

US, Israel
reject Egypt’s
Gaza plan
Hamas welcomes it

REUTERS, Cairo

Israel criticised a plan put forward by Arab states for Gaza’s reconstruction on Tuesday, while Palestinian group Hamas welcomed it.

The White House said the plan adopted by Arab states did not address Gaza’s reality and that US President Donald Trump stood by his proposal.

Meanwhile, Israel’s newly appointed military chief Eyal Zamir said yesterday that his country’s mission to defeat Hamas was not yet accomplished.

Arab leaders adopted an Egyptian reconstruction plan for Gaza that would cost \$53 billion and avoid displacing Palestinians from the enclave.

Trump’s plan to displace Palestinians in a US takeover of the enclave received global condemnation last month.



Municipal workers remove debris at the site of houses hit by a Russian drone strike in Odesa, Ukraine, yesterday. Russia staged night-time attacks on energy facilities in Odesa, cutting electricity to the Black Sea territory and leaving at least two dead.

PHOTO: REUTERS

TERRORIST ARREST
Pakistan hails
renewed co-
op with US

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan trumpeted the arrest of Mohammad Sharifullah, whom it blames for a 2021 attack on US troops, in a military operation along the border with Afghanistan, as the result of its renewal of counter-terrorism cooperation with US.

Yesterday’s news came hours after US President Trump thanked Pakistan for the arrest during remarks to Congress, adding that Sharifullah was on his way to the US to face justice. “We will continue to partner closely with the United States in securing regional peace and stability,” Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a statement.

Zelensky ready for
Russia talks, mineral deal
Says Trump during his speech to Congress; US curbs
intelligence sharing with Ukraine

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said later on Tuesday that Ukraine’s leader Volodymyr Zelensky has told him Kyiv was ready for talks with Russia and the finalisation of a US minerals deal, days after the pair’s explosive White House meeting.

The dramatic collapse of Kyiv and Washington’s wartime alliance has played out in the open since the televised dispute in the Oval Office last week, followed by Ukraine’s top ally suspending crucial military aid.

Zelensky has since sought to bring Trump back onside, posting on social media that their clash was “regrettable” and he wanted “to make things right”.

➡ Trump tells Greenland US will get it ‘one way or the other’

➡ US ‘taking back’ Panama Canal after ports deal: Trump

In his partisan speech to US Congress, Trump read aloud from a letter he said he recently received from Zelensky, which matched the social media statement.

Russia welcomed Zelensky’s statement that Kyiv is willing to negotiate over the war, but it is not yet clear to Moscow who it might

be negotiating with, the Kremlin said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the US has “paused” intelligence sharing with Ukraine, CIA director John Ratcliffe said yesterday.

During his address to Congress, Trump urged Greenland to choose to join the United States but vowed to take the Danish-ruled island “one way or the other” – whatever the locals decide.

The US had started to take back the Panama Canal after a deal by a Hong Kong firm to sell ports to a US-led consortium, he also said. “To further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal, and we’ve already started doing it,” he told Congress.

EU states
agree to roll
out automated
border system

AFP, Brussels

EU member states yesterday agreed on a phased rollout of a new border check system for non-EU nationals which will do away with passport stamps.

The so-called Entry/Exit System (EES), was initially supposed to kick in last November but was delayed at the last minute as several states were not ready.

First agreed on in 2017, the automated system will record visitors’ date of entry and exit and keep track of overstays and refused entries.

But its introduction has raised fears of longer waiting times for people travelling to Europe on trains, ferries and planes.

DELIMITATION EXERCISE
India opposition
unites against
Modi’s plan

REUTERS, New Delhi

India’s opposition party politicians in the southern states yesterday met to protest plans by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government to redraw constituencies based on the 2011 census, on concerns the northern states would dominate in parliament.

The protest, led by M K Stalin, chief minister of Tamil Nadu state, has been backed by the national Congress party and over a dozen others in five southern states, which are enjoying faster economic growth than northern counterparts while keeping a lid on population growth.

Stalin tabled a resolution to ensure that the so-called delimitation exercise, or redrawing of boundaries, be based on 1971 population levels and retained till 2056 to ensure that densely populated northern states taper population growth.

The 1971 census paved the way for the last redrawing of such boundaries and created 543 seats in parliament. Now, leaders from the south want the status quo retained, until a formula providing equal representation is drawn up.

“We are not against delimitation and yet it shouldn’t be a punishment for those who are successful in controlling population,” said Sarvanan Annadurai, spokesperson of DMK party.


4,000 displaced
by battle for port
site in Rakhine
Says Myanmar aid group



AFP, Yangon

Fierce fighting between Myanmar’s military junta and ethnic minority rebels closing in on the planned site of a strategic China-backed port has displaced 4,000 people, a local aid worker said yesterday.

The Arakan Army (AA) is battling the military in western Rakhine state, where projects including oil pipelines, power plants and transport links are sprouting up with billions of dollars of Chinese funding. The region has emerged as a key front in Myanmar’s civil war, pitching a myriad of rebels and pro-democracy fighters against the junta.



