"China played it wrong, they panicked -- the one thing they cannot afford to do!"
US President **Donald Trump** on China's reciprocal tariff

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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXV NO. 78 | CHAITRA 22, 1431 BS | www.thedailystar.net | SHAWWAL 6, 1446 HIJRI | 16 PAGES: TK 15.00

YUNUS-MODI TALKS IN BANGKOK

Dhaka, Delhi to take ties on the right track

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a thawing of relations, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting yesterday, seeking to work together and set the relations on the right track.

"Bangladesh deeply values its relationship with India," Prof Yunus told PM Modi during the 40-minute meeting, according to a statement from the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

At the much-awaited meeting on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok, both of them expressed their commitment to maintain a good relationship and spoke of concerns over political and security matters.

"The deep-rooted friendship between our two countries is founded on intertwined histories, geographical proximity, and cultural affinity. We remain thankful for the unwavering support of the government and people of India during our most challenging time in 1971," Prof Yunus was quoted as saying.

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- Yunus says Bangladesh deeply values its relationship with India
- Modi reiterates India's support for a democratic, stable, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh
- Yunus enquires about the status of extradition of Sheikh Hasina who is making inflammatory remarks from India
- Modi says India does not support any particular party in Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold a meeting at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit yesterday.
PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

China retaliates over Trump tariffs

Stocks, oil plunge again amid fears of trade war, global recession

AGENCIES

China announced 34 percent tariffs on US imports yesterday, the first major economy to fire back against President Donald Trump's new levies in an escalating global trade war that sent markets deep into the red.

consumer electronics.

Asian and European stock markets added to their losses after a bloodbath on Thursday that sent New York's broad-based S&P 500 index down 4.8 percent, its biggest drop since the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

- China imposes additional 34% tariffs on all US goods effective April 10
- Imposes export curbs on some rare earths effective April 4
- Global brokerages raise recession odds; JP Morgan sees 60% chance

Countries and companies alike weighed their options, and the EU readied for talks with US officials. Potential responses could include retaliatory tariffs or other measures that could escalate a trade war that has raised fears of recession.

China -- one of the United States's top trading partners -- was first, announcing that tariffs of 34 percent on all American imports would come into effect from April 10 and saying it would file a suit at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the tariffs.

It also said it would impose export controls on a number of rare earth elements used in medical technology and

In Europe, Frankfurt sank by five percent after midday on Friday while Paris shed more than four percent and London was down almost 3.8 percent.

Tokyo's Nikkei index closed 2.8 percent lower, with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba describing Trump's tariffs as a "national crisis".

Trump goaded a "panicked" China after china retaliated with additional tariffs.

"China played it wrong, they panicked -- the one thing they cannot afford to do!" Trump posted on Truth Social, writing the message in his trademark all-caps.

On Thursday, Trump dismissed the

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Exports to US face stiff challenges

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's garment industry, already under consistent pricing pressure from global clothing retailers and brands, now faces a fresh challenge due to new reciprocal tariff measures implemented by the Trump administration.

These tariffs that also target other major suppliers, such as China and Vietnam, are likely to provide international buyers with additional leverage to further suppress prices paid to Bangladeshi exporters.

Historically, international retailers and brands have paid lower prices for garments produced in Bangladesh compared to those made in countries like China and Vietnam.

For example, a T-shirt that fetches $10 when manufactured in Vietnam or China often earns only $6 to $7 when sourced from Bangladesh. This disparity is often justified by buyers citing various perceived inefficiencies and risks in the Bangladeshi supply chain -- ranging from delayed shipments and long lead times to poor port and logistics infrastructure, weak customs management, and a generally unfavourable image of the country and its garment sector.

These challenges -- combined with intense price competition among local suppliers -- have kept average unit prices low for Bangladeshi apparel, even as global demand remains robust. Now, the new US tariff policies may serve as yet another pretext for international buyers to seek additional discounts or impose price reductions.

Ironically, the relatively lower tariff burden on Bangladeshi garments compared to those from China and Vietnam could offer a competitive edge. In the American market, these two major suppliers are now facing higher tariffs, which may create an opportunity for Bangladeshi exporters to expand market share -- albeit potentially at the cost of even lower unit prices.

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ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Yunus calls for visible actions from BIMSTEC

Myanmar says 1.80 lakh identified for return

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called on BIMSTEC member states to take steps to promote dialogue between conflicting parties in Myanmar and restore stability in its Rakhine State to facilitate the long-overdue repatriation of Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh.

"The protracted Rohingya crisis, if left unresolved, has the potential to create instability in the whole region," Yunus said while addressing the 6th BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok.

Bangladesh shelters 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of whom fled the military crackdown in Rakhine State in 2017. After the military takeover in 2021, Myanmar witnessed a civil war, with the armed group Arakan Army in Rakhine eventually taking control of about 90 percent of Rakhine State.

Not a single Rohingya could be repatriated to Myanmar despite several attempts over the last eight years. Instead, about 100,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since July last year as the conflicts between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military junta led to a further displacement of hundreds of thousands of people in the state.

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Former and current students of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts have prepared an array of vibrant masks for Mangal Shobhajatra, one of the key events in Pahela Baishakh celebrations. The photo was taken yesterday.
PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Entire family perishes in Ctg crash

Death toll now 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

All five members of a family have died in the road crash that occurred in Lohagara, Chattogram on Wednesday.

Tasnia Islam Prema, 18, the last remaining member of the family, passed away at Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Harun-ur-Rashid, in-charge of the ICU at the hospital, said Prema was put on life support after she was brought to the hospital, but her condition deteriorated. She was critically injured.

Her parents and two sisters had died soon after the crash on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar

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