

1523

Gustav Vasa is elected King of Sweden, ending the Kalmar Union



1716

French transport the first African slaves to Louisiana

1916

The death of Yuan Shikai, ruler of much of China since 1912, causes central government to virtually collapse in the face of pressure from warlords, and from political reformers including Sun Yat-Sen

1982

30,000 Israeli troops invade Lebanon to drive out the PLO

Iran says fired 'warning missiles' at US destroyers in Gulf of Oman

Washington denies any attack occurred and rejected Tehran's account

● US destroyers allegedly left area

AFP | Tehran

Iran's military said yesterday that it had fired what it described as "warning missiles" toward two US destroyers in the Gulf of Oman, claiming the vessels subsequently left the area, according to state media.

The military said the destroyers departed the Gulf of Oman following the missile launches, according to a statement carried by state news agency IRNA.

Iranian authorities said the operation was conducted in response to what they described as maritime interference and the seizure of commercial vessels and oil tankers by US naval forces.

The US military's Central Command denied that any such incident had occurred.

"Iranian forces did NOT attack or fire at US Navy warships. Doing so would be a gross violation of the ceasefire."

It added that US forces "continue to operate freely in regional



Iranians swim at Suru Beach in Bandar Abbas along the Strait of Hormuz

waters" and were enforcing restrictions on Iranian maritime traffic.

The incident is the latest dispute involving a ceasefire announced on April 8 that has largely halted hostilities between Iran, the United States and Israel

following the outbreak of war on February 28.

Efforts to end the conflict through direct and mediated negotiations have so far failed to produce a final agreement.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday that

Washington was "no longer conducting sustained strikes" against Iran and that Operation Epic Fury, the US designation for its military campaign, had concluded.

He added that the United States had significantly degrad-

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While Iran alleged maritime misconduct, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio noted that previous operations had already successfully wiped out Iran's entire conventional navy and remaining air force assets

ed Iran's remaining air and naval capabilities.

Iran has imposed restrictions on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz since the start of the conflict.

The United States later introduced measures targeting Iranian ports and maritime commerce.

Ukrainian sea drone explodes in Romanian port, no casualties

AFP | Bucharest

Ukrainian sea drone explodes in Romanian port, no casualties.

The sea drone was "of the type used in the war in Ukraine" and not part of the Romanian military's inventory, Bucharest's defence ministry said in a statement, adding the device "self-destructed around 10:30 am local time (0730 GMT) without causing any casualties".

Ukraine confirmed the device was one of its naval drones, saying it had been knocked off course by Russian electronic interference.

"While carrying out missions in the Black Sea operational area, one of the Ukrainian Navy's unmanned surface vessels came under the influence of the enemy's electronic warfare systems, lost control, and ended up near the coast of Romania," Ukraine's navy said.

Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Georgii Tykhyi said Kyiv had "informed the Romanian side in a timely manner of a naval drone that had lost control because of Russian jamming", adding effective coordination had ensured the taking of "necessary measures to prevent harm to civilians".

Tykhyi added: "This incident shows once again that Russia's ongoing full-scale aggression poses a threat not only to Ukraine, but to the entire region."



A view of Romania's Constata port

"These are Ukrainian unmanned maritime vehicles," the Russian embassy in Bucharest said earlier on Telegram.

"Attempts to link these drones, directly or indirectly, to Russia and to attribute responsibility for the incident to Russia are completely unfounded," the embassy added.

The incident came a week after a Russian aerial drone injured two people when it crashed onto an apartment building in Galati, near Romania's border with Ukraine.

Romania, a European Union and NATO member, has reported dozens of airspace breaches since the start of the war in Ukraine in 2022, blaming Russia.

It has asked the Atlantic alli-

ance to bolster air defences.

Romanian President Nicusor Dan said on X that yesterday's "significant security incident" represents "the direct consequences of the war of aggression launched by Russia against Ukraine", which requires "a high level of vigilance".

The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, also said the incident was a direct consequence or Russia's war in Ukraine.

"It is increasingly becoming a direct threat to countries on our Eastern border," she wrote on X.

NATO said it was monitoring the situation after Romania informed it of the incident.

"We continue to closely coordinate with the Romanian authorities," a NATO official said.

'Extremely intelligent' bear at large in Japan after hurting four



A "Bear in Area" warning sign displayed near a forest in Akita Prefecture

AFP | Tokyo

An "extremely intelligent" bear that injured four people in northern Japan remains at large as of yesterday, after apparently unlatching a window while evading capture and turning on a water tap, officials said.

A record 13 people were killed by bears in Japan last year, and there has been a jump in sightings as the animals emerge hungry from hibernation.

After attacking four people at two factories in Fukushima on Tuesday, the bear took shelter inside one of the buildings, local media reported.

It dodged capture despite efforts by hunters and respond-

ers equipped with traps and anaesthetic guns, and escaped late Wednesday.

The bear remains at large as of yesterday morning, a Fukushima official said.

Fukushima city mayor Yuki Baba told reporters Thursday that evidence suggested the animal "unlocked the window on its own" to flee, adding that claw marks had been found near the exit.

It is also believed the bear "turned on the water tap" to drink, he added, describing it as "extremely intelligent".

"With the cooperation of hunters, police and firefighters, I believe we took all possible measures available to us" to catch it, Baba said.



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TWEETS

01



We are building a more independent European Union. A Union that's more secure, resilient and complete. And it will not be complete without the Western Balkans @vonderleyen

02



The Western Balkans are an integral part of the European Union's future. Their accession remains our priority and a crucial geopolitical investment. @eucopresident

03



At Barakah NPP, I met the team that responded to the May 17 drone strike. Trained by the @IAEAorg, they demonstrated the professionalism, skills and preparedness that nuclear safety demands every day. @rafaelmgrossi

04



UNICEF delivers #ForEveryChild, thanks to our partners, donors and supporters around the world. Last year, we responded to over 100 emergencies, saving and improving the lives of millions of children. As a global community we must do even more. Children are counting on us. @unicefchief

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