

Push for peace, rebalance trade

Macron urges Xi as the two leaders meet in Beijing

AGENCIES

French President Emmanuel Macron appealed to Xi Jinping to help end the war in Ukraine and to tackle trade deficits as the two leaders met in Beijing yesterday.

For Macron, making his fourth visit to China while in office, the three-day trip is an opportunity to shore up support for a ceasefire in Europe's deadliest conflict since WWII, as well as to attract more Chinese investment in France.



China -- a major Russian trading partner -- has said it takes a neutral stance on the war, refraining from condemning Moscow's invasion.

Yesterday, Xi reiterated his support for an end to the hostilities, telling Macron that "China supports all efforts committed to peace and hopes that all parties will reach a fair, lasting and binding peace agreement that is acceptable to all parties".

"No matter how the external environment changes, our two countries should always demonstrate the independence and strategic vision of major powers," Xi told Macron, adding that China remained committed to promoting peace in Ukraine and Gaza.

Path to peace in Ukraine unclear

Says Trump as US envoys prepare to meet Kyiv official

REUTERS, Washington

The path ahead for Ukraine peace talks is unclear, US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, after what he called "reasonably good" talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US envoys.

The Kremlin said on Wednesday that Putin accepted some US proposals aimed at ending the war in Ukraine and was prepared to keep working to find a compromise.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner spent hours at the Kremlin, departing in the early hours of Wednesday morning with no specific breakthrough on ending the war.

Trump, speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, said Witkoff and Kushner briefed him about the talks via telephone and told him their impression from Putin was that "he would like to make a deal." What happens now, however, is unclear, Trump said.

A White House official said Witkoff and Kushner were due to meet with Ukrainian officials in Miami yesterday.



Israel committed war crimes in Gaza

Says UN chief; 7 Palestinians, including two children, killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

There was something "fundamentally wrong" with how Israel conducted its military operation in the Gaza Strip and there are "strong reasons to believe" that war crimes have been committed, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Reuters on Wednesday.

"I think there was something fundamentally wrong in the way this operation was conducted with total neglect in relation to the deaths of civilians and to the destruction of Gaza," Guterres said in an interview at the Reuters NEXT conference in New York.

"The objective was to destroy Hamas. Gaza is destroyed, but Hamas is not yet destroyed. So there is something fundamentally wrong with the way this is conducted," he told Reuters Editor-in-Chief Alessandra Galloni.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in Gaza, according to the enclave's health ministry, during the two-year-old conflict between Israel and Hamas.

When asked if war crimes had been committed, Guterres said: "There are strong reasons to believe that that possibility might be a reality."

He praised the United States - an ally of Israel - for being instrumental in improving aid access in Gaza, where a global hunger monitor said in August that famine had taken hold.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on Palestinian territory on Wednesday evening killed seven people including two children, Gaza's civil defence agency said.

The strike hit near the Kuwaiti field hospital in Khan Younis and "targeted" a shelter camp, reports Al Jazeera online.

WHO warns of increase in malaria cases and deaths

AFP, Geneva

Deaths linked to malaria last year rose last year, the World Health Organization said yesterday, warning also of an increase in cases and resistance to current treatment.

There were some 282 million cases and 610,000 deaths recorded worldwide in 2024 -- slightly up on the previous 12 months -- underlining the mosquito-borne disease as a continuing serious global health issue.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the increase in deaths and cases, combined with funding cuts "threaten to roll back the progress we have made over the past two decades".

But he added: "None of these challenges is insurmountable. With the leadership of the most-affected countries and targeted investment, the vision of a malaria-free world remains achievable."

Africa remains by far the most-affected region, with 94 percent of cases and 95 percent of malaria deaths, the majority (75 percent) involving children under five.

Five countries -- the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda -- account for more than half of the number of cases, the WHO said in a new report. But the global health agency said progress had still been made.

Since the WHO approved the first vaccines against malaria in 2021, 24 countries have introduced routine immunisation programmes.

Chemoprevention, which involves the use of medication to prevent infection during high-risk malaria seasons, is now being implemented in 20 countries, reaching 54 million children in 2024 -- up from about 200,000 in 2021.

The WHO has now certified 47 countries and one territory as being exempt from malaria, including Cape Verde and Egypt in 2024, as well as Georgia, Suriname and East Timor in 2025.

Progress in the fight against malaria had already stalled in recent years, notably because of climate change, an increase in conflict and resistance to drugs and insecticides.

