60 more killed in Gaza

Israel threatens Hamas with 'annihilation' as Trump says Gaza ceasefire close

AGENCIES

Israeli strikes killed at least 60 people in Gaza yesterday as Tel Aviv warned of annihilating Hamas if it does not accept a hostage deal in Gaza.

It came amid dire conditions on the ground, with the United Nations warning that Gaza's entire population was at risk of famine.

Amid the bloodshed, US President Donald Trump announced that a ceasefire agreement was "very close".

Defence Minister Israel Katz said Hamas must agree to a ceasefire proposal presented by US envoy Steve Witkoff or be destroyed, after the Palestinian group said the deal failed to satisfy its demands.

"The Hamas murderers will now be forced to choose: accept the terms of the 'Witkoff Deal' for the release of the hostages -- or be annihilated."

Negotiations to end nearly 20 months of war in Gaza have so far failed to achieve a breakthrough, with Israel resuming operations in March following a short-lived truce.

In the United States, Trump told reporters "they're very close to an agreement on Gaza", adding: "We'll let you know about it during the day or maybe tomorrow."

Food shortages in Gaza persist, with aid only trickling in after the partial lifting by Israel of a more than two-month blockade.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency, called Gaza "the hungriest place on Earth".

"It's the only defined area -- a country or defined territory within a country -- where you have the entire population at risk of famine," he said.

Later, the UN condemned the "looting of large quantities of medical equipment" and other supplies "intended for malnourished children" from one of its Gaza warehouses by armed individuals.

Aid groups have warned that desperation for food and medicine among Gazans was causing security to deteriorate.

Israel has doubled down on its settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, while defying calls from French President Emmanuel Macron and other world leaders for a two-state solution.

This week Israel announced the creation of 22 new settlements in the Palestinian territory, which Israel has occupied since 1967.

London said the move was a "deliberate obstacle" to Palestinian statehood while Egypt called it "a provocative and blatant new violation of international law and Palestinian rights".

The 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which includes Egypt, also condemned Israel's decision.

On Friday, Katz vowed to build a "Jewish Israeli state" in the West Bank.

Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory are considered illegal under international law and seen as a major obstacle to a lasting peace in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Katz framed the move as a direct rebuke to Macron and others pushing for recognition of a Palestinian state.

Macron on Friday said that recognition of a Palestinian state, with some conditions, was "not only a moral duty, but a political necessity".

Israel's foreign ministry accused the French president of undertaking a "crusade against the Jewish state".

On Friday, Gaza's civil defence agency told AFP that at least 45 people had been killed in Israeli attacks, including seven in a strike targeting a family home in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip.

The latest casualties bring Gaza's total death toll during the war to 54,381, it said, with 124,054 others wounded.

Education of 2.3 lakh

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"The children we are speaking about are among the most vulnerable in the world," said Rana Flowers, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh.

"We are doing everything possible to sustain critical education services, and UNICEF has been able to attract some other funding – but unfortunately, there will be a delay in receiving this, and thus UNICEF is forced to close learning facilities temporarily. Without urgent funding, the learning facilities may remain closed, and an entire generation of Rohingya children risks being left behind."

UNICEF outlined five major disruptions due to the funding shortfall. These are: Learning facilities will remain closed until at least the end of June 2025, in line with an extended Eid holiday period. Reopening beyond that will depend entirely on the availability of new funds.

Early grade learners (kindergarten to grade 2) will no longer be taught English, science or social studies in the next academic year. Only core foundational subjects—literacy (Rohingya), Burmese, mathematics, life skills and socio-emotional learning—will be prioritised.

No new textbooks or teacher guides will be procured for the 2025–2026 academic year. Children will be asked to reuse materials from previous years, regardless of their condition.

End-of-year assessments and placement tests have been cancelled.

Volunteer teachers will not receive paid holidays and may only continue teaching on a voluntary basis until funding is restored.

UNICEF continues to prioritise the most impactful and cost-effective interventions, prioritising its commitment to stay and deliver for children.

