

Trump sees 'good chance' for Iran deal, warns strikes could resume

● **Trump brushes off concerns of depleted ammunition due to Iran war**

Aboard Air Force One, Undefined



US President Donald Trump voiced optimism Monday that diplomacy with Iran could produce a deal to end the months-long war, but warned that Washington would resume military strikes if negotiations failed.

"I have a lot of patience... We'll see what happens. I think there is a good chance that something could happen," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, when asked about possible progress in peace talks.

"If it doesn't, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago."

Iran and the United States have held their fire for three consecutive days after 13 nights of renewed US attacks, offering a narrow opening for diplomacy following the collapse of an earlier ceasefire agreement aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said Iranian leaders had requested a meeting and argued that "the only reason they want to meet is because we've been hitting them very hard." Tehran, however, earlier denied that direct negotiations were under way, saying mediators were merely relaying messages from Washington.

The lull has eased pressure on global markets, but

the conflict remains volatile. Saudi Arabia said Monday it had intercepted drones launched by Iran-linked groups in Iraq, while Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthi rebels claimed attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure.

Trump also dismissed concerns that five months of war had depleted US ammunition stocks. "We have a lot of ammunition," he said. "We have a lot of the mid-level stuff too, more than we could ever use, no matter what."

He added that he would prefer larger reserves but complained that "so much was given to Ukraine" in its war with Russia.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia was considering joining the Abraham Accords, the US-brokered normalization agreements with Israel, Trump said: "We haven't talked, no." Trump faced wide-ranging questions on foreign policy, including about what would happen to money seized from Venezuela.

Trump said it could be directed to the US military and suggested Washington could similarly extract funds from Iran. "We are taking in a lot of money. Billions and billions of dollars," he said. "That will happen with Iran too."

Shots fired at US consulate in Toronto

Montreal, Canada

Shots were fired early Monday at the US consulate in Toronto but no one was injured, Canadian police said, the second shooting near the diplomatic compound in four months.

An officer guarding the consulate "heard the sound of a gunshot in the vicinity here where he was stationed" at

about 4:45 am, the city's deputy police chief Frank Barredo told reporters, adding that the consulate's facade was struck by a bullet. Toronto police said a white sedan with no license plates was seen fleeing the scene.

Police gave chase but quickly discontinued because of the danger posed by the suspect vehicle's high speed, Barredo said.

Netanyahu heads to Washington

TDT | agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he was heading to Washington for talks with US President Donald Trump, with Iran and regional security expected to feature prominently in the discussions.

Netanyahu said the meeting would be his eighth with Trump since the US president began his second term, describing the relationship as carrying both "great privilege"

and "great responsibility".

He said the two leaders would discuss a range of issues, with Iran at the top of the agenda. "Our goal is to safeguard our security and also to expand the circle of peace around us," Netanyahu said in remarks released before his departure. Netanyahu added that he would also pay his final respects to US Senator Lindsey Graham, whom he described as a close personal friend and one of Israel's strongest supporters.

US envoy quits UN Security Council meeting to protest France comments

AFP | United Nations, United States

The United States walked out of a UN Security Council meeting yesterday when France's ambassador took the floor, protesting French comments comparing the US to North Korea and other authoritarian states regarding votes on human rights.

Dan Negrea, an alternate representative to the General Assembly and a senior US delegation official, slammed what he called "disingenuous grandstanding" by Paris.

"There is a member of this council that will feign moral outrage and pretend to lecture the rest of us about every topic, whether it's about the very conflict we're discussing yet again today, or even those unrelated to



France's UN Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont speaks as the UN Security Council holds an emergency meeting on the Ukraine-Russia war

international peace and security, like human rights," Negrea said. "That is why we walked out during France's intervention" at the meeting, which focused on the war in Ukraine.

