

GAZA OFFENSIVE

Yemen's rebels threaten Israeli port blockade

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's Houthi rebels said on Monday evening that they would impose a "naval blockade" of the Israeli port of Haifa in response to Israel's escalation of the Gaza war.

The Houthis would "begin working to enforce a naval blockade of the port of Haifa," said military spokesman Yehya Saree.

"All companies with ships present in or heading to this port are hereby notified that, as of the time of this announcement, the aforementioned port has been included in the target bank," the Houthi spokesman added.

The move was "in response to the Israeli enemy's escalation of its brutal aggression against our people and in Gaza," he said, adding that attacks on Israel would "cease once the aggression on Gaza ends and the blockade is lifted."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced earlier that his country will "take control" of all of Gaza as part of a heightened offensive against Hamas.

The Iran-backed Houthis have regularly fired missiles and drones at Israel since the Gaza war broke out in October 2023, following a Hamas attack on Israel.

The Houthis paused their attacks during a two-month ceasefire in the war that collapsed in March.

They have threatened to resume attacks on international shipping over Israel's aid blockade on Gaza. In response, the US military began hammering the rebels with near-daily air strikes.



Israeli border police officers take position amid clashes with Palestinian protesters during a raid in the Asker refugee camp, east of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia 'trying to buy time' to 'continue war'

Says Zelensky; EU adopts new sanctions against Moscow

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday accused Russia of not seriously engaging in peace talks and of wanting to continue its three-year invasion, despite a US push for a ceasefire.

US President Donald Trump held calls with both Zelensky and Russian leader Vladimir Putin on the war on Monday, and Russian and Ukrainian officials met in Istanbul on Friday for the first direct talks on the conflict in more than three years.

But the Istanbul talks failed to yield a truce, and Zelensky accused Putin of sending "empty heads" to the negotiating table. "It is obvious

that Russia is trying to buy time in order to continue its war and occupation," Zelensky said in a post on social media.

Trump framed his two-hour conversation with Putin on Monday as a breakthrough, as the Republican seeks an elusive deal to end the war that he had promised on the campaign trail to solve in 24 hours.

But Putin again rebuffed the call for a full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire, instead saying only that he was ready to work with Ukraine on a memorandum outlining a possible roadmap and different positions on ending the war.

Meanwhile, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas yesterday called

for the United States to take "strong action" against Russia if Moscow does not agree to a ceasefire in Ukraine. Kallas also said the EU has adopted new sanctions against Russia, including measures aimed at Moscow's "shadow fleet" of oil tankers and measures related to human rights and hybrid threats.

Britain added 82 new designations and 18 new specifications under its Russia sanctions regime, a government notice showed yesterday.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and has since destroyed swathes of the country's east, killed tens of thousands and now controls around one-fifth of its territory.

Bangladesh Bank

Sustainable Finance Department
Head Office
Dhaka

Website: www.bb.org.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Hiring Consulting Firm (International)

- Name of procuring entity : Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, Bangladesh Bank.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) : Selection of Consulting Firm.
- EOI Ref. No. & date : SFD/GBW/1005/2/AFD/2025-2630, 19 May 2025.
- Procurement sub-method : Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
- Budget and source of funds : Foreign Grant.
- Project title : Technical Assistance to Strengthen Financial System's Readiness to Challenges of Climate Change in Bangladesh.
- Assignment title : Hiring Consulting Firm (International) for Strengthening Financial Sector Readiness and Mobilizing Climate Finance Aligned with Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan.
- EOI closing date : 03 weeks from the date of publication of EOI.
- Brief description of the assignment : Bangladesh Bank (BB) has received financing from AFD to strengthen governance through climate-sensitive and inclusive public financial management framework and enhanced transparency of climate action and support a resilient development pathway, through a financial system and a water sector more aligned with the priorities of the National Adaptation Plan, and lower in carbon, through support to energy transition policies.
- Qualifications and experience : The International Consulting firm should have sound track record and recognized credentials in undertaking comprehensive technical assistance to the development of Green Bond aligning with National Adaptation Plan and increase mobilization of private finance for climate prosperity and adaptation. The firm should engage specialists to perform the said services.
- Other details : Expected term of the assignment is 16 (sixteen) months. The prospective consulting firm shall submit all supporting documents in BB website (<https://etender.bb.org.bd>) or through e-mail stated below. Application/proposal will not be accepted after EOI closing time.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

