

Putin, Trump discuss Middle East tensions, Ukraine on phone call

AP, MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump held a 50-minute phone call Saturday to discuss the escalating situation in the Middle East and Ukraine peace talks, Putin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said.

During the conversation, Putin briefed Trump on his recent talks with the leaders of Iran and Israel and reiterated Russia's proposal to seek mutually acceptable solutions on the Iranian nuclear issue.

"The dangerous escalation of the situation in the Middle East was naturally at the centre of the exchange of opinions," Ushakov told journalists following the

41 KILLED BY ISRAELI MILITARY IN GAZA
 AFP, GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency reported 41 people killed in Israeli military operations in the Palestinian territory Saturday, more than half of whom it said were killed while waiting for aid. "Forty-one people were martyred due to the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, 23 of whom were waiting for aid," Mohammad al-Mughayyir, an official from the agency, told AFP. The Israeli military did not respond to AFP's request for comment. Israeli restrictions on media in Gaza and the difficulties of access on the ground mean AFP is unable to independently verify the casualty tolls provided by the civil defence agency. Central Gaza's Al-Awda hospital received eight bodies and 125 wounded after Israeli drone strikes targeted people gathering near an aid distribution centre near the Netzarim corridor, Mughayyir said.

conversation between Putin and Trump. "Vladimir Putin, having condemned the military operation against Iran, expressed serious concern

about the possible escalation of the conflict," he said, warning of "unpredictable consequences for the entire situation in the Middle East."

Putin also emphasised Russia's readiness to carry out possible mediation efforts, and noted that Russia had proposed steps "aimed at finding mutually acceptable agreements" during US-Iran negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme.

"Russia's principled approach and interest in the settlement remain unchanged," Ushakov said.

Trump described the regional situation as "very alarming," Ushakov said, but acknowledged the "effectiveness" of Israel's strikes on targets in Iran.

The leaders did not rule out a possible return to negotiations on the Iranian nuclear programme, according to Ushakov.

According to Ushakov, Putin told Trump about the implementation of the agreements during peace talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian delegations, including the exchange of prisoners of war. "Our president noted that an exchange of prisoners of war is

taking place, including seriously wounded and prisoners of war under 25 years of age," Ushakov said, along with expressing readiness to continue negotiations with the Ukrainians.

Trump, he said, "noted his interest in a speedy end to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict."

Ukraine, Russia conduct another POW swap

AFP, KYIV, UKRAINE: Ukraine and Russia conducted another POW swap - the fourth one in a week - the warring sides said on Saturday, under agreements reached in Istanbul earlier this month.

"We continue to take our people out of Russian captivity. This is the fourth exchange in a week," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media.

"In accordance with the Russian-Ukrainian agreements... another group of Russian servicemen was returned from the territory controlled by the Kyiv regime," Russia's defence ministry said on Telegram.

Kyiv also said it had received another batch of 1,200 unidentified bodies from Russia, which it said Russia



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) following an exchange of prisoners at an undisclosed location in Ukraine

claimed "belong to Ukrainian citizens, including military personnel," as part of the Istanbul agreements as well.

Ukraine did not say whether it returned any bodies to Russia.

Photos published by Zelensky on Telegram showed men of various ages, mostly with shaved

heads, wearing camouflage and draped in Ukrainian flags.

Some were injured, others disembarked from buses and hugged those welcoming them, or were seen calling someone by phone, sometimes covering their faces or smiling.

Moscow's defence ministry released its own video showing men in uniforms holding Russian flags, clapping and chanting "Russia, Russia", "glory to Russia" and "hooray", some raising their fists in the air.

The exchange came as Russia repeatedly rejected ceasefire calls and intensified its offensive along the front line, and especially in the north-eastern Summy region, where it seeks to establish a "buffer zone" to protect its Kursk region, previously partly occupied by Ukraine.

Zelensky claimed Russia's advance on Summy was stopped, adding that Kyiv's forces have managed to retake one village. According to the Ukrainian president, Russia was using 53,000 men in the Summy operation.

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 16 as war rages on after opening of new front with Iran

AP, DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): At least 16 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight and into Saturday, according to local health officials.

The 20-month war with Hamas has raged on even as Israel has opened a new front with heavy strikes on Iran that sparked retaliatory drone and missile attacks.

Another 11 Palestinians were killed overnight near food distribution points run by an Israeli-and US-supported humanitarian group in the latest of almost daily shootings near the sites since they opened last month.

Palestinian witnesses say Israeli forces have fired on the crowds, while the military says it has only fired warning shots near people it describes as suspects who approached its forces.

