

Spain okays ‘total’ arms embargo against Israel

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish government yesterday approved a “total” arms embargo on Israel, part of a package of measures aimed at halting what Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called “the genocide in Gaza”.

The decree prohibits all exports to Israel of defence material and dual-use products or technologies, and the import of such equipment to Spain, Economy Minister Carlos Cuerdo said at a news conference.

It also blocks requests for the transit of aircraft fuel with potential military applications and bans imports of products originating from Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories, Cuerdo said.

The decree will come into force immediately, but it must still be approved at a later date by parliament, said government sources.



People sit down in the street to block traffic in a protest against US President Donald Trump in New York City yesterday. The protest goal was to block Trump’s motorcade ahead of his appearance at the UN General Assembly. World leaders convened for the 80th Session of UNGA, with this year’s theme for the annual global meeting being “Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights.”

PHOTO: STAR

Typhoon Ragasa nears Hong Kong Schools shut, flights axed

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong and parts of southern China ground to a halt yesterday evening as Super Typhoon Ragasa approached with high winds and lashing rain, forcing Chinese authorities to shut down schools and businesses in at least 10 cities.

Ragasa had already toppled trees, torn the roofs off buildings and killed at least two people while ripping through the northern Philippines, where thousands sought shelter in schools and evacuation centres. The typhoon has also killed two people in Taiwan.

The super typhoon was generating maximum sustained winds of 205 kilometres (127 miles) per hour near its centre while moving west across the South China Sea, according to Hong Kong’s weather service.

Other cities in the Southern province of Guangdong that are implementing the measures include Chaozhou, Zhuhai, Dongguan and Foshan.

In Hong Kong, classes were to be suspended on Tuesday and Wednesday, though the stock exchange adopted new rules this year to keep markets open during typhoons.

There were no flights out of Hong Kong after 1000 GMT, according to the airport’s website. Cathay Pacific earlier said that more than 500 of its flights were set to be cancelled.

Ragasa – named after the Filipino word for rapid motion – is expected to make landfall in the central and western coastal areas of Guangdong within 24 hours.



Nato warns Russia over airspace violations

AFP, Brussels

Nato yesterday warned Russia to stop an “escalatory” pattern of airspace violations along its eastern flank, after the alliance held urgent talks about a jet incursion over Estonia last week.

“Russia bears full responsibility for these actions, which are escalatory, risk miscalculation and endanger lives. They must stop,” Nato’s 32 member states said in a statement.

“Russia should be in no doubt: Nato and allies will employ, in accordance with international law, all necessary military and non-military tools to defend ourselves and deter all threats from all directions.”

Estonia convened emergency consultations after armed Russian fighter jets violated its airspace for some 12 minutes on Friday.

Nato chief Mark Rutte said alliance forces would decide whether to fire upon Russian aircraft breaching its airspace “based on available intelligence regarding the threat posed by the aircraft.”

“Our message to the Russians is clear, we will defend every inch of allied territory,” he said.

‘Pillars of peace buckling under weight of impunity’ UN chief paints a dark picture of the world as he opens UN summit



AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Tuesday that cuts to aid budgets were “wreaking havoc” as he opened the organisation’s annual meeting of world leaders, painting a dark picture of the world order.

“But development aid cuts are wreaking havoc. They are a death sentence for many. A stolen future for many more,” he said without mentioning the United States, responsible for many of the cuts, whose president will speak shortly after Guterres.

“This is the paradox of our time: we know what we need – yet we are pulling away the very lifeline that makes it possible.”

In a doom-laden speech, Guterres pointed to worsening crises in a growing number of countries and warned of the risk of nuclear proliferation.

“Far too many crises continue unchecked. Impunity prevails. Lawlessness is a contagion. It invites mayhem, accelerates terror, and risks a nuclear free-for-all,” he said.

He did hold out a glimmer of hope, pointing to the ceasefire brokered

between Cambodia and Thailand, and the agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, “brokered by the United States.”

But the UN chief warned that the “pillars of peace” were “buckling under the weight of impunity, inequality, and indifference.”

“Sovereign nations, invaded. Hunger, weaponised. Truth, silenced. Rising smoke from bombed-out cities. Rising anger in fractured societies. Rising seas swallowing coastlines,” he said.

The UN’s leader said that “around the world, we see countries acting as if the rules don’t apply to them. We see humans treated as less than human.”

He pointed to Sudan where he said “civilians are being slaughtered, starved, and silenced” and Gaza where “the horrors are approaching a third monstrous year.”

In this moment of crisis, Guterres said, the United Nations has never been more essential.

“The world needs our unique legitimacy, our convening power, our vision to unite nations, to bridge divides, and confront the challenges before us,” he said.

Yunus seeks WTO support

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Yunus also attended the inaugural session of the UNGA.

Prior to the session, he met Uruguayan Foreign Minister Mario Lubetkin and former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, and World Bank President Ajay Banga.

On Monday, the chief adviser also attended a high-level event on “Social Business, Youth and Technology” at the UN Headquarters where he gave a keynote speech.

He said cuts to UN aid and shrinking official development assistance risk deepening Bangladesh’s vulnerabilities in facing climate shocks and managing the responsibility of hosting 1.3 million Rohingyas.

Many countries, including Bangladesh, are preparing to graduate from the least-developed country bracket amid severe challenges, he said.

For Bangladesh, this includes hosting 1.3 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas, managing repeated climate shocks and navigating global economic turbulence.

“In such a context, reducing UN budgets or shrinking official development assistance would be counterproductive.”

Yunus’s comments come a week before the UN is set to host for the first time a High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Muslims and Other Minorities in Myanmar scheduled for September 30.

Instead, the world must “redouble” efforts to expand international support, provide technical assistance and ensure a just transition for nations facing heightened vulnerability, he said.

“What we need urgently is renewed multilateral diplomacy, deeper international cooperation and collective commitment to sustainable development.”

Meanwhile, at his meeting with Sergio Gor, the US special envoy for South and Central Asia and the US ambassador designate to India, Yunus said Bangladesh making comprehensive preparations to ensure a free, fair and peaceful general election in early February.

“The election will be

held in February. It will be free, fair and peaceful. The country is fully prepared,” Yunus told the special envoy.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, including trade, South Asian regional cooperation, the revival of SAARC, the Rohingya crisis and the proliferation of disinformation targeting Dhaka.

Yunus sought continued US support for more than one million Rohingya refugees currently residing in camps in Cox’s Bazar. In response, the US officials said that their life-saving aid for the Rohingyas would continue.

Belgium’s Queen Mathilde met Yunus on the sidelines of an event at the UN headquarters. Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva also called on Yunus.

Family members of Bangladesh-origin slain New York policeman Didarul Islam also met Yunus at his hotel.

“national treasure, known not only for his umpiring excellence but also for his “eccentricities and warmth”.

“He leaves behind a legacy of sportsmanship, humility, and joy – and a legion of admirers across generations,” the statement added.

Bird had a modest playing career as a batter for Yorkshire and Leicestershire but made his name as an international umpire, wearing his trademark white cap.

He was given a guard of honour at Lord’s by England and India players before his final Test.

Bird, who sold more than a million copies of his autobiography, was named Yorkshire president in 2014.

Colin Graves, chairman of Yorkshire, told TalkSport: “It’s a sad day.

“He was a brilliant guy who loved being part of the Yorkshire set-up and everything we do here. He will be sadly missed at Headingley.”

