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Exporters caught off guard by India's import curbs

Goods-laden trucks turned away, stuck at land ports

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Hundreds of trucks carrying India-bound goods were either stuck or forced to leave without offloading goods at several Bangladeshi land ports yesterday.

It happened a day after New Delhi abruptly restricted imports of key products -- most notably garments -- through all but two designated sea ports.

The move, announced by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade, limits the entry of Bangladeshi garment, processed food, plastic goods, and more through land routes into Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, and parts of West Bengal. Exporters, caught off guard, now face heavy losses and logistical chaos as their shipments sit idle at ports like Benapole, Burimari, and Banglabandha.

- Bangladesh exported garments worth \$563.81m to India during July-April this fiscal year
- It was an 18.85% rise from the same period last year
- Total exports to India stood at \$1.56b in FY24, against \$9b in imports

"This sudden decision could severely disrupt bilateral trade," said Emdadul Haque, general secretary of the Benapole C&F Agents Association. At Benapole, at least 36 trucks carrying ready-made garments were stranded yesterday evening.

The port's cargo yard had no work yesterday afternoon.

In Panchagarh, a truck transporting plastic doors from RFL Group was turned away at Banglabandha-Phulbari Land Port. "The Indian authorities informed us that the goods were no longer admissible. We had to recall the truck," said Shubho Kumar Saha, export manager at Pran-RFL Group.

The company currently has 17 trucks laden with processed food worth over \$1,00,000 stuck at multiple ports, said Kamruzzaman Kamal, marketing director of Pran-RFL Group.

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Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal block the Shahbagh intersection yesterday afternoon, demanding justice for the murder of fellow Chhatra Dal leader and Dhaka University student Shahriar Alam Shammo.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Make procurement rules more inclusive

At *Star* roundtable, local manufacturers urge the government to eliminate implicit biases that favour foreign suppliers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's leading manufacturers have called for changes to the public procurement system, arguing that discriminatory rules are locking out capable local companies from a \$30 billion government spending pool.

At a roundtable titled "Budget 2025-26: Time to Make Public Procurement Work for Bangladeshi



"Procurement methods need improvement. Open tendering is supposed to be fair, but collusion happens -- bidders sometimes fix prices among themselves."

SALEHUDDIN AHMED Finance Adviser

Manufacturers", organised by experts, and government officials yesterday, top gathered to highlight how the procurement

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Family members say goodbye to their beloved boy at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis of Gaza yesterday. The boy is among hundreds of Palestinians who have been killed in Israeli strikes over the last couple of days. Yesterday alone, 130 people were killed. Story on page 12

PHOTO: REUTERS

Nagar Bhaban sealed for 2nd day by Ishraque supporters

Blockade announced, protest to continue till he's appointed mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain kept all gates of Nagar Bhaban -- the headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) -- padlocked for the second consecutive day yesterday, halting all service-related activities.

The protest, which began on May 14, was launched in response to what demonstrators claim is the government's delay in appointing Ishraque as mayor, despite a court verdict and official gazette recognising him as the DSCC mayor.

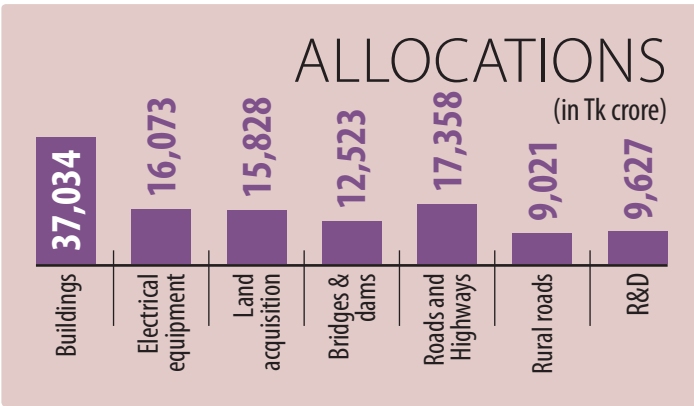
Operating under the banner of Dhakabashi, the protesters locked all entry points to Nagar Bhaban and staged demonstrations, demanding that Ishraque be allowed to assume office immediately.

No DSCC officials reported for duty yesterday. A group of them instead joined the protest and held a sit-in at the base of the building, chanting slogans such as "No office without the mayor!"

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10 segments to get 52% of ADP

Govt introducing digital budget planning system



REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

As much as 52 percent of the Tk 2,30,000 crore annual development programme (ADP) for the upcoming fiscal year will be spent on just 10 key segments, including government buildings, electrification, land acquisition and infrastructure.

For the first time, the planning ministry has used a digital budget planning system to categorise spending based on economic codes, allowing for more transparent tracking of fund utilisation, according to a presentation made by the planning ministry during yesterday's National Economic Council meeting. The development

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- FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR 2024
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