

As Congress moves to drop tariffs, some US firms cry foul

REUTERS, Naples, Fla.

Michael Korchmar was hiring. His family-owned travel-goods company was planning to make a new product, an insulated food bag, and he had put out help-wanted notices for up to 30 workers to run the sewing machines in his small factory on Florida's Gulf Coast.

Those plans are now on hold. The reason: a bill quietly moving through Congress that would temporarily reduce or eliminate protective tariffs on 1,662 products, including the type of bag Korchmar had planned to produce. The bill would cut costs for rivals who make their bags in low-cost countries like China, he said, squeezing him out of the market before he had even entered it.

"Given that these products will be able to come into the country duty free, it's not likely that there's any ability for us to compete," Korchmar said in a recent interview at his factory, which currently employs about 20 people.

Even as President Trump threatens to slap protective tariffs on steel and aluminum, lawmakers are moving forward with legislation to lower trade barriers on hundreds of other products, from chemicals to toasters, in a bid to lower costs for US companies and consumers.

Supporters of the so-called miscellaneous tariff bill, which unanimously passed the House of Representatives in January, say it would boost the economy by getting

rid of tariffs designed to protect US industries that no longer exist. The National Association of Manufacturers says US companies pay hundreds of millions of dollars each year on unnecessary import fees.

Critics say that miscellaneous tariff bills, which began decades ago as modest efforts to help US manufacturers, have in recent years become sprawling packages of tariff reductions that undercut domestic producers without the means to defend their interests in Washington.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown, a Democrat who worked to get several products removed from the current bill, said Congress should do a better job to ensure tariff reductions do not impede US producers. "Miscellaneous Tariff Bills should help, not hurt American manufacturers," Brown said in a statement to Reuters.

Miscellaneous tariff bills were originally conceived in the 1980s as a way of lowering costs for US manufacturers that could not get chemicals and other component products from domestic sources. The original point of the efforts "was to encourage domestic manufacturing," recalls Jennifer Hillman, who worked on the legislation as a Senate staffer in the 1980s and 1990s.

All but two of the 163 items in a 1999 version of the bill, for example, were used in the manufacturing process, according to a House Ways and Means Committee report.

Since then, Congress has broadened successive tariff bills to

include many finished products that can go straight to store shelves.

Only 55 percent of the items in the current bill are "intermediate goods" used in manufacturing, according to applications filed with the International Trade Commission. Many of the rest are finished consumer products.

Hamilton Beach Brands, for example, would pay reduced tariffs on Chinese-made toaster ovens, steam irons and other household items it used to make domestically.

Gap Inc would be able to import vests, sweaters and 14 other types of clothing duty-free, while PetSmart Inc would no longer have to pay tariffs on certain pet crates and chew toys. Camera maker GoPro Inc would be able to import 31 types of camera accessories duty-free.

None of the companies responded to requests for comment about the inclusion of their products.

Ron Sorini, a lobbyist who has helped clothing manufacturers get items in the bill, says consumers benefit from reduced tariffs, too, since companies can lower their prices.

"Why in the world would we put a tariff on a product that's not made in the US? It's kind of crazy," he said. Any importer can take advantage of rates lowered by the bill, not just the ones that applied for them, and the reductions last only three years to help ensure they don't permanently freeze out would-be domestic manufacturers.

Under the latest rules, set in 2016, companies seeking lower tariffs

submit applications to the International Trade Commission, which then works with the Commerce Department to determine whether any of the items are made domestically. If the agencies learn of US producers, they invite the companies to submit objections. ITC staffers then assess whether the objections are legitimate.

In the current bill, the ITC eliminated 385 products because of objections from domestic producers. Even so, the bill includes 145 items that are made domestically, according to a Reuters analysis of ITC records.

An ITC spokeswoman declined to comment on the commission's actions beyond pointing to the recommendations it ultimately made.

Several companies told Reuters that the ITC was receptive to their concerns. "I'm just glad we got wind of it when we did and stopped it," said Anson Martin, a vice president at Illinois battery company Inventus Power, which successfully objected to the inclusion of 18 types of batteries in the bill. He said he learned of the proposed tariff reductions through his trade association. Other companies said they were not aware they had missed a chance to defend their interests.

Alan Peppel, president of Massachusetts-based knife manufacturer Dexter-Russell Inc, said he had no idea until receiving a call from Reuters that Congress was poised to eliminate tariffs on a type of kitchen knife his company produces.



ONE BANK

Sayeed H Chowdhury, chairman of One Bank, poses with the students from Rajshahi, Sirajganj, Rangpur and Bogra who received scholarships under the bank's corporate social responsibility, at a programme in Bogra on Sunday. M Fakhru Alam, managing director, was present.

Euro zone Jan retail sales rise

REUTERS, Brussels

Euro zone retail sales increased by more than expected year-on-year in January thanks to sales of non-food products, especially over the internet, data from the European Union's statistics office Eurostat showed on Monday.

Eurostat said retail sales in the 19 countries sharing the euro fell 0.1 percent month-on-month for a 2.3 percent year-on-year increase. Economists polled by Reuters had expected a 0.3 percent monthly rise and

a 2.1 percent annual gain.

Eurostat also revised upwards the data for December to -1.0 on the month and 2.1 percent on year from -1.1 and 1.9 percent respectively.

The data showed the year-on-year number in January was mainly influenced by a 3.8 percent rise in the sales of non-food products, an acceleration from 3.0 percent in December. Of those non-food products, sales via mail order and over the internet jumped 8.8 percent, up from a 7.5 percent rise in December.

Zila Parishad

District: Thakurgaon

www.zpthakurgaon.org

শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন
সব মানুষের উন্নয়ন

Memo No. 46.55.9400.000.05.043.2017-81

Date: 28.02.2018

e-Tender Notice Number: 01/2017-2018

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 01 No. Package of FY 2017-2018 for this district.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work & package No.	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
01.	171717	Construction for 2-storied Proto Type Rest-House, under upazila: Baliadangi, Dist: Thakurgaon	01.04.2018 3.00pm	02.04.2018 10.00am	02.04.2018 10.00am

This is 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 System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 01.04.2018, 3.00pm respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP held desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from e-mail: ceozptha@gmail.com Phone No. 0561-52442.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Zakir Hossain

Assistant Engineer

Zila Parishad, Thakurgaon

GD-613

Office of the Project Director

Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawan Bazar, Teigaon, Dhaka-1215

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation.
3	Procuring entity name	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawan Bazar, Teigaon, Dhaka-1215
4	Invitation for	Lot No. 1 Construction of Jetty, Gangway & Pontoon of Fish Landing Centre at Alipur, Patuakhali. 2 Construction of Jetty, Gangway & Pontoon of Fish Landing Centre at Parerhat, Pirojpur.
5	Invitation Ref. No.	33.03.0000.111.05.038.18.707 Date: 05/03/2018
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
8	Project/programme name	Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area.
9	Tender selling date	07/03/2018 to 14/03/2018 (09:00am-5:00pm).
10	Tender selling place	a Police Commissioner, Office of the Metropolitan Police, DMP, Ramna, Dhaka. b Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawan Bazar, Teigaon, Dhaka-1215
11	Tender dropping place	a Police Commissioner, Office of the Metropolitan Police, DMP, Ramna, Dhaka. b Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawan Bazar, Teigaon, Dhaka-1215.
12	Tender dropping date & time	15/03/2018 Time: 09:00am-12:00 Noon.
13	Tender opening date & time	15/03/2018 Time: 03:00pm.
14	Tender opening place	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawan Bazar, Teigaon, Dhaka-1215.
15	Eligibility of tenderer:	This Invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below: Lot 1 a) The contractor shall be a) Bangladeshi nationality, b) Experience in completion of similar works at least Tk 35.00 (thirty-five) lac under 1 number of contract over a period of last 5 (five) years, c) Tax identification numbers (TIN), up-to-date income tax certificate, d) VAT registration certificate, e) Trade licence (up-to-date), f) Bank solvency certificate Tk 100.00 (one hundred) lac, g) Firms average annual turnover is minimum Tk 50.00 (fifty) lac, h) Tenderer must have a good, reputed marine engineering workshop, i) Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderers stipulated in the tender data sheet, tender documents & Public Procurement Act & Regulation. Lot 2 a) The contractor shall be a) Bangladeshi nationality, b) Experience in completion of similar works at least Tk 35.00 (thirty-five) lac under 1 number of contract over a period of last 5 (five) years, c) Tax identification numbers (TIN), up-to-date income tax certificate, d) VAT registration certificate, e) Trade licence (up-to-date), f) Bank solvency certificate Tk 100.00 (one hundred) lac, g) Firms average annual turnover is minimum Tk 50.00 (fifty) lac, h) Tenderer must have a good, reputed marine engineering workshop, i) Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderers stipulated in the tender data sheet, tender documents & Public Procurement Act & Regulation.
16	Price of tender document	Lot No. 1 Tk 5,000.00 (five thousand) only in cash (non-refundable). 2 Tk 5,000.00 (five thousand) only in cash (non-refundable).
17	Lot No.	Identification of lot Location Tender security amount Tk Completion time in days
1	1	Construction of Jetty, Gangway & Pontoon of Fish Landing Centre at Alipur, Patuakhali Tk 4.00 (four) lac in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of "The Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area". 120 (one hundred twenty) days
2	2	Construction of Jetty, Gangway & Pontoon of Fish Landing Centre at Parerhat, Pirojpur Tk 4.00 (four) lac in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of "The Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area". 120 (one hundred twenty) days
18	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 02-55011855.
19	Special instructions	Lot No. 1 Tenderer must have experience of 3 (three) number of supply/repair/construction of Jetty/Gangway/Pontoon in govt/semi-govt/autonomous organisation. 2 Any bidder can participate in one or more than one tender/re-tender.
20	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or any of the tender proceedings. Md. Jamal Hossain Mazumder Project Director Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities Coastal District at 4 Selected Area, BFDC, Dhaka	

GD-623

Japan car giants team up to build hydrogen stations

AFP, Tokyo

Top Japanese carmakers said on Monday they were teaming up to nearly double the amount of hydrogen stations in Japan, as the car-mad country seeks to head off competition from China and Germany.

Toyota, Nissan and Honda formed a joint venture with major gas and energy companies, including French industrial gases company Air Liquide, to build 80 new hydrogen stations in the next four years, to add to the 101 stations currently in Japan.

"At this stage, we believe there is significant space for cooperation, rather than searching for areas of competition," Shigeki Terashi, Toyota executive vice president told reporters.

The new venture -- "Japan H2 Mobility" or "JHyM" -- comes as the world's top economies rush to issue tougher environmental regulations that are spurring development of new clean cars and trucks.

Japan has focused on promoting fuel-cells, which combine hydrogen and oxygen in an electrochemical reaction, producing clean electricity to power vehicles or home generators.

But fuel-cell vehicles cannot get off the ground without a network of hydrogen stations, and vice versa, and the chicken-and-egg dilemma has stalled the roll-out of the technology, say industry professionals.

Hydrogen stations and fuel cell vehicles must be promoted in tandem in order to lower their cost, executives said.

"Unless infrastructure makers team up, new hydrogen stations tend to be concentrated in urban areas," said Hideki Sugawara, president of the new firm.

"In order to maximise the demand for FCVs (fuel cell vehicles), we have to expand geographically," he said.

The 101 hydrogen stations serve around 2,400 fuel-cell cars in Japan, according to official data, but a lack of viable stations has been a major hurdle for carmakers as they seek to boost production.

The Japanese government and the auto industry aim to introduce 160 stations and 40,000 fuel-cell vehicles by March 2020.

The government is also pushing to deregulate the sector to lower costs.

Toyota launched the Mirai, the world's first mass-market hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle, in late 2014 as it looked to push further into the fast-growing market for environmentally friendly cars.

Nissan and Honda also have their version of fuel-cell projects.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়

আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.bpsc.gov.bd


অকেজো গাড়ি বিক্রির নিমিত্ত আর্থ্রী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ ব্যক্তি-এর নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশের উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের অকেজো ঘোষিত ০৩ (তিন)টি কার ও ০২ (দুই)টি মাইক্রোবাস বিক্রির জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছে। এ সংক্রান্ত পূর্ণাঙ্গ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ সরকারি কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট (www.bpsc.gov.bd) এ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। সিডিউল নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস কক্ষ থেকে ০৬/০৩/২০১৮ তারিখ থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

শোভন শ্রমদার

জিডি-৬১৪

সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-৪)

		সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি) Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A Company of Petrobangla)		বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার	
গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।					
International Tender Notice					
Tender No. SGFL/3WELLS/DST/FP17-18 Date: 27/02/2018					
1	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division.		
2	Agency	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A Company of Petrobangla).		
3	Procuring entity name	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL).		
4	Procuring entity district	:	Sylhet.		
5	Invitation for	:	Tender for procurement of Drill Stem Testing (DST) Services with equipment for Workover of 3 Wells (KTL-1, RP-2 and RP-6) of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Sylhet, Bangladesh.		
6	Invitation Ref No.	:	SGFL/3WELLS/DST/FP17-18.		
7	Date	:	27/02/2018.		
KEY INFORMATION					
8	Procurement method	:	Single Stage Two Envelope Method (International Competitive Bidding).		
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and source of funds	:	SGFL's Own Fund.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Project name	:	Workover of 3 Wells (KTL-1, RP-2 and RP-6) of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.		
11	Tender publication date	:	N/A.		
12	Tender last selling date	:	16/04/2018.		
13	Tender closing/receiving date & time	:	17/04/2018 and 12:00hrs (BST).		
14	Tender opening date & time	:	17/04/2018 and 12:15hrs (BST).		
15	Name and Address of the office(s)	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13th Floor), 3, Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	-Selling tender document	:	Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. Ltd (BAPEX), BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
	-Selling tender document (others)	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Head Office, P.O: Chiknagool, Sylhet, Bangladesh.		
16	-Receiving of tender document	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Head Office, P.O: Chiknagool, Sylhet, Bangladesh.		
	Opening of tender document	:	The tender document will be available for sale from 06/03/2018 to 16/04/2018 during office hours on all working days.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligibility of tenderer	:	A contractor or a subcontractor that is a national of, or registered in, the following countries are not eligible: Countries, which have no business relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Materials, Equipments Plants and supplies shall not have their origin in the following countries: Countries, which have no business relations with the People's Republic of Bangladesh.		
19	Brief description of works	:	Workover of three Wells of SGFL.		
20	Brief description of physical services	:	Drill Stem Testing (DST) Services providing all necessary equipment and professional experts/operators.		
21	Price of tender document	:	Taka 10,000.00 or USD 125.00 (non-refundable).		
22	Name of the official inviting tender	:	Engr. Nizam Shariful Islam.		
23	Designation of the official inviting tender	:	Managing Director, Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.		
24	Address of the official inviting tender	:	Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Dhaka Liaison Office, Petrocentre (13th Floor), 3, Kawan Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Attn: Deputy General Manager (Procurement)		
25	Contact details of the official inviting tender	:	Tel No. +880255013709 Fax No. +880255013708 E-mail: md@sgfl.org.bd		
26	Special instruction	:	a) Tender must remain valid for 120 days from the date of closing of the tender. b) Amount of tender security for BDT 26,000,000.00 or USD 32,500.00 in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or in the form of an irrevocable Bank Guarantee (as per format provided in the tender document) issued by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly endorsed by a Scheduled Bank of Bangladesh with full obligation & liabilities. c) The tender security must remain valid for one hundred and forty-eight (148) days from the date of closing of the tender. d) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. e) The tender must not be submitted by fax or email. f) Exceptions (Technical or Commercial or of other nature) proposed by tenderer (if any) shall be clearly expressed in a separate section of their technical offer. No exception will be accepted in the price bid. g) This tender notice will also be available at Petrobangla website: www.petrobangla.org.bd and SGFL website: www.sgfl.org.bd and CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd .		
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				
GD-609	Deputy General Manager (Procurement)				