

Asia-Pacific leaders push for freer trade after Trump

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Asia-Pacific leaders called on Thursday for open and multilateral trade to support a global economy battered by the novel coronavirus, and some hoped for more engagement with the United States under a Joe Biden administration.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, among the leaders at a virtual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, rejected protectionism and said globalisation was “irreversible”, a day before US President Donald Trump was expected to join in the gathering.

“We will not reverse course or run against historical trend by ‘decoupling’ or forming a small circle to keep others out,” Xi said at a forum ahead of the APEC leaders meeting to be held virtually in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. “China will remain committed to openness and cooperation, and adhere to multilateralism and the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits,” he said.

Xi said “mounting unilateralism, protectionism and bullying as well as backlash against economic globalisation” had added to risks and uncertainties in the world economy.

Trump has introduced protectionist trade policies since coming to power in 2017, including tariffs on billions of dollars worth of Chinese products that launched a trade war between the world’s two largest economies.

The APEC leaders’ meeting comes as



REUTERS/FILE

A screen shows a news program about Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech via virtual meeting to the APEC forum in Malaysia, at a restaurant in Beijing yesterday.

economies are trying to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and days after Trump lost his bid for a second term.

Trump, who has yet to concede and begin a transfer of government to President-elect Biden, was due to represent the United States at the virtual summit on Friday, a U.S. official said. It will be the first time he has joined an APEC summit since 2017, the only time he has participated.

Biden has signalled a return to

multilateralism pursued during Barack Obama’s presidency, though questions remain over whether the new president would reverse Trump-era policies.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told the APEC forum he expected “more multilateralists” in the Biden administration.

“I think that they will be more supportive of the WTO, and of APEC. I am not sure that they will be more keen on throwing the doors wide open, or joining the CPTPP, because

that depends on domestic politics too,” he said, referring to the successor to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact.

Lee also said US trade policies under Trump had weighed on APEC’s progress in recent years, which he termed “very slow”.

“Also, they have not been supportive of trade as a win-win proposition. The attitude of the Trump administration is that this is a win-lose proposition,” Lee said.

Trump’s “America First” approach saw the United States withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement in 2017. It has since changed its name to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

The United States is also absent from the world’s largest free-trade bloc, the Regional Comprehensive Partnership Agreement (RCEP) - a 15-nation pact backed by China that was signed last week.

At the last APEC meeting in 2018, the countries failed to agree on a joint communique, the first time in the bloc’s history, as the United States and China stood at opposing ends of talks on trade and investments.

Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyidin Yassin said APEC countries were working on a “post 2020” vision and he stressed that free and multilateral trade was integral to economic recovery.

“This is essential for our businesses as market stability and predictability are the central pillars which ensure that trade and investment continue to flow, even during times of crisis,” he said.

India aims to reduce diesel use with \$1.35-b LNG retail push

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian companies will spend 100 billion rupees (\$1.35 billion) over three years on 1,000 liquefied natural gas (LNG) stations along main roads and industrial corridors and in mining areas, the oil minister said on Thursday, to cut diesel consumption.

Diesel, which accounts for about two-fifth of India’s refined fuels consumption, is widely used by buses, truck and in the mining sector.

“Even if the LNG vehicle segment achieves 10 per cent market share in a fleet of 10 million trucks, it will have a positive impact on reducing emissions and substituting crude,” Dharmendra Pradhan said at a foundation-laying ceremony for 50 LNG stations.

Use of LNG in heavy vehicles will cut fuel costs by 40 per cent compared with diesel and help contain inflation, he said, and urged automobile makers to look at producing LNG-compatible vehicles.

LNG is suitable for long-haul trucks and buses as its higher energy density can help vehicles travel 700-900 km with one fill compared with about 300 km for a diesel vehicle, said V.K. Mishra, head of finance of Petronet LNG.

Companies will set up LNG fuelling stations along a 6,000-km network of highways linking the four main metropolitan areas, he said, adding transport sector can utilise up to 25 million cubic meters a day equivalent LNG in the initial phase. Indian companies are spending billions of dollars to build gas infrastructure including pipelines and import terminals to raise share of gas in energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.2 per cent.

Use of LNG will also help India in meeting its commitment made under the Paris accord to cut greenhouse gas emission intensity of its gross domestic product by 33 per cent to 35 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, he said.

Ifad Group to set up Tk 433cr industrial complex at Bangabandhu Shilpa Nagar

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The market size of automotive components in Bangladesh was about Tk 1,400 crore to Tk 1,500 crore last year with an annual growth rate of 10 to 12 per cent over the previous one decade, according to an estimate by automotive part importers.

