

World and Nation

Shipping disrupted by gulf activity

From Associated Press reports

MANAMA, Bahrain — A French warship spotted three mines and Iranian speedboats raided two tankers Tuesday, the day after battles took place in the southern Persian Gulf in which Iran fired missiles from shore at U.S. Navy vessels.

A marine executive said the gulf appeared "ghostly" from lack of shipping. He and others said commercial vessels were avoiding the waterway, where the U.S. Navy sank or damaged six Iranian vessels Monday.

Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

They also said the United States had suspended escorts of Kuwaiti oil tankers temporarily, but Defense Department spokesman Dan Howard denied it. The United States gave American flags and registration to 11 Kuwaiti tankers last year, which gives them the privilege of the Navy escorting them through the gulf.

President Reagan said things were

quieter in the gulf Tuesday and "we hope it continues that way."

Iran claimed its speedboats in the southern gulf sank an "American naval logistical ship," killing its crew, an hour after Navy ships destroyed two Iranian oil platforms Monday.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) headlined the dispatch "Yankees go down to watery grave as revolutionary guards sink U.S. ship," but it contained no details.

At the Defense Department in Washington, Howard said of the claim: "No report had reached us from our forces in the gulf of any hostile acts (against them) today."

After the confrontation Monday, the Pentagon said there were no confirmed U.S. casualties but a search was being conducted for a missing AH-1 helicopter with two crewmen aboard. Iran claimed to have shot it down.

At the United Nations in New

York, Iran lodged a formal complaint Tuesday about attacks by the "warmonger" United States. Washington responded that its actions had been "necessary and proportionate."

IRNA also said an American attack Monday on the patrol boat Josnan killed 15 crew members and injured 29.

In Monday's operations, U.S. Navy forces destroyed two offshore Iranian oil platforms in the southern gulf, then sank the Josnan, disabled two frigates and sank or damaged three attack boats.

Iran attacked neutral commercial ships after the raid on the platform, which was a U.S. retaliation for a mine blast that damaged the frigate USS Samuel B. Roberts last week and wounded 10 crewmen.

Teheran radio said Tuesday the Swiss ambassador, who represents American interests in Iran, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry

and "given a written warning in regard to America's aggressive attacks." It said the note "emphasized that Iran will retaliate."

Shipping executives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the French warship spotted three mines in an area of the central gulf previously believed to be mine-free. No details were available.

After midmorning distress signals from two tankers entering the narrow Strait of Hormuz, the southern gateway to the gulf, owners and agents advised their vessels to anchor just outside the gulf, off Khor Fakkan, the executives said.

They identified the two ships attacked as the Meltem, flying the Bahamas flag, and the 12,215-ton Fal-5 from the United Arab Emirates. No details about the Meltem were available, but they said the Fal-5 was set ablaze and Omani coast guard boats rescued the crew.

Presidential race heats up as Dukakis wins in New York

From Associated Press reports

NEW YORK — Michael Dukakis scored a convincing victory over Jesse Jackson in the New York primary Tuesday night as he bid for control over the Democratic presidential race.

Sen. Albert Gore Jr. was running a weak third and seemed likely to quit the race in a planned announcement on Thursday.

With 76 percent of the precincts reporting, Dukakis had 53 percent to Jackson's 33 percent. Gore had 11 percent.

Tennessee Gov. Ned McWhorter, a key supporter, said he had advised Gore to "gracefully get out" of the race.

Vice President George Bush won on the Republican ballot, with no serious opposition in New York or elsewhere.

Arab kidnapper sentenced

DUESSELDORF, West Germany — A court convicted Abbas Hamadi on Tuesday of abducting two West Germans as ransom for his brother, Mohammed, who is accused of hijacking a TWA jetliner.

Abbas Hamadi, 29, was sentenced to 13 years in prison after being found guilty of all charges of kidnapping, coercion and possession of explosives.

Mohammed Hamadi was arrested at Frankfurt airport Jan. 13, 1987, and Abbas 13 days later, both with explosives in their possession. Mohammed Hamadi is accused in the June 1985 hijack-

News in Brief

ing of a TWA jetliner to Beirut in which a U.S. Navy diver was killed and 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

Royal hostage stresses danger

ALGIERS, Algeria — A relative of the emir of Kuwait said Tuesday she and the other hostages aboard a hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner "are all in danger" if her royal kin do not meet the demands of the Shiite Moslem gunmen. The hijacking is entering its third week.

The start of Ramadan on Monday drew speculation that the hijackers, in deference to the Moslem holy month, could show some flexibility — or become jittery from the effects of fasting during the day.

Israel departs eight Palestinians

JERUSALEM — Israel on Tuesday deported eight more Palestinians to Lebanon, including six involved in a stoning attack on a group of teen-age Israeli hikers in a West Bank village, the army said. The deportations brought to 20 the number expelled since the start of the uprising.

Also on Tuesday, an Israeli Cabinet minister criticized the slaying of PLO military commander Khalil al-Wazir, warning that it would backfire on Israel.

Tornado rips through Florida community

From Associated Press reports

MADISON, Fla. — A pre-dawn tornado exploded through the rural North Florida community Tuesday, killing four people, destroying homes, throwing people from their beds and leaving much of a college campus in ruins.

Only rubble was left in some neighborhoods after the tornado cut a swath 12 miles long and at least a half-mile wide about 4:30 a.m. Fifteen people were injured. The mobile home of two of those who were killed vanished from its lot,

leaving only foundation blocks.

Families were thrown out of bed while windows exploded and their homes collapsed on top of them.

"I woke up with a roaring sound and as soon as I woke up, the windows blew out on both sides of my bed, and the roof came down on top of me," said Mitchell May, who was pinned in the debris for three hours.

It was Florida's worst tornado since 1966, when a twister crossed the state from Clearwater to Cape Kennedy, killing 11 and injuring 400

people. In 1962 a tornado on the Florida panhandle killed 17 people and injured 100.

Gov. Bob Martinez flew to inspect the scene and said he intended to sign an emergency order allowing state and federal aid.

The twister's destructive path started in front of a shopping center and headed straight into North Florida Junior College, where it "totaled the new library and took the roof off the auditorium," said Sheriff Joe Peavy.

It ripped apart the only obstetrical

clinic serving a four-county area around Madison, leaving mothers without a place to have their babies, said Betsy Stone, executive director of the Tri-County Community Medical Center. The center serves 350 to 400 mothers a year.

The worst damage was in the vicinity of Pinetta, a crossroads neighborhood near Madison.

The bodies of Robert and Lavella McCullough were thrown 100 yards, and their mobile home disappeared, leaving behind only a dozen cinder blocks on a bare patch of ground.

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