

Indo-Pacific
a focal point
of US foreign
policy'

Rubio tells Asean
ministers

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met counterparts in Southeast Asia yesterday during his first visit to the region since taking office, reassuring them it is a priority for Washington, despite President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Washington's top diplomat joined foreign ministers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur at a meeting that includes Australia, China, the European Union, Japan, Russia, South Korea



and Russia, and others.

The visit is part of an effort to renew US focus on the Indo-Pacific and look beyond conflicts in the Middle East and Europe.

"It is our view, and the reality that this century and the next, the story of the next 50 years, will largely be written here in this region, in this part of the world," Rubio told the gathering of Asean ministers.

"When I hear ... that perhaps the United States or the world might be distracted by events in other parts of the planet, I would say distraction is impossible," added Rubio, who doubles as national security adviser.



Displaced Palestinians make their way toward the Mawasi area as they flee amid an Israeli ground offensive in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

52 killed in Israeli strikes

Says Gaza civil defence agency as 'difficult' truce talks continue

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency yesterday said 52 people, including eight children, were killed in Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian territory.

Nearly half of those deaths were recorded in the central city of Deir el-Balah, where at least 17 people were killed, it said.

The series of strikes came just hours after Hamas, which runs Gaza, announced it was willing to release 10 Israeli hostages as part of ceasefire talks in Qatar. The Palestinian group also said it opposes any ceasefire deal that includes a large Israeli military presence in Gaza.

US President Donald Trump extended timeframe for the truce, saying there is a "very good chance" of a deal in Gaza this week or next, but Hamas said talks in Qatar have been "difficult" because of Israel's stubbornness, reports Al Jazeera online.

Gaza's civil defence agency official

Mohammed al-Mughair said the latest wave of Israeli bombings hit central and southern Gaza. Eight children and two women were among the dead, he said, adding Israeli aircraft targeted "a gathering of citizens in front of a medical point".

Two people were killed in separate strikes on the Nuseirat camp while four lost their lives at the Bureij camp, both in central Gaza,

Trump says ceasefire deal close, this week or next

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian man in West Bank

Mughair said.

Five people living in tents in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis in the south, he added. Israel's strikes have killed at least 57,680 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian authorities said Israeli troops killed a 55-year-old man -- an incident the Israeli army said involved a stabbing attack.

The Ramallah-based health ministry said the body in charge of coordination with Israel informed it that soldiers "shot and killed" the man in Rummanah, near Jenin, in the morning.

Meanwhile, the United States said on Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations' special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, who has been very critical of US ally Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Iran threats
within UK
'significantly
increased'

Says intel watchdog

AFP, London

The threat posed by Iran in the UK has "significantly increased", with Iranian spies behind more than a dozen attempts to kill or kidnap British-based individuals since 2022, parliament's intelligence watchdog warned yesterday.

The UK government's response has been too focused on "crisis management" while concerns over Iran's nuclear programme have overly dominated, the Intelligence and Security

Committee of Parliament also concluded.

Its report comes amid growing alarm in Britain at alleged Iranian targeting of dissidents, media organisations and journalists in the UK, which has included accusations of physical attacks.

Iran in March became the first country to be placed on an enhanced tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS), which aims to boost Britain's national security against foreign influences.

"Iran poses a wide-ranging, persistent and unpredictable threat to the UK, UK nationals, and UK interests," Kevan Jones, chairman of the watchdog committee, said in the report's conclusions.

"Iran has a high appetite for risk when conducting offensive activity and its intelligence services are ferociously well-resourced with significant areas of asymmetric strength."



Migrants sit on an inflatable dinghy as it sails along the coastline near Gravelines, France, yesterday. Britain's coastguard said it had coordinated a response to multiple incidents involving small boat crossings in the English Channel earlier that morning.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ex-FBI, CIA directors may have to 'pay a price'

Says Trump amid reports of criminal probe

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump on Wednesday accused former FBI director James Comey and ex-CIA chief John Brennan, two prominent critics under criminal investigation, of being "crooked" and said they may have to "pay a price."

Asked on Wednesday about the FBI's opening of a probe into Comey and Brennan, Trump said he knows "nothing about it other than what I read today."

"But I will tell you I think they're very dishonest people," the president told reporters at the White House. "I think they're crooked as hell and maybe they have to pay a price for that."

Fox News Digital first reported the probe into Comey and Brennan, saying it involved "potential wrongdoing" related to the investigation into claims of Russian interference in the 2016 election won by Trump, and alleged false statements made to Congress.

CIA director John Ratcliffe, a Trump appointee, had referred "evidence of wrongdoing by Brennan" to FBI director Kash Patel, another Trump appointee, for potential prosecution.



Fox News Digital said, citing Justice Department sources.

A Justice Department spokeswoman said the agency does "not comment on ongoing investigations."

Comey and Brennan were named to their respective positions as head of the FBI and CIA by Democratic president Barack Obama, and they have a contentious history with Trump dating back to his first term in the White House.

