

INTERNATIONAL

US pressing rivals to end war by June

Says Zelensky

AFP, Kyiv

The United States wants Ukraine and Russia to end their nearly four-year war by June, and has offered to host talks between the two sides in Florida next week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

US-led efforts to end Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II have stepped up a gear in recent weeks, but Moscow and Kyiv remain at odds over the key issue of territory.

Russia, which occupies around 20 percent of its neighbour, is pushing for full control of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region as part of any deal and has threatened to take it by force if talks fail.

But Ukraine says ceding ground will embolden Moscow, and so it will not sign an agreement that fails to deter Russia from invading again.

"The United States has proposed for the first time that the two negotiating teams - Ukraine and Russia - meet in the United States, probably in Miami, in a week's time," Zelensky told reporters in comments made public early yesterday.

"They say that they want to do everything by June," he added.

The US has mediated two rounds of negotiations between the two sides in Abu Dhabi since January, brokering a major prisoner exchange but failing to reach a breakthrough on territory.

Both Moscow and Kyiv said talks have been difficult.

Zelensky has repeatedly expressed frustration that his country is being asked to make disproportionate compromises compared to Russia.

Ukraine has proposed freezing the conflict along the current front lines.

Russia has rejected this and Washington has instead pushed for Kyiv to convert the land it currently controls in the Donetsk region into a "free economic zone" where neither side has military control.



Members of the Canadian diaspora gather in front of the Canadian consulate after its official opening, in Nuuk, Greenland, yesterday. Canada and France, which both oppose US President Donald Trump's claim to Greenland, open consulates in the Danish autonomous territory's capital on Friday, in a strong show of support for the local government.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran nods to more nuclear talks, sets redlines

FM says missile programme 'non-negotiable', warns attacks on US bases if hit

AFP, Paris

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi yesterday said he hoped talks with the United States would resume soon, while reiterating Tehran's red lines and warning against any American attack.

According to excerpts published on his official Telegram channel during an interview with the Al Jazeera network, Araghchi said that Iran's missile programme was "never negotiable" in Friday's talks in Oman.

He warned that Tehran would target US bases in the region if the US attacked Iranian territory. However, Araghchi also said that despite the talks in Muscat being indirect, "an opportunity arose to shake hands with the American delegation".

He called the talks "a good start", but added that building trust would take time. He said the talks would resume "soon".

US President Donald Trump on Friday called the talks "very good" and pledged another round of negotiations next week.

Despite this, he signed an executive order effective from Saturday that called for the "imposition of tariffs" on countries still doing



business with Iran.

The United States also announced new sanctions against numerous shipping entities and vessels, aimed at curbing Iran's oil exports.

More than a quarter of Iran's trade is with China, with \$18 billion in imports and \$14.5 billion in exports in 2024, according to World Trade Organization data.

Araghchi told Al Jazeera that nuclear enrichment was Iran's "inalienable right and must continue".

"We are ready to reach a reassuring

agreement on enrichment," he said.

"The Iranian nuclear case will only be resolved through negotiations."

He also said Iran's missile programme was "never negotiable" because it relates to a "defence issue".

Washington has sought to address Iran's ballistic missile programme and its support for militant groups in the region - issues which Israel has pushed to include in the talks, according to media reports.

Tehran has repeatedly rejected expanding the scope of the negotiations beyond the nuclear issue.

Friday's unprecedented talks between the two arch enemies came amid a major US military buildup in the region in the wake of Iran's crackdown on protests that began in late December, driven by economic grievances.

The negotiations were the first since nuclear talks between Iran and the US collapsed last year following Israel's unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran, which triggered a 12-day war.

During the war US warplanes bombed Iranian nuclear sites.

RUSSIA OIL DEAL

US lifts 25% tariff on Indian goods

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump moved Friday to lift an additional 25 percent tariff he imposed on goods from India over its purchases of Russian oil - a step to implement a trade deal announced this week.

"India has committed to stop directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil," according to an executive order Trump signed.

New Delhi has also said that it will purchase US energy products, "and has recently committed to a framework with the United States to expand defense cooperation over the next 10 years," the order said.

The additional 25 percent US duty will be removed at 12:01 am Eastern Time on Saturday.

The executive order comes days after Trump announced a trade deal to reduce tariffs on India, saying that Indian PM had promised to stop buying Russian oil over the war in Ukraine.

The pact would also see Washington cutting so-called "reciprocal" levies on Indian products to 18 percent, down from a 25-percent level.

The rollout of this reduction is still to come.

Other terms of the agreement include the removal of tariffs on certain aircraft and parts, according to a separate joint statement released Friday by the White House.

The statement added that India intends to purchase \$500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and parts, precious metals, tech products and coking coal over the next five years.

Make our Epstein testimony public

Demand Clintons

AFP, Washington

Former US president Bill Clinton and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton are calling for their congressional testimony on ties to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein to be held publicly to prevent Republicans from politicising the issue.

The couple had been ordered to give closed-door depositions before the House Oversight Committee, which is probing the deceased financier's connections to powerful figures and how information about his crimes was handled.

Hillary Clinton will appear for her deposition on February 26, while Bill Clinton will appear on February 27.

House Republicans had previously threatened a contempt vote if the Democratic power couple did not show up to testify.

But holding the deposition behind closed doors, Bill Clinton said Friday, would be akin to being tried at a "kangaroo court."

"Let's stop the games & do this the right way: in a public hearing," the former Democratic president said on X.



Palestinians struggle to receive food at a community kitchen in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. A US-backed plan to end the war in Gaza entered its second phase last month despite unresolved disputes between Israel and Hamas over alleged ceasefire violations and issues unaddressed in the first stage. Gaza, whose borders and access points remain under Israeli control, continues to face severe shortages of food, clean water, medicine and fuel.



PHOTO: AFP

'Next week crucial for a flawless election'

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the chief adviser's official residence, last night, he said the election campaign so far has been marked by nationwide enthusiasm and conducted in a peaceful and cordial atmosphere.

"Candidates are not using abusive language against one another, nor is there any unruly behaviour, which is a very positive change for our political history and culture," Yunus said.

Referring to polling-day preparations, he said the work so far has been completed "very well," adding, "We are satisfied... we are very happy."

The chief adviser said the main challenge now is "to make it perfect" so that voting is conducted flawlessly, with women participating confidently and families joining the election "festival" together, making it an event remembered in the country's history.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed the media after the meeting.

He said the meeting first discussed the deployment of body-worn cameras for police. Of around 43,000 polling centres nationwide, 25,700 are being brought under the programme.

A live demonstration was held at the start of the meeting to show how the audio-video cameras work. During the demonstration, Yunus spoke with personnel carrying the cameras at five randomly selected locations, including Tetulia and Khagrachhari, Shafiqul

said.

The meeting also discussed the "Election Security App," which Shafiqul said is now fully operational. If any disturbance or violence occurs in or around a polling station, alerts will be sent simultaneously to security forces, the returning officer, and the Election Commission, enabling rapid intervention.

He noted that a similar app was used during this year's Durga Puja, when about 32,000 mandaps were brought under coverage, describing it as tested and effective.

On security deployment, Shafiqul said around 900,000 personnel will be engaged in election duties. Of them, 108,885 members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force have already been deployed. In addition, 37,453 Border Guard Bangladesh members have been deployed in 1,210 platoons.

The Coast Guard has deployed 3,585 members across 10 districts in 17 constituencies, covering 69 unions in coastal upazilas.

Police deployment will begin on the morning of February 11, with 157,000 personnel to be engaged, he said.

Ansar deployment involving 567,866 members will start tomorrow and is expected to be completed the following day. RAB has completed preparatory work and will begin deployment on time, he added.

On technical preparations, Shafiqul

said 80 percent of CCTV cameras have already been installed.

Election Commission Secretary Akhtar Hossain told the meeting that voting will be held in 299 constituencies, as Sherpur-3 has been postponed following the death of a candidate.

He said a total of 2,029 candidates are contesting the election - 1,755 from political parties and 274 independents. Of them, 83 are women - 63 party-backed and 20 independents - while the remaining 1,946 are men.

Akhtar said the total number of voters stands at 127,711,193, including 64,825,361 men, 62,885,200 women, and 1,232 voters from the hijra community. There will be around 42,790 polling centres.

On postal voting, Shafiqul said ballots for 422,960 overseas voters have already reached Bangladesh, and returning officers have processed 270,038 ballots so far. Of overseas postal voters, 94 percent are men and 6 percent women.

He said postal ballots were sent to voters in 124 countries.

Shafiqul added that around 400 foreign observers and about 500 local observers will monitor the election, while an estimated 120 foreign journalists are expected to cover it.

He also said hotline 333 has been integrated for election-related complaints, alerts, allegations, or information, and that necessary action will be taken based on calls.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police

Police Telecommunication Organization

Police Telecom Bhaban, Rajarbag, Dhaka

Web: telecom.police.gov.bd

Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No. 44.01.0000.057.11.045.25/1360/Betar

Date: 05-02-2026

For the financial year 2025-2026 e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following items.

Sl	Description	e-Tender ID	Procurement method	Online tender publication date & time	Online tender closing date & time
1.	Designing, Supplying and Installing of 150-feet 3-Leg Self-Supported Tower.	1223557	OSTETM (One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method)	08 Feb 2026 16:30	02 Mar 2026 12:30

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. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd>).

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders. If the fund is insufficient/unavailable in that case the tender will be cancelled.

Shahriar Bin Saleh

BP 7810126915

SP (Logistics)

Police Telecommunication Organization

Rajarbag, Dhaka

Mobile: 01320020041

E-mail: splog.telecom@police.gov.bd

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