

Trump floats \$5m 'gold card' as a route to US citizenship

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump unveiled plans Tuesday to sell new "gold card" residency permits for a price of \$5 million each -- and said Russian oligarchs may be eligible.

Trump said sales of the new visa, a high-price version of the traditional green card, would bring in job creators and could be used to reduce the US national deficit.

"We're going to be selling a gold card. You have a green card, this is a gold card. We're going to be putting a price on that card of about \$5 million," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

The Republican president, who has made the deportation of millions of undocumented migrants a priority of his second term, said the new card would be a route to highly prized US citizenship.

"A lot of people are going to want to be in this country, and they'll be able to work and provide jobs and build companies," Trump said. "It'll be people with money."

Sales of the cards would start in about two weeks, Trump added.

"We'll be able to sell maybe a million of these cards. We have it all worked out from a legal standpoint," Trump added.

The billionaire former real estate tycoon said that all applicants for the new gold cards would be carefully vetted.

But asked if wealthy Russians would also be able to apply, Trump said it was a possibility.

"Possibly. I know some Russian oligarchs that are very nice people. It's possible," Trump said. "They're not as wealthy as they used to be. I think they can. I think they can afford \$5 million."

A number of Russian oligarchs have been hit by western sanctions since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine three years ago. Trump has caused shock in European capitals by suddenly opening negotiations with Russia to end the war, amid fears that he could be willing to sell Ukraine short.



People walk on building rubble at the Nur Shams camp for Palestinian refugees near Tulkarem, where Israeli forces allowed residents to retrieve belongings after reportedly issuing demolition notifications for several houses amid a weeks-long offensive in the occupied West Bank yesterday. The head of the UNRWA said more than 50 people, including children, have been reported killed since the Israeli forces' operation started.

PHOTO: AFP

Hamas to hand over 4 Israeli hostages' bodies

US says talks on track for 2nd phase of Gaza truce deal

AFP, Gaza City

Hamas said it would exchange the bodies of four Israeli hostages for more than 600 Palestinian prisoners today, capping the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire deal.

The United States said talks were on track for a second phase of the ceasefire deal that has largely held but whose complexity and long-drawn-out implementation have highlighted its fragility.

Mediators have informed Hamas that the (hostage-prisoner) exchange will take place on Thursday [today]... Hamas and other resistance factions will hand over four bodies of Israeli captives, and in return, Israel will release more than 600 Palestinian detainees," a Hamas official told AFP.

Another senior Hamas official said the "exchange will happen simultaneously".

In Washington, US President Donald Trump's top envoy on the Middle East said Israeli representatives were en route to talks on the next phase of the ceasefire deal.

"We're making a lot of progress. Israel is sending a team right now as we speak," Steve Witkoff told an event for the American Jewish Committee. "It's either going to be in Doha or in Cairo, where negotiations will begin again with the Egyptians and the Qataris," he said.

Israel has yet to confirm its release, and has not commented on whether it is sending a delegation to discuss the second phase of the truce. This first phase is supposed to end on Saturday, but negotiations planned for the rest of the process -- which were to begin in early February -- have not yet started.

Hamas has said it is ready to release "in one go" all the remaining hostages during the second phase.

Israeli army strikes military targets in Syria

Two people killed

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israeli army said it carried out air strikes targeting military sites containing weapons in southern Syria on Tuesday evening, just days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for demilitarising the area.

At least two people were killed by a strike on one of the sites, the headquarters of a military unit southwest of Damascus, a war monitor said.

"Over the past few hours, the IDF struck military targets in southern Syria including command centres," the army said.

French police kill man holding knives

AFP, Paris

French police said officers killed a man holding a knife in each hand after he "threw himself" at them in the northeastern Paris suburbs yesterday.

At around 7:00 am (0600 GMT), police approached "a man sitting at a bus stop with a knife in each hand" in the town of Dugny, Paris police told AFP.

The man "threw himself at them, without saying a word", they said.

One of the officers used an "electroshock weapon" without effect, they said.

