

US airman rescue may mask bid to steal uranium

Iran ministry says

AFP, Tehran

Iran's foreign ministry said yesterday that a US operation to rescue a downed airman may have been a cover to "steal enriched uranium" from the Islamic republic.

On Sunday, President Donald Trump said the US recovered a second crew member of an F-15E that went down over Iran on Friday in what he called a "daring" search and rescue operation.

Iran's military has called it "a deception and escape mission", insisting it was "completely foiled".

Yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said there were "many questions and uncertainties" about the operation.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs, near Camille Chamoun Sports City stadium, Lebanon yesterday. Inset, a relative mourns as she kisses the grave of a person killed in an Israeli strike in Tyre, Lebanon.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Use of Hormuz must be guaranteed

UAE says, referring to any US-Iran war settlement; Iran Guards prepare plan for new order in the Strait

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UAE official Anwar Gargash said any settlement of the US-Iran war must guarantee access through the Strait of Hormuz, warning that a deal that fails to rein in Iran's nuclear programme and its missiles and drones would pave the way for "a more dangerous, more volatile Middle East."

Gargash, the diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, told a weekend briefing that the Strait of Hormuz - the world's most critical oil artery - cannot be weaponised, stressing that its security is not a regional bargaining chip but a global economic imperative.

"The Strait of Hormuz cannot be held



hostage by any country," said Gargash, adding that freedom of navigation through the waterway "has to be part and parcel of the settlement of any conflict with clear agreement on that."

Meanwhile, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they are completing preparations to enforce new operating conditions in the Strait of Hormuz, reports Reuters.

Gargash said the UAE wants the war to end, but warned against a ceasefire that leaves the root causes of instability unresolved. "We don't want to see more and more escalation," he said. "But we don't want a ceasefire that fails to

address some of the main issues that will create a much more dangerous environment in the region...notably (Iran's) nuclear programme, the missiles and drones that are still raining down on us and on other countries."

US President Donald Trump threatened to rain "hell" on Tehran if it did not make a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz by his today's deadline, reports AFP. Gargash said the United Arab Emirates was ready to join any US-led international effort to secure shipping through the strait.

About a fifth of global oil and liquefied gas supplies normally pass through it each day, but Iran's actions have severely curtailed traffic, triggering a global energy crisis.

The UAE has come under heavier Iranian strikes than any other Gulf state, according to regional officials. Gargash said that for decades, the most unlikely worst case scenario for the UAE had been a full Iranian attack - a scenario that is now unfolding. Despite that, he said, the country was coping well, demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness under pressure.

Ceasefire must address Iran's missiles, drones, nuclear risks

Iran strikes backfire, drive Gulf states closer to Washington

"The area where the American pilot was claimed to be present in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province is a long way from the area where they attempted to land or wanted to land their forces in central Iran," Baqaei said.

"The possibility that this was a deception operation to steal enriched uranium should not be ignored at all."

He added that the operation was "a disaster" for the United States.

Iran's military said several US aircraft had to "make emergency landings" in southern Isfahan province after being hit during the mission, with the US "forced to heavily bombard the downed aircraft" as a result.

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities said on Sunday morning that yet another US aircraft - a Lockheed C-130 Hercules - had been downed.

The US has not responded to those claims.

US rescues downed F-15 crew from Iran in \$500m mission

NDTV ONLINE

The US military has successfully evacuated a pilot and an airman from Iranian territory after an American F-15E Strike Eagle jet was shot down inside the Islamic Republic.

The high-risk, multi-day US rescue mission, executed in the south of Iran's Isfahan province, is drawing attention not just for its precision but for its staggering cost, reaching close to \$500 million.

US officials called the recovery effort one of the "most challenging" combat search-and-rescue missions due to the terrain, a hostile Iranian pursuit and post-recovery complications.

The operation to extract downed pilots involved an array of advanced military assets, including A-10 Thunderbolt II jets, MC-130J Commando II planes, Black Hawk helicopters, and MQ-9 Reaper drones, many of which were destroyed during the mission.

On Friday, Iran claimed that its defence forces shot down an F-15E Strike Eagle, an all-weather jet designed for air-to-ground and air-to-air missions that cost roughly \$100 million.

Two crew members - a pilot and a weapons-system officer in the back, responsible for selecting targets and making sure the weapons are properly calibrated to targets - were on board the jet when it was downed.

The pilot was rescued soon after, but the second airman, whom Trump described as a "highly respected Colonel", had to spend more than 24 hours evading capture in the mountainous region.

