



FH Ansarey, managing director of ACI Motors, attends an event to introduce Sonalika All-Rounder 55, a new model of ACI Motors' Sonalika tractor brand, at its office yesterday.

US stance on auto industry sows more doubt about Nafta overhaul

REUTERS, Arlington
The Trump administration on Friday demanded that US-made content account for half the value of the cars and trucks sold under the North American Free Trade Agreement, raising further doubts about any potential deal to renew the pact.

Three sources briefed on the protectionist US proposal, which is in line with President Donald Trump's goal of shrinking a trade deficit with Mexico and stemming the loss of US manufacturing jobs, said it also seeks sharply higher North American automotive content overall.

The proposal was made during contentious talks in Washington, in the fourth of seven planned rounds of negotiations to overhaul the treaty.

Some Mexican sources denounced it as "absurd," but Juan Carlos Baker, Mexico's deputy economy minister, put a brave face on the state of Nafta negotiations at

the halfway point. "There's no question there are some difficult proposals," Baker told reporters at Mexico's embassy in Washington.

He said Mexico will consider all of them, though he said, "It's clear to us that there are certain things that are proposals that go against the country's objectives."

Trump, who claims that the original 1994 pact has been a disaster for the United States, is threatening to walk away from the agreement unless major changes are made.

Washington's auto industry gambit came hot on the heels of its demand that Nafta also contain a so-called sunset clause. That could mean any new deal expires in five years, an idea that Canada and Mexico also strongly oppose.

Although sources briefed on the talks describe the mood as sour, Mexican and Canadian politicians say there is no question of leaving the table for now.

A collapse of Nafta would wreak havoc throughout the North American economy, disrupting highly integrated manufacturing supply chains and agricultural exports with steep tariffs that would snap back into place. Trade among the three countries has more than quadrupled since 1994 to over \$1.2 trillion annually.

Sources close to the talks said Washington wants to increase the North American content requirement for trucks, autos and large engines to 85 percent from 62.5 percent over a period of years. That is in addition to its insistence that 50 percent of the products used in vehicle be US-made within the first year of a signed deal.

The proposal also requires that steel, aluminium, copper, plastics, electronics and other parts be sourced from North America for vehicles to qualify for Nafta tariff-free status.

Trump has made clear he prefers bilateral trade deals, and sceptics wonder whether the US demands are part of an "America First" strategy designed to ensure the current talks fail.

The US Chamber of Commerce has listed the demand for a greater use of US-made products for vehicles among a number of "poison pill" proposals that it said would torpedo the talks.

The chamber says the proposal would cost jobs, since automakers and parts suppliers would likely forgo Nafta benefits and simply pay the 2.5 percent US tariff for imported cars and many parts.

Unifor, the union which represents most of Canada's auto workers, said the US proposals were deliberately untenable.

"Frankly, I think this is a bully move by the American government," Unifor President Jerry Dias said in a statement.

Saudi Aramco in stake sale talks with Chinese investor

REUTERS, Dubai/New York
Saudi Aramco is considering the sale of a stake to a Chinese investor as plans for its highly-anticipated international public offering are pushed beyond its 2018 target, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

The initial public offering is expected to be the world's largest stock sale, and is a key component of the Saudi government's economic reform program which aims to diversify the desert kingdom away from its reliance on oil exports.

A private placement of shares in the state oil company to a Chinese investor is being evaluated as a precursor to the international IPO, according to two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity as the information was not public. They declined to name the investor or how much of Aramco would be sold.

The move would provide Saudi Arabia with cash to help implement the National Transformation Program (NTP), as the reform package is formally known, according to one of the sources.

The NTP comprises a number of difficult economic adjustments for Saudi Arabia - including removing some state subsidies and raising taxes - that are aimed at taming huge budget deficits caused by lower oil prices.

Concerns about the impact of the austerity measures on the economy are rising. While data earlier this month showed the deficit was shrinking, the Saudi economy entered recession in the second quarter,

consumer prices are falling and unemployment among Saudis is at 12.8 percent.

A Saudi Aramco spokesman said: "A range of options, for the public listing of Saudi Aramco, continue to be held under active review. No decision has been made and the IPO process remains on track."

Aramco's dual listing on the Saudi stock market, Tadawul, and an international exchange had been earmarked for 2018 by the Saudi authorities - with stock markets in New York, London and Asia all vying for the offering.

A decision on which exchange would secure the offering has still not been made, with top members of the Saudi royal family preferring New York and Aramco's financial and legal advisers advocating London.

Both venues have political issues which have caused the Saudis unease and delayed the location decision, according to a third source familiar with the matter.

The U.S. Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), passed in September 2016, allowed lawsuits to proceed against the Saudi government claiming it had helped to plan the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States and should pay damages to victims. Riyadh denies the allegations.

Meanwhile, London's markets regulator has been criticized for proposing new listing rules aimed at attracting state-controlled companies such as Aramco, which some U.K. industry groups have warned would weaken investor protection.



Md Golam Faruque, CEO of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank, attends a quarterly business conference of the bank at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.



