



An injured resident follows emergency workers carrying the body of his daughter, who was killed together with her two sisters and their mother during a Russian missile and drone strike on a residential building in Lviv, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump has ‘surprise’ plan to end Ukraine war

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump said Tuesday he has plans that are “guaranteed” to end the deadly war in Ukraine, but will only reveal them if he wins the US presidential election in November.

The former US president and current Republican nominee is locked in a neck-and-neck race with his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

“If I win, as president elect, I’ll have a deal made, guaranteed. That’s a war that shouldn’t have happened,” Trump said on the Lex Fridman podcast released Tuesday.

“I have a very exacting plan how to stop Ukraine and Russia. And I have a certain idea – maybe not a plan, but an idea – for China,” he added.

“But I can’t give you those plans, because if I give you those plans, I’m not going to be able to use them, they’ll be very unsuccessful. You know, part of it’s surprise, right?”

The comments echo the move by Trump loyalists in Congress earlier this year, when they tanked a bipartisan immigration plan reportedly because they did not want the Biden-Harris administration to earn credit on one of the 2024 election’s biggest issues.

Deadly strike hits Lviv as Zelensky reshuffles govt

FM among other ministers resigns ahead of tough months

AFP, Lviv

Russia struck the city of Lviv in western Ukraine yesterday, killing seven people and damaging historical buildings in a rare attack hundreds of kilometres from the frontline.

The strike came as several Ukrainian ministers, including top diplomat Dmytro Kuleba, offered their resignations, part of a major reshuffle President Volodymyr Zelensky said would bring “new energy” to the government.

Russia has stepped up its aerial attacks on Ukraine since Kyiv launched an unprecedented cross-border offensive into Russia’s Kursk region last month.

“In total, seven people died in Lviv, including three children. The search and rescue operation is ongoing,” Interior Minister Igor Klymenko wrote on Telegram.

The missile attack also wounded 40 people, damaging schools and medical facilities as well as buildings in Lviv’s historic centre, according to the office of Ukraine’s prosecutor general.

The western city near the Polish border is home to a UNESCO world heritage site that covers its old town. It has been largely spared the intense strikes that have rocked cities further east.

But at least seven “architectural objects of local importance were damaged” in yesterday’s barrage, regional head Maksym Kozysky said.

The assault on Lviv, which is sheltering thousands displaced

by over two years of war, came a day after a Russian strike on the central city of Poltava killed 53 people, one of the deadliest single strikes of the invasion.

“I heard terrible inhuman screams saying ‘Save us,’” said

missiles and 29 drones launched at the war-torn country, the air force said. The air force said it downed seven missiles and 22 drones.

Russia also said it was pressing on with its offensive in the country’s east, claiming the



Yelyzaveta, a 27-year-old resident of Lviv who rushed to shelter in her basement.

Others like Anastasia Grynko, an internally displaced person from Dnipro, did not have time to reach a shelter.

“The rocket hit our house. Everything was blown away. At the time of the explosion, I was somehow miraculously in the corridor, so I was not badly hurt,” she said.

The attack on Lviv was part of a wider barrage on Ukraine, with 13

capture of the village of Karlivka, the latest in a string of territorial gains.

Ukraine yesterday was also in the midst of a major government reshuffle, as Zelensky seeks to boost confidence in the government two and a half years into Russia’s invasion.

Ukraine’s wartime Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba submitted his resignation on Wednesday, a day after six other officials including cabinet ministers said they were stepping down.

Time for a Gaza ceasefire deal: US

US brings ‘terrorism’ charges against Hamas leaders

AFP, Jerusalem

The United States yesterday said it was time to “finalise” a deal between Israel and Hamas to end the Gaza war, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s refusal to bow to pressure.

Washington would work “over the coming days” with fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar “to push for a final agreement,” said US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

He was speaking after Netanyahu rejected “concessions” in indirect negotiations with Hamas, despite growing domestic and international pressure following the recovery by Israel’s military of six killed hostages from the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

“It is time to finalise that deal,” Miller said.

The United States on Tuesday unsealed a raft of “terrorism” and other charges against six Hamas leaders related to the group’s October 7 attack on Israel.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk called for an “independent, impartial and transparent investigation” into reports that the six captives recovered dead from Gaza had been summarily executed.

Despite increasing grief and fury among Israelis, who have taken to the streets to pressure the government and express concern for the fate of the hostages,

Netanyahu said he would “not give in to pressure”.

The Israeli premier on Monday said “the achievement of the war’s objectives” requires control of the Philadelphi Corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, to stop Hamas from rearming.

Saudi Arabia backed Cairo and expressed its “strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli statements regarding the Philadelphi Corridor”, in a foreign ministry statement.

Israeli forces have killed at least 30 Palestinians across the northern West Bank since August 28, the territory’s health ministry says, while Israel’s military reported one soldier killed in the “counterterrorism” raids.

Israel’s offensive in Gaza since October 7 has killed at least 40,861 people in Gaza, according to the territory’s health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

With Gaza in ruins and the majority of its 2.4 million residents forced to flee, often taking refuge in cramped and unsanitary conditions, disease has spread.

After the first confirmed polio case in 25 years, a vaccination drive began Sunday amid localised “humanitarian pauses” in the fighting.

Beware of beautiful foreign spies

China warns students



AFP, Beijing

China’s state security agency yesterday warned students with access to sensitive information against falling for “handsome men” or “beautiful women” that might entice them to spy for foreign powers.

