



An emergency worker at a site following Iranian missile barges in central Israel, amid the US-Israel conflict with Iran, in Tel Aviv, Israel, yesterday. Iranian missile attacks have killed 16 people in Israel, according to Israel's ambulance service. PHOTO/REUTERS

Iran hits Israel, dismisses Trump's negotiations talk

Iran continues to keep the Strait of Hormuz closed. The strait is a conduit for about 20 percent of the world's oil.

BY REUTERS

Iran yesterday launched multiple waves of missiles at Israel, the Israeli military said, after US President Donald Trump postponed the bombing of the Islamic Republic's power plants and other energy infrastructure because of what he described as productive talks with Iranian officials.

The missiles triggered air raid sirens in Israel, including Tel Aviv, where gaping holes were torn through a multi-storey apartment building. It was not immediately clear if the damage was caused by a direct hit or debris from an interception.

Israel's Fire and Rescue Service said they were searching for civilians trapped in one building in Tel Aviv and discovered civilians in a shelter in another damaged building.

Israel's military yesterday said its fighter jets had carried out a large wave of strikes in central Tehran on Monday, targeting key command centres, in-

cluding facilities associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' intelligence arm and the Iranian Intelligence Ministry. It said over 50 additional targets were hit overnight, including ballistic missile storage sites.

Mr Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform on Monday that the US and Iran had held "very good and productive" conversations about a "complete and total resolution of hostilities in the Middle East".

As a result, Mr Trump said he was postponing for five days a plan to hit Iran's power plants, which he had threatened if Iran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz. But the pause only applies to Iran's energy sites and US strikes on the country continue, US news outlet *Semafor* reported, citing a US official.

Iran has effectively closed the key strait, a conduit for about 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, since the US and Israel launched the war on February 28. US-based rights group HRANA on Monday said 3,268 people have been killed in the war.

Iran responded to the threat, saying it would hammer infrastructure of US allies in the Middle East, raising the prospect of an extreme disruption to global

energy supplies.

Mr Trump's step-back sent share prices higher and oil prices sharply lower to below \$100 (Shs 375,890) a barrel, a sudden reversal to a market swoon caused by his weekend threats and Iran's vows to respond.

Yesterday, those gains were in jeopardy after Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad B. Qalibaf - who an Israeli official and other sources familiar with the matter said was the interlocutor in the talks on the Iranian side - said no negotiations had taken place.

"No negotiations have been held with the US, and fakenews is used to manipulate the financial and oil markets and escape the quagmire in which the US and Israel are trapped," he wrote on X.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said they were launching fresh attacks on US targets, and described Mr Trump's words as "psychological operations" that were "worn out" and having no impact on Tehran's fight.

US Treasury yields yesterday pushed higher, and the dollar regained lost ground as the world continues to grapple with an energy shock triggered by Iran's threat to shipping in the strait.

Brent crude futures LCOc1 were up 4.2 percent to \$104.21 (Shs 391,719) a

barrel, reversing some of their 10 percent slide from Monday, while US crude CLc1 rose 4.3 percent to \$91.93 (Shs 345,559) per barrel.

Mr Trump told reporters his special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner, who had been negotiating with Iran before the war, had held discussions with a top Iranian official into the evening on Sunday and would continue on Monday.

A European official said while there had been no direct negotiations between the two nations, Egypt, Pakistan and Gulf states were relaying messages. A Pakistani official and a second source told *Reuters* that direct talks on ending the war could be held in Islamabad as soon as this week.

The Pakistani official said US Vice President JD Vance, as well as Witkoff and Kushner, were expected to meet Iranian officials this week, following a call between Mr Trump and Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir.

Iranian media reported that Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif discussed the impact of the war on regional and global security.

"If the parties desire, Islamabad is always willing to host talks. It has consistently advocated for dialogue and diplomacy to promote peace," Mr Tahir Andrabi, a spokesman for Pakistan's foreign ministry, said.

3,268
CIVILIANS
KILLED SO FAR