



Selim RF Hussain, CEO of Brac Bank, attends an event at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently to celebrate the opening of the bank's 300th agent banking outlet. The bank's agent banking service is now available in 61 districts.

BRAC BANK

EU plans more protectionist antitrust rules, data sharing in policy shake-up

REUTERS, Brussels

The EU plans to adopt more protectionist antitrust rules and encourage businesses to share data as part of an industrial policy overhaul aimed at giving European companies a sharper edge in global markets, a strategy document seen by Reuters shows.

Drafted by the European Commission and set to be unveiled in March, the strategy also includes the more aggressive use of trade defence instruments against companies deemed to be benefiting unfairly from foreign subsidies.

"Our vision is not about shielding

uncompetitive industries or encouraging protectionist policies ... At the same time, the EU cannot be complacent about third countries or companies undermining fair competition in the single market on global markets," the document said.

"This strategy sets the contours of a new and assertive industrial policy what will enable the EU to remain a global economic power," it added.

Numerous EU countries and companies have called for Brussels to adopt a more ambitious and strategic industrial policy, complaining that others are able to take advantage of Europe's open markets without being subjected to the same rules.

That argument was cited by German conglomerate Siemens and French rival Alstom in their failed bid to gain EU antitrust approval to create a European rail champion last year.

Under the new policy blueprint, the Commission will evaluate and review EU competition rules to ensure that they are fit for purpose and contribute to a strong European industry at home and in the world.

In light of the growing data economy, the new policy envisions setting up a legal framework to facilitate the use, access to and sharing of data in a push to get companies to embrace artificial intelligence and blockchain technology.

India, Brazil sign 15 accords across range of sectors

REUTERS

India and Brazil have signed 15 accords aimed at forging closer ties between the two emerging market giants across a range of sectors, especially defense, both countries' leaders tweeted on Saturday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro took to social media to hail the closer cooperation and agreements struck during Bolsonaro's official visit to India.

"Several agreements signed in infrastructure, justice, science and technology, agriculture, oil exploration,

mining, health, culture and tourism," Bolsonaro tweeted, adding: "The world's confidence in Brazil is back!"

For his part, Modi tweeted: "India and Brazil are focusing on expanding cooperation in the defence sector," adding that the two countries share "immense synergies" on several key issues such as the environment and fighting terrorism. Separately, Brazil's foreign minister Ernesto Arajou tweeted that the 15 accords signed by the two countries represent a move "against the structures of globalist thought". "Brazil is rising to be a great among the greats," he tweeted.

US Treasury chief Mnuchin says optimistic about US-UK trade deal

REUTERS, London

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that he was optimistic the United States and Britain, soon to be out of the European Union, would strike a trade deal this year and that he had discussed it with Britain's finance minister on Saturday.

US President Donald Trump is keen for progress on trade talks before November's presidential election, while in Britain the prospect of a deal has been touted by Brexit supporters as a way to offset the impact of leaving the EU and to exert leverage over the bloc in trade talks between London and Brussels.

"I'm quite optimistic. I think the prime minister and the president have a very good relationship," Mnuchin told an audience at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Mnuchin said he had a breakfast meeting with his British counterpart minister Sajid Javid on Saturday, having also spoken to him this week at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"We're focused on trying to get this done this year because we think it's important to both of us," he said.

After the United States recently concluded the initial phase of a trade agreement with China, deals with Britain and the European Union were now the priority, Mnuchin said.

While Mnuchin conceded that Britain may need to finalize some issues with the EU before it could discuss them with Washington, he didn't see this leading to a delay.

"I think a lot of the issues can be dealt with simultaneously and again we look forward to continuing a great trade relationship, and, if anything, I think there will be significantly more trade between the US and the UK," he said.

Asked by a reporter if Britain's plan to implement a digital services tax on US technology giants such as Facebook and Google could hinder the trade negotiations, Mnuchin said that he discussed the issue on Saturday with Javid.