The WHO's director of malaria and neglected tropical diseases, Daniel Ngamije, said underfunding of malaria response programmes had exacerbated the challenges.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP)
Probasi Kalyan Bhaban (12th floor), Easkaton Garden
Ramna, Dhaka-1000
www.simcbp-mowca.gov.bd

Memo no: মসিবিম/SIMCBP/SIC-05/41/2025/156
Date: 04.12.2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

The World Bank is supporting the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to achieve its vision on early childhood development to care, nurture, protect, respect, love, and cherish all children with utmost importance in order to build a strong foundation for their growth and development, through an IDA Credit for Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) project. BEIBEY objectives are to provide consumption support to vulnerable households with pregnant women and mothers of children under 4 years and increase knowledge of nurturing care services that contribute to early childhood development.

1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
2.	Agency	:	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3.	Procuring Entity Name	:	Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) Project
4.	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka
5.	EOI for selection of	:	INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT
6.	EOI Ref No	:	মসিবিম/SIMCBP/SIC-05/41/2025/

Key Information

7.

Procurement Method

:

Open Competitive. (The consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in The World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 revised September 2025)

8.

Budget Source & Funds

:

Development Budget, IDA, Credit

9.

Development Partner

:

IDA, World Bank

Particular Information

10.

Project Name

:

"Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) Project" Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme.

11.

EOI Closing Date

:

Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the undersigned address by 3:00 PM on or before 21/12/25, in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest", contract Package number and position applied for. In addition to that soft copy of EOI will be required to be submitted through email to: pd.beibey.simcbp@gmail.com

12.

Information for the applicant

Brief Description of the Assignment:

Contract Package No	Name of the Position with duration	No of position	(a) Required Minimum Qualification; (b) Experience and (c) Scope of works & Job Responsibilities
BEIBEY-SIC-05	Training Specialist; 30 Months	1	<p>a) Education Qualification Post graduate degree in Communication, Advocacy, Mass Media, Business Administration, Education, Sociology, Social Welfare or any other related discipline from a reputed university</p> <p>b) Experience: A minimum of eight (8) years of progressively professional experience in similar role.</p> <p>At least five years' experience with government or donor funded programs. Proven experience and application of blended (offline & online) training cycle management, capacity building, and awareness building programs. Familiarity with early childhood development issues preferred. Excellent written and verbal communications skills in English and Bangla.</p> <p>C) Scope of works: Details of job responsibilities & scope of works are given in the TOR. The interested applicant is requested to download the TOR from the MOWCA website: http://www.simcbp-mowca.gov.bd; https://www.cphu.gov.bd</p>
BEIBEY-SIC-08	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; 30 months	1	<p>a) Education Qualification Post-graduate degree in Sociology, Social Welfare, Economics, Public Health, Statistics or any other equivalent discipline from a reputed university in Bangladesh or abroad.</p> <p>Experience: At least 10 years of progressively professional experience in project/program monitoring and evaluation in Bangladesh or any other developing country including a minimum of 5 years' experience as M&E specialist in large scale government or donor-funded project/program; Previous experience of working with maternal and child health, nutrition and development program is desired. Proven ability to lead quantitative and qualitative research and reporting with large and complex data. Familiarity with Bangladesh Government process and procedures; Proven experience in participatory processes and data collection methods; Proven experience in use of qualitative and quantitative software for data analysis; Proven experience with mobile data collection platforms such as CommCare, Ona, Kobo Toolbox; Proven experience with conducting data analysis, reflection, translation and interpretation of data to assess progress, identify bottlenecks, and recommend strategic and policy actions; Skills in GIS systems (such as Arc GIS, QGIS) and database management (DBMS)/MIS would be an advantage; Substantial experience in capacity development, training, advising, coaching and mentoring; Proven understanding of data protection and confidentiality as part of data collection and management practices, and ability to respect and maintain confidentiality; Excellent written and verbal in Bangla and English writing and reporting.</p> <p>C) Scope of works: Details of job responsibilities & scope of works are given in the TOR. The interested applicant is requested to download the TOR from the MOWCA website: http://www.simcbp-mowca.gov.bd; https://www.cphu.gov.bd</p>

The Applicants are invited to provide information in detail including their qualifications to perform the service (complete CV along with a description of the similar assignment, experience in similar position and conditions, general qualification, and financial proposal)

The client reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expressions of Interest (EOI) or cancel the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).

TOR can be found at the following website: (<http://www.simcbp-mowca.gov.bd>; <https://www.cphu.gov.bd>); further information in this regard could be obtained from the undersigned during office hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM BST).

