

Trump moves to limit US stays of journos, students

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump's administration yesterday moved to impose stricter limits on how long foreign students and journalists can stay in the United States, the latest bid to tighten legal immigration in the country.

Under proposed change, foreigners would not be allowed to stay for more than four years on student visas in the United States.

Foreign journalists would be limited to stays of just 240 days, although they could apply to extend by additional 240-day periods – except for Chinese journalists who would get just 90 days.

The United States, until now, has generally issued visas for the duration of a student's educational program or a journalist's assignment, although no non-immigrant visas are valid for more than 10 years.

The proposed changes were published in the Federal Register, initiating a short period for public comment before they can go into effect.

"For too long, past administrations have allowed foreign students and other visa holders to remain in the US virtually indefinitely, posing safety risks, costing untold amount of taxpayer dollars and disadvantaging US citizens," Trump's Department of Homeland Security said in a press statement Wednesday.

DRONE STRIKES IN AFGHAN PROVINCES

Taliban govt accuses Pakistan of cross-border attacks

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghan officials said Pakistani drones struck homes in Nangarhar and Khost provinces late on Wednesday, killing three people and wounding seven, prompting the Taliban government to summon Pakistan's ambassador in Kabul yesterday in protest.

In Khost's Spera district, a southeastern border region adjacent to Pakistan's North Waziristan, three children were killed and several others wounded when drones hit the home of Haji Naeem Khan, according to the province's media chief.

In Nangarhar's Shinwar district, near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan, a spokesman said four sons and two wives of a man named Shahsawar were among those injured when his house was destroyed.

Pakistan's foreign ministry and Pakistan's military media wing did



not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been strained in recent years, with Islamabad accusing militants sheltering across the border of staging attacks inside Pakistan, while Kabul denies giving safe haven.

The strikes in Nangarhar and Khost provinces came barely a week

after Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar joined his Chinese and Afghan counterparts in Kabul for a trilateral dialogue at which the three countries pledged to step up counter-terrorism cooperation, expand trade and extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan.

The Taliban foreign ministry said in a statement that it "strongly condemns the violation of Afghanistan's airspace and the bombing of civilians ... such irresponsible actions will inevitably have consequences".

It said Pakistan's ambassador, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, was handing a protest note during the meeting in Kabul.

Nizamani survived an attack on Pakistan's embassy compound in Kabul in 2022 but has remained Islamabad's top envoy despite repeated strains in ties.



Warn officials as India's dam water release worsens flood crisis

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan's eastern towns of Chiniot and Hafizabad face a risk of catastrophic floods if an irrigation barrage crumbles on a major river upstream after heavy rains swelled it beyond capacity, officials warned yesterday.

Nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan are battling torrential monsoon rains that have unleashed flash floods, swelled rivers and filled dams, with 60 deaths this month in Indian Kashmir, and Pakistan's toll at 805 since late June.

Any flooding blamed on India stands to inflame ties between archfoes, embroiled in a tense stand-off since a brief conflict in May.

The waters of the Chenab river in Pakistan's sprawling province of Punjab threatened to burst through a 3,300-foot (concrete) barrage at Qadirabad that regulates

flows, siphoning them into a canal irrigation network.

"It is a crisis situation," said a technical expert at the National Disaster Management Authority, adding that the collapse of the barrage could wash away the towns, home to more than 2.8 million.

"Under the constant supervision

of experts and administration, the water level is receding, but it is still not beyond danger levels," added the official. The threat comes as India's release of excess water this week from its dams swelled river flows downstream in its neighbour's province of Punjab, home to half the population of 240 million.

INTERNATIONAL

Pak towns face flood risk if river barrage crumbles

MINNEAPOLIS SCHOOL

FBI investigates shooting as anti-Catholic hate crime

AFP, Minneapolis

Investigators were seeking to find out why a heavily armed shooter opened fire on children at a church service in Minneapolis on Wednesday, killing two pupils and wounding 17 people in the latest violent tragedy to jolt the United States.

