

**UAE missile warning**

The United Arab Emirates issued a mobile phone alert for a potential missile attack, nearly a month into a fragile ceasefire in the Middle East war.

"Due to the current situation, potential missile threats, immediately seek a safe place in the closest secure building," the message read.

Authorities said earlier that Iran had fired two drones at a tanker affiliated with its state oil company ADNOC in the Strait of Hormuz.

**Israeli authorities ban Jewish pilgrimage near Lebanese border**

Israeli police warned people not to defy the cancellation of a major pilgrimage near the border with Lebanon, scrapped because of hostilities with Hezbollah, while local media reported thousands had gathered at the site.

The Mount Meron pilgrimage takes place on the Lag BaOmer holiday, when mainly ultra-Orthodox Jews throng the site of the tomb of the revered second-century rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai.

"Police will not allow extremist elements to turn this sacred place into a scene of violence," a police statement said.

**India launches Earth observation satellite**

Xinhua | New Delhi

India's space agency, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), on Sunday launched a privately-developed Earth observation satellite "Drishti," developed by the country's space-tech startup "Galax-Eye."

The ISRO posted on X that it was a significant milestone in India's space journey.

Congratulating the successful launch, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described it as "a major achievement in our space journey."



**US forces destroy six Iran boats, down missiles and drones: US admiral**

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States has destroyed six Iranian boats and shot down missiles and drones fired at US Navy and commercial vessels by Tehran's forces, a top US admiral said Monday.

The military action occurred as American forces seek to facilitate the transit of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in an effort dubbed "Project Freedom" that President Donald Trump announced on Sunday.

**Tehran denies US sank six Iranian boats: state TV**

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran denied on Monday that the United States had sunk Iranian boats, state television

reported, after an American admiral said US forces had destroyed six vessels.

"The US claim that it sank a

number of Iranian war boats is false," a senior Iranian military official was quoted as saying by state television.

The military action occurred as American forces seek to facilitate the transit of commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in an effort dubbed "Project Freedom" that President Donald Trump announced on Sunday.



A US Apache helicopter

US Apache and Seahawk helicopters hit "six

Iranian small boats threatening commercial shipping," Admiral Brad Cooper, the head of US Central Command (CENTCOM), told journalists.

US forces also "effectively engaged" all "missiles and drones

that were fired at both us and the commercial ships," Cooper said.

Some cruise missiles were launched at US Navy ships but most of them as well as multiple drones targeted commercial vessels, he said.

"We defended both ourselves

and, consistent with our commitment, we defended all the commercial ships," Cooper said.

US and Israeli forces launched a massive military campaign against Iran on February 28, prompting Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz -- a vital route for oil and gas exports -- while American forces later launched a blockade of Iranian ports.

Iranian state television said earlier Monday that the country's navy had fired cruise missiles, rockets and combat drones near US destroyers crossing the strait in what it described as a "warning shot."

CENTCOM said that two US guided-missile destroyers had passed through the strait into the Gulf as part of "Project Freedom," while two US-flagged merchant vessels transited the opposite way and "are safely headed on their journey."

US Apache and Seahawk helicopters hit "six Iranian small boats"

**Mission Hormuz**

US guided-missile destroyers have entered the Gulf

AFP | Washington, United States

US guided-missile destroyers have entered the Gulf as part of a mission to escort ships through the vital Strait of Hor-

muz waterway, the US military said on Monday.

The warships "are currently operating in the Arabian Gulf after transiting the Strait of

Hormuz in support of Project Freedom," US Central Command (CENTCOM) said on X, referring to the operation announced by President Donald Trump on

Sunday.

"American forces are actively assisting efforts to restore transit for commercial shipping," CENTCOM said, adding that

"two US-flagged merchant vessels have successfully transited through the Strait of Hormuz and are safely headed on their journey."

The Iranian navy said it fired cruise missiles, rockets and combat drones near US destroyers crossing the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, state television reported.

US President Donald Trump had announced a plan to guide ships from neutral countries out of the Gulf, saying it was a humanitarian effort to help their stranded crews.

"For the good of Iran, the Middle East, and the United States, we have told these (non-combatant) Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways," Trump posted on Truth Social, saying operations would begin on Monday.

Once out, "they will not be returning until the area becomes safe for navigation," Trump added. US media reported that the US Navy would not escort vessels through the strait but would provide guidance on traversing the narrow seaway. News site

**Pakistan facilitates return of Iranian crew from US-seized ship**

AFP | Islamabad, Pakistan

Pakistan said Monday it had facilitated the transfer of 22 Iranian crew members from a US-seized vessel, describing the move as a "confidence-building measure" amid fragile diplomatic contacts between Washington and Tehran.

The sailors, who had been held aboard the container ship Touska, were flown into Islamabad late Sunday and were due to be handed over to Ira-

nian authorities, according to a statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry.

The handover follows a tense maritime standoff in the Gulf of Oman, where US forces intercepted the Iranian-flagged vessel.

President Donald Trump said the ship carried "a gift from China", an allegation Beijing rejected, insisting it opposed "any malicious association and speculation".

The vessel itself is expected to be returned after repairs.

Axios said US ships would be "in the vicinity" to prevent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

As of April 29, more than 900 commercial vessels were located in the Gulf, according to maritime intelligence firm AXSMarine. In the early hours of Monday, the British maritime agency UKMTO also reported an attack on a tanker off the UAE with "unknown projectiles".

Later in the day, the UAE said Iran had fired drones at a tanker affiliated with its state-owned oil giant ADNOC.

Trump in his post said he was "fully aware that my Representatives are having very positive discussions with the Country of Iran, and that these discussions could lead to something very positive for all."

But he made no direct mention of a 14-point plan that Tehran said it put forward last week to end the war.

Trump declined on Sunday to specify what could trigger new US military action.

But in his post on the Hormuz plan he said that "if in any way, this Humanitarian process is interfered with, that interference will, unfortunately, have to be dealt with forcefully".

Treasury Secretary Scott Bes- sent said the US naval blockade was only part of a broader economic embargo.

"We are suffocating the regime, and they are not able to pay their soldiers," he told Fox News. "This is a real economic blockade, and it is in all parts of government."

US media reported that the US Navy would not escort vessels through the strait but would provide guidance on traversing the narrow seaway. News site Axios said US ships would be "in the vicinity" to prevent Iranian attacks on commercial vessels.

**Hezbollah says fighters clashed with Israeli troops in south Lebanon**

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah said its forces clashed with Israeli soldiers on Monday in south Leb-

anon near the border where the troops are still operating, despite a ceasefire since April 17.

Hezbollah said in a statement

that after Israeli troops attempted to advance near the town of Deir Seryan -- which is inside the Israeli-declared "yellow

line" where Lebanese residents have been told not to return -- its fighters "opened fire on the enemy force and engaged in

heavy clashes with them".

The Israeli military confirmed there were clashes with Hezbollah fighters in south Lebanon.