



People displaced by the ongoing war in Sudan return to Wad Madani in the Jazira state yesterday after the city was retaken by the Sudanese army from the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitaries.

PHOTO: AFP

# Israel to hand over Gaza to US after fighting: Trump

Israel orders its army to prepare to allow ‘voluntary departure’ of enclave’s residents

REUTERS, Jerusalem

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that Israel would hand over Gaza to the United States after fighting was over and the enclave's population was already resettled elsewhere, which he said meant no US troops would be needed on the ground.

A day after worldwide condemnation of Trump's announcement that he aimed to take over and develop the Gaza Strip into the “Riviera of the Middle East”, Israel ordered its army to prepare to allow the “voluntary departure” of Gaza’s residents.

Trump, who had previously declined to rule out deploying US troops to Gaza, clarified his plans in comments on his Truth Social web platform.

“The Gaza Strip would be turned over to the United States by Israel at the conclusion of fighting,” he said.

- Palestinians fear another ‘Nakba’
- UN chief warns Trump against ethnic cleansing in Gaza
- Katz suggests countries opposing Israel take in Palestinians

Palestinians “would have already been resettled in far safer and more beautiful communities, with new and modern homes, in the region.”

“No soldiers by the US” would be needed!” he said.

Earlier Israel’s Defence Minister said he had ordered the army to prepare a plan to allow residents who wished to leave to exit Gaza voluntarily.

Katz said his plan would include exit options via land crossings, as well as special arrangements for departure by sea and air. He also said countries who have opposed Israel’s military operations in Gaza should take in the Palestinians.

Hamas official Basem Naim accused Katz of trying to cover up “for a state that has failed to achieve any of its objectives in the war on Gaza”, and said Palestinians are too attached to their land to ever leave.

## January sets ‘surprising’ heat record Says EU monitor

AFP, Paris

Last month was the hottest January on record, Europe's climate monitor said yesterday, despite expectations that cooler La Nina conditions might quell a streak of record-breaking global temperatures.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said January was 1.75C hotter than pre-industrial times, extending a persistent run of historic highs over 2023 and 2024, as human-caused greenhouse gas emissions heat the planet.

Climate scientists had expected this exceptional spell to subside after a warming El Nino event peaked in January this year and conditions gradually shifted to a cooling La Nina phase.

But the heat has lingered at record or near-record levels ever since, sparking debate among scientists about what other factors could be driving warming to the top end of expectations.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS China, Pakistan pledge to boost cooperation

REUTERS, Hong Kong

China and Pakistan will upgrade and reconstruct Pakistan's railway network and further develop its Gwadar port, while Chinese companies can invest in the South Asian nation's offshore oil and gas developments, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

The comments came as Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari visits China from February 4-8, where he will also attend the opening ceremony of the Asian Winter Games.

Chinese investment and financial support for Pakistan since 2013 have been a boon for the South Asian nation's struggling economy.

The two countries have had close ties underpinned by long-standing wariness of their common neighbour, India, and a desire to hedge against US influence across the region.

Pakistan and China recognised the importance of Pakistan's “Gwadar Port and agreed to fully unleash its potential as a key node for connectivity and trade,” Xinhua said quoting a joint statement from the two countries. Chinese-funded enterprises would be encouraged to “carry out mining investment cooperation in Pakistan” and cooperate in terrestrial and marine geological resources.

“Pakistan welcomes Chinese companies to participate in the development of offshore oil and gas resources in Pakistan.”

Longtime Pakistan ally China has thousands of nationals working on projects grouped under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

## UK govt to fire civil servants who fail to make savings

AFP, London

Senior civil servants in the UK could lose their jobs if they fail to make savings, while those who do will receive bonuses, the government said yesterday.

The moves come as part of an effort by the Cabinet Office, the ministry that supports the prime minister in running the government, to create a “more agile and modern” state.

Under the new policy, all senior civil servants will have to meet a set of core standards, including being able to demonstrate they have made savings, the ministry said in a statement sent to AFP yesterday.

Those who do not meet the minimum standards will be placed on a performance development plan, which could lead to dismissal if no improvement is observed.

“We need to reform the state to make it more agile and modern so we can transform the public services people rely on every day,” said Cabinet Office minister Pat McFadden.

“It is vital that senior leaders are not just encouraged, but held responsible for this,” he added.

“We will introduce new checks to identify and tackle poor performance where we find it, and to recognise the good work of senior leaders across the civil service,” he added.

Government departments have been told to find savings worth five percent of their budgets as the UK struggles to rein in public borrowing against the backdrop of a stagnant economy.

Government Of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh  
Department of Military Land and Cantonment  
Ministry of Defence  
Dhaka Cantonment  
www.dmlc.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

1	Ministry:	Ministry of Defence
2	Procuring Entity Name:	Department of Military Land and Cantonment, Dhaka Cantonment
3	Programme Name:	MEO-SES (Military Estates Office-Smart Express Service) software
4	EOI Ref No.:	23.22.0000.021.32.267.24-57, Date: 06-02-2025
5	Date:	07 February, 2025
6	EOI Closing Date:	27 February, 2025 at 03:30 PM
7	Eligible Entities	The Software Consulting Firm should be from Bangladesh; association with foreign firms will not be accepted.
8	Source of Fund	GoB
9	Selection Process (Overall)	The two-stage process by the procedures set out in the Guidelines for Procurement under PPR-2008 Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI) 2: Request for Proposal (RFP)