Prior to programmes being impacted, UNICEF has reduced its own staff in favour of keeping the programmes running. It is the most dramatic reduction ever in this country, and this is happening globally.

UNICEF's priority has been keeping the learning facilities open, keeping a slimmed down team to deliver on this. These decisions are deeply difficult but necessary to ensure available resources are used in the most impactful way.

Education is not a luxury—it is a fundamental right. In humanitarian settings, learning provides structure, routine, protection, and hope. For Rohingya children living in displacement, education is also a critical bridge to dignity, resilience, and future opportunities, while keeping children away from protection risks, including child recruitment, abduction, migration, and violence.

UNICEF thanks donors who have stood by the Rohingya response and urges the international community to please step up now. Only with renewed and increased investment can UNICEF continue to support inclusive, quality education for Rohingya refugee children in Cox's Bazar.

Trump 'tough love' better than no love

Says EU's diplomatic chief

AFP, *Singapore*

The European Union's diplomatic chief Kaja Kallas yesterday said the continent was beefing up defence spending after "tough love" from the Trump administration, as she called for stronger ties to counter China's "economic might".

Speaking at the Shangri-La defence forum in Singapore, Kallas was responding to comments by US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who called President Donald Trump's insistence on more military spending "tough love".

"It's love nonetheless, so it's better than no love," Kallas quipped when asked later about Hegseth's speech.

Brussels' relationship with Washington was not broken, Kallas stressed, saying she spoke to Hegseth on Friday.

"You heard his speech. He was actually quite positive about Europe, so there's definitely some love there," she said.

Trump has consistently pressed Nato countries to increase defence spending.

Kallas disagreed with suggestions that Washington should focus on the Indo-Pacific region and Europe concentrate on its own patch.

"I really think if you look at the economic might of China, I think... the big countries or the superpowers sometimes overestimate their own strength," she said.

China 'preparing' to use military force in Asia

Says Pentagon chief; Beijing slams speech as 'provocation'

AFP, *Singapore*

US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth yesterday warned that China was "credibly preparing" to use military force to upend the balance of power in Asia, vowing the United States was "here to stay" in the region.

The Pentagon chief made the remarks at an annual security forum in Singapore as the administration of US President Donald Trump spars with Beijing on trade, technology, and influence over strategic corners of the globe.

China's embassy in Singapore blasted the speech, accusing Washington of escalating tensions in the region and "profiting from creating risks of war".

Trump has launched a trade war with China since taking office in January, has sought to curb its access to key AI technologies and deepened security ties with allies such as the Philippines, which is engaged in escalating territorial disputes with Beijing.

"The threat China poses is real and it could be imminent," Hegseth said at the Shangri-La Dialogue

attended by defence officials from around the world.

Beijing is "credibly preparing to potentially use military force to alter the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific", he said.

Hegseth warned that the Chinese military was building the capabilities to invade Taiwan and "rehearsing for the real deal".

China has ramped up military pressure on Taiwan and held large-scale exercises around the island that are often described as preparations for a blockade or invasion.

The United States was "reorienting toward deterring aggression by communist China", Hegseth said, calling on US allies and partners in Asia to swiftly upgrade their defences in the face of mounting threats.

Hegseth described China's conduct as a "wake-up call", accusing Beijing of endangering lives with cyber attacks, harassing its neighbours, and "illegally seizing and militarising lands" in the disputed South China Sea.

Hegseth's hard-hitting address drew a critical reaction from the Chinese embassy in the city-state.

"The speech is steeped in provocations and instigation," the embassy wrote on its Facebook page.

"Mr Hegseth repeatedly smeared and attacked China and relentlessly played up the so-called 'China threat'," the statement said, accusing the United States of being the "biggest troublemaker" in the region.

Beijing did not send any top defence ministry officials to the summit, dispatching instead a delegation from the People's Liberation Army National Defence University led by Rear Admiral Hu Gangfeng.

Push for polls

FROM PAGE 12

continue to be on the streets in the future."

The country will move towards a democratic process only after reforms are made and justice is delivered, Patwary said.