Beijing’s Ministry of State Security (MSS) has promoted claims that foreign spies are working to lure loyal Chinese to betray their country – often in lurid and unusual ways – since opening a WeChat account last year.

It has warned that foreign spies “have countless disguises, and can even change their gender” and called on citizens to “build 1.4 billion lines of defence” against threats to the country.

And it accused on Wednesday foreign intelligence agencies of deploying “romance traps” to lure Chinese students.

It said foreign spies were using job ads and even online dating to “lure and coerce” young students, especially those with access to “sensitive scientific research data”, to hand over confidential information.

“They may even disguise themselves as ‘handsome men’ or ‘beautiful women’... and drag young students into ‘romance trap’,” it warned.

The MSS did not name which countries were behind the alleged scheme.

But it warned that spies might be disguising themselves as university scholars, scientific researchers or consultants, luring students short of cash in what it called “targeted infiltration”.

CEC, all four deputies likely to resign today

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at noon today.

At least two top EC officials said the CEC and his four deputies, following their resignations, will ask the EC secretariat to send their resignation letters to President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

The election commissioners are going to resign exactly a month after the fall of Sheikh Hasina’s government on August 5. Hasina quit and fled to India in the face of a student-led mass uprising. The president dissolved the 12th parliament on August 6.

EC officials said the commissioners decided to resign as there is a constitutional obligation for the commission to hold parliamentary polls within 90 days after the dissolution of a parliament.

“But we don’t think the situation is suitable for holding a national election within the stipulated time,” an election commissioner told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

“The 12th parliament was dissolved after the fall of Sheikh Hasina’s government. An interim government was subsequently formed, but the constitution was not suspended. If this Election

Commission stays in office, it may have to stand in the dock in future for violating the constitution,” the commissioner said.

Top EC officials said that the election commissioners had been mentally prepared for stepping down since the fall of Hasina’s government. The commissioners were trying to understand whether they would resign on their own, or the interim government had any other plans in this regard. The commission tried to contact the high-ups of the state for advice, but it did not succeed.

The Habibul-led commission took office on February 27, 2022 for five years.

The EC had been at the centre of controversy during the Awami League rule. The current EC has been criticised for holding the last national polls in which the AL had to field dummy independent candidates to make the polls appear participatory.

The previous EC was criticised for holding parliamentary polls widely believed to be questionable and the one before that held a national election in which 153 MPs were elected unopposed.

Tarique envisions bicameral house

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country governed by a national government in the future.”

Tarique also said those who participated in the struggle to restore democracy and people’s voting rights will all be involved in the future governance of the country, ensuring that the benefits of their contributions are not overlooked.

He remarked that the freedom fighters fought valiantly on the battlefield and secured independence for the nation in 1971.

“The key to winning that struggle was unquestioned national unity. It is unfortunate but true that we failed to utilise that unity after independence.”

The BNP leader noted that from the very beginning, the nation was divided when the Awami League established a partisan government instead of forming a necessary national government after independence. “As a result, a significant portion of the population was unable to contribute to nation-building despite their willingness.”

As part of a series of programmes, Tarique Rahman virtually joined the final views exchange meeting with BNP grassroots leaders and activists from Dhaka Division

yesterday.

BNP Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, and Babu Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, among others, also addressed the meeting.

Tarique said it is important to inform the nation about another significant reform plan of the BNP, which involves introducing a two-house parliament.

He mentioned that there are numerous scholars, talented teachers, artists, writers, journalists, researchers, doctors, technical experts, and humanitarian workers in the country who are not traditionally involved in politics but are eager to contribute to the development and governance of the nation.

However, the BNP leader said within the current constitutional framework, there is no opportunity for these individuals to contribute as members of parliament.

“To utilise their services and contributions to the cause of the country, BNP wants to see a bicameral parliament system with an upper house included in the constitution like many other countries in the world,” he said.

Tarique said he is just humbly sharing BNP’s future plans and intentions because he knows that

the support of the people of the country can only make these plans a reality.

“I hope the people won’t certainly want those parties or individuals included in a national government who have turned the entire country into their party and family’s personal property and those who, under the guise of so-called development, have burdened each of us with a debt of 1.5 lakh taka and syphoned off thousands of crore taka abroad,” he added.

Tarique congratulated BNP leaders and activists for their steadfast participation and trust in the party over the past seventeen years of relentless struggle for the restoration of democracy.

He urged them not to let their sacrifices be diminished by the misdeeds of a few reckless individuals and advised them to remain vigilant and resist any troublemakers.

The BNP leader also advised party leaders to earn the trust and confidence of the people by aligning with their hopes, expectations, and language.

He also instructed them to use their political acumen and strategies to tackle emerging and unseen adversaries.

UN warns of ‘red alert’ after record heat

AFP, Singapore

Rising temperatures should trigger a global “red alert”, the United Nations’ weather and climate agency chief said Wednesday, after global heat indices again smashed records in August.

The world saw record average temperatures in August for the second year running, preliminary data from the EU’s climate monitor seen by AFP showed.

And Australia, Japan, parts of China and Norway all experienced their hottest August on record, according to meteorological agencies.

“It’s clear that the temperatures are rising... above what we would like,” said Celeste Saulo, head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

“And it is because the action is not enough.”

While the exact average global temperature for August 2024 is not yet known, the EU’s Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) has established it will be above the record 16.82 degrees Celsius (62.28 Fahrenheit) measured in August last year.

“Thresholds are all the time being beaten,” Saulo said, speaking in Singapore at a regional climate forum of local meteorological services.