



**EBL & Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB)**  
Agreement Signing Ceremony

Ahmed Shaheen, deputy managing director of Eastern Bank, and Md Hossain Patwary, director for finance at the Directorate of Financial Monitoring (North) at Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently facilitating utility bill payments through the bank.



**RN Paul, managing director of RFL group, announces the launch of a campaign titled "Click Fan Adol-Bodol Offer", at a press conference at the group's head office in Dhaka yesterday. Customers can get ceiling fan of the group's electric brand Click in exchange of used or wreckage of any brand's ceiling fan till August 10.**

# US, China to relaunch talks with little changed since deal fell apart

REUTERS, Washington/New York

The United States and China are set to relaunch trade talks this week after a two-month hiatus, but a year after their trade war began there is little sign their differences have narrowed.

After meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Japan just in late June, US President Donald Trump agreed to suspend a new round of tariffs on \$300 billion worth of imported Chinese consumer goods while the two sides resumed negotiations.

Trump said then that China would restart large purchases of US agricultural commodities, and the United States would ease some export restrictions on Chinese telecom equipment giant Huawei Technologies.

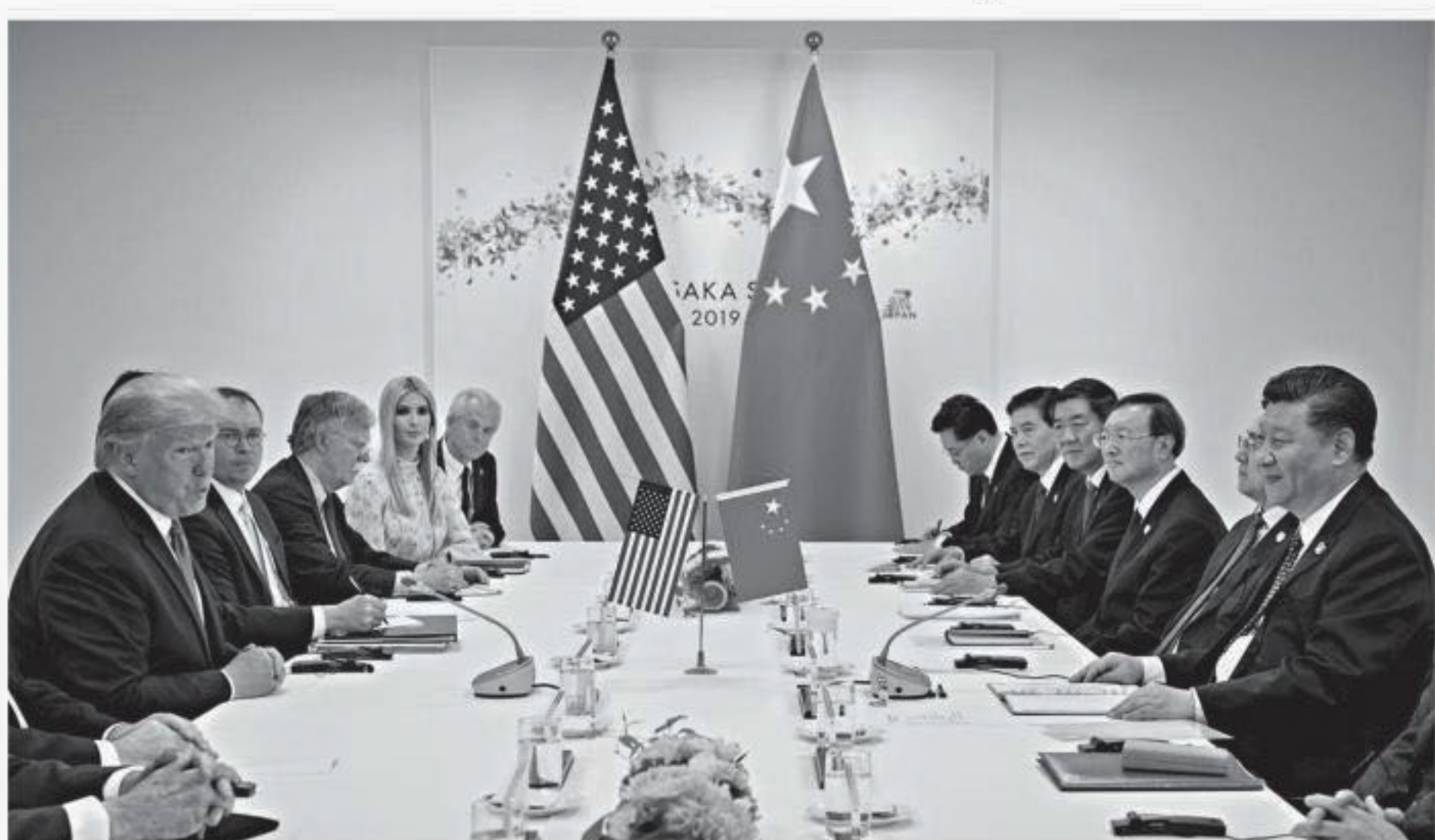
But sources familiar with the talks and China trade watchers in Washington say the summit did little to clear the path for top negotiators to resolve an impasse that caused trade deal talks to break down in early May.

