

1349

Black Death Massacre: Between 100 and 3,000 Jews are killed in Black Death riots in Erfurt, Germany; part of a wave of pogroms across Western Europe

1804

Napoleonic Code is adopted in France, stressing clearly written and accessible law

1871

Journalist Henry Morton Stanley begins his famous expedition to Africa



2014

Russia formally annexes Crimea amid international condemnation



An Israeli self-propelled howitzer artillery gun fires rounds towards southern Lebanon from a position in the upper Galilee in northern Israel near the border

### Hezbollah denies UAE accusations of having network in country

AFP | Beirut

Hezbollah denied yesterday that it has a presence inside the United Arab Emirates, after Emirati authorities announced they had arrested at least five members of a "terrorist network" linked to Hezbollah and its backer, Iran.

Earlier this week Hezbollah issued similar denials that it maintained a presence in Kuwait, after Kuwaiti authorities announced the discovery of two alleged cells linked to the group, arresting a combined 26 people.

In a statement, the Lebanese militant group said it "denies the fabricated accusations made against it by the security authorities in the United Arab Emirates".



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Warmest wishes for a blessed #EidAl-Fitr. May it bring renewed hope, compassion, and peace. Eid Mubarak

@unwomenchief

02



Eid al-Fitr Mubarak. May this special day bring peace, hope, and prosperity to all those observing Eid al-Fitr. May the spirit of kindness and generosity that accompanies this Eid prevail.

@KGeorgieva

03



High energy prices are one of the biggest challenges for the competitiveness of the European Union. We must become more autonomous by using our clean home-grown sources of energy. We need to take immediate action to protect our citizens.

@eucopresident

04



As the war in the Middle East continues, energy prices keep being under pressure. Today at EUCO I presented a plan to bring immediate relief where possible and structural changes where needed. We will act on all four components of electricity prices

@vonderleyen

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

# Trump calls NATO allies 'cowards'

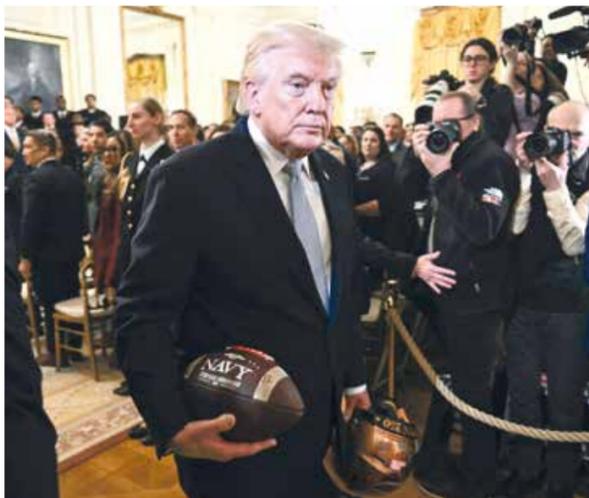
AFP | Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday branded NATO allies "cowards" for not heeding his demand for military assistance against Iran to control the Strait of Hormuz shipping route.

Trump has recently veered between saying that Washington needs no help to secure the vital waterway for oil tankers, and then lashing out at other countries for failing to help.

"Without the U.S.A., NATO IS A PAPER TIGER!" Trump posted on his Truth Social network.

"They didn't want to join the fight to stop a Nuclear Powered Iran. Now that fight is Militarily WON, with very little danger for them, they complain about the



US President Donald Trump carries a football as he departs at the end of a ceremony

high oil prices they are forced to pay, but don't want to help open the Strait of Hormuz, a simple military maneuver that is the single reason for the high oil prices.

"So easy for them to do, with so little risk. COWARDS, and we will REMEMBER!"

The 79-year-old Republican, a long-term skeptic of the Western military alliance, has launched a series of diatribes against NATO in recent days.

On Thursday, six major international powers, including Britain, France, Germany and Japan said they were ready to "contribute to appropriate efforts" to secure the Strait of Hormuz.

But they have not formally committed to any mission to

work in the crucial waterway -- while other allies such as Germany and Italy have ruled out doing anything before a truce in the Middle East war.

None of the countries Trump has called on to help was consulted before the US-Israeli mission started.

An effective Iranian blockade has paralyzed commercial shipping through the crucial maritime chokepoint, which in peacetime sees a fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas pass through it.

Global oil prices have spiked as a result of the war, which erupted on February 28 when the United States and Israel began bombing Iran, leading Tehran to retaliate with strikes across the Gulf region.

## French foreign minister calls on Iran to make 'major concessions'

AFP | Paris

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said yesterday on a visit to Israel that Iran must make major concessions as part of any long-term political solution following the Middle East war.

"Whatever the outcome of the ongoing military operations, it must be complemented by a political solution that produces lasting results," Barrot told journalists in Tel Aviv.

"In this regard, the Iranian regime must be prepared to make major concessions -- a radical change of stance."

Barrot repeated a European call for a moratorium on strikes against energy infrastructure after an Israeli bombardment of Iran's key gasfield pushed up energy prices.

France's top diplomat, who visited Beirut on Thursday, expressed France's "reservations" about Israel's ground opera-

“Whatever the outcome of the ongoing military operations, it must be complemented by a political solution that produces lasting results. In this regard, the Iranian regime must be prepared to make major concessions -- a radical change of stance”

JEAN-NOEL BARROT

tions to fight Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon.

He called on Israel to seize an "historic opportunity" and hold direct talks with the Lebanese authorities, after French President Emmanuel Macron agreed to host negotiations.

"The Lebanese government has signalled its unprecedented openness to direct talks at the highest level with Israel," he said.

Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said he had discussed with Barrot the "scope of attacks on Israel from Lebanese territory".

"Unfortunately, the Lebanese government and its army are not taking any meaningful action against Hezbollah, neither militarily nor in other aspects," Saar wrote on X.

He also called on the EU to list Hezbollah "in its entirety as a terrorist organisation, not only its military wing, as several European countries already did".

Barrot said that regional stability in the Middle East also depended on the implementation of US President Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza that halted two years of war in October.

## Tehran palace complex damaged by explosions: report

AFP | Tehran

Shockwaves from airstrikes on Tehran damaged several historic buildings in the Saadabad Palace complex, one of the Iranian capital's most visited sites, state news agencies reported yesterday.

Saadabad Palace is a large former royal complex in northern Tehran that includes an extensive park with separate buildings that have been turned into museums dedicated to the country's cultural history.

Photos and videos published by the IRNA and ISNA agencies showed debris, including shattered windows and pieces of ceiling, scattered across the floor of the Green Palace, one of the most visited pavilions.

It was built under the Pahlavi dynasty deposed in the 1979 revolution that led to the creation of the current Islamic republic.

At least two other buildings

were damaged "by the shockwaves from the explosions", according to IRNA.

The Israeli army announced yesterday morning that it had carried out new strikes on infrastructure belonging to the Iranian authorities in Tehran.

The Saadabad Palace complex also houses residences of the Iranian president and the provincial governor, while facilities belonging to the Revolutionary Guards and the judiciary are located nearby.

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO told AFP earlier this week that four out of Iran's 29 World Heritage sites had been damaged during the ongoing war, which was sparked by US-Israeli attacks on February 28.

These include the Golestan Palace, a building in the historic heart of Tehran that was damaged by an explosion at the nearby Arag Square.