



India bans land import of jute, yarn from Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday banned the imports of certain jute products and woven fabrics from Bangladesh through land ports.

However, the products will be allowed to be imported only through Nhava Sheva seaport in Maharashtra, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification.

As per the notification, the port restrictions will not apply to Bangladesh exports to Nepal and Bhutan transiting through India. However, re-export of these goods to India from Nepal and Bhutan will not be allowed, it added.

The goods under the fresh port curbs are flax tow and waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock); jute and other textile bast fibres, raw or retted; jute (excluding flax, true hemp and ramie); single flax yarn; single yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres; woven fabrics or flax; and unbleached woven fabrics of jute or of other textile bast fibres,

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Palestinians line up to receive hot meals at a food distribution point in Gaza City yesterday. After more than 20 months of devastating conflict, rights groups warn that Gaza's population of over two million faces famine-like conditions.

PHOTO: AFP

IMPORT OF 'STOLEN GRAIN' Ukraine calls for EU sanctions on Bangladeshi entities

REUTERS, New Delhi/Dhaka

Ukraine plans to ask the European Union (EU) to sanction Bangladeshi entities it says are importing wheat taken from Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia, after its warnings to Dhaka failed to stop the trade, a top Ukrainian diplomat in South Asia said.

Russian forces have occupied large parts of Ukraine's southern agricultural regions since 2014 and Kyiv has accused Russia of stealing its grain even before the 2022 invasion. Russian officials say there is no theft of grain involved as the territories previously considered part of Ukraine are now part of Russia and will remain so forever.

According to documents provided to Reuters by people familiar with the matter, the Ukraine Embassy in New Delhi sent several letters to Bangladesh's foreign affairs ministry this year, asking them to reject more than 150,000 tonnes of grain allegedly stolen and shipped from Russian port of Kavkaz.

A Bangladeshi food ministry official said Dhaka bars imports from Russia if the origin of the grain is from occupied Ukrainian territory, adding that the country imports no stolen wheat.

Asked about the confidential

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17,000 kids suffer from malnutrition in Gaza

Says aid agency; Israeli strikes kill 72 Palestinians across the enclave in 24 hours

AGENCIES

A director from the aid agency Medical Relief in Gaza said yesterday that the situation in the enclave is deteriorating, with 17,000 children suffering from malnutrition.

"We expect a large number of children to die from malnutrition unless a serious intervention occurs," he said.

"Pressure must be put on the occupation to allow the entry of baby milk and medicine," the official said, adding that "many surgeries have been postponed due to a shortage of staff, medical supplies, and medicine."

At least 72 people have been killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza in the past 24 hours, Al Jazeera reported yesterday, citing hospital sources.

According to Gaza's Government Media Office, at least 549 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces over the past four weeks while attempting to access humanitarian aid.

An additional 4,066 have been injured at or near aid distribution sites operated by the US and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

This came as Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Thursday became the most prominent European leader to describe the

situation in Gaza as a "genocide", reports AFP.

Meanwhile, the United States said Thursday it has approved its first direct funding for a controversial Israeli-supported relief effort in the Gaza Strip and urged other countries to follow suit.

"We have approved funding for \$30 million to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. And we call on other countries to also support the GHF, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, and its critical work," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott told reporters.

Israel starting in March blocked deliveries of food and other crucial supplies into Gaza for more than two months, leading to warnings of famine in the territory widely flattened by Israeli bombing since the October 7, 2023.

Major aid groups and the United Nations have refused to work with the GHF, saying it violates basic humanitarian principles by coordinating delivery with troops.

Asked about the criticism of the operation, Pigott said the group has distributed 46 million meals so far, which is "absolutely incredible" and "should be applauded."

"From day one, we said we are open to creative solutions that securely provide aid to those in Gaza and protects Israel," Pigott said.

- » Surgeries postponed due to shortage of medical supplies
- » 549 killed by Israeli forces near aid distribution sites in a month
- » US approves \$30m in funding for Israeli-backed aid group

Willing to discuss issues with Dhaka in 'conducive environment' Says Jaiswal

STAR REPORT

India stands ready to engage with Bangladesh on all issues, provided the environment supports constructive and mutually beneficial dialogue.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said this at a press briefing on Thursday.

