

Davos predictions: win some, lose some

REUTERS, Davos, Switzerland

As the world's business and political elite ascends the Swiss Alps for an annual bout of crystal-ball gazing this week, history suggests the Davos pundits are likely to get plenty of things wrong.

More than 1,500 business leaders and 40 heads of state or government will attend the Jan. 21-24 meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) to network and discuss big themes, from the price of oil to the future of the Internet.

This year they are meeting in the midst of upheaval, with security forces on heightened alert after attacks in Paris, the European Central Bank considering a radical government bond-buying programme and the safe-haven Swiss franc rocketing.

The mountain air encourages confident pronouncements but the accuracy of Davos predictions has been mixed in recent years.

Dud forecasts from last year include Bank of Japan chief Haruhiko Kuroda declaring the situation in his country was "completely changed". Twelve months on, Japan's economy is back in recession.

And no-one last year saw Russia's annexation of Crimea, the rise of Islamic State or oil at \$50 a barrel.

The twin crises in the euro zone and the banking sector have also been notorious for wrong-footing policymakers and pundits.

In 2011 the French finance minister at the time, Christine Lagarde, declared the euro zone had "turned the corner" and told financial markets not to "short Europe". The bloc went on to have an awful year in which short-selling would have been a decidedly smart tactic.

In 2012 the tables were turned when economist Nouriel Roubini, nicknamed Dr Doom after he forecast the U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis, predicted that Greece would leave the euro within a year. It didn't happen, though "Grexit" talk is back on the



The photo taken in January 2012 shows participants at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos. World leaders including France's Francois Hollande, Germany's Angela Merkel and China's Li Keqiang will gather at the annual Davos forum running from January 21 until January 24.

agenda in time for this year's Davos shindig.

The nadir for predictions, however, was January 2008. Despite the onset of the U.S. sub-prime crisis, the Davos crowd overwhelmingly failed to spot the coming crash sparked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers only eight months later.

A comment from Kuwait Investment Authority head Bader Al Sa'ad that bargains in the U.S. financial sector represented "a pure investment opportunity" summed up the overconfident mood at the time.

In the technology world, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates famously promised in 2004 to rid the world of spam email within two years. The world's three billion Internet users are still waiting.

But Davos has been good at spotting some mega-trends, such as the rise of emerging markets and, more recently, the shale gas-driven rebalancing of economic growth in the United States. It also flagged future global tensions, such as access to water and cybersecurity.

The Alpine zeitgeist has a better track record when viewed from the perspective

of the business community as a whole.

An annual survey of confidence among chief executives, unveiled each year at Davos by PricewaterhouseCoopers, shows that CEOs had a reasonably good idea of what was in store in 2007, 2009 and over the past three years, if not in 2008 and 2011.

Of course, for most of the 2,500 participants, the event is more about meeting contacts and swapping ideas than pinning down firm predictions.

"Clearly, there are things that are missed," said Mark Spelman, managing director at consultancy Accenture, who has been coming to Davos for more than a decade. "But it gives me a picture of how 2015 may play out and it's impossible to get the same quantity or quality of interaction in such a condensed period of time in any other place on the planet."

This year worries about international conflict are a major concern for the global community, according to the WEF's annual Global Risks report, though economic fears are still very real.

Low-cost SUV leads Renault sales in 2014

AFP, Boulogne-billancourt, France

The low-cost Duster sport utility vehicle led Renault's sales in 2014, a year which saw the French group rebound in Europe but run into difficulties in a number of emerging markets.

Sales data released by Renault on Monday showed that overall its sales grew by 3.2 percent last year, trailing the 3.5 percent expansion of the global auto market.

However, the data also show that the company's bet on the low-cost segment is paying off, accounting for three out of five of the group's top-selling models and nearly a third of overall sales of 2.7 million vehicles last year.

Renault built up its Romanian subsidiary Dacia in the 2000s as a budget brand, but sells the vehicles under its own emblem in a number of countries.

In fact more Dusters were delivered as Renaults than Dacias in 2014, and overall accounted for nearly 15 percent of total sales.

Its low-cost focus helped Renault fare better than many competitors in slumping emerging markets, but its non-European sales fell 5.9 percent.

"Affected by the economic and financial crises on its main emerging markets, the Group held firm and posted record market share in Brazil (7.1 percent) and Russia (7.9 percent), its second and third largest markets," the company said.

In Europe, Renault said it increased its market share by 0.6 points to 10 percent as its volumes rose by 12.5 percent, double the market growth.

Renault's shares drifted up 0.06 percent to 62.98 euros in morning trading while Paris's CAC 40 index was up 0.12 percent overall to 4384.75 points.

Oxfam says richest one percent to own more than rest by 2016

AFP, Paris

Wealth accumulated by the richest one percent will exceed that of the other 99 percent in 2016, the Oxfam charity said Monday, ahead of the annual meeting of the world's most powerful at Davos, Switzerland.

