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The global logistics and maritime landscape are undergoing structural change; driven by trade policy shifts, port tariff realignments, and strategic acquisitions that signal deeper regional integration. From the Texas Gulf Coast attracting cross-border energy investment to Bangladesh's bold tariff overhaul after four decades, the month reflects a rebalancing of global freight power centers.

Meanwhile, operational realities such as customs clearance delays post-de minimis repeal are testing the agility of carriers and shippers alike. As we step into Q4, adaptability and foresight remain the defining factors for logistics resilience.



Texas shipyard purchased by Turkish consortium for \$50M

Divestment: Singapore's Seatrium sold its 240-acre Port of Brownsville shipyard to Karpower Valley LLC (affiliate of Karpowership) for ~\$50M, as utilization declined.

Buyer Profile: Karpowership, part of Karadeniz Holding (Istanbul), operates 50 floating power plants in fast-growing energy markets.

Strategic Impact: Proceeds will fund Seatrium's LNG, offshore wind, and rig projects, while the deal highlights Texas Gulf Coast's growing appeal for industrial and cross-border energy investment.





How UPS, FedEx and DHL Express handle customs hangups post-de minimis

Policy Change:

- o On Aug. 29, the Trump administration eliminated the de minimis exemption, which previously allowed imports under \$800 to enter the U.S. duty- and tax-free.
- o All low-value imports are now subject to tariffs and stricter customs requirements.

Current Situation:

- o Many U.S.-bound packages are being held by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for extended periods, and in some cases, disposed of.
- o Shippers and carriers are struggling to adjust to new import regulations.
- o Packages often face clearance delays due to missing or incomplete customs information.
- o Despite this, UPS reports clearing over 90% of packages on the first day of entry.

• Consumer & Business Impact:

- o The changes have caused surprise fees, delayed deliveries, and package disposals, particularly affecting direct-to-consumer (D2C) shippers.
- o These issues threaten customer satisfaction ahead of the holiday shipping



Carrier Customs Clearance Policies

UPS:

- o Attempts multiple times to contact shippers for missing information.
- o If unresolved:
 1. Package can be returned to the sender at their expense.
 2. If unresponsive, the package is deemed abandoned and disposed of per CBP rule.

FedEx:

- o Works with shippers to update customs paperwork if data is incomplete.
- o If clearance fails, shippers can choose to return or dispose of the package.
- o Recipients are notified as directed by the shipper; disposals are rare.

DHL Express:

- o Does not dispose of uncleared packages.
- o Tries to collect missing information within 10 days.
- o If still unresolved, return shipment to origin before day 15 to comply with CBP rules.

Key Issues Behind Customs Delays

Many shippers that relied on the de minimis exemption are unfamiliar with full import documentation.

Common missing data includes:

- o 10-digit Harmonized System (HS) code
- o Product's country of origin

U.S. buyers are now often designated as the importer of record, responsible for:

- o Customs clearance
- o Duty payments
- o This shift can lead to buyers abandoning purchases and seeking refunds.



Expert Tips to Avoid Customs Hangups

- Ensure complete paperwork work closely with customs brokers and carriers.
- Provide all required product details (HS code, origin, value, description).
- Use third-party customs brokers to manage clearance on customers' behalf.
- Foreign shippers can register as non-resident importers (NRIs) to streamline entry and prevent delays.



FREIGHT MARKET UPDATE | 2025

1. White House Finalizes Section 232 Tariffs

Effective Date: November 1, 2025.

Scope: Medium and heavy-duty trucks, vehicle parts, and buses.

Authority: Established under the Department of Commerce's national security powers.

- **Key Provisions:**

- o Clarifies USMCA treatment, offset provisions, and Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) requirements.

- o Importers/manufacturers advised to review classifications and prepare documentation before implementation.

Chittagong port enforces first major tariff hike in four decades despite industry pushback

1. Implementation Overview

- Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has officially implemented a new tariff structure, effective October 15, 2025, despite strong industry opposition.
- The new rates apply to all container and cargo vessels arriving at the port.
- Average fee increase: 41% across port services, including container handling, vessel operations, and cargo movement.

2. Background and Approval

- This is the first comprehensive tariff revision in 40 years, covering charges, fees, rents, and tolls.
- Approved by the Finance Ministry on July 24, 2025, but implementation was initially delayed due to business protests.
- After failed negotiations between the Shipping Ministry and stakeholders, the government opted to proceed with full enforcement.



