

TODAY  
IN  
HISTORY

1659

First known cheque written (£400), now on display at Westminster Abbey

1840

American Charles Wilkes discovers the Shackleton Ice Shelf in Antarctica



Howard Carter opens the inner burial chamber of Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb and finds the sarcophagus

1923 1959

Fidel Castro becomes the 16th Prime Minister of Cuba after overthrowing Fulgencio Batista

The wreck of Russian liquified natural gas (LNG) carrier Arctic Metagaz, which is adrift between Malta and Lampedusa.



The vessel, which was hit by "sudden explosions followed by a massive fire" according to Libyan port authority, was sanctioned by the United States and the European Union for being one of Russia's so-called "shadow fleet" of ageing tankers that carry its oil and gas around the world, skirting Western restrictions. Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Kyiv of having carried out a "terrorist attack" on the Arctic Metagaz. All 30 crew members were rescued, Moscow said.

Global oil prices have surged by 40 percent as Iran has choked off the vital sea passage and attacked energy and shipping industry targets in its Gulf neighbours.

# Iran wants deal: **Trump** No reason for talks: Iran

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran was not interested in talks with the United States, pushing back on President Donald Trump's stance that Tehran wants a deal to end the war. "We are stable and strong

enough. We are only defending our people," Araghchi told CBS's "Face The Nation," in an interview aired Sunday.

"We don't see any reason why we should talk with Americans, because we were talking with them when they decided to at-

tack us.

"There is no good experience talking with Americans."

Trump on Saturday said Iran wanted a deal, but that he was not prepared to make one on current terms, without giving further details.

"We never asked for a ceasefire, and we have never asked even for negotiation," Araghchi said.

He added that Iran was ready to talk to countries who want to negotiate for selected oil tankers to pass through the key

Strait of Hormuz export route.

"I cannot mention any country in particular, but we have been approached by a number of countries who want to have a safe passage for their vessels," he said.

## 'Just for fun'

Trump said he might, again, bomb targets on Iran's oil hub, Kharg Island, "just for fun". "Iran wants to make a deal, and I don't want to make it because the terms aren't good enough yet," Trump told NBC News.

## Iran warns against wider war as Trump asks allies to escort ships

Tehran, Iran

Iran yesterday warned countries against getting involved in its war with the United States and Israel, after President Donald Trump urged world powers to escort oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz chokepoint in the Gulf.

Tehran also sent a stern message to its Arab neighbours, telling them that the Islamic republic has what its foreign minister called "ample evidence" that US bases on their territories were being used to launch attacks.

"This war will end when we are certain that it will not be repeated and that reparations will be paid," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Arabic-language news platform Al-Araby Al-Jadeed.

"We experienced this last



A man is watched by a child as he clears debris from his damaged home, following a military strike on the Iranian capital Tehran

year: Israel attacked, then the United States," he said, recalling Israel's 12-day air war in June last year, which briefly drew in US forces for a night of strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

Trump responded by urging "China, France, Japan, South Korea, the UK and others" to send ships to escort tankers, while the US military continues to pound drone, boat and missile

launch sites in Iran on the north shore.

But the countries he listed have given only guarded responses, and Araghchi, in a call with French counterpart Jean-

Noel Barrot, warned them to "refrain from any action that could lead to escalation and expansion of the conflict".

The UK defence ministry was non-committal, saying "we are currently discussing with our allies and partners a range of options to ensure the security of shipping in the region".

Britain's minister for energy security, Ed Miliband, told the BBC the "plan now has to be to de-escalate the conflict... We are talking to our allies. There are different ways in which we can make maritime shipping possible."

South Korea said it was monitoring Trump's remarks on social media, while the policy chief of Japan's ruling party, Takayuki Kobayashi, said the bar for sending Japanese navy ships to the region under existing laws was "extremely high".



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Muslims worldwide often face institutional discrimination, socio-economic exclusion, biased immigration policies & unwarranted surveillance & profiling. This International Day to Combat Islamophobia, let's re-commit to the equality, human rights & dignity of every person, no matter their faith.

@antoniogetterres

02



Bombing a hospital or a school isn't a "miscalculation."

Killing a paramedic isn't "collateral damage."

Starving civilians isn't "negotiating tactic."

These are war crimes. Full stop.

Call it what it is.

@DrTedros

03



Over the past week alone, the Russians struck Ukraine with 1,770 attack drones, more than 1,530 guided aerial bombs, and 86 missiles, including more than 20 ballistic ones. Each of these missiles contains at least 60 foreign components supplied to Russia in circumvention of sanctions.

@ZelenskyyUa

04



We have homicides in this country at the lowest level they have been in 125 years."

@VP

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