

Trump, Xi will likely speak this week

Says White House amid tariff row

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will likely speak this week, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday, days after Trump accused China of violating an agreement to roll back tariffs and trade restrictions.

Leavitt is the third top Trump aide to forecast an imminent call between the two leaders to iron out differences on last month's tariff agreement in Geneva, among larger trade issues. It was not immediately clear when the two leaders will speak.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that Trump and Xi would speak "very soon" to iron out trade issues including a dispute over critical minerals and China's restrictions on exports of certain minerals.



People hold banners and light candles next to portraits of 39-year-old Nigerian Michael Kenechukwu Ekemezie during a protest in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday, following his death at the Lausanne police station. Ekemezie died on May 25, 2025, less than an hour after being arrested on suspicion of drug-related activity.

PHOTO: AFP

HIV cases soar in Philippines

Medical authorities warn of health emergency

AFP, Manila

Philippine medical authorities yesterday warned of a looming "public health emergency" as HIV infections have soared this year, with young males especially hard-hit.

On average, 57 new cases a day were tallied in the country of 117 million people over the first three months of 2025, a 50 percent jump from a year earlier, health department data shows.

"We now have the highest number of new cases here in the Western Pacific," Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said. "What is frightening is, our youth make up many of the new cases," he said. The health department said 95 percent of newly reported cases were male.

Ukraine peace efforts are complex: Kremlin

Says no quick decisions to be expected; Russia 'deliberately' targeting civilians after 3 killed in Sumy: Zelensky

AGENCIES

The Kremlin warned yesterday that work on trying to reach a settlement to end the war in Ukraine was extraordinarily complex and that it would be wrong to expect any imminent decisions.

It was commenting after Russia told Ukraine at peace talks in Turkey on Monday that it would only agree to end the fighting if Kyiv gives up big new chunks of territory and accepts limits on the size of its army, demands Ukraine has repeatedly rejected.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday that agreements reached at the Istanbul talks to exchange prisoners and the bodies of dead soldiers would be honoured however, and that work on agreeing a possible settlement



would continue.

He said Russia and the US had not yet agreed on specific future contacts between President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump, but that Putin was ready for various high-level contacts if they were properly prepared, reports Reuters.

It was unlikely, added Peskov when asked, that Putin, Trump and Zelensky would hold face-to-face talks together in the near future.

Meanwhile, Zelensky yesterday accused Russia of "deliberately" targeting civilians in a rocket attack on the city of Sumy.

Russia's troops have also accelerated their advance, seeking to establish what Putin called a "buffer zone" inside Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region.

A rocket attack on the city, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Russian border, yesterday killed at least three people, Zelensky said.

"The Russians launched a savage strike on Sumy -- directly targeting the city and its ordinary streets with rocket artillery. It was a fully deliberate attack on civilians," he said in a post on social media.

He posted a video from the emergency services showing destroyed cars and the body of one victim lying on the road, reports AFP.

FLASH FLOODING Death toll in Nigeria jumps past 200

AFP, Abuja

Flash flooding in north-central Nigeria last week killed more than 200 people, the Niger state humanitarian commissioner said yesterday, while hundreds more remain missing and are feared dead.

The town of Mokwa was hit with the worst flash flood in living memory Thursday from overnight rains, with more than 250 homes destroyed and swathes of the town wiped out in a single morning.

The announcement comes after several days of the official toll standing at around 150, even as residents were sometimes missing more than a dozen members in a single family.

"We have more than 200... corpses," Ahmad Suleiman told Nigerian Channels Television.

Budget goals

FROM PAGE 1

sectors, allocations and incentives for some sectors and higher taxation for tobacco producers, the proposed budget fails to address the ongoing economic challenges holistically.

Some fiscal measures, including allowing black money, contradict the theme of the budget, which is 'building an equitable and sustainable economic system', she said.

Though the tax rate for legalising undisclosed income has been raised significantly, keeping this provision will send the wrong signal to the public and is against the spirit of July, according to the CPD.

This provision creates a disincentive for honest taxpayers and creates inequality as the huge supply of funds raises the apartment prices beyond the reach of honest taxpayers and middle-income people.

The overall budget is compatible with assumptions but it is disappointing in terms of expectations, said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD.

About the 1 percent turnover tax on all firms, he said the move was in preparation for graduation from the least developed country bracket in 2026 and must be accepted.

"The government tried to reduce the anti-export bias and protection for local firms,"

However, there is no indication of measures that can raise the firms' competitiveness. Such steps could include a single window for all services, a reduction in bank interest rates and reducing the cost of doing business, he said.

Although the government came through the July uprising, it was expected that there would be specific steps for the unemployed youth.

"But this was not done. So, job creation will have to come through investment. But, protection has been reduced for local firms, so it would be a challenge to create more jobs."

As the tax-to-GDP ratio is low, the government is limited in its ability to reduce inequality.

Moreover, out of the total revenue collection, two-thirds come from indirect tax, which comes from the general public too. So, it is difficult to reduce inequality with the existing tax system, Rahman added.

The budget shows that provisional GDP growth

for this fiscal year would be 5 percent, whereas the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics estimated it would be around 4 percent.

So, how it would rise is not clear, the CPD said.

It is also not clear how the 5.5 percent GDP growth target for next fiscal year would be achieved, Fahmida said.

Inflation is expected to fall drastically to 6.5 percent next fiscal year, while average inflation was 10.1 percent as of May.

"The inflation projection seems ambitious."

The government may not have considered the actual progress on revenue collection for this fiscal year when it set fiscal 2025-26's collection target.

"It looks high," she said.

The slash in allocation for the agriculture sector from next fiscal year's development budget is a troubling development at a time when ensuring food security remains a high priority.

The share of projects with symbolic allocation has increased substantially, which is an objectionable development and a move in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, the pace of implementation of mega projects remains a concern. Even if maximum utilisation of resources is ensured, none of the eight mega projects scheduled for completion in fiscal 2025-26 will be wrapped up.

Regarding private investment, the CPD said the government has targeted to increase the private investment-to-GDP ratio to 24.3 percent.

"Whether it is possible in the current political climate remains a question."

The moves to reinstate the highest tax slab of 30 percent and fix a minimum tax of Tk 1,000 for new taxpayers are both welcome.

The tax burden on relatively low-income groups and middle-income people will be higher due to the change in the tax rate of several tax slabs.

For those with annual incomes of Tk 6 lakh, Tk 10 lakh and Tk 15 lakh, the total tax liability will rise by 12.5 percent, 16.7 percent and 16.7 percent respectively.

In contrast, for those earning Tk 30 lakh, the rise will be comparatively lower at 7.6 percent.

This goes against the principle of equitable tax burden and fairness, and such types of fiscal measures will not be able to reduce inequality, the CPD said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the District Primary Education Officer

District: Narsingdi

<https://dpe.narsingdi.gov.bd>

No. 38.01.6800.000.000.07.0013.22-589

Date: 2/6/2025

e-Tender Notice-01/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 02 No. Package under Need Based Infrastructure Development of Government Primary Schools Project (1st Phase), FY 2024-2025 for District: Narsingdi.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. and name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening date & time
01	1073077	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0467. Furniture supply for 42 Nos. classroom and 03 Nos. teachers room of selected 15 Nos. Govt. Primary School at different location of Belabo Upazila, Narshingdi Sadar Upazila, Monohardi Upazila and Palash Upazila of Narsingdi District. The school names are 1. Dakshin Dhuru GPS, 2. 28 No. Ibrahimpur GPS of Belabo Upazila of Narsingdi District. 3. Bashail GPS, 4. Rohimdi GPS, 5. Satir Para GPS, 6. Baghata No. 2 GPS, 7. Char Digoldi No. 2 GPS, 8. Nuralapur GPS of Narshingdi Sadar Upazila of Narsingdi District. 9. Uttar Chalakhar GPS of Monohardi Upazila of Narsingdi District. 10. Cholona No. 2 (Balika) GPS 11. Mathi Char GPS, 12. Pitambordi GPS, 13. Polash No. 1 GPS 14. Char Sindur Girl GPS, 15. Sekandordi GPS of Palash Upazila of Narsingdi District.	25.6.2025 5:00pm	26.6.2025 2:00pm
02	1109453	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0468. Furniture supply for 46 Nos. classroom and 02 Nos. teachers room of selected 14 Nos. Govt. Primary School at different location of Raipura Upazila, and Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi District. The school names are 1. Hoglakandi GPS, 2. Raipura (1) GPS, 3. Mirzar Char Kanda Para GPS, 4. Sherpur GPS of Raipura Upazila of Narsingdi District. 5. 56 No. Dori PURA GPS, 6. 60 No. Moishar Tek GPS, 7. Ajkitola No. 2 GPS, 8. Atashia GPS, 9. Bhati Chinadi GPS, 10. Bhongar Tek GPS, 11. Bir Lakh Pur GPS, 12. Dhanua GPS, 13. Dotter Gaon Bhity Para GPS, 14. Uttar Sadharchar Poshchim GPS of Shibpur Upazila of Narsingdi District.	25.6.2025 5:00pm	26.6.2025 2:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP 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.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 26 June 2025, 1:00pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1360

