

Microsoft profit falls on sluggish Windows, currency pressure



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at a press event in Washington.

Microsoft Corp on Monday reported a fall in its quarterly profit that was in line with Wall Street forecasts, as sluggish personal computer sales dampened demand for Windows software and the company struggled with the impact of the strong US dollar. Shares of the world's largest software company, which have surged to 14 year highs in the past few months, fell 3 percent in after-hours trading, to \$45.63. "While currency is a headwind for Microsoft and other large international companies, we would characterize the headline numbers as good enough, although some bulls may have been hoping for a bigger beat," said Daniel Ives, an analyst at FBR Capital Markets. Microsoft's flagship Windows business has been under pressure for three years as PC sales have declined, although the market appears to be stabilising in recent months. Currency shifts against the strong US dollar also cramped profit in the fiscal

second quarter, ended Dec. 31, although Microsoft did not specify by how much. Microsoft gets almost three-quarters of its revenue from overseas, but a significant amount of that is still in US dollars. "Overall, the only surprise I think was in commercial licensing, where we had a little bit of a headwind from foreign exchange as well as macro conditions in China and Japan," the company's chief financial officer, Amy Hood, said in a phone interview with Reuters. Commercial licensing is chiefly sales of Windows and Office to business customers, which is Microsoft's biggest revenue generator. Microsoft reported profit of \$5.86 billion, or 71 cents per share for the latest quarter, compared with \$6.56 billion, or 78 cents per share, in the year-ago quarter. Sales rose 8 percent to \$26.47 billion, largely due to the acquisition of Nokia's phone handset business last year. Analysts had expected revenue of \$26.3 billion and earnings of 71 cents per share, on average, including some restructuring costs.

Novartis profit jumps 12pc on new drug sales

AFP, Zurich

Swiss pharmaceuticals giant Novartis said Tuesday strong sales of new products helped push its net profit up 12 percent last year despite harsh competition from cheaper copycat generic drugs.

During 2014, the Basel-based company said its net profit rose to \$12.7 billion, while sales rose one percent year-on-year to \$57.9 billion.

The results were largely in line with expectations, with analysts polled by the AWP financial news agency anticipating a net profit of \$12.7 billion on sales of \$58.1 billion. "2014 was a transformational year for Novartis," the group's chief executive Joseph Jimenez said in the earnings statement.

Sales in the company's core pharmaceuticals division slipped one percent once converted to dollars, but inched up one percent in constant currencies, to \$31.8 billion.

Volumes in this division rose seven percent while prices saw a one percent hike, the company said.

This helped offset losses from sales of competing cheaper generic drugs. Novartis's blood pressure pill Diovan is facing stiff competition from a cheaper variant produced by Indian firm Ranbaxy.

"We delivered solid sales growth with margin expansion, strengthened innovation, and advanced our quality and productivity agendas. I'm confident that we are positioned for future success," Jimenez said.

The company is banking on new offerings such as an anti-heart failure treatment LCZ696 to help ward off competition from generics.

Novartis forecast a sales increase of five percent for this year at constant currencies and said it hoped a sweeping asset swap with British giant GlaxoSmithKline would be concluded by March 31.

The deal will see Novartis acquiring GSK's oncology products while divesting its vaccines to the British group and creating a joint unit for consumer health products. The company said it would raise dividend to 2.60 Swiss francs per share for 2014, a six percent growth over the previous year.

Cyprus to stay in recession for 2015: survey

AFP, Nicosia

Cyprus's battered economy will remain in recession in 2015, albeit shrinking a slower pace than last year, a survey by the University of Cyprus predicted on Tuesday.

GDP will contract by 0.4 percent compared with an expected 2.2 percent decline for 2014, the university's economic research centre said.

The forecast is gloomier than those of the government and the island's international lenders, which predict that the economy will exit recession -- with growth of around 0.5 percent -- after three years of relentless gloom.

The survey said that a delay in structural reforms and the high percentage of non-performing loans would put a brake on recovery.

It said the knock taken by the economy of

Russia -- key tourism and investment market -- would also affect the island's ability to shake off recession, as would uncertainty about what will happen in Greece after the election of an anti-austerity government.

The survey said other factors putting a block on growth are high unemployment, high interest rates and a credit crunch.

On the up side, the survey cited the European Central Bank's decision to begin quantitative easing and the strength of sterling, which is enticing more British holidaymakers to the island.

Britain is the island's biggest tourism market with Russia second.

The troika of international lenders -- the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund -- bailed out Cyprus in March 2013 to prevent a banking collapse.

