

Macedonia nightclub fire kills 59

AFP, Skopje

A fire tore through a nightclub in North Macedonia early yesterday, killing 59 people, apparently after on stage fireworks set the place ablaze, authorities said, announcing arrest warrants for four people.

They said 155 injured people had been taken to hospitals across the country, 18 of them in critical condition. Some of the serious cases were to be taken to other European countries for treatment.

The blaze started in the Club Pulse in the eastern town of Kocani around 3:00am, as the place was packed with more than 1,000 mostly young fans attending a concert.

The fire was probably caused by the use of pyrotechnic devices “used for light effects at the concert”, said Interior Minister Pance Toskovski.

“Sparks caught the ceiling, which was made of easily flammable material, after which the fire rapidly spread across the whole discotheque, creating thick smoke,” Toskovski said.



People cheer as Mohammed, an Egyptian ‘musaharati’, beats a drum and makes calls for observant Muslims to wake up for the ‘suhur’ meal (last meal before fasting), in the old quarter of Cairo during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, early yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Pak separatists kill 5 troops in Balochistan

AFP, Quetta

Separatists in southwest Pakistan killed at least five paramilitaries and wounded more than 30 yesterday, police told AFP, days after an attack on a train in Balochistan province left dozens dead.

“There were seven buses in the convoy which was heading to Taftan (on the Iranian border). At Noshki, a car laden with explosives hit one of the buses,” said Mohammed Zafar, a police official in Noshki, a town in Balochistan.

Five people were killed and 35 wounded, he said.

The attack was claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the main separatist group in the province, which said the bombing was carried out by its suicide attack branch.

Gaza truce talks dogged by deep divisions

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel and Hamas are set for more indirect talks yesterday on the Gaza ceasefire, but deep divisions persist between the two warring sides on the terms of the fragile truce.

Mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States, the initial phase of the ceasefire took effect on January 19, largely halting 15 months of deadly fighting in Gaza.

That phase ended in early March, and though both sides have since refrained from all-out war, they have been unable to agree on the next stage of the ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.

Late on Saturday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructed Israeli negotiators to continue the talks, his office said.

But he directed the team to base its negotiations on a proposal by US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff that calls for the “immediate release of 11 living hostages and half of the deceased hostages”.

That came after Hamas said it was ready to release a living Israeli-US hostage, Edan Alexander, along with the bodies of four other Israeli-Americans in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

A Hamas delegation, which left Cairo for Doha where the movement is based, said the proposal to hand over the five had also been put forward by the United States.

But the United States, the key military ally of Israel, has since criticised Hamas’ insistence on that proposal.



Blast kills 16 in Syria

AFP, Damascus

A massive explosion believed to have been triggered by a scrap dealer handling an old bomb killed at least 16 people in Syria, civil defence officials said yesterday.

The blast on Saturday in the city of Latakia demolished a four-storey building, crushing residents underneath chunks of their flattened homes.

Aid agencies warned last month of the dangers posed by unexploded munitions left over from Syria’s civil war that erupted in 2011. It said up to 300,000 of the roughly one million munitions used during the war never detonated.

Rubio, Lavrov discuss ‘next steps’ on Ukraine

AFP, Washington

Russia and the United States have discussed the “next steps” of how to end the war in Ukraine, the Kremlin said yesterday, hours after Kyiv’s European allies urged Moscow to commit to an unconditional 30-day ceasefire.

The United States this week proposed the halt in fighting in the more than three-year war after talks in Saudi Arabia, which Kyiv agreed to.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has given no clear answer, instead listing a string of conditions and raising “serious questions” over the proposal.

Next budget must be designed

FROM PAGE 1

the current biennial requirement.

Furthermore, minimum import prices on certain goods must be eliminated as they violate the WTO rules.

“These will need to be withdrawn following LDC graduation since such practices are not WTO-compatible,” the CPD said.

The think-tank has urged the government to adjust tariff structures where current customs duties exceed the bound tariff commitments Bangladesh has made under the WTO agreements.

Bound tariff is the legally binding, maximum tariff rate a country commits to at the WTO for a specific product.

Bangladesh committed bound tariffs for 955 tariff lines, ranging from 25 percent to 200 percent.

For instance, while the country’s bound tariff rates stand at 45 percent for milk powder and 30 percent for biscuits, the actual import taxes – comprising customs duty, regulatory duty, supplementary duty, value-added tax and advance income tax – exceed Bangladesh’s limits.

The National Board of Revenue already identified 60 such lines that need to be brought down to bound tariff rates to ensure that the duty structure does not discriminate between imported and domestically produced items.

“This exercise will have to be continued until November 2026, the time of graduation, at which point compliance will have to be established,” said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of CPD.

In contrast, unbound tariffs offer flexibility, allowing governments to adjust rates as needed.

Currently, Bangladesh has bound tariffs on only 17 percent of its tariff lines, retaining control over the remaining 83 percent.


Bangladesh will continue to have flexibility on unbound tariff items even after graduation, the CPD said.

This flexibility enables the government to increase tariffs on imported goods that compete with local industries while lowering them on essential raw materials to reduce production costs.

“The NBR should fully utilise this flexibility. It should also be more vigilant to prevent any misuse of these tariff adjustments,” she said.

To mitigate future trade risks, the CPD advised the government to invest in legal expertise, trade policy analysis and dispute resolution mechanisms.

“There is a need to build national capacity for handling possible trade disputes. The fiscal 2026-26 national budget should allocate resources for this,” it said.



To all houthi terrorists, your time is up, and your attacks must stop, starting today. If they don't, hell will rain down upon you like nothing you have ever seen before!
Donald Trump
US president

Air strike killed 12 in Myanmar

AFP, Letpanhla

A Myanmar junta airstrike on a village held by anti-coup fighters killed at least 12 people according to a local administrative official, who said the bombardment targeted civilian areas.

The Friday afternoon strike hit the village of Letpanhla around 60 kilometres north of the country’s second-biggest city of Mandalay.

The village in Singu township is held by the People’s Defence Forces (PDF) – anti-coup guerrillas who took up arms after the military toppled the country’s civilian government four years ago.

“A lot of people were killed because they dropped bombs on crowded areas,” said the local administrative official.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

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e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (দক্ষিণ) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1081111	27.21.0000.684.07.001.25.099; Date: 27/02/2025	Untanking & Internal inspection for fault detection of 132/33 kV 80/120 MVA defective Transformer (SL No- 54LYPT11095.3, LEEEC, Made in China) of Modunaghat 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Chattogram-South, Power Grid Bangladesh PLC.	24 Mar 2025 at 14:00

আগ্রহী তিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

নূরউদ্দীন মোহাম্মদ ফরহাদ সৌখুরী
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, চট্টগ্রাম (দক্ষিণ)



Bangladesh Power Development Board
Office of the Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
Wapda Building (4th fl.), Motijheel, Dhaka
Phone No. 47113484

Ref No. 27.11.0000.716.77.25.538

Date: 13/03/2025

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following work.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Name of works	Tender publication date	Tender closing date
1	Tender ID: 1086222 Ref. No: 27.11.0000.716.77.25.537 Dt.: 13.03.2025	Works for IT Support services and Data Connectivity (Installation, Testing and commissioning and Configuration of Router Switch and other communication devices for data connectivity along with monthly recurring charge for all computer centers and zonal offices to Dhaka Computer center of BPDB) for 2 (two) years.	13.03.2025	07.04.2025 Time: 12:00

বিস্ময়/জন- ৯০৮(২)/১৬/০৩/২৫

Signed

Manik Chandra Ghosh
Senior System Analyst
Dhaka Computer Center
BPDB, Dhaka

GD-681

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Youth Development
Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.dyd.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

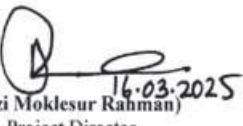
Memo No. 34.01.0000.046.26.055.24-423

Date: 16-03-2025

1	Ministry	Ministry of Youth and Sports
2	Agency	Department of Youth Development
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Non-Consulting Services (Vehicle Rental Service)
7	Invitation Ref No	
8	Date	16/03/2025
KEY & FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Sources of Fund	Development Budget, GoB
11	Development Partners	International Development Association (IDA)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project Code (if applicable)	Not Applicable
13	Project Name (if applicable)	Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
14	Tender Package No.	S-2.2
15	Tender Package Name	Hiring of vehicle rental service for PMU officials
16	Tender Publication Date	17/03/2025
17	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	15/04/2025 at 5.00 pm
18	Tender Closing Date and time	16/04/2025 at 11.00 am
19	Tender Opening Date and time	16/04/2025 at 11.30 am
20	Name and Address of Offices	
	(a) Selling Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project, Department of Youth Development, 5th Floor, Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
	(b) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project, Department of Youth Development, 5th Floor, Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
	(c) Opening Tender Document	Office of the Project Director, Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project, Department of Youth Development, 5th Floor, Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligation to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh.
22	Brief Description of Services	Rental service of 1 unit Cross Country Vehicle and 5 units 12 seated Microbus
23	Price of Tender Document (BDT)	4,000/- (Four Thousand) only.
24	Location	Anywhere in Bangladesh under EARN project.
25	Tender Security, Amount (BDT)	9,50,000/- (Nine Lakh and Fifty Thousand) only.
26	Completion Time	31/12/2028
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Kazi Moklesur Rahman
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director (Joint Secretary), Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Department of Youth Development, 5th Floor, Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
30	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +880-02-55101121, e-mail: pd.earn@dyd.gov.bd

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings

GD-680



Kazi Moklesur Rahman
Project Director
(Joint Secretary)