

'Good chance' of Ukraine-Russia peace deal

Says Trump after Florida talks; four killed, 40 hurt in Russian strike on Ukraine's Dnipro

AFP, Paris

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in Paris yesterday, seeking to shore up European support as US President Donald Trump expressed optimism of a deal to end Russia's war in Ukraine.

US and Ukrainian negotiators held hours of what both sides called "productive" talks in Florida on Sunday on a plan Washington wants to form the basis of a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine.

The diplomatic flurry after nearly four years of conflict comes as Kyiv battles military pressure and reels from a domestic corruption scandal that forced Zelensky to remove his close aide and top negotiator.

Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff was due in Moscow for follow-up talks and is expected to discuss Ukraine with Putin today. The Florida talks were described by both Ukrainian and American negotiators as "productive" but US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said more work was required and a source in Kyiv's delegation called the talks "not easy".



Trump was optimistic, however, telling reporters aboard Air Force One: "I think that there's a good chance we can make a deal."

He also referred to political turbulence in Kyiv which saw Zelensky last week remove Andriy Yermak, his chief of staff and top negotiator throughout the conflict, after a corruption scandal in the energy sector that has troubled Western allies. "Ukraine's got some difficult little problems," Trump said.

Washington put forward an initial 28-point proposal to halt the war, drafted without input from Ukraine's European allies and regarded as too close a reflection of Moscow's maximalist demands on Ukrainian territory.

It would have seen Kyiv withdraw from its eastern Donetsk region and the United States de facto recognise the Donetsk, Crimea and Lugansk regions as Russian. Rubio told reporters the Florida talks were "very productive" but "there's more work to be done".

Meanwhile, four people were killed and 40 wounded in a Russian missile attack on the eastern-central Ukrainian city of Dnipro yesterday. Vladyslav Haivanenko, acting governor of Dnipropetrovsk region, said 11 of those injured in the strike were in a serious condition.



Hamas members and Egyptian workers, joined by Red Cross members, use a digger to search for the final two bodies of hostages in Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong arrests more suspects as fire toll hits 151

AFP, Hong Kong

Authorities said yesterday they have made a total 13 arrests over Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades after the blaze killed 151 people last week, a toll that could further rise.

The arrests were made on suspicion of manslaughter as investigators work to piece together what led to the catastrophic fire taking hold so fast in a complex of high-rise apartments.

Officials have been looking at factors including the styrofoam panels and bamboo scaffolding use in a renovation project at the site.

ROW OVER CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM KSA quietly mediates Afghan-Pakistan talks

DAWN ONLINE

Saudi Arabia quietly facilitated a round of direct talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan aimed at easing tensions over cross-border terrorism, but the discussions wrapped up late on Sunday without any breakthrough, according to two sources familiar with the meeting.

The closed door session in Riyadh ended with both sides holding firm to their longstanding positions and showing little willingness to compromise, the sources said.

The sources added that another Saudi-hosted round remains possible

in the near future.

The Riyadh engagement, which took place as a separate track co-mediated by Turkey and Qatar remains stalled.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had earlier announced plans to dispatch a delegation to Pakistan, but the visit has yet to materialise.

The Turkey-Qatar initiative produced a fragile ceasefire after clashes in early October,

though Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said at a weekly briefing on Friday that the truce had faltered because it hinged on a halt to terrorist activities.



Sons of jailed Pak ex-PM fear for his safety

REUTERS, Karachi

The sons of Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan fear authorities are concealing "something irreversible" about his condition after more than three weeks with no evidence that he is still alive, one of them said.

As court-ordered prison visits stay blocked and rumours swirl about possible prison transfers, his son, Kasim Khan, told Reuters the family has had no direct or verifiable contact with Khan, despite a judicial order for weekly meetings.

"Not knowing whether your father is safe, injured or even alive is a form of psychological torture," he said in written remarks, adding that there had been no independently confirmed communication for a couple of months.



WEST BENGAL STATE Voter deletion allegations 'false' India's EC tells top court

NDTV ONLINE

Allegations of "large-scale voter deletion" in India's West Bengal are "false" and "fabricated" and an attempt to further vested political interests, the Election Commission has told the Supreme Court in an affidavit. The allegations are being spread as a "narrative" in the media to gain political mileage, the poll body said.

The voter list revision is constitutional, regular and necessary process, the Commission said in the affidavit filed in response to a petition filed on the Special Intensive Revision or SIR issue by Trinamool Congress MP Dola Sen.

The state's ruling Trinamool Congress along with the rest of the opposition, contends that SIR is just a means to disenfranchise their supporters and ensure a mandate for the BJP.



Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto meets child survivors of a flash flood at an evacuation post in Pandan, North Sumatra, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Mauritania rescues 141 migrants off West Africa

AFP, Nouakchott

The Mauritanian coastguard on Sunday rescued 141 migrants from a vessel adrift off the west African coast, official sources told AFP.

