

Rubio hails Lebanon for peace efforts after meeting president



AFP | Washington, United States

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in Washington yesterday, praising the country for its “move towards peace” after the latest round of Lebanon-Israel talks. It was the first trip to the US capital by a Lebanese head of state since Michel Sleiman was received by Barack Obama in 2009. Aoun and Rubio held talks at the State Department, and Lebanese officials said Aoun is due to meet with President Donald Trump tomorrow. Rubio commended the Lebanese government for its “determined effort to reclaim

Lebanon’s sovereignty, disarm Hezbollah and dismantle its terrorist infrastructure, and move towards peace,” the State Department said following the talks. Rubio said Washington was committed “to supporting the successful implementation of the Trilateral Framework and to backing the Government of Lebanon’s efforts to deliver peace, economic recovery, and a better future for the Lebanese people.” While in Washington, Aoun planned talks “on the situation in Lebanon and ways to strengthen the ceasefire” as well as on “the withdrawal of Israel from the Lebanese regions it occupies,” his office said earlier.

India floods and landslides kill at least 19



Residents look at damaged vehicles after flash flood and landslide triggered by heavy rains wreaked havoc at Rajouri district in India’s Jammu region
AFP | Srinagar, India

Flash floods and landslides caused by monsoon rains killed at least 19 people in India yesterday, officials and local media said, as authorities mounted rescue operations in affected regions. Eight people were killed in the northeastern state of Nagaland, next to Myanmar, while 11 others died in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. “We have recovered four of the eight bodies, and rescue work is ongoing,” Wennyei Konyak, district magistrate of Nagaland’s Mon district, told AFP. At least 15 others were injured, he said. Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah “expressed profound anguish over the massive flash flood in Rajouri” in the Jammu region of the territory, his office said in a statement.

The flood “has caused extensive damage to public and private property, including the bus stand, and disrupted countless lives,” his office added. Indian broadcaster NDTV said at least 11 people died and “several others went missing” in Jammu. Army personnel and state emergency responders rescued 11 people, including five children, in Jammu’s Rajouri district, the army said. The India Meteorological Department warned Sunday of the potential for “extremely heavy rainfall” in Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days. Officials also announced the “temporary suspension” of annual Hindu Amarnath pilgrimage in the Kashmir region. Officials also suspended the Hindu pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu, which receives millions of people each year.

Punishing response

US launches strikes to ‘punish’ Iran after troops killed

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AT A GLANCE

1

CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE TARGETED
Israeli and Jordanian forces intercepted an Iranian missile aimed at the Jordanian city of Aqaba yesterday.

✓

The Jordanian military said it had downed “three Iranian missiles that targeted the kingdom’s territory”

JORDAN
AQABA

2

WATER PLANT HIT
Kuwait said Iran hit a power and water plant yesterday causing a fire, while Bahrain also accused Tehran of targeting civilian infrastructure.

KUWAIT
BAHRAIN

3

IRANIAN NUCLEAR PLANT ATTACKED
Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation said the United States attacked an under-construction nuclear power plant in Darkhovin, in the country’s southwest.

IRAN
DARKHOVIN

4

IRAN SAYS SHIPS ‘STOPPED’

🚢

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards said four ships attempted to transit the Strait of Hormuz without their permission.

⚠️

Two “had an accident and were stopped in place”.

🔄

The other two abandoned their journey, they said.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

5

US STRIKES ON IRAN

🇺🇸

The United States conducted strikes on Iran.

🎯

Its CENTCOM military command said they were partly to “punish” Iran for an attack on Friday on a base in Jordan which killed two US soldiers and left another missing in action.

CENTCOM

AFP | Tehran, Iran

The United States carried out airstrikes against Iran yesterday to “punish” Tehran following the first US military deaths in the conflict, as fighting continued to escalate across the region. US Central Command (CENTCOM) said another service member remained missing in action. The latest deaths brought

the confirmed number of US military fatalities to 16 since the United States and Israel launched the war with deadly strikes on Iranian targets on February 28. The US military said it had carried out an eighth consecutive night of strikes against Iran, targeting, among others, units blamed for an attack that killed two American troops in Jordan. The strikes were intended to “swiftly punish Islamic Revolu-

tionary Guard Corps forces who launched attacks against American service members in Jordan last night”, CENTCOM said. Meanwhile, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said the United States had attacked a nuclear power plant under construction in the country’s southwest as tensions between Tehran and Washington intensified. Iran’s health ministry said on Friday that 50 people had

been killed and more than 500 wounded since the renewed fighting began. Hopes for a political settlement have faded, despite attempts by mediators to bring the warring sides back to the negotiating table. Gulf countries, including Kuwait, have accused Tehran of targeting civilian sites and vital infrastructure, while residents fear the renewed hostilities could drag on.