

EU trade chief says tariff reciprocity ‘must work for both’ sides

AFP, Washington

EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic said Thursday that reciprocity in tariffs should be made to work for both the bloc and Washington, after talks with his counterparts in US President Donald Trump’s administration.

While the United States is planning “reciprocal tariffs,” the European Union is open to working with Trump officials towards lowering duties for industrial goods and stepping up purchases of US products, Sefcovic told reporters.

“We will be ready to look (at) how we can lower the import duties for all industrial products,” he said, a day after meeting Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative nominee Jamie Green.

Trump has taken aim at the EU and others over trade, announcing plans for sweeping duties tailored to each US trading partner, and taking into consideration non-tariff factors.

But Sefcovic stressed after his four-hour meeting with trade counterparts that if Washington were seeking reciprocity, “it must work for both” sides.

During Sefcovic’s three-day Washington visit, he pushed back against Trump’s claim of unfairness in US-EU trade ties.

He said Thursday that one of his requests was to hold off US tariffs – avoiding tit-for-tat escalation – as both sides discussed their concerns.

He said his impression was that the United States too would be “ready to consider” a reduction in its tariffs, adding that auto duties were a priority.

Bank Asia organises ‘AML & CFT Conference 2025’



PHOTO: BANK ASIA

AFM Shahinul Islam, head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, and Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of Bank Asia, attend an “AML & CFT Conference 2025” organised by the latter at Bank Asia Tower in the capital’s Karwan Bazar yesterday.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Bank Asia PLC yesterday organised an annual “AML & CFT Conference 2025” with the theme “AML-CFT: Fostering & Enduring a Culture of Compliance” to enhance anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT) knowledge and awareness among all employees of the bank.

Around 2,800 officials from divisions, branches, centres, Islamic windows, and agents of the bank across the country, both physically and virtually, participated in the conference.

AFM Shahinul Islam, head of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), attended the conference as the

chief guest at Bank Asia Tower in the capital’s Karwan Bazar, the bank said in a press release.

Islam highlighted the growing challenges posed by money laundering and emphasised the critical need for enhanced awareness and capacity building among reporting institutions to effectively address these issues.

He urged bankers to strictly adhere to AML and CFT practices, reiterating that such collective efforts are essential for accelerating the country’s economic development.

Prof MA Baqui Khalily, chairman of the board risk management committee and board audit committee of Bank Asia, was present as the guest of honour.

Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of Bank Asia, presided over the conference.

Ziaul Hasan, deputy managing director, CAMLCO and head of channel banking of Bank Asia, and chairman of the Association of Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officers of Banks in Bangladesh, was the convener of the conference.

Shadril Ahmed, additional director of BFIU, and Sahalam Kazi, joint director, were present as resource persons and discussed the AML-CFT framework, initiatives, and recent typologies.

Additional managing directors, deputy managing directors, and other senior management team members were also present.

Prime Bank gets new independent director

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC has appointed M Mostafa Shazzad Hasan, a director and chairman of the audit committee of the bank, as an independent director.

A certified forensic accountant, chartered accountant, and corporate legal expert, Hasan has extensive experience in accounting, finance, financial fraud investigations, business dispute settlements, anti-money laundering, taxation, and corporate legal issues.

He is also a chartered accountant, a qualified fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, and a certified public accountant from the Certified Public Accountants Institute of Ireland, according to a press release.

Hasan is a certified professional forensic accountant and a fellow member of the Institute of Certified Forensic Accountants, the USA. He earned a diploma in forensic accounting from Bentwood College in the UK and was awarded a PhD in forensic accounting and financial fraud prevention from the Putra Business School at University Putra Malaysia.

Dollar rises

REUTERS, New York

The US dollar rose against a broad range of currencies on Friday including the euro, sterling and those tied to commodities such as the Australian dollar, as investors consolidated positions ahead of the weekend, looked to more inflation data next week and kept an eye on tariff headlines.

Pubali Bank holds managers’ conference



Monzurur Rahman, chairman of Pubali Bank, poses for photographs with participants of an “Annual Managers’ Conference 2025” at Hotel Long Beach in Cox’s Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Pubali Bank PLC organised the “Annual Managers’ Conference 2025” at Hotel Long Beach in Cox’s Bazar yesterday to motivate its managers to increase the bank’s business by delivering better services.

A total of 508 branch managers, regional managers, and senior executives of the bank’s head office participated in the conference.

Monzurur Rahman, chairman of the bank, attended the conference as the chief guest, according to a press release. In his speech, Rahman emphasised the expansion of the

foreign remittance business through improved customer and modern banking services.

He also advised everyone to work hard, seek new business opportunities, adopt diversification, and make concerted efforts to achieve the target set for the year 2025.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of the bank, presided over the conference.

Ali reflected on the past tradition, history, and culture of the bank, stating that the country’s largest private commercial bank has been providing modern banking services in line with the times, backed by a

skilled workforce, the highest quality online banking system, and effective management.

