

INTERNATIONAL

Aid halt endangers Gaza civilians

Warns UN agency; PA says Israel's electricity cut an 'escalation in genocide'

AGENCIES

Israel's suspension of goods entering Gaza has begun to take a toll on the Palestinian enclave, with some bakeries closing and officials warning of growing risks to the environment including possible discharges of raw sewage into the sea.

The suspension, intended to pressure Hamas in ceasefire talks, applies to food, medicine and fuel imports. Hamas describes the measure as "collective punishment" and insists it will not be pushed into making concessions at the discussions.

The UN Palestinian refugees agency UNRWA said the decision to halt humanitarian aid threatens the lives of civilians exhausted by 17 months of "brutal" war, adding that most of Gaza's 2.3 million people were dependent on aid.

Negotiators left for Doha to discuss truce: Israel

Hamas accuses Israel of renegeing on ceasefire deal



Rohingya refugees seeking education, healthcare, and other provisional aid take part in a demonstration outside the United Nations (UN) office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

US cancelling 83pc of USAID programmes: Marco Rubio

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday the United States was cancelling 83 percent of programmes at the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

President Donald Trump signed an executive order in January demanding a freeze on all US foreign aid to give his administration time to assess overseas spending, with an eye to gutting programmes not aligned with his "America First" agenda.

"After a 6 week review we are

officially cancelling 83 percent of the programmes at USAID," Rubio said on social media platform X.

"The 5,200 contracts that are now cancelled spent tens of billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, (and in some cases even harmed), the core national interests of the United States," he added. USAID distributes US humanitarian aid around the world, with health and emergency programmes in

The State Department, which oversees USAID, had announced on February 26 its intention to cut 92 percent of the agency's program funding, identifying 5,800 grants to be eliminated.

Rubio yesterday notably thanked the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which billionaire Elon Musk is leading in a drive to slash costs and cut jobs across government departments.



Nasser Al Ajrami, head of the Gaza bakers' union, told Reuters that six out of the 22 bakeries still able to operate in the enclave had already shut after they ran out of cooking gas.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority (PA) yesterday said Israel's decision to halt the electricity supply to Gaza was "an escalation in the genocide" in the war-ravaged territory, reports AFP.

The Palestinian foreign ministry said in a statement that it "strongly condemns the Israeli Ministry of Energy's decision to cut electricity to the Gaza Strip, considering it an escalation in the genocide, displacement and humanitarian disaster in Gaza", which is controlled by Hamas and not the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority.

Israel's negotiating team left for Qatar yesterday for talks aimed at extending the fragile Gaza ceasefire.

Hamas accused Israel of renegeing on the ceasefire deal, saying in a statement yesterday Israel "refuses to commence the second phase, exposing its intentions of evasion and stalling".

Protests rage on streets, online

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such crimes.

He urged the government to take immediate action and ensure the quick and fair trial of those responsible for the rape of the eight-year-old girl from Magura.

In Rajshahi, several hundred students from various institutions blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi Highway, demanding the implementation of the highest punishment for rapists to ensure the overall safety of women.

The protest march started from Rajshahi University's Paris Road around 11:30am. The march moved towards the university's main gate around 12:15pm. They then blocked the highway until 1:00pm.

Fahim Reza, one of the protesters, said, "We demand setting

up a special tribunal to accelerate the trials of rape cases. We will continue our movement against rape. Interim government must take effective steps to stop rape and ensure women safety."

Students from different departments boycotted their classes and joined the protest. Students have also undertaken a programme of uploading blindfolded photos of themselves on social media to show solidarity against rape.

Students of Chittagong University staged a sit-in protest on the campus at 11:30am.

Speaking at the event, Prof GH Habib from the English department said that incidents of murder, rape, and violence continue to occur in this country, but justice has not been served in any of these cases year after year.

"The culture of impunity persists day after day. We must collectively, strategically, and persistently fight against this. Reforming our education system should be the first step. Only then can we gradually overcome these issues."

Teachers of the university were also present at the demonstration. During the programme, they addressed the issue of illegal expulsion orders of female students at CU.

The sit-in took place at the Shaheed Minar premises on the university

Yunus, UN chief to visit Rohingya camp

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who fled persecution and violence in Myanmar.

The chief adviser is set to leave Dhaka for Cox's Bazar on Friday morning and return to Dhaka in the evening, his Deputy Press Secretary Abdul Kalam Azad Majumder told UNB.

Guterres is set to land in Dhaka on March 13 on a three-day visit, where he will meet Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, one of the world's largest refugee settlements, his Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said.

During his visit, he will also visit the capital, Dhaka, where he will meet Yunus, as well as young representatives from civil society.

The secretary general has made solidarity visits an annual tradition, beginning during his decade-long tenure as UN high commissioner for refugees, when he regularly observed Ramadan alongside displaced and marginalised communities.

"Every Ramadan, I undertake a solidarity visit and fast with a Muslim community around the globe. These missions remind the world of the true face of Islam," Guterres said in his message.

"Ramadan embodies the values of compassion, empathy and generosity. It is an opportunity to reconnect with family and community... And I always come away even more inspired by the remarkable sense of peace that fills this season," he added.

UN chief Guterres, in a recent letter to Yunus, expressed his hope that the high-level conference on Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar will renew global focus and help develop broader solutions for their plight.

The UN will continue to mobilise the international community to support Bangladesh as a host to the Rohingya, Guterres said.

The UN chief has requested his senior managers to provide guidance to the UN country teams in Bangladesh and Myanmar on how they can maximise humanitarian aid and livelihood support to communities in Rakhine.

