

Putin's Ukraine demands are unchanged Says Kremlin as the Russian president is ready to talk to Trump

REUTERS, Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to discuss Ukraine with Donald Trump but that does not mean he is willing to alter Moscow's demands, the Kremlin said yesterday.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov made the remarks after being asked at his daily news briefing if Putin's readiness to talk to the Republican president-elect reflected a willingness to change those demands.

"The president has never said that the goals of the special military operation are changing. On the contrary, he has repeatedly said that they remain the same," Peskov said.

"All this concerns the security interests of our country, the security interests of the Russian people living there. Therefore, there was no talk of any changes here."

Putin on June 14 set out his terms for an end to the war: Ukraine would have to drop its Nato ambitions and withdraw all of its troops from all of the territory of four regions claimed by Russia.

Ukraine rejected that, saying it would be tantamount to capitulation, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has put forward a "victory plan" that includes requests for additional military support from the West.

On the campaign trail, Trump criticised the scale of US military and financial support for Kyiv and said he could end the war within 24 hours.

Zelensky has congratulated Trump, but said he does not know how the American plans to end the conflict quickly. "If it's just fast, it means losses for Ukraine. I just don't yet understand how this could be in any other way. Maybe we do not know something, do not see," he said on Thursday.



Ukrainian police experts examine office buildings destroyed after the Russian strike on the centre of Kharkiv yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Russian drones, missiles pummel Ukrainian cities

One killed, dozens injured; Kyiv downs 62 drones

AFP, Kharkiv

Russian attacks overnight wounded more than two dozen people in the Ukrainian border city of Kharkiv and killed one in the southern city of Odesa, Ukrainian authorities said yesterday, as Moscow's bombardments escalated.

AFP journalists in Kharkiv saw rescue workers at night hauling panicked civilians from Soviet-era residential buildings hit in the strike, that were surrounded by broken glass and rubble.

"Throughout the evening and night, terrorists attacked our cities and communities. Missiles, drones and glide bombs were used against the Odesa, Kharkiv and Kyiv regions," President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

The air force said Moscow had launched five missiles, 92 drones as well as the glide bombs across Ukraine overnight. Its units downed four missiles

and 62 drones, the statement added.

The death toll meanwhile rose from a Russian attack one day earlier on the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, doubling to eight, including an infant, the regional governor said.

➤ Ukrainian forces are losing ground in the east of the country
➤ Concerns are mounting in Kyiv over future of foreign military aid after victory of Trump

In Kharkiv, which Russia is increasingly targeting in night-time bombardments, 25 people were wounded in attacks on residential and commercial districts of the city.

Four people were wounded near Kyiv,

which had been targeted almost daily over the last month and where AFP journalists heard air raid sirens and at least one explosion echo out over the capital.

In the historic Black Sea city of Odesa, one person was killed and nine others were wounded in an attack that damaged residential buildings, authorities said.

The latest night of deadly strikes comes at a critical moment of the war -- launched by the Kremlin nearly three years ago.

Ukrainian forces are losing ground in the east of the country and concerns are mounting in Kyiv over the future of foreign military aid after the victory of Donald Trump in the United States presidential election.

Zaporizhzhia city, where authorities said more than 40 people had been wounded in Thursday's strike, has also come under increasing Russian aerial bombardments in recent weeks.

INDIAN KASHMIR

2 'rebels', 2 militia members killed in gunfights

AFP, Srinagar

Soldiers in Indian-administered Kashmir killed two suspected rebels during a firefight, police said yesterday, hours after gunmen in a separate incident shot dead two members of a government-backed militia.

The gun battle started Thursday night in Sopore, in Kashmir's north, when soldiers and police were searching for militants.

"Two terrorists have been neutralised in Sopore encounter," police said in a statement yesterday posted on X after the night-long counterinsurgency operation.

Hours before the clash, gunmen shot dead two village defence guards in the remote southern Kishnawar after they were likely abducted.

The village defence guards are a militia force tasked with fighting off rebel attacks in the Hindu-dominated areas of the restive territory.

SEVERE AIR POLLUTION

Pakistan's Punjab bans entry to parks, zoos

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's Punjab banned entry to many public spaces from yesterday, including parks and zoos, as it sought to protect people from severe air pollution in parts of eastern province.

The provincial capital Lahore has been engulfed in a thick, smoky haze this week and was consistently rated the world's most polluted city by Swiss group IQAir in its live rankings, prompting the closure of schools and work-from-home mandates.

The Punjab government's yesterday order placed a "complete ban on public entry in all parks ... zoos, play grounds, historical places, monuments, museums and joy/play lands" until Nov. 17 in areas including Lahore.

