

## Israel applies Gaza playbook to 'yellow line' in south Lebanon

AGENCIES

Israel's military on Saturday said it has established a "Yellow Line" demarcation in southern Lebanon – a boundary it says mirrors a similar separation used in Gaza.

The development comes just days after Israel and Lebanon agreed to a 10-day ceasefire aimed at halting weeks of fighting between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah. Referring to the newly established "Yellow line" for the first time, the Israeli military said its forces identified individuals approaching from beyond it.

"Over the past 24 hours, IDF forces operating south of the Yellow Line in southern Lebanon identified terrorists who violated the ceasefire understandings and approached the forces from north of the Yellow Line in a manner that posed an immediate threat," news agency AFP quoted the Israeli forces as saying.

The military added that it acted swiftly. The IDF said its "forces attacked the terrorists in several areas," adding that "actions taken in self-defence and to remove immediate threats are not restricted by the ceasefire."

The "Yellow Line" is essentially a military demarcation – a notional boundary drawn on the ground to separate



Palestinian demonstrators hold pictures of jailed Palestinians during a rally in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank yesterday, marking Prisoners' Day and protesting the Israeli parliament's approval of a new death penalty bill for Palestinians convicted of deadly attacks.

PHOTO: REUTERS



opposing zones of control. Israel says it has now created such a line in southern Lebanon, marking the limit between its forces and areas beyond which potential threats could emerge.

A similar "Yellow Line" has been in place in Gaza since October 10, where it effectively split the territory into two parts: one under Israeli military control and the other under Hamas. By invoking the same term in Lebanon, Israel appears to be applying a familiar operational framework to manage troop movement and perceived threats along a volatile front. In a separate update later in the day, the military said its air force carried out strikes near the same zone.

"The IDF eliminated a terrorist cell operating in proximity to IDF soldiers in southern Lebanon, in the area of the forward defence line," it said, again referring to the Yellow Line. It did not specify how many militants were killed. The announcement comes against the backdrop of a fragile ceasefire agreed on Thursday, meant to pause six weeks of intense conflict.

## Mismanaged US–Iran posts stall peace progress

AGENCIES

Premature and mismanaged media announcements by Donald Trump and Tehran have derailed progress toward a peace settlement between Iran and the US.

Iran announced it would reinstate a complete block on commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and refuse to export any of its stockpile of highly enriched uranium, marking the culmination of recent missteps.

The chain of events started when the Iranian Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, posted on X on Friday soon after the markets opened in the US. Donald Trump claims to have ended a 10th war – but will the Lebanon ceasefire hold?

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon the passage of all

commercial vessels through the strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire [Lebanon ceasefire] on the coordinated route as already announced by the Ports and Maritime Organisation of the Islamic Rep of Iran."

His announcement knocked \$12 off the price of a barrel of oil and was welcomed by Pakistan, reports The Guardian online. Araghchi's poorly framed post sparked backlash, worsened by falling oil prices and Trump's upbeat Truth Social response thanking Iran for opening the strait and agreeing to export uranium.

Tasnim, close to the IRGC, quickly called the post wrong or incomplete, saying it lacked clarity on passage conditions and drew heavy criticism. The impasse

prompted Trump to threaten renewed bombing after the ceasefire ends Wednesday, raising the risk of confrontation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran also told mediators it would not restart talks in Islamabad, rejecting US demands as excessive and insisting the strait remains its leverage.

Iran's tough stance reflects the IRGC's dominance in foreign policy and its concern that Araghchi was conceding too much to Washington.

Resentment grew after Trump's upbeat Truth Social posts, which Speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf dismissed as lies. Araghchi later clarified the Strait of Hormuz was open only to IRGC-authorized ships using designated routes and paying tolls.

## Trump orders probe into 11 scientists' mysterious deaths

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump has ordered an investigation into the mysterious deaths and disappearances of nearly a dozen American scientists with access to some of the nation's most closely guarded nuclear and space secrets.

The cases have fueled online speculation ranging from foreign espionage to a government cover-up of classified UFO research, reports RT online.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Trump stated that he "just came out of a meeting on this," noting that "It's pretty serious stuff."

"I hope it's random, but we're going to know in the next week and a half. Some of them were very important people, and we're going to look at it over the next short period," the president said.

Since 2023, at least ten individuals with ties to advanced research have died or vanished under puzzling circumstances.

Reports of at least 11 deaths and disappearances involving experts in space, defense, and nuclear fields have circulated this month, prompting speculation within the scientific community. Authorities have not confirmed any official connection among the cases.

## Two men killed in ambush on Manipur highway

AGENCIES

Suspected extremists ambushed the vehicles of civilians on National Highway 202 in the northeast Indian state of Manipur's Ukhrul district on Saturday, killing two Tangkhul Naga men, including a retired soldier.

The incident occurred at 2:35 pm near Yaolen Kuki village, about four km from Litan on the highway linking Ukhrul town and the State's capital Imphal. Tension has been prevailing in the Litan area since February 7, when a localised fight snowballed into a conflict between the Kuki and Tangkhul Naga communities.

The attack came a day after Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met villagers along the highway as part of a mission to "remove the trust deficit" between the Kukis and Tangkhuls.



## US delegation to go to Pakistan for Iran talks

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The Fars and Tasnim news agencies cited anonymous sources as saying Tehran had yet to decide whether it would take part and that "the overall atmosphere cannot be assessed as very positive", adding that lifting the US blockade was a precondition for negotiations.