The global automotive component market size is more than \$2 trillion, supplied by the light engineering industry.

Ahmed said global automakers such as Toyota and Honda fulfil their requirement for components through outsourcing.

According to Ahmed, 80 to 90 per cent of finished items from the industrial complex would cater to the domestic market of Bangladesh, and the rest might be exported to other countries.

The company would start setting up the factory after getting the land as it looks to go for commercial operation within a year.

Ifad Autos has sold more than 60,000 commercial vehicles in the last two decades for a combined sales value of \$750 million. Currently, it employs more than 1,000 people, according to the company’s website.

Listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange, Ifad Autos reported earnings per share (EPS) of Tk 0.92, the net asset value per share of Tk 39.73, and the net operating cash flow per share of Tk 7.68 for the year ended on June 30, 2020, against Tk 4.59, Tk 39.18 and Tk 10.51 respectively, year-on-year.

The EPS was Tk 0.70 in the July-September quarter against Tk 0.51 in the same period last year. The NAV per share was Tk 40.43 in the quarter.

Its share closed 2.24 per cent lower at Tk 39.2 on the DSE yesterday.

The government has already declared the light-engineering sector as the Product of the Year, and the automobile policy is going to be formulated. So, the industry will grow in the future, and the automakers and assemblers will need components, Ahmed said.

“We are in discussion with auto component makers in Japan, India, Korea, China and Taiwan to work jointly or forge technical collaboration,” he said.

The industrial complex would start with manufacturing filter and seat of automobiles before moving to other

components.

“We will give attention to research in the next three years to develop components and increase the volume of finished products,” Ahmed noted.

The planned investment is expecting to create 1,000 jobs.

The motorcycle manufacturing unit will be set up in partnership with a European brand to churn out high-end two-wheelers.

Ahmed sees a good market for the high-end motorcycles in Bangladesh in the coming days. The demand for motorcycle is around 5 lakh per year, and it would double within the next five years.

Gulf Oil Bangladesh that would produce lubricants would be a joint venture between Gulf Oil International UK Ltd and Ifad Group.

Paban Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Beza, said the investment proposal of Ifad Group is different and shows long-term vision.

“The group will be able to cater to the component automotive sector in Bangladesh.”

The Beza has also received investment proposals from Uttara Motors, Star Allied, and Bangladesh Auto Industries Ltd, he said.

Mobile phone subscribers on the rise

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Market leader Grameenphone’s total number of mobile phone customers jumped 2.70 per cent to 7.81 crore in October from 7.60 crore last year.

Robi Axiata, which crossed the 5-crore subscriber landmark in September, grew 4.27 per cent in October to reach 5.04 crore. During the same month last year, Robi had 4.83 crore in total.

Robi attributed this rise in its customer base to its 4G network.

“To prepare for the digital era, Robi has always focused on bolstering its 4G network. Our razor-sharp focus on this has helped create the largest 4G network in the country,” Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi Axiata, told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Coupled with network infrastructure development, we have been pursuing innovation in every aspect of our business,” he said.

Perhaps the most telling sign of

Robi’s growing appeal can be found in the fact that 70 per cent of all mobile number portability users switched to the network.

“So, the background to the surge in our subscriber base is very compelling,” Alam added.

Third-placed Banglalink had 3.49 crore subscribers in October, down from 3.5 crore a year ago. The number of users of state-run Teletalk was 46.18 lakh in October compared to 47.06 lakh in the same month in 2019.

SEBI demands \$8.4b from Sahara in Supreme Court petition

REUTERS, Mumbai

India’s market regulator has filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking it to direct embattled Sahara conglomerate chief Subrata Roy and two of his companies to deposit 626 billion rupees (\$8.4 billion) that it said was due to its investors.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) told the Supreme Court that Sahara had failed to comply with 2012 and 2015 court orders to deposit the entire amount it collected from investors along with 15 per cent annual interest, according to a copy of the petition filed on Wednesday and seen by Reuters.

Sahara, once the sponsor of India’s national cricket team, has been embroiled in a battle with SEBI over repaying billions of dollars to investors who put their money in a bond scheme that was later ruled to

be illegal.

Roy was arrested in March 2014 for failing to attend a contempt of court hearing and has been on bail since 2016. He has denied any wrongdoing.

SEBI said that Sahara’s non-compliance over eight years had caused the regulator “great inconvenience” and that those guilty of contempt should be taken into custody if they failed to deposit the amount.

“Sahasra have made no efforts whatsoever to comply with the orders and directions,” SEBI told the court. “On the other hand contemnors’ liability is increasing daily and contemnors are enjoying their release from custody,” it said.

