

INTERNATIONAL

TRUMP'S GAZA PLAN Pak military chief Munir in spotlight

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's most powerful military chief in decades faces the toughest test of his newly amassed powers as Washington pushes Islamabad to contribute troops to the Gaza stabilisation force, a move analysts say could spark domestic backlash.

Field Marshal Asim Munir is expected to fly to Washington to meet President Donald Trump in the coming weeks for a third meeting in six months that will likely focus on the Gaza force, two sources told Reuters, one of them a key player in the general's economic diplomacy.

Many countries are wary of the mission to demilitarise Gaza's Hamas, which could drag them into the conflict and enrage their pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli populations. But Munir has built a close relationship with the mercurial Trump to repair years of mistrust between Washington and Islamabad. In June, he was rewarded with a White House lunch - the first time a US president hosted Pakistan's army chief alone, without civilian officials.



Paramedics assist a resident during an evacuation from an apartment building hit by a Russian air strike in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, yesterday. President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would achieve its goals in Ukraine by diplomatic or military means, and would seek to expand a "security buffer zone" there.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Still plagued by high costs, low safeguards

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despite migrants generating over USD 30 billion annually in remittance.

Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, executive director (acting) of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, said, "The decline in allocation sends a clear signal that migrant welfare was not treated as a priority."

She said recent government initiatives -- including a migrant lounge, overseas postal-ballot voting, and a bilateral labour agreement with Saudi Arabia -- failed to bring systemic reform.

"The election initiative is symbolically important, but what the sector needed was long term planning. Instead, the ministry focused on day-to-day administration and missed a historic opportunity to reshape migration governance."

After the ousting of the previous government,

experts repeatedly called for a "National Migration Decade" -- a roadmap for skills, welfare, recruitment reform and labour diplomacy -- but no such vision emerged.

THE COST BORNE BY WORKERS

The cost of migration remains the heaviest burden on Bangladeshi workers.

Shariful Hasan, associate director at the BRAC Migration Programme and BRAC Youth Platform, said workers pay three to four times more than Nepali migrants to access the same markets, as recruitment remains dominated by unregulated middlemen.

"Reducing harassment at the airport should be a priority. A lounge will not solve their problems -- migrant workers want a hassle-free experience, not cosmetic fixes," he said.

Prof Tasneem said,

"The government fixed official cost ceilings but failed to enforce them. No meaningful action was taken against agencies charging excessive fees, allowing exploitation to continue openly."

Workers paid for a system meant to protect them, while their actual welfare needs remained unmet."

The Wage Earners' Welfare Fund, financed by Tk 3,500 from each migrant, is increasingly spent on administration instead of aiding distressed workers.

Experts say Bangladesh remains locked into exporting low-skilled labour to low paying markets. BMET training programmes are short, weakly accredited, and misaligned with global labour demand.

There is no effective coordination between the

expatriate welfare ministry, the education ministry and vocational bodies, leaving no skilled migration pipeline. "This lack of integration kept Bangladesh trapped in low-value labour export," said Prof Tasneem.

She said opportunities in nursing and technical professions were missed because universities are barred from offering internationally recognised nursing degrees, making overseas placement unviable.

Although legal provisions exist to register sub-agents, Prof Tasneem said the rules were designed in ways that undermine accountability.

"Proposals for centralised digital registration and police verification were ignored, giving recruiters plausible deniability and workers no clear path to justice," she said.

Meanwhile, reports from Malaysia, the Gulf and Europe point to persistent failures in embassy services. Labour wings are often understaffed, poorly allocated, and difficult for workers to access.

A Bangladeshi construction worker in Kuala Lumpur, who has lived there for seven years, said, "When we go to the embassy, they tell us to make appointments or come later. Calls are never answered. If we face problems with employers, we get no guidance."

He added that embassy-linked officials sometimes "create hurdles instead of solving problems," pushing migrants toward private brokers even during emergencies.

The interim government, meanwhile, has yet to reopen key labour destinations -- Malaysia, Oman, and the UAE -- or revive nine previously closed markets.

Shariful warned that without progress, out-migration could drop sharply next year.

Even Saudi Arabia -- Bangladesh's most reliable destination -- is tightening requirements through measures such as the Takamul certificate, alongside delays in Iqama processing, salary payments and job transfers, heightening uncertainty among workers.

"These pressures expose a deeper vulnerability," Shariful said. "This model survives on one market. Any policy shock in Saudi Arabia can cripple the system."

As Bangladesh marks International Migrants Day and National Diaspora Day 2025 today, many workers say the observances feel hollow.

Niloy Mazumder, a migrant worker in Malaysia, said, "We bring dollars to our country. But when we need help, nobody stands with us."

Prof Tasneem said Bangladesh continues to prioritise remittance flows over the workers who generate them.

Prof Asif Nazrul, adviser to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, could not be reached for comment despite repeated phone calls and text messages.

Romanian journos back outlet behind graft protests

AFP, Bucharest

Dozens of Romanian journalists and several NGOs signed an open letter yesterday backing an under-pressure media outlet whose investigation sparked nationwide anti-corruption protests.

The Recorder outlet's two-hour documentary into corruption in the court system touched a nerve in the eastern European country, which ranks as one of the most graft-ridden in the EU, according to Transparency International's corruption perception index.

Thousands have taken to the streets in rolling protests over the past week, but senior judicial officials have hit back and accused the outlet of being part of a "campaign to destabilise the judiciary".

The open letter published yesterday condemned "repeated and aggressive attacks" on the work done by Recorder, especially coming from within the judiciary.

Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)

67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

BCPS No. 355/2025/29718

Date: 17-12-2025

Schedule of FCPS Part-I, FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS Written Examinations - January, 2026.

FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS Examinations.

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
All Subjects	Paper – I	01.01.2026 (Thursday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
	Paper – II	03.01.2026 (Saturday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	

FCPS Mid-Term Examination

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. Anaesthesiology 2. Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics 3. Dermatology & Venereology 4. Haematology 5. Medicine & Allied 6. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied 7. Ophthalmology & Allied 8. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 9. Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics 10. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery 11. Paediatrics & Allied 12. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 13. Prosthodontics 14. Psychiatry & Allied 15. Radiology & Imaging 16. Radiotherapy 17. Surgery & Allied	Paper – I	01.01.2026 (Thursday)	9.00 A.M. to 10.40 A.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
	Paper – II	03.01.2026 (Saturday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	

FCPS Part-I Examination

Subject	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. Medicine & Allied	04.01.2026 (Sunday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
1. Anaesthesiology 2. Biochemistry 3. Dental Surgery (Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics and Prosthodontics) 4. Dermatology & Venereology 5. Forensic Medicine 6. Microbiology 7. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied 8. Psychiatry & Allied 9. Radiology & Imaging	05.01.2026 (Monday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
1. Anatomy 2. Community Medicine 3. Family Medicine 4. Haematology 5. Ophthalmology & Allied 6. Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery 7. Paediatrics & Allied 8. Pathology 9. Pharmacology 10. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 11. Physiology 12. Radiotherapy 13. Surgery & Allied 14. Transfusion Medicine	06.01.2026 (Tuesday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Program for OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS well in advance.

The list of the examinees and the name of the venue of the OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before examination (after 8.30pm).

The Admit Card for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS, FCPS Mid-Term and MCPS examinations will be available through online only from 20 December 2025 to 03 January 2026 (till completion of the written examination) and for the FCPS Part-I examination will be available through online from 20 December 2025 to 06 January 2026 (till completion of the FCPS Part-I examination). Please visit exams.bcps.edu.bd and login to the password-protected profile and print the admit card. Please contact examination department by 28 December 2025 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card. **The Admit Card for the January 2026 session is a prerequisite for entering the examination hall.**

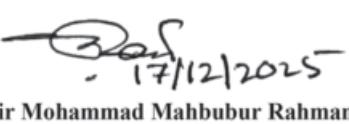
➤ **No Admit Card will be issued after the deadline.**

➤ **No Admit Card will be printed and distributed from BCPS campus.**

Instructions for Examinees

- Bring colour printed admit card, ballpoint pen, 2B pencil and eraser.
- The examination hall will be opened 40 minutes before the commencement of the examination. Examinees will go directly to the examination hall.
- Examinees are not allowed to stay anywhere other than the examination hall.
- Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card, question papers or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the answer sheet/scripts.
- Copying in any form or talking with other examinees in the examination hall shall lead to the cancellation of the paper or any other disciplinary action.
- Carrying mobile phones/laptops/tabs/wrist watch/calculator/other electronic devices/bags/packets/water bottles/beverage cans/lighter/coins/metal objects other than keys by the examinees is prohibited. Carrying such materials shall be subject to expulsion from the examination.
- Examinees must use the same signature for the application, attendance sheet and answer script.
- Examinees are not allowed to write anything on the admit card/instruction sheet or keep any other papers. These may lead to the cancellation of the paper.
- FCPS (Final) written qualified examinees have to submit an "Information Update Form" immediately after publication of the written result through a link (<https://sds.bcps.edu.bd/bcps-erp/exam-info-update>). It is mandatory to submit the form. If found, incorrect information and an incomplete form, the examination will be held up/legality action will be taken against the candidate.


Professor Md. Billal Alam
Controller of Examination

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration National Academy for Development Administration Rupnagar, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216 www.nada.gov.bd				
e-Tender Notice (OTM) Memo No. 05.07.0000.000.034.07.0036.25-127 Date: 17 December, 2025				
This is to notify all concerned that the following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of goods as follows:				
Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1196698	Procurement of Computer Accessories (Printer, Photocopier, Scanner, Portable Hard Disk etc.) for National Academy for Development Administration (NADA)	18.12.2025; 12:00	29.12.2025; 10:00	29.12.2025; 14:00
This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and in the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).				
 Mir Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman Director (Finance & Public Procurement) National Academy for Development Administration				

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