

Iran president faces backlash over ‘soft’ US stance

AFP, Tehran

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian yesterday came under fire after voicing support for renewed talks with the United States, with critics accusing him of being “too soft” in the wake of last month’s attacks on the country.

The backlash followed the release of an interview with US media personality Tucker Carlson, in which Pezeshkian said Iran had “no problem” resuming talks so long as trust could be rebuilt between the two sides.

His comments came less than a month after Israel launched an unprecedented bombing campaign on June 13 that killed senior military commanders and nuclear scientists in Iran.

Iranian state media reported Monday that the death toll in Iran following the 12-day war with Israel has risen to at least 1,060.



Palestinians carry a body at the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in the Bureij refugee camp, in central Gaza, yesterday. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said that a “sharp surge” in deaths and injuries in incidents around aid distribution sites in Gaza is pushing the territory’s already stretched health system past its capacity.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Arming Ukraine prolongs war Warns Kremlin after Trump pledges more weapons

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday warned that sending arms to Ukraine only serves to prolong the conflict, a day after US President Donald Trump pledged “more weapons” for Ukraine to defend itself.

“It is obvious of course that these actions probably do not align with attempts to promote a peaceful resolution,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying in a briefing.

Peskov also criticised European countries for “actively contributing to the continuation of hostilities” with their arms supplies to Ukraine.

Trump’s announcement followed Washington saying last week that it was halting some weapons shipments to Kyiv, leaving Ukrainian officials caught off guard and scrambling for clarity.

A pause poses a potentially serious challenge for Kyiv, which is contending with some of Russia’s largest missile and drone attacks of the more than three-year war.

“We’re going to have to send more weapons -- defensive weapons primarily,” Trump told journalists at the White House.

“They’re getting hit very, very hard,” he said of Ukraine, while adding that he was “not happy” with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and has shown little willingness to end the conflict despite pressure from Trump.

The US president’s pledge to ship more arms to Ukraine came after Moscow said Monday that its forces captured its first village in Ukraine’s central Dnipropetrovsk region after advancing towards it for months.

Russia launched a fresh large-scale drone and missile barrage before the announcement, including on Ukraine’s military recruitment centres.

Kyiv also said it carried out a drone attack on a Russian ammunition factory in the Moscow region.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said yesterday that it was shocked by the sudden death of Russia’s former transport minister Roman Starovoit, news of which broke hours after President Vladimir Putin had sacked him.

“We’re going to have to send more weapons -- defensive weapons primarily,” says Trump

HOUTH MISSILE ATTACK Damaged cargo ship under fire in Red Sea

Two crew dead; UK maritime monitor says it has lost all propulsion

AGENCIES

A damaged cargo ship is under “continuous attack” in the Red Sea, a maritime monitor said yesterday, after Yemen’s Houthi rebels ended a months-long lull in their harassment campaign of the vital but volatile waterway.

The Eternity, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, first came under attack on Monday, shortly after the Iran-backed Houthis claimed responsibility for an earlier assault on another cargo ship, the Magic Seas.

“The (Eternity) has sustained significant damage and has lost all propulsion,” the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, an offshoot of the British navy, said in a statement. “The vessel is surrounded by small craft and is under continuous attack.”

Two crew on the cargo ship died, it added.

The Houthis have not claimed responsibility for the latest attack. On Monday, they said they used unmanned boats, missiles and drones against the Magic Seas, their first attack on a cargo vessel this year.

All but one of the 22 crew stranded aboard the Eternity were from the Philippines, officials in Manila said yesterday.

The crew of the Magic Seas, which was also badly damaged, was rescued on Monday.

The Houthis began targeting Israel and ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden after the Gaza war broke out in October 2023, claiming



solidarity with Palestinians.

In response, Israel has carried out several strikes on Yemen, including a wave of attacks on Sunday that hit the port city of Hodeida and nearby areas.

In May, the group struck a ceasefire with the United States after weeks of intense American strikes aimed at halting their attacks on the Red Sea trade route.

Israel has struck Houthi targets in response, launching strikes on Monday for the first time in nearly a month. A US-Houthi ceasefire deal in May did not include Israel, reports Reuters.

Magic Seas was carrying iron and fertilisers from China to Turkey, a voyage that appeared low-risk as it had nothing to do with Israel, said a representative of the Stem Shipping, adding that Stem Shipping had received no warning

of the attack.

But the fleet of Allseas Marine, Magic Seas’ other commercial manager, had made calls to Israeli ports over the past year, according to analysis by UK-based maritime risk management company Vanguard Tech.

“These factors put the Magic Seas at an extreme risk of being targeted,” said Ellie Shafik, head of intelligence with Vanguard Tech.

The manager of ETERNITY C is also affiliated with vessels that have made calls to Israeli ports, security sources said.

John Xylas, chairman of the dry bulk shipping association Intercargo, said the crew were “innocent people, simply doing their jobs, keeping global trade moving”.

“No one at sea should ever face such violence,” he said.

Thousands suffer

FROM PAGE 12

Union, along with parts of Teknaf municipality, have gone under water.

“We are monitoring the situation and staying in touch with the locals,” said Teknaf Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sheikh Ehsan Uddin.

On Saint Martin’s Island, multiple villages reported seawater intrusion due to tidal surges and rough seas.

In Ukhiya, runoff from nearby hills triggered flash floods in around 16 villages, affecting approximately 10,000 people, said UNO Kamrul Hossain Chowdhury.

Floodwaters also entered refugee camps 3, 7, 12, and 22, affecting nearly 15,000 residents. NGOs are assessing the damage and providing relief, he added.

