



The rubble of a destroyed building is pictured following overnight Israeli bombardment on the village of Maarake in southern Lebanon yesterday. The Israeli military said that it had completed the deployment of ground troops along a "defence line" in southern Lebanon, where it is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah. PHOTO: AFP

Iran war jeopardises US global leadership

Says Italy minister

REUTERS, Rome

The Iran war has put US global leadership on the line, Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said, expressing fear about the "madness" of nuclear escalation.

Like some other Nato allies reluctant to join US President Donald Trump's attacks on Iran, Italy last week denied permission for US military aircraft to land at the Sigonella air base in Sicily en route to the Middle East.

"This war is also putting the United States at risk in its global leadership," Crosetto told Italian daily Corriere della Sera in an interview published yesterday.

Crosetto, a close ally of Italian PM Giorgia Meloni who has a good ties with Trump, said he worried the conflict could take an even worse turn and cited the 1945 US nuclear bombings of Japan in World War Two.

"Just think: it was human beings like us who decided that even Hiroshima and Nagasaki were acceptable means of ending a conflict. Unfortunately, we still possess nuclear weapons, and those who do not have them are seeking to acquire them. We have learnt nothing," he said.

"The risk is madness, and what we are experiencing is a conflict in which every action triggers a reaction at a higher level".

'This is evil, madness'

Trump branded 'crazy' over apocalyptic Iran threats

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump is no stranger to provocative language. But his threat to wipe out Iranian civilisation and other recent menacing comments have prompted critics to question the US president's mental health.

The oldest elected president in American history has ramped up his apocalyptic rhetoric as his frustration grows with Tehran's refusal to make a deal to end the Middle East war.

Even some former allies have called for the 79-year-old Republican's removal from office after a series of outlandish and sometimes expletive-riddled social media posts.

The world is now guessing whether Trump will follow through when his Tuesday evening deadline for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz expires – or back down as the former businessman has often done before.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Trump posted on his Truth Social network 12 hours before the deadline falls.

As global alarm grew, the White House was forced to dismiss speculation that his statement – and comments by Vice President JD Vance about "tools in our toolkit that we so far haven't decided to use" – meant Trump was ready to use nuclear weapons.

In the past, the former New York property magnate has often trumpeted a negotiating style that relies on maximalist positions in order to extract more from a deal.

"He does seem a bit more uninged than in the past," Peter Loge, director of George Washington University's School of Media, told AFP. But he added that "this feels to me like a broader pattern of Trump bluster."

"My guess is as we approach one

more deadline in a long series of deadlines, the president will declare victory, say I drove Iran to the bargaining table, I'll give them two more weeks.

"Then we'll see this movie again in a couple of weeks."

Even by Trump's own outspoken standards, he has in recent days used distinctly un-presidential language.

"Open the Fuckin' Strait, you crazy bastards, or you'll be living in Hell," Trump said on Truth Social, on the morning of Easter Sunday.

Trump was barely more measured in a series of interactions with the media in the incongruous setting of an Easter Egg Roll at the

congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, who split with Trump last year, said on X.

Former loyalists including Greene have also joined Democrats calling for Trump's cabinet to invoke the 25th amendment, which provides for a transfer of power if a president is unable to govern, particularly in the event of illness.

Right-wing TV host Tucker Carlson called Trump's Easter Sunday comments the "first step toward nuclear war," ex-White House press secretary Anthony Scaramucci called him a "crazy person" and sought Trump's removal from office, and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones asked on his INFO WARS show: "How do we 25th



White House on Monday.

Surrounded by hundreds of kids and alongside a giant Easter Bunny and First Lady Melania Trump, the president denied that targeting Iranian power plants and civil infrastructure would be a war crime.

His extreme language has prompted a slew of critics – including some one-time allies – to question Trump's sanity.

"We cannot kill an entire civilization. This is evil and madness," hard-right ex-

Amendment his ass?"

Former Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Walz meanwhile said "the President has lost his mind."

But Trump himself brushed off questions about his mental health, when asked by an AFP journalist at a briefing at the White House on Monday.

"I haven't heard that," Trump said in response to a question about critics saying his mental state should be examined following his "crazy bastards" comment.

Israeli airstrike kills at least 10 near Gaza school



REUTERS, Cairo/Gaza

An Israeli airstrike killed at least 10 people and wounded several others outside a school housing displaced Palestinians on Monday, health officials said, the latest violence to overshadow the fragile US-backed Gaza ceasefire deal.

