

UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO

Middle East war day 30 as it happened: Benjamin Netanyahu to expand Israel's invasion of Lebanon, Yemen's Houthis claimed they launched a second attack on Israel.

Oil price rises past \$115 in early trading in Asia as Iran conflict worsens

Edited by

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EDITOR'S PICK 3 hours ago

Main developments

PLAY | 00:53

Oil prices rose during early trading in Asia with the price of Brent crude rising 2.9 per cent at the open to \$115.84 a barrel on Monday

A \$270mn American E-3 Sentry plane vital for combat operations was damaged in an Iranian attack on Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will expand Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Yemen's Houthis claimed they had launched a second attack on Israel.

Iran accused the US of publicly seeking talks while preparing for a ground invasion.

Pakistan is working to bring "both the US and Iran to the negotiating table".

Syrian forces repelled a drone attack from Iraq on one of the country's last US military bases.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned that Israeli and US universities in the region would be considered "legitimate targets".

Iran has agreed to allow 20 more Pakistani-flagged ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.



2 hours ago

FT reporters

Iranian petrochemical unit struck in US-Israeli strikes

A petrochemical facility and waste storage site in Iran were attacked on Sunday during the latest US-Israeli strikes against the country's infrastructure.

A petrochemical unit in Tabriz, northern Iran, was struck at midnight on Sunday, the crisis head for the Azerbaijan east province told state media, adding that the situation was under control and no pollutants had been released as a result.

A waste storage site in Tehran's Kiyanshahr area was also attacked, with state media showing the area on fire.



3 hours ago

William Sandlund in San Francisco

Oil price rises past \$115 as conflict escalates

Oil prices rose on Monday as equity futures fell during early trading in Asia after the war escalated over the weekend.

The price for Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 2.9 per cent at the open to \$115.84 a barrel. West Texas intermediate, the US benchmark, rose 1.7 per cent to \$101.35 a barrel.

US stock futures were down following a sell-off in stocks at the end last week with S&P 500 futures down 0.6 per cent.

The market moves came as the conflict escalated over the weekend. The Iran-allied Houthi movement in Yemen launched missiles at Israel for the first time since the war began while the Israeli military continued extensive strikes against Tehran and expanded its invasion of Lebanon.

On Sunday, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, one of Iran's top wartime leaders, accused the US of using diplomatic efforts as cover to prepare for ground operations.



5 hours ago

Steff Chávez in Washington

US \$270mn jet appears to have been hit by drone or cruise missile

The US aircraft damaged after an Iranian attack on Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia appears to have been struck by a drone or a cruise missile, according to a person with knowledge of the matter.

The \$270mn E-3 sentry appears to have been hit from the side rather than from the top, which is the way a ballistic missile would fall on to a target, the person said.

The US jets are critical for air battle management. They help ensure planes are in the right place at the right time and detect threats, akin to air traffic control for air combat operations.



7 hours ago

Najmeh Bozorgmehr in Tehran

Explosions in Tehran cause widespread power outages

Powerful explosions rocked Tehran and the nearby city of Karaj on Sunday, causing widespread power outages in several areas.

Iran's state media reported that explosions were heard in the western, northern and eastern parts of the city, with significant power cuts affecting the eastern regions of the capital.

In Karaj, west of the capital, explosions were particularly loud in affluent neighbourhoods such as Azimieh, leading to extensive blackouts across surrounding areas.



8 hours ago

Mehul Srivastava in Tel Aviv

Netanyahu expands Israel's invasion of Lebanon

The Israeli military has been instructed to widen its invasion of Lebanon, expanding a security area that it intends to use as a buffer zone, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel has poured more troops into southern Lebanon in recent days, demanding that civilians flee as far as the Zahrani river, dozens of kilometres north of Israel's borders at points.

Netanyahu told residents of northern Israel that the IDF would now operate in a wider area in Lebanon.

“In Lebanon, I have now instructed to further expand the existing security zone in order to finally thwart the threat of invasion and to push the anti-tank missile fire away from our border,” he said.

Forced evacuation orders have displaced more than a million people in Lebanon, with Israel vowing not to let the hundreds of thousands who lived south of a different river, the Litani, return to their homes in the near future.

