

## 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.

## 8 political killings since polls schedule: ASK

FROM PAGE 1

According to Aminul Salish Kendra and media reports, at least eight political killings have occurred since December 11.

Human Rights Support Society data shows 60 incidents of political violence in December alone, leaving four dead and 528 injured. At least 10 attacks on leaders and activists resulted in 10 deaths, including three from the Awami League, four from the BNP, and one from Jamaat-e-Islami.

Experts have expressed concern over the rising violence and called for urgent law enforcement action to curb the growing insecurity.

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton said that while the reasons behind the killings are varied, two key trends are emerging: political party leaders and activists and people of minority communities are being targeted.

He expressed concern that such incidents are still occurring, including the most recent one in the capital on Wednesday night, reflecting weaknesses in law and order.

Liton criticised the measures taken so far, calling them insufficient and pointing to weak responses from law enforcement.

He also raised concerns about the growing mob

culture, where organised groups continue to act in their own interests.

Former Inspector General of Police Muhammad Nurul Huda, however, said he doesn't see any major problem, noting that similar situations have occurred before past elections.

He acknowledged weaknesses in the police force but said incidents on the scale of the July uprising, which left around 1,200 dead, are unprecedented.

"It's natural for the police to be concerned after such events," he said. "However, 20,000 to 25,000 new personnel have joined, and they have been urged to perform their duties properly, so some positive impact is expected."

**KILLINGS** The latest incident took place near the Super Star Hotel in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar around 8:30pm, when unidentified assailants shot dead former Sечchhasebok Dal leader Azizur Rahman Musabbir and injured another man.

On December 26, Saiful Sardar, 45, a BNP leader, was hacked to death in Alfaridanga, Faridpur, amidst a local power struggle.

Also, on December 24, Farid Sarker, 41, a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Social Cultural Forum, was murdered in the Gosinga area of Sreepur, Gazipur.

On December 17, Biru Mandal, 48, a BNP leader in Ishwardi, was shot dead over an alleged land dispute.

Similarly, on January

## BCB alerts ICC to security concerns

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain echoed Asif Nazrul's stance.

"We will certainly play outside India... We have an interest in our players' safety in not sending them to India," Touhid said.

Meanwhile, former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal urged the board to consider Bangladesh cricket's future and advocated for continued dialogue.

"One must consider Bangladesh cricket's interest, future and everything before making any decision. There is nothing better than solving something through dialogue," Tamim said while attending the trophy unveiling ceremony of Zia Inter-University Cricket Tournament at City Club ground yesterday.

"What I would have done if I were there [in the BCB] is that since it is a sensitive issue, before making a public comment, we would discuss the matter ourselves [within the board]. Because when you publicly make a comment, right or wrong, it is difficult to move from that position.

"Bangladesh cricket's future comes before anything else. Around 90-95 percent of our finances come from the ICC. So, you have to take the decision based on what will help Bangladesh cricket," he added.

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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](http://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 (Prottoy, Prodiptha, 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

07/01/2026  
Md. Ahsan Habib

Superintending Engineer-Elect (Zone-1)  
University of Dhaka

## 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.

## 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.