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## RMG SHIPMENTS

# At the mercy of highway robbers

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Readymade garment manufacturer A Plus Sweater Ltd had sent an RMG consignment to Chattogram Port from its Gazipur factory on eight covered vans on October 29 last year for shipment to Brazil.

Sweaters packed into 898 cartons reached Chattogram the following day. The buyer-nominated freight forwarder, APL, a foreign shipping line, received the consignment worth over \$1.25 lakh and shipped it to Brazil.

The buyer, one of Brazil's leading brands Mirsa, made the payment in full after the vessel carrying the consignment sailed off from the port, said M Tamiz Uddin Bhuiyan Salim, managing director of A Plus Group.

But a chill ran down Tamiz's spine after he received videos from the Brazilian buyer on January 6 soon after the consignment was received in the South American country.

"The videos showed some cartons were completely empty boxes while a good number of goods were missing from many others. I was dumbfounded," Tamiz told The Daily Star recently.

Law enforcers are conducting an investigation into the theft to ascertain when and where the incident occurred.

This is just one example of the growing theft of RMG products on their way to Chattogram Port. It is causing significant financial losses to exporters, and also putting them at risk of losing buyers' trust, and orders.

The stealing continues as some decisions taken in a meeting in July 2021 to stop theft are yet to be implemented. The home minister, top law enforcement officials, and BKMEA and BKMEA leaders took part in the meeting.

The decisions included tracking covered vans, screening the identities of drivers and their helpers who allegedly maintain links with the theft gangs, and installation of CCTV cameras at various places on highways leading to Chattogram.

The covered van drivers and their helpers who have links with RMG stealing gangs, park vehicles at some isolated places in Dhaka's Demra, Madanpur in Narayanganj, Cumilla, Feni and Chattogram on the way to Chattogram port, said an RMG exporter.

They then unscrew nuts from a side of the bolt attached to the covered

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**"Stealing readymade garments products has been on the rise as those involved in such criminal activities are securing bail easily following the filing of cases. After walking out of jail, they get involved in theft again."**

BKMEA President  
**Mohammad Hatem**



**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN! ...** Two Red-Crested Pochards, a male and a female, playing a game of catch in Sunamganj's Tangar Haor. These ducks can be considered quite global as their breeding habitats extend from southern Europe and the Black Sea to Central Asia and Mongolia. They are considered partially migratory and prefer spending their winters in the Indian Subcontinent and Africa.

PHOTO: MOSABBER HOSSAIN RIBON

# Russian missile barrage hits Ukraine

11 killed; Kremlin says tank deliveries show West's 'direct involvement' in conflict

## AGENCIES

A blistering wave of Russian strikes targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure killed 11 people yesterday, a day after Germany and the United States pledged heavy tanks for Kyiv.

The latest wave of attacks came as the Kremlin said Moscow perceived the tank deliveries "as direct involvement in the conflict". France insisted that neither Paris nor its allies were fighting a war against Russia.

As a result of Russia's latest missile strikes, 11 people were killed and 11 others were wounded yesterday, Ukraine's emergency services said.

Earlier in the day officials said that a 55-year-old man was killed in Kyiv by fragments of a missile that was shot down by Ukrainian air defence systems.

The Ukrainian army said its forces destroyed 47 out of the 55 missiles launched by Russia.

Since October, Russia has launched regular

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**75pc money laundering trade-based**  
**Says NBR**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 75 percent of money laundering in Bangladesh takes place through overseas trade, according to the National Board of Revenue.

Trade-based money laundering generally involves giving false information on imports and exports such as over-billing, under-billing, multiple-billing, over/under shipping and quality misrepresentation.

The disclosure came in a paper that reviewed a host of money laundering cases. The paper was presented by Masud Sadiq, a member of NBR's customs policy and ICT, at an event observing International Customs Day yesterday.

Examining the cases, it was found that financial crimes were committed through various means, such as false declarations, submission of fake documents, false declaration related to exports and receiving export incentives by submitting

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# Release Satkhira journo from jail Demands CPJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Journalists has demanded the immediate release of Deepo TV journalist Raghunath Kha from jail.



In a statement issued last night, the international rights organisation alleged that Raghunath was electrocuted and beaten up in police custody.

Raghunath, Shatkhira correspondent of the private broadcaster Deepo TV and newspaper

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