



Bangladesh gains edge after US tariff cut

Trump admin has reduced tariffs on Bangladeshi goods from 35% to 20%, a move expected to strengthen the country's competitiveness against rivals such as India and Vietnam



A decisive diplomatic victory: CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday congratulated tariff negotiators for securing a landmark trade deal with the United States, calling it "a decisive diplomatic victory."

"By reducing the tariff to 20 percent, 17 percentage points lower than anticipated, our negotiators have shown exceptional strategic

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Parties split over making July Charter legally binding

MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission has finalised the agreed-upon reform proposals for inclusion in the July Charter, but parties remain split over whether to make the document legally binding for ensuring its implementation.

Some parties are calling for the charter to give a legal basis while others believe that the consensus it represents overrides legal formalities, making its implementation a moral and political obligation for any future government.

The BNP and its allies, including Jatiyatabadi Samamana Jote, the 12-Party Alliance, the National Democratic Movement (NDM), and the Labour Party, oppose giving the charter legal status.

Speaking to reporters, BNP Standing

Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We are committing to implement this charter based on the sovereign authority of the people. There is no greater national consensus than this. It is above the law."

He said that the charter includes a proposal to implement reforms within two years of forming a new government, a timeline the BNP supports.

"The charter will not only be signed by the commission but by all political parties. It reflects the people's will and may be added to the constitution's fourth schedule," he said.

"We will grant it constitutional and state recognition. If this isn't legally binding, what is?"

In contrast, the Jamaat-e-Islami, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TARIFF NEGOTIATION TIMELINE

APRIL 2: Trump imposes 37% additional tariff on Bangladesh

APRIL 7: Chief adviser sends letter to Trump for 3 months' extension; commerce adviser writes to USTR

APRIL 9: The US announces a 90-day pause with a 10% baseline tariff

JUNE 27: First round of negotiations opens

JULY 7: Tariff on Bangladesh's exports reduced to 35%

JULY 9-11: Second round of negotiations held

JULY 29-31: Final round of negotiations

JULY 31: Tariff on Bangladesh reduced to 20%

AUG 7: New tariff rate to be effective

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Trump administration has lowered its reciprocal tariff on Bangladeshi goods to 20 percent from 35 percent, strengthening the country's competitive standing in the US market amid intensifying regional competition.

Effective from August 7, the revision is a major win for Bangladesh's garment industry, which has long struggled to stay competitive.

With this move, Bangladeshi exporters are now well placed

to increase their share of the US apparel market as they enjoy a clear advantage over regional peers in India, Vietnam, and China.

India faces a 25 percent rate and risks further penalties due to its energy and defence purchases from Russia.

Although Bangladesh's effective tariff will reach 36 percent after adding existing duties to the 20 percent benchmark, its core exports -- formal shirts, knitted polo shirts, trousers, underwear, and sweaters -- face below-average duties. These

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Breathing room for exporters, but concerns persist

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The 20 percent US tariff on Bangladesh's exports offers an opportunity for the country to diversify its export markets, said industry insiders yesterday.

They believe that the revised rate would enable them to compete with countries like Vietnam, a close rival in the American market.

Some exporters, however, have

voiced concern.

The reactions come as the US slashed its tariff rate on goods from Bangladesh from the previous 35 percent, after a final round of intense negotiations followed high-level discussions between Bangladeshi officials and the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Washington.

Exporters were deeply concerned

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Relief in SE Asia over Trump tariffs

REUTERS, Bangkok

Southeast Asian countries breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after the US announced tariffs on their exports that were far lower than threatened and levelled the playing field with a rate of about 19 percent across the region's biggest economies.

US President Donald Trump's global tariffs offensive has shaken

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We will grant it constitutional and state recognition. If this isn't legally binding, what is?

Salahuddin Ahmed, BNP Standing Committee member



If there's no legal backing, signing or not signing will both be meaningless. The reform process would remain incomplete.

Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, Jamaat nayeb e-ameer



If implementation is delayed or left to a future government, it could result in uncertainty and crisis.

Akhter Hossen, NCP member secretary



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