The regulator said that only a part of the principal amount had been deposited by Sahara and the balance with interest had ballooned to more than 626 billion rupees.

A Sahara spokesman, responding

to a query from Reuters, disputed the amount saying the company had already deposited about 220 billion rupees with the regulator, which it said was “mischievously” adding interest on the entire amount to arrive at the sum demanded.

In its defence, Sahara has previously told the court that it had refunded in cash most of the money it collected from investors and submitted relevant documents with the regulator, which was not verifying them.

SEBI had invited claimants through advertisements in about 150 newspapers but refunded just over 1 billion rupees to investors, the Sahara spokesman said in an email, adding that SEBI said last year it would not entertain any more claims.

“How can there be claimants since Sahara has already paid back, long time back,” the spokesman said. “It is a typical case of double payment.”

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent
Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh

MSR Tender Notice

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Health Service Division).
Agency	: Directorate General of Health Services.
Procuring entity name	: Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh.
Procuring entity code	:
Procuring entity district	: Panchagarh.
Invitation for	: MSR.
Invitation Ref No.	: Tender No. Sadar/hos/Pancha/20/MSRTender/01/
Date	: Dated: 19/11/2020
KEY INFORMATION	:
Procurement method	: Open Tendering (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION	:
Budget and source of funds	: Revenue & Development Budget.
Development Partner:	:

PARTICULAR INFORMATION	:
Project/programme name	:
Tender package No.	: MSR.
Tender publication date	: 22.11.2020
Tender last selling date	: 7.12.2020 (office hour).
Tender submitting last date and time	: 8.12.2020 (12.00 Noon).
Tender opening date and time	: 8.12.2020 (1:00pm).
Name & addresses of the offices	: Selling tender document.
	1 Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent Office, Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh.
	Receiving tender document
	1 Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent Office, Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh.
	2 DC Office, Panchagarh.
	: Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent Office, Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh.

Opening tender document	:
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	:
Eligibility of tenderer	:

	:
	: Two years’ experience of last 5 (five) years (2015-16 to 2019-20) as MSR supplier in the Govt. Health Institution of Bangladesh and will be eligible according to conditions of supplied tender schedule. Interested tenderer may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned. Purchasing price of tender schedule will be paid to Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 any branch of Sonali Bank Ltd. Tender document should be purchased after submitting the original Treasury Challan.

Brief description of goods or works	:
	: MSR Supply: Non EDCL Medicine, Surgical Instrument, Chemical Reagent, Linen Goods, Gauge Bandage & Furniture.
Tender document price	:
	: 1000.00 each group/lot (non-refundable).

Lot No.	Identification	Location	Tender security amount	Completion date
1	Non EDCL Medicine	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	1,50,000.00	
2	Surgical Instrument	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	1,10,000.00	
3	Chemical Reagent	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	30,000.00	
4	Linen Goods	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	50,000.00	
5	Gauge Bandage	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	50,000.00	
6	Furniture	Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Panchagarh	25,000.00	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	:
Name of official inviting tender	: Dr. Md. Fazlur Rahman.
Designation of official inviting tender	: Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent.
Address of official inviting tender	: Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent, Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh.
Contact details of official inviting tender	: Phone: & Fax: 0568-61656.

Dr. Md. Fazlur Rahman
Civil Surgeon Cum-Superintendent
Sadar Hospital, Panchagarh

GD-1849

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer

Tarakanda, Mymensingh.
www.lged.gov.bd



“মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার
গ্রামীন সড়ক সংস্কার”

Date: 19/11/2020

Invitation for Tender (Works)

e-Tender Notice No: 02/2020-2021.

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below.

Sl. No.	Package No	Name of work	Tender Last selling (date & time)	Tender Closing (date & time)	Tender Opening (date & time)	Tender ID no
1.	e-Tender/PEDP4/ MYM/TAR/2020 -21/W1.00159	Construction of additional class room of Ghituary GPS under PEDP4 at Tarakanda Upazila Dist- Mymensingh	20-Dec-2020 at 14:00	21-Dec-2020 at 12:00	21-Dec-2020 at 12:00	501726
2	e-Tender/PEDP4/ MYM/TAR/2020 -21/W2.00211	Construction of additional class room Mahabhatpur GPS under PEDP4 at Tarakanda Upazila Dist- Mymensingh	20-Dec-2020 at 14:00	21-Dec-2020 at 12:00	21-Dec-2020 at 12:00	501735

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 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 registere

d Banks branches up to **20-Dec-2020 14:00**. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Mohammed Shofiqul Rahman)
Upazila Engineer
Tarakanda, Mymensingh.
ue.tarakanda@lged.gov.bd

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