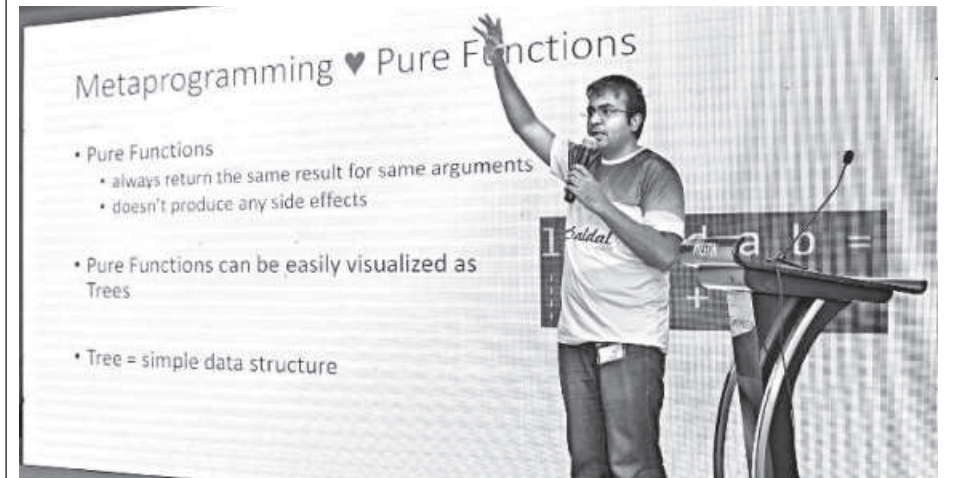
Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his ceremonial reception at the forecourt of India's Rashtrapati Bhavan Presidential Palace in New Delhi on Saturday.

REUTERS



Md Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of NCC Bank, attends the bank's annual business conference for 2020 at Grand Sultan Tea Resort and Golf at Sreemangal in Moulvibazar yesterday.

NCC BANK



Tejas Viswanath, chief technology officer of Chaldal.com, speaks at the Dhaka Tech Summit at the Westin Dhaka recently. The online grocery start-up and a local social app start-up Kotha Technologies jointly organised the event where top software programmers of the country took part.

CHALDAL.COM

Walmart testing higher minimum wage for some employees

REUTERS

Walmart Inc is testing a higher starting wage for certain newly created jobs in about 500 US stores, as it looks to improve in-store experience for customers amid intense competition.

The company would offer team associates, a role it recently created, a starting wage of \$12 an hour, Walmart spokeswoman Jami Lamontagne said.

That compares with Walmart's minimum wage of \$11 at its more than 5,000 stores across the United States.

The team associates would be cross-trained in several functions and will have more responsibility, Lamontagne said.

The big-box retailer last raised its entry-level wages for US hourly employees to \$11 in early 2018 and trails rivals, including Costco Wholesale Corp, Amazon Inc and Target Corp on the minimum wage front.

Ericsson hit by higher 5G costs and weaker US market

REUTERS, Stockholm

Sweden's Ericsson warned it faced higher costs this year as it rolls out new 5G networks and was also hit by a temporary slowdown in its US market, sending its shares 7 percent lower on Friday.

After a number of lean years, Ericsson has been boosted by the roll-out of 5G, particularly in the United States, and analysts hope it can benefit from a U.S. campaign to shut out Chinese rival Huawei from supplying 5G equipment.

But while the new technology has helped sales, it has increased costs. Ericsson has also opted to take on major new clients to gain market share, betting a hit on margins in the short term will help to deliver longer-term profitability.

It recently bought the antenna and filter business of Germany's Kathrein to boost its 5G portfolio and said costs and investments related to the deal would weigh on margins in 2020.

Increased investments in digitalization and more spending on compliance - after a \$1 billion payment to resolve probes by U.S. authorities into corruption - are also expected to mean somewhat higher operating costs in 2020.

In October, rival Nokia shocked investors by slashing its profit outlook

for 2019 and 2020 and pausing dividend payments to allow for heavier investments in 5G, leading its shares to drop by a fifth. However, Ericsson CEO Borje Ekholm said the Swedish firm was on track to deliver its 2020 targets of an adjusted operating margin of over 10 per cent and sales of 230-240 billion Swedish crowns.

The company also hiked its dividend by 50 per cent to 1.50 crowns per share, which Christer Gardell, managing partner at Ericsson's top shareholder Cevian Capital, said showed its confidence in the future.

