

# INTERNATIONAL

## 'Everything gets mowed down' Israeli troops describe clearance of 'kill zone' on Gaza's edge

REUTERS

Israeli troops flattened farmland and cleared entire residential districts in Gaza to open a "kill zone" around the enclave, according to a report published yesterday that quoted soldiers testifying about the harsh methods used in the operation.

The report, from the Israeli rights group Breaking the Silence, cited soldiers who served in Gaza during the creation of the buffer zone, which was extended to between 800-1,500 metres inside the enclave by December 2024 and which has since been expanded further by Israeli troops.

Israel says the buffer zone encircling Gaza is needed to prevent a repeat of the October 7, 2023 attack by thousands of Hamas-led fighters who poured across the previous 300 metre-deep buffer zone to assault a string of Israeli communities around the Gaza Strip.

"The borderline is a kill zone, a lower area, a lowland," the report quotes a captain in the Armored Corps as saying. "We have a commanding view of it, and they do too."

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.

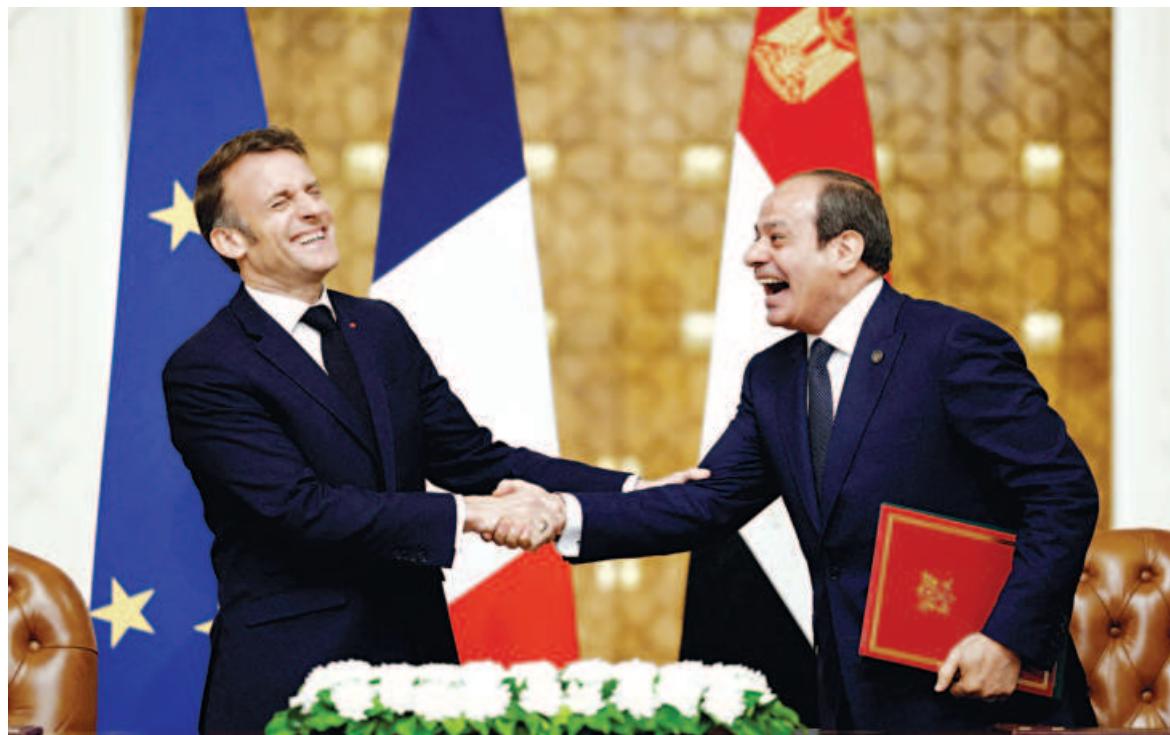
The testimony came from soldiers who were serving in Gaza at the end of 2023, soon after Israeli troops entered the enclave, until early 2024.

In the early expansion of the zone, soldiers said troops using bulldozers and heavy excavators along with thousands of mines and explosives destroyed around 3,500 buildings as well as agricultural and industrial areas that could have been vital in postwar reconstruction. Around 35 percent of the farmland in Gaza, much of which is around the edges of the territory, was destroyed, according to a separate report by the Israeli rights group Gisha.

"Essentially, everything gets mowed down, everything," the report quoted one reserve soldier serving in the Armored Corps as saying. "Every building and every structure." Another soldier said the area looked "like Hiroshima".

One soldier from a combat engineering unit described the sense of shock he felt when he saw the destruction already wrought by the initial bombardment of the northern area of the Gaza Strip when his unit was first sent in to begin its clearance operation.

"It was surreal, even before we destroyed the houses when we went in. It was surreal, like you were in a movie," he said.



French President Emmanuel Macron shakes hands with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during an agreement signing ceremony in Cairo yesterday. Macron said that he strongly opposed any displacement of Palestinians or annexation in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## China calls US tariffs 'bullying'

Trump tells Americans 'not to be stupid'

AGENCIES

Threats and pressure are not the right way to deal with China, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday after describing US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" as bullying.

The tariffs are "typical unilateralism and protectionism, and economic bullying", spokesperson Lin Jian told a regular press conference.

Last week, Trump introduced an additional 34% tariff on Chinese goods as part of steep levies imposed on most US trade partners, bringing the total duties on China this year to 54%.

China retaliated with a series of countermeasures.