Qantas drops fuel surcharges, flags positive outlook for airline

AFP, Sydney

Qantas said Tuesday it was removing fuel surcharges from its international flights, with chief executive Alan Joyce adding that the fall in petrol prices was helping the airline's bottom line.

Pressure had been mounting on Qantas to reconsider its use of fuel surcharges after fierce rival Virgin Australia last week scrapped such fees for its flights to the United States.

Despite the fare restructure, which will see fuel surcharges absorbed into base fares, Qantas said overall prices would remain the same. The Australian flag

carrier argued that its ticket costs were already competitive.

"We are seeing significant benefit coming through on fuel and that will help our international business get back into profits and it will help Qantas invest in the customer," Joyce said Tuesday.

He stressed that the highly competitive nature of the aviation market, rather than plunging oil prices, was behind the decline in fares in recent years.

"If you look at the trends in global aviation over the past decade, costs and competition have been increasing while fares and airline margins have been falling," Joyce said in a statement earlier Tuesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Shipping
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.
2	Agency	Ministry of Shipping.
3	Procuring entity name	Secretary, Ministry of Shipping.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Tender for Microbus in Single Unit.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	18.011.026.00.009.2013-161.
8	Date	26-01-2015

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	OTM.
---	--------------------	------

FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	GoB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A.
14	Tender package No.	02/2014-2015.
15	Tender package name	Supply & Installation of Microbus.
16	Tender publication date	28-01-2015.
17	Tender last selling date	18-02-2015.
18	Tender submission date and time	Date: 19-02-2015 Time: 12:00 noon
19	Tender opening date and time	Date: 19-02-2015 Time: 12:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Ph No. 9549115, Fax: 9512283, add.secretary@mos.gov.bd
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents		
- Receiving tender document: Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000, Ph No. 9549115, Fax: 9512283, add.secretary@mos.gov.bd		
- Opening tender document: Conference Room, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.		

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	a. The tenderer shall have a minimum 03 (three) years of related experience of supplying similar services/goods. b. The supplier shall have up-dated trade licence, income tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate & bank solvency certificate.			
22	Brief description of goods	Service related goods: Microbus (01 No).			
23	Brief description of related services	03 (three) years manufacturers comprehensive (replacement) warranty.			
24	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand) only (non-refundable).			
25	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
1	Microbus	Ministry Shipping	of	Tk 1,10,000 (one lakh ten thousand) only	25 (twenty-five) weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Rafiqul Islam.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping.
28	Address of official inviting tender	Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph No. 9549115, Fax: 9512283, add.secretary@mos.gov.bd
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md. Rafiqul Islam
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Shipping
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000
Ph No. 9549115

GD-366

বাংলাদেশের
কম্পিউটার এন্ড অডিটর জেনারেলের কার্যালয়,
"অডিট ভবন"
৭৭/৭, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০
www.cag.org.bd

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশের কম্পিউটার এন্ড অডিটর জেনারেলের কার্যালয়ের
জন্য ২০১০ বা তৎপূর্ববর্তী মডেলের এবং চালকসহ ০৮(আট)/ ১২
(বারো) আসনের ভাল ও গ্রহণযোগ্য ০২ (দুই) টি মাইক্রোবাস (সকল
প্রকার জ্বালানী সরবরাহসহ) দৈনিক ভিত্তিতে ভাড়া করার নিমিত্ত
সীলমোহরকৃত খামে 'দরপত্র' আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত সিডিউল আগামী
১৭-০২-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রতিটি
মাইক্রোবাসের জন্য প্রতিটি সিডিউল ২০০০/- (কথায় দুই হাজার)
টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য) মূল্যে স্থানীয় প্রশাসন শাখা হইতে ক্রয় করা
যাইবে। আগামী ১৮-০২-২০১৫ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র
জমা দেওয়া যাইবে এবং ঐ দিন ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র দরদাতাদের
উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। দরপত্রের
সাথে টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি হিসাবে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার মাত্র)
টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার জমা দিতে হইবে।

নিরীক্ষা ও হিসাব রক্ষণ অফিসার (প্রশাসন)
ফোনঃ ৯৩৩৩২০৮।

GD-362

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়
ভবন নং- ৬, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়
www.moedu.gov.bd
শাখা-১৯
৩৭.০০.০০০০.০৮০.২৫.০০৫.১৫-২৭ তারিখঃ ১২ মার্চ ১৪২১
২৫ জানুয়ারি ২০১৫

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ IDB Merit Scholarship for Academic Year-2015-2016

ইসলামিক ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক (আইডিবি) মেরিট বৃত্তি,
২০১৫-২০১৬ এর অধীনে তিন বছর মেয়াদি পিএইচডি কোর্স
এবং ৬-১২ মাস মেয়াদি পোস্ট ডক্টরাল (রিসার্চ) কোর্সের জন্য
বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।
এ বিষয়ে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.moedu.gov.bd
এবং আইডিবি ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.isdb.org থেকে বিস্তারিত
জানা যাবে।

উক্ত বৃত্তির জন্য আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের আইডিবি ওয়েবসাইট থেকে
নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম সংগ্রহপূর্বক আবেদন ফরমটি যথাযথভাবে
পূরণক্রমে আইডিবি যাচিৎ সকল ডকুমেন্টসহ আগামী ১৫
ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৫ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০টার মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন
নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ঠিকানায় প্রেরণের অনুরোধ করা হল। উক্ত
আবেদন ফরমের সাথে প্রাথমিক বাছাইয়ের জন্য শিক্ষা
মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট প্রদত্ত "প্রাথমিক তথ্য বিবরণী ফরম"
পূরণপূর্বক জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত ঠিকানায়
আবেদনপত্র বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়ের গেটে ৯নং কাউন্টারে (শিক্ষা
মন্ত্রণালয়ের কাউন্টার) সরাসরি জমা দেয়া যাবে।

মোঃ এরফানুল হক
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব
ফোনঃ ৯৫৪৫০৩২
জিডি-৩৬৪
ds_stp@moedu.gov.bd

Sundarban Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Petrocentre (13th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
গ্যাস অমূল্য প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ, এর ব্যবহারে সচেতন হউন

Invitation for Tenders

For the Construction of Gas Distribution Network in Bhola and Borhanuddin

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla).
3.	Procuring entity name	Sundarban Gas Company Limited (SGCL).
4.	Procuring entity district	Bhola.
5.	Invitation for	Group-1: The Construction of the 60 psig extended Gas Distribution Network Pipe Line at Bhola Town, Bhola. Group-2: The Construction of the 60 psig Gas Distribution Network at Borhanuddin Upazilla H/Q including Lateral Line from Bhola to Borhanuddin.
6.	Invitation for tender No.	07.01.37.
7.	Date	26.01.2015.
8.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/(Single Stage Single Envelope).
9.	Source of funds	Own fund.
10.	Tender selling date	From 29.01.2015 to 15.02.2015 during office hour.
11.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document:	Accounts Department, Sundarban Gas Company Limited, Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
12.	Name and address of the office receiving and opening tenders	Accounts Department, Petrobangla, Petrocentre (6 th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
13.	Tender closing date and time	Up to 12:00 noon on 16.02.2015.
14.	Tender opening date and time	At 12:15pm on 16.02.2015.
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	Contractor(s) should have 1.3/1.4 category license of any Company of Petrobangla dealing with Gas Pipe line Construction work. Also should have requisite experience as per TDS in the tender document.
16.	Brief description of works	Group-1: Construction, Testing and Commissioning of 2"Øx10km and 1"Øx10km distribution Low pressure Gas pipeline (60psig) at Bhola Town, Bhola. Group-2: Construction, Testing and Commissioning of 6"Øx20km low pressure Gas pipeline (60psig) from Bhola Town to Borhanuddin and 4"Øx0.50km, 2"Øx2.5km and 1"Øx2.00km distribution Gas pipeline (60psig) at Borhanuddin Upazilla Town, Bhola.
17.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2000.00 (two thousand) non-refundable for each group.
18.	Tender security	a) Tk. 1,50,000.00 (One lac fifty thousand only) for Group-1 b) Tk. 2,75,000.00 (two lac seventy-five thousand only) for Group-2.
19.	Time of work completion	a) 150 (one hundred fifty) days for Group-1 b) 180 (one hundred eighty) days for Group-2
20.	Location of work	Bhola District.
21.	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. S M Nurul Aurangajeb, P Eng.
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Operation & Marketing).
23.	Address of official inviting tender	Sundarban Gas Company Limited (SGCL), Petrocentre (13 th Floor), 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
24.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel-880-2-8189894; Fax-880-2-8189667 e-mail- engrajeb@yahoo.com
25.	If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same place.	
26.	The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	
27.	All activities in connection with the said procurement of works will be guided as per "The Public Procurement Rules-2008".	
28.	Tenderer may participate either in Group-1 or Group-2 works or both. But associated tender security shall be submitted and purchase of tender document separately as described in SI. No. 17 & 18.	

Engr. S M Nurul Aurangajeb, P Eng
General Manager (Operation & Marketing)

GD-363