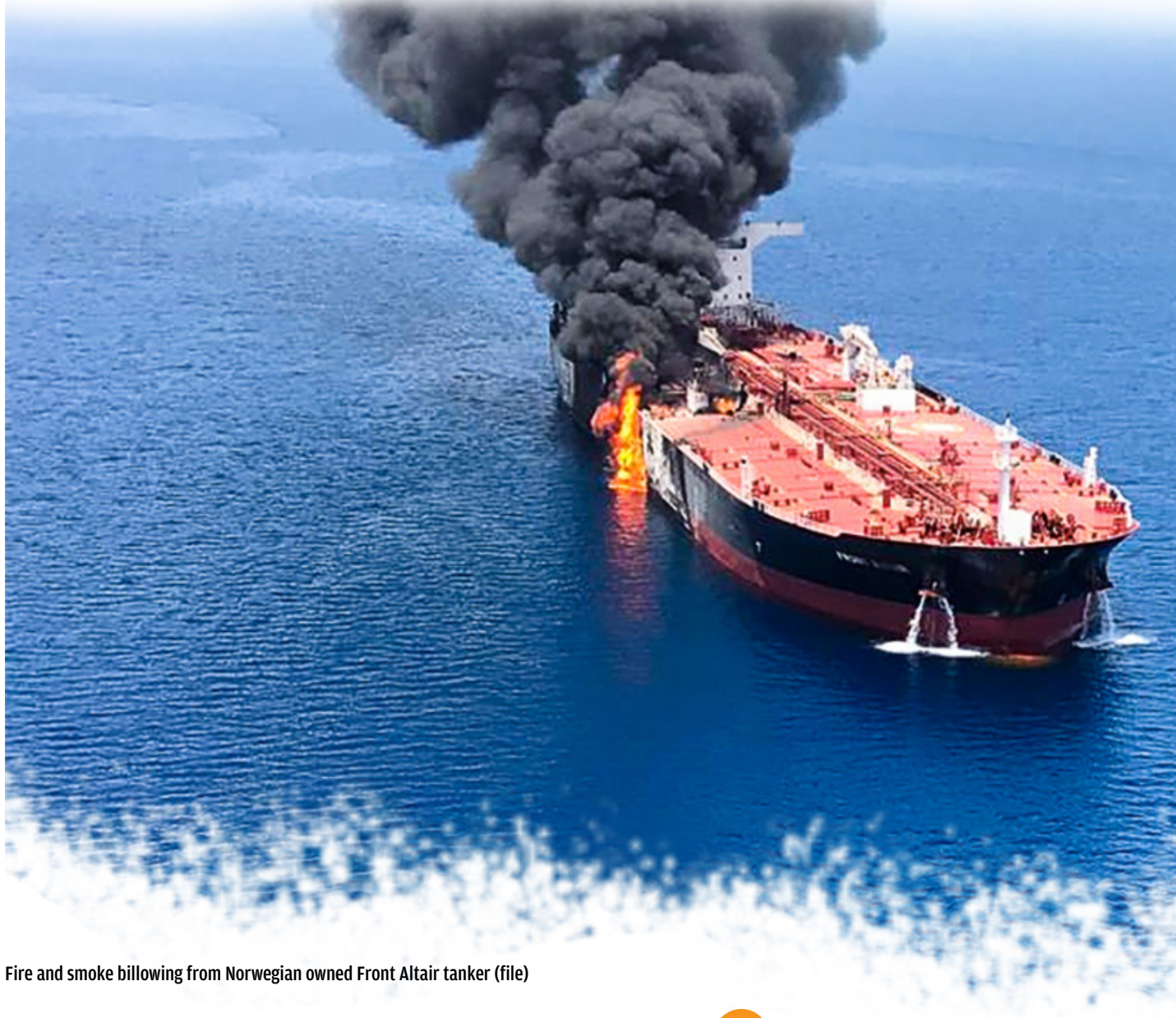


# Tanker hit in attacks heads to port



Fire and smoke billowing from Norwegian owned Front Altair tanker (file)

● The Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol

● The vessel was heading to port in the UAE

● Front Altair was towed away from Iranian waters

● The Front Altair was carrying naphtha

## Dubai

A Japanese tanker, one of two vessels attacked in sensitive Gulf waters this week, was heading to port yesterday, its owners said.

