



Trump was the first and so far, I think, the only one among Western leaders who repeatedly, with conviction, ... stated that it was a huge mistake to pull Ukraine into Nato.
Sergei Lavrov
Russian foreign minister

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Try Israel for genocide

Colossal Dhaka rally for Gaza urges international community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mammoth rally in the capital yesterday protested the Israeli atrocities in Gaza and called for the recognition of Palestine as a state and Israel's trial for genocide.

A declaration from the event titled the March for Gaza urged countries around the world to sever all types of agreements and ties with Israel.

Organised by a platform named Palestine Solidarity Movement, Bangladesh, the rally was attended by a massive number of people including leaders of major political parties, Islamic groups and scholars and people from a cross-section of the society.

Asking for immediate global action, Mahmudur Rahman, editor of the daily Amar Desh, read out the declaration at the rally in the Suhrawardy Udyan. "We believe Palestine is not merely a territory, it is part of the identity of the Muslim Ummah. And Gaza is not just a war-torn city. It is a painful reflection of our collective failure," reads the declaration.

The rally was a powerful display of solidarity and unity, with a gigantic Palestinian tricolour taking the centre stage at the venue.

People had started to gather at the venue from the morning. By noon, the entire 95 acre Suhrawardy Udyan was teeming with people, many of whom wore the iconic chequered kelfiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian identity and resistance immortalised by Yasser Arafat.

They pledged unwavering support for the cause as the Palestinian tricolour and the Bangladeshi Red and Green fluttered side by side, creating a striking visual of camaraderie.

Tens of thousands chanted "Naraye Takbir, Allahu Akbar", "Free, Free Palestine", and the resonant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free".

The crowd also raised their voices against atrocities with slogans like "One, two, three, four, genocide no more."



Tens of thousands of people gather in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan as part of the 'March for Gaza' programme yesterday to express solidarity with the Palestinians and to demand action against Israeli atrocities.

PHOTO: STAR

The people pledged unwavering support for the cause as the Palestinian tricolour and the Bangladeshi Red and Green fluttered side by side, creating a striking visual of camaraderie.



The venue was adorned with colourful banners and festoons, each carrying messages of hope, resistance, and solidarity.

As the crowd swelled beyond capacity, the organisers had to make an announcement to halt further processions into the Suhrawardy Udyan.

But by then, the rally had gathered an unstoppable momentum and people kept joining it—many climbed trees to catch a glimpse of the stage, refusing to miss out on this historic moment.

As the event drew to a close, thousands who couldn't find space at the venue began to disperse.

Police said that although it was a weekend, the demonstration impacted traffic on almost all major roads in the capital, leading to severe congestion in many areas.

Some streets, however, remained relatively empty.

The rally, moderated by Maulana Abdul Hye Mohammad Saifullah, began around 3:15pm with recitation from the Holy Quran, followed by the screening of a documentary on atrocities of Israel.

BNP Standing Committee Member Salah Uddin Ahmed, Senior Joint Secretary General Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar, Naye-e-Ameer of Islami Andolan Bangladesh Syed Faizul Karim, Islami Oikya Jote Secretary General Mawlana Sakawat Hossain Raji, Ameer of Khelafat Majlish

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PRICE WAR IN THE GARMENT SECTOR

Exporters fear a race to the bottom

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh's \$40 billion garment industry, the lifeblood of its economy, faces further uneven price competition as a US-led tariff war threatens to reshape global apparel trade flows. With China, Vietnam and Cambodia vying for market share in Europe and beyond, Bangladeshi exporters fear a race to the bottom on prices—one they may not win.

If the tariff is not reduced during the 90-day reprieve announced by US President Donald Trump, American buyers are likely to push Bangladeshi suppliers for even lower prices to make up for the extra cost of clearing goods through customs.