"The scale of global inequality is quite simply staggering and despite the issues shooting up the global agenda, the gap between the richest and the rest is widening fast," Oxfam executive director Winnie Byanyima said.

The richest one percent's share of global wealth increased from 44 percent in 2009 to 48 percent in 2014, the British charity said in a report, adding that it will be more than 50 percent in 2016.

The average wealth per adult in this group is \$2.7 million (2.3 million euros), Oxfam said.

Of the remaining 99 percent, almost all -- 46 percent -- is owned by the rest of the richest fifth of the world's population, leaving the other 80 percent to share just 5.5 percent with an average wealth of \$3,851 (3,330 euros) per adult, the report says.

Byanyima, who is to co-chair at the Davos World Economic Forum taking place Wednesday through Friday, urged

leaders to take on "vested interests that stand in the way of a fairer and more prosperous world."

Oxfam called upon states to tackle tax evasion, improve public services, tax capital rather than labour, and introduce living minimum wages, among other measures in a bid to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth.

The 45th World Economic Forum that runs from Wednesday to Saturday will draw a record number of participants this year with more than 300 heads of state and government attending.

Rising inequality will be competing with other global crises including terrorist threats in Europe, the worst post-Cold War stand-off between Russia and the West and renewed fears of financial turmoil.

France's Francois Hollande, Germany's Angela Merkel and China's Li Keqiang will be among world leaders seeking to chart a path away from fundamentalism towards solidarity.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and US Secretary of State John Kerry are also expected.

Beyond geopolitical crises, hot-button issues like the Ebola epidemic, the challenges posed by plunging oil prices and the future of technology will also be addressed at the posh Swiss ski resort.



Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Md Nazmus Salehin, managing director of Standard Bank, pose with the participants of a daylong workshop on managerial competence development organised by Standard Bank's training institute in Dhaka on Saturday.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE (SHORT DATED)

EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of following Latex Compounding Chemicals for Khulna Essential Latex Plant (KELP) on C&F@ Chittagong by Sea basis :-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/RM/KELP/05/2014-2015 Dated 15/01/2015	Latex Compounding Chemical: 01. Kumanox / Wingstay L 02. Sulphur Powder 03. Potassium Hydroxide	Tk. 750.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 10.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 09/02/2015 at 3.00 PM Opening : 09/02/2015 at 03.15 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

(Deputy General Manager)
Planning & Procurement Deptt.
For : Managing Director.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তর
১ কারওয়ান বাজার (টিসিবি ভবন-৮ম তলা), ঢাকা

নম্বর : ২৬.০৪.০০০০.১০৩.১১.০০১.১৫.৭
তারিখ : ১৯ জানুয়ারি ২০১৫

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এ মর্মে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তরে ব্যক্তিগত সহকারি, ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর, সহকারি হিসাব রক্ষক, অভিযোগ গ্রহণকারি ও গবেষণাপার সহকারি পদে নিম্নবর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময় সূচি অনুযায়ী লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে :

পদের নাম	উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের রোল নম্বর	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান
ব্যক্তিগত সহকারি	১২, ১৬, ৩১, ৩২, ৫৫, ৬২, ৮৩, ১০২ ও ১০৩ = ৯ জন	৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ রোজ রবিবার সকাল ১০.০০ টা। জাতীয় ভোক্তা অধিকার সংরক্ষণ অধিদপ্তরের সভা কক্ষ, ১ কারওয়ান বাজার, টিসিবি ভবন (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা।
ডাটা এন্ট্রি অপারেটর	১, ২, ১৬, ২২, ২৩, ২৪, ২৫, ২৭ ও ২৮ = ৯ জন	
সহকারি হিসাব রক্ষক	১৭ = ১ জন	
অভিযোগ গ্রহণকারি	১০, ১১, ২৪, ৩৩, ৩৬, ৪৯, ৫৯, ৬০, ৬১, ৬২, ৬৩, ৬৮ ও ৭২ = ১৩ জন	
অভিযোগ গ্রহণকারি	৯৩, ১০০, ১০৫, ১০৬, ১০৭, ১১৩, ১১৮, ১২১ ও ১৩৩ = ৯ জন	
গবেষণাপার সহকারি	৭, ৯, ১৯, ২১, ২৫, ৩৮, ৪০, ৪৪, ৫৪, ৬০, ৮০, ৮৭, ৯৬, ১০১, ১১৩, ১১৯, ১২৩, ১২৮, ১৩৪, ১৩৬, ১৩৮, ১৪২ ও ১৭৩ = ২৩ জন	
গবেষণাপার সহকারি	১৮০, ১৮২, ১৮৩, ১৯১, ১৯৪, ১৯৮, ২০৩, ২০৯, ২১০, ২১৩, ২১৬, ২৩০, ২৩৮, ২৩৯, ২৪১, ২৪২, ২৪৯, ২৫৩, ২৫৫, ২৬৩, ২৬৪, ২৬৫, ২৬৬, ২৭০, ২৭৭, ২৭৯, ২৮০, ২৮১, ২৮৩, ৩০০ ও ৩০৫ = ৩১ জন	

উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত পরীক্ষার সময় সূচি অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইট www.dncrp.gov.bd ও নোটিশ বোর্ড, টিসিবি ভবনের নিচ তলার নোটিশ বোর্ডে এবং দুটি পত্রিকায় প্রদান করা হয়েছে। এছাড়া লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের আমন্ত্রণপত্র প্রাপ্তি স্বীকারসহ রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। সকল প্রার্থীর শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার, বিশেষ কোটার স্বপক্ষে (যদি থাকে) মূল সনদ, লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার মূল প্রবেশপত্র, ইত্যাদি সাথে আনতে হবে।

(মুসী আবদুল আহাদ)
উপ পরিচালক (উপ সচিব) ও
সদস্য সচিব, নিয়োগ কমিটি

Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100, Bangladesh.

Ref. No: JG/SGTP/WORKS/SWB-MOD/WD9/2015/187
Date: 15-01-2015

জালালাবাদ গ্যাসের পৌরবোঝা ২৫ বছর:
উত্তম গ্রাহক সেবার সেরা স্বাক্ষর।

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশ্রমী হোন এবং
সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন।

INVITATION FOR TENDER (WORKS)

01	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources / Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
02	Agency	: Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
03	Procuring Entity Name	: Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Limited.
04	Invitation for	
	Invitation Ref. No.	: JG/SGTP/WORKS/SWB-MOD/ WD9/2015
	Brief Description of Works	: Construction of 8"Ø × 145 (±4) Psig × 7 KM Pipeline from Noyapara to Jagadishpur at Habiganj District & Modification of Munshibazar DRS, Kulaura DRS at Moulvibazar district and Patibagh DRS at Sunamganj district.
	Price of Tender Document	: BDT 5,000.00 (Non Refundable)
	Tender Security Amount	: BDT 3,50,000.00
Key Information		
05	Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Funding Information		
06	Source of Funds	: GOB
Particular Information		
07	Project Name	: SYLHET GAS TRANSMISSION NETWORK UP-GRADATION PROJECT
08	Tender issuing date	: 15-01-2015
09	Last Date of Tender Selling	: 03-02-2015, During office hours
10	Tender Submission Date & Time	: 04-02-2015, 11.00 AM BST
11	Tender Opening Date & Time	: 04-02-2015, 11.15 AM BST
12 Name and Address of the offices for :		
(a)	Selling of Tender Document	: a) Cash Counter, Finance Department, 1 st Floor, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100. b) Liaison Office, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Apartment: 1/D, House No-23/A, Road No-2, Banani DOHS, Dhaka.
(b)	Place of Receiving Tender Documents	: Committee Room, 4 th Floor, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100.
(c)	Place of Opening Tender Documents	: Committee Room, 4 th Floor, Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd., Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100.
Information for Tenderer		
13	Eligibility of Tenderer	: i) Gas pipeline construction contractors enlisted in any Company of Petrobangla under category 1.4 & works. (Detail terms and condition given in TDS) ii) The tenderer shall have minimum 5 (Five) years overall working experience in the field of oil and natural gas pipeline construction works. iii) The tenderer shall have satisfactory completion of similar works of at least Tk 65,00,000.00 (Sixty Five Lac only) under single or multiple contract over a period of 10 (Ten) years. iv) The tenderer shall have minimum experience in construction & successfully commissioning of at least 4"Ø x 150 Psig x 2 Km Gas Pipeline, 01(one) no. of 0.55 mmscfd capacity RMS/CMS during the last 10 (Ten) years.
14	Completion time of woks	: 360 (Three Hundred Sixty) days from the date of Issuing MIV.
Procuring Entity Details:		
15	Name & Designation of Official Inviting Tender	: Engr. Jashim uddin Ahmed Project Director, Sylhet Gas Transmission Network Up-gradation Project.
16	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	: Project Director, Sylhet Gas Transmission Network Up-gradation Project, Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Limited 9 th floor, Gas Bhaban, Mendibagh, Sylhet-3100. Telephone: +88-0821-717005, Fax: +88-0821-716964/729025
17	Special Instruction :	: a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving & opening, the tender (s) will be received on the next working day. c) This Tender Notice also available in Company web site www.jalalabadgas.org.bd & www.cptu.gov.bd d) All the Documents/ papers submitted by the bidders along with the bid shall have to be Sealed and Signed by the bidder otherwise the bid will be rejected.