

1792

US postal service created, postage 6-12 cents depending on distance

1873

British Naval Officer John Moresby is the first European to discover Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, claims it for the United Kingdom



1947 1962

Earl Mountbatten of Burma is appointed the last viceroy of India to oversee the move to independence

John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit Earth aboard Friendship 7

Vance will lead US team to Iran talks in Pakistan: W.House



A bulldozer clears the rubble from the site of an Israeli airstrike as people return to Beirut's southern suburbs

## Israel says to use 'full force' if soldiers face threat

AFP | Sa Nur, Palestinian Territories

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said yesterday that the military had been instructed to use "full force" in Lebanon -- even during the ongoing ceasefire -- should Israeli troops face any threat. "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and I have instructed the IDF to act with full force, both on the ground and from the air, including during the ceasefire, in order to protect our soldiers in Lebanon from any threat," Katz said at a function in the occupied West Bank. He said that

the military had also been ordered to demolish any structure or roads that were "booby-trapped" and threatened soldiers. The aim is "to remove the houses in the villages near the border that served in every respect as Hezbollah terror outposts and threatened Israeli communities," Katz added. An Israeli soldier was killed in southern Lebanon on Friday -- the day a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon came into effect -- when he entered a booby-trapped building, the military reported.

Katz has repeatedly said Israel would demolish houses along the border as part of efforts to establish a security zone in southern Lebanon. On Saturday, Israeli forces carried out demolitions in the town of Bint Jbeil, the scene of intense fighting with Hezbollah prior to the recently agreed ceasefire. "The overarching goal of the campaign in Lebanon is the disarmament of Hezbollah and the removal of threat to northern communities, through a combination of military and diplomatic measures," Katz said. "If the Lebanese government continues to fail to uphold its obligations -- the IDF will do so through continued military action."

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned that any attempt to pass through the strait without permission "will be considered cooperation with the enemy, and the offending vessel will be targeted". "Citizens are earnestly re-

## Heightened security

● The previous delegation was led by Vice President JD Vance and included Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, who led the aborted pre-war talks.

AFP

In Islamabad, security had been visibly stepped up yesterday ahead of the expected talks. Authorities announced road closures and traffic restrictions across the city, as well as in neighbouring Rawalpindi. AFP journalists saw armed guards and checkpoints near Islamabad's most secure hotels -- the Marriott and the Serena.

quested to cooperate with the security agencies," a city official posted on X.

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A major sticking point of negotiations has been Iran's stockpile of near-weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Trump said on Friday that Iran had agreed to hand over its roughly 440 kilogrammes of enriched uranium. "We're going to get it by going in with Iran, with lots of excavators," he said. But Iran's foreign ministry has said the stockpile, thought to be buried deep under rubble from US bombing in last June's 12-day war, was "not going to be transferred anywhere", and surrendering it "to the US has never been raised in negotiations".

A UK maritime security agency said the Revolutionary Guards fired at one tanker, while security intelligence firm Vanguard Tech reported the force had threatened to "destroy" an empty cruise ship that was fleeing the Gulf. In the third incident, the UK agency said it received a report of a vessel "being hit by an unknown projectile, which caused damage" to shipping containers but no fire.

Trump said of the incidents: "That wasn't nice, was it?"

# War of words Strait in focus



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



I strongly condemn Saturday's attack on @UNIFIL during which one French peacekeeper was killed & another three were injured. I extend my deepest condolences to the family, friends & colleagues of the fallen peacekeeper, and wish a full & fast recovery to the injured peacekeepers.

This is the third incident in recent weeks to have resulted in the deaths of peacekeepers serving in Lebanon.

These attacks must stop.

All actors must respect the cessation of hostilities & the ceasefire.

@antonioguerres

02



The continued easing of sanctions against Russia does not reflect the real situation in the war or in diplomacy and fuels the Russian leadership's illusion that they can continue the war. This week alone, the Russians have launched over 2,360 attack drones, more than 1,320 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 60 missiles of various types at our cities and communities.

@ZelenskyyUA

03



The ceasefire announced in Lebanon, however, offers cause for hope; it represents a glimmer of relief for the Lebanese people and for the Levant. I encourage those who are working toward a diplomatic solution to continue peace talks, so that the cessation of hostilities throughout the Middle East may become permanent.

@Pontifex

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