Before the strikes, some Palestinians had clashed with members of an Israeli-backed militia, who they said attacked the school in an attempt to abduct some people, medics and residents said.

In the midst of the clashes, east of the Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, Israeli drones fired two missiles into the area, killing at least 10 people and wounding several others, they added.

It was not immediately clear how many civilians had been killed in the strikes, which hit in a closely packed neighbourhood of mostly displaced Palestinians.

Earlier on Monday, an Israeli airstrike killed one Palestinian and wounded a child as they travelled on a motorbike in Gaza City, medics said.

Medics said that Israeli forces killed another Palestinian when they opened fire on a vehicle in central Gaza, taking Monday's death toll to at least 12.

The Israeli military said they fired at the "unmarked vehicle", which continued to accelerate toward troops despite "warning shots".

The World Health Organization's chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said a contractor in Gaza was killed during a security incident, prompting the organization to suspend medical evacuations from Gaza via Rafah to Egypt until further notice.

The Israeli military said two local employees of WHO were injured and that the incident was under review. WHO said that two of its staff members were present but were not injured in the incident.

12 killed in fresh Ukraine, Russia strikes

AFP, Kyiv

Russian artillery and aerial attacks killed nine people in Ukraine – including a child – in strikes across the country yesterday, officials said.

Those strikes came as Moscow, which invaded Ukraine more than four years ago, said a Ukrainian drone had hit a house in Russia, killing a child and his parents.

Russia's invasion has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and forced millions of people from their homes in the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II.

The two sides have stepped up deadly long-range drone and missile attacks in recent months, mainly targeting energy infrastructure, with Moscow aiming to dent Ukrainian resolve and Kyiv targeting Russian energy revenues.

Russian shelling in the southern city of Kherson – captured by Russia and then liberated in 2022 – killed four people and wounded several others, a regional official said.

The official, Oleksandr Prokudin, likened the Russian shelling on Kherson to "hell" and posted video showing bodies strewn on the street and bloodied victims.

The attack in Kherson came just hours after a Russian drone attack on a passenger bus in the frontline city of Nikopol killed four people, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

RUPANTARITA PRAKRITIK GAS COMPANY LIMITED

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Corrigendum Notice

Ref. No. 28.19.0000.701.40.11.26/594

Date: 07-04-2026

Subject: Invitation for the Enlistment (IFE) as a Potential LNG Supplier for Supplying LNG on Spot Basis.

This is to notify all concerned that the following amendment has been made for Ref. No. 28.19.0000.701.40.11.26/589 dated 19-03-2026 regarding the Invitation for the Enlistment (IFE) as a potential LNG supplier to supply LNG on Spot basis: Description

Description	Amendment Particulars
Application Closing Date, Time	The application closing date has been extended to 23 April 2026 at 12.30 pm (BST) instead of 09 April 2026 at 12.30 pm.

All other terms and conditions of the original notice/documents shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall be treated as an integral part of the original IFE documents.

This notice is available on websites: www.rpgcl.org.bd; www.petrobangla.org.bd; <https://emrd.gov.bd> and www.bppa.gov.bd.

RPGCL/PR-276

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GD-753

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN Storms, floods kill at least 188 people

AFP, Kabul

Heavy rain, storms and floods have battered Asian neighbours Afghanistan and Pakistan for more than two weeks, killing at least 188 people, disaster officials in both countries said yesterday.

In Afghanistan, which already faces a severe humanitarian crisis, rain, floods, landslides and lightning strikes killed 123 people since March 26, a spokesman of the national disaster management authority said. Between Sunday and Tuesday alone, 46 people died across several provinces, he added.

In northern Pakistan, the death toll has risen in recent days, reaching 47 people including 27 children since March 25, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial disaster management agency told AFP.

And in southwestern Balochistan, at least 18 people have died since March 20, according to the latest figures from local authorities.

The severe weather has also caused widespread damage and blocked major roads.



Sonali Bank PLC

Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)
Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No.: HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/

Date: 02/04/2026

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Tender	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	1251307	Procurement of Radmin Software for Sonali Bank PLC.	19-Apr-2026 15:00 PM	19-Apr-2026 15:30 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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 through any registered banks branches up to respective time schedule.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-756

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager