

## Huthis will be 'annihilated'

**Says Trump; Khamenei says US strikes must stop**

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels "will be completely annihilated," warning Tehran against continuing aid for the group amid an ongoing US military campaign against them.

"Iran must stop the sending of these supplies IMMEDIATELY. Let the Huthis fight it out themselves. Either way they lose, but this way they lose quickly," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

The Republican referenced reports that Iran "has lessened its intensity on Military Equipment and General Support" for the Huthis, though added "they are still sending large levels of supplies."

"Tremendous damage has been inflicted upon the Houthi barbarians, and watch how it will get progressively worse -- It's not even a fair fight, and never will be. They will be completely annihilated," his post continued.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said that deadly US strikes on the Huthi rebels in Yemen were a "crime that must be stopped".

The United States said its strikes on Yemen targeted and killed several top Huthi officials, while the Huthi-run health ministry said they left dead 53 people and wounded nearly 100.

## Thousands flee as Israel expands ground ops

Hamas fires at Tel Aviv in first riposte to Gaza 'massacres'

AFP, Gaza City

Israel bombarded Gaza and pressed its ground operations yesterday after issuing what it called a "last warning" for Palestinians to return hostages and remove Hamas from power.

Hamas said it fired rockets at Israeli commercial hub Tel Aviv yesterday in its first military response to the growing civilian death toll from Israel's resumption of air and ground operations in Gaza.

Israel said it had closed off the territory's main north-south route as troops expanded the ground operations they resumed on Wednesday.

Gaza's civil defence agency said 504 people had been killed so far in the Israeli assault, including more than 190 children. Its previous death toll was at least 470.

The armed wing of Hamas, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said it fired rockets at Tel Aviv in response to Israel's "massacres" of Gaza civilians.

The Israeli army said it intercepted one projectile fired from Gaza and that two others struck an uninhabited area.

After weeks of stalemate, Israel resumed its air campaign early Tuesday with a wave of deadly strikes that drew widespread condemnation.

The offensive shattered a relative calm that had pervaded in the war-torn Palestinian territory since a ceasefire took hold on January 19.

At the Indonesian Hospital in



- » Israel army bans traffic on Gaza's main north-south route
- » UN official bemoans 'endless' suffering in Gaza
- » Gaza civil defence says 504 killed since Israel resumed strikes

northern Gaza, grieving families knelt by the bodies of their loved ones enveloped in blood-stained white shrouds.

"We want a ceasefire! We want a ceasefire!" one of them, Mohammed Hussein, told AFPTV, appealing for the international community to stop the killing.

"We are defenceless Palestinian people," he added.

Yesterday, the Israeli army banned traffic on the territory's main north-south artery.

Palestinians were seen fleeing south along Salaheddin Road near the Nuseirat refugee camp atop donkey-drawn carts piled high with belongings.

"Over the past 24 hours, IDF soldiers have begun a targeted ground operation in the central and southern Gaza Strip in order to expand the security zone between the northern and southern parts," army spokesman Avichay Adraee said on X.

Movement along Salaheddin Road between the north and south of the Gaza Strip is prohibited "for your safety," he said.

The first stage of the ceasefire expired early this month amid deadlock over next steps.

Israel rejected negotiations for a promised second stage, calling instead for the return of all of its remaining hostages under an extended first stage.

That would have meant delaying talks on a lasting ceasefire, and was rejected by Hamas as an attempt to renegotiate the original deal.

The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) on Thursday deplored "an endless unleashing of the most inhumane ordeals" on the people of Gaza since Israel resumed its military offensive.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Israel's latest strikes on Gaza a "catastrophic crime" and said the United States "shares responsibility".

The overall death toll in Gaza since the start of the Israeli offensive stands at 49,617, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