-sd/-
(Dr. Prakash Kanti Chowdhury)
Project Director
Phone: +880 2 55100646
Email: pdbeibey.simcbp@gmail.com

GD-2559

UN warns of new atrocities in Sudan

Heavy fighting erupts between army, paramilitary forces in Kordofan region

AFP, Geneva

UN Human Rights commissioner Volker Turk said yesterday he fears new "atrocities" in Sudan amid intense fighting between the army and paramilitary forces in the battleground Kordofan region.

Fighting has intensified across the three states that make up Kordofan as the Sudanese army seeks to keep the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and other groups away from a key road linking the capital Khartoum with the key Darfur region.

The UN human rights council has already mandated one inquiry into alleged atrocities after the RSF seized the Darfur city of El-Fasher following an 18-month siege. The war that erupted in April 2023 has left tens of thousands dead and forced 12 million people to flee their homes, according to aid agencies.

Turk made a new call for a ceasefire so aid can be sent into threatened towns and said he "feared another wave of atrocities in Sudan amid a surge in fierce fighting across the Kordofan region" between the Sudanese army, the RSF and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), according to a statement released by his office.

It added that since the RSF captured the Kordofan city of Bara on October 25, "the UN Human Rights Office has documented at least 269 civilian deaths from aerial strikes, artillery shelling, and summary executions."

It said toll was probably "much higher" as communications into the city was difficult. "There have also been reports of retaliatory killings, arbitrary detention, abductions, sexual violence and forced recruitment, including of children," Turk added. "It is truly shocking to see history repeating itself in Kordofan so soon after the horrific events in El Fasher," said Turk.

The statement highlighted a November 3 drone attack on a tent where mourners had gathered in El Obeid, North Kordofan, reportedly killing 45 people, mostly women. Another November 29 drone strike by the army in Kauda, South Kordofan "reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least 48 people.

Since RSF captured Kordofan city of Bara on October 25, UN rights office documented 269 deaths from aerial strikes and artillery shelling.

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প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়

গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তর, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

স্মারক নং-২৫.৩৬.০০০০.২১১.১১.৪০২.২০২৫-৬৮৩

তারিখঃ ১৭ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪৩২
০২ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৫

গ্রেড-১৪ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত লিখিত পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, গণপূর্ত অধিদপ্তরের অধীন সেট-আপকৃত গ্রেড-১৪ হতে গ্রেড-২০ পর্যন্ত মোট ০৮ ক্যাটাগোরির ৬৬৯টি শূন্য পদের সহস্রার জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত আদানী ১২/১২/২০২৫ ও ১৩/১২/২০২৫ তারিখে ০৩ ক্যাটাগোরি নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠিত MCQ টাইপ পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণদের এবং বংশিষ্ট ০৫ ক্যাটাগোরিসহ মোট ০৮ ক্যাটাগোরির সর্বমোট ৬৬৯টি শূন্য পদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী ঢাকা শহরের বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

ক্রম	পদের নাম	শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা	পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়
১	ট্রেনোটেইপিষ্ট কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	২৯	১৯ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৫ শুক্রবার
২	নকশাকার	৪১	সকাল ১০.০০-১১.৩০ ঘটিকা
৩	কার্য সহকারী	১৪৪	
৪	অফিস সহকারী কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক	৭৬	
৫	হিসাব সহকারী	১১৯	
৬	অফিস সহায়ক	১৬১	
৭	নিরাপত্তা গার্ড	৮১	১৯ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২৫ শুক্রবার
৮	মাদী	১৮	বিকাল ০৩.০০-০৪.০০ ঘটিকা

উক্ত লিখিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য ক্রম নং ৪, ৫ ও ৬ এ বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে MCQ পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র লিখিত পরীক্ষার জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে। ক্রম নং ১, ২, ৩, ৭ ও ৮ পর্যন্ত পদের ক্ষেত্রে <http://recruitment.pwd.gov.bd> ওয়েবসাইট হতে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করার জন্য প্রার্থীদের মোবাইল নম্বরে SMS পাঠানো হবে। প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত, সাবহারিক (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে। প্রবেশপত্রটি সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্রে পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও পরীক্ষাকেন্দ্র উল্লেখ থাকবে। প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই প্রবেশপত্রটির প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরিদর্শককে প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতীত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে দেয়া হবে না। প্রার্থীদের যথাসময়ে উক্ত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

স্বাক্ষর
মুহাম্মদ সারওয়ার জাহান
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জিডি-২৬৪৮