In recent years Mauritania has become a frequent departure point for African migrants risking the perilous Atlantic route to Europe in often unseaworthy vessels in the hopes of a better life. "These are 141 illegal immigrants, including 88 Senegalese, 44 Gambians, of whom 17 are women and two of them children, four Guineans and two Malians," the Mauritanian Ministry of Fisheries said.

The rescue took place off the coast of the city of Nouadhibou in Mauritania.

Asia floods death toll tops 1,100

Sri Lanka, Indonesia deploy troops as climate change fuels heavy rains

AFP, Padang

The toll in deadly flooding and landslides across parts of Asia climbed past 1,100 yesterday as hardest-hit Sri Lanka and Indonesia deployed military personnel to help survivors.

Separate weather systems brought torrential, extended rainfall to the entire island of Sri Lanka and large parts of Indonesia's Sumatra, southern Thailand and northern Malaysia last week.

Much of the region is currently in its monsoon season but climate change is producing more extreme rain events and turbocharging storms.

The relentless rains left residents clinging to rooftops awaiting rescue by boat or helicopter, and cut entire

villages off from assistance.

Arriving in North Sumatra yesterday, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said "the worst has passed, hopefully".

The government's "priority now is how to immediately send the necessary aid", with particular focus on several cut-off areas, he added.

Unlike his Sri Lankan counterpart, he has also not publicly called for international assistance. The toll is the deadliest in a natural disaster in Indonesia since a massive 2018 earthquake and subsequent tsunami killed more than 2,000 people in Sulawesi.

The government has sent three warships carrying aid and two hospital ships to some of the worst-hit areas, where many roads remain impassable.



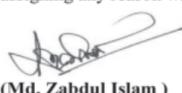


BANGLADESH BANK
Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka
Human Resources Department-1

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)
for
Security Assessment Firm (National)
for conducting security assessment/survey on
Bangladesh Bank Head office, branch offices and its other installations.

Circular No.: 76/2025 **Date:** 30/11/2025

- Background and Introduction**
Bangladesh Bank (BB), the central bank of Bangladesh, works with the vision to develop continually as a forward looking central bank conducting monetary management and financial sector supervision to maintain price stability and financial system robustness, supporting rapid broad based inclusive economic growth, employment generation and poverty eradication in Bangladesh. It is a key point installation (KPI). In today's rapidly changing world, the landscape of security threats continuously evolves, making safeguarding physical spaces more important than ever. Applying physical security assessment principles is vital in ensuring the safety of valuable assets, the protection of individuals and the security of sensitive information. In this context, BB intends to hire an experienced national firm in order to conduct security assessment and provide recommendations in modernization of security system of its head office, branch offices and other installations.
- The functionalities and responsibilities of the firm will include, but not limited to, the followings:**
 - Detailed review of the physical structures, grounds and surrounding areas of head office and branch offices (Motijheel, Sadarghat, Chattogram, Khulna, Bogura, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur and Mymensingh) and other installations;
 - Review comprehensive building security framework;
 - Thorough evaluation of security measures to identify vulnerabilities and potential threats;
 - Assess various security aspects including access control systems, surveillance equipment, physical barriers and emergency response protocols;
 - Review the implementation of technological solutions such as alarms and monitoring systems;
 - Review employee training and awareness related to security practices;
 - Determine the level of risk associated with each identified vulnerabilities;
 - Develop recommendations for improving physical security measures such as upgrading equipment, enhancing procedures or implementing new technologies;
 - Details of the functionalities and responsibilities of the firm have been mentioned in the TOR.
- Eligibility Criteria:**
The interested firms should have the following eligibilities:
 - The firm must be legally registered as a business entity and possess valid trade licenses.
 - Security consulting firm with a minimum of 08 years of general experience and exposure in conducting security assessments, particularly physical security assessments in large public/private organizations/financial institutions;
 - The firm needs to have qualified personnel with relevant certifications and experience in security assessment and risk management.
 - Annual turnover of at least BDT 10.00 (Ten) million in the last 3 years.
- The firm may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications. BB now invites eligible national firms to express their interest in providing the services. A firm will be selected following QCBS method as set out in the Public Procurement Act (PPA)-2006 & Public Procurement Regulation (PPR)-2025. Eligible firms must provide information to substantiate that they are qualified to perform the services. EOI shall have to be submitted to the address of the undersigned on or before 15/12/2025 at 11.00 am via mail or e-mail i.e. gm.hrd@bb.org.bd. Interested firms may obtain "TOR" from the website of BB (<https://www.bb.org.bd/aboutus/tenders/tenders.php>) or the address below, during working days, from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM.
- The firm will work independently but will submit their report in coordination with KPI Defense Committee and KPI Survey Team formed under KPI Nirapotta Nitimala, 2013. BB authority solely preserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs at any stage of selection process without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected candidate(s).



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ব্যাবিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

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