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন

বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২১১

ফোনঃ ০২৪১৩৮০৭২১, ই-মেইলঃ awrl.org@gmail.com

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তারিখঃ ২০ জ্যৈষ্ঠ, ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
০৩ জুন, ২০২৫ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আহ্বান

পরিবেশ বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয় নিম্নলিখিত বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই), চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়মান সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন প্রকল্পের আওতায় জিওবি তহবিল হতে প্রকল্পের লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্যসমূহ সঠিকভাবে বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নোক্ত বিষয়বস্তুর উপর গবেষণা স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

২। গবেষণার বিষয়বস্তু (শিরোনাম):

- Chemical induction of agarwood and Bangladesh perspective (Study Area No. 04).
- Nanotechnology in agarwood induction/inoculation (Study Area No. 06).
- Chemical analysis of agar & agar-oil and their gradation (Study Area No. 08).

৩। আবেদনের শর্তাবলী:

(ক) প্রধান গবেষককে (পিআই) বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক হতে হবে এবং আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীর জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/পাসপোর্টের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে; (খ) মূল গবেষণা কার্যক্রম বাংলাদেশে পরিচালনা করতে হবে; (গ) প্রধান গবেষককে পোস্ট গ্রাডুয়েট ডিগ্রীধারী এবং প্রস্তুতিবদ্ধ গবেষণা বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (ঘ) সরকারি, বেসরকারি বা স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত গবেষকগণ যথাযথ মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে পারবেন; (ঙ) আবেদনকারীর একই শিরোনামে/বিষয়বস্তুর উপর চলমান কোন গবেষণাকর্ম নেই মর্মে অঙ্গীকারনামা আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে; (চ) আবেদন ফরম অনুযায়ী প্রয়োজনীয় সকল তথ্যাদি/দলিল সমিবেশিত করতে হবে; (ছ) গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা, পাবলিকেশন ইত্যাদিসহ প্রধান গবেষকের পূর্ণাঙ্গা জীবনবৃত্তান্ত (৩ পৃষ্ঠার অধিক নয়) সহ-গবেষক ও রিসার্চ ফেলোদের সংক্ষিপ্ত জীবনবৃত্তান্ত (১ পৃষ্ঠার অধিক নয়) সংযোজন করতে হবে; (জ) যে প্রতিষ্ঠানে গবেষণা করা হবে সে প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের নিকট হতে অনুমতিপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে; (ঝ) চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের তারিখ হতে গবেষণাকাল হবে ২ বছর বা প্রকল্পকালীন সময় (এক) অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন/প্রস্তাব বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;

৪। আবেদন জমাদানের নিয়মাবলী:

(ক) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমে দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম এবং নীতিমালা/মানুয়াল বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএফআরআই) এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.bfri.gov.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে; (খ) প্রস্তুতকৃত স্টাডি প্রস্তাব এর ২টি হার্ডকপি (স্পাইরাল বাইন্ডিংকৃত) আলাদা আলাদা খামে ভরে খামের উপর অর্জিনাল এবং কপি লিখে একটি খামে প্রেরণ করতে হবে; (গ) খামের উপরের অংশে স্টাডি টাইটেল এবং প্রেরক অংশে আবেদনকারীর নাম, বিস্তারিত ঠিকানা, মোবাইল নম্বর ও ই-মেইল উল্লেখ করতে হবে; (ঘ) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব আগামী ২৯.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকায় মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন দিন ও সময়ে নির্ধারিত ফরম অনুযায়ী ইংরেজিতে প্রস্তুতপূর্বক নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে (প্রকল্প কার্যালয়ে) দাখিল করতে হবে; (ঙ) স্টাডি প্রস্তাব সরাসরি, ডাকযোগে বা কুরিয়ারে প্রেরণ করতে হবে, ই-মেইলের মাধ্যমে প্রেরিত প্রস্তাব/আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

৫। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে বা যে কোন সময় সকল প্রস্তাব/আবেদনের পূর্ণ/আংশিক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করা এমন কি বিজ্ঞাপন বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোহাম্মদ আকির হোসাইন

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

সম্পূর্ণ বৃক্কে উন্নতমানের আগর রেজিন সঞ্চয়ন প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন

বাংলাদেশ বন গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট, ষোলশহর, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২১১

ফোনঃ ০২৪১৩৮০৭২১, ই-মেইলঃ awrl.org@gmail.com

GD-1370