Neither my family nor I

FROM PAGE 2

to February 26, 2025. The statement showed deposits of Tk 10,06,886 and withdrawals of Tk 9,96,188.

Nahid also clarified that neither he nor any of his family members, including his wife, mother, or father, bought any land or flats in Bangladesh during his time in office.

He added that his

secretary has Tk 36,028 in a bank account, but no property has been purchased by him or his family during his time in office.

Nahid said his financial records and those of his staff are open for public review. The information, he said, is verifiable under the Bangladesh Right to Information Act, 2009.

He added that his

Digital law reforms

FROM PAGE 2

There were no clear justifications for changes between drafts, and earlier consultation outcomes were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, amendments to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 remain unpublished, preventing public review or feedback.

The rights groups raised concerns about privacy and free expression.

In the statement, they said the CPO would allow law enforcement to search any location without a warrant, based solely on suspicion of a cyber-offence such as hacking or a cyber-attack, both undefined in the law. The PDPO lacks privacy safeguards and grants broad exemptions to law enforcement and intelligence agencies, shielding them from accountability in data collection and handling.

Another issue is the

lack of clear definitions for terms like "classified personal data" in the PDPO, which is subject to cross-border transfer restrictions. Without precise definitions, these vague provisions could be used to target marginalised communities, silence political dissidents, and restrict independent journalism.

The organisations also urged Bangladesh to repeal the Cyber Security Act (CSA) and withdraw all cases filed under this law and its predecessors. They also called for stronger procedural safeguards, greater transparency in the law-making process, and alignment of digital governance reforms with international human rights standards.

They emphasised the need for a comprehensive approach to digital regulation, rather than rushed and fragmented legislation.

NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.

COMMON SERVICES DIVISION

Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
PABX: 223381901-4, 223383981-2, Ext-117

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirements under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) documents.

Service Description	Price of the Tender document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Item 1: Request for Quotation of Supply, installation, implementation & configuration of Automated Teller Machine (ATM) to NCC Bank PLC.	Tk. 3,000/- (Taka Three Thousand) only in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	February 27, 2025	March 06, 2025	March 09, 2025 on/before 12:01 PM
Item 2: Request for Quotation of Supplying of Desktop PC (CPU+Monitor) & Printer to NCC Bank PLC.				

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President & Head of Common Services Division

RAK CERAMICS

RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited

RAK Tower (7th, 8th & 9th Floor), Plot # 1/A, Jasimuddin Avenue, Sector # 3, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

NOTICE OF THE 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time). Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Directives No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/08 dated March 10, 2021 and further BSEC Letter No. BSEC/ICAD/SRIC/2024/318/87 dated March 27, 2024; the AGM will be held virtually by using digital platform through the following link <https://agmbd.live/rak2025> to transact the following businesses:

AGENDA

1. To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024, together with the reports of the Auditor and the Directors.
2. To declare dividend for the year ended 31 December 2024.
3. To elect/re-elect Director(s) of the Company.
4. To appoint/re-appoint Independent Director of the Company.
5. To re-appoint the Managing Director of the Company.
6. To appoint the Statutory Auditors of the Company for the year 2025 and fix their remuneration.
7. To appoint the Compliance Auditors of the Company for the year 2025 for compliance certification on corporate governance and fix their remuneration.
8. To approve of entering into contract for sale or purchase of goods and materials with Mohammed Trading amounting to 10% (ten percent) or above of the revenue for the immediate preceding financial year.
9. To consider issuance of corporate guarantee covering credit facilities of RAK Power Pvt. Ltd. from Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC for an amount of BDT 393 mn for financing to purchase of two 4.3 MW gensets.



