

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

# Bangladesh to get €407m loan, grant

Signs 3 deals with European Investment Bank, European Commission; PM urges EU to give GSP+ benefit after LDC graduation

BSS, Brussels

Bangladesh signed three loan and grant agreements, worth Euro 407 million, with the European Investment Bank and the European Commission to support the renewable energy sector.

The first agreement -- "Bangladesh Renewable Energy Facility" -- was signed between Bangladesh and the EIB for an EU-guaranteed framework loan of up to Euro 350 million to support climate action investments in Bangladesh.

Framework loans can be used to finance multiple small- and medium-sized projects.

The deal was signed at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and EIB President Werner Hoyer were present.

Hasina, in her statement, said, "I hope that the EU will offer GSP+ to Bangladesh to support our development following our LDC graduation in 2026."

She said Bangladesh is seriously concerned over the wars and wanted to work together to establish peace globally.

"We expressed serious concerns over the wars in Gaza, Ukraine and other parts of the world. We agreed to join forces for peace everywhere," she said.

She thanked the EU for its humanitarian assistance for the 1.2 million Rohingya being temporarily sheltered by Bangladesh.

The PM said the solution to the Rohingya crisis lies in their safe and sustainable return to their homeland in Myanmar.

"I urge the EU to remain engaged for an early and durable solution to the crisis," she added.

Yesterday, the second agreement was signed between the EIB and the commission to grant Euro 45 million to bring in concessional lending tools to support the first renewable energy utility scales project in Bangladesh.

The third agreement, "Partnership for Green Energy Transition", signed between Bangladesh and the EC is worth Euro 12 million and co-financed by Germany, aims to work on policy, legal framework, and investment climate to facilitate an inclusive green energy transition.

**"I hope that the EU will offer GSP+ to Bangladesh to support our development following our LDC graduation in 2026."**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Waste from factories nearby pollutes the Karnapara canal in Savar's Ulail area. Locals also dump waste from homes in the canal, obstructing water flow. The canal merges with the Dhaleshwari, eventually polluting the river too. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Govt to create 365 posts in police's upper ranks

BAHARAM KHAN

Giving in to the demand of police, the government is going to approve the creation of 365 supernumerary posts at the upper ranks of police ahead of the next national polls.

To this end, a home ministry proposal will be placed today at the meeting of the secretaries' committee on administrative development with Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain in the chair, said sources at the ministries of public administration and home.

"The meeting is going to approve the creation of the 365 posts," said an official of the

public administration ministry, wishing not to be named.

It is the secretaries' committee on administrative development that finally gives the go-ahead to the creation of any government post.

With an supernumerary post, an official continues to hold the same office and perform the same duties even after being elevated to a higher position.

Of the 365 posts, 10 are of additional inspector general, 65 of deputy inspector general, 140 of additional DIG, and 150 of

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## Drones hit area near Ukraine nuke plant

### Says Kyiv; 20 people injured

REUTERS, Kyiv

A Russian drone attack damaged buildings near the Khmelnytskyi nuclear power plant in western Ukraine in the early hours of yesterday and 20 people were wounded, officials said.

The air force destroyed all 11 Russian drones launched in the overnight attacks, the military said. Damage was caused by blast waves and falling debris, according to the interior minister.

"At night, the enemy struck territory near the

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People search for survivors and the bodies of victims in the debris of buildings that were destroyed during Israeli bombardment, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Israel agrees to delay Gaza invasion

Says WSJ report; UN warns fuel shortage to stop aid work in hours

AGENCIES

Israel has agreed to delay an expected invasion of Gaza for now so that the United States can rush missile defences to the region to protect its troops there, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing US and Israeli officials.

Israel is also taking into account in its planning the effort to supply humanitarian aid to civilians inside Gaza, as well as diplomatic efforts to free hostages held by Hamas militants, the report said.

The US military and other officials believe their forces will be targeted by militant groups once the invasion of the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory starts.

The United States is hurrying to deploy nearly a dozen air defence systems to the region, according to the Journal.

Reuters reported on Monday that Washington advised Israel to hold off on a ground assault in the Gaza Strip and is keeping Qatar - a broker with the Palestinian fighters - apprised of those talks as it tries to free more hostages and prepare for a possible wider regional war.

The development comes as more than 700 Israeli strikes hit Gaza in a single day where the death toll exceeded 6,500.

Meanwhile, the main UN aid agency in the besieged Palestinian territory warned it will have to stop operations by the end of Wednesday because it is running out of fuel.

Israel has cut off impoverished Gaza's usual water, food and other supplies, and fewer than 70 relief trucks have entered since the war started on October 7 -- "a drop of aid in an ocean of need", warned UN chief Antonio Guterres.

## 'Frozen in time' landscape found under Antarctic ice




AFP, Paris

Scientists have discovered a vast, hidden landscape of hills and valleys carved by ancient rivers that has been "frozen in time" under the Antarctic ice for millions of years.


This landscape, which is bigger than Belgium, has remained untouched for potentially more than 34 million years, but human-driven global warming could threaten to expose it, the British and American researchers warned.


"It is an undiscovered landscape -- no one's laid eyes on it," Stewart Jamieson, a glaciologist at the UK's Durham University and the lead author of the study, told AFP on Tuesday.

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