



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee areas in the northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli evacuation order in Jabalia yesterday. Israel's relentless offensive on Gaza has so far killed at least 41,870 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory.

PHOTO: REUTERS

A YEAR OF ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN GAZA

Palestinians wonder how to deal with tonnes of rubble

REUTERS, Khan Younis

In the ruins of his two-storey home, 11-year-old Mohammed gathers chunks of the fallen roof into a broken pail and pounds them into gravel which his father will use to make gravestones for victims of the Gaza offensive.

"We get the rubble not to build houses, no, but for tombstones and graves from one misery to another," his father, former construction worker Jihad Shamali, 42, says as he cuts through metal salvaged from their home in the southern city of Khan Younis, damaged during an Israeli raid in April.

The work is hard, and at times grim. In March, the family built a tomb for one of Shamali's sons, Ismail, killed while running household errands.

But it is also a tiny part of the

efforts starting to take shape to deal with the rubble left by Israel's military campaign to eliminate Palestinian group Hamas.

The United Nations estimates there is over 42 million tonnes of debris, including both shattered edifices that are still standing and flattened buildings.

UN estimate shows debris clearance might cost \$1.2 billion

That is 14 times the amount of rubble accumulated in Gaza between 2008 and the offensive's start a year ago, and over five times the amount left by the 2016-17 Battle of Mosul in Iraq, the UN said.

Piled up, it would fill the Great Pyramid of Giza - Egypt's largest - 11

times. And it is growing daily.

The UN is trying to help as Gaza authorities consider how to deal with the rubble, three UN officials said.

A UN-led Debris Management Working Group plans a pilot project with Palestinian authorities in Khan Younis and the central Gaza city of Deir El-Balah to start clearing roadside debris this month.

"The challenges are huge," said Alessandro Mrakic, the Gaza Office head for the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) which is co-chairing the working group. "It's going to be a massive operation, but at the same time, it's important that we start now."

Israel's military has said Hamas fighters hide among civilians and that it will strike them wherever they emerge, while also trying to avoid harming civilians.



A drone view shows the aftermath of floods and landslides in the village of Donja Jablanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India villagers kill last wolf from man-eating pack

AFP, Lucknow

Villagers in India have beaten to death the last of a six-member pack that killed nine people, eight of them children, wildlife officials said yesterday.

The grey wolves sparked hysteria among residents in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, where the animals were said to have attacked more than 40 people.

More than 150 armed personnel and dozens of forestry officials were deployed to capture the wolves last month. Five of the animals were trapped, with drones and surveillance cameras suggesting only one remained free.

973 migrants cross Channel in record day

Says UK Home office; four people including a child die after overloaded boats get into trouble

AFP, London

A record 973 migrants crossed the Channel on small boats on the same day in which four died while attempting the journey from France to England, UK Home Office figures showed yesterday.

The figure for Saturday is the highest single-day number of migrants making the cross-Channel journey this year, surpassing the previous high of 882 set on June 18.

On the same day, a two-year-old boy and three adults died after overloaded boats got into trouble during the dangerous crossing attempted by several thousand every year.

The tragedies bring the number of migrants killed attempting Channel crossings this year to 51, according to Jacques Billant, France's prefect for the

Pas-de-Calais region.

Over 26,600 migrants have crossed the Channel on small boats in 2024 according to UK Home Office figures.

The deaths on Saturday were likely caused due to the victims being crushed in overloaded dinghies, according to authorities and prosecutors.

UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said on Saturday that it was "appalling that more lives have been lost in the Channel".

"Criminal smuggler gangs continue to organise these dangerous boat crossings," she wrote on X. "The gangs do not care if people live or die -- this is a terrible trade in lives."

Keir Starmer's new Labour government has been at pains to reduce cross-Channel arrivals in boats, a key issue in this year's election in July.

Iran prepares plan to respond to any Israeli attack

AFP, Tehran

Iran has prepared a plan to respond to a possible Israeli attack following the Islamic republic's retaliatory missile strike against it last week, local media reported yesterday.

"The plan for the necessary response to a possible action by the Zionists (Israel) has been fully prepared," Tasnim news agency said, quoting "an informed source" in the armed forces.

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad visited a key oil site in the Gulf, amid growing concerns over possible Israeli strikes.

On Tuesday, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired some 200 missiles at Israel in retaliation after the leaders of groups allied to Tehran were killed in attacks.

"If Israel takes action, there will be no doubt that an Iranian counterattack will be carried out," said Tasnim. It added that Iran "has a list of many Israeli targets", and said Iran's attack on Tuesday "showed that we can level to the ground any place it desires".

Tuesday's missile barrage, Iran's second-ever direct attack on Israel, came after an Israeli air raid killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC top general Abbas Nilforoushan in Beirut.

It was also in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian group Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran in an attack widely blamed on Israel.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned of a "proportional and similar reaction from Iran, and even stronger" if Israel attacks.

