

1014

Pope Benedict VIII crowns Henry II Holy Roman Emperor

1076

Pope Gregory VII excommunicates Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV for the first time



Battle of Cape St. Vincent: British fleet under Admiral Sir John Jervis defeats larger Spanish fleet under Admiral Don José de Córdoba y Ramos near Cape St. Vincent, Portugal. Captain Horatio Nelson distinguishes himself.

1797 1971

President Richard Nixon installs a secret recording system in the White House



A boat approaches the St Kitt's and Nevis-flagged container ship Marsa Victory while cruising in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Khasab in Oman's northern Musandam peninsula

US forces would not impede vessels transiting the strait to and from non-Iranian ports

Tensions rise @ sea

Trump says 34 ships crossed Hormuz Sunday, most since war began



This photograph taken from the southern Lebanese area of Tyre shows smoke as it rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the village of Qlailah

China calls reports it supplied weapons to Iran 'baseless smears'

AFP | Beijing, China

China yesterday called reports it had supplied or intended to supply weapons to Iran "baseless smears", after several outlets quoted US intelligence sources to that effect.

On Sunday US President Donald Trump threatened Beijing with a "staggering" new tariff of 50 percent if it were to provide military assistance to Tehran.

His comments came the same day US outlet CNN reported that US intelligence indicated China was preparing to deliver new air defence systems to Iran within the next few weeks, citing three people familiar with the assessments.

Over the weekend, The New York Times quoted US officials as saying US intelligence suggested Beijing might have already sent a shipment of shoulder-fired missiles.

China denied the reports, saying Monday it had "always adopted a cautious and responsible attitude towards the export of military items, implementing strict controls in accordance with its own export control laws and regulations and its international obligations".

"We oppose baseless smears or malicious association," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular news briefing.

Trump says Iranian officials called, want deal 'badly'

AFP | Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that Iranian representatives had called to make a peace deal after talks in Pakistan ended at the weekend

without agreement.

"I can tell you that we've been called by the other side. They'd like to make a deal. Very badly, very badly," Trump told reporters outside the Oval Office, without identifying which officials had called.

Vessels stuck

Around 670 commodity vessels sent signals from west of the strait on Sunday, having apparently been stuck there since the end of February, according to data from maritime companies collated by Bloomberg.

Of those, 329 were oil or gas tankers. Kpler said last week that 172 million barrels of crude and refined products were at sea in the Gulf as of April 7. The latest vessels to leave the Gulf on Monday were the Auroura, owned by an India-based company and carrying 38,287 tonnes of naphtha from Iran, and the New Future, owned by a China-based firm and carrying 44,424 tonnes of gas oil from the UAE, according to Kpler.

The Auroura is under US sanctions for transporting Iranian petroleum products. More than 50 very large crude carriers are stuck in the Gulf -- including nine

owned by Japanese companies and five each by companies from China, Greece and South Korea, according to Bloomberg data and other maritime companies. Just one empty LNG tanker has crossed the strait during the war.

Dozens of vessels targeted

No new attacks on ships have been reported since the ceasefire started.

The IRGC claimed three attacks on ships between Saturday and Tuesday, and one has been confirmed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Some 29 commercial ships, including 13 tankers, have been attacked or have reported incidents in the region since March 1, according to the IMO, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre and Vanguard Tech.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Heartiest congratulations to Mr. Péter Magyar and the Tisza Party on your resounding election victory. India and Hungary are bound by deep-rooted friendship, shared values and enduring mutual respect. I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation and to advance the vital India-EU Strategic Partnership for the shared prosperity and well-being of our peoples.

@narendramodi

02



There is no military objective that justifies the wholesale destruction of a society's infrastructure or the deliberate infliction of suffering on civilian populations.

@antonioguterres

03



Reform is not optional for those of us in the global health system.

In February, Member States entrusted @WHO with a country-centred, inclusive and transparent reform process, drawing on our presence in 150+ countries. We are now shaping this joint process and will present it for consideration at the World Health Assembly in May.

Encouragingly, we are seeing engagement and convergence around key principles

@DrTedros

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)