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Some US RMG buyers want price cuts

Many put work orders on hold

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Some of the US clothing and footwear retailers and brands are demanding a big discount from Bangladeshi suppliers, and are putting the work orders on hold to adjust the new reciprocal tariff measures, exporters said.

In some cases, the buyers are demanding a 10 percent discount from local suppliers on the ready-to-ship goods and are asking the local manufacturers to delay the process of making garments.

The local suppliers are now trying to negotiate prices of garments under the new tariff regime. However, not all the US buyers are demanding the price cuts as many are trying to wait and see.

The suppliers and the brands are doing their homework. For instance, a US buyer in Bangladesh has sought a 10 percent discount on the ready-to-ship goods and suggested bearing 3.3 percent discounts by suppliers, 3.3 percent by fabric suppliers, and 3.3 percent by retailers, said an exporter, wishing not to be named.

It is true that some of the US buyers are demanding discounts from the local suppliers, said Rubana Huq, former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). She, however, declined to mention the names of retailers and brands.

Faruque Hassan, managing director of Giant Group, SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



The wreckage of a bus and a tipper truck after three vehicles collided in Kharkhari Bazar area near Rajshahi city early yesterday. The crash left three people dead.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Polls code of conduct almost finalised: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the proposed law for demarcating parliamentary constituencies is not approved, the national election will proceed under the existing framework, said Election Commissioner Md Anwarul Islam Sarkar.

"There was a printing mistake in the proposed law. The commission has sent amendments to the law ministry. Once we get the approval, we can carry out the delimitation work. If it is not approved, the election will be held based on the existing constituency arrangement."

The Election Commissioner made the remarks at a press briefing at the EC headquarters in the capital's Agargaon yesterday morning.

The briefing followed a meeting of the commission formed on six election-related issues, including the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies and the registration of political parties.

EC Anwarul told reporters that the draft of the electoral code of conduct for the next national election is nearly complete.

"Once the draft is finalised, we will place it before the commission. If the commission approves, it will be published."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Back down or face 50% added tariffs

Trump threatens China

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to impose an additional 50% tariffs on US imports from China, ratcheting up a trade war even as a dramatic selloff in global markets gathered pace.

Trump upended the world economy last week with sweeping tariffs that have raised fears of an international recession and triggered criticism even from within his own Republican Party.

In response to Trump's tariffs, Beijing -- Washington's major economic rival -- unveiled its own 34 percent duties on US goods to come into effect on Thursday.

The US president yesterday chastised China for not heeding "my warning for abusing countries not to retaliate."

He said on social media that if China did not immediately back down, "the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50 percent, effective April 9th."

With the incoming 34 percent rate and new 50 percent threat, the total additional tariffs this year could hit 104 percent, the White House told AFP.

Stock markets and oil prices collapsed further as trading floors across the world were overcome by waves of selling after last week's sharp losses.

Wall Street was wracked by volatility, bouncing into positive territory on hopes of a 90-day pause in tariffs, only to sink lower when those were dashed by the White House.

Hong Kong collapsed by 13.2 percent Monday, its worst day in nearly three decades.

Trillions of dollars have been wiped off combined stock market valuations in recent sessions.



SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Tureen Afroz arrested at her Uttara home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police late last night arrested Barrister Tureen Afroz, former senior prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Uttara Division) DC Mohidul Islam confirmed this to The Daily Star.

"She was arrested around midnight from her home in Uttara Sector-3," he said.

Tureen Afroz was arrested in connection to a case filed over the attempted murder of Md Jabbar, 21, who sustained bullet wounds in the Uttara West area on August 4, last year.

The case was filed on March 27 this year.

Tureen Afroz was removed from the ICT after allegedly meeting accused war criminal Mohammad Wahidul Haque.

She prosecuted cases against executed war criminals Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, and Ghulam Azam, who died in jail.

37 more Gazans killed in Israeli strikes

Journalist among the dead; France opposes any displacement, annexation in Gaza, West Bank

AGENCIES

At least 37 people, including a journalist, were killed by Israeli strikes on Gaza yesterday as French President Emmanuel Macron said that he strongly opposes any displacement of Palestinians or annexation in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Twenty-two of those killed were in the central and southern regions of the Strip, the sources said. At least 44 Palestinians were killed on Sunday.

In Khan Yunis, an Israeli air strike hit a tent used by local media, killing two, including a Palestinian journalist, and wounding nine others.