- Name of the official inviting EOI : Chowdhury Liakat Ali.
- Designation of the official inviting EOI : Director (SFD).
- Address of the official inviting EOI : Project Implementation Unit, Sustainable Finance Department, 19th Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
- Contact details of the official inviting EOI : Phone: 9530320.

This Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) is in compliance with relevant government rules and regulations e.g. Public Procurement Rules-2008 and Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries, 2024. By responding to this EOI, consultant firms are conforming to those rules and regulations. The Procuring Entity reserves all right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

The details EOI is available at <https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php> and <http://afld.dgmarket.com>.

DCP: 48/2025-1312

Date: 19-05-2025


Chowdhury Liakat Ali
Director (SFD)
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GD-1222

WHO adopts global pandemic agreement

Absence of US cast doubt on its effectiveness

REUTERS, Geneva

Members of the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted an agreement yesterday to better prepare for future pandemics following the disjointed global response to Covid-19, but the absence of the US cast doubt on the treaty's effectiveness.

After three years of negotiations, the legally binding pact was adopted by the World Health Assembly in Geneva. WHO member countries welcomed its passing with applause. The pact was touted as a victory for members of the global health agency at a time when multilateral organisations like the WHO have been battered by sharp cuts in US foreign funding.

"The agreement is a victory for public health, science and multilateral action. It will ensure we, collectively, can better protect the world from future pandemic threats," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The pact would ensure that drugs, therapeutics and vaccines are globally accessible when the next pandemic hits. It requires participating manufacturers to allocate a target of 20 percent of their vaccines, medicines, and tests to the WHO during a pandemic to ensure poorer countries have access.

However, US negotiators left discussions about the accord after President Donald Trump began a 12-month process of withdrawing the US - by far the WHO's largest financial backer - from the agency when he took office in January.

Given this, the US, which poured billions of dollars into vaccine development during the Covid pandemic, would not be bound by the pact. And WHO member states would not face penalties if they fail to implement it.

The deal was reached after Slovakia called for a vote on Monday, as its Covid-19 vaccine sceptic prime minister demanded that his country challenge the adoption of the agreement.

Talks with US unlikely to 'lead to any outcome' Says Khamenei

AFP, Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday that nuclear talks with the United States were unlikely to yield any results, amid a diplomatic standoff over the Islamic republic's enrichment activities.

"We don't think it will lead to any outcome. We don't know what will happen," said Khamenei during a speech, adding that denying Iran's right to enrich uranium was "a big mistake".

Iran and the United States have held four rounds of Omani-mediated nuclear talks since April 12, the highest-level contact between the two foes since Washington abandoned the 2015 nuclear accord.

They had confirmed plans to hold another round of discussions during their last meeting on May 11, which Iran described as "difficult but useful", while a US official said Washington was "encouraged".

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60 percent, far above 3.67-percent limit set in the 2015 deal but below the 90 percent needed for a nuclear warhead.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Directorate General of Health Services
Central Medical Stores Depot
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
www.cmsd.gov.bd

Corrigendum-2

IFT: CMSD/GR-2420/ICT/2024-25/Proc.D-4/1, Dated: 25/03/2025

Procurement of "Radiology Equipment"

Lot-1: Combined Digital Radiography (1000 mA X-Ray) with Remote Fluoroscopy-01 No. and Lot-2: Premier End 4D Color Doppler Ultrasonography with 5 (five) Transducers & Biopsy devices-01 No. The relevant portion of the Tender documents under abovementioned IFT No. is hereby amended as per observation raised by the prospective tenderers. Please read as under:

