

WTO talks on duty-free trade in IT goods collapse

REUTERS, Geneva

Talks on cutting trade tariffs on hundreds of information technology products collapsed on Friday, delaying and potentially scuppering a deal estimated to be worth \$1 trillion to global trade.

"We are disappointed not to be celebrating a deal this week. We missed a big opportunity," US Ambassador Michael Punke said at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The talks aimed to update the WTO's 17-year-old Information Technology Agreement, which guarantees zero-tariff and duty-free trade on hundreds of products, adding about 200 more products to the list.

Several participants blamed the failure on a deadlock between China and South Korea over liquid crystal display (LCD) screens.

"The participants have significantly reduced the gaps on expanding the coverage of the ITA agreement in recent days, but unfortunately it has not been possible to finalize the negotiations this week," WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo said in a statement.

Participants are expected to reconvene in 2015 to see if they can overcome the blockage.

"Manufacturers urge negotiators to come

back to the table as early as possible in the new year to agree to a strong product list in order to unlock much-needed growth opportunities for manufacturers and their workers," said Linda Dempsey, vice president of international economic affairs at the US National Association of Manufacturers.

South Korea, home to top LCD producer LG Display Co Ltd, wanted LCD screens included in the deal, participants said.

But China, which wants to foster its own LCD industry, refused, demanding that all countries accept the same terms that it agreed bilaterally with the United States last month after a long-standing stalemate.

One trade official involved in the talks said South Korea had offered a number of concessions, but there had been no reciprocal move by China. Other countries also offered changes to try to entice China to make the last small step needed for a deal, the official said.

Another trade diplomat said South Korea had asked China to include accumulator batteries on the list, but Beijing said no. "They couldn't move the last few centimeters," he said, adding that both sides were equally to blame for the collapse.

Chinese officials were not available for comment.

India to reap \$12b budget windfall from oil slide

REUTERS, New Delhi

A plunge of nearly half in oil prices could help Finance Minister Arun Jaitley reap a fiscal windfall of at least \$12 billion when he presents his 2015/16 budget in February, two government sources told Reuters.

The savings would come in the form of reduced fuel subsidy costs and higher petrol and diesel levies, the sources said. In addition, finance ministry officials have proposed restoring a crude oil import duty that was scrapped in 2011.

As a result, the government would claw back most of the money that India saves on oil imports. That would help Jaitley hit borrowing targets but dilute any boost to consumption in Asia's third-largest economy.

Energy-hungry India imports around 4 million barrels of oil per day and the net cost of the country's oil imports is expected to total \$88 billion in the fiscal year to next March, based on a budgeted oil price of \$105 per barrel.

Officials drawing up Jaitley's first full-year budget are penciling in a view that oil prices will average \$65-\$70 in 2015/16. That would cut the national import bill by \$18 billion - or 0.9 percent of GDP, they reckon.

"Benefits from the fall in oil prices would reflect in the budget



REUTERS/FILE

A worker fills petrol in a car at a fuel station in Jammu, India.

through lower oil subsidies and higher tax projections next year," one senior finance ministry official told Reuters.

The sources estimate that the overall fiscal boost can total 750 billion rupees (\$12 billion). More than half, 400 billion rupees, would come from savings on oil subsidies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in power since May, has freed prices for diesel, which account for 40 percent of consumption of refined fuels.

Taking advantage of the resulting fall in pump prices, his government has raised factory gate duties on petrol and diesel twice in the last month. That means state coffers, and

not drivers, will benefit to the tune of \$1.6 billion this fiscal year and nearly \$5 billion next year.

A revival in the profitability of state-owned oil refiners like Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation could generate another \$1 billion in extra revenues.

Further, ministry officials recommend restoring the old 5 percent crude oil import duty in full. This would require Modi's approval, and if implemented could raise up to \$4 billion more, lifting total potential fiscal gains to over \$16 billion.

"A proposal to impose import duty on crude oil is under consideration," said another finance minis-

try source. "The final decision could be announced in the budget." Both sources requested anonymity, because they were not authorised to speak to the press on the record.

