

# Trump, Putin to meet in 'coming days'

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said that a summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Ukraine was set for the "coming days" as US-led efforts to broker peace rumbled on.

The Russian president named the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a potential location for the summit with Trump, but essentially ruled out a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The Trump-Putin summit would be the first between sitting US and Russian presidents since Joe Biden met Putin in Geneva in June 2021. It comes as the Republican seeks an end to Russia's military assault on Ukraine.

Three rounds of direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv have failed to yield any progress towards a ceasefire. The two sides appear as far apart as ever in the conditions they have set for an end to the more than three-year-long conflict.

Trump said on Wednesday that he was likely to meet Putin face-to-face "very soon".

They last sat together in 2019 at a G20 summit meeting in Japan during Trump's first term as US president, but have spoken by telephone several times



since the former reality TV star returned to the White House earlier this year.

"Both sides showed interest" in the Russia-US leaders meeting, Putin told reporters on Thursday.

"We have many friends who are willing to help us organise such events. One of our friends is the president of the United Arab Emirates," he said, standing next to UAE leader Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Earlier yesterday, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said that the plan to hold a bilateral summit was "at the suggestion of the American side".

"Next week has been set as a target

date," said Ushakov, adding that both sides have already agreed the venue "in principle", without mentioning it.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Russia launched its military offensive on Ukraine in February 2022.

Russian bombardments have forced millions of people to flee their homes and have destroyed swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine.

Putin has resisted multiple calls from the United States, Europe and Kyiv for a ceasefire.

At talks in Istanbul, Russian negotiators outlined hardline territorial demands if Ukraine wants Russia to halt its advance

-- calling for Kyiv to withdraw from some territory it still controls and to renounce Western military support.

Reports of the upcoming summit came after US envoy Steve Witkoff met Putin in Moscow.

Witkoff proposed a trilateral meeting with Zelensky, but Putin appeared to rule out direct talks with the Ukrainian leader.

"I have nothing against it in general, it is possible, but certain conditions must be created for this," he told reporters, adding: "Unfortunately, we are still far from creating such conditions."

Putin said in June that he was ready to meet Zelensky, but only during a "final phase" of negotiations on ending the conflict.

Zelensky earlier yesterday had refreshed his call for a meeting with Putin -- which he says is the only way to make progress towards peace.

"It is necessary to determine the timing for such a format and the range of issues to be addressed," he wrote on social media.

He also said that he would hold several other conversations throughout the course of the day, including with Italian officials.

## India bans 25 books in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Indian authorities in Kashmir have banned 25 books, including a work by Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy, saying the titles "excite secessionism" in the contested Muslim-majority region.

The government order accuses the writers of propagating "false narratives" about Kashmir, "while playing a critical role in misguiding the youth, glorifying terrorism and inciting violence" against the Indian state.

It follows orders in February when authorities seized Islamic literature from bookshops and homes.

The ban listed 25 books it said "have been identified that propagate false narrative and secessionism", including Roy's 2020 book of essays, "Azadi: Freedom, Fascism, Fiction".

Other books banned include titles by academics, including one of India's foremost constitution experts A.G. Noorani, and Sumantra Bose,

who teaches political science at the London School of Economics.

The order was issued on Tuesday -- the six-year anniversary of New Delhi's imposition of direct rule -- although the ban took time to be brought to wider attention.



## Nauru sells first passports to fund climate action

AFP, Sydney

A remote Pacific nation selling passports to fund climate action has approved just six applicants since early this year, but officials yesterday said that interest in joining the low-lying, largely barren island is increasing.

Pacific microstate Nauru has said it hopes to drum up more than US\$5 million in the "climate resilience citizenship" programme's first year, which would equate to 66 "golden passports" sold at US\$105,000 each.

Almost six months after the scheme opened, Nauru has so far approved six applications -- covering two families and four individuals. But officials said the number of approvals to date does not reflect interest levels.

Nauru believes the passports could eventually generate \$43 million which would account for almost 20 percent of projected government revenue.

The Nauru passport provides visa-free entry into more than 80 countries or territories.

More than 60 different nations offer some form of migration for investment schemes, Australia's Lowy Institute has found.

But there are concerns that these programmes could be ripe for exploitation. A previous Nauru attempt to sell passports ended in disaster when, in 2003, officials sold citizenship to Al-Qaeda members who were later arrested in Asia.