Israeli IDF forces clash with Hizbollah in southern Lebanon

Strikes over the past 24 hours to 2.30pm GMT Mar 27 2026

■ Under evacuation orders

◆ Israel airstrikes

✦ Clashes

5 km



MapLibre

FINANCIAL TIMES

Sources: [Liveuamap](#), FT research



9 hours ago

FT reporter

Iran says Trump cannot be trusted

© AP

Iran's central military command called Donald Trump untrustworthy, as it criticised a US threat to invade.

“The US president has proven that the only language he knows is the language of force,” said Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesperson of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, in a video in state media.

He said Trump “can absolutely not be trusted” and that the president “talks about negotiations and hours later, decides to wage war”.

Zolfaghari added that Iranian forces were prepared to fight any ground invasion.



9 hours ago

Mehul Srivastava in Tel Aviv

Chemical leak fears after attack on Israeli plant

An Iranian missile attack has caused a large fire and possible chemical leakage at an industrial area in southern Israel.

ADAMA, which makes chemicals for crop protection materials, said its plant south of Beersheba was hit, either by a missile or debris from an interception. It is not clear if it was the target of the attack.

Israel has attacked several industrial sites in Iran, prompting a vow from Iran to retaliate in kind. Videos showed a large fireball and thick black smoke, but it was unclear what exactly was hit.

The Israeli fire and rescue services warned civilians to stay away from the Neot Hovav industrial area, and instructed residents to remain indoors and close windows to avoid exposure to “hazardous metals”.



9 hours ago

Steff Chávez and **Demetri Sevastopulo** in Washington

US loses \$270mn jet in Iranian strike on Saudi air base

The remains of the US E-3 Sentry aircraft after an Iranian attack on the Prince Sultan air base © UGC/AFP via Getty Images

Iran's attack on Prince Sultan air base in Saudi Arabia on Friday damaged an E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system aircraft, according to two people familiar with the situation.

The \$270mn E-3 Sentry is vital for combat operations, providing US forces with crucial battleground information in real time, such as the locations of ships and planes, both hostile and friendly.

The aircraft detects targets and also tracks missiles, drones and planes, making the E-3 an important node in US air defence.

The Saudi defence ministry said that it intercepted several ballistic missiles and drones on Friday. One of the interceptions resulted in debris falling "in the vicinity of a military site".

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said in a statement that the strike, involving a combination of missile and drone attacks, targeted the aircraft in retaliation for US military actions. It added that the E-3 was "completely destroyed", while several other aircraft nearby were "seriously damaged".



9 hours ago

Bitra Ghaffari in Tehran

Air strike damages Isfahan university

Isfahan University of Technology said it had been attacked for the second time in four days.

The university, which is in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, said the air strike on Sunday afternoon targeted a research facility.

The raid also damaged several other buildings on the campus, while leaving four employees slightly injured.

Iran's minister of higher education, Hossein Simaee Sarraf, said 20 universities and dormitories had been attacked since the war started.

Tehran University of Science and Technology, one of the country's most prestigious academic centres, was also hit on Saturday.

The Revolutionary Guards have threatened to target American and Israeli universities across the region in retaliation.



10 hours ago

Sebastien Ash in Frankfurt

US attack on Iran violates international law, says Bundestag report

A German parliamentary report has said that the US attack on Iran constitutes a violation of international law, and warned that Berlin could be held responsible depending on how the American military uses its bases in the country.

Bundestag researchers were of the “prevailing opinion” that the trigger for the Iran war violated the charter of the UN prohibition on the use of force, according to a report commissioned by members of the far-left Die Linke party.

The report said it “cannot be ruled out” that Germany would be indirectly liable for the violation if US airbases in the country were used in the attacks.



11 hours ago

Humza Jilani

Pakistan's PM aims to bring US and Iran to negotiating table

© Reuters

Pakistan is working to bring “both the US and Iran to the negotiating table”, according to a statement from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's office.

After a meeting in Islamabad with Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the Pakistani leader praised the “remarkable restraint exercised” by the kingdom and said Islamabad would stand “shoulder to shoulder” with Riyadh.