The military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on

the latest shootings. The sites are located in military zones that are off limits to independent media.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a private contractor that operates the sites, said they were closed Saturday. But witnesses said thousands had gathered near the sites anyway, desperate for food as Israel's blockade and military campaign have driven the territory to the brink of famine.

The al-Awda Hospital said it received eight bodies and at least 125 wounded people from a shooting near a GHF site in central Gaza.

Mohamed Abu Hussein, a resident of the built-up Bureij refugee camp nearby, said Israeli forces opened fire toward the crowd about a kilometre from the food distribution point. He said he saw several people fall to the ground as thousands ran away.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, the Nasser

Hospital said it received 16 dead, including five women, from multiple Israeli strikes late Friday and early Saturday.

It said another three men were killed near two GHF aid sites in the southernmost city of Rafah, now a mostly uninhabited military zone.

Israel and the United States say the new system is intended to replace a UN-run network that has distributed aid across Gaza through 20 months of war. They accuse Hamas of siphoning off the aid and reselling it to fund its militant activities.

UN officials deny Hamas has diverted significant amounts of aid and say the new system is unable to meet mounting needs. They say the new system has militarised aid by allowing Israel to decide who has access and by forcing Palestinians to travel long distances or relocate again after waves of displacement.

Russia to build Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant

AFP, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN: Russian nuclear energy giant Rosatom will lead the construction of the first atomic power plant in Kazakhstan, the world's top uranium producer, the Central Asian country's authorities said on Saturday.

"Rosatom has been named as the leader of the international consortium for the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Kazakhstan," the former Soviet republic's nuclear power agency said in a statement.

Kazakhstan, a vast resource-rich country in Central Asia, is currently the world's top uranium producer, providing 43 percent of supplies.

The new power plant, whose construction was approved in a referendum in late 2024, will be built near the half-abandoned village of Ulken near Balkhash Lake.

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In loving memory of
JOANA MENDONCA
 REPROVADO, VARCA
 Please join us for the Eucharistic Celebration at 7.30 a.m. on Monday 16th June, 2025 at Our Lady of Gloria Church, Varca
 Offered by Agnelo Mendonca Children & Grandchildren. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
 Costy's Ads, Clinclinim, Navelim, 9850473904

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In everloving memory of
DOMNIC JOHN FERNANDES (Cuncolim)
 Son of late Andre Francisco & late Josephina Barreto
 There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Domingos (Domnic) on Thursday, 19th June 2025 at 7:30am at Our Lady of Health Church, Cuncolim, followed by prayers & blessing of the grave, offered by his sorrowful wife: Cezarina Fernandes, son McLean, daughter-in-law Avelina and family.
 Relatives, neighbours & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
 Rebelto Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

RETURNED TO THE LORD
JOSEPH JOHN FERNANDES (Buju)
 (Pequeno Morrod, Saligao)
 Born: 25/03/1970 Died: 13/06/2025
 Son of Late Matias / Late Dulcina Fernandes. Son-in-law of Late Sertorio / Emerita. Beloved husband of Jenifer (Dir. of Technical Education). Loving father of Jaden, Brother / Brother-in-law of Domnic / Lilia, Loveyola / Mario, Lillian / Geraldo, Lino / Marina & Sydney / Lavina. Brother-in-law of Rena / Late Clifford, Alice / Felix, Ancy / Charles, Meckla / Kissinger, Assumpta / Xavier & Sharmila / Arnaldo. Passed away peacefully after a prolonged illness. Funeral cortege will leave his residence at Pequeno Morrod on Sunday, 15th June 2025 at 3:30 pm to Mae De Deus Church, Saligao for Eucharistic Celebration and thereafter for burial.
 Relatives, Neighbours & Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

MONTH'S MIND
 Fond and Cherished memory of
JULITA ANUNCIACAO AGONISANTE DIAS FERRAO
 (Dar-es-Saloam, Tanzana / Varca)
 Lovable sister / sister-in-law of Iria / Shigeru, Dr. Valentina / Michael, Marcia, Dr. Antonio / Dierdre. Beloved aunt of Anri / Andy, Hannah / Herbert, Judah, Micah, Isaiah / Janrica, Josiah. Loving grandaunt of Anson Sugitani Elliot.
 A Requiem concelebrated mass on Tuesday, 17th June 2025 at 8:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Gloria Church, Varca, followed by prayers at the cemetery, offered by her family.
 GriefLand Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

US-Iran nuclear talks in Oman cancelled

AFP, MUSCAT, OMAN: A sixth round of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States planned for this weekend has been cancelled, mediator Oman said Saturday, as Iran and Israel exchange massive strikes in their fiercest confrontation yet.

