

FLASHBACK 2025



Fire rages through the Singha Durbar, the main administrative building for the Nepal government, in Kathmandu on September 9.

INTERNATIONAL DESK

If 2025 feels exhausting, you're not alone. The year has been turbulent, with wars dragging on, new conflicts erupting, and rivalries sharpening. Global summits made headlines more for symbolism than breakthroughs, offering spectacle but little substance. Gen Z uprisings, India-Pakistan conflict, a Gaza ceasefire, and massive AI investments were among 9 defining events, leaving optimism scarce amid relentless crises.

GEN Z UPRISINGS

Across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, youth movements mobilized online against poverty, unemployment, censorship, and corruption. Impacts ranged from Morocco's prosecutions of 2,000 protesters to violent crackdowns elsewhere. Youth pressure ousted Nepal's KP Sharma Oli and Madagascar's Andry Rajoelina, while Tanzanian protests were suppressed. The One Piece pirate flag symbolized global resistance.

CAMBODIA-THAILAND DISPUTE

The Cambodia-Thailand border dispute flared on July 24, 2025 after a landmine injury sparked clashes. Cambodia's rocket strikes on Thai civilians prompted airstrikes, displacing 200,000. A ceasefire on 28 July collapsed in December as Thailand's Operation Sattawat seized northern Cambodian towns. Asean, the UN, and US President Donald Trump urged restraint.

A NEW POPE

On May 8, Robert Francis Prevost became the first American pope, Leo XIV, after succeeding Pope Francis. A former missionary in Peru, he emphasized continuity on poverty, migrants, and environmental protection, while reassuring conservatives by ruling out—for now—the ordination of women as deacons and recognition of same-sex marriage.

INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

A brief armed conflict erupted between India and Pakistan on May 7, 2025 after India launched Operation Sindoor, striking militant infrastructure in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in response to the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. Pakistan claimed civilian casualties and retaliated with mortar fire on Jammu. The clash marked the first drone battle



Palestinians mourn as they carry the bodies of children, killed in an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter, at Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City on April 23.

between the nuclear powers. By May 10, both sides exchanged missile strikes on air bases. A ceasefire was agreed after US-mediated talks, restoring normalcy.

AI BOOM

AI investment is projected to hit \$1.5 trillion in 2025 and \$2 trillion in 2026. Nvidia's valuation briefly exceeded \$5 trillion amid bubble fears. Concerns grew over misinformation, copyright disputes, and layoffs. After a teen's suicide, OpenAI faced a lawsuit, prompting stricter parental controls and chatbot regulations.

A CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

Two years after war in Gaza, US pressure secured a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, enabling hostage returns, prisoner exchanges, and limited aid. Negotiations over Trump's peace plan, particularly Hamas's disarmament, remain difficult. Israel has continued airstrikes in Gaza and targeted Hezbollah positions in Lebanon, keeping tensions high.

ISRAEL-IRAN 12 DAY WAR

The Iran-Israel war, or Twelve-Day War (13-24 June 2025), began with Israel's surprise strikes on Iran's military and nuclear sites, assassinating leaders and scientists, and causing civilian deaths. Iran retaliated with 550 ballistic missiles and 1,000 suicide drones, hitting civilian centers, a hospital, and twelve military, energy, and government facilities, escalating conflict across the region.

4 YEARS OF UKRAINE WAR

Trump's return spurred diplomacy on the Ukraine war but his shifting stance between Zelensky and Putin fueled uncertainty. Kyiv feared pressure into concessions. After criticising Zelensky, Trump's Alaska summit with Putin collapsed, prompting US sanctions. Talks resumed in November, while Russian forces pressed advances and launched record missile and drone attacks.

US STRIKES ANGER VENEZUELA

Since August, the US deployed forces off Latin America's coast to combat drug trafficking, conducting over 20 strikes causing dozens of deaths. Washington rejected UN criticism, while Venezuela accused the U.S. of seeking Maduro's overthrow. The US alleges Maduro leads a cartel and offered \$50 million for his capture.

WAR GAMES BLOCKADE

# China encircles Taiwan in military display

Deploys assault ships alongside bombers, destroyers; Taipei says some rockets fell into contiguous zone

REUTERS, Taipei

China fired rockets into waters off Taiwan yesterday, showcased new assault ships and dismissed prospects of US and allied intervention to block any future attack by Beijing to take control of the island in its most extensive war games to date.

As part of drills rehearsing a blockade, China's Eastern Theatre Command conducted 10 hours of live-fire exercises, launching rockets into waters to the north and south of the democratically governed island.

Chinese naval and air force units also simulated strikes on maritime and aerial targets and carried out anti-submarine drills around the island, while state media released images touting Beijing's technological and military superiority and its ability to take



Taiwan by force if necessary.

Named "Justice Mission 2025", the drills began 11 days after the US announced a record \$11.1 billion arms package to Taiwan, drawing the Chinese defence ministry's ire and warnings that the military would "take forceful measures" in response.

Taiwan's Civil Aviation Authority said that although 11 of Taipei's 14 flight routes were affected by the drills, no international flights had been cancelled.

Routes to the offshore islands of Kinmen and Matsu near China's coast were blocked, affecting around 6,000 passengers. Taiwan's defence ministry said some rockets fell into contiguous zone. It also said 71 Chinese military aircraft and 24 navy and coast guard vessels had been operating around the island. The ministry added that China fired 27 rockets in Taiwan's waters.

Chinese coast guard ships were tracking Taiwanese vessels during the drills, a Taiwan coast guard official told Reuters. A Pentagon report released last week said the US military believed China was preparing to be able to win a fight for Taiwan by 2027.

China's military said simulating a blockade of Taiwan's Port of Keelung to the island's north and Kaohsiung to Taiwan's south, its largest port city, was central to the drills.

## US pledges \$2bn for UN aid in 2026

Warns agencies to 'adapt, shrink or die' in reforms

AFP, Geneva

Washington on Monday pledged an initial \$2 billion for United Nations humanitarian aid in 2026 – far less than it has provided in recent years – warning UN agencies to "adapt, shrink or die".

With its pledge, announced at the US mission in Geneva alongside UN aid chief Tom Fletcher, the United States is pursuing a dramatic overhaul of how it funds UN humanitarian work.

Instead of handing funds to individual agencies, the United States will funnel its contributions through the UN aid agency OCHA, headed by Fletcher, which earlier this year launched a so-called Humanitarian Reset to improve efficiency and accountability.

The US funds, welcomed by the UN chief, will then be distributed to 17 selected countries.

# Nepal's new alliance shakes traditional party dominance

AFP, Kathmandu

An emerging political bloc in Nepal has gained another heavyweight, with a third key figure joining the new alliance ahead of next year's election, a party member said yesterday.

Two of Nepal's most popular political leaders, television host Rabi Lamichhane of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah, agreed on Sunday to unite their parties for the March 5, 2026, polls.

They pledged to address the demands of younger "Gen Z" protesters following deadly anti-corruption demonstrations in September that ousted the government. Kulman Ghising of the Ujyalo Nepal Party, who is the energy minister in the interim government, also agreed to join the new alliance late on Monday.

"This agreement... has brought an alternative force into the political mainstream," said Sanjiv Ballav Bhattarai, a former Ujyalo Nepal

committee member, who has now joined Lamichhane's RSP.

Ghising, 55, won significant public support when he led the Nepal Electricity Authority in tackling the Himalayan country's load-shedding crisis.

At least 77 people were killed during the youth-led September 8-9 uprising. Protests began under the loose umbrella title of Gen Z, triggered by a brief government ban on social media.

The demonstrations tapped into wider public anger at economic stagnation and political corruption in the country of 30 million people. The agreement said the new alliance embraces "the spirit of the Gen Z movement against corruption and bad governance".

Prominent Gen Z protest figures, including Sudan Gurung, played a role in bringing the leaders together for talks.

Nepal became a federal republic in 2008 after a decade-long civil war and a peace deal that saw former Maoist insurgents brought into government and the abolishment of the monarchy.






আতশবাজী পোড়ানো প্রাণহানির কারণ হতে পারে  
নববর্ষ উপলক্ষে আতশবাজী পোড়ানো থেকে বিরত থাকুন  
শব্দদূষণ (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ মেনে চলুন




দেশজুড়ে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ও পরিবেশ দূষণ বিষয়ক সচেতনতামূলক প্রচারাভিযান প্রকল্প

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**৩০তম ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০২৬**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের তিনবারের সাবেক প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও বাংলাদেশ জাতীয়তাবাদী দল (বিএনপি)-এর চেয়ারপারসন বেগম খালেদা জিয়া এর মৃত্যুতে সরকার কর্তৃক ০৩(তিন) দিন রাত্তরীয়ভাবে শোক পালনের সিদ্ধান্তের প্রেক্ষিতে ৩০তম ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা ২০২৬-এর উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান পূর্বঘোষিত তারিখ ০১ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ এর পরিবর্তে আগামী ০৩ জানুয়ারি ২০২৬ তারিখ (শনিবার) আয়োজনের সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। আমন্ত্রিত অতিথিবৃন্দের জন্য ইতোমধ্যে প্রেরিত উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানের আমন্ত্রণপত্র যথাযথিতি বহাল থাকবে।

ডাইস চেয়ারম্যান ও প্রধান নির্বাহী  
রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো  
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
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Chapainawabganj.


Memo No. 59/e-GP/EED/Chapai/5974/SHED/2025-26 Date: 30-12-2025.

**e-Tender Notice No: 59**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Chapainawabganj as mentioned below:

Tender ID	Name of works	Publication Date/time	Closing date & Opening Date
1205280	REPAIR AND RENOVATION WORKS OF BEHULA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, SADAR, CHAPAINAWABGANJ. (FY:2024-25)	30.12.2025 15:00 PM	14.01.2026 11:00 AM

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e- GP system portal and No offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

  
(Md. Anwer Hossin)  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Chapainawabganj.

GD- 2785

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER)  
Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215

Memo No. 12.01.0000.918.040.07.0084.25.1190 Date:30/12/2025

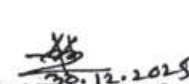
**Corrigendum of e-GP: REoI Notice**

e-REoI is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for following procurement. Interested applicants are requested to visit <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> website for details.

Sl. No.	Proposal ID No.	Name of works	EoI Closing Date & Time	Previously circulated	To be replaced
1.	1186260	Development & Operations Services of Krishak Digital Financial Module (KDFM) (Package No.: SD/PARTNER-DAE/16)	EoI Closing Date & Time EoI Opening Date & Time	31 December 2025 15:00 31 December 2025 15:00	04 January. 2026 15:00 04 January 2026 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

  
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Program Coordinator (PARTNER)  
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GD- 2784