

Israel digs in for a 'forever war' Defence analysts say new strategy sees foes degraded, not eliminated

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Even as the US and Iran seek to cement a ceasefire, Israel is seizing more territory from its neighbours in preparation for a long, drawn-out conflict across the Middle East.

Israel's creation of "buffer zones" in Gaza, Syria and now Lebanon reflects a strategic shift after the attacks of October 7, 2023, one that puts the country in a semi-permanent state of war, six Israeli military and defence officials told Reuters.

The approach also acknowledges a reality the officials said had become increasingly clear after two and a half years of conflict: Iran's clerical leadership, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza and militias across the region cannot be eliminated outright.

"Israel's leaders have concluded that they are in a forever war against adversaries who have to be intimidated and even dispersed," said Nathan Brown, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

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The US and Iran agreed on Wednesday to a pause in fighting while they negotiate a broader end to the war, which erupted on February 28. Israel agreed to halt its attacks on Iran but says it will not stop its campaign against Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

Hezbollah joined the war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel, which then launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon to clear a buffer zone up to the Litani River - a broad swathe of land that makes up about 8 percent of Lebanese territory. Israel has ordered the area's hundreds of thousands of residents to flee and is in the early stages of destroying homes in Shia Muslim villages that it believes have been used by Hezbollah to store weapons or stage attacks.

A senior military official said the aim was to "clear" an area stretching 5-10 km beyond the border, putting Israeli border towns out of range of Hezbollah rocket-propelled grenade fire.



People march in New York City, US on Wednesday during a protest against US-Israeli tensions with Iran and conflicts in Lebanon and Gaza. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran bruised, but still powerful over Hormuz

REUTERS, Dubai

Nearly six weeks of war in Iran have ended, seemingly, with President Donald Trump claiming victory, but the US-Iran ceasefire locks in a harsh reality: an entrenched, radical government with control over the Strait of Hormuz and a powerful lever over global energy markets and Gulf rivals, analysts say.

The shockwaves have rippled outward, contributing to global economic strains and bringing conflict to Gulf neighbours whose

economies depend on stability.

"This war will be remembered as Trump's grave strategic miscalculation. One whose consequences reshaped the region in unintended ways," Middle East scholar Fawaz Gerges told Reuters.

Before the war, the Strait was formally treated as an international waterway. Iran monitored it and intermittently intercepted vessels, but it stopped short of asserting outright control.

In the new reality, Tehran has moved from shadowing tankers

to effectively dictating terms. It currently functions as de facto gatekeeper of the route. Iran wants to charge ships for safe passage.

Additionally, Iran has demonstrated resilience under sustained attack and retained the capacity to escalate further, projecting influence across multiple fronts and strategic choke points. Its reach extends through Lebanon and Iraq via Hezbollah and Shia militias, and into Bab el-Mandeb in the Red Sea, leveraging the sphere of influence of its Houthis allies.

N Korea holds weapons test Unveils cluster-bomb missile, electronic warfare capability

AFP, Seoul

North Korea tested weapon systems over three days this week, including the firing of ballistic missiles, cluster bombs and electromagnetic weapon, its state media said yesterday.

A mobile short-range anti-aircraft missile system was also included in the tests, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The trials took place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, as part of regular efforts to develop and upgrade weapons systems, KCNA said.

South Korea's military reported earlier that North Korea had fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles in two rounds on Wednesday, and an "unidentified projectile" the previous day.

According to KCNA, the exercises "confirmed that the surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile Hwasongpho-II Ka tipped with the cluster bomb

warhead can reduce to ashes any target covering an area of 6.5-7 hectares".

Cluster munitions disperse dozens or even hundreds of smaller submunitions over a wide area, making them controversial because of the long term risks they pose to civilians.

Also tested were an "electromagnetic weapon system" and "carbon fiber sham bombs scattering" that KCNA described as "special assets of strategic nature". The launches also involved the use of "low-cost materials" to examine the "maximum workload of the engine", it added.

South Korea's military said Wednesday a short-range missile fired in the second round of launches in the day flew more than 700 kilometres (434 miles).

