

International

From apples to almonds, India increases tariffs on US goods

India is number 2 market of California almonds and Washington apples

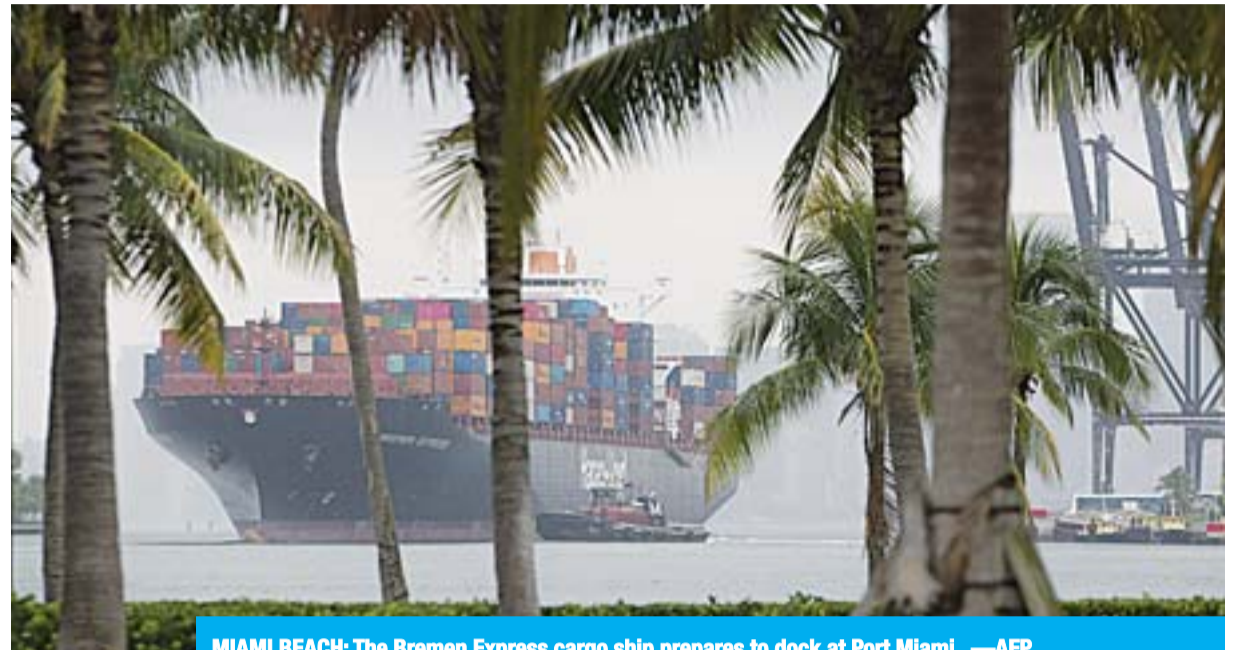
NEW DELHI: India yesterday imposed higher tariffs on 28 items imported from the US, in retaliation to Washington's recent withdrawal of trade privileges for New Delhi. The increased duties apply to products including almonds, apples and walnuts, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said. India would "implement the imposition of retaliatory duties on 28 specified goods originating in or exported from (the) USA", it said in a notification. The list initially included 29 goods but artemia, a kind of shrimp, has been removed from the list. India is the number two market of California almonds and Washington apples.

The trade tensions come despite efforts from Washington to boost ties with India as a counterweight to China, and assertions made by both US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi about their good relationship. The stage for the row was set last year after Washington refused to exempt India from higher steel and aluminum tariffs, in keeping with Trump's decision to act against countries with

which it has a large trade deficit.

India responded by saying it would raise import taxes on a slew of US goods. But it delayed raising tariffs several times, hoping for negotiation to tackle the sticky trade issue. However Trump's decision this month to strip New Delhi of its preferential trade status appears to have prompted the latest Indian move. According to the new tariffs, import duty on walnut has been hiked to 120 percent from 30 percent and on chickpeas and lentils it has been raised to 70 percent from 30 percent currently.