The talks on Iran's nuclear programme began in April, with US President Donald Trump threatening military action if diplomacy failed.

"The Iran US-talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not now take place," Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said in a post on X.

Fearful Farewell to our Dearest
FELIX MAXIMIANO FERNANDES
 SINQUETIM - NAVELIM
 EX-EMPLOYEE ELECTRICITY DEPT, DIV II MARGAO
 Rest in love and Peace.
 A tribute of love from Friends of Nagmoddem:
 Natividade F'des, James F'des, Rosario F'des, Anthony F'des, Anceto F'des, Mario F'des, Domnick F'des, Santaninho F'des, Salvador F'des, Alex F'des, Dinu F'des, Simon F'des, Wilson Fdes (Pele), Roswell F'des, Constancio P. Rodrigues, Mavieo Pereira (UK), Newton D'souza, Austin Dias, Francisco Barreto, Santan Coutinho, Ivo Rodrigues, Fenelon Carvalho, Praytot Raikar, Jerry Carvalho, Damasceno Colaco, Juju Barreto, Hussain Shaik, Jose Luis, Paul Gomes, Shankar Sawant, Ashvash Sawant, Menino Mascarenhas, Sanesh Shetkar
 Costy's Ads, Clinclinim, Navelim, 9850473904

MONTH'S MIND
 In Loving Memory of
ROSA RODRIGUES
 -4th Ward B, Colva-
 "A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best."
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Rosa Rodrigues, wife of late Jose Menino Silva (Tiger Bai) on Monday, 16th June 2025 at 7:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Merces Church, Colva, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by her beloved children and grandchildren.
 Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
 GriefLand Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

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LORD I'M COMING HOME
Jose Menezes
 (GP Complex, Peddem road, Mapusa)
 Born: 06.12.1960 Died: 27.05.2025
 Beloved Son of Late Martin Menezes & Late Maria Angela Fernandes. Husband to Fatima Mary Fernandes & Loving Father to Joy and Joshua Menezes. Loving Brother to Clara / Feliza / Augustin / Edwin. Brother in Law to Brenda / Luis / Lawrence / Gleeson / Linda / Gretta / late Johnny. Passed away peacefully in UK.
 The funeral cortege will leave his residence (TODAY) 15th June 2025 at 3:45 p.m. St. Jerome's Church, Mapusa-Goa for a Eucharist celebration followed by the burial.
 Family & Friends please accept this as the only intimation

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In loving memory of
VISSIA GOMES
 (Arossim - Cansaulim - Goa)
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our dear Vissia on 16th June 2025 at 8:00 am at St. Thomas Church, Cansaulim followed by prayers at the grave. Offered by her children: Glen / Savika, Daphne / Neville, Ralph / Suella and Grandchildren: Sigourney, Nayden, Shanaia, Noah, Joshua and Jaden.
 Relatives, Friends & Neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.

CONDOLENCES
JOE AGOSTINHO FERNANDES
 [Gaura Vaddo, Calangute]
 Sir Joe, you will be deeply missed and forever remembered in our hearts. Your legacy lives on in every laugh shared, every guest welcomed, and every memory created at "KRISTAL SANDS". We will carry forward this passion for excellence, commitment to hospitality, and love for our visitors and one another. "KRISTAL SANDS" will continue to thrive, inspired by Joe's vision and guided by the values he instilled in us. With love and respect, The staff of KRISTAL SANDS, CALANGUTE

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 In loving memory of
DETURA AVERTINA ALMEIDA
 - Cuncolim - Adiband -
 Wife of late Augusto Almeida (Prop. Augustura Enterprises, Margao)
 There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved mother Detura on Monday, 16th June 2025 at 7:30 a.m. at Our Lady of Health Church, Cuncolim, followed by prayers and blessing of the grave, offered by her sorrowful family.
 Relatives, friends & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation.
 GriefLand Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 Truly, I tell you, whoever hears my word & believes Him who sent me has Eternal life & will not come under judgement. Indeed he has crossed over from Death to Life!
 John 1:12
Eric Fernandes
 Madel- Margao
 REST PEACEFULLY IN JESUS' ARMS FOREVER YOU LIVE IN OUR HEARTS
 There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Papa on Monday, 16th June 2025, 8am at Holy Spirit Church, Margao, followed by blessings at the grave.
 Costy's Ads, Clinclinim, Navelim, 9850473904