Trump fired Comey in 2017 as the FBI chief was leading a probe into whether any members of the

Trump campaign had colluded with Moscow to sway the 2016 presidential vote between Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

That investigation, which Trump has denounced for years as the "Russia hoax," was taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller, who found there had been interference by Russia in the 2016 election in favor of Trump.

But Mueller said the probe "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

WAR IN UKRAINE Russia seizes \$50bn in assets as economy shifts

REUTERS, Moscow

Russian authorities have confiscated assets worth some \$50 billion over the past three years, underscoring the scale of the transformation into a "fortress Russia" economic model during the war in Ukraine, research showed on Wednesday.

The conflict has been accompanied by a significant transfer of assets as many Western companies fled the Russian market, others' assets were expropriated and the assets of some major Russian businesses were seized by the state.

In response to what Russia called illegal actions by the West, President Vladimir Putin signed decrees over the past three years allowing the seizure of Western assets, entangling firms ranging from Germany's Uniper to Danish brewer Carlsberg.

Besides the Western assets, major domestic companies have changed hands on the basis of different legal mechanisms including the need for strategic resources, corruption claims, alleged privatisation violations, or poor management.

Moscow law firm NSP said that the scale of what it called the "nationalisation" amounted to 3.9 billion roubles over three years.

Four richest Africans
wealthier than half
the continent: report

AFP, Lagos

The four richest Africans are wealthier than about half of the continent's 750 million people, anti-poverty charity Oxfam said in a report published yesterday, warning widening inequality was hampering democracy.

Oxfam named only Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote, the continent's richest man, in its report. But according to Forbes, the top four are rounded out by South Africans Johann Rupert and Nicky Oppenheimer, along with Egyptian businessman Nassef Sawiris.

Over the past five years, African billionaires have seen their wealth soar by 56 percent, with the richest among them recording even higher gains, Oxfam said.

Nearly half of the top 50 most unequal countries in the world are also on the continent, according to the report.

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স (২৪০৭/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত)	নিয়োগ এর ধরণ	বেতন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই) টি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ১। বিসিসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/ মেকানিক্যাল। ২। সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০। অভিজ্ঞতা ১। দে কোন স্থানে শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকহার্ড/ডিজাইন হাউজে জাহাজ নির্মাণ/ মেরামত, ডিজাইন সংস্কার কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তুর অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। শিপবিডিং সংস্কার সফ্টওয়ার AutoCAD, Maxsurf, Rhino, Ship Constructor এ পারদর্শী।	অন্তর্ভুক্ত ৩৫ বছর	চৰ্কি ভিত্তিক	ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব চৰ্কিতিক্রম বেতন কাঠামো অনুময়ী
২।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই) টি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ১। ডিপ্লোমা ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/শিপবিডিং/ মেকানিক্যাল। অভিজ্ঞতা ১। দে কোন স্থানে শিপইয়ার্ড/ ডকহার্ড/ ডিজাইন হাউজে জাহাজ নির্মাণ/ মেরামত, ডিজাইন সংস্কার কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তুর অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। শিপ ডিজাইন সংস্কার সফ্টওয়ার AutoCAD, Maxsurf, Rhino, Ship Constructor এ পারদর্শী ও বাস্তুর অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন।	অন্তর্ভুক্ত ৩২ বছর	চৰ্কি ভিত্তিক	ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব চৰ্কিতিক্রম বেতন কাঠামো অনুময়ী
৩।	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ১। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতুসি ও বোনাস ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ মৌতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) প্রদান করা হবে। ২। ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সন্তোষজনক ও পুরুষ তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন সন্তোষজনক প্রতিপাদিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে। ৩। আরাহী প্রার্থীকে পৰ্যাপ্ত পৰ্যাক্ষয় জীবন তোলা ০৮ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভা/ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেরামত/ কাউন্সিল সেকশনের কর্তৃপক্ষ/ জাতীয়তা সমন্পর্ক, জন্ম নিবন্ধন (অনলাইন ভেরিফাইড কপি যদি থাকে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সনদ/ প্রত্যন্ত প্রাপ্ত এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সংস্কার সকল সদস্যপ্রদাতৃদের সত্ত্বান্বায়িত কপি যদি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট উক্ত আবেদনপত্র প্রদাতা করে নির্দেশ করে। ৪। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতুসি ও বোনাস ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ মৌতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) প্রদান করা হবে। ৫। প্রার্থীকে বাস্তু কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদাতা করে। ৬। সিভিল/ মৌখিক/ ব্যবহারিক প্রার্থীকার্য অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ভিএ প্রাদান করা হবে না। ৭। ডিইড্রিউ লিঃ এর চার্টেড প্রেক্টিশনে পদের সংখ্যাত্মক বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে। ৮। নিয়োগ প্রিভেটেড উচ্চারিত পদের সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগুলি আবেদন করতে হবে। ৯।			