Jaitley is struggling to hit his fiscal deficit target of 4.1 percent of gross domestic product this fiscal year. He wants to cut it to 3.6 percent in 2015/16, and 3 percent in 2016/17.

Fiscal constraints leave little over for the wider economy, with consumers still cautious about their prospects and concerned that recent falls in inflation will be only temporary.

Although the price of diesel, used by truckers and farmers, has fallen by 6 percent in the past five months, drivers in India are now paying more to fill up than in the United States.

"The boost to household consumption is likely to be small," said Shilan Shah, India Economist at Capital Economics in London. "The government has been able to take advantage of the windfall."

By Shah's reckoning, the oil windfall could help cut the budget deficit by 0.5 percent of GDP, as well as narrowing the current account gap and easing price pressures.

"This could lead to the RBI beginning to cut interest rates early next year, which on its own should have impact on economic growth," said Shah.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office

Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority
"Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-1)"
Level-15, BDBL Bhaban
12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Invitation of National Tenders for Site Development Works for Mongla Economic Zone

Invitation for Tender No: 8 Tender Package No: BEZA WD-1

1.	Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA).
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I).
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used a present.
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6.	Invitation for	Works
7.	Invitation Ref. No.	03.762.014.00.06.016.2014-15
8.	Date	11/12/2014
9.	Procurement method	National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
10.	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget.
11.	Development partners	IDA and DFID.
12.	Project code	Not used at present.
13.	Project name	Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I).
14.	Tender package No.	BEZA WD-1
15.	Tender package name	Site Development Works for Mongla EZ at Bagerhat District, Khulna Division.
16.	Tender publication date	On or before 15-Dec-2014
17.	Tender document last selling date	07-01-2015 during office hours.
18.	Tender closing date and time	08-01-2015 up to 15:00 hours local time.
19.	Tender opening date and time	08-01-2015 up to 15:30 hours local time.
20.	Name & address of the office	Address: Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I), Level-15, BDBL Bhaban, 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka. Project Director's Office, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I), Level-15, BDBL Bhaban, 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I), Level-15, BDBL Bhaban, 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.
21.	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer must have (1) Construction firms who have 5 (five) years of general experience in construction of civil works. (2) Having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of similar nature of work with site development work BDT 250 (two hundred & fifty) lakh in a single work order in govt./semi-govt./autonomous bodies in Bangladesh during the last 5 (five) years. (3) The tenderer shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover of any best of 5 (five) years during the last 10 (ten) years amounting to BDT 3000 (three thousand) lakh. (4) The tenderers must have minimum amount of free fund (liquid assets) or credit facilities net of other contractual commitment of the applicant is Tk 770 (seven hundred & seventy) lakh. (5) Self-work (contract with financially or legally dependent organisation) or non-tendered work will not be entertained for the work experience. Other required eligibility criteria & conditions have been mentioned in tender document.
22.	Brief description of work	Site development & dredging, etc.
23.	Special condition	If there happens any transport disruption or government holidays on the abovementioned dates, the next normal working day will be treated as the valid dates of selling, dropping and opening of the tender. The time shall remain unchanged.
24.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 3000 (Three thousand) in cash (non-refundable)
25.	Package/Lot No.	BEZA WD-1
	Identification of work	Site area filling
	Location	Mongla, Bagerhat district
	Tender security amount (Tk)	Tk 3,00,000/- in favour of Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank of Bangladesh
	Completion time in year	3 months
26.	Name of official inviting tender	Mr Md Harunur Rashid.
27.	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I).
28.	Address of official inviting tender	Project Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Development Project (Phase-I), Level-15, BDBL Bhaban, 12, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.
29.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 8180170, Fax No. 8180172
30.	Special instructions:	1. The procuring entity reserves the right at the time of Contract Award to increase or decrease the quantity of items mentioned in the proposals without any change in the unit prices. 2. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. 3. Tender security of the responsive bidders will be refunded after signing agreement with the successful bidder. 4. In all applicable cases "The Public Procurement Act 2006" and "The Public Procurement Rules (PPR-2008)" with up-to-date amendments shall be followed.
		Md. Harunur Rashid Project Director (Joint Secretary) Phone: 8180170

New Airbus part of Qatar Airways' sky-high ambitions

AFP, Dubai

With deep pockets and hundreds of new planes on order, Qatar Airways is one of a trio of fast-growing Gulf carriers seeking to further muscle into European markets.

