



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike at Abbasiyeh in southern Lebanon yesterday.

US TRADE DEAL Bangladesh may lose Tk 1,327cr a year in revenue Says CPD, urges review of agreement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh could lose about Tk 1,327 crore in annual import tax revenue by granting tariff benefits to more than 6,700 US products under the reciprocal trade deal signed with the Trump administration, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The think tank raised the fiscal implications of the Agreement on Reciprocal Tariff (ART) at a media briefing in Dhaka yesterday, urging the government to review the deal signed a month ago.

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Tarique urges calm amid Mideast storm

Launches Family Card programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has urged people to remain patient amid current global challenges, saying the government may need more time to fulfil some of its promises but will not deviate from its commitments.

"Public expectations from the current elected government are very high, and we understand that. But if we consider the reality and the current global conditions, including the Middle East situation, we will not change our position on the promises we made," he said at the inauguration ceremony of the Family Card programme at T&T playground in Banani, adjacent to Korail slum.



Tarique formally launched the Family Card programme by pressing a button on a laptop at 11:30am, after which the selected recipients automatically received Tk 2,500 in their mobile financial services accounts.

About 15,000 women from three areas of Dhaka 17, Tarique's constituency — Korail, Bhashantek and Saat Tola slums — yesterday received their Family Cards.

He described the occasion as an emotional one, as it allowed him to fulfil a promise he had made to the people before the election.

The first recipient of the Family Card from Tarique was Pervin Begum. Later,

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Oil plunges, stocks rise as Trump signals quick end to war

More than 759,000 Lebanese displaced by the war

Israel not seeking endless war with Iran: FM

Trump, Putin discuss Iran war, Ukraine peace, energy crisis

'No oil thru Hormuz if attacks continue'

Tehran warns as Trump threatens to hit harder; Iran targets Israel, US assets in Gulf nations; Israel ramps up strikes on Iran, Lebanon

AFP, Tehran

Iran vowed yesterday that not a single litre of oil would leave the Gulf while US and Israeli bombardments continue, declaring it will decide the war's end, as the United Arab Emirates shut its largest refinery following a drone strike.

Oil prices have surged since Iranian attacks on shipping closed the Strait of Hormuz in the wake of US-Israeli strikes but fell back somewhat on Monday when US President Donald Trump suggested the war would soon end.

Prices sank further and equities pushed higher

yesterday following a wild day of swings that came after President Donald Trump signalled that the US-Israeli war on Iran could end sooner than thought.

International oil benchmark, Brent North Sea crude, plunged 9.6 percent to \$89.44 a barrel, a day after it neared \$120.

The region's biggest single-site oil refinery, at Ruwais in the UAE, was closed yesterday as a precaution after a drone attack on the industrial complex which houses it caused a fire, a source familiar with the situation told AFP.

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Govt looking at fuel source options

Says enough in stock to last this month

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The government is scrambling to secure alternative fuel sources amid the US-Israel war on Iran, as the lion's share of Bangladesh's fuel imports originates from the Middle East.

The authorities have already secured fuel consignments for March and are now working to ensure supplies for April and May in case the conflict disrupts global energy markets, said Anindya Islam Amit, the state minister for power, energy, and mineral resources.

"We have been thinking about alternatives since the beginning of the war. We hope wisdom will prevail and the war will end soon. But if it prolongs, we are preparing for April and May to deal with possible global disruptions," he said yesterday at a briefing at the secretariat.

Bangladesh mainly imports crude oil from the Middle East, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz, while refined fuel is sourced from several Asian suppliers such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

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INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNAL Chief prosecutor opens probe into bribery scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal chief prosecutor's office has launched an internal investigation after allegations surfaced that a recently resigned prosecutor sought Tk 1 crore from a suspect's family in exchange for arranging bail in a crimes against humanity case.

Chief Prosecutor Aminul Islam announced the move at a media briefing yesterday following a closed door meeting with prosecutors in the morning. The meeting also decided to review other activities at the tribunal since its reconstitution after the August 5, 2024 changeover.

A five-member fact-finding committee was formed, headed by Aminul himself. Other members include Prosecutor Abdus Sobhan Tarafder, newly appointed prosecutors Marjina Raihan and Mohammad Zahurul

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