

Act fast before 'brief' 90-day tariff pause ends

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The foreign secretary said the government was considering several measures to address the bilateral trade gap with the US.

He said Bangladesh is actively engaging stakeholders to find ways to navigate the new situation for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Jashim Uddin reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to improving labour standards and highlighted the reform initiatives undertaken by the interim government's 11 reform commissions.

The US delegation reiterated the US administration's support in this regard.

The foreign secretary also requested the US to reconsider recent USAID funding cuts, particularly in the health and agriculture sectors, and sought support for Bangladesh's inclusion in the US Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

The US said authorisation from Congress is required for the DFC matter.

Jashim Uddin thanked the US for its continued support for the Rohingyas and stressed the need for repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar.

He also highlighted the new influx of Rohingyas due to the ongoing conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State and sought US support and partnership in the upcoming conference on Rohingyas to be held in New York.

The US side appreciated Bangladesh's hosting of over a million Rohingyas and assured that it would remain engaged in the process.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing a strong commitment to further advancing the Bangladesh-US partnership in the days ahead.

Solving expats'

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He said with just 50 officials at a mission there, how can they possibly address the problems of around 10 lakh people? "So, we have to start from Dhaka to minimise the problems."

However, he urged mission officials to recognise that most expatriates visit missions not by choice, but out of necessity. "While a few may cause trouble, the majority seek help in dire situations," he said, calling on staff to serve them with full dedication.

While mission officials may face challenges, the hardships of expatriates are often far greater, he said.

Efforts are underway to increase staffing, particularly at consulate general offices, he added.

Polytechnic students

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Another central representative, Zubayer Patowari, said, "We do not want to cause suffering to people through our protest. We want to contribute to developing our country. But the government should address our problems."

The protesters said they would hold a meeting with senior students in Gazipur today to decide the next course of action.

Apart from the capital, polytechnic students brought out similar protests in Jhenidah, Lakshmpur, Khulna, Barishal, Rangpur, and other parts of the country.

The students organised the protest rallies expressing dissatisfaction over

the outcome of a meeting with the education ministry officials held at the Secretariat on Thursday.

Following the meeting, student representatives said they did not receive any official documents or see any concrete initiatives from the ministry, prompting them to agree to release fresh programmes.

Their six point demand includes the removal of "controversial craft instructors" appointed after 2021, conversion of the diploma engineering programme into a full four-year course with six-month-long semesters, and ensuring that only diploma holders can apply for the post of deputy assistant engineer (Grade 10) and equivalent positions.

India reacts to Shafiqul

FROM PAGE 12

India has been flagging its concerns over alleged attacks on minorities in Bangladesh after last year's political changeover. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the issue during his first bilateral meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in Bangkok earlier this month.

Bangladesh has maintained that the incidents were not communal, but political.

Meanwhile, deadly clashes erupted in Murshidabad earlier this week amid ongoing protests in different parts of India against the amendment to a law on Waqf properties, which are Muslim-donated lands. Opposition

parties and Muslim outfits have voiced concern over its implications for minority rights and religious freedom.

The Indian media published reports on a government probe that suggested involvement of "Bangladeshi miscreants" in the violence in Murshidabad.

During a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy on Thursday, Shafiqul protested any attempts to implicate Bangladesh in the communal violence in Murshidabad.

"We urge the Government of India and West Bengal to take all steps to fully protect the minority Muslim population," he added.

Bangladesh tops sea arrivals

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workers, said, "The brokers now use social media and encrypted messaging apps to recruit. These migrants are promised jobs in Europe but end up trapped in Libya for months -- sometimes even years."

Once at sea, their journey remains fraught with danger. Overcrowded boats, engine failures, and the lack of life-saving equipment often lead to mass drownings.

Although no major incidents involving Bangladeshi migrants have been reported so far in 2025, rights groups fear the risks remain high.

Despite these dangers, the number of Bangladeshi making this journey continues to rise, said Shakirul.

He urged the government to step up awareness campaigns in high-migration districts like Madaripur, Cumilla, and Brahmanbaria, and to take stronger legal action against trafficking networks operating within Bangladesh.

"As no traffickers have been brought to justice, the network is operating more actively."

Shariful Hasan, associate director of the BRAC Migration Programme and Youth Platform, pointed to the limited scope of safe, regular migration pathways, inadequate reintegration programmes for

returnees, and a persistent culture of migration idealism.

"The solution lies in education, skill-building, and economic opportunity at home -- not just arrests and deportations. Until we give youth a reason to stay, they'll keep risking everything for a future that often doesn't exist."

"This is not a dream journey; it's a death journey. Around 93 percent of these migrants end up trapped in detention camps in Libya -- some lose their lives, and others' families must pay ransoms of up to Tk 30 lakh."

Shariful noted that they have identified three main regions -- Madaripur, Sylhet, and surrounding districts of Dhaka -- from where many are making this dangerous journey.

"It is heartbreaking that most of the migrants and their families are aware of the brutal conditions they'll face in Libya -- detention, abuse, extortion -- yet they still go, hoping Italy will be different," he said.

Shariful stressed the need for awareness among family members and called for both national and international joint operations to arrest trafficking network members.

