

1453

Constantinople, capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, falls to the Ottoman Turks under Mehmed the Conqueror, ending the Byzantine Empire after 1,100 years



1592

The Korean navy, led by Admiral Yi Sun-sin, repels a Japanese fleet in the Battle of Sacheon, the first use of a Korean Turtle Ship

1660

On his 30th birthday, Charles II returns to London from exile in the Netherlands to claim the English throne after the Puritan Commonwealth comes to an end

1953

Edmund Hillary (NZ) and Tenzing Norgay (Nepal) are the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest as part of a British expedition

US, Iran accuse each other of violating truce after attacks

Fighting around the Strait of Hormuz reignited fears of broader regional escalation

● Five drones intercepted by US forces

● Kuwait condemns Iranian attacks

● Stuttering peace negotiations face deep uncertainty

AFP | Tehran

The United States and Iran accused each other of violating an ongoing ceasefire yesterday following an exchange of fire, three months after the regional conflict began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran.

The latest incident was the most serious since the ceasefire took effect in April, complicating ongoing negotiations aimed at ending the conflict and prompting concern from regional states, including Kuwait, which described the developments as a “dangerous escalation”.

Iranian forces fired at four ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz without authorisation, according to state



Vessels are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz, off the port city of Khasab on Oman's northern Musandam Peninsula

broadcaster IRIB. Iran has imposed restrictions on the waterway since the conflict began on February 28.

US forces said they intercepted five attack drones in and around the strait and prevented the launch of a sixth from a ground control site near the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

According to IRIB, citing Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the strike

near Bandar Abbas prompted Iran to target what it described as “the American airbase that served as the source of the attack”.

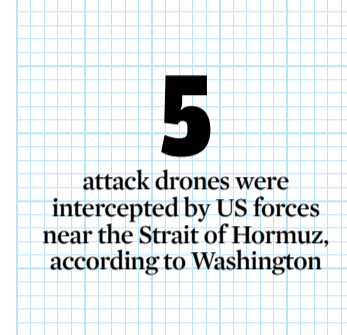
The Guards did not specify the location of the base, though Kuwait, which hosts US troops, said its air defences responded to incoming missiles and drones.

Kuwait's foreign ministry later condemned what it described as

Iranian attacks targeting Kuwaiti territory, calling them “a dangerous escalation”.

US Central Command described the incident as an “egregious ceasefire violation”.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Iran would “take all necessary measures to defend its national sovereignty”, while also accusing the United States of violating the



truce.

A US official said the American actions had been “measured” and “intended to preserve the ceasefire”.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned of a “firm response” in the event of further attacks.

The exchange highlighted continued uncertainty surrounding negotiations aimed at formally ending the conflict, although neither side has indicated a willingness to resume full-scale war.

Before yesterday's strikes, Amir, a 27-year-old software developer in Tehran, said concerns about renewed fighting remained despite the ceasefire and reports of diplomatic progress.

“I feel like nothing is certain yet,” he said. “The daily question is: Will there be missile strikes tonight?”

Israel PM says orders army to take control of 70 percent of Gaza Strip



A Palestinian boy sits at the site of an overnight Israeli military strike on structures and tents housing displaced families, killing ten Palestinians, in Gaza City

AFP | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he had ordered the country's military to take control of 70 percent of the Gaza Strip, in defiance of the terms of a fragile ceasefire that took effect in October.

“We are currently squeezing Hamas. We now control 60 percent of the territory in the Strip,” he said at a conference in an occupied West Bank settlement, according to a video aired by Israel's Channel 12 network.

He said the military had controlled 50 percent of Gaza under

the terms of the ceasefire, adding: “My directive is to move to... 70 percent.”

“We're squeezing them from all (sides). We'll deal with what's left afterwards.”

The first phase of the truce saw the last hostages seized in Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, which triggered the war in Gaza, released in exchange for Palestinians detained by Israel.

The transition to the second phase, which was supposed to involve Hamas's disarmament and a gradual withdrawal of the Israeli army, has been stalled for months.

Fire in Kenya girls' school dorm kills 16

AFP | Nairobi

A fire in a girls' dormitory in Kenya yesterday killed 16 children and hospitalised 79 in the latest deadly blaze to hit a school in the east African country.

The fire broke out shortly before 1:00 am local time at Utumishi Girls Academy in Nakuru County, around 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of the capital Nairobi, officials said.

There have been many devastating school fires in Kenya, where boarding schools are common as a colonial legacy of missionaries and the British.

It was unclear how old the victims of yesterday's blaze were.

“We have 16 fatalities. It's an unfortunate incident,” education minister Julius Migos Ogamba told reporters at the scene.

Frantic parents were being held outside the school buildings by authorities as investigators raced to identify the victims.

“Our hearts and prayers are with the families who have



Parents and guardians walk outside the Utumishi Girls Academy following the deadly fire in Gilgil, north of the capital Nairobi

lost their beloved daughters,” President William Ruto said on X, describing it as an “unimaginable tragedy”.

The school is linked to the National Police Service and most pupils are the children of officers, said interior minister Kipchumba Murkomen.

“We know that this is a very anxious moment,” he told reporters.

Asked about the cause of the fire, Murkomen called for patience while investigations were ongoing and urged people to avoid speculation.

Children have been accused of deliberately starting school

fires in the past. One report found there were 63 arson cases at schools in 2018 alone.

Pupils were accused after a 2001 dormitory fire in the southern county of Machakos killed 67.

A fire in 2024 killed 21 boys after flames engulfed a dormitory at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Nyeri county.

A 2017 report by Kenya's National Crime Research Centre blamed exam stress and long school terms and said students in different schools were communicating via smuggled phones, leading to copycat acts.



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TWEETS

01



#Hantavirus update: the number of cases reported to @WHO so far remains 13, including three deaths. No new deaths have been reported since 2 May. We remain in close contact with all governments where passengers and crew are being quarantined or receiving care in isolation. The situation remains stable at this time.

@DrTedros

02



The Strait of Hormuz remains caught in a dangerous grey zone between war and peace. There is now a tenuous diplomatic push to extend the ceasefire and reopen the strait. Any first phase agreement between the U.S. and Iran must be followed by deeper talks about the nuclear stockpile, and other critical issues for regional security. The EU can contribute with technical expertise. The EU is also helping to protect the freedom of navigation in the region, including through our operation Aspides. We have already reinforced the mission with more ships.

@kajakallas

03



Congratulations @AndrisKulbergs on your election as Prime Minister of Latvia. I look forward to working with you on crucial issues for Latvia and Europe: defence, competitiveness, Ukraine, and the EU's long-term budget. We will address all of them together in the June #EU.CO.

@eucopresident

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