



US Department of State employees clap for recently laid-off employees as they leave the Harry S Truman Federal Building in Washington, DC, on Friday. More than 1,300 State Department employees were fired Friday in a downsizing ordered by President Donald Trump and touted as cutting bloated government -- but which critics predict will hamstring US influence around the world.

PHOTO: AFP

Gaza truce talks faltering over troop withdrawal

Say Palestinian, Israeli sources; at least 79 more killed in the Palestinian territory; US citizen killed in West Bank settler attack

AGENCIES

Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza are stalling over the extent of Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha said yesterday, as the continued Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave killed 79 more.

The indirect talks over a US proposal for a 60-day ceasefire are nonetheless expected to continue, the sources said, despite the latest obstacles in clinching a deal.

A Palestinian source said that Hamas has rejected the withdrawal maps which Israel has proposed, as they would leave around 40 percent of the territory under Israeli control, including all of the southern area of Rafah and further territories in northern and eastern Gaza.

Two Israeli sources said Hamas wants Israel to retreat to lines it held in a previous ceasefire before it renewed its offensive in March.

The Palestinian source said matters regarding aid and guarantees for ending the war were also presenting a challenge, and added that the crisis may be resolved with more US intervention.

The White House said on Monday that Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff, who played a major role in crafting the latest ceasefire proposal, will travel to Doha this week to join discussions there.

Delegations from Israel and Hamas have been in Qatar since Sunday in a renewed push for an agreement which envisages a phased



release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals and discussions on ending the war entirely.

Meanwhile, the Israeli offensive in Gaza yesterday killed 79 Palestinians, including 30 aid seekers, hospital sources said.

The new deaths of aid seekers add to nearly 800 similar deaths in the last six weeks, according to the United Nations, with Israel's army saying it issued new instructions to troops following repeated reports of fatalities.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military offensive has killed more than 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, displaced almost the entire population of more than 2 million people, sparked a humanitarian crisis and left much of the territory in ruins.

The United Nations yesterday warned that dire fuel shortages in the Gaza Strip had reached "critical levels", threatening to dramatically

increase the suffering in the war-torn Palestinian territory.

The deaths came as Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz published a picture of the ruins of Gaza, saying, "After Rafah, Beit Hanoun".

Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city that borders Egypt, has been almost destroyed by the Israeli army. Beit Hanoun is a major city in the northern part of the enclave, which is now under heavy siege by Israeli forces.

The violence also spilled into West Bank yesterday where a Palestinian American man was beaten to death by settlers in the Israeli-occupied territory and a second man was shot dead.

US citizen Sayafullah Musalat, 20, also known as Saif, was severely beaten in the incident on Friday evening in Sinjal, north of Ramallah, the ministry said. Hussein Al-Shalabi, 23 was shot in the chest.



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

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Local Re-Press Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL (Gopalgonj)/PUR/PT/2025/ 255

Dated 12/07/2025

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/Suppliers/ Authorised dealers for Supply of RO Membrane for PW System of Penicillin Building at EDCL, 3rd Plant Gopalgonj on urgent basis :

Name of item	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
RO Membrane for PW System of Penicillin Building at EDCL, 3 rd Plant Gopalgonj	Tk.2.5% of quoted amount	Tk.1000.00/set (Non-Refundable)	Closing: 27/07/2025 at 3.00 PM Opening: 27/07/2025 at 3.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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US slaps 30% tariff on EU, Mexico

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday said major US trading partners Mexico and the European Union would face a 30 percent tariff starting next month, ramping up pressure for deals in his trade wars.

Both sets of duties would take effect August 1, Trump said in separate letters posted to his Truth Social platform, citing Mexico's role in illicit drugs flowing into the United States and a trade imbalance with the EU, respectively.

Since returning to the presidency in January, Trump has unleashed sweeping tariffs on allies and competitors alike, roiling financial markets and raising fears of a global economic downturn.

The fresh duties for Mexico announced by Trump would be higher than the 25 percent levy he imposed on Mexican goods earlier this year, although products entering the United States under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) are exempted.

Canada earlier received a similar letter setting out 35 percent tariffs on its goods. A US official earlier told AFP that the USMCA exemption was similarly expected to remain for Canada.

The EU tariff is also markedly steeper than the 20 percent levy Trump unveiled in April.

The EU, a long side dozens of other economies, had been set to see its US tariff level increase from a baseline of 10 percent on Wednesday, but Trump pushed back the deadline to August 1 just days before the elevated rates were due to take effect.

Since the start of the week, Trump has sent out letters to more than 20 countries with updated tariffs for each.

Brussels said Friday that it was ready to strike a deal with Washington to prevent the return of 20 percent levies, and the latest letter suggests talks will carry on. The EU has prepared retaliatory duties on US goods worth around 21 billion euros after Trump also slapped separate tariffs on steel and aluminium imports earlier this year, and they are suspended until July 14.



Trump visits Texas flood zone

REUTERS, Kerrville

Donald Trump defended the state and federal response to deadly flash flooding in Texas on Friday as he visited the stricken Hill Country region, where at least 120 people, including dozens of children, perished a week ago.

During a roundtable discussion after touring Kerr County, the epicentre of the disaster, Trump praised both Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for their response.

Authorities have faced mounting questions over whether more could have been done to protect and warn residents ahead of the flooding, which struck with astonishing speed in the pre-dawn hours on July 4, the US Independence Day holiday.

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The written test will be held on **Friday, August 01, 2025 from 10:00 am to 11:15 am** at IBA, University of Dhaka.

An applicant with a foreign nationality and foreign university degree(s) may be exempted from taking the written test if s/he has a valid GRE/GMAT score at or above the 75 percentile. However, s/he is required to appear before an interview board.

For all foreign certificates/degrees (excluding O-Level and A-Level), equivalence will be determined by the Equivalence Committee of IBA. Without such equivalence, an applicant is not eligible to sit for the admission test.

An applicant with degree from any program not approved by UGC is ineligible to apply.

The application fee is Tk. 4050 (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Wednesday, July 30, 2025**. For detailed application procedure, please visit: www.iba-du.edu or <https://www.admission.iba-du.edu>

Classes of Executive MBA Program will take place during the weekends i.e., on Fridays and Saturdays.

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Director
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Russian drone, missile attack kills 4 in West Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Russia fired more than 620 drones and long range missiles overnight, killing four people, Ukraine said yesterday, calling for fresh sanctions on Moscow to halt its record barrages.

Kiev and Moscow have stepped up aerial strikes over recent months and US-led ceasefire talks aimed at pausing the over three-year war have stalled.

"Twenty-six cruise missiles and 597 attack drones were launched, of which more than half were 'Shaheds',", Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, referring to Iranian-made drones.

The Ukrainian air force said it had downed 319 Shahed drones and 25 missiles, adding that one missile and about 20 drones hit "five locations". It did not elaborate.

Zelensky said the strikes had killed at least two people and wounded 20 in Chernivtsi in the west, far from the front lines of the east and south.

Six people were wounded in Lviv, also in the west, while in the east, two people died in Dnipropetrovsk and three were wounded in Kharkiv, local authorities said.

The Russian defence ministry said it had targeted companies in Ukraine's military-industrial complex in Lviv, Kharkiv and Lutsk and a military aerodrome.

On Friday, Ukrainian drone and shelling attacks killed three people in Russia.