



Clockwise from left, Supporters of Donald Trump celebrate after the Fox Network called the election in his favour at his rally at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida yesterday. Tearful supporters react to election results during an election night event for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris at Howard University in Washington, DC. People react to early election results during US Presidential Election Night Watch Party, at Manuel's Tavern, in Atlanta, Georgia.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Business-friendly

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Chowdhury is also a director of the Nirapon, which was earlier the North American garment factory inspection and remediation platform Alliance.
Nirapon has been urging the local factory owners to implement a living wage and ensure freedom of association through trade unions.
However, international brands and retailers are reluctant to raise the prices such that the factory owners could pay a living wage to workers.
“When the question of price hike is raised, they [the international clothing retailers and brands] say that they cannot do it as it is a matter of competition.”
Chowdhury gave an example of freedom of association and industrial relations.
“Many years ago, at our Pabna industrial plant, the workers demanded a salary hike and the then chairman of the group Samson H Chowdhury doubled the salary although the workers demanded half of the salary hike. That made the workers very happy. It was possible because of a warm relationship between the workers and owners.”
Similarly, whenever and whatever the workers demanded something, the chairman honoured that.

“People think the majority of businessmen made money in the wrong way – that perception needs to be changed. Businessmen are seen as villains here. It is true that many have done bad things but all are not bad. Few big groups of companies made money through corruption and they did these things in connivance with the government and in public. They do not represent the whole business community.”
But it is also true that many factory owners do not pay their workers on time.
“But they are buying new cars and enjoying the life of luxury.”
About the banking sector, Chowdhury questioned the logic behind having so many banks.
“In which country are there so many banks?”
With the money deposited by poor people, some are claiming themselves to be bank owners.
“Had the government not patronised them, they wouldn’t have had the chance to become such monsters.”
Chowdhury also touched upon the health sector, which is going through a tough time.
“It is difficult to negotiate with the current government as they do not know what is the priority of the government and there is a huge gap between businessmen and the government.”
For instance, the government has been reforming the pharmaceutical industry, which may affect the prices of medicines.
“Many things are being touched in many areas simultaneously. You cannot do reforms in one day – reforms should be made step by step. Why are the people going to private hospitals? The government should realise it. This government did not do anything to revive the government hospitals. The hospital which was supposed to be built with Tk 500 crore was made with Tk 1,000 crore and no doctor could be found in those hospitals. The government should address it.”

Harris calls Trump
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said Trump’s campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung.
Harris was expected to deliver her concession speech at 2300 GMT.
Meanwhile, Democratic US President Joe Biden yesterday called to congratulate Donald Trump on his presidential election victory and invite him to meet at the White House.
The White said Biden will address the nation today.
The White House, in a statement, said Biden also committed “to ensuring a smooth transition and emphasised the importance of working to bring the country together.” Biden has also spoken with Harris, it added.

Trump is back

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But he swept away challengers inside his Republican Party and then beat Democratic candidate Harris by capitalising on voter concerns about high prices and what Trump claimed, without evidence, was a rise in crime due to illegal immigration.
Republicans also won a US Senate majority, but neither party appeared to have an edge in the fight for control of the House of Representatives where Republicans currently hold a narrow majority.
Major stock markets around the world rallied following Trump’s victory, and the dollar was set for its biggest one-day jump since 2020.
Voters identified jobs and the economy as the country’s most pressing problem, according to Reuters/Ipsos opinion polls. Many Americans remained frustrated by higher prices even amid record-high stock markets, fast-growing wages and low unemployment.
With the Biden administration

Don’t indulge in activities disliked by the people

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economic empowerment to ensure the sustainability of democracy, development, and state reforms.
“I call upon the party leaders, activists, supporters, and well-wishers to earn the trust and love of the people, and stay with them.”
The BNP hosted the programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.
Tarique said the BNP would surely emerge victorious if people could exercise their voting rights in a free and fair election.
The BNP leader said the head of the Awami League regime fled the country after rendering all state institutions dysfunctional and making the country dependent on imports. “But people are still bearing the brunt of the consequences of 15 years of misrule.”
Through the defeat of the AL on

