

Trump pushes
US claims to
Greenland
Territory's leaders
lambast US
delegation trip

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump on Monday doubled down on his suggestion that the US should take over Greenland as leaders from the semi-autonomous Danish territory criticized a planned trip there this week by a high-profile US delegation.

"I think Greenland is going to be something that maybe is in our future," Trump told reporters after a meeting with officials in his cabinet, saying it was important for US national security.

Greenland's outgoing Prime Minister Mute Egede called plans by the US delegation to visit an American military base and attend



a dog sled race a "provocation", and said his caretaker government would not meet with the group.

Trump said his administration was working with "people in Greenland" who want something to happen, but did not elaborate.

"They're calling us," he said. "We're not calling them."

The US visit, which runs from Thursday to Saturday, will be led by Usha Vance, wife of Vice President JD Vance, and include White House National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and Energy Secretary Chris Wright.

Trump has made US annexation of Greenland a major talking point since his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, paid a private visit to the vast, mineral-rich island in January.

"Such interference is a breach of our democratic principles and shows a lack of respect for our self-determination," Egede told local broadcaster KNR, adding Greenland's allies needed to be more forceful in their statements.

A legacy of art and activism

FROM PAGE 1
Sanjida's name was synonymous with Chhayanaut. Her death comes just weeks before her 92nd birthday and this year's Pahela Baishak celebrations. With her presence at Chhayanaut's Pahela Baishak celebrations and countless cultural programmes over the decades, she became a symbol of resilience and inspiration.

Even in the most turbulent times of Bangladesh's history, she ensured that Chhayanaut remained a sanctuary for artistic expression.

All her life, this remarkable cultural personality stood against injustice and spoke out during times of national crisis. As a student of Dhaka University, she became actively involved in the 1952 Language Movement and later in the 1971 Liberation War.

Sanjida Khatun began her professional career as a teacher. After her postgrad, she taught at Eden College, Carmichael College, and Dhaka University's Bangla department before retiring.

Sanjida was born on April 4, 1933. Her father,

National Professor Kazi Motahar Hossain, was a renowned academic and her mother, Sajeda Khatun, was a homemaker. Growing up in an environment steeped in literature, music, and progressive thought, she developed a deep connection with Bangalee culture from a young age.

She completed her undergraduate degree in Bangla Language and Literature at Dhaka University in 1954 before pursuing a master's degree at Visva-Bharati University in India.

In 1978, she earned a PhD from the same institution, advancing her status as a scholar in Bangla art and culture.

While academics was only one aspect of her illustrious life, music was her soul's calling. A disciple of legendary musicians such as Sohrab Hossain, Shailajaran Majumdar, Abdul Ahad, Kamika Bandyopadhyay, and Nilima Sen, she mastered Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, and Bangla folk music.

Her passion led her to

co-found Chhayanaut in the early 1960s, an institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Bangalee music and cultural traditions.

During the 1971 Liberation War, she played a crucial role in forming Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha, using music as a tool of resistance against oppression. Throughout her life, she remained steadfast in her belief that culture was not merely an aesthetic pursuit but a medium for social change.

Honoured with numerous accolades, she received the Ekushey Padak, one of Bangladesh's highest civilian awards, for her outstanding contributions to music and culture. In 2021, her influence crossed borders as she was awarded India's Padma Shri, the country's fourth-highest civilian honour.

Yet, beyond the accolades and recognition, Sanjida Khatun was, at her core, a devoted teacher and mentor. She believed in nurturing young talent and ensuring that future generations carried forward the rich legacy

of Bangalee music and culture. "The joy of this movement exceeded all the demands of life," she once said about her work at Chhayanaut. "I am blessed and content with this simple life."

As the nation bids farewell to this luminary, her voice may have fallen silent, but her influence continues to resonate. Her work, her teachings, and her unwavering belief in the power of culture will live on in the hearts of those she inspired.

Today, as admirers gather to honour her memory, they will not only be saying goodbye to a beloved cultural icon but also celebrating a life that enriched the very soul of a nation.

"Ninety years of my life have passed, and today, I am thinking about what I wanted to achieve and how it actually went, and I am blessed and content with this simple life," she shared across a houseful auditorium of Chhayanaut on her 90th birthday in 2023.

Two years later, the nation mourns her passing, but her legacy remains untouched.



Rescuers and volunteers evacuate a wounded person from an apartment building damaged during a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Sumy, Ukraine. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 23

Military expands evacuation orders to tens of thousands of residents

REUTERS, Gaza

Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip killed at least 23 Palestinians yesterday, local health officials said, as the Israeli military expanded evacuation orders to tens of thousands of residents across the enclave.

The Israeli military resumed its campaign against Hamas in Gaza a week ago, shattering a two-month ceasefire. Since then, 792 people, mostly women and children, have been killed, Palestinian health officials said.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million population has already been displaced by the fighting multiple times during nearly 18 months of offensive and is facing worsening shortages of food and water after Israel suspended aid deliveries earlier this month.

Yesterday, the Israeli army told residents in all northern border towns to evacuate, saying Palestinian rockets had been fired at Israel from the area.

The affected towns include Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Shejaia in Gaza City. Orders were also issued for areas in Khan Younis and Rafah in the south.

"For your safety, you must move immediately south to known shelters,"

Al Jazeera journalist killed in Israeli attack on Gaza

792 Palestinians have been killed since last week

the military said in its orders to residents in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's historic refugee camps.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in the Gaza Strip, reports Reuters.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said

the renewed offensive aimed to pressure Hamas into releasing the remaining 59 hostages it is holding in Gaza. About 24 of them are believed to be still alive.

Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli drone strike on Monday afternoon killed Hussam Shabat, who was working with Al Jazeera, near a petrol station in Beit Lahia, reports AFP.

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for the agency, said air strikes had targeted more than 10 cars, including Shabat's, in various parts of Gaza.

According to the US-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Israel's military in October accused Shabat and five other Palestinian journalists of being militants, which he denied.

The civil defence agency said a media worker from Islamic Jihad affiliated Palestine Today TV, Muhammad Mansour, was killed in a separate air strike in Gaza's south.

TRUMP OIL TARIFF THREAT China slams US 'interference' in Venezuela

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday accused the United States of "interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs" after President Donald Trump announced 25 percent tariffs on imports from countries that bought oil and gas from the South American nation.

On Monday, Trump said the new levy, effective from April 2, would apply to all goods entering the United States from countries that buy Venezuelan oil. China is the largest importer of Venezuelan oil, while other buyers include India, Spain, and the United States itself.

Voices of 1971 collaborators

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Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, auditorium.

"I don't want to name anyone or create bitterness. History is history. No one can distort it."

"We can clearly understand the intentions of those who go on an election campaign with a fleet of 100 cars."

"That is why, from our party, we have responded to each of their questions related to reform proposals. We have provided complete answers to every single one. We have clearly stated which ones we agree with and which ones we do not."

Fakhru said that there is no alternative to elections because through the polls they must move towards democracy. That is the gateway to democracy.

"But today a new conspiracy has started so that this process can be made longer or delayed..."

Fakhru said that several so-called leaders have emerged on social media.

"I don't know where they want to take Bangladesh. Their language, words, sentences, and statements want to take Bangladesh towards anarchy. They don't want to move it towards democracy. So, we must be careful."

The BNP leader said that now a crisis has arisen again in the country.

"... Attempts continue to make our patriotic army controversial, which we cannot accept at all. We can never allow those who protect our country, those who stand by us in the time of crisis, to be controversial."

