

PARIS AGREEMENT UN approves first carbon credits

AFP, Paris

The United Nations yesterday announced the approval of the first carbon credits under a global market aimed at reducing emissions, a mechanism that has faced scrutiny over greenwashing concerns.

The UN-run market, established under the Paris climate accord, allows companies and countries to offset their excess emissions by financing projects that cut greenhouse gases in other nations.

Critics fear that if set up poorly, such schemes can undermine the world's efforts to curb global warming by allowing countries or companies to greenwash -- or overstate -- their emissions reductions.

The first credits issued under new carbon market involve a project in Myanmar that distributes efficient wood-burning cookstoves that reduce harmful household air pollution and ease pressure on forests, UN agency said.



The US Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford departs Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete yesterday. The United States is assembling its largest force of warships and aircraft in the Middle East in decades, as President Donald Trump warns of possible military action against Iran. PHOTO: AFP

US, China at 'strategic stability'

Says Rubio ahead
of Trump trip

AFP, Basseterre

The US and China have reached "stability" in their long-fractious relationship, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to the Asian power.

"I think we've reached a point at least of a sort of strategic stability in the relationship," Rubio told reporters. "I think both countries concluded that having an all-out global trade war between the United States and China would be deeply damaging to both sides and to the world," Rubio said on a visit to the tiny Caribbean nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Rubio has long been known as a hawk on China. Rubio said that the United States would keep raising concerns including seeking to diversify from China's dominance in supply chains.

He also vowed to keep pushing China to negotiate a three-way nuclear deal with the United States and Russia. A senior US official met with Russia and China in Geneva this week after the expiration of New START, the last remaining treaty between Russia and the United States that limited nuclear warheads.

"They have publicly said they're not willing to do it," Rubio said of China.

'No deadlines' to end Ukraine war

Russian FM says as missile, drone barrage hits
Ukrainian cities; 23 injured

AFP, Kyiv

Moscow is in no hurry to reach a deal to end the war in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested in comments to state media yesterday.

Negotiators from both countries were in Geneva yesterday for separate talks with US officials, part of a fraught negotiation process being pushed by President Donald Trump in a bid to end the fighting.

Several rounds of discussions have failed to clinch a deal, with Moscow insisting on headline territorial and political demands that Kyiv has ruled out as

- US, Ukraine to discuss post-war reconstruction at Geneva talks
- The overnight strikes prompted Poland to scramble fighter jets

tantamount to capitulation.

Top officials in Russia again pushed back on the idea a deal was close. "Have you heard anything from us about deadlines? We have no deadlines, we have tasks. We are getting them done," state news agencies quoted Lavrov as saying.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also said it was too early to make "forecasts" or say at what stage the peace process was at.

Meanwhile, Russian strikes in multiple Ukrainian cities wounded



at least 23 people, including a child, officials said yesterday.

The Ukrainian air force reported high-speed targets heading toward the capital shortly before Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration, said Russia was striking the city with drones and ballistic missiles.

"Air defence is operating. Stay in shelters until the alert is cleared!" he wrote on Telegram, early yesterday. Kyiv police said debris sparked fires and damage in three districts, including a blaze in non-residential buildings, a smashed balcony window in a high-rise and a fire at a two-storey house.

No casualties were reported, and emergency crews and investigators worked through the morning to secure the sites and document the damage.

The bombardment extended well beyond the capital. In the northeast

city of Kharkiv and a nearby village, 14 people were wounded, among them a seven-year-old boy, regional chief Oleg Syneghubov said.

Towards the south, Zaporizhzhia also came under heavy fire. Regional head Ivan Fedorov said seven people were wounded, after strikes damaged 19 apartment blocks, four houses and other buildings.

In Kryvyi Rig in the Dnipropetrovsk region, two people were wounded. The overnight strikes prompted Poland to scramble fighter jets, it said on X.

The latest barrage came as Ukrainian negotiators were due to meet US officials yesterday in Geneva for talks on post-war reconstruction, including a "prosperity package" of funding to rebuild Ukraine's economy, despite a deadlock in peace negotiations with Russia.

7,667 died or vanished on migrant routes in 2025: IOM

AFP, Berlin

At least 7,667 people died or went missing last year on migration routes around the world, but the true death toll is likely higher, the UN's migration agency reported yesterday.

The figure was down on 2024 when almost 9,200 deaths were recorded, but the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said numbers nonetheless reflected the "global scale" of the crisis faced by migrants.

"The continued loss of life on migration routes is a global failure we cannot accept as normal," said IOM Director General Amy Pope. She argued for safer legal routes, adding: "These deaths are not inevitable."

Funding cuts for aid groups, crackdowns on humanitarian NGOs and limited access to data are making it more difficult to accurately track deaths, the UN agency said.

Sea crossings such as the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea from Africa to Europe remain among the deadliest routes for migrants, the report said.

At least 2,108 people went missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2025, and another 1,047 died or vanished while trying to cross to Spain's Canary Islands, according to IOM.

FLORIDA BOAT ATTACK

Cuba kills 4 exiles, injures 6 others

REUTERS, Havana

Cuban forces killed four exiles and wounded six others who sailed into Cuban waters aboard a Florida-registered speedboat on Wednesday and opened fire on a Cuban patrol, the Cuban government said at a time of heightened tensions with the United States.

Cuba's Interior Ministry said the group was comprised of anti-government Cubans, some of whom were previously wanted for plotting attacks. They came from the United States dressed in camouflage and armed with assault rifles, handguns, homemade explosives, ballistic vests and telescopic sights, Cuba said.

An additional Cuban suspect was detained inside Cuban territory in connection with the plot, the statement said.

"According to preliminary statements from the detainees, they intended to carry out an infiltration for terrorist purposes," the Interior Ministry said in an official statement.

The wounded were evacuated and receiving medical attention, while the Cuban patrol commander was also wounded, the ministry said.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters it was not a US operation and that no US government personnel were involved.

Cuban authorities made the US aware of the incident, but the US embassy in Havana would attempt to independently verify what happened, Rubio said.

THAI BORDER DISPUTE

Cambodia wants 'de-escalation': PM

AFP, Brussels

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet said on Wednesday Phnom Penh wanted de-escalation and a peaceful resolution to its border conflict with Thailand, after Bangkok this week accused its neighbour of violating a December truce.

The Southeast Asian nations' decades-long border dispute erupted into several rounds of clashes last year, killing dozens of people and displacing more than a million in July and December.

"We are not escalating. We want de-escalation. We want peaceful coexistence," Hun Manet told AFP in Brussels, in a rare international media interview.

Thailand's military accused Cambodian forces of firing a grenade round near a Thai patrol Tuesday, prompting return fire -- something Phnom Penh has denied.

Cambodia says Thai forces captured several areas in border provinces and has demanded their withdrawal, while Bangkok insists it has merely reclaimed land that was part of Thailand and had been occupied by Cambodians for years.

Hun Manet declined to say how much land Thai forces had captured, but said they had ventured "well over beyond" what even Bangkok says is the frontier between the two countries.

Asked whether Cambodian forces would fight to regain lost territory, he said: "We always stick to the de-escalation, peaceful solutions."

The two countries' century-old border conflict stems from a dispute over the French colonial-era demarcation of their 800-kilometre (500-mile) frontier.

Phnom Penh has asked France for assistance and access to historical documents and maps in a bid to resolve the issue, and called for a joint border commission to resume work on it.



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Memo No. 25.36.7500.440.14/ 551 Dated: 25/02/2026

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 25.02.2026 Only the Person/Organization registered by e-GP portal can visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for clear observation.

Tender ID No	Package No	Name of works	Last Selling date & Time	Closing / Opening date & Time
1234634	Nkhali.MCH/WD-01	Construction of 500 Bedded Hospital Building of Noakhali Medical College (10 storied Bldg. with 10 storied foundation in/c single Basement) Under the project of Establishment of 500 Bedded Hospital and Ancillary Building in Jeshore, Cox's Bazar, Pabna & Noakhali (1st Revised)	29.03.2026 17:00	30.03.2026 17:00

This is an online Tender only where e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md Asraf Uddin)
Executive Engineer
Noakhali P.W.D. Division.

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

FBI fires agents linked to Trump probe: reports

AFP, Washington

The FBI has fired at least half a dozen agents linked to a 2022 probe into President Donald Trump retaining documents at his Mar-a-Lago residence, US media reported on Wednesday, drawing anger from the association representing bureau personnel.

The FBI raided Trump's residence in Florida in 2022, when he was out of office, as part of a now-dropped investigation into the mishandling of classified documents after his first White House term.

FBI director Kash Patel ordered the firing of at least six agents over their work on the case, multiple US media outlets reported. The FBI declined to comment.

Trump allegedly kept classified documents -- which included records from the Pentagon and CIA -- unsecured at his Mar-a-Lago home and thwarted efforts to retrieve them.

The materials included secret nuclear and defense documents, according to prosecutors.

US District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, dismissed the documents case against Trump in July 2024, ruling that former special counsel Jack Smith was unlawfully appointed.

পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
বিজ্ঞান নং ১/২০২৬

২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এম. ফিল. ও পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ২০২৬-২০২৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষে (দুই) বছর মেয়াদী এম.ফিল. ও ৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদী পিএইচ.ডি. প্রোগ্রামে গবেষক ভর্তি করা হবে। আসন সংখ্যা সীমিত।

আগামী ০১-০৩-২০২৬ থেকে ৩০-০৪-২০২৬ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন ইনস্টিটিউটের অফিস থেকে আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমাদান করতে পারবেন। আগামী ১৪-০৫-২০২৬ তারিখ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ১০:০০ টায় পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীকে ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে ভর্তি হতে হবে। পরিচালক, পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অনুকূলে টাঃ ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) (অফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারসহ ভর্তির আবেদন ফরম ইনস্টিটিউট কার্যালয়ে জমা অথবা ডাকযোগে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর প্রেরণ করা যাবে। প্রার্থী অনলাইনে তার আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও ব্যাংক ড্রাফটের স্ক্যান কপি নিম্নোক্ত ই-মেইলে প্রেরণ করবেন (শর্ত থাকে যে প্রার্থীকে মূল ব্যাংক ড্রাফট কপিটি ডাকযোগে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর প্রেরণ করতে হবে)। Referee Form ২ (দুই)টি কপি নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবর আলাদা প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

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প্রফেসর ড. মোঃ গোলাম মোস্তফা
পরিচালক
পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ইনস্টিটিউট
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