

# INTERNATIONAL

## Trump pushes for fair trade deal with China

REUTERS, Aboard Air Force One

US President Donald Trump on Sunday said the US was meeting with many countries, including China, on trade deals, and his main priority with China was to secure a fair trade deal.

Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he had no plans to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, but US officials were speaking with Chinese officials about a variety of different things.

Asked if any trade agreements would be announced this week, Trump said that could "very well be" but gave no details.

He suggested that he did not expect to reach an agreement with some countries, but could instead be "setting a certain tariff" for those trading partners in the next two to three weeks.

It was not immediately clear if he was referring to the reciprocal tariffs announced on April 2, which are due to kick in on July 8 after a 90-day pause.

Trump repeated his claim that China had been "ripping us for many years" on global trade.

## Risks multiply in any potential Indo-Pak conflict

Say experts as both nations upgraded their military capabilities since the neighbours clashed in 2019

REUTERS, Islamabad/New Delhi

India and Pakistan have significantly upgraded their military capabilities since the nuclear-armed neighbours clashed in 2019, posing increased risks of escalation even in a limited conflict, former military officers and experts say.

Pakistan says India plans a military incursion after New Delhi blamed Islamabad for a deadly attack on domestic tourists in Indian Kashmir last month. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to punish the backers of the attack "beyond their imagination".

Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack but has warned it will hit back if it is targeted.

In 2019, India carried out air strikes inside Pakistan after the bombing of an Indian military convoy in Kashmir and said it destroyed "terrorist camps". Pakistani jets conducted a retaliatory air strike and shot down an Indian aircraft during actions spread over two days.

The neighbours have fought



three wars - in 1948, 1965 and 1971 - and clashed countless times since gaining independence, mostly over the Kashmir region which both claim. Both acquired nuclear weapons in the 1990s and Kashmir is considered one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world.

Military experts say neither side will consider nuclear weapons unless pushed to the wall, but even a limited conflict would carry high risks of escalation.

They say such a conflict is likely to involve aircraft, missiles or

drones, where India and Pakistan are considered closely matched, although India's far greater resources would come into play over a longer period.

"Decision makers in both states now have a higher risk appetite for conflict initiation and escalation than prior to 2019," said Frank O'Donnell, a non-resident fellow at the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a think-tank in Washington, as they had managed then to clash without nuclear weapons being used.

"But without a clear mutual sense of the precise actions, that could trigger inadvertent escalation," he added.

Both sides have acquired new military hardware since 2019, opening up new conventional strike options.

"Each side will think they are in a better position than last time," said Muhammad Faisal, a South Asia security researcher based at the University of Technology, Sydney. "It is only when we see actual combat that we will find out."



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French President  
EMMANUEL MACRON  
says as Trump battles universities



Activists and members of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, a Kashmiri refugee organisation, shout slogans beside burning tires during an anti-India protest in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Hefazat seeks withdrawal of all 322 cases against it

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all cases, only 16 have so far been withdrawn in Dhaka.

"These cases include charges of terrorism, sabotage, obstruction of government work, and murder," he noted.

"This is deeply regrettable. We are stakeholders in the anti-fascism movement. In this struggle, 84 of our brothers sacrificed their lives. A massacre was carried out against us at Shapla Chhatar, yet the government has taken no meaningful steps to address our grievances.

"The cases must be withdrawn through mutual understanding. If not, and if public anger erupts, it could lead to disastrous consequences for both the country and the government."

Twelve years back, on May 5, 2013, the incident led to widespread clashes across the capital and in several districts, including Narayanganj, Bagerhat, and Brahmanbaria.

Five days after the incident, the then government, in a press

note on May 10, said that a total of 11 people, including three pedestrians and a policeman, were killed on the day at different stages of clashes.

The human rights organisation Odhikar reported that 61 Hefazat members were killed in the law enforcement operation at Shapla Chhatar.

Following the 2013 incident, the ousted Awami League-led government filed 83 cases in Dhaka and seven other districts. Police have so far submitted charge sheets in 21 of those cases and final probe reports in two.

Investigations into most of the remaining 60 cases are still ongoing.

In the 2021 unrest, violence spread beyond the capital to districts including Brahmanbaria, Hathazari in Chattogram, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, and Kishoreganj.

Meanwhile, on August 18 last year, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 33 others were accused of "mass killing" in a case filed over the Shapla Chhatar incident.

Two days later, on August 20, a complaint was filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal over the same incident, accusing Hasina and 23 others of committing crimes against humanity and genocide.

## Bangladeshi man killed

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A follow-up meeting was scheduled for last night or this morning. However, it was not held till the filing of the report at around 9:00pm, he added.

According to the BGB official, BSF reportedly fired at the two near the border at night. Sakib collapsed after getting shot, and locals first took him to Cumilla, where doctors referred him to Dhaka for treatment. However, he died on the way.

The injured Indian national, identified as Sujon Barman, 35, from Tripura's Agartala, was receiving treatment at a hospital in Dhaka last night. BGB officials went to the hospital and detained him. Sujon was receiving treatment under their custody, said Lt Col Ziaur.

He was detained on charges of trespassing and handed over to Hatirjheel Police Station by the BGB, Ziaur said.

Quoting Bayek Union Parishad Chairman Mohammad Billal Hossain, Kasba Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Samiul Islam said Sakib and Sujon had gone to the border late at night to smuggle a motorcycle into Bangladesh.

BSF personnel patrolling the area reportedly opened fire on them during the attempt, he said.

Sakib's body has been handed over to his family, OC Abdul Kader said.



**Institute of Health Economics  
University of Dhaka  
Executive Master in Health Economics (EMHE)**



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- Total seats: 40
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- Last date of submission of application form is 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.
- Written exam will be held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2025 From 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Viva Voce will be held on the same day from 1:30 p.m.
- The application fee is BDT 1,500 to be paid at the time of application form submission

For detail information please visit IHE Website: <https://du.ac.bd/programDetails/IHE/449>

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আই এস পি আর/৪৫

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