

Ukraine to get Patriot system from Israel

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine received a US-made Patriot air defence system from Israel a month ago, with two more expected in coming months, President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday.

"The Israeli (Patriot) system is operating in Ukraine. It has been operating for a month. We will receive two Patriot systems in the fall," Zelensky told journalists during a briefing.

Zelensky said that Kyiv provided Washington with a list of the weapons Ukraine wanted as part of a plan to purchase \$90 billion worth of arms from Washington, which he first mentioned in August.

When asked to comment on media reports on Ukraine's alleged request of US long-range Tomahawk missiles, Zelensky said Kyiv was "ready for separate agreements on specific types of weapons, including long-range weapons."



A Palestinian child looks through the hole in the ceiling of her home as it was hit by Israeli bombing in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. Over nearly two years, Israeli military operations in Gaza have killed at least 65,549 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, figures the UN considers reliable.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia blasts EU's 'drone wall' defence plans

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday blasted the EU's plans to beef up its defences against drones, saying the bloc's response to unidentified unmanned aircraft crossing its borders would only increase tensions.

Defence ministers from around 10 EU countries on Friday agreed to make the so-called "drone wall" a priority for the bloc, after some member states were rattled by a string of airspace violations by Russia in recent weeks.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the measures would lead to "an increase in military and political tensions on our continent," according to state news agency RIA Novosti.

The ministry added that the plans amounted to "personal ambitions and political games of the EU's ruling elites."

Meanwhile, unidentified drones flew over Danish military sites including its biggest base overnight.

Neighbouring Norway was also investigating "possible sightings of drones" early yesterday near its biggest military base.

They followed drone incursions in Polish and Romanian territory and the violation of Estonian airspace by Russian fighter jets.

Moscow denied breaching Nato's airspace and called the EU's reaction a "hysteria", saying Russian pilots abide by international air navigation rules, adding there was no evidence the drones that have crossed the European airspace were Russian.

UN sanctions reimposed on Iran

Tehran recalls envoys to UK, France, Germany as diplomacy fails to delay measures

AGENCIES

Iran has recalled its envoys to the United Kingdom, France and Germany for consultations, according to state media, after the three European countries triggered a mechanism reinstating the United Nations' sanctions on the Islamic Republic for the first time in a decade.

"Following the irresponsible action of the three European countries to reinstate repealed UN Security Council resolutions, Iran's ambassadors to Germany, France and the United Kingdom have been summoned to Tehran for consultations," state news agency Tasnim and others reported yesterday.

The move came a day after Russia and China failed to delay the revival of the international sanctions on Iran at the 15-member UN Security Council, as only four countries supported their draft resolution, opening the door for sanctions to be reimposed.

The E3 countries set the clock ticking a month ago for the "snapback" of the UN sanctions, accusing Iran of failing to come clean on its nuclear programme, including through countermeasures it took in response to bombing by Israel and the United States during a 12-day June conflict that Iranian authorities say killed more than 1,000 people.

The sanctions, set to go into effect at

00:00 GMT on Sunday, will set up a global ban on cooperation with Iran on nuclear, military, banking and shipping industries. Iran's national currency, the rial, fell to new all-time lows yesterday, trading for more than 1.1 million per US dollar in Tehran's open market.

The International Atomic Energy Agency on Friday said some inspections had resumed at Iranian sites this week, but did not say whether this included sites bombed by the US and Israel, where nuclear material could be buried. In Moscow for the World Atomic Week forum, Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami once again blasted the UN nuclear watchdog for refusing to condemn the air strikes on the Iranian nuclear sites.

Western powers rejected at least two Iranian proposals to defer snapback over the past days, saying they did not see enough progress to agree to a delay after a week of top-level diplomacy at the UN General Assembly.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said there was no reason to reach a deal when, in his view, Israel and the US were seeking to use the pressure to topple the theocratic establishment.

"If the goal had been to resolve concerns on the nuclear programme, we could easily do that," Pezeshkian told reporters, as he insisted again that Iran will never pursue nuclear weapons.



Venezuela at UN seeks help against US 'threat'

AFP, United Nations

Venezuela called Friday at the United Nations for solidarity against the "threat" of the United States, which has carried out deadly strikes against alleged drug trafficking boats.