3. Key Rate Changes

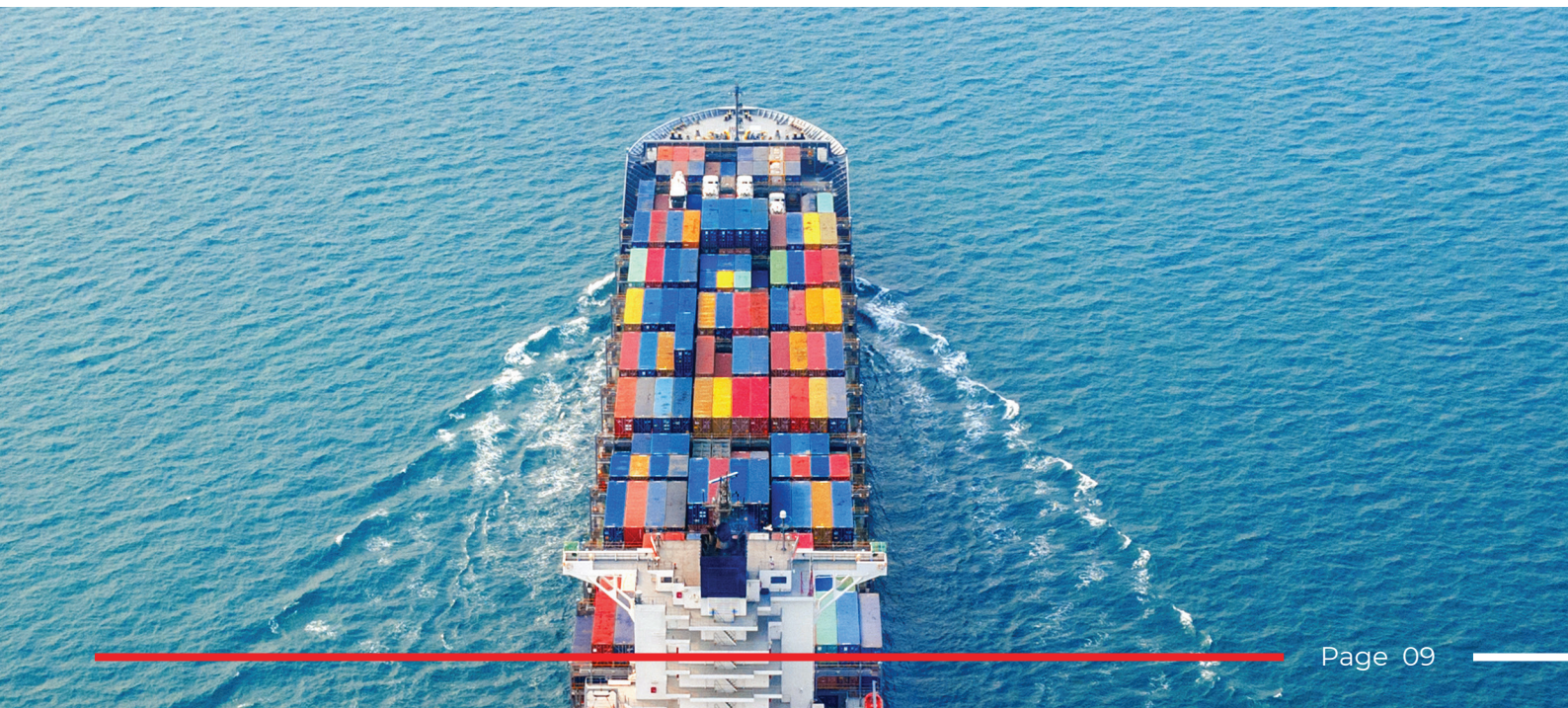
- The loading/unloading charge for 20-foot full container load (FCL) units increased 56.68%, from \$43.40 to \$68 — the most common port operation.
- CPA instructed shipping agents to pre-deposit funds based on the new rates before vessel clearance, per the September 30 circular.

4. Industry Reaction

- Exporters, importers, and shipping representatives have strongly opposed the hike, warning it will erode global competitiveness.
- Chattogram's business associations appealed directly to Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus to phase in the increase gradually.
- The Bangladesh Maritime Law Society issued a legal notice demanding withdrawal of the order, citing that the sudden and steep hike is unjustified and harmful to trade.

5. CPA's Justification

- CPA officials defend the new tariff, stating it is needed to:
 - o Reflect current operational and maintenance costs.
 - o Improve service quality and infrastructure at the port.
 - o Ensure long-term financial sustainability of Bangladesh's busiest seaport.



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