

Palestinians sift through the rubble at the site of a house targeted in an Israeli airstrike in Al-Zawayda, central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Russia, Ukraine agree to 'energy ceasefire'

Says Trump amid row over diesel deal with Moscow

AFP, *United States*

US President Donald Trump said in a brief statement yesterday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to halt strikes on each other's energy infrastructure.

"Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine. Both parties have agreed. Do not break it!" he wrote on his Truth Social network, without further details.

There was no immediate confirmation from Ukraine or Russia on an agreement, which follows an escalation in deadly attacks in the war.

Earlier yesterday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reiterated his country would be ready to stop hitting Russian oil refineries if Russia curbed its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Zelensky's comment came amid a spat between Trump and the Ukrainian leader, who had denounced a US move to temporarily ease sanctions on Russian diesel.

Meanwhile, two people have been killed in a Ukrainian attack on the Russian-controlled town of Lysychansk in Ukraine's Luhansk region, the RIA Novosti news agency reported, citing the Russian-appointed head of the region, Leonid Pasechnik.

A steep rise in global diesel prices, which followed the outbreak of the Iran war in February, has become a political liability for Trump's Republican Party ahead of next month's midterm elections, when opposition Democrats could gain control of one or both houses of Congress.

"I think it's time for Ukraine to get a new president," Trump told reporters at the White House, saying Zelensky had hurt global diesel supplies with strikes on Russian refineries.

"He wants to make problems for our farmers, our ranchers, with diesel fuel because Russia supplies a large portion of the diesel fuel throughout the world." Earlier in the day, Zelensky said Trump's announcement on Friday of the diesel deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin had emboldened Moscow. Kyiv has instead urged Washington to pressure Moscow for serious negotiations to end the 4-1/2-year-old war.

The Russian government said on Saturday it had partially lifted a ban on diesel exports.

"Today, Russia said thank you for the lifting of sanctions on diesel exports by dropping five glide bombs on residential buildings in Zaporizhzhia," Zelensky said. "Last night provided yet more confirmation that Russia perceives any easing of pressure as a signal that it can supposedly keep fighting, that it can supposedly keep dropping bombs on cities.





KSA has few options as Houthis target its ambitions

INTERNATIONAL DESK

After the deadliest attack in Saudi Arabia in more than a decade, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman faces mounting pressure to stop Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi militia from firing missiles and drones at his country.

Yet the Saudi de facto ruler has few options in an asymmetric conflict with an adversary that has grown stronger since he led a war against it a decade ago, analysts say.

The Houthis have carried out three deadly attacks on Riyadh's international airport over the past week. An apparent missile or drone strike on a passenger terminal on Saturday killed at least 12 people and injured more than 300, many critically, forcing authorities to suspend airport operations, reports AFP.

The attacks have brought Saudi Arabia's long-running war in Yemen home, undermining the sense of security. They have also struck at the heart of Prince Mohammed's ambition to transform the oil-dependent kingdom into a global business and tourism hub, reports The New York Times

A political settlement with the Houthis has become increasingly difficult as their confidence and demands grow. A military victory is also unlikely, analysts say.

"The only realistic solution for the Saudis is an end to the Iranian-American war," said F Gregory Gause, a Saudi specialist at the Middle East Institute. He said Washington would need to secure Iran's commitment to ending Houthi hostilities as part of a broader agreement.

TRUMP COVERAGE

US Justice Dept probes five TV networks

AFP, *Washington*

The US Department of Justice is investigating five television networks after they briefly suspended their pool coverage of President Donald Trump, US media reported on Saturday.

Trump barred CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House last month for distributing what he called "fake news" and "fiction and lies," a decision later reversed by a federal judge.

At the time, the top five US broadcasters halted pool coverage of the White House -- where a broadcaster films on behalf of all television outlets -- for several days in solidarity with CNN.

The pool is a rotating group of journalists that travel with the president and provide coverage to other outlets, due to limited space.

Officials from the Justice Department contacted the networks on Friday and demanded communications and materials related to the White House TV pool, the New York Times reported.

Justice Department spokeswoman Emily Covington told the Washington Post that the five networks -- ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and Fox News -- had "boycotted covering White House events."

"Group boycotts among commercial competitors can violate the Sherman Act," Covington said.

IN BRIEF

109 dead after boat capsizes off Djibouti: UN



AFP, *Geneva*

At least 109 migrants died, including 15 children, and some 116 went missing when a boat sank off the shores of Djibouti overnight on October 8-9, a UN agency said yesterday.

