

1620

Pilgrim Fathers depart
Leiden, Netherlands,
for England on their
way to America

1917

World War I: Battle of Passchendaele
(Third Battle of Ypres) begins and
lasts until November 6, 1917, causing
approximately 500,000 casualties



1961

Israel welcomes
its one-millionth
immigrant

1970

Black Tot Day: the last day
of the officially sanctioned
rum ration in the Royal
Navy, which started in 1740

Mediator Pakistan says US-Iran talks ongoing as foes trade attacks

United States launches heavy wave of retaliatory strikes against Iranian targets

● Iran targets regional sites

● Jordan intercepts missiles

● Egypt investigates drone attack

AFP | Tehran

Mediator Pakistan insisted yesterday that negotiations between Iran and the United States were ongoing, even as Washington carried out a “heavy wave of strikes” on its foe in retaliation for fresh attacks targeting Jordan.

The last two days have seen Saudi Arabia join the US in striking militant groups in Iraq, and Egypt come under fire for the first time with a drone attack at a Mediterranean port.

Yesterday morning, Jordan reported intercepting incoming Iranian missiles for a second day running, while Kuwait said an Iranian strike that hit a building belonging to a Chinese company



A view of the control tower of the Mediterranean sea port of Damietta in Egypt

killed one person.

The return to direct hostilities followed a brief pause in fighting meant to give talks a boost.

“Negotiations between parties are ongoing, particularly on (the) Strait of Hormuz and to de-escalate,” Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi told reporters in Islamabad.

Pakistan had helped to broker a deal between the warring sides laying the groundwork for negotiations on a permanent resolution, and Andrabi said it was doing its “utmost to bring all parties back” to technical talks under the agreement.

Previous talks between the two parties following an April truce

stalled, with the ceasefire collapsing earlier this month and Iran again slamming shut the Strait of Hormuz, a vital conduit for Middle Eastern oil and gas.

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said yesterday that two oil tankers attempting to transit the strait with US support turned back after one of them caught

YOU
KNOW WHAT

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards claimed two oil tankers attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz with US support turned back after one caught fire

fire.

Earlier, the US military said it had “successfully completed a heavy wave of strikes against Iran”, hitting dozens of Revolutionary Guard targets including military command centres.

US President Donald Trump had vowed to hit Iran “hard” after Tehran’s previous attack on Jordan, its first in the region in days.

The Guards’ branch in the northwestern province of Zanzan said three of its members were killed in a US attack there.

US economic growth slows in second quarter, missing expectations

AFP | Washington

The United States saw slowing growth in the second quarter, the Commerce Department said yesterday, with fallout from President Donald Trump’s Iran war weighing on the world’s largest economy.

GDP grew at a sluggish annualized rate of 1.5 percent in the second quarter, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said, missing analyst expectations of around 2.0 percent.

It had grown by 2.1 percent in the previous quarter, BEA data showed.

“Compared to the first quarter, the deceleration in real GDP in the second quarter reflected a downturn in government spending and decelerations in investment and exports that were partly offset by an acceleration in consumer spending,” the BEA said in a statement.

The bureau also cited an increase in imports -- which are subtracted from GDP -- as a factor in yesterday’s data.

The US economy has displayed robust growth in recent quarters despite headwinds from a turbulent tariff policy and the Iran war, which has seen energy and fertilizer prices skyrocket.

Economic growth has been buoyed by investments in the AI boom, but consumption has been hit by years of high prices, compounded by the effects of the war.

The economic health of US



households is a key issue in November midterm elections, which will see Democrats attempt to wrest control of Congress from Trump’s Republicans.

The White House praised the latest GDP figures, with spokesman Kush Desai saying “the core drivers of economic growth continue to surge.”

Inflation high but slowing

Yesterday, BEA data showed that Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation had slowed to 3.7 percent in June, from 4.1 percent the month before.

The indicator is the US Federal Reserve’s preferred gauge of inflation, as it takes into account a broader swath of spending than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.

The Fed has a long-term two-percent target for PCE inflation, but prices have surged in recent months and have remained above target for more

than five years, since the pandemic.

On Wednesday, the Fed chose to keep interest rates steady despite those push factors, although three policymakers dissented and called for an immediate rate hike.

Core PCE inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, came in at 3.3 percent.

PCE inflation is expected to pick up again in July on the back of Trump renewing the military offensive on Iran, which has driven energy prices back up.

Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren was scathing in her criticism of Trump over the persistently high prices, citing how inflation has increased since he took office.

“Trump promised to lower costs ‘on day one’ -- instead, his failed economic agenda, from his chaotic tariffs to his illegal war in Iran, has fueled higher costs and eaten away at paychecks,” she said.

Russia blamed for missile that blasted crater in Polish field



Polish army securing a large crater in Tarnawa-Kolonia, eastern Poland

AFP | Athens

Poland said yesterday that a missile that blasted a 10-metre (33 feet) crater inside its territory was likely fired by Russia in its latest mass attack on Ukraine.

NATO and European leaders openly blamed Russia for the 4:00 am (0200 GMT) explosion in a field that shook residents of the village of Tarnawa Kolonia, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the border, and the windows of their homes.

The massive hole and debris were found in a field two kilometers away, police said.

“From the analysis of most of the traces, the recovered fragments point to a Russian Kh-101 missile,” Prime Minister Donald Tusk told a news conference near the crater.

“There is no reason to think that Poland was the target,”

he said, but added that two “objects” had violated Poland’s airspace.

“One of them definitely did, because we have its traces here, and the other was near the Polish border, but it was a very brief signal, so there were no consequences associated with it.”

Poland -- a member of NATO and the European Union -- has experienced repeat incursions by missiles and drones during Russia’s war on Ukraine since 2022.

The latest missile fell as Russia staged a massive deadly attack on the Lviv region in western Ukraine, near the border with Poland.

Tusk chaired a crisis unit meeting with Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz and Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski in Lublin, the nearest city to the village.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Human trafficking in all its forms is a gross violation of human rights. By working together we can end the exploitation, once and for all. #EndHumanTrafficking @antonioguterres

02



With this disbursement, we are helping Ukraine protect its skies and defend its people. At the same time, we are combining Europe’s industrial scale with Ukraine’s unmatched innovation. Our drone deal is taking shape.

@vonderleyen

03



More than 200,000 Canadians go to work everyday because of canola. Our trade arrangement with China means that canola farmers across the Prairies -- like the McAllisters at Antler Valley Farm -- are earning more for their product and bringing more money back to the farm.

@MarkJCarney

04



In Gironde, France with the prefect of Nouvelle-Aquitaine & of Gironde Sophie Brocas, alongside the firefighters, law enforcement, mobilized citizens, and residents affected by the fires. In the face of disasters, Europe will always be there, today and tomorrow.

@hadjalahbib

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