

‘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 use of styrofoam panels and bamboo scaffolding in a renovation project at the site.

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.



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

PHOTO: AFP

PM, not the president, to pick IGP

FROM PAGE 12

A comparative analysis obtained by The Daily Star shows extensive revisions to the commission’s structure, authority and operational scope.

The earlier provision requiring the president to select an IGP from a commission-recommended panel of three officers not below the rank of an additional IG has been removed. The IGP would serve a fixed two-year term regardless of retirement age.

The analysis notes the clause conflicted with the Government Service Act 2018, the Rules of Business 1996 and the BCS (Composition and Cadre) Rules 1980, which set the retirement age at 59.

A decision has now been taken that the IGP appointment will go through the prime minister. The Daily Star has learnt from people with direct knowledge of the meeting discussions.

The cabinet secretary and the principal secretary will act as members to select the police chief.

The phrase “statutory, independent and neutral Police Commission” has been replaced simply with “Police Commission”, and the earlier description of a “self-governed entity” has been dropped.

The position of a retired district judge as a commission member has

been removed and the clause on members’ honorarium and benefits has been altered so that these will now be set by the government rather than fixed in the draft ordinance.

Several accountability mechanisms, the Police Accountability Unit, the Citizen Complaint Management Board and the Police Grievance Redress Board – all originally intended to receive and resolve public or internal complaints – have been removed.

The earlier draft detailed functions outlining oversight of arrest, interrogation and use of force; human rights reviews; and public hearings have also been dropped.

The enforcement clause has been softened: non-compliance with commission directives will now be dealt with under existing regulations instead of being deemed misconduct under service rules.

Requirements for detailed annual reporting on law and order, crime trends and civil society consultation have likewise been omitted.

The process has been deliberately delayed despite the advisory committee’s recommendations, said several senior police officers.

The ministry is unwilling to lose control over the police, which is why key recommendations have been

scrapped in favour of a “toothless” commission that will exist in name but hold no real authority, they added.

The administration cadre does not want to relinquish its control, said M Akbar Ali, president of the Retired Police Officers’ Welfare Association, about the new draft.


“It’s a colonial mindset. Whether it helps the public or not, they don’t care. This is what we have been seeing for years,” he said.

The police are being denied the scope to become a service-oriented force.

“For 164 years, they have ruled the police with a colonial grip. I don’t see any progress. If this new arrangement is passed, the commission will not have any meaningful independence.”

The proposed changes would tighten bureaucratic control further, he said.

“There used to be some balance. Police had certain internal accountability and the public had avenues for recourse. Now all accountability will be in their hands. The pressure on the police will increase, and their voice will be further suppressed. People will still complain, but the power to choke the police will remain with them.”



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

1. 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.

2. The functionalities and responsibilities of the firm will include, but not limited to, the followings:


- a) 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;
- b) Review comprehensive building security framework;
- c) Thorough evaluation of security measures to identify vulnerabilities and potential threats;
- d) Assess various security aspects including access control systems, surveillance equipment, physical barriers and emergency response protocols;
- e) Review the implementation of technological solutions such as alarms and monitoring systems;
- f) Review employee training and awareness related to security practices;
- g) Determine the level of risk associated with each identified vulnerabilities;
- h) Develop recommendations for improving physical security measures such as upgrading equipment, enhancing procedures or implementing new technologies;
- i) Details of the functionalities and responsibilities of the firm have been mentioned in the TOR.

3. Eligibility Criteria:
The interested firms should have the following eligibilities:

- a) The firm must be legally registered as a business entity and possess valid trade licenses.
- b) 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;
- c) The firm needs to have qualified personnel with relevant certifications and experience in security assessment and risk management.
- d) Annual turnover of at least BDT 10.00 (Ten) million in the last 3 years.

4. 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.

5. 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).



(Md. Zabdul Islam)
Director(HRD-1)
Human Resources Department-1
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 880-2-9530492
gm.hrd@bb.org.bd

DCP :48/2025-3201
Date : 01-12-2025

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

GD-2615