

MIGRATION ISSUE

EU to pave way for return hubs

AFP, Brussels

The EU is expected to open the way for member states to set up migrant return centres outside the bloc – a highly contentious idea – following pressure from governments to facilitate deportations.

“We want to put in place a truly European system for returns, preventing absconding, and facilitating the return of third-country nationals with no right to stay,” commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said Sunday.

A souring of public opinion on migration has fuelled hard-right electoral gains in several EU countries, upping pressure on governments to harden their stance.

Led by immigration hawks including Sweden, Italy, Denmark, EU leaders called in October for urgent new legislation to increase and speed up returns and for the commission to assess “innovative” ways to counter irregular migration.



A resident stands in the courtyard of his house while smoke rises from a fire following a strike on the outskirts of Odessa yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: AFP



Hundreds of train passengers taken hostage in Pakistan

AFP, Quetta

Armed militants yesterday held hundreds of train passengers hostage in an ongoing siege claimed by a separatist group behind rising violence in southwestern Pakistan.

The militants wounded the driver as they took control of the train in a remote, mountainous area of Balochistan province which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

“Over 450 passengers onboard are being held hostage by gunmen,” Muhammad Kashif, a senior railway government official in Quetta, the capital of the province, told AFP.

“Passengers include women and children,” he added.

The attack was immediately claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) which is fighting for independence and accuses outsiders of profiting from the region’s wealth.

Pakistani sources who spoke to the media on condition of anonymity said an operation “to eliminate the terrorists is ongoing with extreme caution due to the difficult terrain”, adding that women and children are “being used as human shields”.

The incident happened around 1:00pm in rural Sibi district, near a city station where it had been due to stop.

“A passenger train called the Jaffar Express was stopped by armed militants,” said a senior government official in Sibi.

The train had left Quetta for Peshawar, in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – a more than 30-hour journey – at around 9:00am.

Israeli air strike kills four in Gaza amid ‘truce’

Arab nations condemn Israel’s Gaza electricity cut; outrage as US arrest pro-Palestinian activist

AFP, Gaza City

An Israeli air strike hit Gaza City yesterday, with the civil defence agency reporting four men killed and the military saying it had targeted “terrorists” posing a threat to troops.

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the Gaza Strip’s civil defence agency, told AFP that the Israeli strike “on a group of citizens in the Netzarim area in south Gaza City” resulted in “four martyrs including two brothers”, all men in their 20s.

Israel has carried out near-daily air strikes in Gaza since early March, often targeting what the military said were militants planting explosive devices.

A fragile truce in its war with Hamas, in effect since January 19, has largely held despite the attacks and with no agreement yet on extending the ceasefire.

The first phase of the truce ended in early March, but both Israel and Hamas have refrained from returning to all-out war.

Hamas has repeatedly called for implementing the second phase of the ceasefire, which should lead to a permanent end to the war, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of more hostages in return for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel says it prefers an extension of phase one of the ceasefire until mid-April.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, Qatar

and Jordan yesterday condemned Israel’s decision to cut electricity supply to the war-battered Gaza Strip, calling in separate statements for the international community to take action.

Israel announced on Sunday it was disconnecting the only power line to a water desalination plant in Gaza, in an effort to pressure Palestinian militant group Hamas

demonstrations at Columbia University, as President Donald Trump vowed further crackdowns.

Mahmoud Khalil, a recent graduate and one of the most prominent faces of the university’s high-profile protests, was arrested by US immigration officials over the weekend despite holding a permanent residency green card.

The Department of Homeland



Women mourn over the body of man who was killed in overnight Israeli bombardment on a refugee camp in Gaza Strip yesterday.

into releasing hostages amid an apparent impasse in truce talks.

In the US, protesters in New York and rights groups expressed outrage Monday over the arrest of a leader of pro-Palestinian

Security, confirming Khalil’s arrest on Sunday, claimed he had “led activities aligned to Hamas” and that the DHS action was taken “in coordination with the Department of State.”

India contradicts Trump’s claims on tariff

AFP, New Delhi

India says it has not committed to slashing import duties on US products, days after President Donald Trump announced that New Delhi had agreed to “cut their tariffs way down”.

