

Trump aiming to bring Iran ‘to its knees’

Says Iran’s president

AFP, Tehran

Iran’s president yesterday accused his US counterpart Donald Trump of seeking to bring the Islamic republic “to its knees” as the country marked the 1979 revolution that toppled the shah.

The revolution removed a pro-US government in Iran, and the subsequent hostage-taking of American diplomats in Tehran ushered in decades of hostility between the United States and Iran.

This year’s celebrations carry additional weight following Trump’s return to the White House. During his first term, Trump he pursued a policy of “maximum pressure” against the Islamic republic.

In the morning, people gathered in public spaces across Iran, accompanied by pop songs and patriotic ballads, to celebrate the anniversary of the overthrow of shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

In Tehran, they headed to the symbolic Azadi tower, whose name means



“freedom” in Persian, and which is in a square formerly named in honour of the shah.

“Trump says, ‘we want to talk’, and... (then) he signs in a memorandum all the conspiracies to bring our revolution to its knees,” Pezeshkian told the crowd, referring to Trump’s reinstatement of sanctions against Tehran earlier this month.

“We are not looking for war,” he said, while adding that Iran “will never bow to foreigners”.

Chanting anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans, crowds formed Monday in the streets of Shiraz and Bandar Abbas in the south, Rasht in the north, Kermanshah and Sanandaj in the west, and the holy city of Mashhad in the east, according to images broadcast on television.

Attendees, many of them families, carried portraits of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the green, red and white flag of Iran, as well as the banners of Tehran-backed groups such as Hezbollah.



Destroyed buildings are pictured near Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Paris summit grapples with real-world impact of AI

AFP, Paris

Artificial intelligence (AI) risks reinforcing gender disparities rather than immediate widespread job destruction, the International Labour Organization chief said yesterday as a summit of national leaders and tech bosses opened in Paris.

Co-hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Paris summit aims to lay the groundwork for governing the nascent sector, as global powers race to play leading roles in the fast-developing technology.

At present, AI is mostly replacing humans in clerical jobs disproportionately held by women, International Labour Organization (ILO) head Gilbert Houngbo told an audience in the French capital’s opulent Grand Palais.

“The category of jobs that will be automated and hence be lost could contribute to deepen the gender gap” in pay between men and women, he added.

Looking at the wider picture, “we’re not too much worried (about) a massive job loss” despite widespread fears Houngbo added.

While “there will be millions of jobs that will be lost”, many more will be created thanks to AI, he predicted based on current “quite positive” trends.

Nevertheless, “there is a risk of those new jobs being paid less and sometimes with much less protection” for employees, as has happened with much “gig economy” work, Houngbo said.

Political leaders, including US Vice President JD Vance and Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, are set to rub shoulders with the likes of OpenAI boss Sam Altman and Google chief Sundar Pichai.

A largely suit-wearing crowd of men and women speaking languages from all over the world gathered under the glass-and-steel dome of the great hall, built for the 1900 Universal Exhibition and now decked out with screens and geodesic domes.

‘Immense hopes, exaggerated fear’ - Two years on from the emergence of OpenAI’s ChatGPT chatbot, “artificial intelligence fuels both immense hopes and, at times, exaggerated fear,” Macron’s AI envoy Anne Bouverot told guests as she opened the summit.

She promised a “turning point” that would bring more countries on board with AI, as well as more “sustainable development” of the resource- and energy-hungry technology.

Macron had on Sunday trumpeted the economic benefits of artificial intelligence, saying 109 billion euros (\$113 billion) would be invested in French AI in the coming years.

That was “the equivalent for France of what the US has announced with ‘Stargate’,” the \$500-billion US programme led by ChatGPT maker OpenAI, he added.

The technical challenges and price of entry for nations hoping to keep abreast in the AI race have become clearer in recent week

NEW CLIMATE TARGETS

Nearly all nations miss UN deadline

AFP, Paris

Nearly all nations missed a UN deadline to submit new targets for slashing carbon emissions, including major economies under pressure to show leadership following the US retreat on climate change.

Just 10 of nearly 200 countries required under the Paris Agreement to deliver fresh climate plans by February 10 did so on time, according to a UN database tracking the submissions.

Under the climate accord, each country is supposed to provide a steeper headline figure for cutting heat-trapping emissions by 2035, and a detailed blueprint for how to achieve this.

Global emissions have been rising but need to almost halve by the end of the decade to limit global warming to safer levels agreed under the Paris deal.

UN climate chief Simon Stiell has called this latest round of national pledges “the most important policy documents of this century”.

Yet just a handful of major polluters handed in upgraded targets on time, with China, India and the European Union the biggest names on a lengthy absentee list.

Most G20 economies were missing in action with the United States, Britain and Brazil -- which is hosting this year’s UN climate summit -- the only exceptions.

The US pledge is largely symbolic, made before President Donald Trump ordered Washington out of the Paris deal.

