

## Germany ‘wants war again’, Russia FM says

AFP | Moscow, Russia

Germany “wants war again”, the Russian foreign minister said in an interview published yesterday, dismissing Berlin’s accusation that Russia was to blame for a drone attack on Leipzig airport.

The German government blamed Moscow for the incident, saying Russia sent “low-level agents” for an attempted “hybrid attack” involving an explosive-laden drone at the strategic airport in eastern Germany.

Moscow and Berlin closed each other’s cultural centres this week, with EU countries summoning Russian envoys.

“This is, by and large, the start of a real war. They expelled the consulate general from Bonn. They’re closing the Russian House (cultural centre) in Berlin. I remember that before the start of the Second World War... They want war again,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told a state TV reporter.

He accused Germany of Nazism and said: “The Russian leadership will draw the appropriate conclusions.”

Part of the interview was published by Russia’s Vesti TV channel.

Germany is one of Ukraine’s main allies in the war against Russia.

## Iran arrests alleged opposition supporters after video circulates

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Iranian authorities have arrested a number of people accused of appearing in a rare video waving the flag of an outlawed opposition group, state television said yesterday.

Videos circulating online in recent days showed individuals riding motorbikes on

empty streets in Iran while waving the white-and-red banner of the banned People’s Mujahedin Organisation of Iran (MEK). Yesterday, state television said authorities had identified and arrested “all the individuals who appeared in this clip” and that they were “associated” with MEK, without specifying how many.



An aerial view shows Army personnel building a bridge over the Tadi River in the aftermath of flash floods in Devighat, Nepal’s Nuwakot district

## Nepali rescuers buoyed by miracle finds but tough conditions persist

AFP | Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepali rescuers faced challenging conditions on Sunday as search operations after catastrophic floods entered a 12th day, buoyed by the extraordinary rescues of four survivors.

The glacial and mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed at least 1,385 people and left more than 5,500 missing across the two countries.

Rescuers found two more people alive on Saturday, joining two saved the day before in what have been described as miraculous tales of survival.

Three of those have been found in hydropower tunnels where the government initially said it believed more than 100 workers could be alive.

“Search and rescue is going on at the tunnels despite geography, adverse weather and lack of connectivity,” Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha told AFP.

Rescue workers were experiencing “multiple challenges”, he said.

The wall of icy water and debris tore through mountain districts on August 26, destroying roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The United Nations chief in Nepal issued an emotional plea for aid, saying survivors of the catastrophic flooding had seen their lives transformed in just “one to two minutes”.

“You lose your home, you lose your livelihood, you lose your loved one and you lose the breadwinner of your family,” UN Resident Coordinator Lila Pieters Yahia told AFP in Kathmandu on Sunday.

On Saturday, rescuers pulled a Chinese man alive from deep inside a hydropower tunnel, and a 64-year-old Nepali woman, Chandrika Shrestha, from her mud-covered home.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah said Shrestha’s rescue had “given hope to the entire nation”.

## US envoys hold talks with Zelensky on first Kyiv visit

● Like all visiting officials, the pair arrived by train, with “Peace Express” written on the platform at Kyiv Central Station.

AFP | Kyiv, Ukraine

US envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff began talks Sunday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on ending the war with Russia, making their first visit to Kyiv a day after meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin.

Witkoff and Kushner, US President Donald Trump’s business ally and son-in-law, have been to Moscow several times but had never held talks in the Ukrainian capital -- hit by deadly Russian strikes for more than four years -- until now.

“It is very important that the delegation has arrived to see us. We have been waiting a long time for Steve and Jared, Witkoff and Kushner,” Zelensky said, thanking Trump for “allowing them to come” amid the war.

Like all visiting officials, the pair arrived by train, with “Peace

### Talks with Kyiv ‘substantive’, will continue ‘as long as it takes’: Witkoff

Kyiv, Ukraine

US envoy Steve Witkoff said talks he held with Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky and his team in Kyiv Sunday on ending the war with Russia were “substantive” and would

continue.

“We’ve had a very meaningful discussion, substantive, important, and we are very encouraged and we look forward to continuing this as long as it takes,” Witkoff said after the talks.



Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov, Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky, Head of Ukraine’s Foreign Intelligence Service Rustem Umerov, Ukrainian politician David Arakhamia attend a meeting with US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (3rd R), US President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner (2nd R) and representatives of Britain, France and Germany in Kyiv

# More than 140 killed in latest Yemen clashes

● Two military officials with government forces told AFP that 84 of their troops were killed

● Houthis launched an offensive aiming to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha

● Fighting had subsided in the early hours of Sunday morning

AFP | Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Fighting between Yemeni government forces and Houthis in southwest Yemen killed more than 140 combatants between midday Saturday and early yesterday morning, military sources said.



Yemen’s latest clashes are happening near one of the world’s most important shipping chokepoints – the Bab al-Mandeb Strait.



Internally displaced (IDP) Yemenis who fled their homes due to renewed clashes between Yemen’s Saudi-backed government forces and the country’s Houthi rebels drive to the safety of al-Kadah in the Taiz Governorate, Yemen

Two military officials with government forces told AFP that 84 of their troops were killed, mostly in missile attacks, while four Houthi military sources said 57 fighters were killed in the same period.

Days-long clashes have erupted in Yemen over control of a gateway to the Red Sea in the deadliest fighting in the Arabian Peninsula country since a 2022 ceasefire between the two sides collapsed in July.

Beginning on Thursday, the Houthis launched an offensive aiming to cut off the government-held port city of Mokha, under fire for weeks, and advance towards areas bordering the Bab al-Mandab chokepoint

at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

According to an AFP tally compiled using various military and medical sources from both sides of the conflict, more than 300 combatants and some civilians have been killed since the start of the Houthi assault on Thursday.

One military official with the internationally recognised government based in Aden said fighting had subsided in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The military official said government “forces were able to establish positions for themselves north of Hays after advancing in the area”, referring to a frontline district less than 30 kilo-

metres inland from the Red Sea coast.

Express” written on the platform at Kyiv Central Station.

Ukrainian airspace has been closed since Russia launched its invasion in 2022.

Zelensky also said European national security advisors would take part in some of the talks.

Russia and Ukraine have vowed not to strike each other’s capitals during the US envoys’ trip.

Ahead of the talks, Zelensky showed the Americans Kyiv’s historic Saint Sophia’s Cathedral. “Idea for peace”

Putin on Saturday told the US envoys that Moscow would ensure their safety in Kyiv.

Just days ago, Russia struck the headquarters of the SBU security building in central Kyiv.

Of the envoys’ trip to Kyiv, the Russian leader said: “No matter what happens next, contacts of this kind are undoubtedly always beneficial.”

Trump has said his envoys were bringing a “proposal” to end the fighting.

“We have an idea for peace,” he said, without elaborating.

But the official added the Houthis had advanced west of Taiz, south of Hays, in their push towards the Bab al-Mandab.

With Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial ships, the Bab al-Mandab chokepoint has gained importance as a transit route for oil from Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest exporter of crude.

In July, a fragile truce between the Houthis and Yemen’s government fell apart after Houthi welcomed an Iranian plane to the capital Sanaa, setting off a spate of attacks.