The trade row is likely to be taken up when Trump and Modi meet at the G20 summit on June 28-29 in Osaka. It is also likely to figure during talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who is set to visit India later this month. US goods and services trade with India stood at an estimated \$142.1 billion in 2018. The US trade deficit with India was \$24.2 billion, according to official data. Washington is already engaged in a full-blown trade war with India's regional rival China. —AFP



MIAMI BEACH: The Bremen Express cargo ship prepares to dock at Port Miami. —AFP

Tajikistan hosts world leaders

KUWAIT: On the 15th of June, the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was held in Dushanbe under the chairmanship of the Republic of Tajikistan. Participants include: the heads of states, governments and high-ranking representatives of the participating countries: Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Egypt, Israel, India, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Cambodia, China, Republic of Korea, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, UAE, Pakistan, Palestine, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

Others include the leaders and representatives of the observer states - Indonesia, Philippines, Belarus, Ukraine, US, Japan, leaders of the international organizations and associations of observers and partners, the United Nations (UN), the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkish-speaking countries, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Summit's guest - the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon as the representative of the host country, warmly and sincerely welcomed the heads of states and governments: the Executive Chairman of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Dr Abdullah Abdullah, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Novruz Ismail Oglu Mamedov, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Hun Sen, the Vice President of the Republic of Vietnam Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Mohammed Abdul Hamid, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani, the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, the Chairman of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and leaders of authoritative organizations and associations of the world.

After that the ceremony, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon took group photo with the heads of states and delegations in the 'Didor' and 'Arzhang' halls. The main venue for the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was the 'Zarandud' Hall - colorfully decorated with patterns and carvings.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon opened the Fifth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which this time is chaired by the Republic of Tajikistan. It should be noted that for holding a high-level event, the capital of Tajikistan - Dushanbe is festively landscaped. There were posters and banners with the text of sincere greetings and event symbols.

The summit is covered by 650 foreign and domestic media, newspapers and magazines, radio, television and



information agencies from Tajikistan, China, Canada, Bahrain, the UAE, Afghanistan, Iran, Cambodia, Turkey, India, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Iraq, and the news agencies Associated Press, Al-Jazeera, BBC, Reuters (UK), MGTK 'MIR' (CIS), 'Interfax', Russia Today (Russia), INFO (SCO) and others.

The Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia is an interstate and regional association, which was established in 1992 with

the support of the UN. The main objectives are to discuss issues of security and cooperation in the Asian continent and to contribute to the global fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and transnational crime.

The highest decision making body is the Summit of Heads of State, which is held every four years. The last meeting was held on May 21, 2014 in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China. The leadership of the Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in the fall of 2018 passed from China to Tajikistan.

Cracked tower sparks fears about Australia building rules

SYDNEY: Australia's building and construction codes came under scrutiny yesterday after hundreds of residents were evacuated from a high-rise Sydney apartment block where cracks were discovered in the second such scare in six months. Some residents said they were left homeless and in tears after they were ordered to leave the 10-storey, 122-apartment Mascot Towers in a southern Sydney suburb late Friday after cracks were found in the structure's beams.

"At this stage, the engineers need to look at the cracks in those beams while the residents aren't there," Fire and Rescue New South Wales state Assistant Commissioner Roger Mentha told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "Then they can do an

analysis on whether there have been any movements."

The incident at the 10-year-old building followed the Christmas Eve evacuation of residents in the recently completed 38-storey Opal Tower in the Sydney Olympic Park after "cracking noises" were heard. Investigators found there were a number of "design and construction issues" that could have led to the damage that saw the structure move "one to two millimeters". NSW, Australia's most populous state, said after a public outcry over the scare that it would embark on the "biggest overhaul of building laws" in its history.

