

# INTERNATIONAL

## \$53b needed to rebuild Gaza: UN

AFP, United Nations

More than \$53 billion will be required to rebuild Gaza and end the "humanitarian catastrophe" that has gripped the war-torn territory, including \$20 billion in the first three years alone, the United Nations said Tuesday.

The global body said in a report that a "political and security framework" must also be put in place so that recovery and rebuilding can begin, and a groundwork can be laid for a political process to quickly end the Israeli occupation "and establish a viable two State solution."

Much of Gaza -- including schools, hospitals and other civic infrastructure -- has been reduced to rubble by a withering Israeli military offensive.

The interim assessment offers an early indication of the enormous scale of recovery and reconstruction needs in the Gaza Strip, "UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the document, cautioning that it was not a full assessment.

The report estimates the recovery and reconstruction needs in the short, medium and long term across the Gaza Strip at \$53.142 billion. Of these, the near term needs in the first three years are estimated to be around \$20.568 billion," he added.

In a resolution adopted in December calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the UN General Assembly had asked Guterres to provide an assessment of the territory's needs within two months.

The report assessed that with "over 60 percent of homes" destroyed in Gaza and the housing sector requires around \$15.2 billion. The commerce and industry sector will need an estimated \$6.9 billion, as will the health sector, according to the report.

Reviving the agricultural industry will take around \$4.2 billion, transport will require \$2.9 billion, water and sanitation an estimated \$2.7 billion and education \$2.6 billion.

The report also noted the particularly high costs of \$1.9 billion anticipated for the environmental sector "as a result of the massive debris laced with unexploded ordnance and the high cost associated with removal of debris."

The United Nations has estimated that the war has generated more than 50 million tonnes of debris, including human remains, unexploded ordnance, asbestos and other hazardous substances.



Migrants argue with Panamanian National Border Service members as they attempt to cross the border between Panama and Costa Rica at Paso Canoas on Tuesday while trying to return to Venezuela. Dozens of Venezuelan migrants crossed the border from Costa Rica into Panama in a small caravan, having given up their journey to the United States.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ukraine talks to start 'immediately'

Says Trump after holding phone conversation with Putin

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone yesterday and agreed to immediately start talks to end the Ukraine war, in an extraordinary thaw in relations that could leave Kyiv out in the cold.

Trump described the call as "lengthy and highly productive" in a post on Truth Social, saying that the two leaders had even agreed to visit each other's nations to address the deep tensions since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The Kremlin separately said the call lasted nearly one-and-a-half hours and that Putin and Trump had agreed that the "time has come to work together," with a long-term solution for the Ukraine war in reach.

I just had a lengthy and highly productive phone call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia," Trump said, adding that they had discussed Ukraine, the Middle East, artificial intelligence and other subjects.

He said they agreed that "we want to stop the millions of deaths taking place in the War with Russia/Ukraine" -- with Trump using an unconfirmed figure for the toll in the Ukraine conflict.

"We agreed to work together, very closely, including visiting each other's nations to address the deep tensions since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The Kremlin separately said the call lasted nearly one-and-a-half hours and that Putin and Trump had agreed that the "time has come to work together," with a long-term solution for the Ukraine war in reach.

But in a sign that Ukraine could see its fate decided by Washington and Moscow, Trump said that "we will begin

by calling President Zelensky, of Ukraine, to inform him of the conversation."

The Ukrainian presidency later confirmed that Zelensky had a phone call with Trump.

The Kremlin's statement was more measured, saying that Putin "agreed with Trump that a long-term settlement could be reached through peace negotiations."

Putin stressed any settlement would need to "address the root causes of the conflict," Peskov said, without elaborating.

Trump said he had asked US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, National Security Advisor Michael Waltz and his Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff "to lead the negotiations which, I feel strongly, will be successful."



Volunteers assist residents through swift floodwaters in Makassar, Indonesia yesterday. Hundreds of houses in four sub-districts have been flooded since Monday due to heavy rain and high-intensity sea waves.

PHOTO: AFP

## DEFYING TRUMP'S ORDER

## White House bars AP reporter

AFP, Washington

The Associated Press (AP) said Tuesday that its White House reporter was barred from an event with President Donald Trump over the top US news agency's refusal to follow his order renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.

"We were informed by the White House that if AP did not align its editorial standards with President Donald Trump's executive order renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America, AP would be barred from accessing an event in the Oval Office," AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said.

"This afternoon AP's reporter was blocked from attending an executive order signing," Pace said.

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**Invitation for e-Tender**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Description	Tender Publish Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1074059	JBPLC/IT-Proc-16/OTM/Tape Cartridge/2025	Procurement of Tape cartridge for CDC of Janata Bank PLC, following Open Tendering Method (OTM).	12/02/2025 14:00 PM	03/03/2025 12:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Ready stock will be preferable and goods must be delivered after 05 days from contract sign.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP portal and e-GP Help Desk (Email: [helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Sd/-  
(Mohammad Shakawat Hossain)  
Deputy General Manager

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## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Economic Relations Division

Ministry of Finance  
Admin-3 Section  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)

Memo No: 09.00.0000.074.26.004.25/82

Date: 12/02/2025

## Tender Notice (e-GP)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of goods and services mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of Goods/ work	Tender Document Selling Start	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1074541	Procurement of Microbus for ERD	12.02.2025 at 12.00	27.02.2025 at 10.00	27.02.2025 at 12.00	27.02.2025 at 12.00

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.
4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

12.2.23

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Deputy Secretary  
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## e-Tender Notice

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SL No.	Tender ID No.	Packa ge No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Openin g date and time
01	1074687	GRL-21 (FY:24-25)	27.11.0000.304. 25.11.225 Date: 12/02/2025	Supply of 33/11KV Power Transformer 10/13.33 MVA (Tongi Store)	17-Mar 2025 13:00	17-Mar 2025 14:00	17-Mar 2025 14:00

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To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

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বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৭৯২(৩)/১২/০২/২৫

GD- 423

GD- 420

Manager Admin

## Modi heads to US to dodge tariff battle

AGENCIES

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is heading to Washington for high stakes talks in an attempt to avoid a trade war with Donald Trump.

India is considering tariff cuts in at least a dozen sectors in the hope of dodging US tariffs that would pile more pressure on its already slowing economy, reports The Guardian online.

Modi and Trump are set to meet today in Washington.

For nearly three decades, US presidents from both parties have prioritised building ties with India, seeing a natural partner against a rising China. But Trump has also raged against India over trade, in the past calling the world's fifth-largest economy the "biggest tariff abuser."

Trump himself has weaponized tariffs against friends and foes since returning to office last month. Ahead of Modi's visit, the Indian government slashed duties on high-end motorcycles -- a boost to Harley-Davidson, the iconic American company whose struggles in motorbike-loving India have captured Trump's attention.

## 124 journos killed in 2024: CPJ

AFP, Washington

Last year was the deadliest for journalists in recent history, with at least 124 reporters killed -- and Israel responsible for nearly 70 percent of that total, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported Wednesday.

The uptick in killings, which marks a 22 percent increase over 2023, reflects "surging levels of international conflict, political unrest and criminality worldwide," the CPJ said.

It was the deadliest year for reporters and media workers since CPJ began keeping records more than three decades ago, with journalists murdered across 18 different countries, it said.

A total of 85 journalists died in the Israeli-Hamas war, "all at the hands of the Israeli military," the CPJ said, adding that 82 of them were Palestinians.

Sudan and Pakistan recorded the second highest number of journalists and media workers killed, with six each.

In Mexico, five were killed, with CPJ reporting it had found "persistent flaws" in Mexico's mechanisms for protecting journalists.