Footage showed people trying to douse flames in the tent inside the compound of the Nasser Hospital during the early hours of yesterday.

Images appearing to show a journalist in flames and another person trying to rescue him were widely shared.

The Israeli military said in a statement it struck Hassan Aslih, whom they described as a "terrorist, who operates under the guise of a journalist" and a member of Hamas' Khan Younis Brigade.

Aslih, a well-known Palestinian journalist in Gaza, with hundreds of thousands of

followers on social media platforms, was critically wounded in the strike, medics said.

Ismail al-Thawabta, director of the Hamas-run Gaza government media office, said Israel's accusations against Aslih were "false", adding that Aslih had no political affiliation.

A second Palestinian was also killed in the attack, Gaza medics said.

Faqawi's death raised the number of journalists killed by Israel's campaign in Gaza to more than 210 since October 2023, according to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces yesterday shot and killed a Palestinian-American boy.

An Israeli strike on southern Lebanon killed one person yesterday, according to the health ministry, with Israel's military saying it had "eliminated" a Hezbollah commander in the latest raid despite a truce.

The Lebanese health ministry said in a statement that an "Israeli enemy" strike on the town of Taybeh, near the border, "led to the death of one citizen".

Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said the strike hit "in front of a motorcycle repair shop" in the town, in south Lebanon's Marjayoun district.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

130 pro-AL lawyers sued sans specific charges

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A pro-BNP lawyer sued 144 pro-Awami League lawyers for illegally gathering, trespassing, theft, causing bodily harm, attempted murder, vandalism and exploding crude bombs.

Only 12 were sued on specific charges and the complainant did not mention any specific charges against 130, according to the case statement.

The 12 lawyers include Khandakar Golam Kibria Jobayer, Mohamad Anwar Shahadat Shawn, Hasibur Rahman Didar, Kazi Shahana Yasmin, Nazrul Islam Shamim, Salma Hai Tuny, Sanzida Khanam, Abu Sayeed Siddiqui Tipu, Matiar Rahman Bhuiyan, Fahim Sharif, AKM Salah Uddin and Ramjan Ali Sarder Rana.

Kazi Md Nazib Ullah Hiru, the AL law affairs secretary, and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, have been named as masterminds in the case.

The complainant, Mohammad Ali Babu, also sued 200 to 300 unnamed persons in the case filed with the court on February 6.

Kotwali police registered the case the following day as a first information report as per the court's order.

Among the 144 lawyers, 24 are female, 11 are former presidents of the Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) and five are its former

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Robbers loot valuables in 4 Mugda flats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of masked robbers looted valuables from four flats in a building at Green Model Town Society in the capital's Mugda area early yesterday.

The gang also hurt four residents. The robbery took place between 3:00am and 4:00am at a building on Road 3 in D-block, said Sajedur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mugda Police Station.

"Around 15 to 17 armed robbers entered the building, kept residents hostage in four flats, and robbed around Tk 1 lakh and nine bhoris of gold ornaments," he said.

The injured were flat owner Humayun and his wife Shahinur Akter, and their neighbours Abdul Mannan and his son Hasan. All were admitted to Mugda Medical College Hospital, and Humayun was stabbed.

Humayun and Mannan live on the fourth floor of the eight-storey building. According to the police, the flat owners -- all bank employees -- jointly bought the land and constructed the building.

OC Sajedur said the building is in a secluded place. The robbers likely entered the second-floor balcony through a gap before breaking into lower flats and letting

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Relatives mourn over the body of 14-year-old Palestinian Omar Muhammad Saadeh Rabee during his funeral in the village of Turmus Ayya, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. A Palestinian official told AFP that Israeli forces shot dead Rabee, while the Israeli military said it had killed a "terrorist" who threw rocks at cars.

PHOTO: AFP

Babar Ali, first Bangladeshi on Annapurna I



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi mountaineer Babar Ali has made history as the first person from the country to summit Mount Annapurna I, which stands at 26,545 feet (8,091 metres).

Babar reached the peak early yesterday, accompanied by his climbing guide, Phurba Angel Sherpa.

The achievement was confirmed by Vertical Dreamers, a Bangladeshi organisation that supports high-altitude expeditions.

Originally from Chatogram, Babar's successful ascent marks a significant milestone for Bangladeshi mountaineering.