Bangladesh also faces competition from its South Asian neighbours, India and Pakistan, both of which enjoy lower duty rates and are therefore positioned to supply at more competitive prices, putting further pressure on Bangladesh. Then there are Egypt and Kenya, two emerging suppliers that face lower tariffs on garment exports to the US than Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, heavily penalised China, facing tariffs as high as 145 percent, is expected to redirect excess capacity to alternative markets such as the EU and Japan. Vietnam may follow a similar path. This diversion is likely to intensify competition in Europe and Asia, driving down prices and further eroding Bangladesh's market

share and profit margins in those regions.

The tariff-induced strain may ripple through the value chain. US consumers could face price hikes on apparel, potentially dampening demand and triggering a slowdown that would directly affect suppliers in Bangladesh.

Historically, international retailers and brands have paid lower prices for Bangladeshi garments — offering \$6-\$7 for a T-shirt that would command \$10 if made in China or Vietnam.

Bangladesh currently ranks as the second-largest garment exporter to Europe. In terms of volume, it has surpassed China as the EU's largest supplier, shipping nearly \$25 billion worth of garments a year. However, this leadership position is at risk as global brands intensify pressure for price reductions amid the ongoing trade conflict.

Historically, international retailers and brands have paid lower prices for Bangladeshi garments — offering \$6-\$7 for a T-shirt that would command \$10 if made in China or

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Accelerate reforms for holding polls by June 2026

Yunus urges consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday told the National Consensus Commission to expedite the reform initiatives with the goal of holding the national election between December and June 2026.

Yunus, also chairman of the commission, made the call during a meeting with the commission's Vice-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz and member Badiul Alam Majumdar at his official residence, Jamuna, in the afternoon.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser (Consensus Building) Monir Haider was also present, said Chief Adviser's Press Wing in a release.

During the meeting, Prof Ali Riaz and Badiul Alam Majumdar apprised Yunus of the progress of the commission's activities.

They informed him that separate discussions with political parties were ongoing about the recommendations of various reform commissions.

As of yesterday, discussions with eight parties have been completed.

A meeting with the BNP is scheduled for Thursday, they told the chief adviser.

They further said that various programmes have been undertaken to assess public opinion on reforms and raise awareness on the matter.



CCTV shows man torching 'portrait of fascism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police believe the fire that burnt the "Portrait of Fascism" motif for Anondo Shobhajatra at Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts was "a deliberate act". A young man in black T-shirt, brown pants, and sandals, his hair tied in a bun, was seen setting fire to the motif early in the morning yesterday, police said.

Another motif, the "Dove of Peace", was also partially burnt in the fire.

After reviewing CCTV footage, police and university authorities said the youth entered and exited the premises by climbing the central gate between 4:44am and 4:46am before heading towards the Chhobir Haat gate of Suhrawardy Udyan.

DU Proctor Associate Prof Saifuddin Ahmed said the suspect first poured a liquid—presumably flammable—and then moved out of the camera's view behind a curtain. "The footage then showed flames. He likely tested it with a lighter," the proctor added.

SN Md Nazrul Islam, additional commissioner (Crime and Operations) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "The fire was no accident. We're certain it was deliberate."

When asked about the suspect's identity, he said it was too early to name anyone in particular. Police would collect

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Influential individuals use excavators to illegally extract soil from the dried-up bed of the Bonshai river in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail, raising the risk of erosion that could endanger a nearby bridge and surrounding villages. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

JULY ATROCITIES

No arrest without evidence or prior permission

DMP orders cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police officers must obtain approval from higher authorities before arresting any accused in cases filed over the killings and other atrocities during the mass uprising, according to an official order of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Additionally, police must have evidence to justify such arrests, said the order issued on April 9.

"In most of the cases, [filed after the uprising] a large number of individuals have been accused. Before arresting anyone named in the FIR [First Information Report] or identified during investigation, investigators must present credible evidence, such as statements from victims, eyewitness testimony, relevant video/audio footage or photographs, or call records or CDRs," reads the order.

Contacted, DMP Joint Commissioner Faruk Hossain said, "We received some complaints that people who had no involvement in the crimes were being harassed in these cases."

Moreover, some of the FIRs have major flaws, he said.

Under normal circumstances, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3