"The abuse of tariffs by the United States is tantamount to depriving countries, especially those in the Global

South, of their right to development," Lin said.

Stock markets and oil prices collapsed further yesterday for markets as Trump stood firm over his tariffs despite recession fears.

Hopes that the US president would rethink his policy in light of the turmoil were dashed Sunday when he said he would not make a deal with other countries unless trade deficits were solved.

"Sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something," he said of the ructions that have wiped trillions of dollars off company valuations, which impacts the retirement savings of a large number of Americans.

Yesterday, Trump told Americans "Don't be Weak! Don't be Stupid... Be Strong, Courageous, and Patient, and GREATNESS will be the result!"

## Gunmen kill 52 people in Nigeria

REUTERS, Lagos

Gunmen have killed at least 52 people and displaced nearly 2,000 others over several days of attacks in Nigeria's northern Plateau state, which has a history of violence between farmers and cattle herders, the national emergency agency said.

The reason for the attacks in six villages in Plateau's Bokkos district last week was not immediately known but it is the worst outbreak of violence since December 2023, when more than 100 people were killed in the same district.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said the scale of the violence became clearer at the weekend as 52 people were confirmed dead while 22 others were taken to hospital.



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The Kremlin on Monday denied firing on civilian infrastructure.

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"For almost a month now, Russia has not only refused to accept the ceasefire, but has also stepped up its bombardment of civilians, with tragic casualties again a few days ago in Ukraine," he said.

"It is urgent that Russia stops with the pretences and stalling tactics and accepts the unconditional ceasefire," Macron added.

Both sides reported a new wave of overnight attacks.

BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA



No: R-7382

### Admission into Postgraduate Programs Semester: October 2024

Date: 06 April 2025

Applications are invited for admission into the following postgraduate programs for **October 2024 Semester**. An applicant must complete the online Application Form and upload the supporting documents (as described below) using the postgraduate admission section of the BUET website (<http://pgadmission.buet.ac.bd>) within the period from **09.04.2025 to 21.04.2025** (Until 11:59 p.m.). **Last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025**.

#### A) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:

Ph.D. in Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Physics, Urban and Regional Planning, Water Resources Engineering, Nanomaterials and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Institute of Information and Communication Technology.

#### B) Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree offered by the Departments:

M.Phil. in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

#### C) Master's Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:

- (i) M.Sc.Engg./M.Engg. in Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering(Environmental), Civil Engineering (Geotechnical), Civil Engineering (Structural), Civil Engineering (Transportation), Environmental Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Advanced Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Water Resources Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Humanitarian Engineering, Nuclear Power Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Information Security, Disaster Risk Reduction Engineering.
- (ii) M.Sc. in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Materials Science, Glass and Ceramic Science, Climate Modeling and Risk Management, Disaster Risk Reduction Science.
- (iii) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Thesis
- (iv) M.Sc. in Water Resources Development
- (v) M.Sc. in Management of Technology

#### D) Post Graduate Diploma Offered by Institute:

- (i) Postgraduate Diploma in Business IT

#### Important Information

- During the submission of the online application through the postgraduate admission section of the website of BUET, the following supporting documents must be uploaded within the period of **09.04.2025 to 21.04.2025** (Until 11:59 p.m.) and **last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025**.
  - 1. Attach copies of certificates of all public examinations.
  - 2. Attach copies of transcripts/ grade-sheets/ mark-sheets of all public examinations.
  - 3. Attach copies of testimonial/ character certificate from the institution last attended.
  - 4. Letter of consent, in prescribed form, from the employer for applicants in employment.
- After submission application, Pay 500/- (Five Hundred only) take online as Application Fee. The applicant has to bear the online charges to pay the application fee (Tk-500/-).
- Prospectus containing detailed qualification requirements for admission into different programs and information regarding the submission of application is available at the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.
- Applicants in employment whether part-time or full-time must apply through their employers for both part-time and full-time enrollments.
- Selection of candidates for admission into a postgraduate program is performed by respective department/ institute. The selection procedure may vary from one department to another. Candidates are advised to contact the respective department/ institute for information regarding the selection procedure.
- A few Teaching Assistantships/ Fellowships may be awarded to suitable full-time students.
- Degrees obtained from institutions other than BUET will be subjected to equivalence by appropriate authority of BUET before a candidate is finally selected for admission to a degree/diploma program.
- Last date for submission of the application is 21.04.2025. (Until 11:59 p.m.), last date of application fee submission is 20.04.2025, and classes will commence from 24.05.2025.**
- The schedule regarding postgraduate admission may change due to any situation. Updated information will be available on the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.

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## Russia seeks 'answers' before Ukraine truce

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said that it supported the idea of a truce in Ukraine but had many "questions" about how it would work, pushing back at US and European suggestions that it was playing for time.

US President Donald Trump has voiced growing frustration at the lack of progress towards a ceasefire in the three-year-long conflict, despite his administration holding talks with both Ukrainian and Russian officials.

The US leader in March said that he was "pissed off" with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and on Sunday told reporters: "We'd like them to stop. I don't like the bombing. The bombing goes on and on."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday told reporters that "Putin does support the idea that a ceasefire is needed, but before that a whole range of questions have to be answered."

"These questions are hanging in the air, so far no one has given an answer to them," he added, blaming the lack of progress on "the Kyiv regime's uncontrollability".

Putin rejected a joint US-Ukrainian proposal for an unconditional and full ceasefire in March, while the Kremlin has made a US proposed truce in the Black Sea dependent on the

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