

1854

Great Britain and France declare war on Russia, expanding the Crimean War

1910

First seaplane takes off from water under its own power, piloted by Henri Fabre from the Étang de Berre lagoon in Martigues, France



1964

First true pirate radio station, England's Radio Caroline begins regular transmission at noon from the MV Caroline off the coast of Suffolk

1979

A partial meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in the US results in the release of radioactive gas and iodine into the atmosphere, but no deaths



People gather as workers remove the wreckage of a car outside a residential building that was targeted in southern Tehran

US-Israeli strikes hit uranium and heavy water sites in Iran: officials

AFP | Washington

Iran's atomic energy organisation said yesterday that US-Israeli strikes targeted a uranium processing facility in central Iran, while local media reported a separate attack on a heavy water reactor.

"The plant in Ardakan, located in Yazd Province, was targeted minutes ago in an attack by the American-Zionist enemy," the organisation said on its Telegram channel, adding that the strike "did not result in the release of any radioactive material."

Separately, the semi-official Fars news agency reported that the Khondab Heavy Water Complex in Markazi province was struck "in two stages by aggression from the American and Zionist enemy," citing provincial official Hassan Ghamari.



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TWEETS

01



Developing countries face a serious barrier to progress: debt. The Borrower's Platform – a new mechanism supported by the @UN – will offer debt-distressed countries a way to coordinate action, share knowledge & amplify their voice in the global financial system.

@antonioguterres

02



Engaging with, listening to, and encouraging Europe's next generation. In Stockholm, I was inspired by these students' ideas and their vision for a better Europe. My message to them: your voice matters, you have the power to shape the future

@EP_President

03



Trump's Mail Tax has arrived. He has already taxed the goods you bought – now he wants you to pay more in shipping as well.

@GavinNewsom

04



Thanks to the Netherlands for stepping up early. This is helping people in Sudan – and in crises around the world – to receive lifesaving aid when every hour counts.

@UNReliefChief

US weighs sending up to 10,000 troops to Middle East: reports

Defence minister Israel Katz said that Israel would step up strikes against Iran as a result of its continued missile fire, warning the Islamic republic would pay a "heavy price". "Despite the warnings, the firing continues -- consequently, IDF strikes in Iran will intensify and expand to other targets in sectors that help the regime develop and use military means against Israeli civilians. They will pay a heavy price, an increasingly heavy one, for this war crime," Katz said in a video released by his office.

AFP | Washington

The United States is weighing sending up to 10,000 extra troops to the Middle East, US media reported yesterday, as speculation grows that Washington may be preparing a ground operation in Iran.

The deployment would mark a significant boost to Washington's military presence in the region, despite US President Donald Trump insisting that Tehran was taking part in peace talks with Washington to end the war.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the move would aim to provide Trump with "more military options" in the Middle East, engulfed by war since US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

The troops would join thousands of paratroopers and Marines who have already been ordered to the region.

An Iranian official said



Iraqi soldiers inspect the site of a destroyed healthcare center in the Habbaniyah military base, which was targeted by an airstrike killing seven security personnel and wounding 13 others, in Habbaniyah, west of Baghdad

Wednesday that Tehran would retaliate to a ground invasion of its territory by Washington by activating its Houthi rebels in Yemen to attack shipping in the Red Sea.

That would open up a new front in a war of spiralling economic, political and military repercussions.

Trump has repeatedly said he does not plan to send ground troops into combat with Iran.

"It is unclear where precisely forces will go in the Middle East, but they will likely be within striking distance of Iran and Kharg Island, a crucial oil export hub off Iran's coast," the Journal said.

The Pentagon did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

Trump has pushed back his deadline for strikes on Iran's energy assets, assuring that talks on ending the war were "going very well."

Israel's military, meanwhile, said early yesterday that it carried out "a wide-scale wave of strikes targeting infrastructure of the Iranian terror regime in the heart of Tehran".

US not arming Iranian Kurd opposition in Iraqi Kurdistan: official

AFP | Washington

A senior Iraqi Kurdistan official said the United States is not arming Iranian Kurdish opposition groups exiled in his autonomous region, reiterating his government opposes any involvement by these groups in

the Middle East war.

"We have not seen any attempts by the United States, any branch of the United States, to arm Iranian opposition groups in Kurdistan," deputy prime minister of the autonomous northern region, Qubad

Talabani, said.

Regional authorities told the groups it would be "very unwise" for them to take part from Iraqi Kurdistan, he said, adding: "We would not allow that to happen from here".

More than 300 US troops injured since start of Iran war

AFP | Washington

More than 300 US troops have been wounded since the start of the Iran war on February 28, US Central Command said yesterday.

"Since the start of Operation Epic Fury, approximately 303 US service members have been

wounded. The vast majority of these injuries have been minor, and 273 troops have returned to duty," US Navy Captain Tim Hawkins said.

A US official who asked not to be identified said that 10 troops remain seriously wounded.

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