Rakhine faces

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government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, sparking mass protests that escalated into an armed rebellion on multiple fronts.

With more than three million people displaced and much of the country in chaos, humanitarian aid has become critical in Myanmar.

A spokesperson for the junta did not answer calls seeking comment on the report.

Violence has been on the increase since conflict reignited in Rakhine last November following the collapse of a ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the military. Rebel forces have since made substantial gains.

Though the military has for years been accused of persecuting the Muslim minority Rohingya community in Rakhine, the Arakan Army has also been accused of targeting them, which it has denied. An AA spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The fighting has triggered a new wave of Rohingya refugees fleeing into Bangladesh, where more than a million Rohingya live in huge refugee camps.

Adani cuts power supply

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"We are gradually paying the dues and will take alternative measures if anyone stops the supply. We will not let any power producer hold us hostage," Muhammad Fauzul Kabir Khan, power and energy adviser in Bangladesh's caretaker government, told Reuters on Thursday.

Bangladesh continues to get a reduced supply even though it has expedited the payment of dues and a November 7 payment deadline by Adani had been lifted, the BPDB official said.

Reuters reported this week that Bangladesh had opened a letter of credit for \$170 million for Adani and was accelerating payments.

Adani Power did not respond to queries from Reuters on the reduction in power supply and details of payments made by Dhaka.

The power supply has been gradually reduced based on demand from Bangladesh as well as keeping payment dues in mind, a source at Adani Power told Reuters.

The Bangladeshi board and Adani Power officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Veggie prices cooling off

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support his two-member family as nearly half of his income goes towards rent.

"About a year and a half ago, I could send Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500 to my parents at my village every month. Now, I can only manage Tk 500," he said.

At Karwan Bazar yesterday, beans were sold for Tk 80 to Tk 100 per kg compared to the previous week's Tk 120 to Tk 140.

Cauliflower and cabbage were selling for Tk 40 to Tk 50 each, down from Tk 50 to 60 last week. Green chillies were priced at Tk 120 to Tk 180 per kg, down from Tk 160 to Tk 200.

Brinjal was available for Tk 50 to 80 per kg against the last week's Tk 60 to Tk 100.

Saiful Rahman Chowdhury Sujan, general secretary of Karwan Bazar Arat Malik Samity, attributed the price drop to the arrival of winter vegetables.

"The supply of winter vegetables

70pc of dead

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Israel did not immediately comment on the report's findings.

Israel's military, which began its offensive on October 7, 2023, says it takes care to avoid harming civilians in Gaza.

It has said approximately one civilian has been killed for every fighter, a ratio it blames on Hamas, saying the Palestinian group uses civilian facilities. Hamas has denied using civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, as human shields.

The youngest victim whose death was verified by UN monitors was a one-day-old boy, and the oldest was a 97-year-old woman, the report said.

Together

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call on him at the Army Headquarters, during which he pledged financial and security support for the Prabarana Purnima and Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony in the three hill districts.

Following through on this commitment, he recently presented Tk 1 crore donation cheque on behalf of the Bangladesh Army to the Buddhist Federation, the release said.

This year, 266 Buddhist monasteries nationwide, including in the CHT, have celebrated the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony with due

has been good for about a week," he said.

Potatoes, however, saw a price increase to Tk 70 per kg from Tk 65 last week. Mohammad Sabuj, a trader at Karwan Bazar, attributed the price hike to the depletion of stocks in cold storages.

Broiler chicken was sold for Tk 180 to Tk 190 per kg yesterday, an increase by Tk 10 from the previous week. Sonali chicken was selling for Tk 310 a kg, up from Tk 300 last week.

Local onions were selling for Tk 150 per kg against the last week's Tk 140. However, the price of Indian onions remained unchanged at Tk 120 per kg.

Garlic prices rose to Tk 230 to Tk 260 per kg compared to the previous week's Tk 220 to Tk 250.

Loose soybean oil prices have gone up to Tk 175 to Tk 180 per litre from Tk 170 to Tk 175.

The prices of medium quality and fine rice remained stable at Tk 65 and Tk 90 per kg respectively.

Overall, children represented 44 percent of the victims, with children aged five-nine representing the single biggest age category, followed by those aged 10-14, and then those aged up to and including four.

This broadly reflects the enclave's demographics, which the report said reflected an apparent failure to take precautions to avoid civilian losses.

It showed that in 88 percent of cases, five or more people were killed in the same attack, pointing to the Israeli military's use of weapons with an effect across a wide area, although it said some fatalities may have been the result of errant projectiles from Palestinian armed groups.

religious solemnity, it added.

During the visit, the chief of general staff of the Bangladesh Army and the GOC of the 9th Infantry Division were present.

Also in attendance were the event's chairman, Dharmapriya Mahathera, chief preacher S Lokajit Mahathera, monks from various monasteries, high-ranking government and private officials, diplomats from foreign missions in Dhaka, members of the Buddhist community, and representatives from various media organisations, the release added.

Modi rejects

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into the two federally administered territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh - a move that was opposed by many political groups in the Himalayan region.

Jammu and Kashmir held its first local election in a decade in September and October and the newly-elected lawmakers passed a resolution this week seeking the restoration.

Jammu and Kashmir's ruling National Conference party had promised in its election manifesto that it would restore the partial autonomy, although the power to do so lies with Modi's federal government.

Jammu and Kashmir's new lawmakers can legislate on local issues like other Indian states, except matters regarding public order and policing. They will also need the approval of the federally-appointed administrator on all policy decisions that have financial implications.

Two siblings

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village in the upazila. The identities of the rest injured could not be known immediately, said Debidwar Police Station Inspector Md Shahinul Islam.

The incident took place when Jahangir was taking his children to their (maternal) grandfather's house Thursday night.

A bus of Sugandha Paribahan hit the autorickshaw driven by Jahangir while overtaking a truck at Chhagura, leaving Junayed dead on the spot and four others, including Jahangir, injured.

Fahima died from her injuries on the way to the hospital, and the rest were hospitalised, police said.

Protesting the accident, locals vandalised five buses of the Sugandha Paribahan.

Later, police brought the situation under control, the inspector said.

Three Balkan capitals among world's 10 most polluted cities

AFP, Belgrade

Three Balkans region capitals -- Belgrade, Pristina and Sarajevo -- were among the 10 most polluted cities in the world yesterday, just behind Lahore, Delhi and Beijing.

In the three cities, the air quality index (AQI), which measures a range of pollutants, spiked above the level of 150 which is considered unhealthy.

In Paris and Los Angeles it was 44 and 34 respectively.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Migrants disembark from the Italian navy ship Libra carrying migrants that arrived in Albania as part of a deal with Italy to process thousands of asylum-seekers caught near Italian waters, in Shengjin, Albania yesterday.

Only free polls

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Until that happens, the people will not be able to reap the benefits of democracy, he said.

"Even when there is no dictatorship or fascism, it will be impossible to save low-income people from the curse of market syndicates if we cannot ensure people's rights.

"November 7, 1975, was the day to distinguish between friend and foe, and August 5, 2024, was the day to identify the enemies. I have said before that if the pro-Bangladesh forces unite, no one will be able to jeopardise the country's independence."

Instead of holding the programme on November 7, the BNP observed the day yesterday, the first day of the weekend.

After Tarique's address, thousands of activists holding colourful props and festoons marched to Manik Miah Avenue, where BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressed the crowd.

"If we truly want to honour our children who made sacrifices and endured oppression to protect independence and sovereignty, and to restore democracy, then a free and fair election must be held once the necessary reforms are done," he said.

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas said his party would be able to resist conspiracies.

"We sense trouble ahead. I don't know who will create it in what way. But today's procession has proven that we will be able to resist," said Abbas.

Earlier at Nayapaltan, Fakhrul said, "Let's unite and make it clear

that nothing but democracy will be allowed here. No dictator will stand a chance. We will defeat them."

"For 17 long years, we fought Awami fascism. In those 17 years, the political and economic structures of the country were systematically destroyed....

"Sheikh Hasina and her allies have looted this country. Many of our people have been killed, many disappeared. False cases were filed against more than 60 lakh people.

"We [now] have the chance to create a new Bangladesh. Hasina has fled in the face of this uprising, but her allies are here. They will attack again.... If a crisis arises, we will confront it."

Even though the rally at Nayapaltan started after 3:00pm, crowds began to arrive in the morning. People from eight districts attended the event, sources said.

The VIP Road in front of BNP's headquarters at Nayapaltan was filled to the brim with leaders and activists. At the procession, there were marching bands and singers on trucks.

The marchers proceeded through Matsya Bhaban, Shahbagh, Bangla Motor, and Farmgate.

The procession grew longer as activists joined from different neighbourhoods along the way.

The event caused severe traffic congestion, forcing commuters to walk to their destinations while vehicles remained stuck in tailbacks.

When the Awami League was in power, the BNP was never allowed to march from Nayapaltan to Manik Miah Avenue.