

1872

Jesse James' gang robs a bank of \$1,500 in Columbia, Kentucky, killing bank employee Robert A.C. Martin during the crime

1916

Irish republicans abandon the post office in Dublin and surrender unconditionally, ending the Easter Rising



The Fall of Saigon

1975 1990

US begins to evacuate its citizens from Saigon in Operation Frequent Wind in response to advancing North Vietnamese forces, bringing an end to US involvement in the Vietnam War

Wrecking cranes begin tearing down the Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate

New pirate group behind latest Somali hijacking

AFP | Mogadishu, Somalia

A pirate attack off Somalia is the work of a new group of "opportunistic criminals", security officials said on Tuesday, complicating a threat that costs the shipping industry billions of dollars.

Piracy was rampant off the coast of Somalia in the 2000s, peaking in 2011 with hundreds of attacks, but was significantly reduced by international naval deployments and new tactics by commercial shipping.

Yet the past week has seen oil tanker HONOUR 25 and cement carrier SWARD hijacked in the

first major incidents in months.

The SWARD seizure was the work of a group operating from the port town of Garacad in Puntland state of northeastern Somalia, a Puntland security official told AFP.

That is further south than the usual piracy hotbed focused on a cluster of three coastal towns -- Hafun, Bander Beyla and Eyl -- which is where the HONOUR 25 oil tanker has been taken.

The new group is mostly formed of "rural youth" from an area "awash with weapons", motivated by poverty, and anger over illegal fishing by ships from China, Yemen, Iran and

beyond. "Nearly everyone in this region is poor and nearly everyone is armed. Illegal fishing, especially from the trawlers, is making things worse," the official told AFP. "If they are not countered, they will evolve into en-

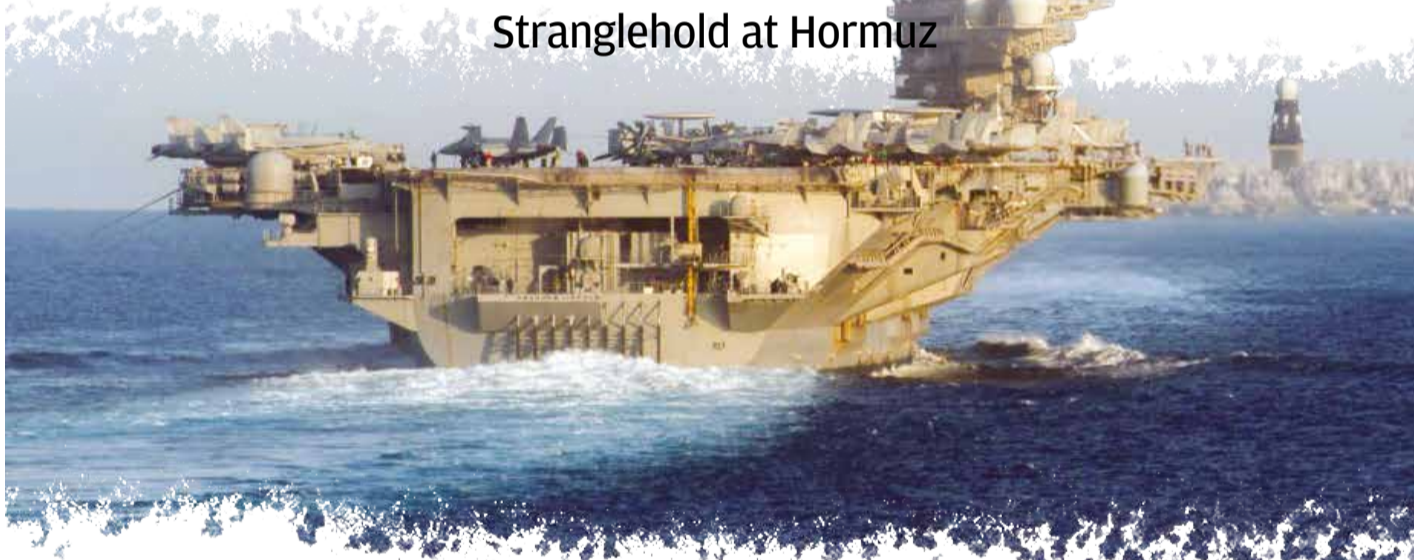
ities like those at war with the government," he said, referring to Islamist groups like Al-Shabaab and the Islamic State that have been fighting Somalia's federal government for years.