By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

(Muhammad Shahidul Islam FCS)
Company Secretary

Dhaka, Bangladesh
Date: February 27, 2025

Notes:

1. The shareholders whose name appeared in the Share/Depository Register as on the 'Record Date' (i.e. February 17, 2025), are eligible to participate in the 26th AGM and receive the dividend.
2. The Board unanimously recommended dividend @ 10% in cash of the paid up capital of the Company for the year 2024.
3. Mr. Abdallah Massaad will retire by rotation in the 26th AGM and being eligible, offer himself for re-election as director of the Company.
4. Based on the recommendation by the NRC, the Company has obtained consent from BSEC for the appointment of Mr. Md. Obayed Ullah Al Masud as an Independent Director for a period of 3 (three) years and based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board proposed to re-appoint of Mr. Mohd. Shafiq Azam as an Independent Director for a further 01 (one) more tenure (i.e. 03 years).
5. Upon the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board proposed to re-appointment of Mr. SAK Ekramuzzaman as Managing Director of the Company for a further period of 3 (three) years with effect from 16th of March 2025.
6. In order to comply with the BSEC notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2009-193/10/Admin/118 dated March 22, 2021; the Board of Directors has recommended to enter into contract for sale or purchase of goods and materials with Mohammed Trading [Owner is Managing Director of RAK Ceramics (Bangladesh) Limited] amounting to 10% (ten percent) or above of the revenue for the immediate preceding financial year subject to approval of the shareholders.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Board, the Company proposed to issue a corporate guarantee in favor of Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC on behalf of its subsidiary, RAK Power Pvt. Ltd., for a credit facility of BDT 393 million financing to purchase of two 4.3 MW gensets.
8. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf (such a proxy shall be a shareholder of the Company). The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of BDT 100/- must be sent through email to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
9. As per Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2006-158/208/Admin/81 dated 20 June 2018; soft copy of Annual Report of the Company along with Attendance Slip, Proxy Form and the notice will be forwarded to all the shareholders of their respective email address available with us. These will also be available on the Company's website at www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh. The shareholders may also collect the annual report of the Company from the Company's Share Department at Registered Office in person.
10. Shareholders are requested to submit through mail to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com on or before March 12, 2025, their written option to receive dividend in the form available in Company's website www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh, if the shareholder fails to submit such option within the stipulated time, the dividend will be paid off as deemed appropriate by the Company.
11. The concern stock broker, merchant banker and portfolio manager are requested to submit through mail to the Company at sharedepartment.bgd@rakceramics.com on or before March 12, 2025; the statement (Excel format) along with detail of their margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, who are entitled to receive cash dividend of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2024. The statement should include shareholder's name, BO ID number, client-wise shareholding position, gross dividend receivable, applicable tax rate, net dividend receivable etc. along with the Consolidated Customers' Bank Account number, routing number and contact person.
12. The shareholders will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <https://tinyurl.com/rakagm2025>.
13. Shareholders are requested to log in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 11:00 am (Bangladesh Time) on 22 March 2025. The webcast will start at 10:45 am on March 22, 2025. Please contact +8801730058055 and +8801730055355 for any technical difficulties in accessing the virtual meeting.
14. Detail log in process has been sent through email to respective shareholder's mail ID available in their BO Account maintained with the Depository. The detailed procedures to participate in the virtual meeting along with link are also available in the Company's website www.rakceramics.com/bangladesh



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT) A Subsidiary Organ of OIC

ADMISSION NOTICE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

APPLICATION DURATION 27th Feb. 2025 - 13th March 2025



BSc Engineering and BBA Programmes

Eligibility

- BSc in Mechanical Engineering (ME)
- BSc in Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE)
- BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE)
- BSc in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)
- BSc in Software Engineering (SWE)
- BSc in Civil Engineering (CE)
- BBA in Technology Management (TM)

SSC/HSC or Equivalent

Minimum GPA 4.5 (both) SSC and HSC/Equivalent; A+ in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Minimum A in English in HSC O/A Level or Equivalent

O Level: At least B in any two subjects among Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry and minimum C grade in the remaining subject mentioned above. Minimum grade B in English.

A Level: Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry with Minimum grade A

Must have completed HSC or Equivalent in 2024 or 2023

Must have completed SSC or Equivalent in 2021 or later

ADMISSION TEST (For BSc Engg. and BBA Programmes)
Friday, 2nd May 2025 at 10:30 AM

Only short-listed applicants will be allowed to sit for the admission test.

<