Survivors said the vessel -- which was carrying 350 people from Djibouti to Yemen -- capsized north of the Djibouti town of Obock, according to a statement from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"This is a devastating loss of life. Our thoughts are with the survivors and the families who have lost loved ones or remain without news of their relatives," said Alexandre Coissac, IOM chief of mission in Djibouti, in the statement.

He said IOM teams were on the ground alongside Djiboutian authorities to provide emergency aid.

Lula accuses Meta of polls interference

AFP, *Brasília*

The campaign of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva accused tech giant Meta of election interference on Saturday after his social media content was allegedly blocked on the company's platforms.

The campaign claimed that in recent days, Meta "prevented President Lula's profile from promoting Instagram feed posts," while a post from his official account "experienced an interruption in view counts, which affected its reach."

"Meta's actions constitute an attempt to interfere in Brazilian electoral process to the benefit of Flavio Bolsonaro's candidacy."

"The series of technical issues... raises strong suspicions that Meta's actions constitute an attempt to interfere in the Brazilian electoral process to the benefit of Flavio Bolsonaro's candidacy," the statement added.



LANDSLIDE-FLOOD

Nepal urges villagers to evacuate

REUTERS, *Kathmandu*

Nepali authorities yesterday urged villagers to move to safer places after a flood in a river in the central part of the country swept away several houses and infrastructure, but there were no reports of any casualties.

Two women and three men were out of contact, the national disaster authority said. The army said a further 49 people, including a foreigner, had been rescued. They did not give the person's nationality.

A landslide in Chumnubri village in Gorkha district, about 100 km (62 miles) west of Kathmandu, blocked the Budhi Gandaki River, leading to downstream flooding, authorities said.

The Budhi Gandaki is a tributary of the Trishuli River, downstream from another tributary where a glacier collapse caused a catastrophic flood in August that killed 1,457 people.

Request for Expressions of Interest
for
Selection of Survey Data Quality and Processing Consultant for HIES

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Planning	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Informatics Division	
3	Client Name	Project Director, Statistical Capacity Enhancement and Modernization Project (SCEMP)	
4	Client Code	Not used at present	
5	Client District	Dhaka	
6	**Expression of Interest for Selection of**	**Survey Data Quality and Processing Consultant** for HIES	
7	EOI Ref No	52.01.0000.000.909.07.0028.26.1487	
8	Date	11.10.2026	
9	Method of Selection	SIC	
KEY INFORMATION			
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Source of Funds	Development Budget	
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	IDA	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	Statistical Capacity Enhancement and Modernization Project (SCEMP)	
14	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 27.10.2026	Time: 04.00 pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
15	Brief Description of Assignment	• Real-Time Data Quality Monitoring & Field Assurance • Data Processing, Cleaning, and Benchmarking • Metadata, Documentation, and Release Preparation • Capacity Development and Knowledge Transfer • Coordination and Technical Consultation Detailed description of Assignment is given in the RFA which is available in the web address given below.	
16	Qualification and Experience	**(i) Qualification** The qualification shall be a Master's degree or PhD in Statistics, Economics Econometrics, Development Economics, Agricultural Economics, or a relate quantitative field. **(ii) Experience** • Minimum 7 (seven) years of experience in the design, implementation, and analysis of household surveys including income and consumption surveys, panel surveys or household surveys for impact evaluations, with direct responsibility for data quality and cleaning. Experience with HIES, MICS, SVRS, or comparable national surveys is strongly preferred. • Relevant experience in research, academia, government or semi-government, international organizations, or independent consulting shall be considered on an equivalent basis. • Proficiency in Stata or R; familiarity with CSPro or Survey Solutions. • Demonstrated experience preparing survey metadata and documentation using the DDI standard and IHSN guidance, including anonymized public-use datasets and codebooks. Familiarity with NADA or comparable cataloguing tools is preferred. • Demonstrated ability to directly carry out data processing, cleaning and documentation, and produce reproducible code.	
17	Other Details	The undersigned now invites eligible Applicants to apply for the position. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms) Interested consultants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the Standard Request for Application Forms which may be collected from the office of the undersigned during normal office hours or from the website: www.bbs.gov.bd Expression of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope delivered to the office of the undersigned or to the email address given below clearly marked ***"Expressions of Interest for Selection of Survey Data Quality and Processing Consultant".***	
CLIENT DETAILS			
18	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Mohammad Fazla Azim	
19	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Project Director & Joint Secretary, SCEM Project	
20	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Statistical Capacity Enhancement and Modernization Project (SCEMP), E-27/A, 8th floor, Agargaon, Dhaka – 1207	
21	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Phone: 02-55007041	Email: pd.scemp@bbs.gov.bd
22	The Client reserves the right to reject all EOI's		

11/10/2026
Mohammad Fazla Azim
Project Director, SCEM Project

GD-2475