

## '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!"



## Adani opens giant Lanka container terminal

AFP, Colombo

India's Adani Group yesterday said it had opened an \$800 million container terminal in Sri Lanka, right next to a similar facility operated by a Chinese company.

The Adani development at Sri Lanka's main seaport in Colombo is widely seen as a counter to the rival Chinese terminal and as a means for India to secure a foothold at the strategic facility.

The launch of the Adani-operated facility came a day after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a state visit to Sri Lanka during which he secured defence and energy deals with Colombo.

"The commencement of operations at CWIT (Colombo West International Terminal) marks a momentous milestone in regional cooperation between India and Sri Lanka," billionaire chairman Gautam Adani, a key ally of Modi, said in a statement.

Sri Lanka lies at a key halfway point along the main east-west international maritime route and Colombo is a major transhipment hub for South Asia.

The company said it had completed 600 metres (660 yards) out of a final 1,400-metre long berth with a depth of 20 metres that is able to handle the largest container ships.

"Not only does this terminal represent the future of trade in the Indian Ocean, but its opening is also a proud moment for Sri Lanka, placing it firmly on the global maritime map," Adani said.

The joint venture went ahead despite the Indian conglomerate withdrawing in December a request for a US government-backed \$533 million loan for the construction.

The move followed an indictment in New York in November 2024, which accused the Adani Group of deliberately misleading international investors as part of a bribery scheme. Adani has denied any wrongdoing.

The other partners in the Adani port venture are Sri Lanka's publicly listed John Keells Holdings and the state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Construction began in early 2022, with the first phase featuring eight automated ship-to-shore cranes and 18 gantry cranes.

There were no public statements from either side during Modi's visit about Adani's withdrawal from another venture, a \$442 million wind power project in the north of Sri Lanka.

SD-  
Registrar

## 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

West lifting certain sanctions.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday said that Trump was not "going to fall into the trap of endless negotiations" with Russia, while French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday urged Moscow to stop using "stalling tactics".

Russia has kept up its strikes on Ukraine unabated since Trump took office, despite the US president's promise to bring peace within "24 hours" once settled back into the White House.

A Russian missile strike on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of Kryvyi Rih on Friday evening killed 20 people, nine of them children, according to local authorities.

The Kremlin on Monday denied firing on civilian infrastructure.

In a visit to Cairo, Macron urged Russia to accept the US push for a ceasefire.

"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.

**Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed companies for following works:**

| SL | Name of the Works   | Available Tender Schedule |            | Submission & Opening Date |
|----|---|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
|    |   | From                      | To         |                           |
| 01 | Purchasing of Red Hat Operating Systems and MSSQL Server 2022 Enterprise License          | 08.04.2025                | 17.04.2025 | 24.04.2025                |
| 02 | Purchasing Data Loss Prevention Solution  | 08.04.2025                | 17.04.2025 | 24.04.2025                |
| 03 | Procurement of 300KVA ~ 375KVA Generator for MDB Data Centre & Banani Head office annex". | 10.04.2025                | 17.04.2025 | 24.04.2025                |

Interested companies may collect tender schedule/s by submitting an application addressing the undersigned from General Services Division during office hour (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) on payment of Tk. 3,000.00 for SL # 01 & Tk. 2,000.00 for SL # 02 & 03 in the form of payment order (non-refundable) favoring "Midland Bank PLC." for the above mentioned schedules. Each tender must be submitted in the sealed envelope mentioning the name of work on top of the envelope within 3:30 PM on the above mentioned submission date and only technical documents will be opened at 4:00 PM on the same date.

MDB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

**Head of General Services Division**  
Zahid Plaza (7th Floor), 30 North Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212

16596 [www.midlandbankbd.net](http://www.midlandbankbd.net)

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

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**Re-e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

This is to notify all concern that, the following tenders have been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

| SL.Tender ID | T.Pack                | Identification of Lot  | Scheduled Tender/ Proposal Publication Date and Time | Tender/Proposal Opening Date and Time |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 01 1082879   | DO/Farid/2024-2025/01 | Supply , Installation and Commissioning of 03 Nos 2.0 KVA & 06 Nos 5.0 KVA Generator for the several branches/offices of Bangladesh Krishibank, Faridpur Division. | 07-April-2025 11:00                                  | 23-April-2025 11:30                   |

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-gp help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*General Manager*