

1788

US Constitution comes into effect when New Hampshire is the 9th state to ratify it

1854

First Victoria Cross won during the bombardment of Bomarsund in the Åland Islands during the Crimean War



1948

Lord Mountbatten resigns as Governor General of India (formerly the last Viceroy)

1993

English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves the last theorem of French mathematician Pierre de Fermat after 356 years, solving the world's most difficult math problem

## Air Force One replacement unveiled

AFP | Joint Base Andrews, United States

US President Donald Trump unveiled on Friday a replacement Air Force One aircraft gifted by Qatar, which he dubbed a “flying White House.”

“This is considered the world’s most luxurious plane,” Trump said at a speech inside the plane’s hangar, praising the gulf emirate for being “so nice and providing” it.

Trump has previously said it would be “stupid” to reject the gift, while also stoking further concern by saying the plane would eventually be donated to his presidential library.

At the unveiling Friday at Joint Base Andrews, just outside Washington, Trump praised the workmanship that went into modifying the jet, saying “with the extraordinary devotion of many of you here today, this plane was transformed into a flying White House at a level of luxury that nobody’s ever seen before.”

“When you see it, you won’t believe it, actually, the quality of woods, the quality of the materials, the quality of the engines,” he added. “And I want to thank the emir of Qatar.”

A framed print of a duck swimming in the Reflecting Pool -- a Washington landmark that Trump has sought to beautify with mixed results -- is among patriotic-themed



US President Donald Trump speaks in front of the new Air Force One, gifted to him by Qatar, in a hangar at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland

pictures to adorn the walls.

Repeatedly praising the size of the aircraft and its engines, Trump said, “it flies further and faster than any Air Force One.”

Trump said the new aircraft would likely participate in a flyover as part of 250th US Independence Day celebrations on July 4.

The US president has fixated on replacing the aircraft, which have been in service since the 1990s, since his first term.

On Thursday, White House officials bade farewell to one of the two heavily modified Boeing 747s that have transport-

ed US presidents for decades, which fueled speculation that the new jet would be unveiled imminently.

While the now-replaced aircraft sported a blue and white exterior, the new aircraft has a navy blue underbelly, red stripe and white upper body.

Whenever a US president is on the jet, it officially takes the call sign Air Force One.

The US government has contracted Boeing to deliver two new 747-8 aircraft to serve as part of the presidential fleet, but the program has been plagued by delays and cost-overruns.

## Trump escalates spat with Italy’s Meloni over G7 photo claim

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump escalated a diplomatic row with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday, accusing her of repeatedly seeking a photograph with him and linking the dispute to tensions over Iran and NATO.

The clash has opened an unusually personal rift between Trump and one of Europe’s most prominent right-wing leaders, who had sought to cast herself as a bridge between Washington and the continent during Trump’s return to power.

Trump had initially told Italian broadcaster La7 that Meloni “begged” him for a picture at this week’s G7 summit in France, saying he agreed only because he “felt sorry for her.”

Meloni angrily denied the claim, calling it “made up,” but Trump doubled down in a post on Truth Social, saying Meloni had asked “over and over” for a photograph during the summit.

He also accused her of trying to repair relations with Washington for domestic political reasons after Italy failed to support US action against Iran.

“Now, after the United States defeated Iran militarily, she wants to be friends again in order to get her ‘numbers up.’ No thanks!!!” Trump wrote.

He said Meloni was doing “poorly in Italy” and suggest-



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ed this was linked to her refusal to let the United States use Italian “landing strips or runways” during the conflict with Iran.

Trump also revived his long-running complaint that the United States spends heavily to protect “so-called” NATO allies, saying Washington contributes hundreds of billions of dollars to defend Italy and others.

The remarks were a sharp escalation of a dispute that had already triggered anger in Rome.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani canceled a planned visit to the United States, saying on Friday that Trump’s “grave and offensive” words toward Meloni “offend the whole of Italy.”

### ‘Stunned’

Meloni, who leads Italy’s far-right Brothers of Italy party, said she was “frankly stunned” by Trump’s original comments.

“I don’t know why the president of the United States behaves this way with his own allies,” she said in a video posted on X.

She also accused Trump of showing more deference to the West’s adversaries than to its partners.

“It’s a pity he doesn’t show the same determination with enemies of the West, with enemies of the United States, with leaders with whom, instead, he is far more accommodating,” she said.



TOP  
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TWEETS

01



Amid deepening divisions, new and protracted conflicts are compelling millions of people to seek safety far from home. On #WorldRefugeeDay, we call for renewed solidarity and stronger support for all those forced to flee, and the countries and communities hosting them.

@antonio gutierrez

02



40% more people are living with sickle cell disease today than in 2000. It is a growing health challenge, affecting around 7.7 million people in the world today. This means more health workers – incl. maternity providers – need to know how to manage the disease. WHO consolidated guidelines for the management of common childhood illness: management of sickle-cell disease in children and adolescents <https://bit.ly/4elkvp6>

@DrTedros

03



On the 21st, the Yoga Day program will be organized in Kolkata. I am extremely delighted to see this event being held in Kolkata. After the Yoga Day program, I will join another program where three warships built in indigenous design will be launched into the water. These are INS Durgam, INS Samshodhaka, and INS Agrya. These will further strengthen our security. At the same time, they also reflect our resolve towards the goal of self-reliance in the defense sector.

@narendramodi

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

### CAPTAIN’S CORNER

## Turning Peace into Prosperity



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The recently signed Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran has injected a fragile yet historic sense of optimism into the Middle East. While significant challenges remain, the agreement offers Bahrain a valuable opportunity to redefine its regional and economic position. With the immediate threat of cross-Gulf escalation substantially reduced, the Kingdom can begin shifting from a posture of reactive defense to one of proactive economic, diplomatic, and strategic leadership.

The most immediate priority should be the acceleration of economic diversification. For decades, regional security concerns have heavily influenced fiscal policies, requiring substantial investments in defense and risk mitigation. Bahrain should seize this moment of relative stability and transform it into a competitive advantage by accelerating the objectives of its Economic Vision. By strengthening its position as a secure, highly connected hub for logistics, financial services, and financial technology, Manama can attract foreign direct investment that may previously have been deterred by regional uncertainty. Capitalizing on the opportunities created by the Islamabad Memorandum will require demonstrating to global investors that the Gulf is open for long-term, uninterrupted business and sustainable growth.

At the same time, Bahrain should champion a diplomacy-first regional framework. De-escalation between major powers does not automatically eliminate local tensions or ideological differences. As a nation characterized by a diverse social fabric and a long history of navigating complex regional dynamics, Bahrain is uniquely positioned to promote peaceful coexistence and constructive engagement. The Kingdom can use this diplomatic breathing space to strengthen national cohesion, encourage dialogue, and ensure that external stability is translated into internal resilience.

Nevertheless, complacency remains the greatest danger. The Islamabad Memorandum represents an important diplomatic breakthrough, but it is not yet a permanent peace settlement. Bahrain must remain realistic about the vulnerabilities inherent in any fragile peace while fully leveraging the opportunities it creates. This requires maintaining strong strategic partnerships, including its longstanding security alliance with the United States, while simultaneously expanding economic cooperation, trade relations, and confidence-building measures across the region.

The silence of drones and the moderation of hostile rhetoric offer more than temporary relief; they provide a rare opportunity for a fresh start. Bahrain’s path forward lies in transforming this geopolitical reprieve into a lasting era of economic renewal and regional influence. By focusing on financial innovation, diplomatic engagement, and national unity, the Kingdom can help convert a fragile understanding into a durable foundation for peace, stability, and Bahraini prosperity.

(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)

