

Great Northern War begins in Northern Europe between Denmark-Norway, Saxony, Russia, and the Swedish Empire

The last Qing Emperor of China, Puyi (age 6), abdicates after losing the support of the Chinese people and thus the "mandate of heaven"



French fashion designer Christian Dior presents his first influential collection, named the "New Look"

US President Bill Clinton is acquitted by the Senate in his impeachment trial



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Deeply touched by the warm welcome extended by my friend, PM Netanyahu. May the India-Israel friendship continue to soar higher @narendramodi

02



Following the welcoming ceremony, I held a personal meeting with India's Prime Minister @netanyahu

03



Around the world, human rights are being pushed back deliberately, strategically & sometimes proudly.

We cannot let power write a new rulebook in which the vulnerable have no rights & the powerful have no limits.

We must change course & let human dignity set the direction.

@antoniouterres

04



We've been engaged in very, very deliberate negotiations with both the Russians and the Ukrainians... and @POTUS has just set the entire team to try to bring the killing to a close... it's been difficult, but I think we're making progress.

@VP

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

# Iran negotiators head Geneva for US talks

President strikes hopeful tone

● Trump claimed that Tehran had already developed missiles

● But Iranian foreign ministry refuted those claims

● The West believes Iran is seeking an atomic bomb

AFP | Paris, France

An Iranian delegation headed by its top diplomat set off for Geneva yesterday for talks with the US, as the Islamic republic's president struck an upbeat tone about the prospect for a negotiated agreement to avert fresh conflict.

Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened strikes if Iran fails to cut a deal on its atomic programme, and in his State of the Union address on Tuesday, the US president accused Tehran of "sinister nuclear ambitions" after he ordered a massive military deployment around the Gulf.

But Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said yesterday that he had a "favourable outlook for the negotiations", after Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his team left for Switzerland.

"We are continuing the process under the guidance of the supreme leader so that we can move beyond this 'neither war

## US unveils new Iran sanctions

Washington, United States

The United States yesterday announced fresh sanctions targeting Iran, pressing on with what Washington calls its "maximum pressure" campaign ahead of talks between both sides in Geneva.

The US Treasury Department's latest sanctions take aim at more than 30 individuals, entities and vessels said to be enabling "illicit Iranian petroleum sales," as well as its weapons production.

In particular, vessels operating "as part of Iran's shadow fleet, which transport Iranian petroleum and petroleum products to foreign markets" were targeted as a means to strike at authorities' revenue sources, the Treasury said.

nor peace' situation," Pezeshkian said in a speech.

Trump in his address claimed that Tehran had "already developed missiles that can threaten Europe and our bases overseas, and they're working to build missiles that will soon reach the United States of America".

He also said that Iran was "at this moment again pursuing their sinister nuclear ambitions".

But Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Wednesday refuted those claims as "simply the repetition of 'big lies'".



US aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford

"Iran exploits financial systems to sell illicit oil, launder the proceeds, procure components for its nuclear and conventional weapons programs, and support its terrorist proxies," charged US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent in a statement.

He vowed that the Trump administration will continue to push for "maximum pressure on Iran to target the regime's weapons capabilities and support for terrorism."



The maximum range of Iran's missiles is 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) according to what Tehran has publicly disclosed, though the US Congressional Research Service estimates they top out at about 3,000 kilometres -- less than a third of the distance to the continental United States.

## Bill Gates admits affairs but denies involvement in Epstein crimes

AFP | Washington, United States

Bill Gates has admitted making a "huge mistake" in associating with Jeffrey Epstein, telling staff at his charity foundation that he had affairs with two Russian women but denying involvement in the disgraced financier's crimes.

The Microsoft co-founder is among the prominent names appearing in documents released by the US Justice Department that revealed close friendships, illicit financial dealings and private photos with convicted sex offender Epstein.