"We are convinced that Borje Ekholm will surpass the targets and show the doubters that they are wrong", Gardell told Reuters.

Ericsson is fighting Nokia and Huawei to take the lead in the roll out of 5G networks, which are expected to host critical functions from driverless vehicles to smart electric grids and military communications. That has led the United States to blacklist Huawei and launch a worldwide campaign to try to persuade allies to ban it from their 5G networks, alleging its equipment could be used by Beijing for spying - which Huawei denies.

Britain is expected soon to make a final decision on whether to allow Huawei equipment in its 5G mobile networks, while Germany may also rule on the matter during the spring.

North America has been the biggest market for 5G so far, boosting Ericsson's sales, but the company said demand slowed in the fourth quarter as the proposed merger between Sprint and T-Mobile hit their spending.

"It was a significant impact in a small part of the market which means the quarter came out negative in North America," Ekholm said. "But in general demand is very strong there."

While the United States is an early 5G adopter, China is expected to start its roll out this year.

Ericsson, which has targeted market share in China, said it was still too early to assess possible volumes and price levels for deploying 5G there.

"We expect that the initial challenging margins will shift to positive margins over the lifespan of the contracts," it said.

Western Europe is expected to lag behind, but by 2025 the GSMA telecoms industry lobby group estimates operators globally will have spent \$1 trillion building up 5G networks, offering a huge jackpot for the leading suppliers.

Ericsson's adjusted fourth-quarter operating earnings rose to 5.7 billion crowns (\$600.2 million) from 2.6 billion a year earlier, but were down from 7.4 billion the previous quarter. Analysts in a Refinitiv poll had forecast 6.9 billion crowns.



Tarique Afzal, managing director of AB Bank, and Zakir Hossain, executive director of BURO Bangladesh, attend a deal signing ceremony in Dhaka yesterday for disbursement of Tk 150 crore agricultural and rural credit at 9 per cent interest rate under a linkage partnership between the bank and the micro finance institution.

AB BANK

বাংলাদেশ টেলিকমিউনিকেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ডিজিটাল কানেক্টিভিটি শক্তিশালী করণে সুইচিং ও ট্রান্সমিশন নেটওয়ার্ক উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প (STNP)
মহাশালা উপগ্রহ ভূকেন্দ্র ভবন, কাড়াইল, বনালী, ঢাকা
www.btcl.gov.bd | বিটিসিএল.বাংলা

International Tender Notice Corrigendum
IGW International Tender Notice Corrigendum-4
No: 14.33.0000.310.07.008.19-38 Date: 26-01-2020

1	Tender package name	"Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of NFV Enabled IP Based IGW Operator Switch (IOS) Exchange in BTCL on Turn-key Basis".
2	Invitation Ref. No. & date	14.33.0000.310.07.008.19-09, Date-11-12-2019
3	Tender closing date and time	16-02-2020 at 12:00 hrs (BST).
4	Tender opening date and time	16-02-2020 at 12:10 hrs (BST).

Quazi Nizam Uddin
Project Director
Tel: +880-2-9872787

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Chattogram Road Circle, Rahmatganj, Chattogram
Fax/Phone: 031-611163
E-mail: sechic@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 235 Date: 26.01.2020

Re-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concerned that e-Tenders are invited and published on 26/01/2020 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd

Sl	Previous tender ID	Present tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Date & time
01	394390	417338	e-GP/SE/CTG/CRD/PMP Bridge/06/2019-2020 (Re-Ten)	Construction of 34.880m (1x33.540m) long P.C. Girder Bridge (Wagga Bridge) at 39th (P) km (Chainage 38km+575.00m) on Chattogram-Kaptai Regional Highway (R-164) under Chattogram Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	Last selling: 10.02.2020, 16.00 Closing: 11.02.2020, 12.00

Subarna Sarkar ID No. 700146 Sub-Assistant Engineer, RHD Chattogram Road Circle, Chattogram	Jamal Uddin ID No. 400445 Assistant Engineer (A.C.), RHD Chattogram Road Circle, Chattogram	Md. Hafizur Rahman ID No. 005059 Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD Chattogram Road Circle, Chattogram
--	--	---

GD-188