

# Trump hits China with tariffs on another \$200b in goods

AFP, Washington  
US President Donald Trump on Monday defied warnings and escalated the trade confrontation with China, hitting the country with tariffs starting next week on another \$200 billion in imports and threatening to target even more if Beijing retaliates.

Trump said China had refused to change the unfair practices that hurt US businesses and workers.

"For months, we have urged China to change these unfair practices and give fair and reciprocal treatment to American companies," Trump said in a statement.

"These practices plainly constitute a grave threat to the long-term health and prosperity of the United States economy," he said.

"But, so far, China has been unwilling to change its practices," including theft and force transfer of technology.

Once the new round of tariffs takes effect on September 24, punitive duties will be in place on roughly half of the products the US buys from China -- its largest source of imported merchandise.

The latest round of imports will face 10 percent tariffs through the end of the year, and then the rate will jump to 25 percent.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry had already vowed to strike back.

"If the US launches any new tariff measures, China will have to take countermeasures to firmly ensure our legitimate rights and interests," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters during a regular press briefing on Monday.

But Trump warned that "if China takes retaliatory action against our farmers or other industries, we will immediately pursue phase three, which is tariffs on approximately \$267 billion of additional



US President Donald Trump delivers his speech as he and China's President Xi Jinping meet business leaders at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

imports."

That would mean imposing new taxes on all of the goods the US imports from China.

"Once again, I urge China's leaders to take swift action to end their country's unfair trade practices," Trump said. "Hopefully, this trade situation will be resolved, in the end, by myself and President Xi of China, for whom I have great respect and affection."

The new taxes will hit a broad swath of products, including billions in Chinese-made voice data receivers, computer memory modules, automatic data processors,

and accessories for office equipment such as copiers and bank note dispensers -- instantly making widely used goods more expensive.

However, senior administration officials told reporters the initial list announced in July was reduced by 300 product lines after the administration received 6,000 written comments from consumers and businesses.

The products spared included consumer electronics like smart watches and Bluetooth devices, child safety products such as high chairs, car seats and play pens, and certain health-and-safety prod-

ucts such as bicycle helmets, the officials said.

The officials said China had been given "chance after chance" to change the trade practices considered unfair to US businesses, but "have remained obdurate."

Only last week, Beijing said it welcomed overtures from US officials offering to restart trade talks, but press reports indicate China would call off any meetings if the new punitive duties take effect.

The escalating confrontation shook up global stock markets. Wall Street closed the day solidly in the red, and word of the fresh round of tariffs had already sent Chinese stocks tumbling more than one percent, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index falling to 2,651.79, the lowest level since 2014.

While officials said the impact on the US economy has been minimal, firms across the country report lost businesses, layoffs and possible bankruptcies as input costs rise and exports fall.

They officials told reporters the lower initial tariff rate would give US businesses time to find new suppliers.

That could soften the blow to US consumers and manufacturers among others ahead of key US congressional elections in November.

Lobbying against the tariffs has risen sharply in Washington but Trump's policy has left candidates in competitive races for November's hard-fought midterm congressional elections in awkward positions.

Some Republicans in export-dependent areas have fallen silent on trade or sought to push back. But some Democrats, who broadly oppose the president's agenda and are banking on his unpopularity, have adopted critical views of trade agreements and free trade.

# US tech giants eye AI key to unlock China push

REUTERS, Shanghai

US technology giants, facing tighter content rules in China and the threat of a trade war, are targeting an easier way into the world's second largest economy - artificial intelligence.

Google, Microsoft Inc and Amazon Inc showcased their AI wares at a state-backed forum held in Shanghai this week against the backdrop of Beijing's plans to build a \$400 billion AI industry by 2025.

China's government and companies may compete against US rivals in the global AI race, but they are aware that gaining ground won't be easy without a certain amount of collaboration.

"Hey Google, let's make humanity great again," Tang Xiao'ou, CEO of Chinese AI and facial recognition unicorn SenseTime, said in a speech on Monday.

Amazon and Microsoft announced plans on Monday to build new AI research labs in Shanghai. Google also showcased a growing suite of China-focused AI tools at its packed event on Tuesday.

Google in the past year has launched AI-backed products including a translate app and a drawing game, its first new consumer products in China since its search engine was largely blocked in 2010.

The World Artificial Intelligence Conference, which ends on Wednesday, is hosted by China's top economic planning agency alongside its cyber and industry ministries. The conference aims to show the country's growing might as a global AI player.

China's ambition to be a world leader in AI has created an opening for US firms, which attract the majority of top global AI talents and are keen to tap into China's vast data.

The presence of global AI research projects is also a boon for China, which aims to become a global technology leader in the next decade.

Liu He, China's powerful vice premier and the key negotiator in trade talks with the United States, said his country wanted a more collaborative approach to AI technology.

"As members of a global village, I hope countries can show inclusive understanding and respect for each other, deal with the double-sword technologies can bring, and embrace AI challenges together," he told the forum.

Beijing took an aggressive stance when it laid out its AI roadmap last year, urging companies, the government and military to give China a "competitive edge" over its rivals.



Leslie Leow and Mark Chau, regional managers of professional accounting body Certified Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia; Dewan Nurul Islam, president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), and Mahmudul Hasan Khusru, vice president, pose after a session on "Membership Pathways Agreement with CPA Australia" at CA Bhaban in Dhaka on Monday. The ICAB recently signed an agreement with CPA Australia allowing its members to become the latter's associates on fulfilling certain eligibility criteria.



FH Ansarey, managing director and CEO of ACI Motors, and Ben Whitmarsh, international sales director of UK-based diesel generator manufacturer YorPower Ltd, exchange signed documents of a deal at ACI Centre in Dhaka on Monday. ACI Motors will market and distribute YorPower's generators.

# Audi launches electric SUV in Tesla's backyard, with assist from Amazon

REUTERS, San Francisco

German luxury car brand Audi on Monday staged the global launch of a new electric sport utility vehicle on the home turf of rival Tesla Inc, and highlighted a deal with Amazon.com Inc to make recharging its forthcoming e-tron models easier.

The Audi e-tron midsize SUV will be offered in the United States next year at a starting price of \$75,795 before a \$7,500 tax credit. It is one of a volley of electric vehicles coming from Volkswagen AG brands, as well as other European premium brands including Daimler-owned Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Volvo Cars and Jaguar Land Rover.

All aim to expand the market for premium electric vehicles and also to grab share of that market from Palo Alto, California-based Tesla, which has had the niche largely to itself.

"I want Audi to be the number-one electric vehicle seller in America over the long term," Audi of America President Scott Keogh told Reuters in an interview on Monday.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is also head of rocket company SpaceX, planned to mark the e-tron launch occasion by staging a SpaceX event in Los Angeles at roughly the same time on Monday evening as Audi's unveiling.

Audi and parent Volkswagen are using the US launch of the e-tron SUV in mid-2019 to take aim at one obstacle to expanding electric vehicle sales - the lack of convenient ways to recharge their batteries,



Audi unveiled an all-electric vehicle at an event in California on Monday.

Audi will partner with online retailer Amazon to sell and install home electric vehicle charging systems to buyers of the e-tron, the companies said on Monday. Amazon will deliver the hardware and hire electricians to install them through its Amazon Home Services operation.

Amazon's partnership with Audi to provide home charging systems is the first time the online retailer has struck such a deal with an automaker, and signals a new front in Amazon's drive to expand its reach into consumers' homes beyond the presence of its Alexa smart speakers in living rooms and kitchens.

"We see charging installation as a very important business," Pat Bigatel, director of Amazon Home Services, told Reuters at Audi's launch event in San Francisco's Bill

Graham Civic Center.

Audi executives said home charging stations would cost about \$1,000, depending on the home's electrical system.

Tesla offers wall connectors for home charging at a \$500 list price, and will arrange for installation, according to the company.

At the same time, Electrify America, a company funded by Volkswagen as part of its settlement of US diesel emission cheating litigation, plans to launch next year the next round of installations of public charging stations, Electrify America executives told Reuters.

Tesla has developed its own network of Supercharger charging stations with more than 11,000 chargers in North America. Electrify America plans to have 2,000 chargers installed

by mid-June next year. Those will be open to any vehicle, and customers can swipe a credit card to recharge.

"We want to work with all" automotive brands, said Giovanni Palazzo, Electrify America's chief executive.

Audi has been heralding the launch of the e-tron SUV for some time, but until Monday it had not shared many details of the vehicle.

The e-tron is electric and has two electric motors - one in the front and one in the rear - driving all four wheels. The Hungarian factory building motors for the e-tron will start with a production pace equivalent to 200 vehicles a day, Audi officials said.

In Europe, the vehicle will use cameras instead of conventional mirrors to give drivers a view to the rear. That feature is still not approved by US regulators.

However, in many other respects the e-tron is a conventional, mainstream luxury SUV. It offers seating for five, and its length and wheelbase position it in the center of the market for midsize, five-passenger luxury SUVs such as the BMW X5. The e-tron is 5 inches (13 cm) shorter than the Tesla Model X, and it has conventional doors. The Model X uses vertically opening "falcon wing" doors.

The e-tron will have an advanced cruise-control system that can keep the car within a lane and maintain a set distance behind another vehicle, but the system will be designed so that drivers must keep hands on the wheel.


# EU probes VW, BMW, Daimler over alleged emissions collusion

REUTERS, Brussels

EU antitrust regulators are investigating whether BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen colluded to restrict the rollout of clean emission technology, a move that could lead to hefty fines for the German carmakers.

The European Commission opened an in-depth investigation on Tuesday, nearly a year after it raided the companies and two years after it slapped a record 2.93 billion euro (\$3.4 billion) fine on a group of truckmakers including Daimler for fixing prices and delaying the adoption of cleaner engine technology.

The EU executive said the "circle of five" - BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen Group's VW, Audi and Porsche - held meetings where they may have colluded to limit the development and roll-out of certain emissions control systems for cars sold in Europe.



## ইস্টার্ন টিউবস লিমিটেড

### Eastern Tubes Limited

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)

ETL/LED/GD-6/2018-2019/313 18/09/2018

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID : 222609 Package No: ETL/LED/GD-6/2018-19 Publishing : 18 September 2018	Procurement of Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Fire Hydrant, Addressable Fire Detection System & CCTV Surveillance System for the 6 storied office cum factory building under LED Light (CKD) Assembling Plant in ETL.	08-Oct-2018 16:00 09-Oct-2018 15:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender. 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](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Abdul Hadi**  
Managing Director  
Eastern Tubes Limited

GD-2188

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Public Health Engineering  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Manikganj District, Manikganj

Memo No. 489 Date: 18/09/2018

### Invitation for e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Sl No.	e-Tender ID	Work name	Closing date & time
1	221914	Supply and Installation 02 Nos. of exploratory drilling Test Tube Well 01 No. Production Well 350x150 supplying & Installation of Submersible Pump with column pipe 01 No. Electric Panel Board construction of Pump House with Electrification & Security Wall Installation of Transformer with Electrical/Mechanical Line Connection etc. at Singair Pourashava of Manikganj District.	08 October 2018 13:00

This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Bidhan Chandra Dey**  
Executive Engineer  
DPHE Manikganj District, Manikganj

GD-2189