In a town hall Tuesday with staff at the Gates Foundation, a recording of which was reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, Gates expressed regret that his relationship with Epstein had affected the work of his philanthropic organization. "It was a huge mistake to spend time with Epstein" and to also bring Gates Foundation executives into meetings with Epstein, he said.

"I apologize to other peo-

ple who are drawn into this because of the mistake that I made."

In a draft email among the documents released by the Justice Department, Epstein alleged Gates engaged in extramarital affairs, writing that his relationship with Gates ranged from "helping Bill to get drugs, in order to deal with consequences of sex with Russian girls, to facilitating his illicit trysts, with married women."

Gates, 70, admitted at the town hall to two affairs.

"I did have affairs, one with a Russian bridge player who met me at bridge events, and one with a Russian nuclear physicist who I met through business activities," he said.

But he denied any involvement with victims of Epstein, who died in a New York jail cell in 2019 while awaiting

trial for sex trafficking underage girls.

"I did nothing illicit. I saw nothing illicit," Gates told the town hall.

The tech titan said his relationship with Epstein began in 2011, three years after the financier pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution.

Gates said he knew of an "18-month thing" restricting Epstein's travel but didn't check his background.

He said his then-wife Melinda expressed concerns about Epstein in 2013, but that he continued the relationship for at least another year.

"Knowing what I know now makes it, you know, a hundred times worse in terms of not only his crimes in the past, but now it's clear there was ongoing bad behavior," Gates told staff.



U-TURN WITH UK

## The Bill That Makes You Sick!



P UNNIKRISHNAN

Have you ever wondered why a doctor prescribes five tablets — but the pharmacy sells you a full box of ten, twenty or even thirty?

It is a small moment at the counter. Yet for many Bahraini residents, it raises serious questions about costs, regulations, and waste.

Medical ethics are clear: patients must take medicines exactly as a doctor advises. But in practice, patients are often required to purchase an entire sealed pack, even when only a few tablets are prescribed. The remainder usually ends up in kitchen drawers or medicine cabinets — unused, forgotten, or eventually thrown away.

Bahrain's pharmaceutical regulations are in place for sound reasons. Medicines must be sold in manufacturer-sealed packaging to prevent contamination, ensure quality control, reduce tampering and maintain proper monitoring of regulated drugs. These safeguards are essential in protecting public health.

But good regulation should also consider practical impact.

For families with modest incomes, every dinner matters. If a patient needs only five tablets of a common pain reliever or fever medication, being required to buy a pack of twenty can feel like an unnecessary expense. Multiply that across antibiotics, painkillers and other short-term treatments, and households quietly accumulate strips of unused medicine.

The issue becomes more concerning with antibiotics. When the prescribed course does not match the number of tablets in a commercial pack, extra pills remain at home. Those leftovers can encourage self-medication later without medical supervision — a dangerous practice that contributes to antibiotic resistance and other health risks.

In several countries, including India, pharmacies dispense medicines in exact quantities. Tablets are placed in labelled packets, dosage instructions are clearly written, and since each blister strip carries its expiry date, patients can verify the product's safety. While that system comes with its own regulatory challenges, it addresses both affordability and waste.

The debate, therefore, is not about weakening Bahrain's safety standards. It is about modernising packaging.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers could be encouraged to produce smaller pack sizes that align with common prescription durations — five, seven or ten tablets instead of only twenty or thirty. Such an approach would preserve quality control while easing the financial burden on patients.

Healthcare professionals often remind us that stress is one of the greatest contributors to illness. Financial strain only adds to that burden. When patients already worry about their health, they should not also worry about paying for medicine they do not need.

When a prescription says five tablets, the bill should not feel like twenty. Am I overdosing on my thoughts — or prescribing the right question?

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

*Bahrain's pharmaceutical regulations are in place for sound reasons. Medicines must be sold in manufacturer-sealed packaging to prevent contamination, ensure quality control, reduce tampering and maintain proper monitoring of regulated drugs. These safeguards are essential in protecting public health.*

*But good regulation should also consider practical impact.*