Accountability - There is no penalty for submitting late targets, formally titled nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

They are not legally binding but act as an accountability measure to ensure countries are taking climate change seriously and doing their fair share toward achieving the Paris goals.

The sluggish response will not ease fears of a possible backslide on climate action as leaders juggle Trump’s return and other competing priorities from budget and security crises to electoral pressure.

Ebony Holland from the International Institute for Environment and Development said the US retreat was “clearly a setback” but there were many reasons for the tepid turnout.

The EU, historically a leader on climate policy, has been delayed by elections and internal processes and is bracing for fresh polls in Germany and Poland.

An EU spokeswoman said a collective target for the 27-nation bloc would be unveiled “well ahead” of the UN COP30 climate conference in November.



AI is ‘biggest shift of our lifetimes’

AFP, Paris

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a “fundamental rewiring of technology” that will act as an “accelerant of human ingenuity”, Google boss Sundar Pichai will say Monday at a global AI summit in Paris.

“We’re still in the early days of the AI platform shift, and yet we know it will be the biggest of our lifetimes,” Pichai said to say according to excerpts from his speech to global leaders and tech industry chiefs seen by AFP.

The Google boss will highlight imminent applications for AI

technology such as detecting the emergence of wildfires in satellite images, as well as announce a partnership for detecting and treating cancer with the French capital’s Institut Curie.

Demis Hassabis, the head of Google’s DeepMind AI research lab, also hailed the technology’s potential at an event on Sunday in Google’s Paris offices.


“Material science, mathematics, fusion, there is almost no area of science that won’t benefit from

these AI tools,” the Nobel chemistry laureate said.

“With AI, we have the chance to democratise access (to a new technology) from the start, and to ensure that the digital divide doesn’t become an AI divide,” Pichai was to say Tuesday.

The concept of a “digital divide” refers to the gap between people with or without easy access to and familiarity with the internet and modern communications technologies.





Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Jamalpur

Memo No. 37.07.3900.003.64.05.25- 6653

Date: 10/02/2025

e-Tender Notice No: 2024-2025/49


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| Tender ID | Name of works | Publication Date/time | Closing date & Opening Date |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
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| 1004768 | Manufacturing & Supplying Furniture at Boira Israil Ahmmad High Schoool, Sarishabari, Jamalpur. | 10.02.2025 at 15.00 | 26.02.2025 at 12.00 |
| 1004769 | Manufacturing & Supplying Furniture at Langaljura High School, Sadar, Jamalpur. | 10.02.2025 at 15.00 | 26.02.2025 at 12.00 |

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(Md. Anwer Hossain)
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Jamalpur.

GD- 399



ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজেপাডিকোলিঃ)
West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited (WZPDCL)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ভোলা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ, ওজেপাডিকোলিঃ, ভোলা

স্মারক নং- ২৭.২২.০৯১৮.৬০২.৫৫.০০১.২৫.৯৩১

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পুনঃনিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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| ১। | মন্ত্রণালয়ের নাম | : | বিদ্যুৎ জ্ঞানানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়। |
| ২। | সংস্থার নাম | : | ওয়েস্টজোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিঃ। |
| ৩। | দপ্তরের নাম | : | ভোলা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ, ওজেপাডিকো, ভোলা। |
| ৪। | কাজের নাম | : | ভোলা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের আওতাধীন চরফাশান ও মনপুরা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহের বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রের ভিত্তরের অকেজো (অব্যবহৃত) মালামাল। |
| ৫। | দরপত্র পদ্ধতি | : | খোলা দরপত্র (OTM) |
| ৬। | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ | : | ০৪/০৩/২০২৫ ইং (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়)। |
| ৭। | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | : | ০৫/০৩/২০২৫ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ মিনিট। খোলার সময় ঐ দিন বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা |
| ৮। | বিশেষ নির্দেশিকা | : | ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষন করেন। খ) অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ওজেপাডিকোর ওয়েব সাইটে পাওয়া যাবে। |

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২০/০২/২৫
(মোঃ ইউসুফ)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
ভোলা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ, ওজেপাডিকো, ভোলা।

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Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the System Analyst, ICT CELL
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.

Ref. NO. 46.207.031.05.00.30/21.182/25


Date: 9.02.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by System Analyst, ICT CELL, Dhaka South City Corporation for the Procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website(<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date: 10-Feb-2025, 15.00

| Sl. No. | Tender ID, Ref. No. & Package no. | Name of Works | Last Selling date and Time | Tender Closing Date & Time |
|---------|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Tender ID 1072543 Ref. & Package no. DSOC/ICT/2024-2025/001/01_1 | Yearly 1500 Mbps bandwidth Supply to Dhaka South City Corporation Head Office, Zonal Office(1-10), 75 Ward Offices 03 water pumps, 03 Hospitals and 10 Wireless Towers including maintenance works. | 25-Feb'2025 15.00 | 25-Feb'2025 16.00 |

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(Md. Abu Taiyeb)
System Analyst, ICT CELL
Dhaka South City Corporation
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.

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