



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, opens a sub-branch of the bank at Karnafuli upazila in Chattogram yesterday.

# China to halve tariffs on \$75b of US imports

China on Thursday said it would halve tariffs on \$75 billion-worth of US imports as part of its trade truce with Washington and as officials look to calm markets unnerved by the deadly virus outbreak.

The State Council Tariff Commission said the reductions would come in a month after Beijing and Washington signed a deal to dial down a long-running trade war that has hit the global economy.

It also comes a day after Donald Trump hailed relations between the superpowers as the “best” ever in his State of the Union address, with observers saying Beijing was likely keen to get moving on the next phase of talks towards a long agreement.

Levies of five and 10 percent on more than 1,700 items -- imposed in September -- will be cut from February 14, the same day Washington is expected to halve tariffs on \$120 billion worth of Chinese goods.

Products affected include fresh seafood, poultry and soybeans as well as tungsten lamps for scientific and medical purposes, and some types of aircraft. The move is aimed at “promoting the healthy and stable development of China-US economic and trade relations”, the Commission said in a statement.

“To alleviate economic and trade friction, and expand cooperation in these areas, China has also made relevant adjustments,” it added, referring to the US cuts. “We hope to work with the US towards the ultimate elimination of all increased tariffs.” The Commission also said it “hopes that both parties will be able to abide by their agreement, strive to implement its relevant content, (and) boost market confidence”.

Other retaliatory tariffs, however, remain in place.

The two in January signed a partial deal that eased tensions in their bruising trade war, with Beijing agreeing to buy an additional \$200 billion in US goods over the next two years.



A truck carrying containers is seen near a Chinese flag at the Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, China

As part of the phase one deal, the US said it would halve its tariffs on \$120 billion of Chinese goods to 7.5 percent, while Donald Trump called off additional levies that would have taken effect last December.

Thursday’s announcement comes as China grapples with a shortage of resources as it struggles to combat the coronavirus, which has claimed more than 560 lives and infected more than 28,000. On Tuesday, a top US trade official said the virus outbreak would delay Beijing’s plans to buy goods from the US under the phase one deal.

But Washington expects “minimal impact” from the virus on the US economy.

China’s outbreak has caused Beijing to impose travel restrictions across cities, with millions of consumers staying home during its otherwise busy Lunar New Year holiday.

The crisis is expected to hammer China’s already stuttering economy, as companies and factories delay the resumption of operations.

Over the weekend, Beijing announced that US imports that can be used in its fight against the deadly virus will also be exempted from retaliatory tariffs imposed in the trade war.

AxiCorp chief market strategist Stephen Innes said the tariffs cut was a “small but rather a sweet carrot to dangle”.

“In the wake of the coronavirus economic tumult, it’s not much of a stretch to assume China is eager to start the negotiations,” he said.

Moody’s Analytics economist Xu Xiaochun told AFP a reduction in tariffs “makes sense” as China is expected to import more US goods as part of the phase one deal.

But the timing might be more than a coincidence.

# China’s mobile giants to take on Google’s Play store

REUTERS, Shenzhen, China

China’s Xiaomi, Huawei Technologies, Oppo and Vivo are joining forces to create a platform for developers outside China to upload apps onto all of their app stores simultaneously, in a move analysts say is meant to challenge the dominance of Google’s Play store.

The four companies are ironing out kinks in what is known as the Global Developer Service Alliance (GDSA). The platform aims to make it easier for developers of games, music, movies and other apps to market their apps in overseas markets, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The GDSA was initially aiming to launch in March, sources said, although it is not clear how that will be affected by the recent coronavirus outbreak.

Together the four companies made up 40.1 per cent of global handset shipments in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to the consultancy IDC. While Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi have full access to Google services in international markets, Huawei lost access for new devices last year after the United States barred American suppliers from selling goods and service to it, citing national security.

Chinese vendors are trying to capture a greater share of software and services as hardware sales slow, said Will Wong, a smartphone analyst with IDC.

“App store, pre-loading apps, advertisements and gaming are areas that could generate new revenue” he said.



The logo of Xiaomi is seen outside the brand's store in central Kiev.

Huawei is also moving away from Google by developing its own Harmony OS as an alternative.

The GDSA’s website includes the logo of Wanka Online, a Hong Kong-listed Android “ecosystem” platform next to a contact for the GDSA’s General Secretariat. Wanka declined to confirm its involvement.