"India is prepared to engage with Bangladesh in an environment that is conducive to mutually beneficial relations," he said.

Asked if India is trying to renegotiate the 30-year Ganges Water Sharing Treaty that expires next year, he pointed to bilateral mechanisms such as Joint River Commission and other committees.

"The two countries have a bilateral mechanism in place which is the Joint Rivers Commission. We also have consultations of concerned state governments and representatives in our internal consultation

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36 Bangladeshis detained in Malaysia over militancy links

New Straits Times reports citing home ministry statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian police have detained 36 Bangladeshi nationals who were found to be directly "involved in a radical militant movement", reports Malaysian outlet New Straits Times.

Citing a statement issued by Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, the outlet yesterday reported that the planned security operation, which began on April 24, was carried out in three phases in Selangor and Johor.

"Of those detained, five people have been charged under the Offences Relating to Terrorism (Chapter VIA) of the Penal Code in the Shah Alam and Johor Baru Sessions Courts.

"Another 15 people have been issued deportation orders, while 16 others are still under investigation for their involvement in the militant movement," he said in a statement.

New Straits Times quoted Saifuddin as saying that intelligence gathered by the Special Branch revealed that the group had introduced IS-inspired ideology into the country and had formed

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Is Bangladesh going to squander its fresh start?

Asks The Economist article, points to challenges facing interim government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

London-based magazine The Economist in an article has said that in the 11 months since Bangladesh's interim government came to power, political demonstrations have continued, US aid cuts and tariffs are threatening economic growth, and relations with India are in crisis.

"Many politicians seem keener to lash out at enemies than build bridges: Sheikh Hasina's party, the Awami League, has been banned," reads the article published online on Thursday.

Shortly after the fall of the Awami League regime last year, the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus took office, promising to "restore order and rejuvenate democratic institutions" ruined by years of misgovernment, it adds.

"Eleven months on, the going is tough indeed," it observes, posing the question: "Is this country of 174m going to squander its fresh start?"

However, there is good news for the interim government when it comes to the economy, it says. "Bangladesh's growth will slow from 4.2% to 3.9% in the year ending in June, reckons the Asian Development Bank (ADB): not stellar, but miles better than expected last year.

"Remittances are arriving, foreign-exchange reserves have surged, and the annual inflation

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Beijing confirms US trade deal Says Washington to cancel 'series of restrictive measures'

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday confirmed details on the framework of a trade deal with the United States, saying Washington would lift "series of restrictive measures" while Beijing would "review and approve" items under export controls.

A top priority for Washington in talks with Beijing had been ensuring the supply of the rare earths essential for products including electric vehicles, hard drives and national defence equipment.

China, which dominates global production of the elements, began requiring export licences in early April, a move widely viewed as a response to blistering tariffs imposed by Trump.

The two sides agreed after talks in Geneva in May to temporarily lower steep tit-for-tat tariffs on each other's products.

China also committed to easing some non-tariff countermeasures but US officials later accused Beijing of violating the pact and slow-walking export licence approvals for rare earths.

They eventually agreed on a framework to move forward with their Geneva consensus following talks in London this month.

A White House official also told AFP on Thursday that Donald Trump's administration and China had "agreed to an additional understanding for a framework to

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Hindu devotees across the country celebrated Ratha Yatra (Chariot Festival) yesterday. The idols of Lord Jagannath, along with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, were paraded through the streets in colourful chariots. The festival marks the deities' annual journey from the Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple, symbolising a divine visit to their aunt's home. The photo was taken in the Kazir Dewri area of Chattogram city.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

China visit 'successful'

Says Fakhrlul, lauds Xi for its progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has said China's progress under the leadership of President Xi Jinping will not only benefit Bangladesh but also play an important role in maintaining global balance.

He was speaking with reporters at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport last night upon his return from China after a five-day visit.

"We are amazed that China, just within a few years, has reached an extremely high level with all its economic, social, and political strength," Fakhrlul said.

The nine-member BNP delegation landed in Dhaka around 10:40pm. The trip was made at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Calling the visit "extremely successful", Fakhrlul said the BNP



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