

News in brief

◆ **Twenty-four crew have** been rescued after two oil tankers collided off the UAE, sparking at least one fire, the United Arab Emirates coastguard and a shipping company said yesterday. British maritime security monitor Ambrey said the incident, which took place at a time of high tensions as an air war rages between nearby Iran and Israel, was “not security-related”. Shipping company Frontline said a fire was extinguished on its Front Eagle tanker after the collision with Adalynn, another oil transporter, 15 nautical miles off the UAE’s Gulf of Oman coast. “We are (also) aware of reports of a fire onboard the Adalynn following the collision,” a Frontline statement said, adding: “There have been no reports of pollution at this time.” The UAE coastguard carried out “an evacuation mission involving 24 crew members of the oil tanker ADALYNN, following a collision between two ships in the Gulf of Oman”, the UAE National Guard posted on X.



24 rescued as oil tankers collide off UAE, sparking fire

◆ **A plane carrying** hundreds of hajj pilgrims back from Saudi Arabia was diverted in Indonesia yesterday after an email bomb threat was sent to authorities, Indonesia’s aviation body said. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation said it received a report from Indonesia’s airport operator “regarding a bomb threat sent by an unidentified person via electronic mail”. The email at 07:30 am

(0030 GMT) contained a threat to “blow up” Saudia Airlines flight SV 5276 which was flying from the Saudi city of Jeddah to the Indonesian capital Jakarta, it said in a statement. After 10:00 am the pilot diverted the plane from its destination of Jakarta’s Soekarno-Hatta International Airport to Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, a city on Sumatra island in western Indonesia. The flight was carrying 442 hajj pilgrims, including 207 men and 235 women, it added.

◆ **A major power** outage that paralysed the Iberian Peninsula in April was caused by “overvoltage” on the grid that triggered “a chain reaction”, according to a government report released yesterday. The blackout had “multiple” causes, Ecological Transition Minister Sara Aagesen told reporters following a cabinet meeting, adding the system “lacked sufficient voltage control capacity” that day. Overvoltage is when there is too much electrical voltage in a network, overloading equipment. It can be caused by surges in networks due to oversupply or lightning strikes, or when protective equipment is insufficient or fails. When faced with overvoltage on networks protective systems shut down parts of the grid, potentially leading to widespread power outages. Aagesen singled out the role of the Spanish grid operator REE and certain energy companies she did not name which disconnected their plants

Spain says ‘overvoltage’ caused huge April blackout



SPOTLIGHT

Trump mulls extending travel ban to 36 more nations: source

AFP | Washington, United States

The United States is considering extending its travel ban to 36 more countries, a person who has seen the memo said Monday, marking a dramatic potential expansion of entry restrictions to nearly 1.5 billion people.

The State Department early this month announced it was barring entry to citizens of 12 nations including Afghanistan, Haiti and Iran and imposing a partial ban on travelers from seven other countries, reviving a divisive measure from President Donald Trump’s first term.

But expanding the travel ban to three dozen more nations, including US partners like Egypt along with other countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, appears to escalate the president’s crackdown on immigration.

The Washington Post said it reviewed the internal memo and reported it was signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and sent to diplomats who work with the countries.

A person who has seen the document confirmed its accuracy to AFP.

It reportedly gives the governments of the listed nations 60 days to meet new requirements established by the State Department.

The countries include the most populous in Africa -- Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania -- as well as Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Saint Lucia, South Sudan, Syria and Vanuatu.

Should the ban expand to include all countries cited in the memo, nearly one in five people worldwide would live in a country targeted by US travel restrictions.

The 19 countries facing full or partial entry bans to the United States, combined with the 36 cited in the latest memo, account for 1.47 billion people, or roughly 18 percent of the global population.

The State Department declined to confirm the memo, saying it does not comment on internal deliberations.



When the initial ban was announced this month, Trump warned it could be expanded to other countries “as threats emerge around the world.” The ban at first did not include Egypt, although the proposed follow-up list does.