The GDSA might be able to lure some app developers by providing more exposure than the already-crowded Play store, and the new platform could provide better monetary incentives, analysts said.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

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Memo No. 348

Dated: 06-02-2020

**e-Tender Notice**

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer RHD, Road Division, Manikganj for the procurement of:

Tender Description				
Tender Reference No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender submission last date/opening
40/e-GP/EE/Mkg. Rd/2019-2020	420693	Repair of Potholes, profile correction & patch repair by seal coat work at 6th (P) Km. 7th (P) Km. 8th (P) Km. 9th (P) Km. 10th (P) Km, 11th (P) Km, 12th (P) Km, 13th (P) Km & 14th (P) Km of Aricha (Barangail)-Ghor-Dailatpur-Tangail (R-506) Road under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	26-Feb-2020 16:00	27-Feb-2020 12:05
41/e-GP/EE/Mkg. Rd/2019-2020	420723	Supply, Installation and Upgradation/Integration of existing system including Commissioning & Trial Operation (7 days) of fully integrated Software Based Computerised Axle Load Control Station comprising static and dynamic slow speed Weigh in Motion, SSWIM including Web Based Live Video and Data monitoring with associated works at Dhaka (Mirpur)-Uthuli-Paturia- Notakhola-Kashinathpur (N-5) Road under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	26-Feb-2020 16:00	27-Feb-2020 12:00

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GD-249

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Memo. No.-RRRI/Advertisement-1332/2018/290 Date:04/02/2020

**Corrigendum Notice**

All concerned are hereby notified that the following amendments are hereby made in the e-tender ID 415469 circulated vide e-GP system due to unavoidable circumstances.

Existing	Amendment
1 Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading Date and Time	05-Feb-2020 17:00
2 Tender/Proposal Closing Date and Time	06-Feb-2020 12:00
3 Tender/Proposal Opening Date and Time	06-Feb-2020 12:00
4 Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	06-Feb-2020 11:15
5 Completion Date	29-April-2021
6 Labour charge for driving barrack bamboo pins of diameter 6.0 cm to 8.0 cm, by hammer or monkey hammer as per direction of Engineer in Charge. ii) For 1st 2.0 m drive, in water including necessary staging etc. as required for 2000 m bandal construction	214020 m
Labour charge for driving barrack bamboo pins of diameter 6.0 cm to 8.0 cm, by hammer or monkey hammer as per direction of Engineer in Charge. iii) drive 2 m to 4.0 i.e. for 2.0m drive, in water including necessary staging etc. as required for 2000 m bandal construction	21420 m

The corrigendum notice shall form a part of the tender documents.

N.B: This corrigendum notice will also be available in [www.rrri.gov.bd](http://www.rrri.gov.bd) web site.

**04.02.2020**  
(Engr. Kazi Rezaul Karim)  
Project Director Bamboo Bundling Pilot Project &  
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## Eurozone demand slump hits German industrial orders

AFP, Frankfurt

New orders at German industrial firms slid in December, official data showed Thursday, driven entirely by plunging demand from the country's eurozone neighbours.

Overall, new business for manufacturing firms fell back 2.1 percent month-on-month in seasonally-adjusted figures, statistics authority Destatis said, disappointing analysts who had foreseen a 0.6 percent lift.

A breakdown of the data showed that while domestic orders rose by 1.4 percent and those from non-eurozone countries gained 2.1 percent, eurozone demand tumbled 13.9 percent.

“Incoming orders have progressed more weakly in the past months, marked by developments in the capital goods sector,” the economy ministry in Berlin said in a statement, adding that volatile large orders for items such as aircraft had had a particularly large impact in December.

Looking forward, while “confidence among businesses has recently improved, overall the outlook for industrial growth remains muted,” the ministry added.

Looking at sector-by-sector figures, makers of capital goods and consumer goods both reported falls of almost four percent in new orders in December, while producer goods makers added 1.4 percent.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

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Memo No. 568 (25)

Date: 05-02-2020

**Invitation for e-GP Tender**

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the e-GP Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of works. Interested person/firms can see details by visiting the [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Ref. No.	Description of works	Tender/ proposal document last selling date & time	Last date & time for tender/ proposal security submission	Tender/ proposal opening date & time
1	419593	e-GP-26/EE/RHD/RAN G/2019-2020	Construction of a stackyard by earth filling at Shapla Staff Quarter under Road Division Rangpur during the FY 2019-2020.	19 February, 2020 within 17:00	20 February, 2020 within 13:00	20 February, 2020 within 14:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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