uranium, keeps talking

Iran's foreign ministry said Tehran's right to enrich uranium was "indisputable" although the level of enrichment is "negotiable", as it said that exchanges with the United States had continued following failed negotiations over the weekend.

Trump says China agrees not to arm Iran

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that China has agreed not to send weapons to its close partner Iran and that he has received personal assurances from leader Xi Jinping.

"They have agreed not to send weapons to Iran. President Xi will give me a big, fat, hug when I get there in a few weeks," Trump wrote on Truth Social, referring to his planned May 14-15 summit with Xi in Beijing.

Trump told Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo in a separate interview aired Wednesday that Xi had "essentially" promised not to deliver weapons.

"I had heard that China's giving weapons to, I mean -- you're seeing it all over the place -- to



They have agreed not to send weapons to Iran. President Xi will give me a big, fat, hug when I get there in a few weeks

TRUMP

Iran," Trump said. "And I wrote him a letter asking him not to do that, and he wrote me a letter saying that essentially he's not doing that."

In his Truth Social post, Trump insisted that "China is very happy that I am

permanently opening the Strait of Hormuz. I am doing it for them, also - And the World."

Trump was asked in the Fox interview about reports that China had recently conducted a major cyber attack against the FBI. He did not directly confirm the report, but said: "We do it to them. They do it to us."

"China's China," he said. "They're never easy, but we're doing great with China."

Trump said he was "the toughest person" on China.