State-run IRNA, meanwhile, pointed to the blockade and Washington's "unreasonable and unrealistic demands", saying that "in these circumstances, there is no clear prospect of fruitful negotiations".

Iran and the United States, along with Israel, are just three days away from the end of the two-week ceasefire that halted the Middle East war, ignited by surprise US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

There has so far been only a single, 21-hour negotiating session held in Islamabad on April 11 that ended inconclusively, though groundwork for fresh talks continued

afterwards.

"We're offering a very fair and reasonable DEAL, and I hope they take it," Trump said in his post.

Iran's speaker of parliament and senior negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf had insisted as recently as Saturday night that the two sides were "still far from the final discussion".

**HEIGHTENED SECURITY** In spite of the uncertainty, security was visibly stepped up in Islamabad yesterday in anticipation of new talks. Authorities announced road closures and traffic restrictions across the city, as well as in neighbouring Rawalpindi.

AFP journalists saw armed guards and checkpoints near Islamabad's most secure hotels – the Marriott and the Serena.

"Citizens are earnestly requested to cooperate with the security agencies," a city official posted on X.

The US president said his negotiators, whom he did

not name, would arrive in the Pakistani capital today.

As with the last round, the delegation will be led by Vice President JD Vance and include Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, a White House official said.

A major sticking point of negotiations has been Iran's stockpile of near-weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Trump said on Friday that Iran had agreed to hand over its roughly 440 kilograms of enriched uranium. "We're going to get it by going in with Iran, with lots of excavators," he said.

But Iran's foreign ministry has said the stockpile, thought to be buried deep under rubble from US bombing in last June's 12-day war, was "not going to be transferred anywhere", and surrendering it "to the US has never been raised in negotiations".

On Sunday, President

Masoud Pezeshkian questioned why Iran should give up its "legal right" to a nuclear programme.

**HORMUZ CLOSED AGAIN** Trump has been under pressure to find an off-ramp to the war since Tehran moved early in the war to choke off the Strait of Hormuz.

The vital waterway is a conduit for a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas in peacetime, and its closure has hammered the global economy and roiled markets.

Having failed to force it open again, Trump countered with a US naval blockade on Iranian ports in an attempt to cut off Tehran's oil revenues.

Iran briefly reopened the strait on Friday in recognition of an Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire in Lebanon but closed it again the following day in response to the US maintaining its blockade.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned that any

attempt to pass through the strait without permission "will be considered cooperation with the enemy, and the offending vessel will be targeted".

"If America does not lift the blockade, traffic in the Strait of Hormuz will definitely be limited," Ghalibaf said.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Sunday said the blockade was "a violation" of the ceasefire and illegal collective punishment of the Iranian people.

A handful of oil and gas tankers had crossed the strait early on Saturday during the brief reopening, but by early Sunday morning tracking data showed the waterway empty of shipping.

The afternoon before, a trio of incidents involving Iranian fire and threats towards commercial vessels demonstrated the danger of any attempted crossing.

In his post yesterday, Trump said of the incidents: "That wasn't nice, was it?"

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১	1260357, 54.01.1500.256. 03.010.25	Procurement different types of LED SIGNAL ASPECT for CTG Division.	NCT, OTM	20-Apr-2026 03-May-2026

বিস্তার:  
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।  
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এস (২৬) (২০৬)

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GD-860

Gazipur Development Authority  
Ministry of Housing and Public Works  
Gazipur, Bangladesh

Reference No. gda-dev-2025-2026-3-3 Date: 19-04-2026

**Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited by National e-GP System Portal ([www.e-gp.gov.bd](https://www.e-gp.gov.bd)) for the procurement of

Tender Id	Name of work	Last selling date and time	Opening date and time
1253428	Supply of vehicles under the project titled Survey, Random Selection, and Feasibility Study on Low-income Housing	26-04-2026 17:00	

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted.

Md. Mumtazur Rahman  
Member (Administration and Finance)  
Gazipur Development Authority

GD-858

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**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, নরসিংদী দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1258459	27.21.0000.447.07.001.26.22	Supply of different types of Materials (MCB, magnetic contactor, space heater, control room light, LED Flood Light, and related items) for substations under GMD, Narsingdi.
1194311	27.21.0000.447.07.001.25.23	Yearly Basis Grass Cutting and Sweeping, Cleaning work of Control Room, Toilets, Roads, Drain, Septic Tank, etc. at Ghorashal 230/33 kV Sub-Station under GMD, Narsingdi, Power Grid.
1258976	27.21.0000.447.07.001.26.24	Supply & Installation of Tetrapod, Muffling & Painting Works of Different Transmission Towers under GMD, Narsingdi.
1258448	27.21.0000.447.07.001.26.25	Temporary Ansar Barrack Work "Making Partition on the Ground Floor of Substation Building by Using Hardboard and Making Temporary Kitchen and Toilet for Ansar" at Bajitpur 132/33kV SS under GMD, Narsingdi.

অগ্রহী তিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আরিফুর কবির  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, নরসিংদী

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Memo No. 117/A-16/IES/2026 Date: 19.04.2026

**e-Tender Notice**  
(Notice Number: IES-001/2025-26)

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender/proposal publication date and time	Tender document last selling date and time	Tender closing date and time
01	1258320	Supply Office Equipment (Lab Equipment) at the Institute of Environmental Science, University of Rajshahi	19-Apr-2026 13:30	30-Apr-2026 14:00	30-Apr-2026 15:00

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 (<https://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's branch.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Director  
Institute of Environmental Science  
University of Rajshahi  
Motihar, Rajshahi-6205

GD-857