Parikshit Datta Choudhury, chairman of Karmasangsthan Bank, and Md Abul Hossain, managing director, attend "Divisional deputy general manager and regional managers' business conference - 2017" at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Lufthansa's snoop on Air Berlin stirs competition concerns

REUTERS, London/Vienna
With the ink barely dry on Lufthansa's deal to take over large parts of insolvent Air Berlin, the airline risks having its wings clipped by regulators and rivals concerned about unfair competition.

Lufthansa signed a 210 million euro (\$248 million) deal on Thursday to take over Air Berlin units Niki and LG Walter, plus some short-haul planes, to cement its position in Germany and expand its Eurowings budget brand.

Austrian competition authorities said on Friday they believed

Lufthansa, which also owns Austrian Airlines, would be too dominant in Vienna if it owned Austria-based Niki.

"We see an anti-competitive Lufthansa monopoly in Vienna on many routes after the takeover of Fly Niki," the competition authority's spokeswoman said. "We will voice our concern about the takeover at the European Commission."

The German cartel office said it expected the European Commission to take a close look at the deal.

The European Commission had no comment, with a spokesman saying it

had not yet been formally notified of the deal. Separately, easyJet said late on Friday it was in talks to take on up to 25 A320 aircraft that were operated by Germany's insolvent Air Berlin at Berlin Tegel airport.

easyJet currently flies from Berlin's Schoenefeld airport.

The deal has also raised eyebrows with rival airlines. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary has called it a "stitch-up", saying it would give Lufthansa a 95 percent share of the German domestic market. Ryanair said on Thursday it would take up its case with the EU.

Volunteers pose with underprivileged children at the launch of Khushir Kheya, a corporate social responsibility platform of IDLC. The platform aims to bring together volunteers, stakeholders, employees and various partners to tackle social problems.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Noakhali Technical Training Centre
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Re-Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

IFT Ref. No: 49.01.7507.003.18.04.17.13 Date: 08.10.2017

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment.
2	Agency	Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Dhaka.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Noakhali Technical Training Centre.
4	Procuring entity district	Noakhali
5	Invitation for	Tender, Goods (Five Lots).
6	Invitation Ref. No.	49.01.7507.003.18.04.17.13
7	Date	08.10.2017
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	IDA (World Bank).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project/program code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/program name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), DTE.
13	Tender package No.	NTTC/GD-01(Lt-1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)
14	Tender package name	Supply and Installation of Computer with other accessories and various equipments for different Trades of Noakhali TTC.
15	Tender last selling date and time	29.10.2017; up to 12:00 noon.
16	Tender closing deadline	30.10.2017; 12:30pm.
17	Tender opening date and time	30.10.2017; 01:00pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s) - selling tender document	1. Noakhali Technical Training Centre, Gabua, Begumganj, Noakhali.
	Receiving tender document	2. Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka.
	Opening tender document	Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	Eligibility of tenderer (detail stated in TDS)	(a) The tenderers should be the Manufacturers/Distributors/Sole Agents/Suppliers of Machineries for workshop. (b) Shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (c) The tenderer must have successfully completed minimum (1) one number supply contract of BDT. 8,00,000.00 (eight lakh) for Lot-01, BDT. 11,00,000.00 (eleven lakh) for Lot-02, BDT. 12,00,000.00 (twelve lakh) for Lot-03, BDT. 14,00,000.00 (fourteen lakh) for Lot-04 and BDT. 6,00,000.00 (six lakh) for Lot-05 in specific/similar goods and related services within last 3 (three) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is BDT. 9,00,000.00 (nine lakh) for Lot-01, BDT. 13,00,000.00 (thirteen lakh) for Lot-02, BDT. 14,00,000.00 (fourteen lakh) for Lot-03, BDT. 16,00,000.00 (sixteen lakh) for Lot-04 and BDT. 7,00,000.00 for Lot-05.
21	Brief description of goods	Supply & Installation of Computer with other accessories and various equipments for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Garments, Auto mechanics with driving and Electrical trade of Noakhali TTC.
22	Brief description of related services	N/A
23	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,500.00 (Taka two thousand & five hundred) only.
24	Package No.	Identification of package Location Tender security amount (BDT) Completion time after contract signing (weeks)
	GD-06	Lot-01: Supply & Installation of Equipments for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Trade of Noakhali TTC. Office of the Principal, Noakhali Technical Training Centre, Gabua, Begumganj, Noakhali. 30,000/- 08 (eight)
		Lot-02: Supply & Installation of Equipments for Garments Trade of Noakhali TTC. 45,000/-
		Lot-03: Supply & Installation of Computer, Printer, Multimedia Projector, Photocopier and other Office Equipments for Noakhali TTC. 48,000/-
		Lot-04: Supply & Installation of Equipments for Auto Mechanics with Driving Trade of Noakhali TTC. 55,000/-
		Lot-05: Supply & Installation of Equipments for Electrical Trade of Noakhali TTC. 25,000/-
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
25	Name, designation, address and contact details of official inviting tender	Md. Didar Hossen, Principal (In Charge), Noakhali Technical Training Centre, Gabua, Begumganj, Noakhali. Phone: 0321 62863, email: nttc_noa@yahoo.com
26	If it is not possible to receive and open the tenders on the fixed date due to unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.	
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md. Didar Hossen
Principal (In Charge)
Noakhali Technical Training Centre
Gabua, Begumganj, Noakhali. Phone: 0321 62863

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