The United Arab Emirates called on world powers “to secure international navigation

and access to energy” after the incident Thursday, which sent crude prices soaring amid a tense standoff between Iran and the US.

The Kokuka Courageous was carrying highly flammable methanol through the Gulf of Oman when was rocked by explosions, causing a blaze that was quickly extinguished.

US President Donald Trump said the twin attack, which also targeted a tanker owned by Oslo-listed company Frontline, had Iran “written all over it”.

He was speaking hours after the US military released grainy footage it said showed an Iranian patrol boat removing an “unexploded limpet mine” from one of the tankers.

Iran has repeatedly threatened to block the Hormuz Strait, a narrow seaway vital to the world’s oil supplies, in the case of a conflict with the US.

But the UAE’s Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, whose country is bitterly opposed to Iranian in-

“We still don’t know if the tanker goes to Khor Fakkan or Fujairah as they are very close

A SPOKESMAN, REFERRING TO TWO EMIRATI PORTS ON THE GULF OF OMAN.

fluence in the region, called yesterday for a de-escalation in tensions.

“We remain hopeful in attaining a broader framework for co-operation with Iran,” he said at a summit in Bulgaria.

Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said an “international consensus” was needed to resolve the situation.

The Japanese tanker’s Tokyo-based operator Kokuka confirmed Saturday the vessel was

heading to port in the United Arab Emirates.

“We still don’t know if the tanker goes to Khor Fakkan or Fujairah as they are very close,” said a spokesman, referring to two Emirati ports on the Gulf of Oman.

Maritime experts would then seek to transfer its highly flammable cargo to shore, according to an unnamed official quoted by Japanese state media.

“From a viewpoint of global energy security, it is necessary for the international community to jointly deal with the act,” said Japanese trade minister Hiroshige Seko at a G20 energy and environment meeting in Japan on Saturday.

The other ship which came under attack, the Norwegian-operated Front Altair, was being towed away from Iranian waters and would undergo a damage assessment later Saturday, said a spokeswoman for its operator.

“The 23 crew members of the ‘Front Altair’ remain safe and well, with plans being made for

## Front Altair leaves Iran waters

Tehran, Iran

The Norwegian-owned Front Altair oil tanker has left Iran’s territorial waters and was under tow to the UAE two days after it was attacked in the Gulf of Oman, shipping officials said yesterday.

The tanker was one of two vessels that were rocked by explosions as they passed through Gulf of Oman waters on Thursday.

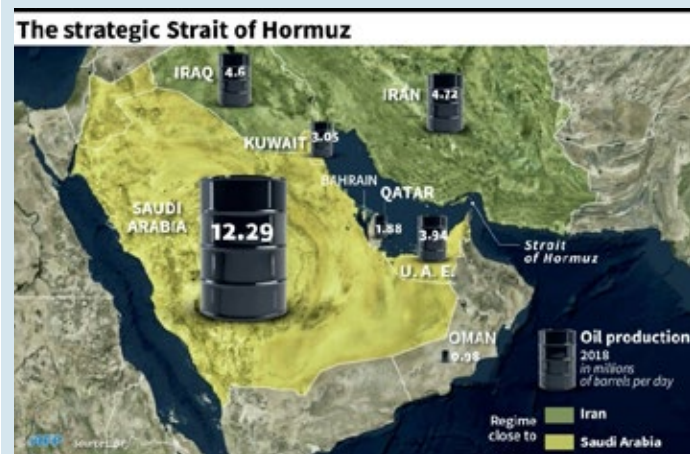
The Front Altair is “heading toward the Fujairah-Khor Fakkan area in the United Arab Emirates”, head of ports of Iran’s southern province of Hormozgan told the semi-official news agency ISNA.

The tanker “has left Iran’s territorial waters,” he said, adding that it was being towed and sprayed with water to cool the hull.

The Norwegian company which owns the ship confirmed it had left Iranian waters and said specialists would board the vessel yesterday to assess the damage.

“The 23 crew members of the ‘Front Altair’ remain safe and well, with plans being made for their repatriation soonest,” Frontline Management said.

The crew, who were rescued by Iran after the vessel caught fire and transferred to Bandar Abbas, were to fly to Dubai on Saturday night, ISNA said.



their repatriation soonest,” she added.

