

1519

King Carlos I is elected Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

1838

Coronation of Queen Victoria, aged 19, during a five-hour ceremony at Westminster Abbey, London



1914

Franz Ferdinand, Archduke of Austria and his wife Sophie are assassinated by Bosnian-Serb assassin Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, setting off a chain of alliances and events that lead to World War I

1919

Treaty of Versailles is signed in France, ending World War I and establishing the League of Nations

Gulf strikes shake fragile Iran deal

MIDDLE EAST ON EDGE US-IRAN DEAL COLLAPSES INTO CONFRONTATION

Strikes, counterattacks and fragile truces threaten peace and key shipping route

ESCALATION: TRADING FIRE

- US STRIKES IRAN**: US launches strikes on Iranian missile & drone storage sites and radar positions.
- IRAN HITS BACK**: Revolutionary Guards strike US sites in the Gulf, want of Iranian responses if attacks continue.
- SPARK: SHIP ATTACK ROW**: Washington accused Tehran of attacking a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz.
- DEAL ACCUSED OF VIOLATION**: Iran says US strikes are "a blatant violation" of the deal to end the Middle East war.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ: A VOLATILE LIFELINE

- UKMTO**: "Unidentified projectile" damages oil tanker.
- Iran warns vessels not to enter/leave the Gulf without permission.
- Despite flare-up, oil prices fall on hopes of a deal to ease tensions.
- Analyst take: US INCENTIVE: HETEROS; IRAN'S STRATEGY: A clear-cut negotiation with controlled pressure in the Strait can work to Iran's advantage.

LEBANON FRONT: FRAGILE AGREEMENT

- Israel strikes south Lebanon first attack since US-backed framework agreement announced.
- Agreement includes Lebanon army taking control of two areas & process to disarm Hezbollah.
- Marzo Rubio: Accord "begins to put in place a framework for lasting peace".
- Netanyahu: Israel stays in security zone until Hezbollah is disarmed, civilians cannot return.
- Lebanese President Aoun: "First step" towards civilians returning under state sovereignty.
- Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem: Deal is a "great leader" and legitimizes Israel's occupation.

NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS: KEY STICKING POINT

- IAEA WARNING**: Any final US-Iran deal needs strong safeguards to ensure Iran does not build nuclear weapons.
- DISPUTED ACCESS**: Tehran and Washington disagree on whether inspectors will regain access to Iranian nuclear sites.
- IAEA CHIEF RAFAEL GROSS**: "Iran has declared openly clearly it does not intend to develop nuclear weapons. But intentions are not enough. We need a very strong verification system in place... as soon as it is practicable."
- ENRICHED URANIUM**: Iranian agreement calls for Iran's enriched uranium stocks to be "transparently" under IAEA supervision.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

- Regional stability: Hanging by a thread.
- Global energy flows: Vulnerable to disruption.
- Diplomatic progress: At serious risk.
- Nuclear non-proliferation: Requires strong safeguards.
- Civilians bear the cost: If renewed conflict.

Iran accuses US of breach

US cites shipping attack

Hormuz tensions intensify

Nuclear talks face uncertainty

AFP | Tehran

Iran yesterday accused the United States of violating their deal to end the Middle East war, after Washington launched strikes on Iranian territory and Tehran responded with attacks on US targets in the Gulf.

The trading of fire, which came after Washington accused Tehran of attacking a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, raised doubts about efforts to keep the crucial waterway open while both sides negotiate a final deal.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said the latest American strikes, which targeted Iranian missile and drone storage sites and coastal radar positions, were a response to "unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces" that "clearly violated the ceasefire".

Iran said "these brutal attacks... are a blatant violation" of the deal to end the war, which began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Its Revolutionary Guards said they had struck US sites in the Gulf region and that "if the aggression is repeated, our response will be broader".

HA Hellyer of London's Royal United Services Institute think tank said "Iran is likely to continue calibrated, low-level coercive activity in and around the Strait of Hormuz... to create persistent pressure on international shipping without triggering a wider conflict".

He said November's US mid-term elections create "incentives for a quicker agreement"

YOU KNOW WHAT

Iran warned vessels against entering the Gulf through the strait without permission while ships continue to move using alternate routes

for Washington, while for Iran, "a drawn-out negotiation accompanied by controlled pressure in the strait can work to its advantage".

Also yesterday, British maritime security agency UKMTO said an "unidentified projectile" damaged an oil tanker in the strait.

CENTCOM described the operation as "a powerful response to yesterday's attack on a commercial ship that was transiting the Strait of Hormuz".

