



A Palestinian man stands next to an empty wheelchair following an explosion in the Saftawi neighbourhood, west of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on August 25, 2025.

PHOTO: AFP

## Israeli bulldozers uproot hundreds of trees in West Bank village

AFP, Al Mughayyir

Israeli bulldozers uprooted hundreds of trees in the West Bank village of al-Mughayyir on Sunday in the presence of the Israeli military, according to AFP journalists who witnessed the scene.

Most of the felled vegetation appeared to be olive trees, essential to the economy and culture of the West Bank, while olive groves have also long been a flashpoint for violent clashes between farmers and encroaching Israeli settlers.

Abdelatif Mohammed Abu Aliya,

a local farmer from the village near Ramallah, said he lost olive trees that were over 70 years old on about one hectare of land.

"They completely uprooted and levelled them under false pretences," he said, explaining he and other residents had already begun replanting the pulled-up trees.

AFP photographers on the ground saw overturned soil, olive trees lying on the ground, and several bulldozers operating on the hills surrounding the village.

## Bangla-Pak ties grow, but '71 still unreckoned

FROM PAGE 1

instruments as well as \$200 million from international donors in 1970 for cyclone victims that was never transferred, the then Bangladesh foreign secretary Md Jashim Uddin said at a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart in April this year.

There are 324,147 stranded Pakistanis in 79 camps across 14 Bangladeshi districts who wish to return. Until now, only 26,941 have been repatriated.

"None of these issues were resolved," South Asian history researcher and commentator Altaf Parvez told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the tripartite treaty that Dar referred to does not even mention reparations.

"This is our just demand. Undivided Pakistan had foreign reserve, while there was foreign aid on account of the cyclone of 1970, but that was not distributed to the people in East Pakistan because of the war," Altaf Parvez said.

The treaty, however, does touch upon repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and prisoners of war. As per the agreement, Bangladesh,

on humanitarian grounds, handed over the 195 accused officers to Pakistan, on condition that they would be tried in their own country. Pakistan also pledged to prosecute those 195 officers, but in reality, there has been no trial till this day.

In the 1974 tripartite agreement, the then Pakistani state minister for defence, Aziz Ahmed, states that Pakistan "condemned and deeply regretted" any crimes that may have been committed. It was noted in the treaty that following recognition, the prime minister of Pakistan had declared that he would visit Bangladesh in response to the invitation of the prime minister of Bangladesh and appealed to the people of Bangladesh to "forgive and forget the mistakes of the past" in order to promote reconciliation.

But there was no mention of the word genocide, which significantly diminishes the gravity of the crimes.

Similarly, during his 2002 visit to Bangladesh, Pervez Musharraf regretted the "excesses" committed during Bangladesh's 1971 war of independence. However,

he urged both nations to "bury the past in the spirit of friendship."

Musharraf avoided using the term Liberation War, instead referring to it as the "unfortunate period," which further diluted the historical and moral significance of the events.

In diplomatic language, regret generally expresses sorrow or sadness that something happened, often without accepting responsibility. In contrast, an apology includes both an expression of remorse and an acknowledgment of wrongdoing.

When made officially, an apology carries greater moral and political weight, and is more likely to be accepted by victims and the international community.

On Sunday, speaking to the media, Ishaq Dar advised Bangladeshis to "clean the heart" as is told by Islam.

"What Islamic teaching, what the Holy Quran, what our sunnah of Muhammad tells us is that you should have a clean heart and move together ... we are a family and we should work together," he said.

Sk Tawfique M Haque, director at the South Asian Institute of Policy

and Governance (SIPG), North South University, says Dhaka and Islamabad have re-established high-level communications and economic ties in less than a year, but history cannot be set aside so easily.

"For Bangladesh, the legacy of the 1971 Liberation War remains etched into its collective consciousness," he said, adding that this unresolved discord is both a visible obstacle and the defining backdrop to any future rapprochement.

Prof Haque says reimagining the future of Bangladesh-Pakistan relations requires a change in mindset on both sides. For Pakistan, it requires recognising that symbolic and meaningful gestures can build trust and goodwill.

"For Bangladesh, this means acknowledging that while the past cannot be erased, the future can be shaped by pragmatic interests and mutual respect," he told The Daily Star.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain clearly said Bangladesh wants to advance the relations with Pakistan and work together on regional and global fronts, and that the unresolved issues should be settled and agreed upon accordingly.