Peace efforts stall as US examines latest Iran proposal

Here, choked off

Stranglehold at Hormuz



The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (L), the air-defense destroyer HMS Defender and the guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut transit the Strait of Hormuz

Trump had signaled at Monday's meeting that he was reluctant to take Hormuz off the table

● CNN reported that US President Donald Trump was unlikely to accept Iran's proposal to restore traffic in the strait

● Trump met with top security advisors on Monday to discuss the Iranian proposal

AFP | Washington, United States

Efforts to end the Middle East war appeared at a standstill on Tuesday, with the US considering Tehran's latest offer to unblock the Strait of Hormuz, and Iran saying Washington could no longer dictate terms.

CNN reported that US President Donald Trump was unlikely to accept Iran's proposal to restore traffic in the strait.

While a ceasefire has halted the fighting, diplomacy aimed

Qatar: no 'frozen conflict'

Qatar cautioned against the possibility of a "frozen conflict" in the Gulf, as talks between the United States and Iran for a peace deal appeared at an impasse. "We do not want to see a return to hostilities in the re-

Tehran said it would need guarantees that Washington and Israel would not attack again if it was to offer security assurances for the Gulf, Iran's envoy to the UN said.

at permanently ending the war has proven inconclusive.

"We are very keen to see an end to this war that is sustainable," Ansari added.

Trump met with top security advisors on Monday to discuss the Iranian proposal after Tehran passed "written messages" to Washington via Pakistan spelling out its red lines, including on nuclear issues and Hormuz, Iran's Fars news agency

gion anytime soon, we do not want to see a frozen conflict that ends up being thawed every time there is a political reason," Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said at a press conference.

reported.

The proposal was "being discussed," spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told a White House briefing.

The plan would reportedly see Tehran ease its chokehold on the strait and Washington lift its retaliatory blockade on Iranian ports while broader negotiations continue, including over the thorny question of Iran's nuclear program.

But CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, said Trump had signaled at Monday's meeting that he was reluctant to take Hormuz off the table without resolving the nuclear question, though it was unclear what his next steps would be.

Iranian defence ministry spokesman Reza Taleai-Nik said: "The United States is no longer in a position to dictate its policy to independent nations," he said, according to state TV.

Asked about Iran's proposal, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Fox News "it's better than what we thought they were going to submit," but questioned whether it was genuine.

"They're very good negotiators," he said, "and we have to ensure that any deal that is made, any agreement that is made, is one that definitively prevents them from sprinting towards a nuclear weapon at any point."

Trump has said that if Iran wants talks, "they can call us."

BY INVITATION

India and Bahrain have identical positions on the Strait of Hormuz



H.E. MR. VINOD K JACOB, AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the situation in West Asia in a speech at the Lok Sabha or House of the People on 23 March 2026. One of the main highlights of this speech was the emphatic assertion that attacks on commercial ships and obstruction of international waterways like the Strait of Hormuz are wholly unacceptable. He stressed that large quantities of crude oil, gas, fertilizers, and other essentials reach India through the Strait of Hormuz. Unfortunately, shipping through the Strait has become highly challenging since the war began on 28 February.

It is worth recalling that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a very fruitful discussion with His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr on 20 March. Prime Minister condemned the attacks on the energy and civilian infrastructure in the region. This was having an adverse impact on global food, fuel and fertilizer security. He also reiterated the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation and keeping shipping lines open and secure.

Energy is the backbone of the modern economy. The GCC region is a major source for global energy needs, making the current crisis a challenge for economies worldwide. India's stand has been clear from the very beginning of the war. We have been expressing deep concern, advocating de-escalation, and opposing attacks on civilians and on energy and transport infrastructure. India was among the large list of co-sponsors of UN Security Council Resolution 2817 which was led by the Kingdom of Bahrain at the UN Security Council.

India has also advocated that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only path to resolution. Our efforts are to encourage all parties to reach a peaceful resolution as soon as possible.

(The author is the Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain since August 2023. Views expressed are personal.)

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French FM says Iran must make 'major concessions' to end crisis

United Nations, United States

France said Monday that Iran must be ready to make "major concessions" to end a crisis, as countries piled pressure on Tehran at a UN session on its control of the key Strait of Hormuz.

"There can be no lasting solution to this crisis unless the Iranian regime agrees to

major concessions and a radical shift in its stance," Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told the UN Security Council.

Barrot said that Iran must show a way "to peaceful co-existence within its region and for the Iranian people to be able to build freely their own future," months after the cleric-run state ruthlessly repressed mass protests.