Reference	Existing Entries	Amended Entries
TD's Section 2, Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & IFT Row No. 9 10 & 11.		
Tender last selling date:	Date: 25/05/2025 (During Office hours)	Date: 01/06/2025 (During Office hours)
Tender submission date & time:	Date: 26/05/2025 and Time: 11:00am [11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST+GMT+ 6 hrs.)]	Date: 02/06/2025 and Time: 11:00am [11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST+GMT+ 6 hrs.)]
Tender opening date & time:	Date: 26/05/2025 and Time: 11:00am [11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST+GMT+ 6 hrs.)]	Date: 02/06/2025 and Time: 11:00am [11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST+GMT+ 6 hrs.)]

Sd/-
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Public Health Engineering

Office of the Executive Engineer

Survey Investigation and Research Division

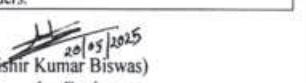
14, Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka.

Invitation for Tender for Outsourcing of Manpower

Tender Notice No. 46.03.2600.074.07.406.25-983

Date: 20.05.2025

1. Ministry/Division	Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
2. Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
3. Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, Survey Investigation and Research Division, DPHE, Kakrail, Dhaka.
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5. Invitation for	Procurement of Non-consulting Services (Outsourcing of Manpower)
6. Invitation Reference Number	46.03.2600.000.07.18-8821
7. Date	12.05.2025
8. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
9. Budget & Source of Funds	GoB Development
10. Development Partners	None
11. Project Code	224132700
12. Project Name	Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in 23 Paurashavas Project (GOB-IDB).
13. Tender Package No.	SIR- M0-25/01
14. Tender Package Name	Outsourcing of Manpower for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in 23 Paurashavas Project (GOB-IDB).
15. Tender Publication Date	20 May, 2025
16. Tender Last Selling date	15 June 2025 by 5:00 pm
17. Tender Last Submission Date & Time	16 June 2025 by 12:00 pm
18. Tender Opening Date and Time	16 June 2025 by 12:00 pm
19. Name and Address of the Offices	
a. Selling Tender Document	1. Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, SIR Division (3rd Floor), DPHE Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. 2. Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, Store Division, 9/A, Dr. Ibrahim Sarani, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
b. Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, SIR Division (3rd Floor), DPHE Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
c. Opening Tender Document	Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, SIR Division (3rd Floor), DPHE Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000.
20. Eligibility of Tenderers	Bidders that fulfill the criteria described in the bidding document
21. Brief Description of services	Supply of Outsourcing of Manpower for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation in 23 Paurashavas Project (GOB-IDB). Driver-03, MLS/Office Sohayok-02 & Guard/Chowkidar- 02 for the project period or 20 months (Whichever Comes First) based on consolidated salary.
22. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1000 (Taka One Thousand only)
23. Tender Security	Tk. 75,000/- (Taka Seventy Five Thousand only) through Pay order
24. Completion Time (weeks/Months)	For the project period or 20 months (Whichever Comes First) from the date of contract signing.
25. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Shishir Kumar Biswas
26. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer
27. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Survey Investigation and Research Division, DPHE Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka.
28. Contact Telephone of Official Inviting Tender	Email- ee.sir@dphe.gov.bd Office Contact No.- 02-55130524
29. The procurement Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders.	


Shishir Kumar Biswas
Executive Engineer
Survey Investigation and Research Division
Department of Public Health Engineering, Dhaka



EU seeks to relax rules on turning away asylum seekers

AFP, Brussels

The EU yesterday unveiled plans to make it easier to send asylum seekers to certain third countries in the latest overhaul aimed at reducing migration to the bloc, sparking criticism from rights groups.

The European Commission said it proposed broadening the so-called "safe third country" concept, which allows member states to "consider an asylum application inadmissible when applicants could receive effective protection" elsewhere.