However, Ishaq Dar's remarks are notably not aligned with such sentiments.

Altaf Parvez pointed

out that during the Awami League regime, India engaged with the quarters it was comfortable with. He said it was similar to the Pakistani delegation who engaged with parties they favoured but not the civil society, and not even the stranded Pakistanis.

There are a string of examples of such apologies for past mistakes. In 2022, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologised for the Netherlands' colonial violence in Indonesia. Japan, in 2016, apologised to South Korea and pledged approximately \$8.3 million as compensation for its use of Korean "comfort women" who were forced to work in Japanese brothels during World War II. President Jacques Chirac, in 1995, acknowledged that the French state was an accomplice in the deportation of tens of thousands of Jews during World War II. The US Congress passed a law in 1988 apologising for the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII. Germany's Chancellor Willy Brandt fell to his knees at a memorial for Holocaust victims in 1970 in a powerful symbol of remorse.

Bangladesh and Pakistan should not be so stuck in the past as to prevent the potential of future relations, but at the same time both parties must be able to reconcile with history if only for closure.



বাউবির দীক্ষা: সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত, কর্মমুখী, গণমুখী ও জীবনব্যাপী শিক্ষা

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GD-1868

## Hundreds blinded by bullets

FROM PAGE 1

Recounting the inflow of patients, she said that July 18 and 19 were blood-soaked days.

Apart from Neela, three more witnesses testified yesterday. The ICT-1 has so far recorded testimonies of 24 witnesses in the case in which former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who has turned an approver, are also accused.

Describing the situation in the operating theatre on July 18-19, Neela said, "Over 100 patients, aged 14-25, came to the hospital, some covering one eye, others both. Metal pellets and bullets had pierced their eyes causing bleeding."

She added that many patients gave false names, phone numbers, and ID details out of fear of harassment or retaliation.

Md Edris, father of Maruf Hossain, a 12th grader killed in front of BRAC University in Badda on July 19 last year, testified that his son had left home with his maternal uncle to join a protest.

Hours later, the uncle called him to say BGB, police, and Awami League men were firing indiscriminately at protesters on Rampura bridge. Around 5:45pm, another call informed him that Maruf had been shot and was being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On the way, AL activists, police, and BGB stopped the ambulance claiming that Maruf was already dead, even though he was still groaning in pain. A police officer even

prodded his bullet wounds with a rifle. This delayed Maruf being taken to hospital by 15-20 minutes. He was declared dead within minutes of reaching the hospital, Edris said.

A video clip provided by Edris was screened at the tribunal, showing BGB officer Lt Col Redwanul Islam firing recklessly at protesters and severely wounded individuals being carried away by others. Edris held Lt Col Redwanul, local AL activists, Hasina, ex-ministers Kamal and Obaidul Quader, former IGP Mamun, and local lawmaker Wakil Uddin responsible for his son's death.

Another witness, Amena Akter, a Noakhali Government College student who was injured during protests in Laxmipur on August 4, said when they brought out a procession, some 120-130 AL, Jubo League, and Chhatra League activists opened fire.

A student, Saad Al Afian, was hit and died instantly. The attackers then chased protesters, caught Amena and beat her severely.

In her testimony, Hasne Ara, mother of Abdur Razzak Rubel, who was killed in Cumilla's Debidwar upazila on August 4 last year, said her only son Rubel, a bus driver, was shot twice by AL supporter Salahuddin before others hacked him to death. At the time, Rubel's wife was eight months pregnant.

She said AL leader Mostafizur Rahman Sarkar offered Tk 7 lakh and two shops to dissuade her from filing a case, but she refused.

## Repatriation hinges

FROM PAGE 1

In a joint statement issued in Dhaka, the embassies and high commissions of Canada, Australia, the UK, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and Finland echoed the UN's call.

They said Rohingyas in Bangladesh want to return to their homes. "These conditions can only be met by addressing the root causes of their displacement, which requires a peaceful and stable Myanmar. We therefore recognise that a timeline for the return of the Rohingya cannot yet be established," the statement said.

The envoys condemned escalating violence and human rights abuses by Myanmar's military regime and other armed groups, calling for an immediate end to all acts of violence and for unrestricted humanitarian access. They also pledged continued support for the Rohingyas

and the Bangladeshi host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The statement further noted that the international community would maintain pressure on Myanmar at upcoming platforms, including the High Level Conference on the Rohingya crisis in September 2025.