Prof Yunus congratulates Trump

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reflects that your leadership and vision have resonated with the people of the United States of America. I am confident that under your stewardship, the United States will thrive and continue to inspire others around the world,” the message read.
Yunus said Bangladesh and the US share a long history of friendship and collaboration across numerous areas of mutual interest, reported BSS.
The relationship continued to grow in depth and breadth during

What second term will mean for US, world

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the permitting process for drilling on federal land and would encourage new natural gas pipelines. He has said he would reauthorize oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.
TAX RELIEF
Along with his trade and energy agendas, Trump has promised to slash federal regulations that he says limit job creation. He has pledged to keep in place a broad 2017 tax cut that he signed while in office, and his economic team has discussed a further round of individual and corporate tax cuts beyond those enacted in his first term.
NO FEDERAL ABORTION BAN
Trump appointed three justices to the US Supreme Court who were part of the majority that did away with Roe v. Wade’s constitutional protection

taking much of the blame, a majority of voters said they trusted Trump more than Harris to address the issues.
Hispanics, traditionally Democratic voters, and lower-income households hit hardest by inflation helped fuel Trump’s election victory. His loyal base of rural, white and non-college educated voters again showed up in force.
World leaders from Europe to Asia congratulated Trump, whose victory will have major implications for US trade and climate change policies, the war in Ukraine, Americans’ taxes and immigration.
Harris fell short in her 15-week sprint as a candidate, failing to galvanise enough support to defeat Trump, who occupied the White House from 2017-21, or to allay voters’ concerns about the economy and immigration.
Harris had warned that Trump wanted unchecked presidential power and posed a danger to democracy.

August 5, it has been proved once again that there is no alternative to a greater unity among Bangladesh’s nationalist forces to safeguard the freedom of the country and its people, the BNP leader said.
He said people expect the government to take effective steps to build a safe and prosperous Bangladesh for the future generations.
The conspiracies by the associates of the Hasina regime have not stopped, and attempts are being made to turn the interim government into a failed one, Tarique said.
He said the AL government made efforts to brand Bangladesh a militant country to cling to power. “The defeated forces of August 5 are once again making sinister attempts to portray Bangladesh as a communal country.”
He urged the pro-Bangladesh forces to stay alert to the conspiracies of the

Trump’s previous term in the office, he said.
The chief adviser said he firmly believes that the possibilities are endless as the two friendly nations work towards exploring newer avenues of partnership.
“... Aligning with our commitment to a peaceful and inclusive society, the government and the peace-loving people of Bangladesh look forward to partner and collaborate in your efforts in addressing the global challenges in the pursuit of peace,

for abortion. He likely would continue to appoint federal judges who would uphold abortion limits.
A PUSH TO END WARS
Trump has been critical of US support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, and has said he could end the war in 24 hours if elected – although he has not said how he would achieve this. He has suggested Ukraine may have to yield some of its territory if a peace deal is to be struck, an idea Ukraine has consistently rejected.
Trump has also said that under his presidency the US would fundamentally rethink “Nato’s purpose and Nato’s mission.”
He has backed Israel in its fight against Hamas in Gaza but has urged it to wrap up its offensive. Trump has said if he becomes president, he will “stop the suffering and destruction in Lebanon,” but has not said how he

Nearly three quarters of voters say American democracy is under threat, according to Edison Research exit polls, underscoring the polarisation in a nation where divisions have only grown starker during a fiercely competitive race.
Trump ran a campaign characterised by apocalyptic language. He called the United States a “garbage can” for immigrants, pledged to save the economy from “obliteration” and cast some rivals as the “enemy within.”
His diatribes were often aimed at migrants, who he said were “poisoning the blood of the country,” or Harris, whom he frequently derided as unintelligent.
Despite legal woes and controversies, Trump is only the second former president to win a second term after leaving the White House. The first was Grover Cleveland, who served two four-year terms in the late 1800s.

