



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump pose with Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla as they arrive ahead of a State Dinner in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on Tuesday (US time). The trip, which comes as the US approaches the 250th anniversary of its independence from Britain, is meant to celebrate the strong relationship between the two countries.

PHOTO: AFP

## CONDITION FOR PAYING UN DUES US wants curbs on China, other reforms

REUTERS

The United States has set specific conditions for the release of billions of dollars it owes to the United Nations, such as more cost-cutting and moves to counter China's influence at the world body, a development news agency reported yesterday.

The United States circulated two diplomatic notes calling for nine "quick-hit" reforms in order to release more funds, independent agency Devex, which covers global development, said in the report.

It said these included overhauling the UN pension system, ending long-distance business-class travel for some senior and all mid-level professionals and further cuts in the UN's senior ranks.

It also demanded a "10% reduction in

long-standing, ineffective peacekeeping missions."

And it asked to block China from channelling tens of millions of dollars each year to a discretionary fund housed in the office of the UN secretary general, a move aimed at countering Chinese influence at the United Nations.

"These reforms will be an indication that the UN is serious about reform," Devex quoted one of the documents as saying.

The United States withdrew from dozens of UN bodies this year and cut millions of dollars in funding last year.

In January, Guterres warned that the UN faced "imminent financial collapse" due to unpaid fees, mostly owed by the United States. In February, the UN said the United States had paid about \$160 million of the more than \$4 billion it owes.

## 'You'd be speaking French'

King Charles roasts Trump at state dinner after urging US-UK unity in speech to Congress

AGENCIES

King Charles III gave US President Donald Trump a taste of his own medicine at a White House state dinner yesterday when he joked that without the British, Americans would be speaking French.

As the heads of state traded jokes during their dinner toasts, Charles referenced previous comments by Trump aimed at European allies he accuses of freeloading on defense since World War II.

"You recently commented, Mr President, that if it were not for the United States, European countries would be speaking German. Dare I say that, if it wasn't for us, you'd be speaking French," Charles quipped.

The king was talking about places with British and French origins in North America, where the rival colonial powers battled for control of the continent before US



independence 250 years ago.

At the Davos summit in January, Trump said that without US help in World War II, "you'd be speaking German and a little Japanese."

Earlier, King Charles told the US Congress that despite an age of uncertainty and conflict in Europe and the Middle East, the UK and the US will always be staunch allies united in defending democracy, at a time of deep divisions between the

two long-time allies over the war with Iran.

In a speech that Buckingham Palace said beforehand would not be political, Charles also made references to Trump's criticism of Nato, highlighted the importance of continued US help for Ukraine in its war with Russia, the dangers of isolationism, and even a call for the safeguarding of nature, an important issue to the king for most of his life.

Charles referred to the September 11, 2001, attacks, saying, "we answered the call together, as our people have done so for more than a century, shoulder to shoulder through two world wars, the Cold War, Afghanistan and moments that have defined our shared security today. Mr Speaker, that same unyielding resolve is needed for the defense of Ukraine, and her most courageous people."

## Trump to put his picture in US passports

AFP, Washington

An image of Donald Trump will soon appear in some US passports, officials said Tuesday, shattering another norm as the president aggressively puts his personal stamp on government institutions.

There are few precedents anywhere in the world, let alone in a democracy, of displaying sitting leaders' pictures in passports.

The State Department said it would offer the limited-edition passport to mark this year's 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence.

The department -- which has historically viewed itself as outside US partisan politics -- posted on social media a sample of the passport, which features a stern-looking Trump superimposed over the Declaration of July 4, 1776. Trump's signature -- in gold -- lies underneath.

A second limited-edition passport showed a historic painting of the US Founding Fathers.

## Tropical forest loss eases in 2025 from record high

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

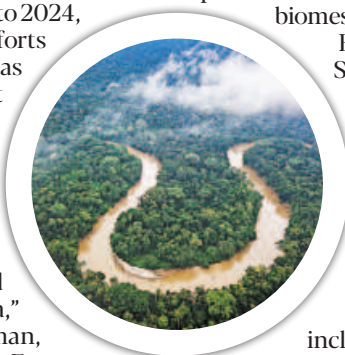
Destruction of the world's tropical forests eased in 2025 from a record high, a report showed yesterday, underscoring how decisive policy can help keep trees standing despite pressures from a warmer climate and expanding agricultural frontiers.

The world lost 4.3 million hectares of pristine tropical forest last year, a 36 percent drop compared to 2024, due largely to Brazil's efforts to curb deforestation as pledged by President Lula da Silva when he took office in 2023.

"It's encouraging, when the problem feels massive, (that) there are real interventions that work out there and we can see it in the data," said Elizabeth Goldman, a co-director of Global Forest Watch, which releases an annual report prepared by the World Resources Institute and the University of Maryland.

Still, Goldman said, countries are deforesting 70 percent more than they should be to meet the global commitment signed by almost all countries in 2023 to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030.

"Achieving this goal in the coming years will not be easy," she said.



Agricultural expansion continued to be the biggest driver of forest loss around the world, driven by farm commodities in nations such as Brazil, Bolivia and Indonesia, and subsistence farming in places such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Long-running policy continued to limit the loss of primary forests in Malaysia and Indonesia, where palm oil plantations have historically pressured biomes.

But President Prabowo Subianto's push to expand a food estate program, which aims to make the country self-sufficient in food production, contributed to an increase in deforestation in Indonesia last year.

Global forest loss, including ecosystems beyond the tropics, fell 14 percent last year. But evidence continued to mount that climate change is increasing pressure on the world's trees.

The trend is most visible in Canada, which had its second-worst fire season on record last year. The amount of boreal forest that burned in the past three years there was about five times the average recorded over the prior 20 years.

**CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF BANGLADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**E/M DIVISION- 3, KURMITOLA, DHAKA.**

File No- 30.31.0000.432.07.001.25/539 Date: 28.04.2026

**e-Tender Notice**

e-tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Sl No	Name of Tender	Tender ID No	Last date & time of selling	Last date & time of closing
01.	Internal Electrification & relocation works of E/M installation (Ceiling fan, Air cooler & PA System) for Temporary Mosque shed at R/A, SAIA, Chattogram.	1255788	13-May-2026 17.00	14-May-2026 12.00

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no office/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP portal is required. The fees, for downloading the tender document from the national e-GP system portal, have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches. Future information and guidelines are available in national e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.৪৩২.০৭.০০১.২৫/৫৩৯  
তারিখ: ২৮/০৪/২০২৬ খ্রি.

*(Md. Al-Mamun)*  
Executive Engineer (E/M)  
E/M Division-3, CAAB, Dhaka.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**  
**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation**  
**Open Tender (International) for Petroleum Products**

1	Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).		
3	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager (Com. & Ops.), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).		
4	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.		
5	Invitation for	Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) and Jet A-1 during "June 1 <sup>st</sup> to August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026".		
6	Invitation Ref. No	28.03.0000.000.045.01.0013.26.		
7	Date	30 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
9	Source of Funds	Own Fund		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
10	Tender Package No.	PG-01 and PG-02		
11	Tender Package Name	PG-01: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) and Jet A-1. PG-02: Invitation for Open Tender (International) for import of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' (50 PPM) and Jet A-1.		
12	Tender Publication Date	30/04/2026		
13	Tender Last Selling Date and time	12/05/2026; 4:00 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
14	Tender Closing Date and time	13/05/2026; 12:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
15	Tender Opening Date and time	Date: 13/05/2026 ; PG-01: 12:45 PM (BST) (GMT+6) PG-02: 01:30 PM (BST) (GMT+6)		
16	Name and Address of the Office(s)			
17	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.		
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	Receiving Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.		
	Opening Tender Document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100.		
18	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting	Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform). 06/05/2026; 12:45 PM (GMT+6)		
19	Tender Validity/ Offer Validity Period	The Offer must be valid till 21/06/2026.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
20	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(i) A maximum of three (03) litigation history against the tenderer(s) over a period of the last three (03) years. (ii) The tenderer(s) must have minimum 3 (Three) years' general experience in the export of petroleum products. (iii) The Tenderer(s) must have specific experience of executing at least 02 (two) contracts with a minimum value of USD 150 Million each in last three years in the supply of goods similar to the proposed goods. (iv) The Tenderer(s) must own refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. The processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 2.25 million metric tons per year. Or, The Tenderer(s) must satisfactorily complete the export of at least 3.75 million Metric tons of petroleum products annually for the last three years. (v) Annual turnover of the Tenderers during last 3(three) years must be equivalent to minimum US\$ 2.25 billion. (vi) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US\$ 1.50 billion. (vii) The Tenderer(s) must be free from any interdictory/embargo/sanction from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (viii) The Tenderer(s) must comply with international safety standard and environment compliances.		
21	Brief Description of Goods	PG-01: The total quantity to be supplied is 2,387-2,909 Million Barrels (320,000-390,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.560-0.720 Million Barrels (70,000-90,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). PG-02: The total quantity to be supplied 2,238-2,536 Million Barrels (300,000-340,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.480-0.640 Million Barrels (60,000-80,000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). Minimum and Maximum range of importable quantity for each package is at Buyer's option.		
22	Tender Document Price	Tender Document Price: BDT 12,000.00 / US\$ 100.00 for each package. Non-Refundable by Cash / Pay Order / Bank Draft drawn in favor of "Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation".		
23	Package No	Identification	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	PG-01 and PG-02	PG-01	USD 1.00 Million	01 <sup>st</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026 (3 Months)
		PG-02	USD 0.70 Million	01 <sup>st</sup> June – 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026 (3 Months)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Zahid Hossain		
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Commercial & Operations), BPC.		
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100, Bangladesh.		
27	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No: +88-02-3333-16121 Mobile: +88 01713755377/+880 1762-921229 Fax No: +88 2333320147 Email: gm_commercial@bpc.gov.bd		

*The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.*

Mohammad Zahid Hossain  
General Manager (Commercial & Operations)  
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)