



For decades, our country has been looted, pillaged, raped and plundered by nations near and far, both friend and foe alike.

Donald Trump
US president

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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US tariff storm bears down on Bangladesh

The country's exports to US face a 37% levy, one of the harshest rates

- ➔ The penalties unleashed turbulence across world markets
- ➔ Condemnation from countries facing the end of an era of trade liberalisation

HOW TRUMP SLAP STARIFFS ON ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIES



"The immediate priority is damage control, as the reciprocal tariffs are already in effect, with no time allowed for a smooth transition."

Zahid Hussain, ex-lead economist of World Bank's Dhaka office.



How are Trump tariffs calculated?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As US President Donald Trump yesterday unfurled his list of tariffs targeting most of America's trading partners, he repeatedly stressed that each nation's rate was reciprocal.

But he said little about the methodology behind those calculations.

A possible answer emerged later. Each

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YUNUS-MODI MEET

Restoring mutual trust key objective

The two to sit together today

PORIMOL PALMA and JAGARAN CHAKMA

Restoring confidence in Dhaka-Delhi ties will be the key objective of the meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bangkok today, diplomatic sources said.

According to an official involved in the chief adviser's visit to Thailand, the meeting is set to begin at 12:15pm local time and will last for approximately 20 to 25 minutes following the BIMSTEC summit.

When asked about the agenda, the official said that while all aspects of the bilateral relationship would be discussed, the primary focus would be on rebuilding trust and strengthening mutual confidence.

It will be the first one-on-one meeting between the two leaders since the political changeover in Bangladesh last year.



Prof Yunus, Narendra Modi at BIMSTEC leaders' dinner.

They met each other, along with other BIMSTEC leaders, at a dinner hosted by Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra last evening.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain met Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar twice -- once in New York in September last year and in February in Oman this year.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US President Donald Trump yesterday stood in the White House Rose Garden, pointing to an oversized placard with details of levies he is set to impose on imports from America's trading partners. The reality quickly set in: Trump dramatically ratcheted up his trade war. And Bangladesh is among those countries whose labour-intensive export industries will receive a heavy blow.

Under Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" policy, Bangladeshi exports to the United States now face a 37 percent levy -- a move that threatens to strain trade with its largest single-country export market.

Trump has targeted nations, accusing them of putting disproportionate barriers to American exports. He imposed 10 percent universal tariffs on all US trade partners as well as additional, heavier duties on 60 countries he deemed the "worst offenders" of unfair trade practices. The universal tariffs will start on Saturday before the country-specific, higher reciprocal tariff takes effect from April 9.

The penalties unleashed turbulence across world markets and drew condemnation from many countries facing the end of an era of trade liberalisation that has shaped the global order for decades.

While significant for Bangladesh, this move aligns with similarly stringent



tariffs across the region, suggesting a broader strategic intent rather than targeting Bangladesh alone.

Notably, Vietnam, a close competitor for Bangladesh in the international

MORE ON STAR BUSINESS SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

RMG EXPORTS TO US Competitors' lower tariff worrying

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The US's reciprocal tariff announcement will most definitely impact Bangladesh as its nearest competitors in apparel supply to the American market are facing lower tariffs, said exporters and economists yesterday.

Apparel accounts for 90 percent of Bangladesh's exports to the US, where it is the third-largest supplier behind China and Vietnam.

As per the new schedule, Bangladesh will face a 37 percent tariff, China 65 percent and Vietnam 46 percent.

However, India and Pakistan, not China and Vietnam, are Bangladesh's main competitors in apparel supply to the US, said AK Azad, chairman

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"The consequences [of US tariffs] will be dire for millions of people around the globe."

Ursula von der Leyen
president of the European Commission



BIMSTEC SUMMIT 2025

Economists optimistic about the outcomes

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of seven countries surrounding the Bay of Bengal will be meeting in Bangkok today with the hope of reinvigorating regional cooperation in a largely fragmented world faced with a trade war and a breakdown of multilateralism.

Economists and foreign relations analysts are optimistic about the outcomes of the sixth summit of the BIMSTEC leaders, where for the first time, some important decisions will be taken that can lead to substantial progress in trade and the economy.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers, including Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, at the pre-summit meeting in Bangkok yesterday, signed an agreement on maritime transport cooperation, marking a significant

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Tariff issue will be resolved through talks

Yunus hopes

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has expressed strong hope that there will be positive progress in resolving the tariff issue through talks with the US government.

"We are studying it. Since it is negotiable, we will negotiate, and I am sure we can craft out the best deal," said the Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, quoting Prof Yunus.

Talking to BSS in Bangkok about the 37 percent tariff imposed by the US on Bangladeshi products, Shafiqul Alam said, "The whole issue is still at the early stages of discussion. We are reviewing it and we are hopeful that the steps we are taking will help make our relations with the US stronger in the coming days."

He said the interim government hopes that it will be able to move towards a solution that would be a win-win situation for both countries.

"We will do something that will protect the interests of both the US and Bangladesh," the press secretary said, adding that Bangladesh continues to communicate with the US to this end.

In the morning, Shafiqul said Bangladesh is reviewing its tariffs on products imported from the United States.

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Buses stopping haphazardly in the middle of the Chittagong Road near Kanchpur Bridge to pick up and drop off passengers, creating the risk of gridlocks and accidents. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

CTG-COX'S BAZAR HIGHWAY Finally patched after spate of fatal crashes

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Following three major accidents at the same location between Monday and Wednesday, authorities in Chattogram's Lohagara sub-district have implemented urgent measures to prevent further incidents on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway.



The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is currently widening the narrow two-lane road by two feet on both sides and has installed rumble strips along the accident-prone stretch in the Jangalia area, said to Pintu Chakma, executive engineer of RHD's Chattogram South division.

"Officials are also considering the installation of mirrors at turning points to improve visibility for drivers," he said.

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