In Ramu, water from the swollen Bakkhali river flooded around 1,000 homes in 10–12 villages of Fatekharkul, Rajarkul, and Sreekul unions, as well as Banglabazar and Khurulia of Jhilongia union under Cox’s Bazar Sadar.

Meanwhile, the Matamuhuri overflowed due to heavy rain, inundating more than 2,000 homes in Chakaria and Pekua upazilas. Across these three upazilas, at least 10,000 people have been marooned.

yesterday as continuous downpour over the past 24 hours submerged most parts under knee-deep water.

According to Md Rahat of the Patuakhali Met Office, 241.4mm of rainfall was recorded in 24 hours, the highest in four years.

Students and office-goers faced hardship as they waded through floodwaters, with most battery-run rickshaws and vehicles staying off the roads.

Patuakhali Municipality Administrator Md Jewel Rana said he and his team had been working since morning to keep sluice gates and drainage channels functional.

“Heavy rainfall and high river levels are delaying water outflow, but we’re trying to manage the situation,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has suspended vessel operations on 30 routes from Bhola.

Riad Hossain, port officer at the Bhola river terminal, said services would remain suspended until the weather improves.

According to official sources, the district recorded 132.6mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours.

In Monpura, UNO Likhan

Flash floods, downpours submerge 80 villages in Cox’s Bazar

Parts of Patuakhali inundated due to record rainfall in 4 years

Rising water level in Muhuri raises flash flood fears in Feni

Md Salauddin Ahmed, sub-divisional engineer of the Cox’s Bazar Water Development Board, said parts of embankments in Moheshkhali and Kutubdia have been damaged by strong water surges, and repairs are underway.

Feni recorded 233mm of rainfall in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

Fulgazi UNO Fahriya Islam said the swollen Muhuri river devoured part of the road connecting Fulgazi Bazar and Rajeshpur, and two shops were washed away.

A local BMD official said the Muhuri was flowing 137cm above the danger level, raising the risk of flash floods in adjacent low-lying areas.

Officials said the inclement weather forced most schools in the district to suspend classes and examinations yesterday.

Incessant rain since Monday afternoon has flooded most streets in the district headquarters. Daily wage earners have been hit hard.

“We suffered immensely during last year’s floods. If such a situation recurs, I don’t know how we will survive,” said Balayet Hossain, an auto rickshaw driver.

Life in Patuakhali town was also severely disrupted

Bonik said all four unions of the upazila have been submerged under up to two feet of water.

In Barishal, intermittent rain lashed the city since early yesterday. The local meteorological office recorded 83.1mm of rainfall in 24 hours. Low-lying areas in the city, including Palashpur, Amanatganj, Rupatoli, and Bottola, have been inundated.

Tajul Islam, sub-assistant engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) in Barishal, said while most rivers in the division have swelled, the Meghna at Tajumuddin point and the Hizla river have crossed the danger level.

In Khulna, incessant rainfall for the last few days, caused by a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal, has severely disrupted daily life.

According to the Khulna BMD office, the city recorded 90mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours.

The downpour caused widespread waterlogging in areas such as Tutpara, Royal Mor, Mistripara, and Ahsan Ahmed Road, forcing people to wade through flooded streets.

The rainfall is likely to continue for the next two days across Khulna and surrounding districts, the local met office said.

Wider dengue spread sparks concerns

FROM PAGE 1

SHARP RISE IN CASES

Till yesterday, 13,188 people have been hospitalised with dengue this year -- a 3.26-fold increase from the 4,041 cases recorded during the

died from dengue this year, compared to 47 deaths during the same period in 2024.

Interestingly, Dhaka has seen fewer cases this year. As of yesterday, 2,840 cases

Prof Bashar. “As a result, over half the city’s residents are believed to have been already infected with at least one serotype, which reduced their chances of reinfection.”

Despite efforts by health and local authorities, 84 new cases were recorded there just yesterday.

On June 30, the DGHS directed local authorities to launch awareness campaigns emphasising early hospitalisation. A team of medicine specialists was also sent to train local doctors on more effective dengue management.

Barguna Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Shafiul Alam said cleaning drives and mobile courts are being conducted to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

“Many residents store rainwater in open containers, which serve as prime breeding spots for Aedes mosquitoes,” he said. “We’re trying to raise awareness so that these containers are kept covered ... The situation has improved recently, and we’re working to bring it further under control within this month.”

2024 (TILL JULY 8)	2025 (TILL JULY 8)
4,041 hospitalisations recorded	13,188 hospitalisations recorded
47 dengue-related deaths reported	51 dengue-related deaths reported
527 cases from Barishal division (13% of total)	5,697 cases from Barishal division (43% of total)
1,451 cases reported in Dhaka (36% of total)	2,840 cases reported in Dhaka (22% of total)
54 districts had reported dengue cases	60 districts have reported dengue cases

same period in 2024.

Till July 8, 2023, the number of dengue cases was 9,549.

Of the 13,188, 5,697 cases (43 percent) were reported from Barishal division, compared to just 527 (13 percent) last year.

So far, 51 people have

(22 percent of this year’s cases) were reported from the capital, down from 1,451 cases (36 percent) in the same period last year.

“All four dengue serotypes have circulated in Dhaka over the past 25 years since the first outbreak in 2000,” said

He added that Dhaka’s anti-mosquito drives have also been relatively more effective than those in other districts.

BARGUNA: A HOTSPOT

Barguna alone has reported 3,420 cases (26 percent) and six deaths so far this year.

স্থানীয় কার্যালয় স্থানান্তর

উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা নিয়ে

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি'র স্থানীয় কার্যালয় ০৯ জুলাই ২০২৫ বুধবার থেকে নতুন ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হয়ে ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম শুরু করছে।

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সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের নতুন ঠিকানায় ব্যাংকিং সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো

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