



ISRAELI STRIKES

More than half of Lebanon population depends on aid

AFP, Beirut

More than half of Lebanon's population depends on humanitarian aid, a European Union official said yesterday, as Israel continues its attacks on the country despite a ceasefire in the two-month-long war with militant group Hezbollah.

"At present, more than three million people, meaning more than half of the population here in Lebanon, depend on humanitarian aid to survive," EU crisis management chief Hadja Lahbib told reporters after meeting Lebanese President Joseph Aoun in Beirut.

Lahbib said that since the start of the war on March 2 the 27-member bloc has provided 100 million euros in aid and sent six planes carrying humanitarian aid, with a seventh expected today. Israeli strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,700 people and displaced over one million since early March, according to authorities.

The UN launched an emergency appeal in March for \$308 million in humanitarian aid for Lebanon, but in two months it has raised just \$126 million, according to UN agencies. Lahbib, who said that the ceasefire has opened "a narrow window of hope", called for Hezbollah "to cease its attacks and be disarmed" and said that "Israel must put an end to its bombardments".

'Too much at stake to accept ignorance'

Nearly 30 Democratic lawmakers press Rubio to clear US ambiguity over Israel's nuclear capability

DAWN ONLINE

Nearly 30 Democratic lawmakers have urged US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to end Washington's longstanding ambiguity over Israel's alleged nuclear weapons programme, arguing that such secrecy has become untenable during the ongoing war on Iran.

Israel is widely believed to be in possession of nuclear weapons, though it neither acknowledges nor denies having a nuclear arsenal.

In a May 4 letter addressed to Secretary Rubio, the lawmakers said the US was "currently engaged in a war against Iran, a conflict with nuclear dimensions that the administration has not adequately addressed with Congress or the American public".

The move is led by Congressman Joaquin Castro, a senior Democratic lawmaker from Texas who has served in the US House of Representatives since 2013 and is known for his work on foreign policy and intelligence-related issues, including his tenure on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

In a post on the social media platform X on Thursday, Castro said, "For nearly six decades, the US has voluntarily remained in the dark on Israel's nuclear capabilities. The ambiguity ends now."

"There is too much at stake to accept ignorance. We are at war alongside Israel against Iran without knowing what their red lines are for using a nuclear weapon," he said.

The letter repeatedly questioned the US government's refusal to publicly acknowledge Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal, while noting that multiple nuclear-armed states are directly involved in or affected by the conflict.



"The risks of miscalculation, escalation, and nuclear use in this environment are not theoretical," the lawmakers warned, adding that Congress had a "constitutional responsibility to be fully informed about the nuclear balance in the Middle East".

The lawmakers argued that "a policy of official ambiguity about the nuclear capabilities of one party to this conflict makes coherent nonproliferation policy in the Middle East impossible".

The document is unusual

because it openly presses the State Department to answer detailed questions about Israel's alleged nuclear weapons capability, including warheads, launch systems, fissile material production, nuclear doctrine and possible thresholds for nuclear use.

"What nuclear weapons capability does Israel have?" the lawmakers asked directly. They also requested information on "any nuclear weapons systems that Israel fields, including warheads and launchers".

The letter sought clarification on whether Israel possessed uranium enrichment capability and whether the Negev Nuclear Research Centre at Dimona produced fissile material or plutonium.

The lawmakers further asked whether Israel had communicated to US officials "any nuclear doctrine, red lines, or thresholds for nuclear use in the context of the current conflict with Iran".

Another question asked: "Has the administration received any assurances from Israel that nuclear weapons will not be used?"

The lawmakers also sought to know whether there had been "any indications of Israel planning to use or deploy nuclear weapons during the recent Iran conflict or during other conflicts."

Lula, Trump hail positive talks after rocky ties

Trade, tariffs feature in Washington meeting

REUTERS, Washington

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Thursday that three hours of White House talks with US President Donald Trump had helped to stabilize Brazil-US relations that have been strained over Trump's tariff policy.

The two leaders had been scheduled to take questions from reporters together in the Oval Office but did not appear, prompting speculation of a breakdown in talks amid Trump's anger over Brazil's prosecution of former President Jair Bolsonaro.



But Lula, speaking to reporters at the Brazilian embassy after a beef filet lunch with Trump at the White House, said he had asked for no press conference ahead of the meeting and reported progress in resetting ties.

"We took an important step in consolidating the Brazil-US relationship," Lula said. "It is important that the United States regain an interest in things happening in Brazil."

Trump praised the "very dynamic president of Brazil" in a social media post that said the meeting with Lula had gone "very well."

The two leaders discussed tariffs, trade, security, critical minerals and organized crime.

