

'Do not want to be stung twice'

Iran seeks nuke deal guarantees

AFP, Tehran

Iran is seeking economic guarantees from the US to revive a 2015 nuclear deal so as not to be "stung twice" the same way, its foreign minister said.

The agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), gave Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its atomic programme to guarantee that it could not develop a nuclear weapon – something it has always denied seeking.

But the US unilateral withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under then president Donald Trump and the reimposition of biting economic sanctions prompted Iran to begin rolling back on its own commitments.

"We do not want to be stung twice from the same spot. In order to enjoy the full economic benefits of the JCPOA, the Americans must accept some commitments and guarantees," Hossein Amir Abdollahian told state television in an interview on Thursday night.

On Thursday, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Iran "doesn't seem to have made the political decision -- or decisions, I should say -- necessary to achieve a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA."

Yesterday, Iran squarely blamed on the US.



A demonstrator reacts in front of security forces as demonstrators take part in a protest march against Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe towards the Presidential secretariat office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Putin puts bet on time

Russian officials link resignations of UK, Italy PMs on 'self-harming' sanctions

REUTERS, London

Russian President Vladimir Putin is betting on an ancient weapon more powerful than any of the missiles now being supplied by the United States and its European allies to Ukraine: time.

Nearly five months since Putin ordered the Feb. 24 invasion that has devastated parts of Ukraine, Russia is hoping that Western resolve will be sapped by alarm over surging global energy and food prices that the war has helped to stoke.

Russian officials and state television openly gloat about the fall of British and Italian prime ministers Boris Johnson and Mario Draghi, depicting their resignations as a result of the "self-harming" sanctions the West imposed on Russia.

Who in the West, they ask, will be the next leader to fall?

Putin, who turns 70 in October, told the West this month he was just getting started in Ukraine and dared the United States – which enjoys economic and conventional military superiority over Russia – to try to defeat Moscow.

It would, he said, fail.

"Putin's bet is that he can succeed in a grinding war of attrition," CIA Director William Burns, a former US ambassador to Moscow, told the Aspen Security Forum this week.

The former KGB spy is betting he can "strangle the Ukrainian economy, and wear down the European publics and leaderships, and he can wear down the United States because in Putin's view Americans always suffer from

attention deficit disorder and will, you know, get distracted by something else," Burns said.

Burns, who was sent by US President Joe Biden to Moscow last November to warn Putin of the consequences of invading Ukraine, said he thought the Russian leader's bet would fail.

But the Kremlin shows no sign of backing down, saying Russia will achieve all of its aims in Ukraine.

Putin's foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia's ambitions in Ukraine now went far beyond the Donbas region to include a swathe of territory in the south and "a number of other territories".

The US National Security Council said on Tuesday it had

intelligence that Russia was preparing to annex all of Donbas as well as land along Ukraine's southern coastline including Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

This would formalise Russian control over more than 18% of Ukrainian territory in addition to around 4.5% that Moscow took in 2014 by annexing Crimea.

If the West supplies more longer-range weapons to Ukraine, such as high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS), Lavrov said, Russia's territorial appetite will grow further.

"The rhetorical message Lavrov seems to be sending to the West is: the longer the war lasts, the more we claim," said Vladislav Zubok, professor of international history at the London School of Economics. "It could be pure bluff but I would not be surprised if Russia wanted to keep the southern territories."



Astronomers

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surround it: Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

"We found that the Galilean moons of Jupiter, one of which is the largest moon in our solar system, would very quickly destroy any large rings that might form," Professor Kane said. "Massive planets form massive moons, which prevents them from having substantial rings". As such, it is unlikely that Jupiter ever had rings in its lifetime.

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While the BCB said that Riyad and Mushfiqur had been rested, both have been included in the Zimbabwe ODIs slated to commence from August 5 after the completion of the T20Is on August 2. Thus,

Sohan captain for Zim T20Is

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Nurul will be captain only for the Zimbabwe T20Is, team director Mahmud told the media. There had been rumours that Mahmudullah would be stripped of captaincy after the West Indies series and sources inside the BCB had previously informed that Shakib would be handed the T20 captaincy following the Zimbabwe series.

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Ukraine, Russia

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Senior UN officials, briefing reporters yesterday, said the deal was expected to be fully operational in a few weeks.

Safe passage into and out of the ports would be guaranteed in what one official called a "de facto ceasefire" for the ships and facilities covered, they said, although the word "ceasefire" was not in the agreement text.

Though Ukraine has mined nearby offshore areas as part of its defences against Russia's five-month-old invasion, Ukrainian pilots would guide ships along safe channels in its territorial waters, they said.

