



South Korean protesters hold signs reading ‘Trump, apologize!’ during an anti-US rally near the US Embassy in Seoul yesterday, denouncing the detention of South Korean workers following a US immigration raid in Georgia.

Patience has run out with Putin

Says Trump as Kremlin declares ‘pause’ in Russia-Ukraine peace talks

US President Donald Trump yesterday said his patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin was running out, as the Kremlin announced a “pause” in peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.

“It’s sort of running out and running out fast,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News’ “Fox and Friends” program.

Pushing for a deal to end the fighting, Trump has engaged in a flurry of diplomacy -- including hosting Russian counterpart



AFP, in a briefing call.

“You can’t wear rose-tinted glasses and expect that the negotiation process will yield immediate results,” he added.

Meanwhile, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk yesterday dismissed Trump’s suggestion that a Russian drone raid into Polish airspace could have been a mistake.

“We would also wish that the drone attack on Poland was a mistake. But it wasn’t. And we know it,” Tusk said on X.

In a separate development, Russia and its key ally Belarus began major joint military drills early yesterday, putting Nato on edge days after Poland accused Moscow of escalating tensions by firing attack drones through its airspace.

The “Zapad” exercises come as Russian forces grind across the sprawling front line in Ukraine and

escalate aerial attacks on Ukrainian cities.

The Russian defence ministry posted a video showing heavy military equipment -- including armoured vehicles, helicopters and navy ships -- taking part in the drills.

Russia also accused Ukraine of launching an attack drone at a nuclear power plant, as Moscow said it downed more than 200 Ukrainian drones in one of Kyiv’s largest overnight attacks.

Ukraine has for months launched retaliatory drone strikes against Russian energy sites, calling them a fair response to Moscow’s own barrages on its cities and power grid.

Russia’s nuclear power agency Rosatom said one had targeted the Smolensk nuclear power plant, around 300 kilometres (186 miles) west of Moscow.

Rights deteriorated in N Korea

UN warns, citing ‘suffering, repression, increased fear’

AFP, Geneva

The human rights situation in North Korea has deteriorated, the UN warned yesterday in a report describing a decade of “suffering, repression, and increased fear.”

The UN first published a scathing report against North Korea in 2014 detailing a wide array of crimes against humanity, likened by the inquiry

chairman to those of the Nazis, South African apartheid, and the Khmer Rouge.

Information gathered since then by the UN human rights commissioner’s office shows that the situation has not improved and “in many instances has degraded,” with increased government overreach.

“No other population is under such restrictions in today’s world,” concluded the report, which is based

on hundreds of interviews.

North Korea, ruled with an iron fist for seven decades by the Kim dynasty, maintains very tight control over its population.

“If the DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea) continues on its current trajectory, the population will be subjected to more suffering, brutal repression and fear,” warned UN rights chief Volker Türk in a statement.

BNP ready to sign; Jamaat, NCP hesitant

FROM PAGE 12

The Jamaat and NCP also held separate meetings yesterday to review the document.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad said the party was still discussing the matter and would decide after internal consultations.

NCP Joint Convener Javed Rasin said if the commission handed i m p l e m e n t a t i o n responsibility to the government, it would push the issue to the next parliament or into uncertainty. “In that case, the party would decide in its forum whether to sign or not,” he said.

Islami Andolan’s presidium member Ashraf Ali Akon said their leaders were on organisational

tours and could not yet evaluate the charter. They would only sign if assured of a legal framework during the interim government, he added.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) is also undecided. General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said CPB would not sign if the final text retains a clause preventing signatory parties from challenging the document in court.

Gono Odhikar Parishad, meanwhile, is dissatisfied that the 2018 quota reform movement was not explicitly recognised in the charter. Although the final draft mentions the broader movement, Office Secretary Shakil Uzzaman said the party is still considering its position.

B a n g l a d e s h e r Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) has raised objections on state principles and women’s representation in parliament, and will not sign unless these matters are addressed, party sources said.

On the other hand, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) has decided to sign and will send Vice President Tania Rob’s name to the commission, General Secretary Shahid Uddin Mahmud Swapan confirmed.

On Thursday night, commission members met at Jamuna with chair and Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. Sources said although its tenure was scheduled to end on September 15, it may be extended to September 30.

Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz told this newspaper that progress had already been made on implementing some charter provisions, especially those not tied to constitutional changes. He said parties agreed the interim government could carry out reforms through ordinances and executive orders, and some have already been enacted.

“R e g a r d i n g constitutional reforms, a few are fundamental to governance and structural change, and these need to be prioritised,” Riaz said. “Many have been agreed upon by all parties. Others should be implemented to ensure a ‘new Bangladesh’.



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Application Deadline: September 21, 2025