US and Brazilian trade officials agreed to talk in coming weeks to discuss what the Brazilian side described as an end to tariffs. Brazilian officials were happy with the outcome because establishment of the working group bought them some time on the issue of tariffs.



This handout photo released by the Ukrainian Chernobyl Radiation and Ecological Biosphere Reserve yesterday, shows smoke billowing over buildings in the town of Chernobyl from a forest fire in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone in northern Ukraine, amid the Russian invasion. PHOTO: AFP

AIRPORT PROJECT

Nepal anti-graft body charges ex-minister

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's anti-graft watchdog has filed charges against 13 people, including a former finance minister, and a Chinese firm in a case alleging multi-million-dollar corruption in a major airport project, officials said yesterday.

The charges are the latest in a slew of graft allegations involving the China-backed airport construction project in the tourist hub of Pokhara, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas.

"We have registered a case against 13 people and a company for giving tax exemption, which allowed double benefit to the contractor company," Suresh Neupane, spokesman for the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), told AFP.

Nepal's former finance minister Gyanendra Bahadur Karki and former finance secretary Shankar Prasad Adhikari were among those charged, along with China CAMC Engineering and two company bosses, CIAA said.

WW2 CELEBRATION

Russia, Ukraine fight on despite truce offer

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia and Ukraine yesterday accused each other of violating a unilateral two-day ceasefire announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin to cover the anniversary celebrations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany.

Four years since the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine triggered the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two, Russia and Ukraine are still pummeling each other with missiles, drones and artillery.

With no victory yet in sight for either side in a gruelling war of attrition, Putin announced a May 8-9 ceasefire to cover the celebrations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany - Russia's most revered national holiday.

Kyiv responded that a ceasefire just for the holiday was inappropriate and called instead for an indefinite truce to begin two days earlier, which Moscow ignored.

The Russian Defence Ministry said 264 Ukrainian drones had been downed in the early hours of yesterday, while Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said the capital had been targeted and officials said the Urals region of Perm had been attacked with drones.

"Despite the declaration of a ceasefire, Ukrainian armed forces

continued to launch attacks using unmanned aerial vehicles and artillery against our troops' positions, as well as against civilian facilities in the border regions of the Belgorod and Kursk regions," Russia's defence ministry said.

Russia has warned that any attempt by Ukraine to disrupt the Victory Day military parade on Red Square today would lead to a massive missile strike on Kyiv. Moscow has told foreign diplomats that if Ukraine does attack the event, they should evacuate the Ukrainian capital.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces continued to strike Ukrainian positions during the night yesterday, which he said showed Russia has not made "even a token attempt to cease fire on the front."

"As we did over the past 24 hours, Ukraine will respond in kind today as well. We will defend our positions and people's lives," Zelensky said.

The Soviet Union lost 27 million people in World War Two, including many millions in Ukraine, but pushed Nazi forces back to Berlin, where Adolf Hitler committed suicide and the red Soviet Victory Banner was raised over the Reichstag in May 1945.

This year's parade in Moscow will have no military equipment on display due to the threat of attack from Ukraine.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Pirojpur
E-mail: pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division		
2	Agency	Roads & Highways Department		
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.		
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
5	Procuring Entity District	Pirojpur		
6	Invitation for	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.		
7	Invitation Ref No	35.01.7980.462.99.171.20-1145		
8	Date	07/05/2026		
KEY INFORMATION				
9	Procurement Method	NCT & OTM		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB		
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	N/A		
13	Project Name (if applicable)	N/A		
14	Tender Package No.	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026 (Re-Tender)		
15	Tender Package Name	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.		
16	Tender Publication Date	07/05/2026		
17	Tender Last Selling Date	01/06/2026 up to 05:00 PM		
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	02/06/2026	12.30 PM	
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	02/06/2026	01.00 PM	
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address		
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.		
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	(i) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Procurement Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (ii) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barishal Circle, Barishal.		
	Receiving Tender Document	(i) Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Barishal Circle, Barishal. (ii) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.		
	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division Pirojpur.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	As Per TDS		
22	Brief Description of Services	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance of Real-Time Web-Based Toll Collection System for Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807) for 3(Three) years under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2025-2026.		
23	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	TK .5000.00 (Five Thousand) Only		
24	Package No	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
	01/Manual/PSN/PRD/2025-2026 (Re-Tender)	Toll Collection Activity and Operation & Maintenance	Bekutia Bridge at 41st Km of Barishal-Jhalokathi-Pirojpur-Bagerhat-Khulna Road (N-807)	17,50,000/- (Seventeen lakhs fifty thousand)
				36 (Thirty-Six) months
25	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. This notice will be available on RHD website www.rhd.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd.			

Md. Rasel
ID No. 602347
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD,
Road Division, Pirojpur