Coalition pushes for Baghdad

1. Baghdad: After five days of precision bombing raids on the Iraqi capital, U.S. B-52 bombers pound Republican Guard positions overnight with some 900 sorties

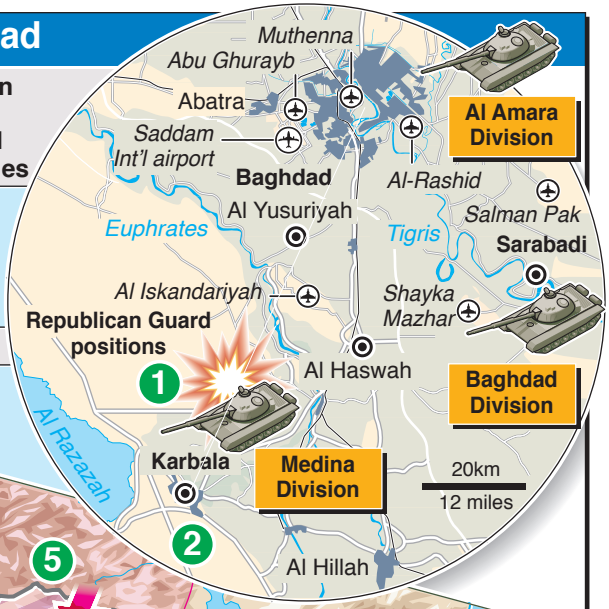
2. Karbala: U.S. 3rd Infantry and 7th Cavalry encounter heavy resistance from hundreds of Saddam's ***Fedayeen*** and ***Republican Guards***. U.S. ***Apache*** helicopters involved in major battle withdraw after "hornet's nest" of fire. One Apache lost – two U.S. crewmen captured

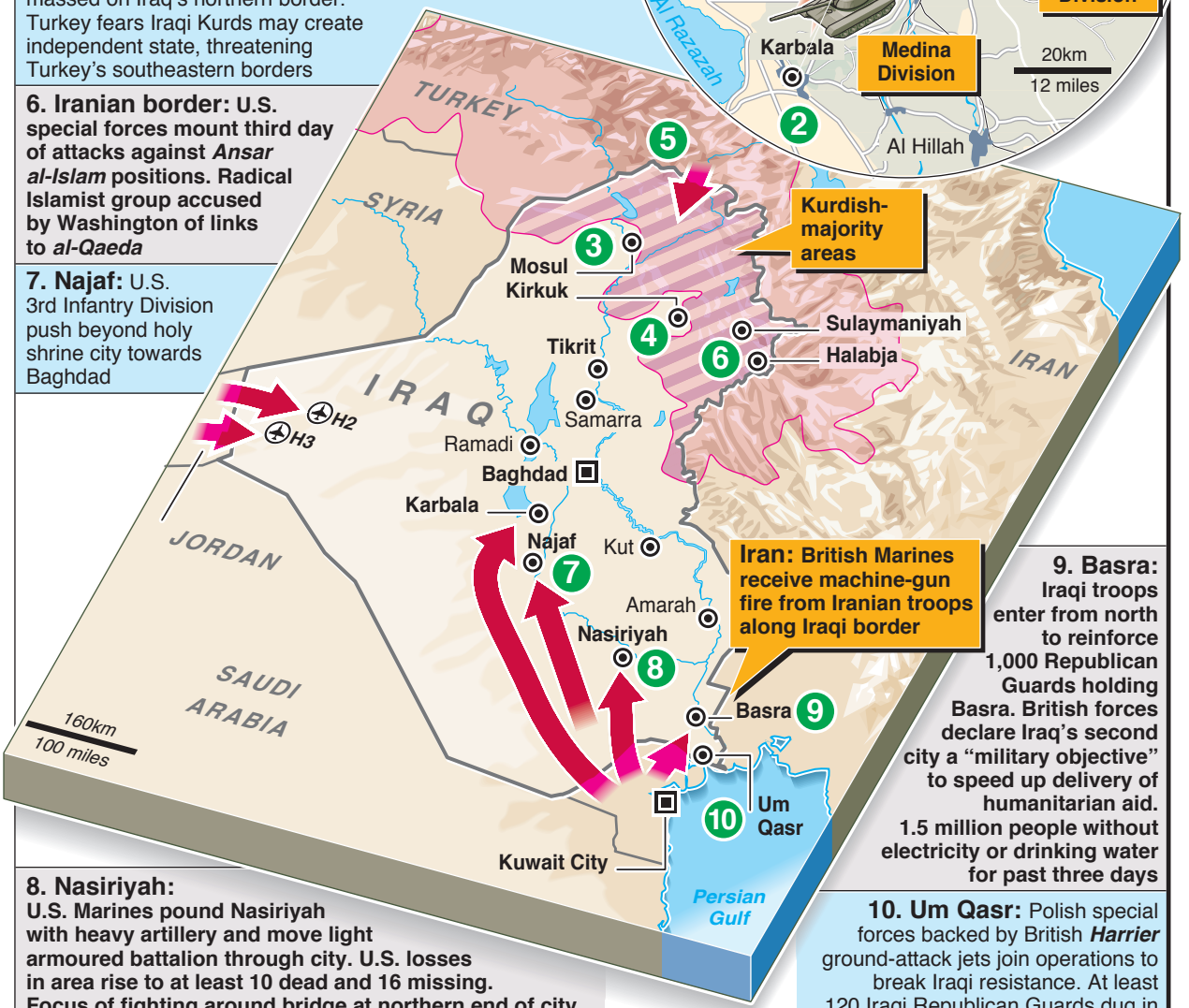
3, 4. Mosul, Kirkuk: Cities come under air attack

5. Turkey: 30,000 troops with tanks and heavy artillery massed on Iraq's northern border. Turkey fears Iraqi Kurds may create independent state, threatening Turkey's southeastern borders

6. Iranian border: U.S. special forces mount third day of attacks against ***Ansar al-Islam*** positions. Radical Islamist group accused by Washington of links to ***al-Qaeda***

7. Najaf: U.S. 3rd Infantry Division push beyond holy shrine city towards Baghdad





Iran: British Marines receive machine-gun fire from Iranian troops along Iraqi border

8. Nasiriyah: U.S. Marines pound Nasiriyah with heavy artillery and move light armoured battalion through city. U.S. losses in area rise to at least 10 dead and 16 missing. Focus of fighting around bridge at northern end of city

9. Basra: Iraqi troops enter from north to reinforce 1,000 Republican Guards holding Basra. British forces declare Iraq's second city a "military objective" to speed up delivery of humanitarian aid. 1.5 million people without electricity or drinking water for past three days

10. Um Qasr: Polish special forces backed by British ***Harrier*** ground-attack jets join operations to break Iraqi resistance. At least 120 Iraqi Republican Guards dug in

Sources: United Press International, Reuters, GlobalSecurity.org

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