

1173

Pope Alexander III canonizes Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury

1804

World's first steam locomotive, built by Richard Trevithick, runs for the first time along the tramway of the Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales



1848

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto" in London

1972

Richard Nixon becomes the first US President to visit China, normalizing relations between the countries in a meeting with Chinese leader Mao Zedong in Beijing

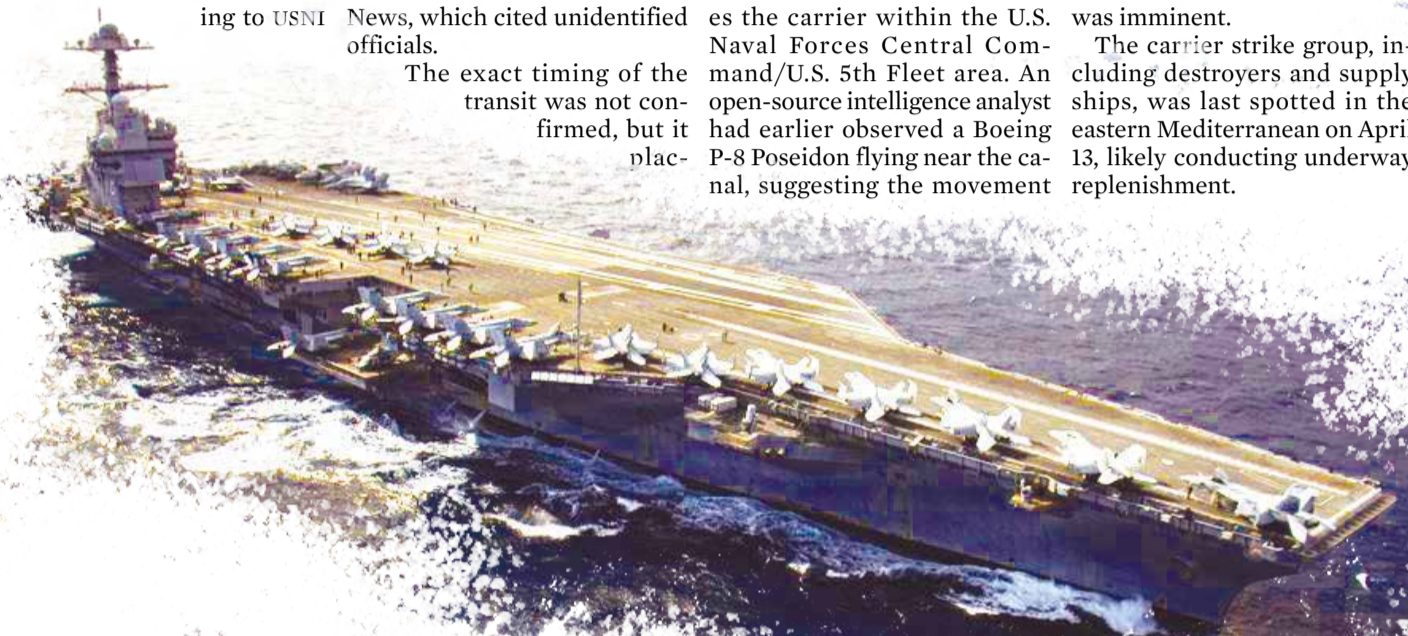
USS Gerald R. Ford enters Middle East after record 296-day deployment

TDT | agencies

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford is now operating in the Middle East after spending nearly a month in the Mediterranean Sea, according to a report by Stars and Stripes.

The carrier, accompanied by the destroyers USS Winston S. Churchill and USS Mahan, departed the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations late last week, a US official told Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity.

With more than 4,500 personnel and its embarked Carrier Air Wing 8, the carrier transited the Suez Canal and is currently operating in the Red Sea, accord-



ing to USNI News, which cited unidentified officials.

The exact timing of the transit was not confirmed, but it plac-

es the carrier within the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet area. An open-source intelligence analyst had earlier observed a Boeing P-8 Poseidon flying near the canal, suggesting the movement

was imminent.

The carrier strike group, including destroyers and supply ships, was last spotted in the eastern Mediterranean on April 13, likely conducting underway replenishment.

Iran uncertain as US sends team

A US Air Force Boeing C-17A Globemaster III aircraft prepares to land at Pakistan's Nur Khan military airbase in Rawalpindi



The US president said his negotiators, whom he did not name, would arrive in Islamabad. A White House official said Vice President JD Vance would lead the delegation after Trump said he would not, citing security concerns. He would be joined by Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, the official said.

Trump says Iran deal to be signed 'today' in Islamabad

TDT | agencies

Donald Trump said an agreement with Iran would be signed "today" in Islamabad, according to an interview with Maria Bartiromo on Fox News yesterday.

It was not immediately clear what timeframe he was referring to, as the timing of the interview was not specified.



Pakistan hosted the first direct high-level US-Iran engagement on April 11-12, the first such contact since the two countries severed diplomatic ties in 1979, but those talks ended without a breakthrough.

Trump also warned that if no "blow up every single power agreement is reached, he would plant and bridge in Iran."

Tehran has not confirmed the claim or announced any decision to send a delegation to Islamabad. However, Pakistani sources told New York Post that Iran may be open to a second round of talks, though no final decision has been taken.



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Water is the foundation of all life & a basic human right. Improving access to water & sanitation could save over 1.4 million lives per year, reduce diseases, restore ecosystems & spur economic growth. Investing in water is investing in the future of communities & countries.

@antoniogeterres

02



Glad to have welcomed President Lee on his first visit to India. His life and work are inspiring examples of service and dedication. Making this visit more special is the fact that this is the first visit by a President of the Republic of Korea in 8 years. Our nations are bound by shared values and a common outlook on the Indo-Pacific region.

@narendramodi



03



Congratulations to Anda Filip (@andafilip) on her election as Secretary General of the Inter Parliamentary Union (@IPUparliament). I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the organization.

@DrTedros

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