City police chief Brian O'Hara said that the attacker sprayed bullets through the windows of the Annunciation Church as dozens of young students were at a Mass marking their first week back at school.

The church sits next to an affiliated Catholic school in Minneapolis, the largest city in the Midwestern state of Minnesota, where hundreds attended vigils for the victims on Wednesday evening.

The FBI is investigating the shooting as an act of domestic terrorism and a hate crime targeting Catholics, according to Director Kash Patel.

Authorities identified the attacker as Robin Westman, a 23-year-old transgender woman, who according to US media, had attended the school.

"Two young children, ages eight and 10, were killed where they sat in the pews," O'Hara said.

Israeli forces raid site near Syria capital: state media

AFP, Damascus

Israeli forces conducted an airborne raid on a site near the Syrian capital after bombing it several times, Syrian state media reported.

Israel has not confirmed the raid, but Defence Minister Israel Katz said its forces operate "in all combat zones" to ensure the country's security.

If verified, it would be the deepest such operation Israel has carried out inside Syria since an Islamist alliance seized power in Damascus in December.

Israeli jets struck the site near Kisweh, outside Damascus on Tuesday, killing six Syrian soldiers according to the foreign ministry, and bombed it again on Wednesday according to state television.

Quoting a government source, state news agency SANA said

Assad's main allies.

Yesterday in a post on X, the Israeli defence minister said: "Our forces are operating in all combat zones day and night for the security of Israel". He did not elaborate.

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military declined to comment. The Observatory, a Britain-based war monitor that relies on a network of sources on the ground, said the raid was the first of its kind since Assad's overthrow in December.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria since then, and occupied much of a UN-patrolled demilitarised zone on the Syrian-held side of the armistice line between the two countries.

It has also opened talks with the interim authorities in Damascus.



COMMONWEALTH
SCHOLARSHIPS



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

www.ugc.gov.bd

Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom (UK) tenable from September/October -2026

1. Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for higher study under the Commonwealth Scholarships for MS/PhD in the United Kingdom (UK) tenable from September/October -2026 by following the mentioned terms and conditions below. **Please read all the terms and conditions carefully and fill up the Application Form as directions.**
2. **Category:** (a) One year Taught Masters (MS) course. (b) Doctoral (PhD) degree of up to three year's duration.
3. Applications are invited under six themes (mentioned below) for MS/PhD Program:
 - (i) Science and technology for development (ii) Strengthening health systems and capacity (iii) Promoting global prosperity (iv) Strengthening global peace, security and governance (v) Strengthening resilience and response to crises (vi) Access, inclusion and opportunity.
4. Candidates must mention the Broad Subject under the Six Themes (The Broad Subject means on which the applicant has obtained his/her first degree (Hons./Bachelor)/terminal degree (Master).
5. **(a) Qualification for Master's program:** Holding a first degree (Honours) of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard/CGPA, or a second class degree (2:2) honours standard/CGPA and a relevant postgraduate Master's degree (terminal degree) in the same condition. **(b) Qualification for PhD program:** Holding a first degree of at least upper second class (2:1) honours standard/CGPA, or a second class (2:2) honours standard/CGPA degree and a relevant postgraduate qualification (a Master's degree) in the same condition.
6. **(a) For Master's Application:** Not have commenced and be currently registered for a Master's Degree or equivalent course leading to MPhil or PhD in the home country or abroad. **(b) For PhD Application:** Not have commenced and be currently registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, in the home country or elsewhere.
7. Applicant's must mention total and obtained marks/GPA/CGPA at the time of filling the Application Form. (If the result of any degree of an applicant is Distinction, Excellent, Very good, Good and Passed etc, the applicant must mention the total number and the obtained number with the percentage in the form)
8. Candidates for Medicine or Dentistry must show the year of passing of each prof/part of MBBS/BDS , marks obtained, total and average marks with percentage in the Application Form.
9. Only Short-listed candidates will be eligible for interview in person. Any attempt of persuasion regarding the Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK tenable from September/October – 2026 will disqualify the applicant automatically.
10. **The applicant must submit the Unconditional Offer Letter from the United Kingdom Universities with the Application Form.** The applicant having Conditional Offer Letter related to Language Proficiency or Finance will be eligible to submit the Application Form. In this regard, if anyone of the applicants is short listed for Interview, the applicant must show and submit a copy of Language Proficiency Certificate/Result Sheet (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL etc.) at the Interview Board. University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh will check the authentication of the Offer Letter/s.
11. All the information (Direction/s, Application Form/Short list/s, Interview date/s, Selection/s or nomination/s, result/s and other relevant information etc.) regarding the mentioned Scholarships will be uploaded at UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd) under the heading of "Notice Board/International Collaboration, Scholarship and Fellowship Box" timely. The applicant must check and collect all the information from the UGC website by his/her own responsibility. No communication will be done with the applicant/s from UGC side.
12. The Application Form is editable and must be typed (not hand written) in the prescribed directions. Additional papers can be attached with the Application Form for the description of the publications (if necessary).
13. The applicant/s in service must submit the Application Form through proper channel or with the prior approval of the concerned authority (proper channel means the concerned authority who will permit the study leave to the applicant if the applicant is nominated for the mentioned scholarships).
14. Copies of certificates, mark sheets of examinations passed result sheets, Language Proficiency Certificate (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL etc. if needed) examination, Offer Letter/s and 1 (one) copy of passport-size attested photograph must be enclosed with the Application Form.
15. Incomplete, faulty and shortage of any documents attached with the Application Form will be rejected automatically.
16. **Completed Application Form (Only Hard Copy) must be submitted to "The Director (IC), International Collaboration Division, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207" within 25 September, 2025.** No Application Form will be received after the last date of submission. Name of Scholarship with category must be mentioned on the envelop and drop into the Application Drop Box kept in front of the reception of UGC.

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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through the national e-GP portal for the following procurement of works/goods.

e-Tender ID	Name of Works	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Procuring Entity/Contact Persons
1141991	Supply of Toner and Cartidge for NOCS Mogbazar	03-Sep-2025 15:40:00	(Shamim Ara Begum) Superintending Engineer NOCS, Mogbazar Circle, DPDC. Mogbazar T&T 33/11 KV Sub-station, DIT Road, Malibagh, Dhaka-1217, Phone: 9355276, Fax: 9336605 Email: semogbazar@drdc.gov.bd

The interested persons/firms/organizations may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details.

DGM (HR) Public Relations, DPDC

Department Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology
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Phone: 0234460765 (extn-4414)

Date: 28/08/2025

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal system and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System by the department of Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology, Biological Science Faculty, University of Chittagong, Chittagong for the procurement of following goods.

SL. No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Package Description	Online Tender Notice Publication Date	Online Tender Opening & Closing Date
01	ID-1144790, GEB-eGP (OTM)-G-02/BCCTF/GBE-CU/2025-26	Supplying chemicals, instruments and installation of necessary instruments for investigating the bacterial antibiotic resistance patterns and genetic basis in relationship with the rising climate change problem for enhancing the treatment strategies by combining antibiotics and supplements for Bangladeshi population in Department of Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology at University of Chittagong.	28-Aug-2025 15:00:00	22-Sep-2025 12:00:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded from as stated above on e-GP system for purpose. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. e-Tenders will be accepted only up to as above date and time. Accepted tender will be opened online immediately after as stated above date and time.

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

28/08/2025
Professor Dr. Mohammad Al-Forkan
Dept. of Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology
University of Chittagong
&
Project Director
"Investigating the bacterial antibiotic..... Bangladeshi Population"