Their expansion reflects the determination of the energy-rich Gulf states to develop new sources of income to reduce their dependence on oil, the price of which is plunging on world markets.

Government-owned Qatar Airways on December 22 takes delivery of the first A350 XWB (extra wide body) next-generation plane from European maker Airbus, designed to compete with US rival Boeing's long-haul fuel-efficient jetliners.

With orders for 80 of the planes, Qatar Airways is not only the launch customer but also the largest single customer of the A350 so far.

"Qatar Airways is a very ambitious airline. It has been not only undergoing rapid growth, but it has also focused intensely on its service offering," said Addison Schonland, a US-based aviation consultant with AirInsight.

Qatar Airways chief Akbar al-Baker has described the delivery of the A350 XWB as the "second significant fleet milestone" for the carrier after recently receiving three of 14 A380 superjumbo planes bought from Airbus.

The first commercial Qatar Airways A350 flight is scheduled for January 15 to Frankfurt, the hub of Lufthansa, one of the major opponents of the push by the Gulf carriers into Europe.

Qatar Airways is expanding on European routes, and has announced increases to the frequency of flights to Barcelona, Manchester, Stockholm and Copenhagen.

The airline is growing its fleet of 142 young planes at full throttle. At Britain's Farnborough Air Show in July, it also ordered 100 Boeing 777X aircraft.

Bangladesh fares well in fighting food insecurity

FROM PAGE B4

"You do not have the right. You can go ask but you do not have the right to get any Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) or Test Relief (TR) or Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)."

She said a 65-year poor widow, with no son or daughter to support her, might be starving in Rangpur; it does not mean that anyone is going to give her VGD, unless she is in the right place, or she knows someone or unless she hears about it.

"So, we have it but we do not have any right. If there is a problem, we cannot say anything."

The difference between Bangladesh and India is that India has a national employment guarantee scheme, which is a rights-based programme, she said. And if enough people demand it, the government has to run the scheme in that area, she added.

"In Bangladesh, it is decided by somebody sitting in the ministry of social welfare, relief or sitting with the World Bank. There is no right involved and nobody can claim if he is hungry."

The media can play a role in the right to food movement, Naomi said. NGOs also need to come forward for the right to food movement, including unions, labour organisations and civil society groups, she added.

The most important thing, she said, is to make sure that policymakers continue to hear and listen to and know how the poor people and hungry people are living.

"We are not too bad in this in Bangladesh. We always try to give people the space to speak. This is the most important thing. These are the people who should be going to the policy tables to talk (about their sufferings)."

Hong Kong 'business as usual' as activists vow to fight on

AFP, Hong Kong

Rush-hour traffic streamed through the heart of Hong Kong for the first time in more than two months Friday after police cleared the city's main pro-democracy protest camp with mass arrests -- but activists vowed that their struggle would go on.

The east-west artery through the city's business district had been blocked since September by the sprawling protest site in a campaign that demonstrators say has changed the city's vexed relationship with Beijing forever, and which has polarised public opinion in the city.

Police swept through the Admiralty site Thursday, clearing the multi-lane highway and arresting more than 200 protesters.

The demonstrators are calling for fully free elections for the city's leader in 2017, but Beijing has insisted a loyalist committee vet the candidates, which protesters say would

ensure the selection of a pro-China stooge.

Demonstrators feel their lengthy occupation has put the democracy movement on the map with Beijing and the local administration, after it brought parts of the city to a standstill and saw tens of thousands on the street at its height.

But it has achieved no political concessions from either Hong Kong's leaders or Beijing, who both branded the protests "illegal".

Despite that, protest leaders said they would continue to push for reform.

"If we fight a long war we definitely do not have the... resources the government has," said teenage student leader Joshua Wong Thursday.

Instead the movement needed to galvanise the support of young voters, many of whom engaged with politics for the first time during the mass protests.

"If we win the support of the young people regarding democracy... there is a greater chance to achieve universal suffrage."

গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল)
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
রেড ক্রিসেন্ট-বোরাক টাওয়ার (লেভেল-২-৬ ও ৮)
৭১-৭২, পুরাতন এলিফান্ট রোড, ইকটন, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ আর্থিকার

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

পুরাতন যানবাহন নিলামে বিক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (জিটিসিএল) এর বিভিন্ন ধরনের ০৪ (চার)টি পুরাতন ও অব্যবহৃত যানবাহন ২নং কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকায় ভবনের বেইজমেন্টে রাখিত আছে। যানবাহনগুলি 'যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে' ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের (বাড়ি/প্রতিষ্ঠান) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

২। অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের আগামী ১৪-১২-২০১৪ হইতে ২৮-১২-২০১৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সকাল ১০ঃ০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বিকাল ৪ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সহিত যোগাযোগ করিয়া বিক্রয়যোগ্য যানবাহনগুলি সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন। নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত যানবাহনের বিবরণ নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হইল।

নিলামে বিক্রয়যোগ্য গাড়ির রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর ও ধরণ	প্রস্ততকাল	ইঞ্জিন নম্বর	চেসিস নম্বর
ঢাকা মেট্রো-১১-০৪১০ ব্রাড-নিশান মডেল-১৯৯৫, সিসি-৪২০০	১৯৯৫	TB42-118147	WGY60-210730
ঢাকা মেট্রো-১১-২১৫৪ ব্রাড-পাজেরো জীপ মডেল-১৯৯৮, সিসি-২৩৫০	১৯৯৮	4G64XN-9555	0000104
ঢাকা মেট্রো-১১-২১৫২ ব্রাড-পাজেরো জীপ মডেল-১৯৯৮, সিসি-২৩৫০	১৯৯৮	4G64XN-9562	0000101
ঢাকা মেট্রো-১১-১৭৩৭ ব্রাড-নিশান জীপ মডেল-১৯৯৮, সিসি-২৪০০	১৯৯৮	Z24-940715	WNYD21-051676

৩। জামানতঃ দরপত্রের সাথে জামানত হিসাবে মোট উদ্ভূত মূল্যের ২০% (বিশ শতাংশ) হারে "গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড" এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলভুক্ত যেকোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট মারফত জমা দিতে হইবে। চেকের মাধ্যমে প্রদত্ত কোন জামানত গ্রহণ করা হইবে না। জামানতের অর্থ ব্যতীত দাবিলকৃত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

৪। দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্যঃ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অক্ষরতযোগ্য)।

৫। দরপত্র তফসিল প্রাপ্তি, দাখিল ও খোলার স্থানঃ

৫.১। দরপত্র তফসিল প্রাপ্তির স্থানঃ ফাভস ডিপার্টমেন্ট (লেভেল-২), জিটিসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

৫.২। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৪-১২-২০১৪ হইতে ২৮-১২-২০১৪ পর্যন্ত (সকল কার্যদিবসে)।

৫.৩। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, সময় ও তারিখঃ সকাল ৯ঃ৩০ হইতে বিকাল ৪ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৫.৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়ঃ কমিটি রুম (লেভেল-৩), জিটিসিএল, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

৫.৫। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, সময় ও তারিখঃ ২৯-১২-২০১৪ তারিখ, সকাল ১১ঃ০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৬। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই স্থানে ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

৭। জিটিসিএল কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা গ্রহণ করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

জিটিসিআর-২৮/১৪-১৫
জিডি-৪৬৬৫

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)
জিটিসিএল, ঢাকা