"This route is not only being used by desperate people from Syria and Libya, but also by human traffickers exploiting it for illegal migration."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর

ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টার, বিবাসার মোড়

ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া

স্মারক নং-ম.বি.অ.দিবাঃ ত্রাক্ষণ-৪৭-২৫

তারিখঃ ০৮/২০২৫খ্রঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরাধীন ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া জেলা ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টারের শিশুদের জন্য মাসিক ভিত্তিতে একটানা ১২ (বার) মাসের জন্য (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যৱৃত্তি) খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে নিম্নলিখিতভাবে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১। প্রকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সরবরাহকারী, যাদের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ ইনকাম ট্যাক্স ও ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যৱৃক্ত স্বচ্ছতার সনদ এবং খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহের ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

২। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক বা সোনালী ব্যাংক সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশশ) টাকা ১-৩০২১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-১৪২৩০২৮, কোডে দরপত্র দাখিল কৃত অফেরত্যোগ্য জমা দিয়ে চালানের মূলকপি প্রদর্শনপূর্বক ফটোকপি জমা দেয়া সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র সিডিউল নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় থেকে গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

৩। খাদ্য সামগ্রী বিস্তারিত বিবরণ ও শর্তবন্ধী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

৪। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের প্রক্রিয়া তারিখ ২১/০৮/২০২৫ইং তারিখ হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।

৫। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ২৪/০৮/২০২৫ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

৬। দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে জামানত বাবদ সর্বমোট প্রাক্তনিত মূল্যের ৩% হিসাবে আন্দোলন পে-অর্ডার (ফেরত্যোগ্য) যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টার, মিজান টাওয়ার, ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া অনুরূপে জমা দিতে হবে।

৭। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ২৮/০৮/২০২৫ইং বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় উপ-পরিচালক, মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া (দরপত্রাধাৰা অথবা তাদের মনোনীত প্রতিনিধি যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উপস্থিতিতে খোলা হবে।

৮। দরপত্রের সিডিউলের সাথে জামানত বাবদ সর্বমোট প্রাক্তনিত মূল্যের ৩% হিসাবে আন্দোলন পে-অর্ডার (ফেরত্যোগ্য) যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টার, মিজান টাওয়ার, ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া অনুরূপে জমা দিতে হবে।

৯। কোন কারণ দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

স্বাঃ
নিরুপা তৌমিৰক
উপ-পরিচালক (অং দাঃ)
ও
সদস্য সচিব (দরপত্র আহবানক কমিটি)
মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর
ডে-কেয়ার সেন্টার
ত্রাক্ষণবাড়িয়া

Israel hits

FROM PAGE 12

Last month, the Israeli military broke off a two-month truce that had largely halted fighting in Gaza and has since pushed in from the north and south, seizing almost a third of the enclave as it seeks to pressure Hamas into agreeing to release hostages and disarm.

The military said troops were operating in the Shabura and Tel Al-Sultan areas near the southern city of Rafah, as well as in northern Gaza, where it has taken control of large areas east of Gaza City.

Egyptian mediators have been trying to revive the January ceasefire deal, which broke down when Israel resumed airstrikes and sent ground troops back into Gaza, but there has been little sign that the two sides have moved closer on fundamental issues.

On Thursday, Khalil Al-Hayya, Hamas' Gaza chief, said the movement was willing to swap all remaining 59 hostages for Palestinians jailed in Israel in return for an end to the war and reconstruction of Gaza.

Pakistan, however, will have to provide a formal apology and Bangladesh's share of the assets of undivided Pakistan

if it really wants stronger ties.

"I don't understand why Pakistan should not provide these. It is also a matter of its reputation," said Prof Imtiaz, who had also headed the Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University.

He believes Bangladesh has been "soft" in seeking just \$4.52 billion.

"With inflation, the amount of 1971 could be much higher. We are not asking for that."

Also, there are examples of apology. Japan apologised to South Korea for sexual slavery committed by its military against "comfort women" during WWII, Prof Imtiaz said.

Former ambassador M Humayun Kabir said there is a lot of pain and trauma among Bangladeshis for the tragic events of 1971. "An apology from Pakistan can heal it, to some extent," he said.

Many Pakistani academics and media also think that Pakistan should offer a formal apology to Bangladesh, he said.

Asked if warming up Bangladesh's relations with Pakistan would affect its relations with India, Humayun said this should not be an issue because Bangladesh can and should choose how it will deal with other countries.

"Our focus should now be on trade and economy, not security," he said.

"We should do what we need to do for our national interests, not anything else."

The Dhaka-Islamabad relationship soured after Pakistan condemned the execution of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah in 2013 for crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, the then interior minister of Pakistan, expressed sadness that Quader Mollah was executed for his "loyalty towards Pakistan".

The renewed efforts to improve the relationship were taken after last year's

A positive move

FROM PAGE 1

During the talks, Bangladesh demanded a formal apology for the genocide committed against the Bangladeshis by the Pakistani military in 1971.

It also demanded payment of \$4.52 billion in financial claims covering its share of undivided Pakistan's pre-1971 assets, and repatriation of more than 3 lakh Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh.

These historical demands form the crux of Bangladesh's position, reiterated by academics and analysts alike.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, executive director of the Centre for Alternatives and former teacher of international relations at Dhaka University, said that Bangladesh has been forthcoming in resolving the issues of the stranded Pakistanis by issuing citizenship to those who wanted.

Pakistan can also be a gateway to Central Asia for Bangladesh, he told The Daily Star.

Since taking charge in August last year, Chief Adviser Yunus has been pushing to revive the South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which remains dormant due to India-Pakistan rivalries.

Prof Imtiaz said instead of blaming India and Pakistan, the other SAARC members need to start working on certain aspects, including trade and tourism.

For example, they can start a common visa regime. If one has a Nepalese visa