Trump orders citizenship lists

DOJ expands alleged voter fraud hunt

CNN ONLINE

The Trump administration is intensifying its campaign against alleged voter fraud, taking new steps toward building a national citizen database and ramping up its hunt for suspected noncitizen voters - all under the banner of "election integrity."

The latest escalation - including an executive order, a newly empowered prosecutor and a growing raft of lawsuits - has drawn fresh warnings from critics who say the administration's push to amass vast troves of voter data from across the country could be used to block eligible Americans from voting and stoke fresh doubts about the legitimacy of the 2026 midterm elections.

The Justice Department has finalized a deal with the Department of Homeland Security to give DHS sensitive voter-roll data the administration has demanded from states to be checked against a citizenship verification program that has been criticized for its inaccuracies.

Trump officials floated a new potential pressure tactic on states that so far have refused to hand over their full voter rolls: Conditioning hundreds of millions of dollars in homeland security grants on sharing voter data, requiring states to run their registration rolls through the federal immigration records system or lose the funding.



Palestinians inspect the damage after a person was hit by an Israeli strike while riding a bicycle, according to medics, in Gaza City, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian strike kills 3 in Odesa

16 injured; Moscow says 8 hurt in Ukrainian drone attacks on Black Sea port city of Novorossiysk

AGENCIES

President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media, adding 16 people had been wounded.

Meanwhile, at least eight people were injured, including two children, during Ukrainian drone attacks on the Black Sea port city of Novorossiysk, with a number of residential houses sustaining damage, Russia said yesterday.

Russia did not say if the port of Novorossiysk, Russia's largest exporting outlet on the Black Sea, was struck, reports Reuters.

Ukraine has significantly intensified attacks on Russia's energy facilities, including the largest oil exporting hubs both on the Baltic and Black seas, seeking to reduce Moscow's revenues from the sales of oil, the lifeblood of its economy. The area of the port of Novorossiysk is also a location for the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's terminal.



Targeting civilian sites 'illegal'

EU chief says after Trump's fresh threat of strikes on Iran

AFP, Brussels

Striking civilian infrastructure installations during war is illegal, EU chief Antonio Costa said in a social media post yesterday.

The warning came after US President Donald Trump threatened to devastate civilian infrastructure in Iran if it did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

"Any targeting of civilian infrastructure, namely energy facilities, is illegal and unacceptable," Costa, the president of the



European Council, said. "This applies to Russia's war in Ukraine and it applies everywhere. The Iranian civilian population is the main victim of the Iranian regime. It would also be the main victim of a widening of the military campaign," he said.

"The European Union urges Iran to immediately put an end to its attacks against countries in the region and to allow for the reestablishment of full freedom of navigation through the Hormuz."

Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development in Bangladesh Project (LCUD)
Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA)
Level 9 & 10, Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Ramna, Dhaka

Expressions of Interest (EoI) for Services

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
1. Ministry/Division	Power Division
2. Agency	International Organization
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh
4. Title of Service	Individual Consultant- Procurement Associate -Time Based
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant Time - Based
7. EoI Ref. No.	27.02.0000.000.023.14.0008.26.18
8. Date	07 April 2026
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement Sub-Method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and Source of funds	Development Budget
11. Development Partner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GEF
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Project/Programme Code	224417700
13. Project/Programme Name	Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh
14. EoI Closing Date and time	28 April 2026, Time: 15:00 (BST)
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
16. Brief Description of the Assignment	Overall management and coordination of all activities for Promoting Energy-Related Low Carbon Urban Development (LCUD) Bangladesh
17. Qualification and Experienced Required	Details is in the ToR, which is in SREDA website, (Notice Section & Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd
18. Other Details	Details is in the SREDA website, (Notice Section & respective Project Box). SREDA website: www.sreda.gov.bd
19. Association with foreign firms is	Not Applicable
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
20. Name of the Official Inviting EoI	Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman
21. Designation of the Official Inviting EoI	Project Director, LCUD Bangladesh
22. Address of the Official Inviting EoI	Level 9 & 10, IEB, Ramna, Dhaka
23. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EoI	02-55110343, lcud2024@gmail.com
24. Submission Procedure	Interested parties are requested to submit the EoI in person in the EoI Box at the SREDA office or Via email, if the EoI is submitted by email, the subject line must be clearly specified.
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any all EoI(s).	

Sd/-
Engr. Md. Muzibur Rahman
Project Director, LCUD

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