The statement did not mention the mutual defence pact shared between the two countries.

Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar briefed his Saudi, Egyptian, and Turkish counterparts on the “prospects of potential US-Iran talks in Islamabad”, according to a statement from the foreign ministry.



11 hours ago

Bitá Ghaffari in Tehran

Qatari TV offices destroyed in Tehran strikes

PLAY | 01:28

Iran's deputy culture minister visits the remains of Al-Araby HQ © IRNA

The Tehran headquarters of Qatar's Al-Araby television network suffered extensive damage in an air strike on Sunday.

The news channel said that its bureau, located on the third floor of a building in Tehran's Heravi district, had been significantly damaged by a missile launched from a drone. The building's second floor, housing a civilian commercial facility, was also hit.

Bureau chief Hazem Kallas was live on air when the strike happened, the network said. It condemned attacks that endangered or targeted journalists.

Iran's Red Crescent reported 10 injuries in the attack. Al-Araby staff, including cameramen and technical staff, were unharmed, according to the IRNA news agency.

In early March, the Russian news network RT said its office in Tehran had been damaged in a US-Israeli strike on a nearby building.



12 hours ago

Simeon Kerr in Dubai

Drone strikes on UAE increase

The United Arab Emirates' defence ministry said it had engaged 16 ballistic missiles and 42 drones on Sunday, the second day of a marked increase in attacks on the Gulf state.

On Saturday, 37 drones and 20 missiles launched from Iran targeted the UAE. The strikes damaged a major aluminium plant in Abu Dhabi, injuring some employees. On Friday, 15 attempted attacks were recorded.

Iranian attacks on the UAE

Daily number detected/engaged*

Drones Ballistic missiles



Source: UAE Ministry of Defence • *Defence ministry totals published before Mar 11 include interceptions/impacted/failed. Totals from Mar 11 cover Iranian attacks 'engaged'



13 hours ago

Bitá Ghaffari in Tehran

Tehran shopping centre and parks suffer extensive damage

© ABEDIN TAHERKENAREH/EPA/Shutterstock

Heavy bombardments of multiple districts in Tehran continued late on Saturday and early on Sunday, with extensive damage reported to civilian targets.

Local media said there had been strikes on several residential buildings in densely populated areas including: Sohrevardi, Rah-Ahan, Tehransar, Zafar, Saadat Abad and Hashemzadeh.

A telecoms centre, two parks, a fresh produce market, a shopping centre and the premises of Tochal cable car complex — a popular resort in northern Tehran — were damaged in the strikes. The Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center was also hit.

The US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency has put the death toll from US and Israeli strikes in Iran at more than 3,400 since the start of the war.



13 hours ago

Lucy Fisher in London

Royal Navy fits out ship for possible Strait of Hormuz minehunting role

© LPhot Barry Swainsbury/UK MoD

The Royal Navy is preparing a vessel “for a possible minehunting mothership role” in the Strait of Hormuz by fitting it with autonomous demining systems.

The UK Ministry of Defence confirmed on Sunday that RFA Lyme Bay would be upgraded in coming days, after it was first reported by The Sunday Times.

The vessel will be able to “store, prepare, deploy and recover a variety of autonomous and crewless technology, from underwater drones to minehunting boats — acting as a crewed ‘mothership’ for drone tech”.

British officials said no decision had been made on whether to deploy the ship.



14 hours ago

Ahmed Al Omran in Jeddah

Saudi foreign minister at talks to 'de-escalate' tensions

© Reuters

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan has arrived in Islamabad to meet regional counterparts from Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt for talks aimed at de-escalating tensions in the Gulf.

The meeting in Pakistan's capital would discuss "the latest developments in the region, alongside efforts to de-escalate and bolster regional security and stability," the kingdom's foreign ministry said in a statement.



15 hours ago

Raya Jalabi in Beirut

Iran-backed Shia militias escalate conflict in Iraq

Tehran-backed Shia militias in Iraq launched several drone and missile attacks overnight on Iraqi Kurdish officials and US military and diplomatic facilities, marking one of the most intense 24 hours in the country since hostilities broke out in the Middle East last month.

Explosions rocked Erbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, with attacks reported on the US consulate and military base there, as well as on the homes of Kurdish leaders.