Confiscate 1,006 bighas of S Alam, family

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adviser to the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The court also ordered the ACC to take steps to confiscate the immovable properties in London owned by Ahmed Shahriar Rahman, son of Ahmed Sohail Fasihur Rahman, Beximco Group chairman and Salman's brother.

While passing the order, the court came up with the orders in connection to corruption allegations

against them.

The court also ordered authorities concerned to take steps to freeze two accounts of Shayan and Shahriar at Barclays Bank PLC in the UK and shares in RR Global Trading, a company in the UAE.

While passing the order, the judge ordered the ACC to send copies of the order to the chief executive and chief land registrar of HM Land Registry in the UK, the

chief executive of Barclays UK, and the chairman of the Sharjah Economic Development Department.

The same court yesterday issued a travel ban on Salman, his wife Rubaba Rahman, their son Shayan, Salman's elder brother Sohail and his son Shahriar when an application was submitted in this regard.

On February 24, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 358 bank accounts belonging to Salman, his family members and associates.

On August 22 last year, the ACC initiated the inquiry into Salman following allegations of corruption, embezzlement, and irregularities in the banking sector.

Salman, a prominent Bangladeshi businessman and former member of parliament, was arrested at Sadarghat on August 13 last year when he was trying to flee the country.

He then assaulted her by touching various parts of her body, Shahin said. The woman later reported the incident to police, who arrested Tarek in the afternoon from the Jhautala area, Shahin said, adding that police were investigating the incident. [Our Correspondent, Savar contributed to this report]

4 held for harassing, assaulting women

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The videos show Khalid, dressed as a mentally ill person, making offensive comments about women who do not wear hijabs. He went as far as stating that women who do not wear hijabs would be raped.

He also targeted Hindu girls. Legal action was being taken against him for creating unrest in the

society and attempting to disrupt communal harmony, Dhaka District Police said in a press release.

In Cox's Bazar, a man was arrested for sexually assaulting an American woman on the Circuit House Road of the beach city yesterday morning.

The man, Tarek-ur-Rahman aka Soilya Tarek, 30, is the son of Mohammad Farid from Mohajer Para in Cox's Bazar. He has multiple cases against him, including charges related to child rape, police said.

He blocked the American woman's path and grabbed her when she was walking with her female colleague, said Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police Saifuddin Shahin. [Our Correspondent, Savar contributed to this report]

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Fakirhat, Bagerhat

www.lged.gov.bd

Dated: 09-03-2025

e-Tender Notice No. 02/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below. Procurement Method: National Open Tendering Method [N-LTM]

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of Work	Document Selling Last Date & Time	Security Submission Last Date & Time
01	1081214	e-Tender/ADP-UDA/BAG/FAK/2024-25/W-01	A. Improvement of Connecting Road to Upazila Nirbahi Officer Banglo under Fakirhat Upazila, District Bagerhat.	24/03/2025 15:30	25/03/2025 12:00
02	1081215	e-Tender/ADP-UDA/BAG/FAK/2024-25/W-02	B. Construction of Entry Gate on Upazila Nirbahi Officer Banglo under Fakirhat Upazila, District Bagerhat.	24/03/2025 15:30	25/03/2025 12:00
03	1081216	e-Tender/ADP-UDA/BAG/FAK/2024-25/W-03	Construction of Different Side Boundary Wall on Upazila Nirbahi Officer Banglo under Fakirhat Upazila, District Bagerhat.	24/03/2025 15:30	25/03/2025 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenderer will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submitted e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks, branch up to following date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

20/03/25

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পাওয়ার শ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলজি
The Environment of Bangladesh Power Development Board

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Alabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212
মার্কেট নং- ২৭, ২১, ১০০০, ১০৪, ১০১, ১০২, ১০৩

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গোপনীয় হিসেবে বিজ্ঞপ্তি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেপ্টেম্বর) মত্তরে আওতাধীন নিরাপত্তি দরপত্র e-GP প্রোটোল প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1084835	27.21.000.684.07 .001.25.205; Date: 06/03/2025	Repair and maintenance work of Control Room Building at Shahmirpur grid sub-station under GMD Chatogram Central Power Grid.	25 Mar 2025 at 14:30
1084021	27.21.000.684.07 .001.25.204; Date: 06/03/2025	Repair and maintenance work of khulshi residential area at Khulshi grid sub-station under GMD Chatogram Central Power Grid.	25 Mar 2025 at 14:00
1084893	27.21.000.684.07 .001.25.206; Date: 06/03/2025	Copper welding, Fabrication and Zinc rich painting works of different towers at 230kV Anwara - Shikabha and 400kV SS Power Plant - Madunaghat transmission line under Shahmirpur Grid Substation of GMD Chatogram (Central) Power Grid.	26 Mar 2025 at 16:00
1082051	27.21.000.684.07 .001.25.187; Date: 02/03/2025	Tower Painting work at 132kV Khulshi - Barawlia double Circuit Transmission Line under GMD Chatogram-Central, Power Grid.	26 Mar 2025 at 14:00
1081677	27.21.000.684.07 .001.25.186; Date: 02/03/2025	Tower Leg Muffling work at 132kV Khulshi - Barawlia double Circuit Transmission Line under GMD Chatogram-Central, Power Grid.	26 Mar 2025 at 15:00

আওতাধীন ক্রিএটর প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুমতি দেওয়া যাচ্ছে।

এস এম কার্যসূচী (আঃস), জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (সেপ্টেম্বর)