Wants ‘Real end’

Iran and Israel traded fire for the fifth day

● Explosions were heard over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

● Israeli military said it killed senior Iranian commander Ali Shadmani

● China accused Trump of “pouring oil” on the conflict

● Israeli attacks have killed at least 224 people and wounded more than 1,200 in Iran

● Jordan’s King Abdullah II warned that Israel’s widening of its Middle East offensive to include Iran posed a “threat to people everywhere”

● Chinese President Xi Jinping said he was “deeply worried” by Israel’s military action against Iran, as Beijing accused Trump of “pouring oil” on the intensifying conflict

● Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei he risked “a fate similar to Saddam Hussein”, the Iraqi president who was toppled and later executed

● G7 leaders, including Trump, had issued a call on Monday for “de-escalation” of the conflict

● Trump again warned Iran against targeting US troops and assets in the Middle East, saying “we’ll come down so hard, it’d be gloves off”

● Czech, Slovak planes evacuate 139 people from Israel

● Trump convenes National Security Council on Iran Tuesday: White House

AFP | Tehran, Iran

US President Donald Trump said he wants a “real end” to the conflict between Israel and Iran, not just a ceasefire, as the arch foes traded fire for a fifth day yesterday.



A woman checks the destruction in the northern Arab-Israeli city of Tamra

The escalating clashes saw Israeli warplanes target military sites in Iran, killing a senior commander and drawing retaliatory missile fire from Iran.

Explosions were heard over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem shortly after air raid sirens sounded in many parts of Israel following missile launches from Iran, the Israeli military said.

The air force was “operating to intercept and strike where necessary to eliminate the threat”, the military said.

About 20 minutes later, it said people could leave shelters as police reported debris fell in the Tel Aviv area and the fire brigade said it was tackling a blaze in the surrounding area.

The Israeli military said it killed senior Iranian commander Ali Shadmani in an overnight strike on a “command centre in the heart of Tehran”, just four days after his predecessor, Gholam Ali Rashid, was killed in a similar Israeli attack.

It also said it targeted multiple missile and drone sites in west Iran, including infrastructure, launchers and storage facilities, with black-and-white footage showing some of them exploding.

Despite mounting calls to de-escalate, neither side has backed off from the missile blitz that began Friday, when Israel launched an unprecedented aerial campaign targeting Iranian nuclear and military facilities.

A new wave of Israeli strikes on Tehran -- including a dramatic hit on state television headquarters that the broadcaster said killed three people -- prompted both sides to activate missile defence systems overnight.

A cyberattack on Tuesday crippled Sepah Bank, one of Iran’s main state-owned banks, the Fars news agency reported.

‘Complete give-up’

Trump said yesterday that he wanted a “complete give-up” by Iran in return for peace.

“I’m not looking for a ceasefire, we’re looking at better than a ceasefire,” he told reporters on the plane home after cutting short his attendance at a Group of Seven summit in Canada.

Trump again warned Iran against targeting US troops and assets in the Middle East, saying “we’ll come down so hard, it’d be gloves off”.

Trump had earlier is-

sued an extraordinary warning on his Truth Social platform, saying: “Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!”

Trump has repeatedly declined to say if the United States would participate in Israeli military action, although he has said Washington was not involved in initial strikes.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said the United States was deploying “additional capabilities” to the Middle East.

The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz left Southeast Asia Monday, scrapping a planned Vietnam port call, amid reports it was heading to the region.

China accused Trump of “pouring oil” on the conflict.

“Making threats and mounting pressure will not help to promote the de-escalation of the situation, but will only intensify and widen the conflict,” said foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun.

Trump says won’t kill Iran supreme leader ‘for now’

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday that the United States would not kill Iran’s supreme leader “for now” but warned Ayatollah Ali Khamenei against further attacks, as he appeared to demand Tehran’s unconditional surrender.

“We know exactly where the so-called ‘Supreme Leader’ is hiding. He is an easy target, but is safe there -- We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least not for now,” Trump said on

Truth Social.

“But we don’t want missiles shot at civilians, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” said Trump, later posting a message saying: “UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!”