### ‘Allegations against Iran’

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that the US had “immediately jumped to make allegations against Iran without a shred of factual or circumstantial evidence.”

The United States has also accused Iran over May 12 sabotage attacks on four tankers anchored in the Gulf of Oman off Fujairah.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an independent investigation.

“It’s very important to know the truth (and) that responsibilities are clarified,” he told reporters at UN headquarters in New York.

“Obviously that can only be done if there is an independent entity that verifies those facts.”

The oil tankers hit Thursday morning were 10 nautical miles apart and headed to Asia when they were struck by explosions after passing through the Strait of Hormuz, some 25 nautical miles off Iran’s southern coast.

The Front Altair was carrying naphtha, a refined petroleum product, when it was hit by three explosions, according to Norwegian officials.

Blocking the Hormuz Strait would be a relatively low-tech, high-impact countermeasure Iran could take against any attack by the United States, and would severely disrupt global oil supplies.

But Trump played down the threat.

“It’s not going to be closed, it’s not going to be closed for long and they know it. They’ve been told in very strong terms,” he said.

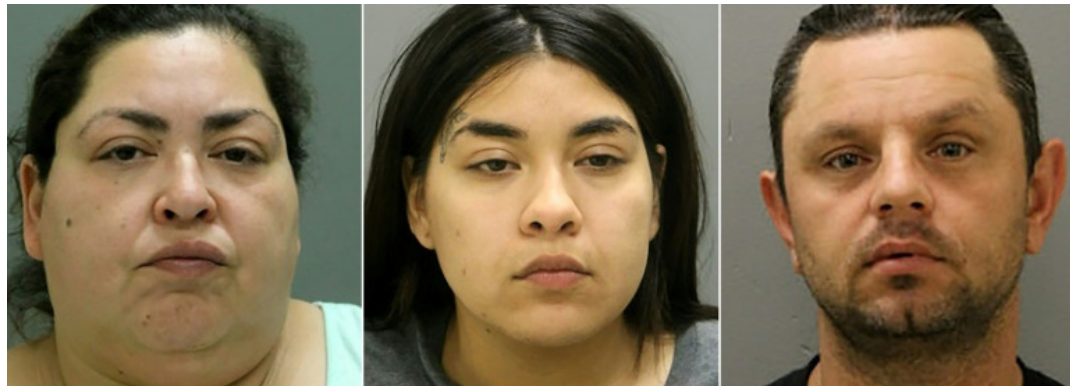
# US infant boy cut out of mother’s womb dies at hospital

● The baby had been hospitalized on life support and was considered brain dead

## Chicago

A baby cut out of his murdered teenage mother’s womb died Friday at a Chicago hospital of severe brain injury nearly two months after the attack, the family said.

Marlen Ochoa-Lopez, 19, was killed on April 23 by a Chicago woman and her daughter, who lured the expectant mother via



(L-R) Clarisa Figueroa, her daughter Desiree and her boyfriend Piotr Bobak were arrested for luring a young mother to their home, strangling her and cutting out her baby

a Facebook group to their home with the promise of free baby supplies.

Police say Clarisa Figueroa,

46, and her daughter Desiree, 24, strangled the teen, who was nine months pregnant, and cut the baby out of her.

The elder Figueroa allegedly claimed the baby as her own after calling for medical help because the child was not breath-

ing.

The baby had been hospitalized on life support and was considered brain dead, according to the family.

“It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of baby Yovanny Jadiel Lopez,” family spokeswoman Julie Contreras said in a Facebook post.

Police said they discovered Ochoa-Lopez’s body hidden in a garbage can at Figueroa’s home about three weeks after she went missing.

The two women suspects have been charged with the murder of Ochoa-Lopez and the aggravated battery of the baby.

Piotr Bobak, 40, whom police

described as the elder Figueroa’s boyfriend, was charged with concealing the murder.

With the baby’s death, family attorney Frank Avila told a news conference that new murder charges are warranted.

“The baby was murdered,” Avila said. “We’re asking the prosecutor to bring murder charges against these three vicious, evil murderers and anybody else who helped them.”

Ochoa-Lopez’s family has said undocumented members of the Latino community in Chicago did not provide crucial information about the missing person’s case because they feared speaking to police.