Members of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M), an independent group of international experts, urged global powers to hold the Myanmar military accountable.

"The architects and perpetrators of the Rohingya genocide – the Myanmar military – continue to act with total impunity," said Marzuki Darusman of SAC-M.

Chris Sidoti, also of SAC-M, added: "The most meaningful contribution the international community can make for the Rohingya is to bring Min Aung Hlaing and other military leaders before an international court."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts.  
3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100.

Memo No. 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/22 Date: 25/08/2025

The Invitation of Tender (IFT) vide no. 33.01.0000.842.04.007.25/15 dated: 19/08/2025 for Procurement of Vehicle Hiring (Along with Driver, Fuel and others) is hereby amended as follows:


**Corrigendum**

Sl. No.	Activity	Existing	As amended
1	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	2,64,000.00 (Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand only)	1,50,000.00 (One Lakh Fifty Thousand only)

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

(Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam)  
Project Director  
Integrated Livestock Development Project in 3 Hill Districts  
3 No. Jetty gate, Fakirhat, Chattogram-4100

GD-1871



**বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি**  
Bangladesh Shishu Academy  
Doyel Chatter Sorok  
Dhaka-1000

Memo No: 32.03.0000.200.33.001.18(Part-2)-8739 Date: 24.08.2025

**Invitation For e-Tenders**

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods.

SI no.	Tender ID	Name of the procurement	Tender Document last selling	Tender Closing Date and Time
1	1142307	Procurement of Food, Educational and learning materials, Consumable goods, Dress, Medicines, Office equipments, Furnitures, Repair and maintenance and Bedding for Shishu Bikash Kendro at Azimpur, Bangladesh Shishu Academy	14-Sep-2025 17:00	15-Sep-2025 16:00
2	1142308	Procurement of Food, Educational and learning materials, Consumable goods, Dress, Medicines, Office equipments, Furnitures, Repair and maintenance and Bedding for Shishu Bikash Kendro at Keraniganj, Bangladesh Shishu Academy	14-Sep-2025 17:00	15-Sep-2025 16:00

These are online Tenders, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System portal and no offline/hardcopy will be accepted.

To submit e-tender/e-tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for Downloading the e-Tender Document/Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contact Number: 16575, +8809677016575)

Director General  
Bangladesh Shishu Academy

GD-1870



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**: Tender Notice (ICT) :**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC).	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, Gazi Wires Limited (GWL), 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh. E-mail: <a href="mailto:gaziwiresltd@gmail.com">gaziwiresltd@gmail.com</a>	
4	Invitation for	Procurement of 200 M.T Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm.	
5	Invitation Ref. No.	GW/PUR/030/OTM(ICT)/2025-2026, Dated: 25.08.2025.	
6	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (ICT) (One Stage Two Envelop System)	
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.	
8	Tender Publication Date	Tender Last Selling Date: 06.10.2025 Tender Closing Date & Time: 07.10.2025 11.30 AM Tender Opening Date & Time: 07.10.2025 11.45AM	
9	Name & Address of the office(s) Selling Tender Document	Address: 1. Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka- 1215, Bangladesh. 2. Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28 BFIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.	
10	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 5,000.00	
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	Mentioned in the Tender Documents.	
12	Brief Description of tender:		
13	Tender Package No.	Description of tender	Tender Security Amount (USD/Taka)
14	GW/PUR/030/OTM(ICT)/2025-2026, Dated: 25.08.2025.	Procurement of 200 M.T Electrolytic Copper Wire, Size: 8.00mm.	USD- 39,972.00 Equivalent TK. 49,00,568.00
15	Delivery Period/ Shipment Schedule	Shipment will be made at buyer direction (LC by LC).	
16	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.	

25-08-2025  
Head of Commercial Department  
For-Managing Director  
Hotline: 01713-114336

GD-1868



**Khulna Development Authority**  
Khulna  
[www.kda.gov.bd](http://www.kda.gov.bd)

Memo No. 25.41.0000.021.0249.25- Date: 24.08.2025

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Package No.	Tender ID No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
1	Widening and Improvement of Khulna Shipyard Road (Remaining work)	S-WD-02	1142890	21-Sep-2025 17:00	22-Sep-2025 14:00

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

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Khulna Shipyard Road Project &  
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Khulna Development Authority  
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