

Foreign troops in Ukraine to be targets: Russia

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that any troops sent to Ukraine by Western governments would be "legitimate combat targets", after Britain and France announced plans to deploy a multinational force there in the event of a ceasefire.

A Russian Foreign Ministry statement said "militaristic declarations" by a coalition of pro-Ukraine Western governments were becoming increasingly dangerous.

Russia was responding for the first time to a meeting of the "coalition of the willing" in Paris on Tuesday at which Britain and France signed a declaration of intent on the future deployment.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said it paved the way for a legal framework whereby "British, French and partner forces could operate on Ukrainian soil."



Colombian President Gustavo Petro attends a rally in Bogotá on Wednesday, defending national sovereignty after US President Donald Trump suggested possible military intervention in Colombia, days after the US struck Venezuela and captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores.

PHOTO: REUTERS

RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS Trump backs bill to sanction China, India, Brazil: senator

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump will allow a bipartisan sanctions bill targeting countries doing business with Russia to move forward in Congress and it could be put to a vote as early as next week, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said on Wednesday.

Graham said in a statement Trump had "greenlit" the legislation after the pair met on Wednesday, reports Reuters. The legislation, which Graham has been working on with fellow Republicans and Democrats for months, would impose sanctions on countries doing business with Russia, including buyers of its energy exports, over Moscow's failure to negotiate a peace deal with Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

"This bill will allow President Trump to punish those countries who buy cheap Russian oil fueling Putin's war machine," Graham said, citing China, India and Brazil as potential targets of the legislation.

Graham, a senator from South Carolina, said he is looking forward to a "strong bipartisan vote" on the legislation to take place as early as next week.

Leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives have held off bringing the legislation to a vote as Trump has preferred to impose tariffs on goods imported from India, the world's second-leading buyer of Russian oil after China.



People demonstrate against ICE during a vigil at the site where a woman was shot and killed by an immigration officer on Wednesday in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US.

PHOTO: AFP

Trump pulls US from dozens of int'l, UN entities Cites clash with Washington's interests

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that the United States would withdraw from dozens of international and UN entities, including a key climate treaty and a UN body that promotes gender equality and women's empowerment, because they "operate contrary to US national interests."

Among the 35 non-UN groups and 31 UN entities Trump listed in a memo to senior administration officials is the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - described by many as the "bedrock" climate treaty which is parent agreement to the 2015 Paris climate deal.

The United States skipped the annual UN international climate summit last

year for the first time in three decades.

"The United States would be the first country to walk away from the UNFCCC," said Manish Bapna, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Every other nation is a member, in part because they recognize that even beyond the moral imperative of addressing climate change, having a seat at the table in those negotiations represents an ability to shape massive economic policy and opportunity," said Bapna.

The US will also quit UN Women, which works for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the international body's agency focused on family planning as well as maternal and child health in more than 150 countries.

Pakistan, Saudi in talks on JF-17 jets-for-loans deal

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are in talks to convert about \$2 billion of Saudi loans into a JF-17 fighter jet deal, two Pakistani sources said, deepening military cooperation months after the two nations signed a mutual defence pact last year.

The talks underscore how the two allies are moving to operationalise defence cooperation at a time when Pakistan is facing acute financial strain and Saudi Arabia is reshaping its security partnerships to hedge against uncertainty about US commitments in the Middle East.

The mutual defence deal was signed following Israel's strikes on what it said were Hamas targets in Doha, an attack that shook the Gulf region.

One of the sources said the discussions were limited to the provision of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, the light combat aircraft jointly developed by Pakistan and China and produced in Pakistan, while the second said the jets were the primary option among others under discussion.

The first source said the total deal was worth \$4 billion, with an additional \$2 billion to be spent on equipment over and above the loan conversion.

Office of the Chief Engineer
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Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

Dated: 07/01/2026

Memo No. 01 (2)/Engg.
e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under University of Dhaka.

Sl No.	ID Tender	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender last selling date & time	e-Tender closing date & time
1	1176518	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/05	Fortnightly Checking & Monthly Servicing of 4 (four) Nos. 1000kgs, 20 stops Passenger/Bed Lift for Shahid Sheikh Russel Tower Bhaban, University of Dhaka for the Session of 2025-2026.	18-Jan-2026 17:00	19-Jan-2026 14:00
2	1170532	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/06	Supply and fixing of 320 Nos. Ceiling Fan (Size-56") with ancillary electrical works for the Students rooms (Prottay, Prodipa, Protikha and 4th floor of the Administrative Building) of Kabi Sufia Kamal Hall, University of Dhaka.	20-Jan-2026 17:00	21-Jan-2026 12:00
3	1163549	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/02	Fortnightly Checking & Monthly Servicing of 32 Nos. Lift of Different Place in Dhaka University Campus with minor spare parts for the Session of 2025-2026 (Group-A)	18-Jan-2026 17:00	19-Jan-2026 14:00
4	1202707	SE/ELEC-1/DU/APP/2025-2026/17	Repair and renovation of Electrical works at the Chemistry Department at Mukarram Hossain Khandaker Science Building, Dhaka University.	18-Jan-2026 17:00	19-Jan-2026 12:00
5	1201881	SE/ELEC-1/DU/2025-2026/04	Fortnightly Checking & Monthly Servicing of 6 Nos. Lift (04 Nos. Hall Block & 02 Nos. HTQ Block) for 7 March Bhaban, Ruqayyah Hall, University of Dhaka with minor spare parts for the Session of 2025-2026	18-Jan-2026 17:00	19-Jan-2026 14:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no office/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 from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online branches of any registered bank branches. Further information and guidance are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

07/01/2026
Md. Ahsan Habib
Superintending Engineer-Elect (Zone-1)
University of Dhaka

New clashes hit Iran: rights group Opposition urges protests, strikes

AFP, Paris

Security forces used tear gas and live fire to disperse protesters in Iran, rights groups said yesterday, as people angered by economic crisis kept up their challenge to the authorities and exiled opposition groups urged new protests as well as strikes.

Twelve days of protests have shaken the clerical authorities under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei already battling economic crisis after years of sanctions and recovering from the June war against Israel.

The movement, which originated with a shutdown on the Tehran bazaar on December 28 after the rial plunged to record lows, has spread nationwide and is now being marked by larger scale demonstrations. Authorities have blamed unrest on "rioters" and the judiciary chief has vowed there would be "no leniency" in bringing them to justice.

On Wednesday, an Iranian police officer was stabbed to death west of Tehran "during efforts to control unrest", the Iranian Fars news agency said.

Reza Pahlavi, the son of the shah ousted by the 1979 Islamic revolution and a key exiled opposition figure, called for major new protests yesterday evening.

He said in a message on social media he had received reports the "regime is deeply frightened and is attempting, once again, to cut off the internet" to thwart the protests.

Israel strikes Gaza City launch site Four Palestinians killed

REUTERS

Israel's military said yesterday it had carried out a targeted strike on a rocket launch site near Gaza City after identifying a failed launch, as questions mount over when the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire will begin.

At least four Palestinians were killed in the strike. The military said the projectile did not cross into Israeli territory and that the launch site was struck shortly after the attempt was detected.

It accused Hamas of violating the ceasefire twice in the past 24 hours. A source from the Palestinian group told Reuters it was checking the allegation.

Meanwhile, the UN's beleaguered agency for Palestinian refugees said

Wednesday that a "dire" financial crisis had this week forced it to fire hundreds of Gazan staff who had left the territory.

"On Tuesday, 571 local UNRWA staff, outside Gaza, were informed that they were being separated from the agency with immediate effect," a spokesperson told AFP in an email.