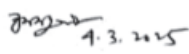
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Conversion of existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track Project
Rail Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Memo No. 35.01.0000.083 17.015.21-82 Date: 04 March 2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) – International
For
Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision of
Conversion of the existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track

- Government the of People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) have applied for a loan from the Asian Development Bank (hereinafter referred to as 'ADB') for **Conversion of the existing Chattogram-Dohazari Meter Gauge Track into Dual Gauge Track**. A portion of the proceeds of the loan is intended to be used for payments under the Contract for Construction Supervision Consultancy Services for which this Request for EOI is issued.
- The overall objective of the project is the Conversion of Pahartali-Chattogram-Dohazari Metre Gauge Track to Dual Gauge Track and Construction of a Dual Gauge Connecting Line from Pahartali to Jhautala. The specific objectives are
 - Conversion of 52 km metre gauge track into dual gauge track (among which approximately 11 Km would be constructed by another railway project) including bridges/culverts and all infrastructure from Pahartali-Chattogram-Dohazari and Chattogram Bypass section to increase line capacity.
 - Providing uninterrupted railway service in between Capital City Dhaka and Cox's Bazar tourist attractions connecting Dhaka-Chattogram rail corridor with Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail corridor.
 - Improvement of operational facilities by improving Signaling & Interlocking System.
 - Improvement of maintenance of track and rolling stocks.
- Bangladesh Railway invites eligible International Consulting Firms to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information by writing to the undersigned during normal office hours preferably through email.
- The assignment will enable Bangladesh Railway to ensure that the project is carried out in an economical and efficient manner consistent with internationally accepted standards and practices. Under the project, two contracts will be undertaken for the conversion and construction of the route. The Consultant's major responsibility will be to supervise the construction of civil and signaling works. The assignment will cover, inter alia, the following services:
 - Overall contract management, administration and planning and providing technical support;
 - Construction Supervision, Testing and Inspection,
 - Environmental Aspects:
 - Gender and Other Social Aspects:
 - Resettlement Aspects
 - Defect Liability Period.In addition to the above services, the consultant will undertake quality checks for the project with regard to the technical, contractual and financial aspects of the project implementation. The consultant shall provide to the Client an assessment report on the quality of the completed works.
- The Consulting Firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) (80:20) Method in accordance with the procedures set out in the 'ADB Procurement Policy 2017 ("Policy") and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers 2017 ("Procurement Regulations")'
<https://www.adb.org/documents/adb-procurement-policy>
<https://www.adb.org/documents/procurement-regulations-adb-borrowers>

- Bangladesh Railway will conduct 'short-listing' of the interested Consulting Firms who will have submitted REOI Applications for the above-mentioned Consulting Service. For this purpose, key qualifications and experience of the Consulting Firms required are as follows:
 - Management Competence: Firm's management and organizational strength, financial strength, number and capabilities of permanent employees and key staff, etc.
 - Technical Competence
 - General Experience
 - Specific Experience: Design/Design Review, Construction Supervision Consultancy particularly in railway/mass transit field with comparable scale and technical complexity.
 - Geographic Competence: Experience in similar geographic area (SAARC/ASEAN/International)
 - Contractual Management Experience: Substantial experience in managing FIDIC contracts as a Firm and by the key members of the team.
- The interested Consulting Firms should submit necessary documentary evidence in favor of their submission. i.e. in case of turnover audited financial report of last 5 years in USD/BDT to be furnished.
- Interested Consultancy firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Registration certificate, registered address, legal status brochures, company profile including management, personnel, Equipment, firm's specialty, and performance, financial capacity). The firm shall also provide contact information of the clients to whom services have been rendered.
- The Consulting Firms may associate with other firm(s) to enhance their qualifications in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) or Sub-Consultancy arrangements. If a Consulting Firms submits an EOI as a JV, the EOI will be submitted by the lead firm/partner and should clearly identify each joint venture partner.
- According to the latest ADB procurement guidelines, an REOI for this Consulting Service has been published electronically in the ADB Consultant Management System (CMS) which can be accessed through the following link:
https://selfservice.adb.org/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXCRS_CSRN_HOME_PAGE
The interested Consulting Firms are hereby advised to access the REOI through the above link. The firms shall have to submit their Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) electronically (submission of documents through cloud storage/similar link will not be allowed) through ADB website (CMS) by 11:59 PM (Manila Local Time) and by 09:59 PM (Dhaka Local Time) on or before 21 April 2025 through the link of <http://csm.adb.org> of Consultant Management System of ADB.
If any contradiction is found between CMS notice and Newspaper notice, the information on CMS notice shall prevail.
For technical inquiries/assistance, the Consultants may seek advice by emailing to the following email address: cmshelp@adb.org
- Only EOIs submitted electronically through ADB website using ADB template will be allowed and evaluated. EOI submitted using other than ADB templates will not be evaluated. Any offline or manual EOI submission is not permissible and will not be considered.
- Under no circumstances will ADB or BR, be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI. Interested consulting firm(s) is/are requested to submit relevant documentary evidences in support of their competence in EOI submission.
- The Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.


Md. Shuboktagin
Project Director
Conversion of existing Chattogram - Dohazari Meter Gauge track into Dual Gauge Track Project
Bangladesh Railway,
Rail Bhaban, Dhaka. Mobile: +8801711-691664
Email: pdctg_dhz@railway.gov.bd