Monitored by a Joint Coordination Center based in Istanbul, the ships would then transit the Black Sea to Turkey's Bosphorus strait and proceed to world markets, UN officials said.

The deal will be valid for 120 days but renewable and would not be expected to be stopped any time soon.

"The fact that two parties at war – and still very much at war – have been able to negotiate an agreement of this kind...I think that's unprecedented," one UN official said.

Another said a separate pact signed yesterday would smooth Russian food and fertiliser exports and that the United

Nations welcomed US and European Union clarifications that their sanctions would not apply to such shipments.

To address Russian concerns about ships smuggling weapons to Ukraine, all returning ships will be inspected at a Turkish port by representatives of all parties and overseen by the JCC.

The overall objective is to help avert famine among tens of millions of people in poorer nations by injecting more wheat, sunflower oil, fertiliser and other products into world markets including for humanitarian needs, partly at lower prices.

Russian air strike on Syria kills seven

AFP, Jisr al-Shughur

tears as he called out his children's names.

He and his family were sleeping when the first strike hit their home, he said, lying in a hospital bed in the border city of Darkush.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the deaths "including four children who are siblings, two men and an unidentified person... as a result of Russian air strikes", in the Jisr al-Shughur countryside of northern Syria.

The house has been completely destroyed, an AFP correspondent at the site of the attack said, with toys, furniture and clothing scattered across the rubble.

The children killed were all under 10 years old, said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the British-based Observatory.

The monitor said that

more people, including women and children, were still trapped under the rubble.

The victims are mostly displaced Syrians from neighbouring Hama province, said the monitor, which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria.

Russia, which did not comment immediately on the raid, is a main backer of President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

With Russian and Iranian support, Damascus clawed back much of the ground lost in the early stages of Syria's conflict, which erupted in 2011 when the government brutally repressed pro-democracy protests.

INTERNATIONAL

N IRELAND PROTOCOL VIOLATIONS

EU sues UK again

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Commission launched four new legal procedures against Britain yesterday after the British parliament's lower house cleared a bill to scrap some of the rules governing post-Brexit trading arrangements for Northern Ireland. The Commission, which oversees EU-UK relations, said Britain's unwillingness to engage in meaningful discussions on the protocol governing those trading arrangements and the House of Commons' passage of the Northern Ireland Protocol bill undermined a spirit of cooperation. It brings to seven the number of "infringement procedures" the European Commission has launched over what it sees as Britain's failure to respect Northern Ireland trade aspects of the Brexit divorce deal agreed by both sides. Northern Ireland is in the EU single market for goods, meaning imports from the rest of the United Kingdom are subject to customs declarations and sometimes require checks on their arrival. The arrangement was set to avoid reinstating border controls between Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland, but has inflamed pro-British unionist parties by effectively creating a border in the Irish Sea. London has proposed scrapping some checks on goods from the rest of the United Kingdom arriving in the British province.

US CAPITOL RIOT HEARING

Trump slammed for 'selfish desire'

REUTERS, Washington

After losing the 2020 election, Donald Trump ignored close allies who told him that his claims of widespread election fraud were untrue, and when the followers who believed his false accusations stormed the US Capitol, he sat back and watched. That was the narrative the US House of Representatives' select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack laid out in eight hearings over six weeks, which wrapped up with a study of the former president's actions during the 187-minute assault on Congress by thousands of his supporters. The hearings were intended to lay out a case that the Republican Trump violated the law as he tried, for the first time in US history, to stop the peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next. It is not yet clear if the Justice Department will bring charges against Trump, but the hearings appear to have somewhat hurt his standing with Republican voters. A Reuters/Ipsos poll completed on Thursday found that 32 percent of Republicans say Trump should not run for president in 2024 -- a possibility he continues to flirt with publicly -- up from 26 percent who said that at the start of the hearings.

COVID INFECTION

Xi wishes Biden a speedy recovery

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a sympathy message to his United States counterpart Joe Biden yesterday, a day after the 79-year-old US leader tested positive for Covid-19.

Biden on Thursday insisted he was "doing great", and said he would continue to work while isolating at the White House with mild symptoms.

"I would like to express my deep sympathies to you and wish you a speedy recovery," Xi wrote in the message, CCTV reported.

It is the first public contact between both leaders since their last virtual summit four months ago amid worsening ties.

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শারক নম্বর-১২, ২৫, ১০০০, ১০৪, ১১৫, ১২৫, ১২৬, ১২৭

বাংলাদেশ পাট গবেষণা ইনসিটিউট (বিজেআরআই) এর কার্যক্রম স্থানীয় নগরী মানবিক কার্যক্রমে নিয়োগ প্রচার করে আছে।

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