Only weeks into his second term, Trump has upended global trade, targeting friends and foes alike. He has also blamed all trading partners of “unfair” practices, and has announced reciprocal tariffs on many countries, including India, to begin from next month.

Trump once again railed at India’s “massive tariffs” last week.

“You can’t sell anything into India, it is almost restrictive,” Trump said. “They have agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them for what they have done,” he added.

But the Indian government told a parliamentary panel that “no commitments had been made to the US on the issue,” a report in The Times of India newspaper said Tuesday.

The government “has sought time until September to address the issue that is being repeatedly flagged by the American president,” it added.

India’s commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal “said that India and the US were working towards a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement, focusing on long-term trade cooperation instead of merely seeking immediate tariffs adjustments”.

Dalai Lama book to guide Tibetans after his death

AFP, New Delhi

The Dalai Lama published a book yesterday that he says is a “framework for the future of Tibet”, to guide compatriots in relations with Beijing after his death.

China – which says Tibet is an integral part of the country – has responded by saying the Dalai Lama “has no right to represent the Tibetan people”.

Many exiled Tibetans fear Beijing will name a successor to the Dalai Lama when he dies, bolstering control over a land it poured troops into in 1950.

The book, “Voice for the Voiceless”, describes the Dalai Lama dealing with successive leaders of the People’s Republic of China on behalf of Tibet and its people.

Over centuries, Tibet has alternated between independence and being controlled by China.


Celebrating his 90th birthday in July, the Dalai Lama is among a fading few who can remember what their homeland was like before the failed 1959 uprising.

He fled to India that year, and said the book details the “persistent efforts” he has made over seven decades to “save my homeland and people”.

“Despite all the suffering and destruction, we still hold fast to the hope for a peaceful resolution of our struggle for freedom and dignity,” the Dalai Lama said in a statement about the book.

“From a 19-year-old negotiating with Chairman Mao at the height of his powers in Beijing to my recent attempts to communicate with President Xi Jinping, I convey in this book the sincerity of our efforts. ... My hope is that the book will... provide a framework for the future of Tibet even after I am gone.”





**Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Education Engineering Department**  
**Chapainawabganj.**

Memo No. 38/e-GP/EED/Chapai/4931/SHED/2024-25

Date: 11/03/2025.

**e-Tender Notice No: 38**

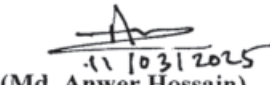
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Chapainawabganj as mentioned below:

Tender ID	Name of works	Publication Date/time	Closing date & Opening Date
1085948	Repair And Rehabilitation Of Borgachi Govt. High School, Bholahat, Chapainawabganj. FY (2023-24)	11.03.2025 at 15.00	25.03.2025 at 15.00
1085949	Block-D Repair and Renovation Works (Sanitary work, Plastering & Painting work) & Construction of Shahid Minar At Nachole Khurshed Molla Govt. Girls High School, Nachole, Chapainawabganj (Fy: 2023-2024).	11.03.2025 at 15.00	25.03.2025 at 15.00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e- GP system portal and No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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))

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.



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Ref no: 46.207.000.21.16.0002. 2025

Dated: 10/03/2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP portal ([Http://www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) by Executive Engineer, Zone-5, Dhaka South City Corporation For the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website form 09/03/2025 at 22.00 PM.

Sl No.	Tender ID, Ref No & package No	Name of works	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	Tender ID- 1077061 egp/dscc/z-05/24-25/P-16	Development works of lane and bylane road adjacent to Noakhali Patti and Muradpur High School (Road ID- 0552L-5687,5688, 5689, 5691, 5692, 5714, 5729, 5730) including drain under ward-52.	03-Apr-2025 13:30	03-Apr-2025 15:30
2	Tender ID- 1081801 egp/dscc/Z-05/24-25/P-17	Repairing works of road cutting done by different organizations all wards Under Zone-5 at Dhaka South City Corporation.	03-Apr-2025 13:30	03-Apr-2025 15:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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