

Iran says its enriched uranium 'not going to be transferred'

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iran's foreign ministry on Friday said the country's stockpile of enriched uranium would not be transferred "anywhere", denying an earlier claim by US President Donald Trump that the Islamic republic had agreed to hand it over.

"Iran's enriched uranium is not going to be transferred anywhere," Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told state TV.

"Transfer of Iran's enriched uranium to the US has never been raised in negotiations."

Penguin Walk



Visitors watch penguins as are led for a walk inside the Scientific Center in Kuwait City. The Scientific Center, one of the centers of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, presents a unique Penguin Walk experience, allowing visitors to get up close in an engaging educational setting.

Two of the 3 French soldiers injured in Lebanon attack seriously wounded: ministry

AFP | Paris, France

Two of the three French peacekeepers injured in an attack in Lebanon that also killed a French soldier are in serious condition, the French Foreign Ministry said.

The ambush on French troops deployed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), in addition to claiming the life of Staff Sergeant Florian Montorio, "also left three French soldiers wounded"

Iran's central military command yesterday appeared to reverse the decision to reopen the route, saying it would resume "strict management" of the strait because of the continued US naval counter-blockade.

Ships hit in Hormuz

IRGC gunboats fired on India-flagged tanker Sanmar Herald

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Commercial ships came under fire and threats from Iran's military as they tried to cross the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, security monitors said, as Iran

closed the crucial trade route again following a brief reopening.

Iran reversed its pledge to reopen the strait to commercial traffic during a ceasefire in the Middle East war in protest at an

ongoing US counter-blockade of the route, a crucial passage for commodity shipments.

A UK maritime security agency said Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) fired at a tanker, while security intelligence

firm Vanguard Tech reported the force threatened to "destroy" an empty cruise ship that was fleeing the Gulf after Tehran on Friday announced a brief respite.

A handful of oil and gas tank-

ers crossed the strait early Saturday during the brief reopening, tracking data showed, but others retreated and tracking platforms showed hardly any vessels crossing the waterway by the late afternoon.



Iranian vessels conducting what appears to be offshore cargo transfer, 70 km off the south-east coast of the Malay Peninsula, near Singapore. Near Singapore, 6,000 kilometres (3,700 miles) from the Strait of Hormuz, ship-to-ship transfers of Iranian oil cargoes have continued during the Middle East War, helping evade sanctions and maintaining trade with China. The ageing vessels that comprise Iran's "ghost fleet" operate with a high degree of opacity, often exploiting dubious ownership structures, false flags, a lack of insurance and manipulation of GPS data to keep a low profile.

Hezbollah denies involvement in deadly attack on UN peacekeepers

AFP | Beirut, Lebanon

Hezbollah yesterday denied it was involved in a deadly attack on United Nations peacekeepers (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon, after France accused the group of being behind the incident.

"Hezbollah denies any connection to the incident that occurred with UNIFIL forces in the Ghandouriyeh-Bint Jbeil area, and calls for caution in making judgments and assigning responsibilities regarding the incident pending the Lebanese army's investigations to determine the full circumstances of the incident," the group said in a statement.

One peacekeeper was killed and three others wounded from the French battalion, with Paris blaming Hezbollah.

Tanker shot at

IRGC gunboats fired on the tanker in the strait north-east of Oman, the UK Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said in an online statement, adding the vessel and crew

were safe. Vanguard identified the tanker as the India-flagged tanker Sanmar Herald.

It cited the captain as saying two IRGC patrol boats approached it with no radio contact and "shots were fired, re-

sulting in damage to the bridge windows".

Vanguard said separately that the Malta-flagged cruise ship Mein Schiff 4 reported a splash nearby while crossing near Oman, on the far side of the

strait from Iran.

"The Master confirmed VHF (radio) traffic from IRGC units stating 'we are carrying out operation, we will fire and destroy you,'" but no damage was reported, Vanguard said.

In a third incident, the UKMTO said that it also received a report of a container ship in the same area "being hit by an unknown projectile which caused damage to some of the containers" but no fire.

At least eight oil and gas tankers crossed the strait

During the reopening, at least eight oil and gas tankers crossed the strait early yesterday after the Iranian announcement on Friday afternoon, data from

tracking firm Kpler indicated.

Tracking platform MarineTraffic showed several other crude oil tankers approached the strait but turned back near

Iran's Larak Island, a checkpoint for vessels seeking to exit the Gulf under the Iranian blockade of the passage.

Four French-owned container

ships bearing the name of major shipping firm CMA CGM also made U-turns in the strait on Saturday around 1000 GMT after starting to exit, the platform

indicated.

Besides the Mein Schiff 4, MarineTraffic indicated three other cruise ships -- reportedly empty -- had fled the strait.