



Nothing justifies the collective punishment of the Palestinian people.

Antonio Guterres  
UN secretary-general

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## India curbs land port imports from Bangladesh

RMG, agro-processed food, furniture, plastic goods face restrictions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has imposed restrictions on the import of garments, agro-processed foods, furniture and other goods from Bangladesh through land ports, a move likely to disrupt trade flows and increase logistical challenges for exporters.

According to a notification issued yesterday by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), garments — the single largest Bangladeshi export to India — will only be allowed entry through two sea ports: Kolkata and Nhava Sheva near Mumbai. The rules take immediate effect.

The notification also bars imports of fruits, carbonated and fruit-flavoured drinks, processed foods, cotton and cotton yarn waste, PVC and plastic products, and wooden furniture via land ports in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, and the West Bengal crossings at Phulbari and Changrabandha.



**This is essentially a non-tariff barrier to our garment exports. Now that shipments must go through sea ports, lead times will increase significantly, which in turn will raise costs for Indian importers sourcing from Bangladesh.**

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez)  
ex-BGMEA president

However, the restrictions will not apply to fish, liquefied petroleum gas, edible oils, or crushed stone. Nor will they affect Bangladesh's exports to Nepal and Bhutan transiting through Indian territory.

The move follows India's earlier decision in April to suspend transshipment facilities for Bangladeshi cargo bound for third countries via Indian land borders, raising concerns about tightening trade conditions.

India is one of Bangladesh's fastest-growing apparel markets, with garment exports valued at about \$700 million annually. Around 93 percent of those shipments

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**A battery-run vehicle crammed with passengers on the Rajshahi-Naogaon highway despite a ban on such vehicles on the highways. Casualties in collisions between these vehicles and buses and trucks have become common. This photo was taken in Delwabari area of Manda upazila in Naogaon yesterday.**

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## 10 ministries brace for budget cuts

ADP for FY26 to be finalised today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and  
ASIFUR RAHMAN

The allocation for the top 10 ministries and divisions is set to be trimmed by 13 percent in next fiscal year's annual development programme (ADP) due to the government's cost-cutting measures and shying away from mega and low priority projects.

In the budget for next fiscal year, Tk 163,103 crore would be earmarked for the ministries, which is about 70 percent of the total ADP allocation. The Daily Star has learnt from planning ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

Among the top 10 ministries and divisions,

**The railway ministry, the power division, and the primary and mass education ministry will see the biggest chop**

eight are getting fewer allocations than this year, but two are getting more resources: the secondary and higher education division and the road transport and highway division.

The railway ministry, the power division, and the primary and mass education ministry will see the biggest chop.

The railway ministry's allocation would almost be halved to Tk 7,715 crore in fiscal 2025-26 as foreign funds have dried up for the sector. Of the total allocated amount, Tk 3,258 crore would be foreign funds.

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## Yunus for a bank dedicated to microcredit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday proposed the establishment of a dedicated microcredit bank based on the social business model.

While inaugurating the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) building in the capital's Agargaon, he said the proposed bank would not be a conventional one.

"A new perspective is needed here [microfinance sector], and that is establishing a microcredit bank," said Yunus, who pioneered the concept of microcredit and microfinance.

Yunus and Grameen Bank, which he founded, were jointly awarded the Nobel

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## MAGURA RAPE, MURDER Quick trial marks a watershed

1 to die; family unhappy as 3 accused acquitted

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and AZIBOR RAHMAN

In one of the swiftest and most significant verdicts in recent memory, a Magura court yesterday sentenced 44-year-old Hitu Sheikh to death for the rape and murder of the eight-year-old sister of his daughter-in-law.

His wife Jaheda Begum, 38, and sons, Ratul Sheikh, 18, and Sajib Sheikh, 20, were acquitted as the charges against them could not be proven beyond reasonable doubt, according to the prosecution.

The victim, younger sister of Sajib's 14-year-old child bride, died at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka on March 13, a week after she was raped.

The court handed down the verdict in record time, 24 days after the trial started on April 23, 2025.

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Hitu Sheikh

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