

US ENTRY INTO IRAN WAR Trump, Rubio offer conflicting reasons

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he ordered US forces to join Israel's attack on Iran because he believed Iran was about to strike first, contradicting the rationale offered a day earlier by his secretary of state for how the war began.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters on Monday that the US launched the attack because of fears that Iran would retaliate in response to planned Israeli action against Tehran.

"We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action; we knew that that would precipitate an attack against American forces, and we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties," Rubio said.

Trump rejected suggestions that Israel pushed the US into the conflict, as his administration gave varying accounts and faced criticism from some supporters and Democrats who accused him of launching a "war of choice." "I might have forced their (Israel's) hand," Trump told reporters.



Policemen inspect destroyed buildings following airstrikes in central Tehran, Iran, yesterday. The US military said it had struck nearly 2,000 targets inside the Islamic republic.

PHOTO: AFP

'No to war'

Spanish PM tells Trump;
UK PM vows to keep a 'cool
head'

AGENCIES

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez yesterday hit back at US President Donald Trump's criticisms of Madrid's refusal to let US planes use its bases to attack Iran.

"The position of the government of Spain can be summed up in four words: no to war," he said in a televised address, a day after Trump threatened to sever all trade with Spain.

"We will not be complicit in something that is harmful to the world and contrary to our values and interests, simply out of fear of retaliation," he added.

Meanwhile, Keir Starmer said Britain would respond to the escalating conflict in the Middle East with a "cool head" after Trump chastised the prime minister for failing to provide sufficient support for his strikes on Iran, reports Reuters.

Britain initially refused to allow its military bases to be used by the US for its assault on Tehran, only tempering that position when Iran attacked its neighbours - allowing UK bases to be used for limited defensive strikes.

Trump responded by castigating Starmer three times, including in the Oval Office on Tuesday where he told reporters "This is not Winston Churchill that we're dealing with".



Iranians bid farewell to late Khamenei

Sources say Mojtaba
Khamenei survives
assault

REUTERS, Dubai

Iranians were due to bid farewell to late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at a ceremony in Tehran later yesterday, a senior Iranian official told state media.

Hojjatolislam Mahmoudi, head of Iran's Islamic Propagation Council, said the farewell ceremony would continue for three days and the funeral procession will be announced later.

The official said the public will be able to pay their respects to the body of late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Prayer Hall starting at 10:00 pm (1830 GMT).

"The Mosalla (prayer hall) will be receiving visitors and the dear people can attend and take part in the farewell ceremony and mark a strong presence once again," he said in comments carried by Iranian media.

Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of Iran's late Supreme Leader, has survived the assault on the country by US and Israeli air strikes that killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several military and other influential figures, two Iranian sources told Reuters yesterday.

Strikes on Iran diminish US stockpiles

Say sources; executives from
defense contractors plan to meet
at White House

REUTERS, Washington

The Trump administration plans to meet with executives from the biggest US defense contractors at the White House on Friday to discuss accelerating weapons production, as the Pentagon works to replenish supplies after strikes on Iran and several other recent military efforts, five people familiar with the plan told Reuters.

Companies including Lockheed Martin and Raytheon parent, along with other key suppliers, have been invited to attend the

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million, according to reports.**

meeting, the people said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the discussions are private.

The meeting underscores the urgency felt in Washington to shore up weapons stocks after the Iran operation drew heavily on munitions. Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 and Israel began military operations in Gaza, the US has drawn down billions of dollars' worth of weapons stockpiles, including artillery systems, ammunition and anti-tank missiles. The conflict in Iran has consumed longer-range missiles than those furnished to Kyiv.

At least one of the people said the gathering was expected to center on pressing weapons makers to move faster to boost output.

The first 24 hours of the strikes on Iran alone have seen the US spend \$779 million, according to reports. Lockheed, the Pentagon and White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In a social media post Monday, Trump said there was a "virtually unlimited supply" of US munitions and that "wars can be fought 'forever,' and very successfully, using just these supplies."

The White House meeting comes as Deputy Defense Secretary Steve Feinberg has been leading Pentagon work in recent days on a supplemental budget request of around \$50 billion that could be released as soon as Friday, one of the people said.

Myanmar curbs car use to save fuel

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta announced on Tuesday that half of private vehicles would be ordered off the roads each day from later this week, to preserve oil



stocks depleted by conflict in the Middle East.

Beginning on Saturday, cars with licence plates starting with even numbers will only be permitted to drive on even-numbered calendar days, leaving the odd-numbered days for vehicles with odd-numbered plates.

US, Israel acted 'outside int'l law': Macron

France sends aircraft carrier to Med

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron has said that the United States and Israel's military operations in Iran were conducted "outside international law", but placed primary blame on the Islamic republic.

"The United States of America and Israel decided to launch military operations, conducted outside international law, which we cannot approve of," said Macron on Tuesday.