Such a walkout from the Security Council, the UN's highest decision-making body where both France and the United States are veto-wielding permanent members, is very rare. On Friday the United States

was one of 10 countries to vote in the General Assembly against extending Volker Turk's term as UN high commissioner for human rights, joining the ranks of North Korea, Russia and Nicaragua, among others.

"The US used to be a beacon of human rights. Not anymore," France's mission to the United Nations in Geneva posted in English after Friday's vote.

"Today, it stands alongside

North Korea, Nicaragua, Mali & Russia, isolated. And the world no longer listens to it."

In his remarks Monday, Negrea said: "I remind them that it is the United States that remains the beacon of liberty for the world. As such, we will not be affording them the benefit of listening to their politicized drivel." French Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont responded to the US walkout, saying: "This year we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States. And everyone knows the role France has played in that."

He said that France is working at the UN, both in the Security Council and the General Assembly, "to preserve this institution, its independence, and its capacity to act in service of the charter, in service of human rights, and in service of peace."

West Bank woman delivers stillborn baby after checkpoint delay: medics

● **The 28-year-old woman was six months pregnant and unconscious when medics collected her from her home**

● **Rafidia hospital director Fouad Nafaa said the woman had been "prevented by the Israeli army from reaching the hospital".**

AFP | Ramallah, Palestinian Territories



Israeli army vehicles block a road during a raid in Nablus, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank

Palestinian health workers said a woman delivered a stillborn baby in an ambulance after the vehicle was allegedly delayed by Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

The 28-year-old woman was six months pregnant and unconscious when medics collected her from her home in the village of Qaryout, south of the city of Nablus, medic Bashar Qaryouti told AFP.

"She was suffering from very heavy bleeding and her condition was extremely critical," Qaryouti said.

The woman was placed on oxygen and the ambulance set off for Rafidia hospital in Nablus, but soon found itself desperately searching for an open route, Qaryouti said.

ryouti said.

The entrance to one nearby village was closed, forcing the ambulance to take dirt tracks through olive groves before reaching the Awarta checkpoint, where a gate was shut and a long queue of vehicles had formed.

Qaryouti drove to the front of the line and activated the ambulance siren.

He said soldiers emerged from a nearby watchtower about 10 minutes later and ordered him to switch off the ambulance.

Qaryouti said he explained that the vehicle's medical equipment was being used to keep a patient alive.

"They forced me, at gunpoint, to switch the vehicle off," he said,

adding that the soldiers confiscated the crew's identity cards.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

'Rushed into surgery'

As the ambulance remained stranded, the woman's condition worsened.

The nurse accompanying her was forced to deliver the baby inside the vehicle, Qaryouti said. "The baby was stillborn," he said.

After waiting for more than 30 minutes, the soldiers returned the crew's identity cards and allowed the ambulance to continue, according to Qaryouti.

When they reached hospital,

"the mother was rushed into surgery to stop the bleeding", Qaryouti said.

Rafidia hospital director Fouad Nafaa said the woman had been "prevented by the Israeli army from reaching the hospital".

Her bleeding had since been brought under control, and she was now in a stable condition, he said.

The Israeli military has launched a "counterterrorism operation" across the West Bank, creating several road closures throughout the territory.

The operation followed a deadly clash on Friday between Israeli settlers and Palestinians in the village of Tell that left two Israelis and four Palestinians dead.

Italian police announce seizure of 2.6 tonnes of cocaine in Atlantic

AFP | Rome, Italy

Italy's financial police said yesterday that Portuguese counterparts had intercepted a speedboat carrying more than 2.6 tonnes of cocaine with a street

value of more than \$550 million.

Four people -- two Spaniards, one Albanian and one man from Gibraltar -- were arrested, it said.

"The boat was intercepted off the coast of Lisbon by the Por-

tuguese maritime police," said the financial police, which had conducted the investigation.

Italian police said the cargo had a street value of approximately 500 million euros (\$570

million).

The interception took place on Thursday about 90 kilometers (50 nautical miles) southwest of Cape Espichel, Portuguese police said.