He expressed confidence that Pubali Bank will continue its efforts to extend services to the remote areas of Bangladesh. The bank rewarded 51 of its best managers for their outstanding performance in 2024.

Moniruddin Ahmed, Habibur Rahman, M Kabiruzzaman Yaqub, Azizur Rahman, Md Abdur Razzak Mondal, Mustafa Ahmed, and Arif Ahmed Choudhury, directors of the bank, and Mohammad Naushad Ali Chowdhury, independent director, were present.

Southeast Bank signs MoU with PMUK



Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, and Md Saleh Bin Sums, executive director of Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Padakhep Manabik Unnayan Kendra (PMUK), a non-governmental organisation in the country, to provide banking services, including payroll banking service, corporate payment module, collection service, and other financial solutions.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, and Md Saleh Bin Sums, executive

director of PMUK, signed the MoU in Dhaka, according to a press release.

On this occasion, Hossain said, “Our collaboration reflects our commitment to offering innovative banking solutions that enhance operational efficiency and financial management for corporate clients.”

“We look forward to a fruitful and long-term partnership,” he added.

This partnership deal is set to streamline the financial operations of PMUK by ensuring efficient salary disbursement, automating corporate

payments, and offering enhanced digital banking solutions.

Employees of PMUK will now receive their salaries and other banking benefits through the bank’s payroll banking service. Additionally, the corporate payment module will enable seamless fund transfers, vendor payments, and other corporate financial transactions.

Abdur Rahman Chowdhury and Masum Uddin Khan, deputy managing directors of the bank, along with other high officials of both organisations, were also present.

Aarong opens 30th outlet in Noakhali

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Aarong, the country’s popular fashion and lifestyle brand, yesterday launched a new outlet at 826 Napiter Pool on Main Road in Noakhali’s Majdee for shoppers ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr season.

On the occasion, the multi-brand store offers a comprehensive range of Aarong products and services, according to a press release.

Visitors will find Aarong’s sub-brands, including TAAGNA, TAAGA MAN, Aarong Earth, and Grassroots Café, creating a one-stop destination for apparel, home decor, jewellery, and skincare.

“This new outlet offers customers a broad range of products, while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh,” said Tamara Abed, managing director of BRAC Enterprises.

“We look forward to welcoming everyone to our newest location,” she added.

Aarong continues to unite Bangladesh’s diverse crafts under one roof, and the Noakhali outlet marks another milestone in promoting the culture and heritage of the country, the press release also said.



A new outlet of Aarong was launched at 826 Napiter Pool on Main Road in Noakhali’s Majdee yesterday.

PHOTO: AARONG



Tareq Refat Ullah Khan, deputy managing director and head of corporate and institutional banking at BRAC Bank, and Mohammad Tanvir Hydar Pavel, director of finance and commercial at City Sugar Industries, pose for photographs at a term sheet signing ceremony at the bank’s head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: BRAC BANK

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Roads and Highways Department
Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)
Sylhet-Charkhai-Sheola Highway Improvement Project
Foreign Aided Projects Bhaban
Road No. 27, Block-A, Banani, Dhaka-1213

Memo No. 35.01.2607.077.07.086.24-104

Date: 22 February 2025

CORRIGENDUM-2 NOTICE

This is for general information to all concerned that the following amendments have been made to the Request for Bids (Works):

Employer : Roads and Highways Department (RHD)
Project : Sylhet-Charkhai-Sheola Highway Improvement Project under Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia – Bangladesh Phase I Project (ACCESS)

Contract Title : Improvement of Sylhet-Charkhai-Sheola Highway into 4-Lane Highway from Sylhet (Kadamtali) - Golapganj - Sheola Bridge - Sheola Landport (Ch. 00+000 to 42+985 km) (Length: 42.985 km)

Country : Bangladesh
Credit No. : IDA Credit No. 7166-BD
RFB No. : WP-1 (Lot-1, Lot-2, Lot-3)
Reference No. : 1) 35.01.2607.077.07.086.24-554, Date: 26 November 2024
2) 35.01.2607.077.07.086.24-32, Date: 16 January 2025

Sl. No.	Texts as per CORRIGENDUM-1 Notice, Dated: 16 January 2025	Amended Texts
7.	Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 02.00 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), February 24, 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked “ORIGINAL BID”, and the inner envelopes marked “TECHNICAL PART” will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on 02.30 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), February 24, 2025.....	Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 02.00 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), March 17, 2025. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked “ORIGINAL BID”, and the inner envelopes marked “TECHNICAL PART” will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on 02.30 PM local time (GMT+6 hrs.), March 17, 2025.....

All other Terms & Conditions of the above mentioned Request for Bids (Works) will remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice will be a part & parcel of the Bidding Documents.

(Khan Md. Kamrul Ahsan)
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