

1775

American Revolution begins in Lexington, Massachusetts, with the "Shot Heard Round the World" fired later that day in Concord

1982

Sally Ride is named the first American woman astronaut



1995

Oklahoma City bombing: Timothy McVeigh sets a truck bomb at Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168, including 19 children, and injuring 500

2011

Fidel Castro resigns his position of First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba after 45 years in power

First Makkah Route Flights Touch Down in Madinah

The first flight carrying Pakistani beneficiaries of the Makkah Route initiative landed at Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah arriving from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport.

Saudi Arabia has allocated a quota of 179,210 Pakistani pilgrims for this year's Hajj season, with around 118,000 seats under the government scheme and the remainder through private operators. Officials from Sindh, including Gov. Nehal Hashmi, saw off the pilgrims; 160 travellers departed in the initial group amid prayers and well-wishes, according to the Sindh Hajj Directorate.

The initiative also saw arrivals from other participat-



ing countries. A flight carrying Bangladeshi pilgrims landed at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah from Dhaka, while additional groups from Malaysia and Türkiye reached Madinah on Saturday as part of the expanding programme.

The first Indian Hajj group was also received at Madinah Airport by Ambassador Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan and Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, alongside Saudi and Indian officials, who reviewed reception facilities and support services.

Iran's top national security body vows no 'compromise, retreat' in US talks

Trump says Iran cannot 'blackmail' us

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump yesterday warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, after Tehran declared the strategic

waterway once again closed. "We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again -- you know, as they've been doing for years -- and they can't blackmail us," Trump said at a White House event.

Trump said there would be "some information" about

Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand."

Iran's military yesterday declared the strait, through which about one-fifth of the world's crude and liquefied natural gas normally passes, was once again closed, a day after saying it was open.

Iran says reviewing 'new proposals' from US

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's top national security body said yesterday that the country was reviewing "new proposals" received from the United States, even as it warned that its negotiators would cut no compromises with Washington.

"In recent days, with the presence of the commander of the Pakistani army in Tehran as an intermediary and mediator in the negotiations, new proposals have been put forward by the Americans, which the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently reviewing and has not yet responded to," the Supreme

National Security Council said in a statement.

It went on to say that Iran's negotiating delegation "will not make even the slightest compromise, retreat or leniency, and will defend with all its strength the interests of the Iranian nation".

Israeli 'yellow line'

The Israeli military said it had established a "Yellow Line" demarcation in the part of southern Lebanon it has invaded, similar to the one separating its forces from territory still held by Hamas in Gaza. The army added it had already struck suspected militants approaching its troops along the line.

Turkey slams Israel

Turkey's foreign minister accused Israel of using security as a pretext to acquire "more land".

"Israel is not after its own security. Israel is after more land. Security is being used by the Netanyahu government as an excuse to occupy more land," Hakan Fidan told the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



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TWEETS

01



When the law of force replaces the force of law, instability becomes contagious, conflicts spill over & economic shocks reverberate around the world. More than ever, we must reject a future ruled by coercion & embrace a future rooted in the @UN Charter & international law.

@antonioguterres

02



I received a phone call from my dear friend, President Emmanuel Macron. We discussed the situation in Western Asia and agreed on the urgent need to restore security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. We will continue our close cooperation to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.

@narendramodi

03



It began with coal and steel. But from the very start, our Union was always meant to be much more.

75 years ago, in Paris, with the signing of the Treaty of Paris, Europe chose a different path.

One of unity over division, of Peace over war.

The European Coal and Steel Community was never just an industrial project.

It was a project for peace in Europe.

A project for shared prosperity.

A project for strength and independence in a world of great power competition.

The very same purpose that still drives our Union today.

@vonderleyen

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Iran Crisis Spurs Bahrain's Strategic EV Motorcade

CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD



The escalating Iran crisis is no longer confined to the realm of geopolitics; it is rapidly reshaping the global economic order—most visibly within the energy and transportation sectors. As tensions threaten critical oil supply corridors, the vulnerability of hydrocarbon-dependent mobility is once again exposed.

What we are witnessing is not merely market volatility, but a structural shift—one that is accelerating the transition from internal combustion engines toward electrified transport systems.

In this evolving landscape, the question is no longer whether electrification will dominate, but which nations will lead—and which will lag behind.

For decades, the Gulf region has been synonymous with oil driven prosperity and a deep-rooted

automotive culture built around high-performance engines. Today, however, that paradigm is being strategically reconsidered. While major economies such as China have insulated themselves through large-scale EV adoption and diversified energy portfolios, many countries remain exposed to recurring fuel shocks—what can now be described as a persistent "diesel vulnerability."

This volatility is already influencing consumer behavior. Across global markets, including the Gulf, purchasing decisions are shifting from preference-driven to risk-aware. The rise of the used electric vehicle market is particularly telling. It reflects a growing public awareness that energy security is no longer an abstract policy issue—it is a daily economic concern. Used EVs, in this context, represent a transitional solution: accessible, practical, and strategically aligned with long-term energy stability.

Yet, this transition cannot be left to market forces alone. It demands deliberate state intervention. The real battleground is no longer oil production, but energy infrastructure resilience—specifically, the capacity of national grids to sustain large-scale electrification without compromising affordability or reliability. Here, Bahrain is positioning itself with notable strategic clarity.

Through coordinated government policy and private sector engagement, the Kingdom is accelerating its transition toward an integrated EV ecosystem. The Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) has moved beyond pilot initiatives, deploying high-capacity 360 kW fast-charging stations designed to meet future demand rather than current necessity.

More significantly, Bahrain has adopted a forward-looking regulatory framework. The introduction of mandatory EV charging infrastructure in new commercial developments from 2025 reflects a policy mindset that is anticipatory rather than reactive. Simultaneously, efforts to reinforce the national grid and integrate renewable energy sources signal a broader commitment to energy diversification and long-term sustainability.

These measures are not isolated technical upgrades; they represent a strategic repositioning of Bahrain within the regional energy landscape.

With plans to expand the public charging network to over 200 stations in the current phase, Bahrain is laying the groundwork for a resilient, electrified transport system—one capable of mitigating external shocks while enhancing national energy security.

In a region often defined by its hydrocarbon legacy, Bahrain has an opportunity to redefine leadership through adaptation and foresight. If current momentum is sustained, the Kingdom will not simply participate in the global shift toward electric mobility—it will help shape its direction within the Gulf.

The Iran crisis, therefore, may prove to be more than a moment of instability. It could well serve as a strategic inflection point—one that propels Bahrain to the forefront of a new energy and mobility paradigm.

By 2027, the Kingdom may not just be keeping pace with change, but leading a regional EV motorcade grounded in resilience, innovation, and strategic intent.

(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)

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