



A handout picture released by the Marine Nationale (French Navy) yesterday shows its Carrier Strike Group that includes the flagship aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle (unseen) and its escort transiting the Suez Canal en route to the southern Red Sea to pre-position for a possible mission to restore navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. PHOTO: AFP

## Russia choosing war

Says Zelensky as 28 people killed in strikes; dual ceasefires falter

AFP, Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday said that Russia had decided to reject efforts to halt fighting and save lives by launching fresh attacks on Ukraine, which had called a unilateral ceasefire.

His comments raise the spectre of retaliatory Ukrainian strikes on Moscow during mass public events celebrating the end of World War II on May 9, after the Kremlin announced it would hold off attacks on Ukraine that day, hoping Kyiv would do the same.

"Russia's choice is an obvious spurning of a ceasefire and of saving lives," Zelensky wrote on social media.

Ukraine, he added, had earlier vowed to "act in kind" to the Russian ceasefire proposal this weekend, when Russians typically flood streets across the country to mark victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

"It is obvious to any reasonable person that a full-scale war and the daily murdering of people are a bad time for public celebrations," the Ukrainian leader said.

Kyiv said Russia had attacked eastern and southern Ukraine with more than 100 drones overnight, a day after Russian strikes killed almost 30 Ukrainian civilians.

Moscow had never said it would abide by Kyiv's call to halt fire from midnight on May 6 – a counter-truce Zelensky proposed after Russia announced a ceasefire to cover its Victory Day parade Saturday on Red Square in Moscow.

Zelensky had dismissed Russia's "utter cynicism" for calling for a ceasefire to protect the parade – one of the most important days of the year for Russian leader Vladimir Putin – while launching deadly strikes on his country.

A Ukrainian officer at the eastern front, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP: "The enemy continued to carry out infantry raids and attempts to storm our positions."

Since Russia "did not comply" with the

Kyiv suggested ceasefire, "our unit responded in kind and countered all provocations", he added.

Another frontline commander said: "The intensity of combat operations remains at the same level."

His unit, he said, was also responding: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!"

attacked after Kyiv's unilateral truce was supposed to come into effect at midnight.

Late on Tuesday, Ukrainian drone attacks on the north of Russian-annexed Crimea killed five people, Moscow-installed authorities in the peninsula said.

The strike hit hours after Russia had pounded several Ukrainian cities with the



Kyiv said at least one person had been killed in the overnight strikes.

Russian forces also struck a kindergarten in the eastern border region of Sumy on Wednesday morning, killing a security guard, local officials said.

The Kremlin has not commented on the Kyiv proposed ceasefire, only calling for Ukraine to halt attacks for May 9.

Moscow's defence ministry said it had downed 53 Ukrainian drones between 21:00 and 07:00 (1800-0400 GMT) – far fewer than in previous days.

It did not say whether any of the drones

deadliest attacks in weeks – killing at least 28 people in 24 hours.

Zelensky called on Ukraine's allies to condemn the attacks. A strike on the centre of Zaporizhzhia city, which killed 12 people, had "absolutely no military justification", he added.

Kyiv on Tuesday hit deep inside Russia, killing two people in Cheboksary, a city on the Volga, hundreds of miles from Ukraine.

The attacks have created a sense of nervousness in Russia ahead of the May 9 parade. Moscow has said it will remove military hardware from the procession for the first time in almost 20 years.

## N Korea drops 'unification' from charter

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has deleted all references to uniting with South Korea from its constitution, a document reviewed by AFP yesterday showed, underscoring Pyongyang's push for a more hostile policy towards Seoul.

North and South Korea remain technically at war because their 1950-53 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Pyongyang's constitution had previously contained a clause stating that it aimed "to realise the unification of the motherland".

That reference no longer appears in the latest version, presented yesterday by a professor during a news conference at South Korea's Unification Ministry and subsequently seen by AFP.

The revised constitution, which the document indicated was introduced in March, also includes a new clause delineating North Korea's territory.

Using South Korea's official name, it says that includes the area bordering China and Russia to the north, "and the Republic of Korea to the south".

North Korea "absolutely does not allow any infringement on its territory", it added.

## G7 nations decry 'economic coercion' in swipe at China

AFP, Paris

The trade ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations yesterday criticised "economic coercion" by powers placing arbitrary restrictions on exports, particularly critical minerals, in a clear swipe at China.

While never mentioning China by name, the ministers clearly took aim at Beijing and its stringent export controls on rare earths in their statement, after two days of meetings in France.

"We express our grave concerns regarding economic coercion, including coercion through arbitrary export restrictions that may lead to supply chain disruptions, notably for critical minerals, and undermine economic security and resilience," the ministers said.

China dominates the global industry for rare earths, which are critical for making a wide range of products – from everyday consumer electronics to equipment used in the defence sector.

The country's leaders leveraged that strength in spectacular fashion last year, reaching a deal with Washington in October to pause a blistering trade war after Beijing's curbs on their exports sent shockwaves across supply chains.

The G7 ministers vowed to work with partners to not only reduce their dependency upon rare earths, but to "ensure that attempts or threats to weaponise economic dependencies will fail."

"We seek to deter and stand ready to take actions, where necessary, against economic coercion," they added.

## Pakistan Navy helps stranded Indian ship in Arabian Sea

AGENCIES

The Pakistani navy reportedly responded to a distress call from an Indian ship stranded in the Arabian Sea after a critical technical failure, assisting the crew with food, medical and other emergency support.

The vessel, named MV Gautam, had suffered a critical technical failure while en route from Oman to India, leaving it stranded at sea, news agency Reuters reported, citing a Pakistani military statement.

The Pakistan Navy launched a rescue and support operation for the crew – six Indians and one Indonesian – after the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre in Mumbai contacted authorities in Islamabad and requested assistance.

Responding to the request, the Pakistan Navy deployed the ship named PMSS Kashmir to carry out rescue operations.

Emergency assistance, including food, medical aid, and technical support, was provided to the crew of MV Gautam to stabilise the vessel and ensure the crew's safety, the statement said.

The navy was reportedly assisted by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) in the rescue and support operation.

The Gulf Times tweeted the video of the rescue mission, where the Pakistan Navy's boat can be seen helping MV Gautam's crew members.

The vessel experienced a total power failure on May 3 due to a generator malfunction. At the time of the incident, the vessel was located within the Pakistan Search and Rescue Region (SRR).



## Peace deal hope rises

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deal," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

A Pakistani source and another source briefed on the mediation confirmed information initially reported by the US media outlet Axios about a proposed 14-point, one-page memorandum that would formally end the war.

Axios, citing two US officials and two other sources briefed on the issue, reported that the MOU is being negotiated between Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, and several Iranian officials, both directly and through mediators.

The draft would see Iran commit to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment, while the US would gradually lift sanctions, release billions in frozen Iranian funds, and both sides would ease restrictions on transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

In its current form, the MOU declares an end to the war and begins a 30-day negotiating period toward a detailed agreement covering the reopening of the strait, limits on Iran's nuclear programme, and sanctions relief. Talks could take place in Islamabad or Geneva, two sources said.

During this period, Iran's restrictions on shipping and the US naval blockade would be gradually lifted, according to a US official.

The duration of the enrichment moratorium remains under negotiation. Three sources said it would last at least 12 years, with one citing 15 years as a likely compromise. Iran has proposed five years; the US has demanded 20. Iran would be allowed to enrich uranium to 3.67% after the moratorium ends.

Under the MOU, Iran would pledge never to seek nuclear weapons or pursue weaponisation activities, potentially including a ban on operating underground facilities, alongside enhanced inspections with snap UN checks.

The US would gradually lift sanctions and release frozen funds. Iran may also remove its highly enriched uranium, possibly transferring it to the US, sources said.

US officials expect Iran's response within 48 hours.

While nothing is final, sources said this is the closest the sides have come to a deal, though many terms remain contingent on a final agreement, leaving risks of renewed conflict or prolonged uncertainty.

"We will close this very soon. We are getting close," said the source from Pakistan.