US President Joe Biden on Friday advised Israel against targeting oil sites in Iran, one of the world's 10 largest oil producers.

India's BJP set to lose two state elections: exit polls

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's ruling party is projected to have lost two key provincial elections to the main opposition Congress party and its allies, exit polls showed, suggesting another setback after the party fared poorly in national elections.

Local media reported that Congress had a clear advantage in exit polls in the northern state of Haryana, indicating an end to a decade of rule by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. The opposition also held an edge in the Himalayan territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The two elections were held in phases that ended on Saturday. Votes will be counted tomorrow and results will be announced the same day. The exit poll results were released late on Saturday.

Exit polls, conducted by private polling firms including TV broadcasters, have a patchy record in India, which analysts say poses a particular challenge due to its large and diverse voting population.

The exit polls had projected Modi's BJP would win a large majority in the general election in June, but it fell short and had to depend on regional parties to secure a majority and form a coalition government. The two Indian territories are the first to go to the polls since the national elections.

India's industrial hub of Maharashtra and the mineral-rich eastern state of Jharkhand, next up in provincial elections, are awaiting the announcement of polls dates that are expected to be in November.

The Jammu and Kashmir election was the first in a decade in the Himalayan region, which has endured years of militant violence.



PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

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Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, was established by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in May 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. PKSF is an association not for profit within the meaning of Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1913 (as amended by the Companies Act, 1994). Its interventions focus on self-employment, income generation and poverty alleviation of the poor and the underprivileged people. PKSF channels appropriate financial and non-financial services through a vast network of its Partner Organizations (POs), mainly Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), to the intended groups of people at the grassroots. It ensures intensive supervision and renders consultancy services for building specially designed financial institutions for the poor.

Key Responsibilities

The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer of PKSF and works under the policy direction of its Governing Body. S/he is responsible for the management of the affairs of PKSF and plays a leading, innovative role in the management and expansion of the activities of PKSF. The major job responsibilities of the Managing Director include the following tasks:

1. To ensure proper administration of the affairs, the funds and the resources of PKSF;
2. To draw, endorse, sign, accept, negotiate, and hand over all cheques, bills of lading, drafts, orders, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments as may be required by and be in the interest of PKSF;
3. To secure the fulfillment of any contract, agreement or engagement entered into by PKSF by mortgage or charge of all or any of the properties of PKSF from time to time or in such manner as s/he may think fit in the interest of PKSF;
4. To appoint and, at his/her discretion, remove or suspend the employees of PKSF;
5. To prescribe the duties of all employees of PKSF;
6. To institute, conduct, defend or abandon any legal proceedings by or against PKSF; and
7. To exercise supervision and disciplinary control over the work and the conduct of all employees of PKSF.

Key Qualifications

1. The candidate is expected to have an excellent academic background with at least a master's degree from any reputed university with at least two first divisions/classes in the academic career. Having a third division/class at any stage of education is not acceptable.
2. The candidate should be a Bangladeshi national with at least 25 years of professional experience in the field of finance/economics/development including rural development and poverty alleviation.
3. S/he should have knowledge of and experience in macroeconomics and microeconomics, high-level administrative and management capabilities, abilities to maintain liaison with different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh and capabilities of effectively conducting international communication.
4. The candidate must have demonstrated leadership qualities and excellent organizing, analytical, negotiating and problem-solving skills.
5. The candidate is also expected to have a proven record of work experience of leading organizations in any of the above-mentioned fields. Necessary proof of experiences/ testimony must be attached with the application.
6. S/he must have strong grasp of the use of technology in the operation of day-to-day task;
7. The candidate must have interpersonal communication and collaboration skills to work with cross function teams;
8. The Candidate should not exceed 63 years of age on the last date of application (only the certificate of SSC/equivalent examinations will be considered as the proof-of-age document).

Emoluments

Monthly basic salary Tk 1,82,000/-; house rent 60% of the basic salary; medical allowance Tk 3,000/-; hospitality allowance Tk 7,500/-; housekeeping and service allowance Tk 11,500/-; education allowance Tk 1,600/- for each child (not exceeding two children); a full-time transport with driver, provident fund, gratuity fund, pension fund benefits and other fringe benefits & allowances as per existing policies of PKSF. Applicable income tax will be deducted from the Managing Director's emoluments at source. These conditions may be revised by the Governing Body of PKSF from time to time.

The Appointment will be made on a contract basis for an initial period not exceeding 3 years, subject to annual evaluation of performance by the Governing Body of PKSF.

Interested candidates that fulfill the requirements/qualifications should submit online application through PKSF website: <https://recruitment.pkfsf.org.bd/> by 21 October 2024. In addition, a printed copy of the application along with a curriculum-vitae and other necessary documents in a sealed envelope must be delivered at the following address by no later than 22 October 2024 through registered post. Candidates who currently have employment must apply through their proper institutional channels.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of unsolicited recommendation will be viewed negatively. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this advertisement without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Convener, Search Committee
for the Appointment of Managing Director, PKSF