

## 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**

## EU-LED MISSION IN THE RED SEA China targeted German plane with laser: Berlin

AFP, Berlin

Berlin yesterday said the Chinese military had targeted a laser at a German aircraft participating in an EU-led mission to protect marine traffic in the Red Sea.

“Endangering German personnel (and) disrupting the operation is entirely unacceptable,” the foreign ministry said on X, adding that Beijing’s ambassador to Berlin had been summoned for talks.

The German aircraft was targeted “without reason or prior contact... during a routine operation” over the Red Sea while taking part in the European Union’s Aspidos mission, a spokesperson for the German defence ministry said.

The Chinese vessel had “taken the

risk of endangering the (German) personnel and equipment”, the ministry said.

The German aircraft’s mission was subsequently abandoned following the encounter and returned to a base in Djibouti, the spokesman said.

It was not immediately clear whether the laser was a weapon or a laser guidance system.

China has previously denied accusations of firing or pointing lasers at US planes. Incidents involving a European Nato member and China are more unusual.

In 2020, the US Pacific Fleet said a Chinese warship had fired a laser at a US naval patrol aircraft flying in airspace above international waters west of Guam.

China said that did not accord with the facts.



## Texas flood toll passes 100 Rescuers continue their grim search

AFP, Hunt

The death toll from catastrophic flooding in Texas rose to more than 100 on Monday, as rescuers continued their grim search for people swept away by torrents of water.

Among the dead were at least 27 girls and counselors who were staying at a youth summer camp on a river when disaster struck over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Forecasters have warned of more flooding as rain falls on saturated ground, complicating recovery efforts involving helicopters, boats, dogs and some 1,750 personnel.

“There is still a threat of heavy rain with the potential to cause flooding,” Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement Monday.

### 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.

### PERSECUTION OF WOMEN

## ICC seeks arrest of senior Taliban leaders

AFP, The Hague

The International Criminal Court (ICC) yesterday issued arrest warrants for senior Taliban leaders in Afghanistan over the persecution of women, a crime against humanity.

ICC judges said in a statement there were “reasonable grounds” to suspect Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada and chief justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani “have committed... the crime against humanity of persecution... on gender grounds.”

“While the Taliban have imposed certain rules and prohibitions on the population as a whole, they have specifically targeted girls and women by reason of their gender, depriving them of fundamental rights and freedoms,” the court said.

The court said the alleged crimes had been committed between 15 August 2021 when the Taliban seized power and continued until at least January 20, 2025.

The Taliban had “severely deprived” girls and women of the rights to education, privacy and family life and the freedoms of movement, expression, thought, conscience and religion, ICC judges said.

“In addition, other persons were targeted because certain expressions of sexuality and/or gender identity were regarded as inconsistent with the Taliban’s policy on gender,” the judge added.

## Trump, Brazil’s Lula clash over politically charged coup trial

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

US-Brazil relations slid into crisis Monday after President Donald Trump criticized the high-profile coup trial of his right-wing ally, ex-president Jair Bolsonaro.

Trump accused Brazilian authorities of carrying out a “WITCH HUNT” against the 70-year-old firebrand, warning they should “LEAVE BOLSONARO ALONE.”

His comments drew a quick and sharp rebuke. Brazil’s leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva set diplomatic niceties aside and hit back at Trump’s “interference,” adding that “no one is above the law.”

Bolsonaro is facing trial, accused of leading a “criminal organization” that plotted a coup to keep him in power after his 2022 election loss. He faces up to 40 years in prison if found guilty. According to prosecutors, the alleged coup plot failed due to a lack of support from the military high command.

The case carries echoes of Trump’s prosecution over the January 6, 2021, attacks, when his supporters overran the US Congress to try to reverse his election loss.

Trump pleaded not guilty, and the case was abandoned when he was reelected president -- giving him immunity from prosecution.

Bolsonaro has similarly protested his innocence, while trying to rally supporters with a series of protests that have further polarized Brazilian politics.

The cases have drawn the Trump and Bolsonaro families together, with the Brazilian ex-leader’s sons lobbying hard to have a Supreme Court judge hit with US sanctions and for Trump to weigh in.

That effort now appears to have succeeded, with unclear repercussions for ties between the largest economies in North and South America.



### 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।**

**পূর্বের ঠিকানা**  
রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি  
স্থানীয় কার্যালয়  
রূপালী ভবন  
৩৪, দিলকুশা বা/এ  
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

**বর্তমান ঠিকানা**  
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স্থানীয় কার্যালয়  
সাধারণ বিমা টাওয়ার  
৩৭/এ, দিলকুশা বা/এ, নীচ তলা  
ও ৭ম তলা, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

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

**রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি**  
উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা