

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.



A demonstrator kicks a tear gas canister during a march calling for the resignation of Bolivia's President Rodrigo Paz, as the country's economic and fuel crisis worsens due to a shortage of US dollars and falling domestic energy production, in La Paz, Bolivia on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Cuba warns of 'bloodbath' if US takes military action

AFP, *Havana*

Cuba's leader warned Monday of a "bloodbath" in the event of an American attack, while the US Treasury sanctioned Cuba's main intelligence agency and top leaders as tensions spiked between the arch-foes.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel stressed Cuba's right to defend itself a day after US news site Axios reported that Havana had obtained over 300 military drones from Russia and Iran and is mulling using them against US targets.

The report, which quoted US intelligence officials, came amid growing speculation that the United States is weighing military action to topple Cuba's communist government.

Axios quoted unnamed US officials as saying that Havana was considering drone strikes on the US base at Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba, on US military vessels and possibly even Florida.

Writing on X, Diaz-Canel repeated that Cuba "poses no threat" to the United States or any other country and warned that a US attack would "trigger a bloodbath with incalculable consequences."

He did not directly address Cuba's alleged stockpiling of attack drones but said the island had "the absolute and legitimate right to defend itself against a military onslaught."

Five dead in shooting at San Diego mosque

US police probe the attack as hate crime

REUTERS, *San Diego*

Two teenage gunmen opened fire on Monday at the Islamic Center of San Diego, California, killing a security guard and two other men outside the mosque before the suspects were found dead, apparently from self-inflicted gunshot wounds, police said.

San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl said local law enforcement and the FBI were investigating the attack on the largest mosque in San Diego County as a hate crime.

However, no precise motive or precipitating incident for the gun violence has been publicly suggested by authorities.

All of the children attending a day school at the mosque complex were accounted for and safe after the shooting, which erupted at about 11:40 am, officials said.

A short time later, police discovered the bodies of two teenage males, aged 17 and 18, in a vehicle in the middle of a street, dead from apparently self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

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