US President Donald Trump had earlier denounced what he described as an Iranian drone strike on the vessel as "a foolish violation of our ceasefire agreement".

Vice President JD Vance said "violence will be met with violence" if Iran carries out any further attacks.

Iran has warned vessels not to

enter or leave the Gulf through the strait without permission, but ships have continued to move, some using a route not authorised by Tehran.

Despite the latest flare-up, oil prices have fallen sharply on hopes that traffic through Hormuz -- through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels -- would keep recovering.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, Israel's military said it carried out an airstrike yesterday targeting suspected militants in the south -- the first such attack since Washington announced a framework agreement between the two countries.

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war in March with rocket fire aimed at Israel to avenge the killing of Iran's supreme leader in US-Israeli strikes, and Israel responded with heavy airstrikes and a ground invasion.

Friday's agreement includes a pilot effort in which Lebanese soldiers take control of two areas occupied by Israel, and a process aimed at disarming Hezbollah.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the accord "begins to put in place a framework for lasting peace".

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun welcomed the unpublished framework as a "first step" towards civilians returning home "under the sovereignty of the Lebanese state".



Hezbollah supporters block the old airport road in the southern suburbs of Beirut, with burning tires to protest against the trilateral agreement

TOP 4 TWEETS

01

The first 72 hours are critical. As rescue teams work to find survivors, @WFP teams are pre-positioning food and lending our logistics capacity to support a full response for the people of #Venezuela. I spoke to @BBCWorld on the situation and need for fast action.

@WFPChief

02

The complexity of #Ebola response in DRC demands close coordination across @UN system and humanitarian partners. Together with @DrTedros, I signed a joint letter to endorse the appointment of Julien Harneis (@julienmh) as a Senior Ebola Coordinator.

@UNReliefChief

03

In March, Canada forged a new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Japan -- and we're already seeing results.

@MarkJCarney

04

Micro-, small & medium-sized enterprises lift up communities & drive economic progress. In a world of increasing uncertainty, we must ensure efficient, safe markets & transportation systems, so these businesses remain engines of prosperity & opportunity.

@antoniogetherres

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

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Gulf Priorities in the Gulf-U.S. Ministerial Meeting



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The Gulf-U.S. ministerial meeting in Bahrain should be assessed for its strategic purpose, not for symbolism alone. In diplomacy, timing and venue are part of the message, especially when the agenda is closely tied to ongoing U.S.-Iran negotiations and to wider regional consequences.

The meeting confirmed the Gulf states' role as active partners in shaping the outcome of the negotiations. If the objective is a result that can be verified and monitored, then regional security concerns are not secondary—they are essential to credibility. Gulf states face immediate exposure to regional risk, and their security priorities must therefore inform any framework built around enforcement. Equally important, Gulf security was treated as a specific agenda item rather than a general aspiration. That distinction matters because negotiations that are not tied to clear regional security measures can produce agreements that look complete on paper but remain vulnerable in practice. If verification and monitoring are meant to reduce risk, then security assurances, particularly those related to deterrence and enforcement, must be built into the framework from the outset. Holding the ministerial at this stage in the negotiation process increases the likelihood that its guidance will shape what negotiators pursue. At ministerial level, political direction influences what must be verified, how compliance will be assessed, and what enforcement mechanisms should apply. The meeting therefore helps align regional priorities with the negotiating positions being developed. Follow-on consultations are both likely and necessary. As talks continue, coordination between Washington and Gulf capitals can reduce uncertainty and ensure that regional perspectives remain part of the decision-making process. Bahrain's role as host reflects a clear diplomatic purpose: to integrate Gulf priorities into a negotiation framework that depends on verifiability, monitoring, and enforceable security outcomes.

(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 Counter-terrorism)

Records tumble as European heatwave moves east



A man takes a shower on the beach in Nice, France

AFP | Paris

Tens of millions face a weekend of extreme temperatures in Europe as a deadly heatwave moves eastwards, with German forecasters warning that more records could be broken and eastern countries issuing a slew of red alerts for the coming days.

Almost 200 million were expected to face temperatures of more than 35C yesterday as an unprecedented hot spell that has already seen records tumble in Britain, France, Switzerland drags on.

Scores of people have died either through heat-related illness or drowning accidents and emergency services in several countries have said their facilities are saturated.

Street parties and music festivals were cancelled in France, Germany and the Netherlands -- though Pride Marches were set to go ahead in Budapest and Munich despite the extreme heat warnings.

And both Switzerland and France had switched off nuclear reactors as the water used for cooling was in danger of overheating nearby rivers.