"As they can't accuse Venezuela of having weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons, they're making up vulgar and perverse lies that no one believes, neither in the US nor around the world, to justify an atrocious, extravagant and immoral multi-billion-dollar military threat," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil Pinto said in his address.

"We would like to thank the governments and peoples of the world, including from the United States, for denouncing this attempt to wage war," he said.

US President Donald Trump has deployed eight warships and a nuclear-powered submarine to the southern Caribbean as part of a stated plan to combat drug trafficking. US forces have destroyed at least three suspected drug boats in the Caribbean in recent weeks, killing over a dozen people in a move decried as "extrajudicial execution" by UN experts.

'They have dragged us into politics'

Nepal protest leader says he will run in upcoming polls

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The leader of Nepal's recent youth-led protests that toppled the government within days has announced he will run in the country's March general elections, saying his movement will "fight till the end" to build a people's government.

In an exclusive interview with Start Here's Sandra Gathmann, Sudan Gurung said his group is already mobilising supporters nationwide to form a "movement for change" rather than a traditional political party.

"They have dragged us into politics," he said about the former government of "selfish" and "corrupt" politicians. "If it's politics they want, that's what they'll get. We will be running for the next election because we are not going to back down now."

Gurung, 36, rose to prominence as the face of a grassroots uprising led largely by Nepal's Gen Z.

The demonstrations erupted after the government blocked social media platforms, including Facebook, X and YouTube, saying the companies had failed to register and submit to government oversight.

But the protests soon spiralled into broader discontent, fuelled by anger over alleged corruption, state violence and impunity. Dozens of young demonstrators were killed, and thousands more were injured.

Gurung believes his movement is ready to govern, with volunteers



forming legal and communications committees and gathering policy demands from across the country, through platforms such as Discord, which was used to mobilise during the protests, and Instagram.

He said his team is working to ensure "that every voice of the Nepalese people is heard".

Gurung is unlikely to register as an independent candidate, and instead plans to run "as a group".

"If I just run as an independent candidate, we won't have this force of youths," he said. "Together, we are stronger."

The movement has pledged to run on a broad agenda beyond anticorruption. It plans on working to boost Nepal's tourism sector, strengthening relations with neighbours India and China without "external interference".

"We need to respect them, they

need to respect us," Gurung said. He said he does not want to see the old political guard contesting the March vote and urged interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki to speed up investigations into graft and killings of protesters.

"We'll be sure that the investigation is done properly, on time, so that they won't participate [in the elections]," Gurung said.

When asked whether he wants to become PM himself, Gurung said, "I won't say I am the right person right now ... but if the people choose me, I am definitely going to run."

He also spoke of attempts to silence him. Despite the intimidation, he struck a defiant tone.

"I'm not scared ... just killing me won't do anything," Gurung said. "I need to save my nation because it's now or never."

REMARKS AT PRO-PALESTINIAN GATHERING US to revoke Colombian president's visa

REUTERS

The United States said it would revoke Colombian President Gustavo Petro's visa after he took to New York's streets on Friday in a pro-Palestinian demonstration and urged US soldiers to disobey President Donald Trump's orders.

"We will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions," the State Department posted on X.

Petro, addressing a crowd of pro-Palestinian protesters outside the UN headquarters in Manhattan, called for a global armed force with the priority to liberate Palestinians, adding, "This force has to be bigger than that of the United States."

"That's why from here, from New York, I ask all the soldiers of the army of the United States not to point their guns at people. Disobey the orders of Trump. Obey the orders of humanity," Petro said in Spanish.

Reuters could not immediately confirm whether Petro was still in New York. His

office and Colombia's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Trump administration has been cracking down on pro-Palestinian voices while countries including France, Britain, Australia and Canada have recognized a Palestinian state - moves that have angered Israel and its ally the US.

Petro, Colombia's first leftist president and a vocal opponent of Israel's war in Gaza, hit out at Trump in his speech to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, saying the US leader was "complicit in genocide" in Gaza and calling for "criminal proceedings" over US missile attacks on suspected drug-running boats in Caribbean waters.

The United States is Colombia's main trading partner and its greatest ally in the fight against drug trafficking, but US-Colombia relations got off to a bad start shortly after Trump returned to office in January, when Petro refused to accept military flights carrying deportees in Trump's immigration crackdown.



Protesters stage a 'die-in' performance during a rally for Climate Justice in Seoul yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP