

Turkish police fire tear gas, arrest hundreds at Istanbul May Day rallies

AFP | Istanbul

Turkish police yesterday fired tear gas and arrested hundreds of people holding May Day demonstrations in Istanbul, as thousands rallied nationwide.

According to the CHD Lawyers' Association, at least 370 people were arrested in Istanbul, where police fired tear gas from riot-control vehicles into the crowd, AFP journalists observed.

Images aired on the opposition channel HALK TV also showed the president of the Turkish Workers' Party, Erkan Bas, engulfed in pepper spray.

"Those in power already speak 365 days a year, so let workers talk about the hardships they face at least one day a year," he said.



Lebanese first responders search for human remains amongst the rubble the day after a house was targeted in an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese city of Nabatieh, yesterday. Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed at least 17 people on April 30, 2026, the Health Ministry announced, despite the ceasefire that has been in effect since April 17

Blow for Lula as Brazil MPs slash Bolsonaro prison term

AFP | Brasilia

Brazil's Congress on Thursday overturned President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's veto of a law dramatically reducing the prison sentence of his arch-rival Jair Bolsonaro, the second major defeat for Lula in as many days.

Former president Bolsonaro, 71, was sentenced last year to 27 years behind bars for coup plotting over his attempt to cling to power after losing the 2022 elections to Lula.

Rebels take key military camp in Mali's north

AFP | Bamako

Mali's army and its Russian mercenary allies surrendered a strategic northern military stronghold to armed rebels yesterday, as Tuareg separatists and jihadists waged a unified front to bring down the country's junta.

Forces at Mali's Tesalit military base, a "super-camp" near the Algerian border, surrendered and were scattering southward, an official from the Tuareg-dominated FLA separatist group told AFP.

The FLA's allies, jihadists from the Al-Qaeda-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM), are calling for cooperation to bring down the junta that has run Mali since 2020.

Iran offers new proposal amid stalled US peace talks

Proposal handed to Islamabad as Trump says 'not satisfied'

● Ceasefire holds since April 8

● Hormuz restrictions disrupt global trade

AFP | Tehran

Iran submitted a new proposal for talks with the United States via mediator Pakistan, state media reported yesterday, with negotiations between the two sides frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire.

The text of the proposal was handed to Islamabad on Thursday evening, the IRNA news agency reported.

However, US President Donald Trump signalled dissatisfaction with Tehran's latest offer. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters yesterday, raising doubts about the prospects for a breakthrough.

The war involving Iran, the United States and Israel, which began with a wave of strikes on February 28, has been on hold since April 8, but only one failed round of direct talks has taken place between Iranian and US representatives.

In the meantime, Iran has maintained restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz, cutting off vast amounts of oil, gas and fertiliser from the world economy, while the United States has imposed a counterblockade on Iranian ports.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that US



A digital billboard displays an image reading "end the Iran war now" in Times Square in New York City

President Donald Trump had told security officials to prepare for the blockade to last months, causing oil prices to spike.

Despite the failure to negotiate an end to the war, the ceasefire has held. Yesterday, judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, a senior cleric, said the Islamic Republic remained open to negotiations.

But in another sign that finding a compromise may prove difficult, Ejei said "we certainly do not accept imposition", in a video shared by the judiciary's Mizan Online website.

Tehran, though, does not want a return to war, he said.

He said Iran did not seek a continuation of the conflict.

The lack of fighting has not

assuaged markets, with oil prices still more than 50 percent above their prewar levels as traders confront continued disruption linked to the closure of Hormuz, while the European Central Bank held interest rates amid fears of soaring inflation.

War powers debate

Washington, meanwhile, was gripped by a legal debate over whether Trump had passed a deadline for requesting congressional approval for his war with Iran.

US imposes new Iran sanctions, warns against paying Hormuz tolls

AFP | Washington

The United States imposed new sanctions on three Iranian foreign currency exchange firms, in an effort to target Tehran's "financial lifelines" in the Middle East war.

The US Treasury Department warned in a separate statement against paying a "toll" to Iran's government in exchange for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, saying this could trigger sanctions.



The White House is currently embroiled in a legal battle over the War Powers Resolution, arguing that the ongoing ceasefire effectively "paused the clock" on the 60-day deadline for Congressional war authorization

Administration officials, including defence secretary Pete Hegseth, insisted that the ceasefire meant that the clock was paused on a 60-day deadline requiring the president to seek war powers authorisation from Congress.

"For War Powers Resolution purposes, the hostilities that began on Saturday, February 28 have terminated," a senior administration official told AFP late on Thursday.

Trump is under increasing domestic pressure over the war, with no clear outcome in sight, inflation rising due to the conflict and midterm elections due in November.

On Thursday, US government data showed slower than expected growth and inflation hit 3.5 percent.