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Diplomatic push loses steam

Iran says European proposals 'unrealistic'; Trump says Europe's diplomacy unlikely to yield results



"Iran doesn't want to speak to Europe... Europe is not going to be able to help in this."

DONALD TRUMP



"Negotiations by the US were a cover for what the Israelis did. We don't know how we can trust them [the US] anymore."

ABBAS ARAGHCHI
Iranian foreign minister

IRAN-ISRAEL WAR

- US moves bunker-buster B-2 bombers to Guam
- Israel claims killing three more Iranian commanders
- Iran president says country will not abandon nuclear prog
- Israel says Iran nuclear prog delayed by 'at least two or three years'
- Monitors say Iran moved nuclear material to prevent destruction
- Trump says he is 'unlikely' to ask Israel to stop attacks
- US intel chief says Iran 'within weeks' of producing nukes after Trump rebuke
- 400 Iranians killed, 3,056 wounded in Israeli attacks

AGENCIES

Iran and Israel carried out strikes on each other for the ninth consecutive day yesterday, amid a diplomatic push by European powers to ease the crisis -- a move US President Donald Trump said is unlikely to be helpful.

The US president also said his two-week ultimatum to Tehran was the "maximum", indicating that possible American air strikes might take place even before that if no progress is visible.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian official told Reuters that the

discussions and proposals made by the European powers to Iran over its nuclear programme in Geneva were unrealistic.

He added that zero enrichment was a dead end and that Iran would not negotiate over its defensive capabilities, including its missile programme.

The developments came as news reports claimed that B-2 stealth bombers left the Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri en route to a US Air Force base in Guam. However, it is not immediately clear whether this is related to escalating tensions

in the Middle East.

The bombers apparently refuelled after launching from Missouri, suggesting they launched without full fuel tanks due to a heavy onboard payload, which could be bunker-buster bombs.

The B-2 is capable of carrying America's heaviest payloads, including the bunker-busting GBU-57, a 30,000-pound (13,607 kg) warhead capable of penetrating 200 feet (61 meters) underground before exploding.

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IRAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME -- PAGE 2



Five-year-old Abdullah clings to his mother as they wait to consult a doctor about the fever he has been battling for the past three days. He was brought to the Mohakhali DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital from Korail slum, amid a fresh surge in Covid cases across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Dhaka, Beijing, and Islamabad talk trilateral cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan have discussed a possible trilateral cooperation based on a shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

Bangladesh foreign ministry in a statement last night said the three countries held an "informal trilateral meeting" on the sidelines of the 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 6th China South Asia Cooperation meeting in Kunming on June 19.

"The three sides exchanged views on possible trilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual trust, understanding and shared vision for peace, prosperity and stability in the region," it said.

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MAYORAL DEADLOCK Dhaka South held hostage for 40 days

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Dhaka South City Corporation has remained effectively crippled for around 40 days due to a contested mayoral claim by BNP leader Ishraque Hossain and the government's apparent mishandling of the matter.

Despite the BNP warming up to the government after both sides softened their stance on election timing, a widening gulf remains over the DSCC mayor issue.

There is no end to the stalemate in sight, as Ishraque vows to continue his movement, while the government has not made it clear when and how the issue will be settled.

Meanwhile, millions of city dwellers continue to be deprived of civic services, except for waste management, which is also operating at a sluggish pace.

A 2022 census put the population of Dhaka South at 43 lakh, but DSCC officials estimate more than 1 crore people live here.

The impasse has left the city's core services in disarray. Except for limited waste collection, nearly all functions, including issuance

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