



### US-IRAN DIALOGUE

Negotiations in Islamabad failed to reach a deal as both parties remained firm on their stances.

### IRAN'S POSITION

Blamed US for "unreasonable demands" and insisted on recognition of Iran's rights and interests. Tehran wants control of the Strait of Hormuz, payment of war reparations and a ceasefire across the region, including in Lebanon.

### US POSITION

Iran must commit not to develop nuclear weapons or related tools. Washington presented what it called a "final and best offer." Trump downplayed the need for a deal, saying the US had already "won."

## Trump orders blockade of Hormuz as talks falter

### US vows to intercept ships, destroy mines; Iran threatens to trap enemies in 'deadly vortex'

#### AGENCIES

President Donald Trump said yesterday the US Navy would immediately start blockading the Strait of Hormuz, raising the stakes after marathon talks with Iran mediated by Pakistan failed to reach a deal to end the war, jeopardising a fragile two-week ceasefire.

In response, Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned they have traffic in the strategic waterway under full control and would trap any enemy who tries to challenge it "in a deadly vortex in the Strait if it makes the wrong move".

Each side had earlier blamed the other for the failure of talks to end six weeks of fighting that has killed thousands, roiled the global economy

and sent oil prices soaring. The talks, after a ceasefire earlier in the week, were the first direct US-Iranian meeting in more than a decade and the highest-level discussions since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In a lengthy declaration on his social media platform, Trump said that his eventual goal was to clear the strait of mines and reopen it to all shipping, but that in the meantime Iran must not be allowed to profit from its control of the waterway.

Iran has itself been restricting traffic through the strait -- a key route for shipments of oil, gas and fertiliser from the Gulf to the world market -- while allowing vessels deemed to be working

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## Armed forces must remain apolitical

### Says Tarique, vows tech-driven overhaul

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday said the armed forces do not belong to any individual, family, or political party, stressing that their duty must be anchored in loyalty to the constitution and the trust of the people.

Addressing armed forces members at a darbar at the Senapangan Auditorium in Dhaka Cantonment,

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## Govt to 'make all ordinances valid'

### Say ministers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday assured that apart from a few exceptions, all activities of the interim government, led by Prof Muhammad Yunus, will be granted validity.

Briefing journalists at the Secretariat, Salahuddin said this validity will be carried out under the Fourth Schedule of the constitution, which deals with transitional and temporary provisions.

"As the Fourth Schedule of the constitution validates all activities of the past interim government, except a few, then it will become legitimate," he said, speaking about parliament's handling of 133 ordinances issued by the interim government.

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman and Chief Whip Nurul Islam Moni also attended the briefing. Both ministers said ordinances not ratified by parliament will be reintroduced later with further review to make them more efficient.

The law minister explained that of the 133 ordinances placed, 97 were ratified into law without changes, 13 were amended

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ASHA BHOSLE (1933-2026)

## Golden voice goes silent

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Asha Bhosle, whose legendary voice flowed through love, longing, rebellion, and joy for nearly eight decades, passed away yesterday. She was 92.

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## JULY UPRISING CASE Ex-Speaker freed on bail



COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday walked out of jail, five days after she landed there in an attempted murder case linked to the July uprising.

Kawalin Nahar, senior superintendent of Kashimpur Female's Central Jail in Gazipur, told The Daily Star that Shirin Sharmin was released at 6:28pm.

Earlier in the day, Dhaka Additional Chief

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## Rivals stab teen gang leader to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was killed in broad daylight in a clash between two rival groups over territorial dominance in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area yesterday afternoon, painting a grim picture of the persistent violence linked to juvenile gangs in the locality.

The incident took place around 4:30pm along the embankment road in the Rayerbazar Boddhobhumi area under Mohammadpur Police Station, said Abdullah Al Mamun, assistant commissioner (Mohammadpur Zone).

CCTV footage of the incident shows five to six individuals chasing a group of three, with both sides carrying weapons, in a chaotic scene unfolding in the open.

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O&A LEVEL AWARDS

Saluting the Nation Builders of Tomorrow

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026  
Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center  
Dhaka Bypass Expressway, Sector 4, Purbachal.

\*Participation is by invitation only.

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