defeated forces.
Tarique said three months may not be enough to assess the success and failure of a government.
He said it is crucial to strictly control the prices of essentials, particularly to alleviate the hardships of the farmers, daily wage workers, low-income people, and the lower-middle class families.
He warned that if the government fails to bring commodity prices within the reach of the ordinary people, all its reform efforts would be questionable.
BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the nation was freed from the AL’s fascist rule on August 5 through the student-led mass uprising. “We must now proceed with caution to resist the plots of the fascist forces.”
He urged the interim government to complete state reforms to promptly hold a credible national election.

harmony, stability, and prosperity for all,” Yunus said.
His Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the evening said, “We welcome this [his win]. We hope Bangladesh-US relations will be deepened and relations will reach a new height.”
Responding to a question on Trump’s remarks on Bangladesh recently, Shafiqul said he was probably misinformed, reports UNB.

will achieve that.
INVESTIGATING ENEMIES
Trump has pledged at times to use federal law enforcement agencies to investigate his political foes, including election officials, lawyers and party donors.
Along that line, Trump has said he will consider appointing a special prosecutor to probe Biden, though he has not specified the grounds for such an investigation.
PURGING THE BUREAUCRACY
Trump would seek to decimate what he terms the “deep state” – career federal employees he says are clandestinely pursuing their own agendas – through an executive order that would reclassify thousands of workers to enable them to be fired. That would likely be challenged in court.

Allow Maulana Saad to attend Ijtema

Demands faction of Tablighi Jamaat loyal to the Indian scholar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Tablighi Jamaat loyal to Maulana Saad Kandhalvi yesterday demanded that the Indian scholar be allowed to attend the upcoming Biswa Ijtema and lead the first phase of the annual congregation.
The demand came in response to a nine-point demand issued by Ulama Mashayekh Bangladesh at the capital’s Suhrawardy Udyan on Tuesday, calling for a ban on Maulana Saad and his followers at Bishwa Ijtema.
Ulama Mashayekh Bangladesh is reportedly aligned with Zubair ul Hassan, another Indian Islamic scholar and the fourth amir of Tablighi Jamaat in India.
In a press conference, the pro-Saad group also proposed an open debate involving Islamic scholars to address “confusion” and “misinformation” allegedly propagated by the rival Zubair faction.
Azim Uddin, the khatib of Kakrail Mosque and a supporter of Maulana Saad, said their group was operating under the banner “Dawat and Tablighi’s Ulama and General Members,” which is apolitical and follows peaceful principles.
Azim Uddin accused the Zubair faction of “influencing scholars and using madrasa students to create discord,” which he claimed undermines religious harmony.
He also criticised the Zubair faction’s gathering at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, alleging that “false and misleading statements” were made, leading to public confusion. According to Azim, the pro-Saad group had called for unity on November 3, but “provocations from the Zubair faction” have fueled division within the Tablighi Jamaat.

TIB expresses concern over press freedom

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ensure media freedom and protect it from external influences, the assault on media and journalists is continuing, he added.
“TIB notes with deep concern that various self-interested groups are intensifying attacks on certain media organisations, engaging in slander, threats, and intimidation.
“It appears that attempts are being made to suppress the media, harass journalists, or manipulate coverage whenever it challenges the interests of powerful factions. Such incidents serve as a troubling signal for the future of a free press in Bangladesh,” Iftekharuzzaman said.
He questioned if the media’s freedom amount to a hollow assurance. He said the attacks reflect negatively on the “new Bangladesh.”
“Arbitrary threats, attacks, sieges, and, in certain instances, trivial lawsuits designed to resolve personal disputes or the complete revocation of accreditation cards are unmistakable indicators of an anti-people authoritarian regime.”
He said efforts to regulate the media, and echoing the practices of the fallen authoritarian regime contradict the ethos of free thought and the anti-discrimination principles that characterise the “new Bangladesh.”