A US official said last week the discussions were expected to resume with a phone call between US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

A USTR spokesman said the call was expected this week, but gave no further details.

The United States is demanding that China make sweeping policy changes to better protect American intellectual property, end the forced transfer and theft of trade secrets and curb massive state industrial subsidies. At stake, US officials say, is dominance of the high-tech industries of the future, from artificial intelligence to aerospace.

"We've had a change in atmospherics," said Derek Scissors, a China expert at the American Enterprise Institute, a business-oriented Washington think tank. "While this is great for markets, the administration has not said one specific thing about how we're unstuck."



**US President Donald Trump meets with China's President Xi Jinping at the start of their bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan.**

Scissors, who has at times consulted with Trump administration officials, said that both sides got what they wanted out of the summit — a lowering of the temperature and the avoidance of new tariffs that would have been painful for both sides.

"The pressure for one side to give into the other is diffused right now. I expect this to drag out for months," Scissors added.

Washington and Beijing appear to have different ideas of what the two leaders agreed in Osaka.

Three sources familiar with the state of negotiations say that the Chinese side did not make firm commitments to immediately purchase agricultural commodities.

One of the sources said Trump raised the issue of agricultural purchases twice during the meeting, but Xi only agreed to consider purchases in the context of a broader final agreement.

Other than a small purchase of American

rice by a private Chinese firm, no purchases have materialized. Chinese officials and state media accounts in the past week have emphasized that any deal, including agricultural purchases, is dependent on removal of US tariffs.

"The Chinese have been clear they didn't promise anything," said one source familiar with the talks.

"The idea they would give up their main leverage before getting anything doesn't make sense. I could see them buying some pork and buying some soybeans, but it's still going to be pennies."

Trump administration officials have also downplayed the extent of pledges to allow Huawei to purchase US technology products, with White House trade adviser Peter Navarro saying that only "lower-tech" US semiconductors could be made available for sale to the company.

Reuters reported last week that the

Commerce Department's export control enforcement staff was told to continue to treat Huawei as a blacklisted entity as the department considers requests for licenses to US firms to sell products and services to Huawei.

Chinese officials point out that they only got the United States to concede on Huawei at the Osaka talks, rather than on their other demand, which was removing the existing tariffs.

So the focus on the upcoming talks will be the scrapping on the tariffs, they say.

A second source said that US tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods and Chinese tariffs on \$160 billion worth of US goods could wind up being "the new normal."

One Chinese official familiar with the situation said that trade talks would be restarted very quickly, but that there was a "fairly large gap" in the core demands of both countries and it would be a challenge to reach consensus on the toughest issues.

"The negotiating environment is even more severe," the official said.

Another official said China remained concerned about the presence of hawks in the US team, such as Trump advisor Peter Navarro.

"There are bullies there," the official said.

The officials spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

China's foreign ministry cited Xi as telling Trump at Osaka that "on issues concerning China's sovereignty and dignity, China must safeguard its core interests."

A senior Beijing-based Asia diplomat said there would be pressure on China's leadership not to give in to the United States and for any outcomes to be seen as equal and balanced.

"A trade deal cannot be portrayed as a victory for the United States," the diplomat said, citing conversations with Chinese officials.

# Japan, South Korea step up trade dispute

REUTERS, Tokyo/Seoul

Japan and South Korea ratcheted up tension on Tuesday in a diplomatic dispute that threatens to disrupt global supply of smartphones and chips, with Seoul denouncing Japanese media reports that it transferred a key chemical to North Korea.

The friction, stemming from the issue of South Koreans forced to work for Japanese firms during World War Two, worsened last week when Tokyo said it would tighten curbs on exports of three materials crucial for advanced consumer electronics.

The move could hit tech giants, such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, which supply chips to the likes of Apple and Huawei, and underscores Japan's sway over a vital link of the global supply chain.

In some of the sharpest comments yet, South Korean Industry Minister Sung Yun-mo urged Japan to "stop making groundless claims immediately", an apparent response to a Japanese media report last week.

The report quoted an unidentified senior member of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as saying some hydrogen fluoride exported from Japan to South Korea had ultimately been shipped to North Korea.

Hydrogen fluoride, a chemical covered by Tokyo's recent export curbs, can be used in chemical weapons. Japan has said it has seen "inappropriate instances" of South Korea's export controls, but has not elaborated.

Asked about countermeasures, Sung said Seoul was reviewing "every possible plan", but gave no details. The neighbors plan to hold talks on Friday, he added.

Earlier, Japan had once again floated the possibility of further measures against South Korea.

"Whether Japan implements additional measures depends on South Korea's response," Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko told a news conference. Tokyo was "not thinking at all" of withdrawing the curbs, which did not violate World Trade Organization rules, he added.

South Korea appears to be pressing both the WTO and Washington on the issue, however.

The export curb figured on the agenda of a Tuesday meeting of WTO member nations, where Seoul is set to explain its position, a South Korean foreign ministry spokesman said. A South Korean foreign ministry official was also expected to discuss the curbs with his counterpart in Washington.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday called for the restrictions to be withdrawn, adding that Seoul could not rule out countermeasures for damage inflicted on its firms.



**Lawmaker Md Nurul Islam Talukder, Marcel brand ambassador and actor Amin Khan and Humayun Kabir, executive director of Marcel, open an exclusive distributor showroom, Setu Electronics, in Dupchanchia in Bogura on Monday.**

MARCEL

# Bitcoin near two-week highs, fuelled by hopes for Facebook's Libra

REUTERS, London

Bitcoin held on Tuesday near its highest for two weeks after surging as much as 9 percent overnight, a move analysts said was probably driven by hopes that cryptocurrencies are gaining wider acceptance after Facebook disclosed plans for a digital coin.

Bitcoin touched \$12,833 overnight on the Bitstamp exchange BTC=BTSP, its highest since June 27, before pulling back. It was last up 2.2 percent at \$12,560.

The biggest cryptocurrency has gained over 45 percent since Facebook laid out plans last month for its Libra coin, sparking renewed optimism that cryptocurrencies will gain mainstream acceptance among companies and individual users.

"What we have seen in bitcoin over the last couple of weeks is still very linked to Libra," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA. "People allude to the idea that bitcoin is a more mature industry than previously."

**ইস্টার্ন টিউবস লিমিটেড**  
**Eastern Tubes Limited**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)  
ETL/LED/GD-4/2019-2020/714 09/07/2019

**e-Tender Notice**

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

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID: 339217 Package No. ETL/LED/GD-4/2019-2020 Publishing: 09-July-2019	Supply of Raw Materials (Corrugated Rapper & Packet) for LED Tube Light & Bulb.	29-July-2019 16:00 30-July-2019 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)).

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GD-1205

# EU fines Hello Kitty owner for limiting online sales

AFP, Brussels

The EU's top anti-trust regulator on Wednesday fined Hello Kitty owner Sanrio 6.2 million euros (\$6.9 million) for illegally blocking retailers from selling merchandise across bloc borders.

"Consumers, whether they are buying a Hello Kitty mug or a Chococat toy, can now take full advantage of one of the main benefits of the EU's single market: the ability to shop around Europe for the best deals," said Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager.

The relatively low fine came as a result of Sanrio's cooperation in the case, which was jointly launched against Nike and Universal Studio.

In March, the commission fined Nike 12.5 million euros, with no decision yet taken against Universal.

The case is part of the EU's ambition to build a digital single market across the union of 28 countries and 500 million people, which as a bloc is the world's biggest economy. The commission is especially keen to fight companies that break EU competition rules by restricting a manufacturer's or retailer's ability to sell licensed merchandise cross-border and online.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে  
সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০

**ই-জিপি টেন্ডার নোটিশ**

ফোনঃ +৮৮০৩১২৮৬৩৬২, ই-মেইলঃ [cee@railway.gov.bd](mailto:cee@railway.gov.bd)

নং-৫৪.০১.১৫০০.১০৯.০৭.০৩২.১৮ তারিখঃ ২১.০৬.২০১৯খ্রিঃ

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	টেন্ডার আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরন ও কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১।	CE/E-Rev.-TS-25/E-Tender/2018-19	336227	Under AEN-1/DAs jurisdiction Emergency changing of existing worn out rail with new MG PC sleeper including ballasting and other related works at Loco Shed/Diesel workshop DEMU shed re-construction of saloon siding Line No. 1 & Rehabilitation of Goods Line-1 Connecting Points No. 472474476478480482 483485 486 & 487 at Dhaka yard construction of a new train lighting Line No. 2 & state saloon line in connection with installation of automatic carriage washing machine at Dhaka wash pit along with total 12km shallow screening & tamping of DG & MG lines overhauling of points & crossing and complete track renewal with other ancillary works at Dhaka yard.	OTM, NCT	23 July-2019, 12:00 Hrs.

**বিঃদ্রঃ**

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা করতে হবে।

**আবদুল জলিল**  
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে  
চট্টগ্রাম

এস(১৯) (১৮৮)  
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