

A bride and groom ride in a military jeep to a mass wedding ceremony at Imam Hossein Square in Tehran on Monday. Iranian authorities organised the event for couples in a state-sponsored scheme pledging readiness to sacrifice their lives in war against the US and Israel. PHOTO: AFP

Gaza board reports funding 'gap'

Urges quicker disbursement under Trump's rebuilding plan

REUTERS, *Tel Aviv*

The gap between funding pledges and disbursement for Donald Trump's Gaza rebuilding plan must be closed urgently, the US president's "Board of Peace" has said in a report, identifying a potential cash crunch in a plan estimated to cost $70 billion.

Trump set up the Board of Peace to oversee his ambitious plan to end Israel's war in Gaza and rebuild the shattered territory. Trump has said it would also tackle other conflicts.

The UN Security Council has recognised the board, though many major powers have not joined Washington's main Middle Eastern allies and some middling and smaller states in signing up.

Reuters reported in April that the board had only received a small fraction of the $17 billion pledged by members for Gaza, preventing the president from moving ahead with his plan.

The board denied that report, saying in a statement it was an "execution-focused organisation that calls capital as needed" and that there "are no funding constraints." The money is meant to pay for reconstruction and fund the activities of a new US-backed transitional Gaza government.

In a May 15 report to the United Nations Security Council, viewed by Reuters yesterday, the board said that "the gap between commitment and disbursement must be closed with urgency".

It added: "Funds committed but not yet disbursed represent the difference between a framework that exists on paper and one that delivers on the ground for the people of Gaza."

The board called on countries that signed up for Trump's board and others to make contributions without delay.

EBOLA VIRUS

WHO worried at 'scale' of outbreak

AFP, *Kinshasa*

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief yesterday voiced concern about the "scale and speed" of an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo which has killed an estimated 131 people.

The WHO has declared the surge of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever an international health emergency.

No vaccine or therapeutic treatment exists for the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola responsible for the latest outbreak of the disease.

"We have recorded roughly 131 deaths in total and we have around 513 suspected cases," Congolese Health Minister Samuel Roger Kamba said on national television early yesterday.

"At the international level, (we are) looking at what candidate vaccines or treatment are available and if any could be of use in this outbreak," Anne Ancia, WHO's DRC representative, told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Bunia in DRC's Ituri region.

The US bolstered precautions to prevent the spread of Ebola, including screening air travellers from outbreak-hit areas.

Putin heads to Beijing for Xi talks

Two-day trip aims to show China ties unshakeable after Trump visit

AFP, *Beijing*

Russian President Vladimir Putin set off to Beijing yesterday for talks with his Chinese counterpart and his "long-time good friend" Xi Jinping, intending to show their ties are unshakeable days after a visit by Donald Trump.

The confirmation of Putin's trip came just hours after Trump wrapped up his visit on Friday, the first by a US president to China in nearly a decade and one aimed at stabilising their turbulent relations.

Putin and Xi are set to discuss how to "further strengthen" Russia and China's strategic partnership and "exchange views on key international and regional issues", according to a Kremlin statement.

Their ties have deepened since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with Putin visiting Beijing every year since as his country is diplomatically cut off on the world stage.

But the two countries' relationship is far from equal, with Moscow heavily dependent economically on Beijing, the main buyer of sanctioned Russian oil.

Among topics Xi and Putin could discuss is construction of the major "Power of Siberia 2" natural gas pipeline from Russia to China through Mongolia -- a land alternative to crude imported by sea from the Middle East -- which Moscow is keen to get underway.

Setting warm tones for the visit, the two leaders exchanged "congratulatory letters" on Sunday to mark 30 years of their countries' strategic partnership.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun yesterday lauded "the enduring friendship between China and Russia".

And in a video message to the Chinese people released yesterday, Putin said relations have reached "a truly unprecedented level" and that "trade between Russia and China continues to grow".



"The close strategic relationship between Russia and China plays a major, stabilising role globally. Without allying against anyone, we seek peace and universal prosperity," Putin added, without mentioning any third country.

The two leaders are also expected to sign a joint declaration after the talks.

When Putin last visited Beijing in September 2025, Xi welcomed him with open arms as an "old friend" -- language the Chinese leader did not extend to Trump last week.

Jamaat draws up initial structure of shadow cabinet

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Maulana Abdul Halim, assistant secretary general and a member of Jamaat's central executive council, said an announcement in this regard may come before the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The party chief will decide on the date, he added.

The concept of a shadow cabinet originates from the Westminster parliamentary system in the United Kingdom, where it is formally known as the shadow cabinet.

Under the system, the opposition monitors, critiques, and proposes policy alternatives to the government. It is aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in parliamentary democracy. Similar practices exist in other countries, including Australia and Canada.

Like the government's cabinet, the shadow cabinet assigns members to specific portfolios, allowing them to oversee the corresponding ministries. However, it is not mandatory to mirror every ministry; the composition remains a strategic choice for the opposition.

In Bangladesh, the idea of forming a shadow cabinet gained attention soon after the February 12 parliamentary election in which the BNP emerged victorious with 209 seats. The Jamaat-led alliance won 77 seats, of which the Islamist party secured 68 seats alone.

On February 17, the day lawmakers were sworn in, Jamaat Ameer and Leader of the Opposition Shafiqur Rahman posted on the party's verified Facebook page, "As part of efforts to ensure accountability and transparency, we will form a shadow cabinet that will analyse all decisions taken in public interest, challenge them responsibly when needed, and strengthen the overall process."

The BNP welcomed the move.

Speaking in parliament on April 30, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said, "There are two benefits of having a shadow cabinet -- it increases a sense of responsibility and offers the satisfaction of holding ministerial roles, albeit informally ... As counterparts, we will exchange information, maintain communication, and engage in discussions."

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Sabbir Ahmed, a professor of political science at Dhaka University, said, "A shadow cabinet enables constructive engagement, enhances government accountability and makes the opposition's role in parliamentary politics more effective."

But for that, the opposition must have a strong internal unit capable of working consistently on various policy issues. At the same time, the government needs to adopt a cooperative approach, he observed.

"Whenever the government introduces a policy, the opposition can offer a counterproposal, fostering a competitive environment in policymaking that can ultimately improve policy quality."

Political analyst Altaf Parvez said, "If a shadow cabinet functions properly, it can create space for fact-based discussions between relevant ministers and their counterparts.

"At present, much of political discourse revolves around rhetoric or historical debates, while critical contemporary issues -- ranging from agriculture to education to infrastructure -- receive little attention."

A functioning shadow cabinet could bring these sectoral issues to the forefront of politics, making discourse more relevant to people's everyday life, he added.

Trump holds off attack on Iran

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to be "prepared to go forward with a full, large-scale assault of Iran, on a moment's notice, in the event that an acceptable Deal is not reached".

Later, while speaking to reporters at the White House yesterday, Trump said US forces might have to hit Iran again if no deal is reached soon.

"Well, I mean, I'm saying two or three days, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday, something, maybe early next week, a limited period of time, because we can't let them have a new nuclear weapon."

Yesterday, Iran's army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia warned "to open new fronts against" the United States if it resumes attacks on the Islamic republic.

He added that Iran's military had used the ceasefire as an opportunity "to strengthen its combat capabilities", without elaborating.

Qatar, which suffered Tehran's retaliatory strikes following US-Israeli assaults during the war, emphasised that more time was needed for the ongoing Pakistani-mediated efforts to push for Iran-US talks.

"We are supportive of the diplomatic effort by Pakistan that has shown seriousness in bringing parties together and finding a solution, and we do believe it needs more time," Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari said at a press conference.

The spokesperson said communication is "ongoing" between regional leaders and the parties involved in the war.

Since the ceasefire took hold on April 8, Tehran and Washington have held a single round of talks in Pakistan, which failed to culminate in a deal.

Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)
67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

BCPS No. 355/2026/**29803** Date: 19-05-2026

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

FCPS Part-I Examination

Subject	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. Medicine & Allied	02.06.2026 (Tuesday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
1. Anaesthesiology 2. Biochemistry 3. Community Medicine 4. Dental Surgery (Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopaedics and Prosthodontics) 5. Dermatology & Venereology 6. Forensic Medicine 7. Microbiology 8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology & Allied 9. Psychiatry & Allied 10. Radiology & Imaging 11. Radiotherapy	03.06.2026 (Wednesday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
1. Anatomy 2. Family Medicine 3. Haematology 4. Ophthalmology & Allied 5. Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery 6. Paediatrics & Allied 7. Pathology 8. Pharmacology 9. Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 10. Physiology 11. Surgery & Allied 12. Transfusion Medicine	04.06.2026 (Thursday)	9.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

FCPS Mid-Term Examination

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
1. Anaesthesiology 2. Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics 3. Dermatology & Venereology 4. Haematology	Paper – I	15.06.2026 (Monday)	9.00 A.M. to 10.40 A.M.	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
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 – II	16.06.2026 (Tuesday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	

FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS Examinations.

Subject	Paper	Date & Day	Time	Venue
All Subjects	Paper – I	01.07.2026 (Wednesday)	9.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon	BCPS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
	Paper – II	02.07.2026 (Thursday)		

The Admit Card for FCPS Part-I examination will be available through online from 20 May 2026 to 04 June 2026 **(till completion of the FCPS Part-I examination).** Please contact examination department by 23 May 2026 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card.

The Admit Card for FCPS Mid-Term examination will be available through online only from 20 May 2026 to 28 June 2026 **(till completion of the OSCE)**. Please contact examination department by 23 May 2026 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card. Program for OSCE of FCPS Mid-Term examination will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS well in advance. The roll nos. of the examinees and the name of the venue of the OSCE will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before the examination.

The Admit Card for FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS and MCPS examinations will be available through online only from 20 June 2026 to 30 July 2026 **(till completion of the clinical examination)**. Please visit **exams.bcps.edu.bd** and login to the password-protected profile and print the admit card. Please contact examination department by 25 June 2026 if there is any problem related to download of the admit card.

Program for OSCE, IOE, Oral, Clinical & Practical examinations of FCPS (Final), Preliminary FCPS 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 examinations will be notified on the notice board and website of BCPS on the day before examination (after 8.30pm).

Please visit **exams.bcps.edu.bd** and login to the password-protected profile and print the admit card.

The Admit Card for the July 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

- Examinees are requested to report no later than 40 minutes before the scheduled time.
- Bring colour printed admit card, ballpoint pen, 2B pencil and eraser.
- 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 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/legal action will be taken against the candidate.

Professor Md. Billal Alam
Controller of Examination

GD-1163