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

10	Contents of EOI Application	a. Covering letter as per format of Exhibit I of Annexure 1 b. Details of the Applicant as per format at Exhibit 2 of Annexure 1 c. Details of the financial capability of the Applicant as per the format in Exhibit 3 of Annexure 1 d. Details of the technical capability of the Applicant as per format at Exhibit 4 of Annexure 1.
11	Financial Capacity	A minimum net worth of BDT. 1 Crore as of 30.06.2024 within the last three fiscal years.
12	Technical Capabilities	a. Experience of a minimum of 12 years as a software company providing service and support to their clients. b. Should have BASIS membership. c. Should have ISO 27000 certified. d. Should have experience in similar revenue collection projects/subprojects in DMLC/ government/semi-government org. e. Experiences in integration with different payment channels and money transfers within 24 hours. f. Should maintain the BNDA standards and follow the software engineering standards where applicable. g. Should have experience working with financial organizations (Banks) in different capacities with Government/Central bank policies. h. Managing & supporting similar project(s)/payment modules in at least 3(three) financial years. i. Understand the government payment collection policies, practices, and their application.
13	Documentation Criteria	a. Should understand FWA & provide the methodology, planning, PERT, Gantt chart & right process model for the development. b. Should understand the software modeling as per FWA & provide the UML design, and apply it in the development process. c. Should produce the normalization, schema, mapping & ERD of the DB. d. Should provide the source code and all documentations. e. Should provide the resume of the team.
14	Evaluation Criteria	Financial Capability, Technical Capability, Documentation Capability, QCBS

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

15	Name of Official Inviting EOI:	Shamim Ahammed
16	Designation of Official Inviting EOI:	Director General
17	Address of Official Inviting EOI:	Department of Military Land and Cantonment, Ministry of Defence, Dhaka Cantonment.
18	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI:	Tel:8711510, Email: dg@dmlc.gov.bd
19	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI without assigning any reason.	

Director General  
Department of Military Land and Cantonment

GD-381

Engineering Office  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong

Ref No. Cons-04/CECU-2594/25

Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)

Date: 05/02/2025

General Manager(CC),  
Procurement Deptt.  
For: Managing Director.

(Size: 6 Inch. x 4 column)

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Education
2.	Agency	:	University of Chittagong
3.	Procuring entity name	:	Chief Engineer, Engineering Office, University of Chittagong
4.	Procuring entity code	:	N/A
5.	Procuring entity district	:	Chittagong
6.	EOI for Selection of	:	Engineering & Architectural Consulting Firm
7.	Procuring method	:	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
8.	Budget and source of funds	:	GoB
9.	Project name	:	Consultant for Architectural and Engineering Design of a 06 (Six)-Storied Annex Building for Jamal Nazrul Islam Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at University of Chittagong.
10.	Brief description of assignment	:	Providing consultancy services for the Preparation of Architectural and Engineering Design of a 06 (Six)- Storied Annex Building for Jamal Nazrul Islam Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at University of Chittagong.
11.	Submission of proposal	:	Up to 12:00pm on 20/02/2025. Technical offer shall be submitted at the Engineering Office, C.U. (Please sealed envelope duly marking the envelope as technical offer bearing the Name & Address of the Consultant).
12.	Proposal opening date & time	:	Technical offer will be opened at the Office of the Chief Engineer at University of Chittagong on the same day at 2:00pm in presence of the consultant or his representative if thereby any.
13.	Eligibility of the consultant	:	a) Trade license (updated) b) VAT, TIN and TAX Assessment Certificate (updated) c) Last 05 (Five) years Audit report (Only summary part) d) Average annual turnover: The consulting firm must have at least an average annual turnover of BDT 1,50,00,000.00 (One Crore and Fifty Lakh) for at least 02 (Two) years within the last 05 (Five) years.
14.	Experience of the consultant	:	The consulting firm shall meet the following minimum qualification criteria. 1. The consulting firm shall have a minimum of 15(Fifteen) years' experience in the field of providing architectural and engineering design. 2. The consulting firm must have experience in completing both architectural and engineering design of at least 10 (Ten) different projects in last 10 (Ten) years. 3. The consulting firm should have specific experience in both architectural and engineering design of at least 02 (two) similar types of building projects, each having minimum 05-storied construction (above ground) with a minimum total floor area of 10,000 square meter in each project in the last 05 years.
15.	Scope of works	:	a) The plan shall be prepared considering environmental, ecological impact & topographical condition. b) The plan shall reflect/represent proposed structures showing three-dimensional visualization. c) Demarcation of the boundary line against acquired land of the University of Chittagong d) Preparation of detail Architectural Design Structural design, MFP, Firefighting system, Bill of quantities (BOQ). e) Provide animation of the proposed plan. f) The plan should fulfil requirements considering present & future demand of the University for minimum 50 (fifty) years.
16.	Name, designation of official inviting EOI	:	Engr. Syed Zahangir Fazal, Chief Engineer
17.	Address, contact details of official inviting EOI	:	Engineering Office, University of Chittagong. PABX-02334460789, Ext: 4213. Mobile No: 01863-521561

18. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any part of all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
19. If it is not possible to receive/open the Proposal on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.  
20. For any kind of query please contact with the related person or email us at [ce\\_engroff@cu.ac.bd](mailto:ce_engroff@cu.ac.bd)

Chief Engineer  
Engineering Office  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong

GD- 377