"Those who fail to understand this should ask people what they want. Then you will find direction. Then you will come to your senses. For now, you are intoxicated by the greed for power."

The NCP is a democratic outcome of the July uprising, and if the party is blocked from participating in a democratic process, the youth may lead a second revolution.

"If you push us towards a second revolution, there will be no room for dynastic politics in Bangladesh. If you obstruct this democratic force, you're pushing 40 percent of Bangladesh's population into a crisis. Let the youth rebuild the country, not fight another war."

Calling for an overhaul of the electoral system, he said, "We are not asking for just another election. We want a permanent, fair electoral system."

He reiterated that the NCP had no confidence in the Election Commission and it did not subscribe to seat-sharing politics.

He also called for the complete dismantling of what he described as a "fascist system", warning that the youth-led movement born out of the recent July uprising would not settle for a mere change in leadership without structural reforms.

"This constitution must be replaced. As long as it remains, fascism will remain. We don't want help from India, the US, Russia, or China unless it is based on dignity and mutual respect. We won't accept new forms of colonialism."

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়
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সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০।

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ

ফোন: +৮৮০৩১২৮৬৩১৬২, ই-মেইল: cee@railway.gov.bd

নং-সিই/ই/ই-জিপি/০১/২০২৪-২৫; তারিখ: ২৮.০৫.২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।

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ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	Tender আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরন ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬
১.	xenpne/east/e-tender/24-25/62	1121236	Works: At Shayestaganj (SSJ) Railway Station : Sinking and installation of 01 no. 250mm x 150mm dia deep Tube well including construction of pump house with toilet and septic tank (10 users) and laying necessary pipe line on turnkey basis as per Drawing.	OTM (NC)	18-Jun-2025 12:00 PM
২.	xenpne/east/e-tender/24-25/91	1121198	Works: At LKM-CDR Section: Repairing and repainting of iron works and P-shed roofing of CIR, MEHP, HJJ, BQC, MDRD, STI, CRT, CDR Total 8 (Eight) station with allied works.	OTM (NC)	18-Jun-2025 12:00 PM
৩.	xenpne/east/e-tender/24-25/66	1108704	Works: AT CGD: Through repairs to Administrative Building of Railway Training Academy with other allied works.	OTM (NC)	18-Jun-2025 12:00 PM

বিঃ দ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

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(জীবান দত্ত)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (পি এন্ড ডি) (পূর্ব) (অতিঃ দাঃ)
পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-1315

Floods in Nigeria kill at least 150

AFP, *Abuja*

Flash flooding earlier this week in central Nigeria killed more than 150 people, a local disaster response spokesman told AFP yesterday, while displacing 3,000, levelling more than 250 homes and washing away two bridges.

The sharp jump from the previous death toll of 115 came as bodies were recovered nearly 10 kilometres away from the town of Mokwa, the epicentre of the floods, Ibrahim Audu Husseini, a spokesman for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, told AFP.

As Husseini warned that the toll could still rise -- with bodies being swept away down the powerful Niger River -- President Bola Tinubu said that search-and-rescue operations were underway, with the disaster response being aided by security forces.

Buildings collapsed and roads were inundated in the town, which is located more than 350 kilometres by road from the capital Abuja, an AFP journalist in Mokwa observed on Friday.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
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e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

Memo No:-EED/Manikganj/Notice-14/2024-25/1134 Date: 28-05-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for following procurement of the following works:

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of Works	Online Tender Publishing Date (On/After)	Online Tender Opening & Closing (Date & Time)
01	1117011	CONSTRUCTION OF 6-STORIED ACADEMIC BUILDING WITH 6-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY AND WATER SUPPLY WORKS ALONG WITH ELECTRIFICATION AND OTHER WORKS AT MANIKGANJ POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, GHIOR UPAZILA, MANIKGANJ DISTRICT.	01-June-2025	Please visit the Tender Notice on the e-GP Website

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the Procuring Entity Office, National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Sirajul Islam)
Executive Engineer (c.c.)
ee.mani.eed@gamil.com

GD-1330