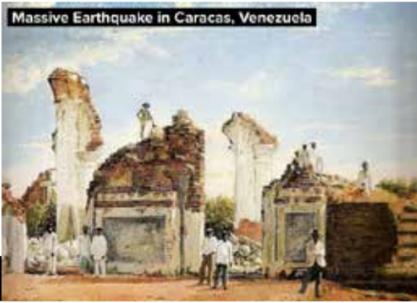


1027

Pope John XIX crowns Conrad II as Holy Roman Emperor, founding the Salian dynasty

1812

Earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale destroys 90% of Caracas, Venezuela, and kills an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people



1871 1942

Municipal elections bring revolutionaries to power in Paris who form the short lived Paris Commune government

First "Eichmann transport" to Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps

Pentagon orders more missiles for Mideast war

AFP | Washington, United States

The US Department of Defense yesterday announced three agreements with defense contractors to boost production of missiles and other parts to replenish dwindling supplies used in the Mideast war.

Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems agreed to a fourfold increase in production of a key component called "seeker heads" for THAAD, a high-altitude anti-missile system that

has seen significant use in the Middle East.

The agreement puts the "industrial base on a wartime footing," the Department of Defense said in a press release.

At the end of January, Lockheed Martin had already announced an acceleration of its THAAD production from around 100 to about 400 a year within a few years. The Pentagon announced a second agreement with Lockheed Martin to "accelerate" production of Precision Strike Missiles, or PrSM, tactical ballistic

missiles used for the first time against Iran. They succeed the previous Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS.

Lockheed Martin confirmed the order to quadruple output of the PrSM missiles, saying it builds on a previous \$4.94 billion contract award from the US Army last year. In a third deal, Honeywell Aerospace agreed to boost the production of "critical components for America's munitions stockpile," including navigation systems, a DoD press release said.

Gulf countries demand Iraq stop attacks by pro-Iran groups from its territory

Iran talks continue

Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted at least four drones in the kingdom's east.

Fire at Kuwait airport after drones hit fuel tank: aviation agency

AFP | Kuwait City, Kuwait

Drones hit a fuel tank and sparked a fire at Kuwait International Airport, the Gulf state's civil aviation authority said yesterday, as Iran presses on with its attacks in the nearly four-week regional war.

Citing preliminary information, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said in a statement posted online that the attack had caused only "limited" damage and no casualties.

Firefighters were working to bring the blaze under control, said agency spokesman Abdullah Al-Rajhi.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards

said in a statement carried by state broadcaster IRIB that they had launched missiles and drones at military bases hosting US forces in Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain as well as targets in Israel.

The Kuwait National Guard said in a statement that its forces intercepted six drones early Wednesday, and the army said air defences were "responding to hostile missile and drone attacks".

Saudi Arabia said it had intercepted at least four drones in the kingdom's east.

In Israel, the military said air defences responded to Iranian missiles that triggered

warning sirens across much of the country's central region.

The Kuwait airport is largely closed to commercial flights and has come under attack several times since the regional war began on February 28, when Israel and the United States launched strikes on Iran.

On March 14, the civil aviation authority said an attack with "several drones" targeted the airport and "struck its radar system". No casualties were reported.



X

TOP
3
TWEETS

01



Spoke with President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and discussed the evolving situation in West Asia, with particular focus on disruptions affecting global energy security. We reviewed progress on key initiatives aimed at strengthening India-Sri Lanka energy cooperation and enhancing regional security.

As close and trusted partners, we reaffirmed our commitment to work closely together in addressing shared challenges.

@narendramodi

02



The transatlantic slave trade was a crime against humanity that struck at the core of personhood, broke up families & devastated communities. Let us reject the false narrative of racial difference & fully commit to human rights, equality & the inherent worth of every person.

@antonioguterres

03



Very good visit to the Garden Island Defence Precinct, Sydney's major naval base. The Indo-Pacific is crucial for the world's security. Any tension here echoes through the whole world. With our Security and Defence partnership, we will be able to carry out joint military exercises on land and at sea. It will also boost our defence industries in terms of production, scale and innovation.

@vonderleyen

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

U-TURN WITH UK

The risk you didn't pack!



P. UNNIKISHNAN

It is both unfortunate and unsettling that a pregnant expatriate woman, travelling from Bahrain to Saudi Arabia in a hired taxi, found herself detained at immigration due to circumstances entirely beyond her control. What should have been a routine journey turned into a distressing ordeal when authorities discovered that the driver had allegedly attempted to smuggle liquor bottles into Saudi Arabia, one of the strictest jurisdictions in the region when it comes to prohibited substances.

The woman, unaware of any wrongdoing, was held for nearly 10 hours before she could establish her innocence. Eventually, she was allowed to continue her journey. But the emotional and physical strain she endured raises a larger and more troubling question: in such situations, is innocence enough?

For many expatriates, cross-border travel—especially between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia—is routine. Taxis are hired, journeys are arranged quickly, and trust is placed, sometimes blindly, in drivers or informal travel arrangements. Yet, this incident highlights a harsh reality: at international borders, responsibility is not always determined by intent alone.

It may seem logical to assume that a written declaration between a passenger and a driver, clearly stating that the passenger is responsible only for their own belongings, could offer protection. However, such assumptions do not hold up in practice. Immigration and customs authorities operate under criminal law, not private agreements. Officers are neither obligated to accept nor consider such documents. Instead, all occupants of a vehicle may be treated as part of a shared environment and questioned until clarity is established.

This principle—often referred to as constructive possession—means that even an innocent passenger can be drawn into a legal situation simply by being present in the wrong place at the wrong time. A document may later help during an investigation to establish intent or lack of knowledge, but it does little to prevent immediate consequences such as detention or interrogation.

The more effective safeguard lies in awareness and personal responsibility. Choosing a licensed and reputable transport provider is essential. Informal or unverified taxis, particularly for cross-border journeys, carry risks that are often underestimated. Equally important is verifying the vehicle before departure. A quick check of the boot and the car's visible areas may feel unnecessary, but it can prevent serious complications later.

Passengers should also be mindful of their own belongings. Bags with multiple open pockets can be vulnerable, making it easier for someone to insert prohibited items without the passenger's knowledge. Properly securing luggage reduces this risk.

In today's digital age, even a quick photo or video of the vehicle before departure can serve as useful evidence if questions arise. At a broader level, travel agencies facilitating such journeys must adopt stricter compliance practices, including providing written assurances that vehicles have been checked and are free from prohibited items.

Ultimately, this incident is not just about one driver's wrongdoing. It is a reminder of how vulnerable individuals can become when assumptions replace awareness. For passengers navigating unfamiliar legal environments, caution is not optional—it is essential.

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

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