### ARMY HEADQUARTERS E IN C'S BRANCH, WORKS DIRECTORATE DHAKA CANTONMENT

#### INVITATION FOR TENDER

Notice no. 600/15/74/2024-2025/E-6

Dated : 18 March 2025

#### MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence				
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services				
3. Procuring Entity Name	E in C				
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka				
5. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)				
6. Budget and source of Funds	GOI Development Budget				
7. Development Partners (if applicable)	None				
8. Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Establishment of ADCC North in BAF Base Paharkanchanpur area- 1 <sup>st</sup> Revised				
9. Selling of Tender will commence from	23 March 2025 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours in Office Time).				
10. Selling of Tender will close on	20 April 2025 (from 1200 hours to 1400 hours in Office Time).				
11. Last date and time of submission of Tender	21 April 2025 upto 1200 hours.				
12. Date and time of opening of Tender	21 April 2025 at 1230 hours.				
13. Name & Address of the Office(s)					
- Selling Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre of Works Directorate at GE (Army) Central Dhaka and AIHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cant.				
- Receiving Tender Document	Tender Selling & Information Centre of Works Directorate at GE (Army) Central Dhaka.				
- Opening Tender Document	-Do-				
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	<p>a. MES enlisted contractors Class - 'A'</p> <p>b. Contractors enlisted in other Govt, Semi Government &amp; Autonomous Organization of similar capacity may also participate in tenders having security clearance from DGFI.</p>				
15. Brief Description of Works					
Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Price of Tender Document (Taka)	Tender Security Amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of AHQ, E in C's Br, Wks Dte, Dhaka Cant (Taka)	Completion Time in weeks/ months
a.	Construction of 1 x Underground Operational building including ancillary works for establishment of ADCC North in BAF Base Paharkanchanpur area.	BAF Base, Paharkanchanpur, Tangail.	30,000.00	61,64,000.00	18 (Eighteen) Months
16. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works				
17. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director of Works				
18. Address of Official Inviting Tender	AIHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment Web address : <a href="http://www.army.mil.bd">www.army.mil.bd</a>				
19. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment Tel No. 9832880 Fax No : 8752880				
20. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.					

XUN B/R  
For Director of Works  
Army Headquarters  
Engineering in Chief's Branch  
Works Directorate  
Dhaka Cantonment  
Tele : 8711111 Ext 2880  
Civil: 9832880  
8752874

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GD-727



Palestinians react near the bodies of victims of Israeli overnight airstrikes in the northern Gaza Strip, at the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Europe meets over Ukraine peace plans

Trump floats US takeover of Ukraine nuclear plants

AFP, London

Senior military figures and European leaders yesterday gathered to thrash out plans for long-term peace in Ukraine, as the United States and Russia prepared for fresh talks on ending the war.

Around 30 military leaders from countries keen to help police any lasting ceasefire in Ukraine were to meet north of London, while on the other side of the Channel, EU leaders headed to Brussels.

The flurry of European activity comes with lingering concern about the United States' commitment to backing security on the continent, and fears of future Russian aggression against Baltic and Nordic countries.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and Russia's Vladimir Putin both held talks with their US counterpart Donald Trump this week, and have indicated they are prepared to halt attacks on energy infrastructure for 30 days.

But there has since been no let-up in strikes and both countries reported a barrage of new drone strikes overnight, as questions remained about the exact details of any lasting peace deal.

Trump, who has spooked European and Nato allies by his overtures to Putin and lukewarm commitment to European security, suggested on Wednesday night the United States could take over and run Ukraine's power plants.

Putin, for his part, has made an end to further Western military support for Ukraine a red line for Russia agreeing to a long-term truce.

Zelensky, who is due to address EU leaders in Brussels, has said that will make Ukraine vulnerable to further attack and warned against making concessions that would embolden Moscow.

Despite Trump going cold on support for Ukraine, the United States is looking at acquiring additional air defence systems for Kyiv to counter Russia's ballistic missiles.

"This is extremely important," said the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas, who is pushing member states to meet a Ukrainian request for two million shells worth five billion euros (\$5.4 billion).



## Indian forces kill 30 Maoist rebels

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian security forces yesterday killed at least 30 Maoists in two separate gun battles inside forests in Chhattisgarh state's Bastar region, senior police officials said.

While 26 Maoists were killed in Bijapur district, four Maoists were gunned down in Kanker by a joint team of the BSF and District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel of the state police.

The bodies of 26 Maoists besides firearms and explosives were recovered from the spot, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P said.

A policeman was also killed in the gunfight, he added.

Another encounter took place in the morning in a forest along the border of Kanker and Narayanpur districts when a security team was out on an anti-Maoist operation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said.

The bodies of four Naxalites and automatic weapons were recovered after the action, he said.



WE DEEPLY  
MOURN  
Md. Akikur Rahman  
1945-2025

Honorable Sponsor Director, Southeast Bank PLC.  
breathed his last on 20 March 2025 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). We are deeply shocked at his death and express our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Md. Akikur Rahman was born on February 15, 1945 in a respected Muslim family of Sunarpura, Nabarun, Sylhet. He was associated with Southeast Bank PLC. since its inception as a Sponsor Director. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Southeast Bank PLC. He was the Chairman of RAR Investment Limited, United Kingdom. He was also the Chairman of Dorking Muslim Community Association, United Kingdom. He was the Managing Director of RAR Holding Limited. He was also the Vice Chairman of International Medical College and Hospital, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

We pray to the Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul eternal bliss in the best of the Heavens, Ameen.

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