Reports of the possible agreement caused global oil prices to plunge, with benchmark Brent crude futures falling around 11 percent to around \$98 a barrel LCOc1. Global share prices also leapt and bond yields fell on optimism of an end to a war that has disrupted energy supplies.

In his morning post, Trump said: "Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran."

"If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump added.

While the sources said the memorandum would not initially require concessions from either side, they did not mention several key demands Washington has made in the past, which Iran has rejected, such as curbs on Iran's missile programme and an end to its support for proxy militias in the Middle East.

In a post on X, Iranian lawmaker Ebrahim Rezaei, a spokesperson for parliament's powerful foreign policy and national security committee, described the text reported by Axios as "more of an American wish list than a reality".

"The Americans will not gain anything in a war they are losing that they have not gained in face-to-face negotiations," he wrote.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi, visiting China, made no mention of Trump's latest remarks, but said Tehran was holding out for "a fair and comprehensive agreement".

After talks with Aragchi, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi called for an end to hostilities and for both countries to reopen the Strait of Hormuz "as soon as possible".

China "will work harder to ease tensions and end the fighting, continue to support the launch of peace talks, and play a greater role in restoring peace and tranquility to the Middle East", said Wang.

Trump's conciliatory tone came hours after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US had completed its offensive operations against Iran.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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তারিখঃ ২১/০১/১৪৩৩ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০৪/০৫/২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধে পোড়ানো ইটের পরিবর্তে ব্লক ব্যবহার করুন

কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধে সরকার সকল প্রকার সরকারি নির্মাণ ও সংস্কার কাজে পোড়ানো ইটের পরিবর্তে ব্লক ব্যবহার (মহাসড়ক ব্যতীত) বাধ্যতামূলক করেছে। ব্লক ব্যবহারে কৃষিমাটি সুরক্ষা ও বায়ুদূষণ রোধ ছাড়াও নিম্নরূপ সুফল ও সুবিধাদি রয়েছেঃ

ব্লক ব্যবহারের সুফল ও সুবিধাদি

- "অপোড়ানো পদ্ধতির ব্লক উৎপাদন প্রক্রিয়া বায়ু দূষণ সৃষ্টি করে না"- ফলে এটি জনস্বাস্থ্যের জন্য সহায়ক;
- ব্লক উৎপাদনে মাটির পরিবর্তে বালি, ড্রেজিং ম্যাটেরিয়াল, পরিত্যক্ত বিস্ত্রিংয়ের কংক্রিট, বিভিন্ন ধরনের বর্জ্য ইত্যাদি ব্যবহারের ফলে কৃষি জমির উর্বর মাটি রক্ষা ও বনজ সম্পদের অপচয় রোধ হয়;
- নদীর ড্রেজড ম্যাটেরিয়াল ব্যবহার করা যায় বিধায় নদীর নাব্যতা বৃদ্ধির সাথে সাথে ব্লক তৈরীর কীচামাল প্রাপ্তিতে সহায়ক ভূমিকা রাখে;
- স্থায়ীকাল ও কাঠামোগত ভারসাম্য বেশী ও অধিক ভূমিকম্প সহনীয়;
- ব্লক নির্মিত অবকাঠামো তাপ ও অগ্নি নিরোধক এবং শব্দদূষণ রোধে সহায়তা করে;
- বায়ুদূষণ ও কার্বন ডাই-অক্সাইড নিঃসরণ হ্রাস করে বৈশ্বিক উষ্ণায়ন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনে ইতিবাচক ভূমিকা রাখে;
- সারা বছরব্যাপী ব্লক উৎপাদন করা যায় এবং ক্ষুদ্র ও মাঝারি উদ্যোক্তারা এই কার্যক্রমে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারে।

এমতাবস্থায়, পরিবেশ সুরক্ষা, কৃষি জমির মাটি সংরক্ষণ এবং জনস্বাস্থ্য ও টেকসই উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে ইটের বিকল্প হিসেবে পরিবেশবান্ধব ব্লক উৎপাদন ও ব্যবহারে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা ও সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ কামনা করা যাচ্ছে।

মহাপরিচালক  
পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর