

Unexploded bombs pose ‘enormous’ risks in Gaza

AFP, Jerusalem

Unexploded ordnance in Gaza poses “enormous” risks for displaced people returning home during a US-led ceasefire, the NGO Handicap International warned Tuesday, calling for the entry of equipment needed for demining.

“The risks are enormous – an estimated 70,000 tons of explosives have been dropped on Gaza” since the start of the war, said Anne-Claire Yaesh, the organisation’s director for the Palestinian territories.

Handicap International specialises in mine clearance and assistance to victims of anti-personnel mines.

Unexploded ordnance, ranging from undetonated bombs or grenades to simple bullets, has become a common sight in the Gaza Strip during the two years of Israel’s war. In January, the UN’s Mine Action Service (UNMAS) estimated that “5 to 10 percent” of the munitions fired on Gaza had not exploded.

Contacted by AFP, UNMAS said that due to restrictions imposed over the past two years, its teams had “not been able to conduct large scale survey operations in Gaza”, and the agency therefore does not have “a comprehensive picture of the (explosive ordnance) threat in the Strip.”

UNMAS nonetheless stressed that since the ceasefire



came into effect on October 10 requests for technical expertise “have surged”, and the agency has been called upon for “a range of humanitarian missions including to areas that were previously inaccessible”.

In the coming days, “a large part of the efforts will focus on ensuring the safety of debris management operations” and clearing rubble, particularly along the roads used by the thousands of displaced people returning home.

While the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Monday that humanitarian workers would “assess key roads for explosive hazards”, UNMAS stated that it has “a limited number of armoured vehicles on the ground which means that we can only conduct a certain number of explosive hazard assessments each day”.

The UN agency also said it had not yet obtained authorisation from Israe to bring in the necessary equipment for the destruction of unexploded ordnance.



People take part in a protest at Puerta del Sol square, during a general strike called by Spanish unions in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, in Madrid, Spain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

POST-UPRISING NEPAL

Petition challenges interim govt’s legality

AFP, Kathmandu

Petitions have been filed in Nepal’s Supreme Court challenging the formation of an interim government and the dissolution of parliament following last month’s uprising, a court official said yesterday.

The youth-led protests, which erupted on September 8 over a brief social media ban, economic hardship and corruption, quickly morphed into nationwide fury after a deadly crackdown.

Two days of violence left at least 73 people dead, the parliament and government offices burned down, and forced the government’s collapse.

Former chief justice Sushila Karki, 73, was nominated as prime minister and the parliament was



dissolved shortly after.

But the legality of those moves is now under scrutiny.

“Eleven petitions have been filed stating that the formation of the new interim government and the dissolution of the lower house is unconstitutional,” Nirajan Pandey, the court’s information officer told AFP. Pandey said procedures were underway to register the petitions, after which hearings would be

scheduled.

A day after the dissolution, leaders of eight political parties issued a joint statement calling for the reinstatement of parliament.

“It was not envisioned in the constitution that such a situation would arise,” lawyer Dinesh Tripathi said. “It is a challenge, but the court will decide.”

KP Sharma Oli, who served as prime minister four times before his ouster, has called for the reinstatement of the parliament “that was unconstitutionally dissolved”, in an address to supporters earlier this month.

The Supreme Court building was also damaged by fire during the protests, and only resumed full operations on Tuesday, with many sections operating under a tent.

WFP: Aid cuts risk pushing 13.7m into extreme hunger

AFP, Rome

The UN’s World Food Programme yesterday warned that “staggering” cuts to its funding risked pushing up to 13.7 million people currently receiving food aid into “emergency” levels of hunger – one step before famine.

It warned that six key operations – in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan – “are currently facing major disruptions, which will only get worse by year-end”.

“WFP is facing a staggering 40 percent reduction in funding, with projections of \$6.4 billion compared to \$9.8 billion in 2024,” the Rome-based agency wrote in a new report.

It did not name any one country, but noted a report in The Lancet medical journal about the huge impact of cuts to US assistance. Donald Trump slashed foreign aid after returning as US president in January.

Global hunger “is at record levels”, with 319 million people facing acute food insecurity, including 44 million in emergency levels of hunger, the agency said.

Atmospheric CO2 hits record high: UN

AFP, Geneva

The increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere last year was the highest ever recorded, the United Nations said yesterday, calling for urgent action to slash emissions.

Levels of the three main greenhouse gases – the climate-warming CO2, methane and nitrous oxide – all increased yet again in 2024, with each setting new record highs, the UN’s weather and climate agency said.

In 2024, CO2 concentrations were at 424 parts per million (ppm), methane at 1,942 parts per billion, and nitrous oxide at 338 parts per billion.

That marks hikes of 152 percent, 266 percent and 125 percent respectively since pre-industrial levels before 1750.

The 3.5 ppm increase from 2023 to 2024 was “the largest one-year increase since modern measurements began in 1957”, the WMO said.



“The world is facing hunger issues on a scale never seen before -- and the funds needed to help us respond are woefully insufficient.”

Cindy McCain, WFP executive director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Eden Bhaban PWD Division
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Memo No: 1960

Date: 15/10/2025

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1 TO TENDERERS

This is to inform to all concerned that the following correction for Serial 9, 10, 11, 16 (b), 16 (c) of IFT and Section 2: Tender Data Sheet ITT 11.1(b), 40.7 of Tender Document have been made in the "Invitation for Tender" vide this office Memo No. 1542 Date: 23/09/2025, Tender Package no-Eden/ACE2738/2025-26/Outsourcing/PSN-2 for Supplying of 123 nos. manpower (forash jamadar, forash, cleaner jamadar, cleaner, plumber, plumber helper, carpenter, carpenter helper, glass technician, glass technician helper, pump operator, gardener, assistant gardener, supervisor) for newly constructed 20-storied office building, 6-storied utility building and 6-storied mosque at Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Item No.	Description of Item	Information (Terms & Conditions)											
		As advertised earlier	Corrections being made										
IFT SL 9	Tender Last Selling Date	21/10/2025, during Office Hours	27/10/2025, during Office Hours										
IFT SL 10	Tender Closing Date and Time	22/10/2025, 12:00 PM	28/10/2025, 12:00 PM										
IFT SL 11	Tender Opening Date and Time	22/10/2025, 03:00 PM	28/10/2025, 03:00 PM										
IFT SL 16 (b)	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-consultant service of at least ONE contract of manpower supply through out-sourcing in any Government/ Semi-Government/Autonomous organization, with a contract value of at least BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs under a single contract, successfully completed within 01 (One) year over a period of last 05 (Five) years shall be required.	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of last 05 (Five) years with a value of at least of Tk 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs shall be required. Contract for providing Service will be treated as similar nature.										
IFT SL 16 (c)	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of BDT 100.00 (One Hundred) Lacs over the last 05 (Five) years.	The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of BDT 100.00 (One Hundred) Lacs over the last 03 (Three) years.										
Section 2: Tender Data Sheet ITT 11.1(b)	Qualification Criteria	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-consultant service of at least ONE contract of manpower supply through out-sourcing in any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization, with a contract value of at least BDT 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs under a single contract, successfully completed within 01 (One) year over a period of last 03 (Three) years shall be required.	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least ONE contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of last 05 (Five) years with a value of at least of Tk 200.00 (Two Hundred) Lacs shall be required. Contract for providing Service will be treated as similar nature.										
Section 2: Tender Data Sheet ITT 40.7	Sub-criteria:	<table><tr><td>[Experience]</td><td>30 marks</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Experience certificate issued by competent authority should be attached with CV; Experience Certificate must be authenticated by the concerned Sub Divisional Engineer/ Executive Engineer/ equivalent officer of any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization only for the post of Sanitary Mistri, Carpenter, Glass Technician and Pump Operator.</td></tr></table>	[Experience]	30 marks	Experience certificate issued by competent authority should be attached with CV; Experience Certificate must be authenticated by the concerned Sub Divisional Engineer/ Executive Engineer/ equivalent officer of any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization only for the post of Sanitary Mistri, Carpenter, Glass Technician and Pump Operator.		<table><tr><td>[Experience]</td><td>30 marks</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Experience certificate issued by competent authority should be attached with CV; Experience Certificate must be authenticated by the concerned Sub Divisional Engineer/ Executive Engineer/ equivalent officer of any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization only for the post of Plumber, Carpenter, Glass Technician and Pump Operator.</td></tr></table>	[Experience]	30 marks	Experience certificate issued by competent authority should be attached with CV; Experience Certificate must be authenticated by the concerned Sub Divisional Engineer/ Executive Engineer/ equivalent officer of any Government/ Semi-Government/ Autonomous organization only for the post of Plumber, Carpenter, Glass Technician and Pump Operator.			
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All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be a part and parcel of the said tender.

Executive Engineer
Eden Bhaban PWD Division,
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

GD-2206

US slams China's move on rare earths

AFP, Washington

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent yesterday slammed Beijing's rare earth export curbs as "China versus the world," vowing that Washington and its allies would "neither be commanded nor controlled."

"This should be a clear sign to our allies that we must work together, and work together we will," Bessent told reporters at a press conference.

His comments came as global economic leaders gather in Washington this week for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank's fall meetings.

"We do not want to decouple. We should work together to de-risk and diversify our supply chains away from China as quickly as possible," Bessent urged.

He spoke days after Beijing imposed fresh controls on the export of rare earth technologies and items.

China is the world's leading producer of the minerals used to make magnets crucial to the auto, electronic and defense industries.

US Representative Jamieson Greer told the same press briefing that "this is not just about the United States."xHe said: "China's announcement is nothing more than a global supply chain power grab."

"This move is not proportional retaliation. It is an exercise in economic coercion on every country in the world," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Public Private Partnership Authority
Chief Adviser's Office
Plot-E, 13-B, Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.pppo.gov.bd

Ref: No. 03.11.0000.000.856.95.0034.25-1968

Date: 15th October 2025

Expressions of Interest for Individual Consultants

Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority under the Chief Adviser's Office intends to appoint 3 (Three) Nos. of individual consultants to provide PPP Transactional and operational advisory support service.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
KEY INFORMATION		
1	Ministry/Division	Chief Adviser's Office
2	Agency	Public Private Partnership (PPPA) Authority
3	Client name	Public Private Partnership (PPPA) Authority
4	Client code	131000600
5	Client district	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Junior Project Management Consultant; (1 No.) Junior Consultant (Procurement & Accounts); (1 No.) Junior Consultant (IT); (1 No.)
7	EOI Ref No.	03.11.0000.000.856.95.0034.25-1968
8	Date	16.10.2025
9	Procurement method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Source of funds	GoB
11	Development partners (if applicable)	None
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
	Date	Time
12	EOI submission date and time	02.11.2025 12.00pm
13	EOI submission place	PPP Authority, Plot-E, 13-B, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
14	Brief description of assignment	1. The objective of procuring the Junior Project management Consultant is to provide expert advisory services to the PPP Authority in coordinating and managing regular PPP projects and maintain communication with contracting agency, line ministries, and bilateral multilateral organization. 2. The Government of Bangladesh has established the PPP Technical Assistance Fund (PPPTAF) to support PPP project development. In addition, the PPP Authority receives project development fees and success fees for PPP-related activities. To strengthen financial operations and procurement support, PPPA intends to appoint a Junior Consultant (Procurement & Accounts) . 3. PPP Authority also intends to appoint a Junior Consultant (IT) for the operation of its ICT activities.
15	Qualification and experience	The detailed TOR for the above positions (Qualification and Experience) can be found at www.pppo.gov.bd
16	Other details (if applicable)	Applicants shall have to submit EOI with their CV and forwarding letter in sealed envelope labelled with individual Consultant for one of the above-mentioned positions. An application should be submitted along with a detailed CV and a recent photograph with all academic & experience certificate. A financial proposal also needs to be submitted along with the application. The template for the CV and financial proposal is provided in the annexure of RFA. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. The Request for Application (RFA) for each is available at www.pppo.gov.bd
CLIENT DETAILS		
17	Name of official inviting EOI	Abu Kaisar Khan
18	Designation of official inviting EOI	Director (Admin), PPP Authority
19	Address of official inviting EOI	Plot-E, 13-B, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
20	Contact details of official inviting EOI	Tel. No. 55007414 Fax No. 55007422 E-mail: info@pppo.gov.bd
21	Special instruction	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. b) Procurement shall be conducted in according with Public Procurement Rules 2025.

15.10.25
Abu Kaisar Khan
Director (Admin)
PPP Authority
Chief Adviser's Office
Phone No. 55007414

GD-2205