

INTERNATIONAL

Trump seeks 'decisive' options for Iran

US military assets move into Middle East

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump is pressing aides for "decisive" military options against Iran after stepping back from potential strikes last week, according to a report Tuesday.

Trump's discussions come as the US deploys additional forces to the Middle East, including an aircraft carrier that was spotted by maritime traffic trackers sailing west from the South China Sea toward the Persian Gulf and F-15E fighter jets that landed Sunday in Jordan, said The Wall Street Journal.

The report, citing anonymous US officials, said Trump has repeatedly used the term "decisive" in internal discussions about what he would want any potential US action against Iran to achieve.

That language has prompted officials at the White House



People take part in the nationwide "Stop ICE Terror" rally in New York, US on Tuesday evening, protesting US President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli fire kills 11 Palestinians in Gaza

Two boys, three journos among the dead

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli fire killed 11 Palestinians, including two boys and three journalists, in Gaza yesterday, local medics said, and the Israeli military said it had "eliminated a Palestinian man" who posed a threat to soldiers.

In the latest violence disrupting a brittle, three-month-old ceasefire, Palestinian health officials said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinian journalists travelling in a car in the central Gaza Strip.

The three were on an assignment sponsored by the Egyptian Committee, which supervises Egypt's relief work in Gaza, to film tent encampments built

by Egypt for displaced Palestinians, other local journalists told Reuters.

An Egyptian security source confirmed the vehicle belonged to the committee but gave no further details.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Israel and Hamas have traded blame for multiple breaches of the October truce after two years of war that devastated Gaza and caused a humanitarian disaster.

Trump said on Tuesday "you got to let the UN continue" when asked about his plans for a so-called "Board of Peace" that has alarmed international experts.



Suspected jihadist attack kills 31 civilians in Niger

AFP, Abidjan

An armed attack has killed at least 31 civilians in western Niger near the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali in a region rife with jihadist groups, local sources said Tuesday.

The assailants struck on Sunday in a village lying in the Tillaberi region, located in the so-called tri border area — a flashpoint zone where the frontiers of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali converge.

Jihadists linked to Al Qaeda and the Islamic State group have made the region a field of conflict, carrying out deadly attacks for nearly a decade.

Tillaberi became the "deadliest region across central Sahel" in 2025, with more than 1,200 deaths, most of them civilians, according to ACLED, an NGO that monitors conflicts.

Ex-adviser M Hafizuddin Khan

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Hafizuddin Khan was rushed to Uttara Crescent Hospital in the morning after he complained of chest pain, his niece Mousumi Mostafa told The Daily Star. He was later put on life support and pronounced dead around 6:00pm, she said.

His namaz e janaza will be held at multiple locations today. His two daughters, who live abroad, are expected to arrive in Dhaka today.

He will be laid to rest tomorrow at his village home in Rahmatganj of Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Born in Sirajganj in 1939, Hafizuddin Khan served as an adviser to the caretaker government in 2001.

He completed his graduation and master's degrees in political science from Dhaka University in 1960 and 1961 respectively, according to a brief biography published by Midas

Financing Limited, where he served as a director. He later obtained a diploma in development finance from the University of Birmingham in the UK.

Hafizuddin joined government service in the Audit and Accounts Cadre in 1964. After 35 years of service, he retired in 1999. In 2001, he served as an adviser to the caretaker government, overseeing the ministries of finance, planning, and textiles and jute.

Widely regarded as a reformer in administrative and financial management, he served as a director of BASIC Bank and Rupali Bank, and as chairman of Agrani Bank.

He also served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Transparency International Bangladesh and as president of the central executive committee of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan).



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Date: 20/01/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for following procurement.

Tender ID No.	Package No	Package Description	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time	Remarks
I212787	SPI-25-26-GD-06	Supply of Raw Materials and Spare Parts for Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics Technology (3256105)	21-Jan-2026 10:00:00	01-Feb-2026 15:45:00	Re-Tender
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Sd/-
(Mohammed Rehan Uddin)
Principal (Additional Charge)
Phone : 02-9966-32529

GD-157

Fair, credible polls

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senior government officials, and representatives from the Election Commission. Following the meeting, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed reporters at the Foreign Service Academy.

"Additional time will be needed to count party symbol ballots, referendum ballots, and postal ballots. So, I will urge the media to act responsibly to prevent the spread of misinformation and rumours," he said.

Home Affairs Adviser Lieutenant General Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (retd) said members of the armed forces will be considered law enforcement personnel during this election and, if necessary, will be able to enter polling centre premises.

Army Chief Waker Uz Zaman said 3,619 firearms and 456,418 rounds of ammunition were looted from police stations during the August 2024 mass uprising, with 2,259 firearms (62.4 percent) and 237,100 rounds (52 percent) recovered so far. He said coordinated measures are being taken to ensure public confidence and that, if continued, a peaceful election will be possible.

VDP Director General Major General Abdul Motaleb Sazzad Mahmud said armed Ansar members will remain inside polling centres, ensuring no one can force out a rival candidate's polling agent or conduct illegal activities inside the stations.

Advisers Muhammad Fawzul Kabir Khan; Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Lieutenant General (retd) Abdul Hafiz; National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman; Faz Ahmed Taiyeb, special assistant to the chief adviser; Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdul Rashid; Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hasan; Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmud Khan; Chief Adviser's Chief Secretary M Siraj Uddin Mia; Home Secretary Nasimul Ghani; Police Inspector General Baharul Alam; Border Guard DG Major General Mohammad Ashrafulzaman Siddiqui; Coast Guard DG Rear Admiral Md Ziaul Haq; RAB DG AKM Shahidur Rahman; and heads of various intelligence agencies were among those present at the meeting.

"We must be prepared for everything. Given the current situation and the preparations in place, a fair and credible election is possible," the chief adviser said.

EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told the meeting that 51 of the 59 registered political parties are participating in the election, and representatives from 26 countries have been invited as observers.

The European Union is expected to send an observer team of around 300 members. Already, 56 EU representatives are in Bangladesh, and two have observed the appeal process related to nomination papers.

Candidates will be allowed to campaign from midnight to campaign from midnight to



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