The changes included appointing a building commissioner to audit work done throughout the design and construction process. Peak body Engineers Australia said Saturday the state "has been slow to move, but it is not too late if we start now". "The Mascot Towers situation is further evidence that we need changes in the building and construction sector," Engineers Australia's Jonathan Russell said in a statement. "It shouldn't take a crisis for government to act in the interests of community safety and consumer protection." —AFP

Bangladesh prison breakfast menu gets makeover after 200 years

DHAKA: Bangladesh authorities have upgraded a 200-year-old colonial-era breakfast menu in all its prisons, an official said yesterday, as part of a reform of the country's penal system. Bazlur Rashid, deputy head of the Prison Directorate, said the nation's more than 81,000 convicts would from today receive an improved breakfast, replacing the bread and molasses that has been on the menu since being introduced by British colonial rulers in the 18th century. The new diet will contain bread, vegetables, sweets and khichdi—a spiced rice cooked with lentils—Rashid told AFP.

Previously prisoners were given

just 116 grams (four ounces) of bread and 14.5 grams (half an ounce) of molasses, he said. Bangladesh's 60 prisons, built to house 35,000 inmates, are notoriously overcrowded and frequently draw criticism from rights organizations. Inmates also often complain about the quality and quantity of food served in the jails. Rashid said the diet change is part of a series of reforms to "help prisoners get motivated and rehabilitated".

"We are gradually trying to adapt... so the convicts can reform themselves during their stay in the facilities," he said. Several thousand prisoners cheered the new breakfast menu in Dhaka's Keraniganj central prison Sunday, he said, adding: "Good food makes everyone happy." The official said the government has also introduced cheap telephone calls for inmates in the prisons. "They would be able to talk to their family via screened phone calls whenever they want," he said. —AFP

Maldives seeking help to deal with IS fighters

COLOMBO: The Maldives has called for international help to rehabilitate up to 160 of its nationals languishing in Syrian detention camps after the defeat of the Islamic State group. Speaker Mohamed Nasheed said the Maldives kept a close tab on citizens who had joined the militant group, but that the island nation was not ready to accept them back without an internationally supervised reintegration program.

Visiting neighboring Sri Lanka where 258 people were killed in jihadi attacks recently, Nasheed said the question of foreign IS fighters in Syria should be addressed as a global issue. As many as 160 Maldivians are thought to be held in detention camps after the fall of IS in March.

"We do not know the situation they have gone through. We don't have the capacity to rehabilitate these people to the extent that they will not have a further impact on society," Nasheed said. "I think the international community should join together and decide what we should do to the returnees. Hopefully, there is an international arrangement where they are first received, not necessarily to their countries of origin or nationality."

He said the Maldives was concerned about the 30 to 40 children said to be of Maldivian parents now living in detention camps in Syria, but insisted that there should be international involvement to screen the parents.

"I don't think we should say they can come back in the first flight they can catch," he added. Nasheed said the nation of 340,000 Sunni Muslims was keeping a close watch on any attempt to radicalize its population, which is known to practise a liberal form of Islam—and relies heavily on luxury tourism.

More than two thirds of the Maldivian parliament was spending a three-day holiday in Sri Lanka, to demonstrate it was safe for foreigners to visit the island after the deadly Easter Sunday attacks, Nasheed said. In a chilling warning of the impact of terrorism on tourism, Sri Lanka's thriving tourism sector is projected to lose at least \$1.5 billion revenue this year with a 30 percent slump in the number of holidaymakers visiting the island.

Nasheed and his legislators were staying at the luxury Cinnamon Grand—one of the three hotels hit by a local jihadi group which pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi—to show Sri Lanka was still a safe tourist destination. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Sri Lanka last week, the first world leader to visit the island after the Easter attacks. Sri Lankan authorities say they have arrested all those who were involved in the April 21 attacks that also hit three Christian churches. —AFP

CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

RECALL INFORMATION

FUSO

FUSO
Model: FA & FI Trucks
Model year: 2015 - 2018
Total VINs involved: 156

RECALL REASON

Valve/Valve guide failure leading to Engine failure

REMEDY

Replace camshaft, rocker arm, cylinder head applicable as per vin

CONTACT

Please contact FUSO service on 24714553
For appointment call: 22055956
Al Rai Area, Block-4, Street - 11

This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43,44,45,46 and 47) of no.27/2017 issuing the executive by laws of law no.39/2014 on Consumer Protection.

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