

US-China trade deal review postponed as China ramps up farm, energy purchases

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and China have delayed a review of their Phase 1 trade deal initially slated for Saturday, sources familiar with the plans told Reuters, citing scheduling conflicts and the need to allow time for more Chinese purchases of US exports.

No new date for the initial six-month compliance review between US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He has been agreed, the sources said.

The officials were expected to hold a videoconference on Saturday, the six-month anniversary of the trade deal's Feb. 15 entry into force as the coronavirus pandemic began spreading globally.

One source familiar with the talks said the delay was related to a conference of senior Communist Party leaders at the seaside town of Beidaihe on China's northeast coast. The postponement did not reflect any substantive problem with the trade deal, the source said, adding: "The new date has not been finalized yet."

US President Donald Trump on Friday repeated his view that the trade deal was "doing very well," but did not comment on the delayed meeting. The White House referred queries on the talks to Lighthizer's office, which did not respond to a Reuters query about plans for the review.

Another source familiar with the plans said that US officials wanted more time to allow China to increase purchases of US goods agreed in the deal, to improve the political optics of the review.

China's imports of US farm and manufactured goods, energy and services are well behind the pace needed to meet a first-year target increase of \$77 billion over 2017 purchases.

But as China's economy has recovered from a coronavirus

lockdown earlier this year, purchases have increased. On Friday, the US Department of Agriculture reported the sale of 126,000 tonnes of soybeans to China, marking the eighth consecutive weekday with large sales to Chinese buyers.

US oil traders, shipbrokers and Chinese importers also told Reuters that Chinese state-owned oil firms have tentatively booked tankers to carry at least 20 million barrels of US crude for August and September, indicating a ramp-up in

energy purchases.

Trump administration officials have signaled that they are satisfied with the pace of purchases in recent weeks and have no plans to abandon the trade deal, which also includes some increased access for US financial services firms in China, strengthened intellectual property protections and removal of some agricultural trade barriers.

Delaying the meeting, even briefly, could allow China to complete more purchases, which would help Lighthizer persuade Trump to stick to the deal.

Signs of Chinese compliance could also help blunt criticism from Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, who last week said the agreement that Trump has called a historic win is "failing."

"I think Trump is a little afraid that this triumph of his will be hung around his neck, but more purchases and a bit of a delay would clearly help," said Mary Lovely, a senior fellow with the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

"But he does own it, so they're going to have to put the best face on it," she said of the Phase 1 deal.

The trade agreement has emerged as a lone source of stability amid significant strain in the US-China relationship over the coronavirus pandemic, human rights crackdowns and US sanctions on Chinese companies and phone apps.



US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer points at markers on the floor as he leads Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to their position for a family photo at the Xijiao Conference Centre in Shanghai, China.

China must guard against rebound in shadow lending: regulator

REUTERS, Beijing

China must guard against any rebound in off-balance sheet lending in the so-called shadow banking sector, and must dispose of non-performing assets as soon as possible, the head of the country's banking and insurance regulator said on Sunday.

In recent years, China has clamped down on shadow banking, concerned about the hidden risks in the high volume of complex and potentially risky loans in the sector. But as a weakening economy puts pressure on businesses and individuals, authorities fear shadow lending and illegal loans might surge.

After the outbreak of the new coronavirus this year, high-risk banks with complex structures may stage a comeback, Guo Shuying, chairman of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, wrote in an article published in the Communist Party journal Qiushi.

"A slight relaxation of regulations may lead to a full resurgence, and all previous efforts would go to waste," Guo wrote.

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, leverage is expected to rebound significantly

in the Chinese economy this year, and bad debts of financial institutions may rise substantially, he warned.

After the "black swan" epidemic, it is inevitable that asset quality will deteriorate, and due to a time lag, the current asset classification has not accurately reflected the true risk, he said.

A "black swan" event refers to an unforeseen occurrence that typically has extreme consequences.

Financial institutions should dispose of non-performing assets as early as possible, and covering up would only bring serious consequences, Guo said.

China should also implement targeted measures in dealing with institutions with varying levels of risk, he said.

Outside of China, external factors could also threaten financial security, Guo said.

Current international cooperation is not ideal, and the U.S. entity list imposed on some companies including Chinese firms has added uncertainty to the global economic recovery and disrupted financial stability and security, he said.

Washington restricts sales of U.S. goods to companies on the entity list.



China's CATL is developing new EV battery with no nickel, cobalt, executive says

REUTERS, Shanghai

China's Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd (CATL), a Tesla supplier, is developing a new type of electric vehicle (EV) battery that contains no nickel or cobalt, a company executive said on Saturday.

Nickel and cobalt are key ingredients in the batteries that power EVs. Battery makers from Japan's Panasonic Corp to South Korea's LG Chem are lowering the use of expensive cobalt in

their nickel-cobalt-aluminium (NCA) batteries or nickel-cobalt-manganese (NCM) batteries.

Tesla's boss, Elon Musk, last month urged miners to produce more nickel, warning the current cost of batteries remained a big hurdle to the company's growth.

Ningde-based CATL makes NCM batteries and supplies lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries to Tesla. It has partnerships with Japan's Toyota Motor and Honda Motor and supplies Germany's Volkswagen AG and Daimler AG.

The new battery type will be different from existing NCA, NCM and LFP batteries and will have no expensive metals like nickel or cobalt, Meng Xiangfeng, a senior executive at CATL, told an industry conference held by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers in Shanghai. Meng did not give details of the makeup or the cost of the planned battery type.

CATL is also developing a separate technology to integrate battery cells directly into an EV's frame to extend its driving range.

Reconditioned car import slumps 60pc

FROM PAGE B4

"Car prices are now out of reach for many buyers. If the government reduces duty on reconditioned vehicles, car imports will increase and the government will earn more revenue from the sector," Haque added.

Due to the high duty on the import of reconditioned vehicles, the selling price of cars are also becoming too high, said Muzurul Alam Chowdhury, former vice president of Barvida and managing director

of Multination Company.

About 850 reconditioned vehicle importers had been involved in the sector but now most of them are leaving the business, he said.

Reconditioned vehicle traders have to pay import duties ranging from 31 per cent to 826 per cent depending on the engine capacity, apart from a 15 per cent VAT, 5 per cent advance tax, 5 per cent regulatory duty, and 4 per cent advance trade VAT on tariff value.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0000.726.07.029.2019.4260 Date: 16/08/2020

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
For Selection of Individual Consultant

Name of Project: Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)

The Project Director, NBCPB has been allocated public funds from the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) towards the cost of the Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the Project by Individual Consultants. The qualification and experience required for the consultants are given below:

Package No	Proposed Post and Tentative Duration	Minimum Qualification	Minimum Experience
9BB/S2	Senior Structural Designer (12 months)	B.Sc. in Civil Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 15 years of specific experience in structural design of Bridges with 20 years of general experience; in depth knowledge on different types of bridge designs including foundation design and protective works; Computer proficiency in structural analysis and design with application of appropriate software's like STAAD-Pro, MIDAS, SAP-2000, 2D & 3D modeling; Excellent presentation skills with written and oral communications are desired.
9BB/S3	Junior Structural Designer (12 months)	B.Sc. in Civil Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 5 years of specific experience in structural design of Bridges with 10 years of general experience; in depth knowledge on different types of bridge foundation design, detailed estimate preparation including BoQ and protective works; Computer proficiency in structural analysis and design with application of appropriate software like STAAD-Pro, MIDAS, SAP-2000, 2D & 3D modeling;

The Project Director, NBCPB of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The services include: analyze hydrological and morphological data, carry out structural analysis and design of 9 bridges with appropriate foundation, protective works, BoQ preparation etc.

Consultants will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules, 2008. It is expected that the services will commence on October, 2020 for 12 months. The advertisement is also available on LGED and CPTU website (www.lged.gov.bd & www.cptu.gov.bd).

A complete set of "Request for Application" including Terms of Reference may be obtained from the office of the undersigned up to 02/09/2020 during normal office hours. Further information may be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 2:00 PM on 07/09/2020 in sealed envelope delivered to the office of the undersigned on level-11, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Senior Structural Designer and Junior Structural Designer as Individual Consultant".

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Sahrab Ali)
Project Director
Nine Bridge Construction Project in Brahmanbaria district (NBCPB)
LGED Bhaban, Level-11, Agargaon
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GD-1271

Real estate sector becoming more optimistic of a rebound

FROM PAGE B4
Houses in the Uttara, Bashundhara and Mohammadpur areas have the highest demand, said Mark Nosworthy, chief executive officer of bproperty, the biggest online real estate broker in Bangladesh.

These areas make up about 35 per cent of the total demand for 2020.

If the sector recovers, its allied industries, of which there are 230, will also benefit, according to industry insiders.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Senior Jail Superintendent
Sylhet Central Jail-1
Memo No. 58.04.9100.156.03.017.2020-0829(8)
Date: 13.08.2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, closing date & time
1	483857	Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (Mota) for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	12 August 2020 22:30:00 31 August 20 11:45:00
2	483896	Supply of Unnatamaner Cholar Dal for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	12 August 2020 22:00:00 31 August 20 11:45:00

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

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

Md. Abdul Jalil
Senior Jail Super
Sylhet Central Jail-1

GD-1268

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০
আইন শাখা
www.probashi.gov.bd

২৯ শ্রাবণ ১৪২৭ বঙ্গাব্দ
তারিখ: ১৩ আগস্ট ২০২০ খ্রিঃ

বেসরকারি আইনজীবী প্যানেল নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি স্বার্থ রক্ষার্থে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষে বিজ্ঞ আর্টর্নি জেনারেল এর মাধ্যমে মহামান্য সুপ্রিম কোর্টের আপিল বিভাগ ও হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনায় সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য ০৩ (তিন) জন বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীকে প্যানেলভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী আইনজীবীদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে চাকায় স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসরত হতে হবে;
- আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, বয়স ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবনবৃত্তান্ত দিতে হবে;
- আবেদনের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি দিতে হবে;
- আবেদনের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র এবং বার কাউন্সিল প্রদত্ত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রসহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;
- সুপ্রিম কোর্ট ও প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইবুনালে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে অ্যাডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১০ (দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- দেওয়ানি ও নিম্ন আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য অ্যাডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৬০ বছরের অধিক হতে পারবে না;
- সুপ্রিম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে আইনজীবী হিসেবে কর্মরত অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ/বিচারকগণও আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- আইনজীবী নিয়োগের মেয়াদ ২ (দুই) বছর হতে হবে;
- সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে আইনজীবীগণকে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে এবং সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে ও সরকারের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- কোন আইনজীবী নির্ধারিত সময়ের পূর্বে অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে এবং প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় ৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্যানেলভুক্ত কোন আইনজীবীকে অব্যাহতি প্রদান করতে পারবে;
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে যুগ্মসচিব (মনিটরিং ও এনফোর্সমেন্ট), প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়, প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ভবন, ৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, ইস্কাটন গার্ডেন, ঢাকা বরাবর আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে;
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদন অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে কোন ধরনের তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

সহকারী সচিব (আইন)
প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়
জিডি-১২৬৯