

MIDDLE EAST

TRUMP: NO TALKS  
PLANNED WITH IRAN



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A vessel is seen June 30 in the Strait of Hormuz near the beach of Bandar Abbas, Iran.

President says Strait of Hormuz open; Tehran says it’s closed

PARISA HAFEZI AND KATHARINE JACKSON  
Reuters

DUBAI/WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday no talks were taking place with Iran and none were scheduled, but he claimed the Strait of Hormuz was open, contradicting an earlier Iranian assertion that the critical waterway remained shut to shipping.

The receding prospects of a deal to end the nearly six-month conflict drove up oil prices again on Tuesday, while stock markets sagged and borrowing costs for major economies including the U.S. hit multi-decade highs amid concerns about the long-term inflationary and fiscal effects of the crisis.

A temporary ceasefire agreement expired on Monday and a senior Iranian official told Reuters that his country was moving to a “fully offensive” military posture due to the diplomatic stalemate, though there were no reports of fresh strikes by either side on Tuesday.

“There are no talks or conversations going on, or scheduled, with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Trump said Tuesday on social media.

“The Naval Blockade remains in full force and effect. The Hormuz Strait is open and operating. All water mines have been removed or detonated,” he added.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates’ defense ministry said Tuesday it detected two ballistic missiles launched from Iran, the first such incident reported since a May 4 strike on the Fujairah port.

It said one missile fell in territorial waters, while the other fell outside.

There was no immediate comment from Iran.

Shipping disrupted

Despite Trump’s remarks about the situation in the Persian Gulf, preliminary shipping data on Tuesday showed ship crossings via the Strait of Hormuz were still in single digits on Monday.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said it received a report Tuesday that a vessel was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting outbound in the Strait of Hormuz, causing engine room damage and a crew casualty.

The report said the remaining crew members were assisted by the Omani

Coast Guard.

Top Iranian negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in comments published by state media that the strait would remain shut until the U.S. met the conditions of an interim deal signed with Iran in June.

These conditions include the U.S. lifting its blockade of Iranian ports, lifting oil sanctions, releasing Tehran’s frozen assets, and ending threats and military operations on all fronts, Ghalibaf told Parliament.

A memorandum of understanding signed on June 17 set a 60-day time frame for a broader deal on Iran’s nuclear program and U.S. sanctions. That period elapsed on Monday and Trump said he had no plans to extend it.

The agreement, which declared the “immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts,” had quickly unraveled over a dispute about control of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the war.

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Beaver Dam man, 56, dies in Columbia Co. jail

Sheriff says man had been monitored constantly after overnight traffic stop, arrest

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A Beaver Dam-area man died Thursday morning in the Columbia County Jail, hours after being taken into custody.

According to a social media post from Columbia County Sheriff Roger Brandner published Tuesday morning:

At about 1:17 a.m. on Thursday, a sheriff’s deputy assisted a Columbus police officer on a traffic stop in Columbus. The officers saw a suspicious vehicle that committed several traffic violations. After making contact with the man, 56, officers believed his

driving was impaired, and they also found controlled substances on him during the stop.

After uncooperative aggression during the stop, the man complained about overheating, and officers saw signs of drug use and impairment. Columbus Police then called area paramedics to take the man to a hospital, where he was cleared after a few hours of testing and released back to police custody. An officer put a soft helmet on the man’s head to prevent him from self-harm, and the man was taken to jail shortly after 5:30 a.m.

The man continued to struggle with authorities when he was being booked, which ultimately led officers to place him in a restraint chair with a spit hood to prevent him from spitting at officers. He was later placed in a cell with a camera and windows

while bound to the chair and was checked frequently by jail deputies.

Around 8 a.m., after speaking with the man for about four minutes, a nurse and a physician assistant reported that the man was calling them names but had no medical issues. At about 8:07 a.m., a jail deputy checked on the man through the glass window and observed that he was moving. But at about 8:14 a.m., a jail deputy conducted a check on the man and found him to be unresponsive.

The jail deputy radioed for assistance, the man was removed from the inmate safety restraint chair and deputies began CPR.

Camera footage indicated no one entered the man’s cell between 8:04 and 8:14 a.m., Brandner said.

One day after the man died, his body

was autopsied at UW Hospital. Brandner said the official cause of death is “pending toxicology.”

Law enforcement hadn’t revealed the man’s name as of Tuesday afternoon.

The Sauk County Sheriff’s Office is investigating the inmate’s death. Jail deputies were wearing body cameras during their checks on the man, and all involved officers from Columbia County and Columbus Police are fully cooperating, the sheriff said.

The Columbia County Medical Examiner also was called to the scene and county District Attorney Brenda Yaskal was informed of the man’s death.

It’s the second inmate death in Columbia County Jail this year. Robert Ramsey, 58, of the town of Winnebago, died from a “medical event” around 5:10 a.m. on July 7.