But "the Islamic Republic of Iran bears primary responsibility for this situation," Macron added, citing their "dangerous" nuclear programme, support for regional proxies, and orders to shoot "its own people" during protests in January.

France was sending its aircraft carrier

Charles de Gaulle to the Mediterranean and working to build a coalition that would help secure maritime traffic imperiled by the escalating crisis in the Middle East.

"I have ... decided to send additional air defence assets and a French frigate, the Languedoc, which will arrive off the coast of Cyprus this evening," he said in a televised speech, a day after Iranian-made drones hit the Royal Air Force base.

Macron yesterday told Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez he stood by him after President Donald Trump threatened to sever trade with Spain over it refusing US use of its bases to attack Iran, his office said.

"The president has just spoken with Prime Minister Sanchez to express France's European solidarity in response to the recent threats of economic coercion targeting Spain," it said.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
BRAHMANBARIA
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Invitation for e-Tender

Tender Notice No: 29/e-GP/EED/BRAH/4931(SHED)/2024-25 Date: 04/03/2026

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Procurement Method	Tender Document Last Selling/ Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	1239993	Repair & Renovation works with Vertical Extension at Bangladesh Railway Govt. High School, Akhaura, Brahmanbaria.	NCT (OTM)	31-Mar-2026 10:00	31-Mar-2026 12:00

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 (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 Bank's Branches up to the Following Date & Time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

উদ্ভূত বৈশ্বিক পরিস্থিতি বিবেচনায় পবিত্র রমজান মাস, গ্রীষ্মকাল ও সেচ মৌসুমে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে পরিমিত ও সাশ্রয়ী বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণের প্রতি আহ্বান

- সেচ পাম্পে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ নিশ্চিতের লক্ষ্যে রাত ১১টা থেকে সকাল ৯টা পর্যন্ত সেচ পাম্প চালু রাখুন।
- বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানির সাশ্রয়ী ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে ওয়েট এন্ড ড্রাই পদ্ধতিতে সেচ কাজ সম্পাদন করুন।
- বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ে এসি'র তাপমাত্রা ২৫° সেলসিয়াস বা তার উপরে রাখুন।
- বিদ্যুতের অপচয় রোধকল্পে দোকান, শপিং মল, পেট্রোল পাম্প ও সিএনজি স্টেশনে অতিরিক্ত আলোকসজ্জা পরিহার করুন।
- দুধটনা এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে ছকিং বা অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগ হতে বিরত থাকুন।
- ইজি বাইক, অটোরিক্সা ইত্যাদিতে অবৈধভাবে চার্জিং করা হতে বিরত থাকুন।
- পিক আওয়ারে (বিকাল ৫টা থেকে রাত ১১টা) এসি, ওয়েন্ডিং মেশিন, লম্বি, গুভেন/মাইক্রো গুভেন, হিটার, পানির পাম্প, ইলেক্ট্রিক বিলবোর্ডসহ অধিক বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহৃত সরঞ্জামাদির ব্যবহার বন্ধ রাখুন।
- কোন কারণে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহে বিঘ্ন ঘটলে ধৈর্য সহকারে অপেক্ষা করুন এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষকে অবহিত করুন।
- বিদ্যুৎ সেবা প্রাপ্তিতে আপনার যেকোন অভিযোগ বা তথ্যের জন্য বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগের হট লাইন নম্বর ১৬৯৯৯ এ যোগাযোগ করুন।

পবিত্র রমজান মাস, গ্রীষ্মকাল ও সেচ মৌসুমে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন বিদ্যুৎ সুবিধা প্রাপ্ত বা বিদ্যুৎ বিষয়ক যেকোন অভিযোগের জন্য হট লাইন/কন্ট্রোল রুম নম্বর:

সংস্থা/কোম্পানির নাম	অভিযোগ/হট লাইন নম্বর	কন্ট্রোল রুম নম্বর
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ (কেন্দ্রীয় হটলাইন)	১৬৯৯৯	--
বিউবো	১৬২০০	০১৭০৮-১৪৯৫০২, ০১৭০৮-১৪৯৫০৩
পবিবো	১৬৮৯৯	০২-৮৯০০৫৭৫, ০১৭৯২-৬২৩৪৬৭
ডিপিডিসি	১৬১১৬	--
ডেসকো	১৬১২০	--
নেসকো	১৬৬০৩	--
গুজোপাডিকো	১৬১১৭	০২-৪৭৭৭২৪৪৭২, ০১৭৫৫৫৬৮৭৮১

বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ে উল্লেখিত কার্যক্রমসমূহ প্রত্যাশিত করুন এবং দেশের মূল্যবান জাতীয় সম্পদ সংরক্ষণে দায়িত্বশীল ও গৌরবময় ভূমিকা রাখুন।