

Star BUSINESS



Businesses urge review of US trade deal after court ruling



Abdur Razzaque

Reciprocal tariffs struck down: Why Bangladesh must reassess US trade deal

ABDUR RAZZAQUE

From a legal standpoint, the US Supreme Court's ruling leaves limited room for ambiguity. The practical implications, however, remain uncertain, not least because the President Donald Trump administration's response is still unclear.

ANALYSIS

The reciprocal tariffs in question were introduced under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), yet the Supreme Court determined that the statute does not authorise measures of unbounded scope, magnitude, and duration, particularly given Congress's constitutional primacy in tariff-setting.

Yet the policy environment does not become calmer as a result. It becomes murkier. The reason is simple: the ruling

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List includes managing high inflation, weak tax collection, rising debt

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AHSAN HABIB

Bangladesh has entered a new political chapter. The interim government has stepped down, and with it, Salehuddin Ahmed as finance adviser. But on his way out, Ahmed left behind a detailed successor note for the new Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury of the BNP-led government, outlining 20 priority tasks he believes deserve

urgent attention.

The gesture reflects just how much unfinished business remains. The new government inherits an economy under considerable stress. Inflation remains stubbornly high, the debt burden is rising, the banking sector is still fragile, and the tax system needs continued deep reforms. The question now is where to begin.

Ahmed's note offers a starting point--inflation.

Bangladesh's overall inflation has

stayed above 9 percent since March 2023, and while it has eased slightly in recent months, the annual average stood at 8.58 percent in January, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Ahmed calls for tightly coordinated fiscal and monetary policy, better market monitoring, easing supply-side bottlenecks, and more careful management of essential imports.

Close behind inflation is tax reform.

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Apr 2: US announces 37% tariff on Bangladesh's exports	Apr 7: CA appeals for an extension; letter sent to USTR	Apr 9: US grants 90-day pause, sets 10% baseline tariff	Jun 27: Negotiations begin
Jul 7: Tariff on Bangladesh's exports cut to 35%	Jul 29-31: Final round of talks held	Jul 31: Tariff on Bangladesh's exports reduced to 20%	Aug 7: New rate takes effect

2026

Feb 9: Bangladesh-US sign reciprocal trade deal ➤ Tariff on Bangladesh's exports cut to 19%	Feb 20: US Supreme Court strikes down Trump's entire reciprocal tariff
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JAGARAN CHAKMA

Local business leaders have urged the government to review the country's reciprocal trade agreement with the United States after the US Supreme Court on Friday ruled that Trump's sweeping emergency tariffs are illegal.

The trade deal, signed on February 9

by the interim government, had already been facing criticism. Businesses and economists argued that Bangladesh conceded too much in return for a reduction of the reciprocal tariff to 19 percent.

Besides, the deal was signed just two days before the national election, prompting questions over whether such a commitment should have been left to an elected government.

The court ruling has now complicated matters for countries that have already signed deals with the US.

By invalidating parts of the tariff regime and prompting President

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