It followed an earlier launch of multiple short-range ballistic missiles towards the East Sea -- also known as the Sea of Japan -- which flew around 240 kilometres.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম। www.chc.gov.bd E\_mail:customhousectg@gmail.com নথি নং-এস-৪/২১/প্রশাসন/নথিপত্র ধসেবকরণ/২০২০-২১/ (কাস) তারিখ:- ০৯/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. "জরুরি নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি" এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রামের অধীনে নথি/ফোকসর (আনুমানিক ৩০০.০০ টন) বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে জরুরি নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি আধ্বন করা হচ্ছে। উক্ত নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি মোতাবেক দরপত্র আহ্বানী আগামী ১২/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ হতে ১৬/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ এর মধ্যে সকাল ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ০৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সর্বকর্তা কমিশনার (সিডেকিড ও প্রশাসন) কক্ষে সূত্রিত দরপত্র বস্তু দাখিল করা যাবে এবং সর্বশেষ দিন ১৬/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকার পূর্বে দরপত্রসমূহ সর্বকর্তা কমিশনার (সিডেকিড ও প্রশাসন) কক্ষে উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের তদন্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) হারে জামানত (পে-অর্ডার আকারে, ফেরতযোগ্য) কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, কাস্টমস হাউস, চট্টগ্রাম-এর অনুকূলে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র/বিত্ত মূল্য প্রতি কেজি হিসেবে দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। বর্ণিত নথি/ফোকসর বাসনকলে ব্রাউ মোট ও উদ্বৃত্ত সর্বোচ্চ দরের ভিত্তিতে সর্বকর্তা/বিক্রয় মূল্য চূড়ান্ত করা হবে এবং সে মোতাবেক জেতা/সর্বকর্তা এখতিয়ে মূল্য পরিশোধ করতে হবে। শর্তাবলি- ১। প্রদত্ত দরপত্র মূল্যের অতিরিক্ত প্রযোজ্য উৎসে জ্যাট ও আয়কর প্রদান করতে হবে; ২। জামানত ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না; ৩। নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ ও সময়ের পর দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না; ৪। মাধ্যমিক নিয়ম দায়িত্ব পরিবর্তন করে নিয়ম ভেঙে হবে; ৫। ক্রমকৃত নথিপত্র/ফোকসর সরকারি দলিল হওয়ায় স্থানীয় বাজারে বা অন্য কোথাও বিক্রয় করা যাবে না; ৬। দরপত্রের সাথে প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, জ্যাট সনদপত্র ও আয়ের সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। ৭। ক্রমকৃত নথি/ফোকসর প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাঁচামাল হিসেবে ব্যবহার করতে হবে। শ্রীক মোহাম্মদ আল আমিন আসিস্ট্যান্ট কমিশনার (সিডেকিড ও প্রশাসন) কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস এর পক্ষে



Russia returns bodies of 1,000 soldiers to Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Moscow yesterday handed over the remains of 1,000 soldiers to Ukraine, a source in Russia's negotiating delegation told reporters, with Kyiv returning the bodies of 41 dead Russian troops.

The two sides regularly exchange the remains of troops killed in combat, one of the few areas of cooperation during the four-year war launched by Russia's full-scale offensive that has seen hundreds of thousands of soldiers killed.

Russia's state-owned Ruptly video agency posted footage of men in white overalls and blue gloves lifting white body bags from the back of a truck and carrying it onto a second vehicle.

The video also showed observers with the Red Cross signs emblazoned on the overalls.

Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War confirmed on social media that the bodies "of 1,000 deceased persons were returned to Ukraine."

Four migrants die trying to cross Channel: France

AFP, Equihen Plage

Four people yesterday died off the coast of northern France as they tried to board a small boat to cross the Channel to England, taking the number of such deaths this year to six.

The two men and two women were swept away by the current near the village of Equihen-Plage, regional official Francois Xavier Lauch said.

Another person was treated for hypothermia, he said, while 37 people were taken into the care of the emergency services.

The nationalities of the four dead were not yet known, local prosecutor Cecile Gressier said.

Two men, one Sudanese and the other Afghan, died last week trying to make a similar crossing -- the first reported deaths in the Channel this year.

France has long been a launchpad for migrants hoping to reach Britain, taking the dangerous journey in often flimsy, overcrowded vessels.

Last year, at least 29 people died, according to an AFP tally based on official French and British sources. Nearly 50,000 people aboard 795 boats attempted to make the crossing last year, according to French official figures.

British authorities recorded 41,472 small boat arrivals in 2025, the second-highest total after a record 45,774 in 2022.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) 153, Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha Dhaka-1000. TENDER NOTICE NO: 28.05.0000.000.231.07.0032.26.241 Date: 09.04.2026 e-TENDER NOTICE Procurement Method : OTM (NCT) e-tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.e-procure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following goods SL No. Tender ID Name of Goods 01. 1239031 Supply of Photocopier Machine and related services for any information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Tender Publication Date: 12.04.2026, Time: 11.30 Tender Last Selling Date: 22.04.2026, Time: 12.00 Tender Closing/Opening Date: 22.04.2026, Time: 12.30 (Minhazul Abedin Shakik) Assistant Director (Procurement) For Procuring Entity (PE) G.S.B., Dhaka. Phone: 48314810.

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বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড Bangladesh Power Development Board ব্যবস্থাপক (তত্ত্বাঃ প্রকৌঃ), সংরক্ষণ এর দপ্তর শাহজিবারজার ৩৩০ মে:ও: কসাবিকো, বিউবো, হবিগঞ্জ। e-mail: mm.shazar@bpd.gov.bd; mm330shazar@gmail.com Reference No: 27.11.3671.436.34.065.26-191 Date :09/04/2026 e-Tender Notice e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following goods: SI No e-Tender ID Package No. Description of Works Tender Document last selling /downloading Date and Time Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time Publication Date & Time 1. 1255764 Shah330\_2 5-26-GR-39 Procurement of Accessories (PRD, Buchholz, Oil indicator etc.) for different Station Transformers (6.6/0.4kV, 2500KVA) of Shahjibazar 330MW CAPP, BPDB, Habiganj 22-Apr-26; 17:00 23-Apr-26; 13:00 09-Apr-26. 10:00 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 (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 bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৯৯৪(২)/০৯/০৪/২৬ (Md. Shakiruzzaman Khan) Id No-1-01950 Executive Engineer (EMD) Shahjibazar 330MW CAPP BPDB, Habiganj.