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THE STAR

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Iran issues warning to Gulf states



People walk past an anti-U.S. billboard Aug. 3 on a street in Tehran, Iran.

MAJID ASGARIPOUR/WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS

Threatens attacks on infrastructure if nations don’t pressure Trump

Parisa Hafezi and Samia Nakhoul
REUTERS

Iran has made a concerted diplomatic push with Persian Gulf states, warning them explicitly that Tehran will hit their oil, power and water plants unless they convince President Donald Trump to end U.S. strikes on Iran and instead seek a negotiated end to the war.

The warning envisaged attacks on the energy facilities, oil fields, refineries, electricity grids, water infrastructure, transportation networks and other strategic assets of Washington’s closest Arab allies, according to a senior Iranian official.

The message, part of a broader Iranian effort to deter further U.S. military action by raising the prospect of severe

economic disruption across the Gulf, was delivered through a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts after Trump threatened on July 28 to strike Iran’s energy network and infrastructure, the sources said.

Two senior Iranian officials, two Gulf sources and a senior regional diplomat with knowledge of the discussions said Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi spoke with his Saudi, Turkish and Qatari counterparts, as well as Pakistan’s army chief. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Araqchi urged Washington’s Gulf allies to use their influence with Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes, the senior diplomat said, warning that any attack on Iran would

prompt retaliation against U.S. assets and critical infrastructure across the Gulf.

His message was consistent in every conversation, the diplomat said: “We’re ready to retaliate, but finding a diplomatic solution is the best way to avoid wider escalation and destruction across the region.”

“The Iranian warning was unequivocal: If America targeted Iran’s infrastructure, they would retaliate by striking Gulf energy facilities and other regional targets,” one Gulf source said.

The diplomatic campaign underscores how Iran is seeking to turn Gulf vulnerability into leverage, confronting regional governments with the prospect that any renewed U.S.-Iran confrontation could place the infrastructure underpinning their economies directly in the firing line.

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Shelby High schedule adjusted for baseball series

Rebecca Sitzes
Shelby Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cleveland County Schools are about to kick off the new school year, but as in year’s past, the start of school also coincides with the annual American Legion World Series games held on the campus of Shelby High School.

This year, the first day of school starts on Wednesday, Aug. 12, and the games are held Aug. 13-18.

In prior years, Shelby High students have had remote and early release days to accommodate the games, which bring in more than 120,000 attendees.

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Michigan reports deaths in cyclospora outbreak

Joyce Orlando
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USA TODAY NETWORK

Two deaths have been linked to a cyclospora outbreak that has plagued much of the United States, including in North Carolina.

Michigan, which first reported a large outbreak of cyclospora starting in May, has now reported two deaths linked to the spread of a parasitic infection known for causing explosive diarrhea. The state has reported the most infections in the United States, with more than 11,000 diagnosed cases, according to reports from USA TODAY.

While North Carolina does not have as many cases, it has been one of the top states in the nation for case numbers.

As of July 21, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed more than 700

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Man killed in Lawndale shooting; teenager charged

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A Lawndale teenager has been arrested and charged in connection with a shooting that left one dead in the upper end of the county, according to an arrest warrant.

Canyun Castillo, 18, of Lawndale, was charged with murder on Aug. 4, for the death of David Heath Smith, according to the warrant.

The Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office sent a news release Aug. 5 that said deputies responded to a report of a gun being fired on Boyles Road in Lawndale around 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 4.

When deputies arrived, they found Smith lying unresponsive in the front yard of the home with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the upper chest, the release said.

“Deputies immediately began life-saving measures while awaiting the arrival of EMS,” the release said. “Despite the efforts of deputies and EMS person-

nel, the victim was unable to be revived and was pronounced deceased.”

Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office deputies quickly began working to identify the person responsible for the shooting and during the course of their investigation, deputies received

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