Dhaka needs

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in 2016, we saw how he shifted the focus on domestic issues, including the anti-immigrant legislations and withdrawal from international agencies. Now that he won by a bigger margin, he’s likely to do the same again,” said Munshi Faiz Ahmad, former ambassador and chairman of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.
He said the Biden administration has been providing full support to Bangladesh’s interim government in carrying out reforms, development activities and climate change adaptation, and also for the Rohingyas.
“I think these will slow down. We’ll need to be proactive to pursue these in the future,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh’s export to the US is over \$10 billion a year and an estimated 5 lakh Bangladeshis live in the North American country. They are a top source of foreign remittance flow to Bangladesh.
Prof Amena Mohsin, of Dhaka University’s international relations, said Trump is anti-immigrant and there is a possibility he will be strict on immigrants’ family reunion scheme.
“He also spoke of imposing tax on remittance that Americans sent to their countries of origin. This will have negative impacts on countries like Bangladesh.”

The Biden administration had been focused on democratic values and human rights. Sanctions on Rab and announcement of visa restrictions were part of it. After the fall of the Awami League regime, Washington has been fully supporting the reform initiatives in Dhaka. At the same time, Bangladesh-India relations have somewhat strained since Hasina’s taking shelter in India.
“The fact is that Narendra Modi has a personal friendship with Donald Trump, [and so,] Modi will try to influence the US on its Bangladesh policy,” Amena added.
Though Munshi Faiz too said this was a possibility, he added that Trump might not change the US policy on Bangladesh as it is working to make significant reforms in its institutions.
Both analysts said Bangladesh is

“The suppression of dissent and the insecurity experienced by the media will inevitably lead to the resurgence of authoritarianism.”
Iftekharuzzaman said, “TIB thinks that journalists accused of specific criminal acts or those actively involved in the past authoritarian regime should be thoroughly probed. However, incidents such as arbitrary cases against journalists labelling them as the associates of the fallen authoritarian government; the cancellation of permanent and temporary press accreditation cards given by the Press Information Department, threats, and dismissals do not convey any positive message regarding media freedom in the country.
“Rather, they serve the interests of those who follow the perilous theory that dissent is the friend of tyranny.”
The TIB does not believe that any journalist should be penalised for engaging in journalism, he said.
The graft watchdog urged the interim government to act swiftly and forcefully to establish a fearless atmosphere for independent journalists. “If not, there is a serious chance that media freedom may turn into an empty promise.”
The TIB also urged journalists and the media to maintain ethical journalistic standards and prevent the abuse of their authority.

strategically important for the US, and it was during Trump’s previous tenure when the US designed the Indo-Pacific Strategy, which experts say, is aimed at countering China.
“Trump will continue its anti-China policy including through tariffs and other measures,” said Munshi Faiz.
The trade with Bangladesh is not likely to be affected, the analysts said, adding that the GSP facility that was suspended by the US in 2013 may be reinstated if Trump, who is more focused on trade and commerce, finds it economy-wise more beneficial for the US as it is likely to reduce imports from China.

During his election campaign, Donald Trump spoke of ending the Russia-Ukraine war.
“He may start negotiating with both Ukraine and Russia for ceasefire. In that case, the economic shockwaves caused by the war may be eased. This will have positive impacts on the global economy, including that of Bangladesh,” Munshi said.
Amena, however, thinks the European NATO allies will not want a ceasefire with Russia holding vast swathes of Ukrainian territories. “So, we need to wait to see what comes.”
Both the analysts said Trump, who was behind the Abraham Accord during his previous term to ease relations between Israel and Arab Muslim countries, will possibly not be able to facilitate any ceasefire between Israel and Hamas or Hezbollah.
“The Palestinians will not accept any ceasefire with the Israeli forces occupying large part of Gaza,” said Amena.
She said she is worried over Trump’s relations with the authoritarian regimes.
“When a president of the US takes nationalistic, racist and authoritarian policy, it is not a good sign for the world.
“It’s important for Bangladesh to diversify its trade, strengthen its capacity, train its people and explore markets in various parts of the world ... We have to be more pragmatic and proactive in terms of trade, economy and diplomacy.”