There were also reports of drone attacks targeting residential neighbourhoods in Baghdad as well as a US facility at the Baghdad airport, Iraqi security officials said.

Suspected US strikes also hit militia facilities in multiple areas in Iraq on Saturday and Sunday, the officials said.



15 hours ago

Hannah Rock in London

God rejects the prayers of war leaders, says Pope

The Pope delivered his Palm Sunday address to a crowd of tens of thousands in Saint Peter's Square © ANGELO CARCONI/EPA/Shutterstock

The Pope has said that God rejects the prayers of leaders who start wars and have “hands full of blood” in his Palm Sunday address.

In some of his most forceful remarks on the Iran war, Pope Leo XIV told a crowd of tens of thousands of people gathered in the Vatican's St Peter's Square that religion could not be used to justify war.

“This is our God: Jesus, King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war,” he said. “He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them, saying, ‘Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood’.”

The US-born Pope has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire in the conflict and said last week that air strikes should be banned.



16 hours ago

Raya Jalabi in Beirut

Rescue workers and journalists killed in Lebanon

© AFP via Getty Images

Nine rescue workers, three journalists and two soldiers in Lebanon were killed in Israeli air strikes on Saturday, Lebanon's authorities said.

At least 20 additional people died in air strikes across southern Lebanon, according to the country's health ministry, as Israel intensified its military operations across the country.

The rescue workers, from the Islamic Health Committee, a healthcare provider affiliated with Hizbollah, and the Risala Scout Association, affiliated to the Amal Movement, a Hizbollah ally, were killed in separate air strikes in southern Lebanon, the country's health minister Rakan Nassereddine said.

On Sunday, IHC said fresh air strikes had destroyed an ambulance and an IHC building.

Two Lebanese soldiers were also killed in a strike in southern Lebanon on Saturday, the army confirmed. It followed a strike that killed three journalists.



16 hours ago

Ahmed Al Omran in Jeddah

Two injured in Iranian strike on aluminium smelter in Bahrain

An Iranian attack on an aluminium smelter in Bahrain injured two people, according to the site's owner.

The company, better known as Alba, said the injuries sustained by its employees were minor.

Alba, which runs the world's largest single-site smelter of aluminium, said it was still assessing the damage from the attack.

The company earlier this month declared force majeure and halted shipments due to the effective shut down of the Strait of Hormuz.

Bahrain on Saturday said its air defence systems had intercepted 20 ballistic missiles and 23 drones over the past 24 hours.



16 hours ago

FT reporters

Houthis launch second attack on Israel

Houthi rebels in Yemen said they have fired a second wave of missiles and drones at southern Israel.

Yahya Saree, military spokesman for the Iran-backed Houthis, said in a televised statement late on Saturday that the group had targeted “several vital and military sites” in Israel.

The rebel group earlier on Saturday fired a ballistic missile for the first time since US and Israeli forces launched their war against Iran.

The Houthis’ decision to target Israel is the latest escalation of a conflict that has spread across the region.

Their involvement could further disrupt shipping and apply greater pressure on Israeli air defences, particularly its stock of missile interceptors.



16 hours ago

Najmeh Bozorgmehr in Tehran

Iran warns US and Israeli universities could be targeted

© Bloomberg

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have warned that Israeli and US universities in the region would be considered "legitimate targets" unless America condemned recent Israeli air strikes on Iranian institutions.

The IRGC demanded on Sunday that Washington publicly denounce the bombardment of Iranian universities by March 30 or face retaliation. The guards also called on the US to prevent Israel from targeting additional Iranian universities and research centres.

The threat follows an escalating conflict, with Iranian officials accusing the US-Israeli coalition of bombing universities in Tehran and Isfahan.



16 hours ago

Najmeh Bozorgmehr in Tehran

Iran accuses US of seeking talks while secretly planning invasion

© AFP via Getty Images

Iran has accused the US of publicly seeking talks while secretly preparing for a ground invasion.

Parliamentary speaker and wartime leader Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a statement that what the US could not achieve through war, it is now trying to secure in a 15-point “wish list” through diplomacy.