UGC HEAT Sub-Project 13733

Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC):

A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future

Department of Civil Engineering

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET)

Khulna-9203, Bangladesh

Ref. No: KUET/HEAT-13733/Recruitment-01/25/01

Date: 23/09/2025

Recruitment Notice

Under the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education, and implemented by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project, Window 3(a) – Advanced Research, has granted Sub-Project 13733 entitled “**Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC): A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future**” at the Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET). Under this sub-project, eligible candidates will be recruited for the following positions:

Positions	No. of Vacancies
Project Analyst	01
Research Associate/Fellow	02
Research Assistant	01
Office Manager	01
Process / Operational Engineer	01
On-site Plant Technician	01

Workplace: Department of Civil Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Khulna
Application Deadline: 11 October, 2025
For details, please visit: <https://www.kuet.ac.bd/notices/all>

Prof. Dr. Md. Khalekuzzaman
Sub Project Manager (SPM)

Prof. Dr. Quazi Hamidul Bari
Associate Sub Project Manager (ASPM)

Bangladesh Biorefinery & Biocrude Innovation Center (3BIC)

A Waste-to-Fuel Approach for Transforming Bangladesh's Energy Future

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GD-2078

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Controller of Stores (East)

Bangladesh Railway

CRB, Chattogram-4000

www.railway.gov.bd

No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-

Dated: 22-09-2025

e-Tender Notice

Notice No. 54.01.1500.117.07.001.25-02

Amendment/Corrigendum

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Controller of Stores (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram (Tender ID: 1142026) for the Procurement of Goods as stated below:

Description	Old Value	New Value
Experience Criteria	(a) General Experience: The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be [3 (THREE)] years. (b) Specific Experience: The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods (similar goods means any Mechanical Item for Bangladesh Railway) of at least [1 (ONE)] contract(s) successfully completed within the last [3 (TWO)] years, each with a value of at least Tk. (65 (Sixty-Five) LAKH). (c) Supply and /or Production capacity: The minimum supply and/or production capacity of Goods is/ are: 162 M. Ton Per year.	(a) General Experience: The Tenderer shall have a minimum 03 (Three) years General/Overall Experience in Supply of goods and related services. Documentary evidence (Completion Certificate from the end user) must be submitted. Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website. (b) Specific Experience: Specific Experience in supply of similar goods (similar means any flooring Compositions or cementing Compound or any similar Compound used for flooring of Railway Rolling Stocks) at least 01 (ONE) Contract successfully completed within the last 03 (THREE) years each with a value of at least Tk 65,00,000.00 (Sixty-Five lakh). Documentary evidence (Completion certificate) must be submitted Date Counting backward from the date of publication of the IFT/Notice in e-GP website. (c) Supply and or Production capacity: 162000 kgs per year.
The Tenderer shall submit with its e-Tender the following additional documents	1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter for the Offered Goods 2) Proof of Successful Acceptance of the Similar Goods by the procuring Entity as mentioned as the specific experience criteria.	1) Manufacturer's Authorization Letter or Distributor's Authorization Letter for the Tendered Items. In Case of Authorized Dealer/Distributor, Dealership/Distributorship Certificate must be submitted. 2) Original Catalogue/Brochure/Leaflet of the Manufacturer containing product Specification must be submitted. Only valid and related documents to be submitted. 3) Valid ISO 9001 certificate or any other International Quality Assurance Organization's Certificate for the Manufacturer must be submitted. The scope of the certificate must be related to the tendered goods. 4) Manufacturer's and their Authorized Distributor's address, email and telephone number should be stated clearly in consent letter. NOTE: All submitted Documents shall be Verified by PE in Tender Evaluation.
Performance Security	The amount of Performance Security shall be 10% (ten percent) of the quarterly amount of the Total Contract Agreement Price.	(i) The amount of Performance Security shall be 10% (ten percent) of the Contract Price. However, Performance Security may be increased upto 25% as per rule-27(2) of the PPR, 2008. (ii) Performance Security shall be released only after the successful completion of the contract including the warranty period.

All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged.

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GD-2078

Engr. Md. Al-Amin
Sr. Asst. Controller of Stores (HQ) (Adl. Charge)
On the behalf of Controller of Stores (East)
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