People inspect the damage at the site of an overnight Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese village of Deir Seryan, in the Nabatieh district, yesterday. The strikes killed two people in south Lebanon. Lebanon's cabinet is set to meet again on Thursday to discuss the thorny task of disarming Hezbollah, a day after the Iran-backed group rejected the government's decision to take away its weapons.

PHOTO: AFP

## Japan population sees record drop

AFP, Tokyo

The population of Japanese nationals fell by a record amount -- more than 900,000 people -- in 2024, official data showed, as the country battles to reverse its perennially low birth rates.

While many developed countries are struggling with low birth rates, the problem is particularly acute in Japan, where the population has been declining for years.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has called the situation a "quiet emergency", pledging family-friendly measures like more flexible working hours and free day care to try and reverse the trend.

Last year, the number of Japanese fell by 908,574, or 0.75 percent, to 120.65 million.

The decline -- for a 16th straight year -- was the largest drop since the survey began in 1968, the internal affairs ministry said Wednesday.

There were 3.67 million foreigners as of January 1, 2025, representing nearly three percent of the whole population in Japan, which was more than 124.3 million as of that date.

The overall population of the country declined by 0.44 percent from 2023.

## Third-hottest July on record wrecks havoc

AFP, Paris

The third-hottest July worldwide ended a string of record-breaking temperatures, but many regions were devastated by extreme weather amplified by global warming, the European climate monitoring service said Thursday.

Heavy rains flooded Pakistan and northern China; Canada, Scotland and Greece struggled to tame wildfires intensified by persistent drought; and many nations in Asia and Scandinavia recorded new average highs for the month.

"Two years after the hottest July on record, the recent streak of global temperature records is over," Carlo Buontempo, director of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, said in a statement.

"But that does not mean climate change has stopped," he said. "We

continue to witness the effects of a warming world."

As in June, July showed a slight dip compared to the preceding two years, averaging 1.25 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) era.

2023 and 2024 warmed above that benchmark by more than 1.5C, which is the Paris Agreement target set in 2015 for capping the rise in global temperatures at relatively safe levels.

That deceptively small increase has been enough to make storms, heatwaves and other extreme weather events far more deadly and destructive.


11 countries experienced their hottest July in at least a half-century, including China, Japan, North Korea, Tajikistan, Bhutan, Brunei and Malaysia, according to AFP calculations.

In Europe, Nordic countries saw an unprecedented string of hot days, including more than 20 days above 30C across Finland.



Indian National Congress (INC) party leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the media in front of a screen showing India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) and Home Minister Amit Shah at the party headquarters in New Delhi yesterday, ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in India's Bihar state.

PHOTO: AFP




### Bangladesh Bank

Common Services Department-1  
(Equipment Section)  
Head Office  
Dhaka-1000  
Website: [www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

#### Invitation for Tenders

Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka				
1	Ministry/Division	Not applicable		
2	Agency	Not applicable		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Bank		
4	Procuring entity code			
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6	Invitation for	The Procurement of 08 (Eight) Pcs. Laptop for Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.		
7	Invitation Ref No.	CSD-1(Eq)69(6)/2025-15		
8	Date	07/08/2025		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
10	Budget and source of funds	Own source		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
12	Project/program code (if applicable)			
13	Project/program name (if applicable)			
14	Tender Package No.			
15	Tender package name	Date		
16	Tender publication date	Date		
17	Tender last selling date	Not applicable		
18	Tender closing date and time	Date	Time	
19	Tender opening date and time	21/08/2025	03:00pm	
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
	-Receiving tender document	BB website and Hard Copy of Tender Security		
	-Opening tender document	Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
21	-Pre-tender meeting	Date	Time	
		13/08/2025	11:30am	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
22	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least Two (2) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last Three (3) years		
23	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 08 (Eight) Pcs. Laptop for Bangladesh Bank, Head Office		
24	Brief description of related services	N/A		
25	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	I	Laptop	CSD-1	45,000.00 (forty-five thousand only)
				Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing
				8 weeks
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
26	Name of official inviting tender	Swapan Kumar Goswami		
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (CSD-1)		
28	Address of official inviting tender	Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka		
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530148	Fax: 9530441	E-mail: <a href="mailto:swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd">swapan.goswami@bb.org.bd</a>
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.			

DCP: 48/2025-2035  
Date: 07-08-2025



**Swapan Kumar Goswami**  
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GD-1746

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