“As long as Americans are seeking Iran’s surrender, the response to US wishes is clear,” said Ghalibaf. He warned that “our men are waiting” for US troops, and missiles were in place “to set fire on their souls and punish their regional allies forever”.

Ghalibaf also praised the role of Hizbollah, Iraqi militias and the Houthis in Yemen, calling them vital parts of the resistance against the war, and mocked the fallout for the US.

The strait which “was open before the war”, he said, “has now turned into Trump’s operational wish”.



16 hours ago

FT reporters

US base in Syria targeted by Iraq

Syrian forces repelled a drone attack from Iraq on one of the country’s last US military bases, Syria’s assistant defence minister said on Sunday.

“Earlier today, the US base in Qasrak, located on our territory, was attacked by four drones launched from Iraqi territory,” Sipan Hamo [said on X](#).

He added that “the drones were shot down without casualties”.

“We hold Iraq responsible and call upon it to prevent the recurrence of attacks that threaten our stability.”



16 hours ago

FT reporters

Water reservoir struck in latest attack on Iran's infrastructure

A water reservoir in Iran was attacked on Saturday, according to a government official, in the latest strike on the country's infrastructure.

The 10,000 cubic metre Haftkel facility in Khuzestan province, south-western Iran, was struck, a security official told state media, adding that there were no injuries and that there was no shortage of water in the province.



16 hours ago

Andrew England

Iran attacks aluminium smelter in Abu Dhabi

An Iranian missile and drone attack caused "significant" damage to one of Emirates Global Aluminium's plants in Abu Dhabi and injured a number of the state-owned company's employees.

EGA, one of the world's largest aluminium producers, said its Al Taweelah site in the United Arab Emirates' capital had been targeted. The smelter at Al Taweelah produced 1.6mn tonnes of cast metal last year.

The attack came a day after two of Iran's largest steel plants were hit by strikes as industrial infrastructure is increasingly targeted.

EGA is jointly owned by Mubadala, one of Abu Dhabi's sovereign investment funds, and Investment Corporation of Dubai.

Fears that the conflict will restrict the supply of aluminium from the Gulf region have already prompted "panic buying" from carmakers, the [FT reported last week](#).

The UAE has borne the brunt of Iran's attacks against Washington's allies in the Gulf since the US and Israel launched their war against the Islamic republic four weeks ago.



16 hours ago

Humza Jilani in Islamabad

Pakistan says Iran has allowed more ships through Strait of Hormuz

Iran has agreed to allow 20 more Pakistani-flagged ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, Pakistan's foreign minister Ishaq Dar said on Saturday night.

“The Government of Iran has agreed to allow 20 more ships under the Pakistani flag to pass through the Strait of Hormuz; two ships will cross the Strait daily,” Dar wrote in a post on X.

He called it “a meaningful step toward peace”, tagging US vice-president JD Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and secretary of state Marco Rubio. Islamabad is passing messages between the US and Iran in an effort to bring the weeks-long war to a close.



16 hours ago

Neri Zilber in Tel Aviv

IDF assessing response to Houthi attacks

© Reuters

The Israeli military is still weighing its response to Houthi missile fire, Israel Defense Forces spokesman Nadav Shoshani said on Sunday.

The country's aerial defences intercepted a ballistic missile and cruise missile launched by Houthi rebels at southern Israel on Saturday, Shoshani said, the first time the Tehran-allied group had fired on Israel since the start of the Iran war.

“We have to be ready for this to become part of the war,” Shoshani said.

A Houthi military spokesman said the attack was in support of Iran and Hizbollah, the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant movement.



17 hours ago

Camilla Hodgson in London

Australian states offer free public transport to counter rising fuel costs

Two Australian states are temporarily making public transport free to counter the rising cost of living and energy prices that have been driven up by the Iran war.

Tasmania said bus and ferry travel would be free, while Victoria said journeys on public transport, including trains, trams and buses, would not be charged.

“We know the rising cost of fuel is impacting the family budget, and that’s why we have again taken strong and decisive action to protect Tasmanians,” Jeremy Rockliff, Tasmania’s state premier, said.

Victoria has extended free travel until April 30, while Tasmania said free bus travel would run until July 1.

