

Australia and China sign bumper free trade deal



Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbott, top centre, looks on as Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng, second from left, and Australia's Trade Minister Andrew Robb, second from right, sign a free trade agreement between the two countries in Canberra yesterday.

AFP, Canberra

Australia and China signed a landmark trade deal Wednesday after a decade of talks, providing a boon for growth and jobs by abolishing tariffs across a raft of sectors.

Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb and visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng formally inked the document in Canberra, ending years of often difficult and protracted negotiations.

"The leaders of our two countries have attached great importance to the signing of this document," said Gao. "It is a milestone in bilateral relations."

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott called it "a momentous and historic day for our two countries".

"It will change our countries for the better, it will change our region for the better, it will change our world for the better," he said. "This agreement will give our nations unprece-

dent access to each other's markets."

China is Australia's biggest trading partner, with the two-way flow exceeding Aus\$160 billion (US\$123 billion) annually.

Under the deal more than 85 percent of Australian goods entering the country will carry no penalty, rising to 95 percent in coming years.

With Australia having already sealed similar pacts with Japan and South Korea, a large percentage of Australian exports will soon be tariff-free.

Australian businesses currently face charges of up to 40 percent on goods sent to China, but under the deal penalties on virtually all resources and energy products -- a key plank in the trade relationship and among Australia's top exports -- will be abolished.

Duties will also be lifted on agricultural exports including wine, meat, seafood, and dairy products to feed China's grow-

ing middle class.

In return, Australia will remove the existing five percent tariff on Chinese electronics and white-goods, meaning cheaper goods for Australian consumers but some reduction in revenue.

China also won concessions on foreign investment, with the threshold for government review to be lifted in most areas apart from agricultural land and agribusiness.

In a statement, the Chinese commerce ministry said the pact would help facilitate the China-driven FTAAP, or Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

Beijing has embraced the broader FTAAP, which is seen as a rival to the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership pushed by the United States but which excludes China.

Robb said that, together with the Japanese and South Korean pacts, the Chinese deal would underpin Australia's prosperity for years to come.

"Given what's going on in the region, the extraordinary explosion of people going into the middle class, this is a landmark set of agreements," he said.

"It will see literally billions of dollars, thousands, many hundreds of thousands of jobs, and will underpin a lot of our prosperity in the years ahead."

One contentious outcome could be the temporary employment of Chinese people in Australia's high-pay workforce, a move condemned by unions.

Electrical Trades Union national secretary Allen Hicks said there was concern that Chinese investors would be able to use Chinese workers on projects in Australia that involve an investment of more than US\$150 million.

"Any claimed benefits from this FIA will pale into insignificance compared to the lost opportunities for working Australians and the impacts that will have on our society," he said.

"This agreement is an absolute disgrace and its signing marks a sad day in Australia history."

In contrast, the Australia China Business Council said it came at an opportune time as China's economy shifts to consumption-driven growth, driving demand for Australian premium products and services.

"The deal will ensure that Australian companies can compete on a level playing field with those countries holding existing FTAs and will give us a significant advantage over some of our largest competitors including the US, EU and Canada," said council president John Brumby.

Japan export slowdown could weigh on Q2 GDP growth

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's export growth slowed for a second straight month in May, with weak external demand now threatening to erode economic growth in the current quarter.

Ministry of Finance (MOF) data showed exports grew 2.4 percent year-on-year in May, less than a 3.5 percent gain seen by economists and a 8.0 percent rise in the prior month.

Compared with April, exports fell 2.7 percent.

Export growth, in tandem with domestic demand, is seen as crucial for building on the momentum evident from recent data showing stronger-than-expected economic expansion - led by corporate capital expenditure at the start of the year.

The data will be scrutinised by the Bank of Japan, which is expected to keep its monetary stimulus programme unchanged at its policy review later this week, after having offered a slightly more upbeat view of the economy last month.

"Exports are undoubtedly weak and the momentum is stalling due to slowdown in China," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

"Exports are likely to keep a drag on economic growth, which could grind to a halt or turn negative in the current quarter given weak private consumption and external demand."

Shipments to China, Japan's largest trading partner, grew 1.1 percent, slowing from a 2.4 percent gain in April. China-bound car exports nearly halved from a year ago.

Exports to Asia, which account for more than half of Japan's shipments, rose 3.3 percent, after a 6.0 percent gain in April.



Deputy British High Commissioner Mark Clayton presents a crest to Sir Fazle Hasan Abed for his long-standing affiliation with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, during a reception at the British high commissioner's residence in Dhaka recently.



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, opens a branch of the bank at Sadarghat in Chittagong yesterday. Wahidur Rahman, zonal head for Chittagong, was also present.



Mohammed Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, managing director of LankaBangla Finance, and Mahmudul Hasan Khusru, chief executive of DataFort, attend the signing of an agreement recently for archiving and information management. DataFort is a franchisee of InfoFort LLC.

Amendment-2

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Health Services
Office of the Director, Stores & Supplies
Central Medical Stores Depot
30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharoni, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Corrigendum Notice

Package No. HSM-14(R)
Procurement of "Endoscopic Fluorescence Imaging Equipment"

The bidding document of IFB No. CMSD/HSM-14(R)/ICB/2014-2015/D-6/97 Dated: 10/05/2015 is hereby amended to read as under:

Clause reference	Existing entries	Amended entries
Bid last selling date	Last selling date 14-06-2015 (during office hour)	12-07-2015 (during office hour)
ITB 24.1	Bid submission date 15-06-2015 at 11:00am	Date: 13-07-2015 at 11:00am
ITB 27.1	Bid opening date 15-06-2015 at 11:30am	Date: 13-07-2015 at 11:00am

All other terms and conditions of the bidding documents will remain unchanged.

Brigadier General Md. Golam Rasul
Director (Stores & Supplies) & Line Director
Procurement, Logistics and Supplies Management
DGHS, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka
Tel: 9129231; Fax: 9126547; e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net

GD-2156

DW & CE (Navy) Lalorai Nabik Colony Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206

Invitation for Tenders (Amendment)

Notice No. 605/BN/2/E-6/37 Dated: 15 June 2015

Military Engineer Services

Reference:
A. This Dte Ltr No. 605/BN/2/E-6/2/108 Date: 28 May 2015
1. Advertisement for the following work published in different national dailies are hereby amended partially as under:

a. For:

Lot No.	Brief description of works	Location	Price of tender document (Taka)	Tender security amount in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka (Taka)	Completion time in months
b.	Construction of 2x10= 20 Mrd. Sailors Qtr. (5 storey fdn (GF to 4th Floor Partly Finishing) incl. Internal/External Services at Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna (1st Phase)	Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna	6,000/-	11,85,000.00	09 (nine) months

b. Read:

b.	Construction of 1x10= 10 Mrd. Sailors Qtr. (5 storey fdn (GF to 4th Floor Partly Finishing) incl. Internal/External Services at Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna (1st Phase) (Group-1)	Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna	3,000/-	6,00,000.00	09 (nine) months
b.	Construction of 1x10= 10 Mrd. Sailors Qtr. (5 storey fdn (GF to 4th Floor Partly Finishing) incl. Internal/External Services at Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna (1st Phase) (Group-2)	Nabik Colony, Boyra Khulna	3,000/-	5,85,000.00	09 (nine) months

2. In all other respect advertisement referred above will remain unchanged.

ISPR/Navy/2015/616
16/06/15

SO-1
For DW & CE (Navy)
Dhaka Cantonment

GD-2159

Microcredit Regulatory Authority

Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak
Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217

Ref:- 53.01.0000.002.06.005.15-3373 Date:- 16/06/2015

Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Bank & Financial Institutions Division		
2. Agency	Microcredit Regulatory Authority		
3. Procuring entity name	Microcredit Regulatory Authority		
4. Procuring entity code	Not used at present		
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka		
6. Invitation for	Goods	Single Lot	
7. Invitation Ref No.	MRA-28/2015		
8. Date	16/06/2015		
9. Procurement method	NCT	Open	
10. Budget and source of funds	GoB		

KEY INFORMATION

11. Tender last selling date: 29/06/2015 04:30pm

12. Tender closing date and time: 30/06/2015 12:00 noon

13. Tender opening date and time: 30/06/2015 12.15pm

14. Name & address of the office(s)
Selling, receiving & opening tender document
Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak, Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15. Eligibility of tenderer
Tenderers having 5 years of overall business experience and 3 years of specific experience in supply of similar goods and related services and also having experience in supply of same items of goods in at least 2 (two) govt./semi-govt./autonomous/semi-autonomous organizations or Corporations in Bangladesh in last 3 years may participate in the tender. Tenderers must meet the legal and commercial eligibilities as required by Rules 48 & 49 of PPR 2008 and ITT Clause 3 of the tender documents.

16. Brief description of goods: Laptop (International Reputed Brand).

17. Brief description of related services: Supply, setup, testing & commissioning at the final destination including after sale services.

18. Price of tender document (Tk): Tk. 500/- (five hundred only)

Item No.	Name of goods	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
1.	Laptop (28 Nos.)	Dhaka	50,000/-	8 weeks

19. Name of official inviting tender: Laila Bilkis Ara

20. Designation of official inviting tender: Executive Vice-Chairman (Acting)

21. Address of official inviting tender: Microcredit Regulatory Authority, Gulfeshan Plaza (6th Floor), 8, Shahid Sangbadik Selina Pervin Sarak, Baro Mogbazar, Ramna, Dhaka-1217.

22. Contact details of official inviting tender: Fax No. 8333257 e-mail: evc@mra.gov.bd

23. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings

Laila Bilkis Ara
Executive Vice-Chairman (Acting)

GD-2160