

# Like shale oil, solar power is shaking up global energy

REUTERS, Singapore/Tokyo

One by one, Japan is turning off the lights at the giant oil-fired power plants that propelled it to the ranks of the world's top industrialised nations. With nuclear power in the doldrums after the Fukushima disaster, it's solar energy that is becoming the alternative.

Solar power is set to become profitable in Japan as early as this quarter, according to the Japan Renewable Energy Foundation (JREF), freeing it from the need for government subsidies and making it the last of the G7 economies where the technology has become economically viable.

Japan is now one of the world's four largest markets for solar panels and a large number of power plants are coming on stream, including two giant arrays over water in Kato City and a \$1.1 billion solar farm being built on a salt field in Okayama, both west of Osaka.

"Solar has come of age in Japan and from now on will be replacing imported uranium and fossil fuels," said Tomas Käberger, executive board chairman of JREF.

"In trying to protect their fossil fuel and nuclear (plants), Japan's electric power companies can only delay developments here," he said, referring to the 10 regional monopolies that have dominated electricity production since the 1950s.

Japan is retiring nearly 2.4 gigawatts of expensive and polluting oil-fired energy plants by March next year and switching to alternative fuels. Japan's 43 nuclear reactors have been closed in the wake of the 2011 meltdown at the Fukushima power plant after an earthquake and a tsunami - since then, renewable energy capacity has tripled to 25 gigawatts, with solar accounting for more than 80 percent of that.

Once Japan reaches cost-revenue parity in solar energy, it will mean the technology is commercially viable in all G7 countries and 14 of the G20 econo-



REUTERS/FILE

Japanese visitors walk through solar panels donated by Japan's government at a solar plant in Diriyamba.

mies, according to data from governments, industry and consumer groups.

A crash in the prices of photovoltaic panels and improved technology that harnesses more power from the sun has placed solar on the cusp of a global boom, analysts say, who compare its rise to shale oil.

"Just as shale extraction reconfigured oil and gas, no other technology is closer to transforming power markets than distributed and utility scale solar," said consultancy Wood Mackenzie, which has a focus on the oil and gas industry.

Oil major Exxon Mobil says that "solar capacity is expected to grow by more than 20 times from 2010 to 2040."

Investors are also re-discovering solar, with the global solar index up 40 percent this year, lifting it out of a slump following the 2008/2009 financial crisis, far outperforming struggling commodities such as iron ore, natural gas, copper or coal.

By starting mass-production of solar panels, China is the driving force in bringing down solar manufacturing costs by 80 percent in the last decade, according to Germany's Fraunhofer Institute.

In Japan, residential solar power production costs have more than halved since 2010 to under 30 yen (\$0.25) per kilowatt-hour (kWh), making it comparable to average household electricity prices.

Wood Mackenzie expects solar costs to fall more as "efficiencies are nowhere near their theoretical maximums."

Solar is already well-entrenched in Europe and North America, but it is the expected boom in Asia that is lifting it out from its niche.

China's new anti-pollution policies are making the big difference. Because of these policies, Beijing is seeking alternatives for coal, which makes up almost two-thirds of its energy consumption.

China's 2014 solar capacity was 26.52 gigawatt (GW), less than 2 percent of its total capacity of 1,360 GW.

But the government wants to add 17.8 GW of solar power this year and added 5 GW in the first quarter alone, with plans to boost capacity to 100 GW by 2020.

Coal-dominated India, with its plentiful sunlight, could also take to solar in a big way.

# Ratan Tata buys stake in Chinese phone maker Xiaomi

REUTERS, Mumbai

Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of the holding company of the Tata conglomerate, has acquired a stake in Xiaomi Technology, a deal that is likely to bolster the Chinese phone maker's presence in the world's third-largest smartphone market.

Financial details of the unspecified stake bought by Tata in Xiaomi, the first by an Indian, were not disclosed in the statement issued by the Chinese company on Sunday.

Xiaomi, the No. 3 global smartphone maker, was valued at \$45 billion after a December funding round.

Tata, a respected business leader who was the chairman of salt-to-software Tata Sons for more than two decades, has previously invested in Indian startups, including online retailer Snapdeal.

Tata's investment in Xiaomi comes against the backdrop of an aggressive push by Xiaomi in India after entering the market, which has huge growth potential with just one in 10 people using smartphones, in July 2014.

On Thursday, Xiaomi hosted its first global launch outside of China in the Indian capital New Delhi, unveiling its feature-heavy Mi 4i model that supports six Indian languages at 12,999 rupees.

Xiaomi and other Chinese smartphone makers are drafting in cricket teams and Bollywood stars to conquer India, their largest overseas market and a key testing ground for their international expansion.



REUTERS/FILE

Ratan N Tata speaks with other dinner attendees as they wait for US Secretary of State John Kerry, before a dinner at the US Ambassador's residence in New Delhi on July 30, 2014.

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Headquarter, Kurmitola, Dhaka  
**Corrigendum No.-1 "Invitation for Tender" Notice**  
**Extension of Time**

Name of the work : Runway carpeting work at Barisal Airport (S.H: Improvement of main approach road in/c. other allied works).

Tender package No. : 03/2014-2015 (Barisal)

Due to unavoidable circumstance, the last date of selling tender & last date for submission and opening of tender are hereby extended as follows:

Sl No.	Criteria	As published in previous different daily newspaper	New date and time
01.	Last date & time for selling tender document	26/04/2015 during office hours	11/05/2015 up to 12.00 hours
02.	Last date & time for submission of tenders	27/04/2015 up to 12.00 hours	12/05/2015 up to 12.00 hours
03.	Date and time for opening of tenders	27/04/2015 at 12.30 hours	12/05/2015 at 12.30 hours

All other terms & conditions of "Invitation for Tender" Notice will remain unchanged.

সিএএবি/পিআর-৮৮/২০১৫/৪০০  
তারিখঃ ২৬-৪-২০১৫খ্রিঃ  
জিডি-১৫৩৯

**Md. Shahidul Afroz**  
Chief Engineer (Additional Charge)  
Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

## Nokia denies return to phone manufacturing

REUTERS, Helsinki

Finland's Nokia denied reports in Chinese media that it planned to return to manufacturing phones.

"Nokia notes recent news reports claiming the company communicated an intention to manufacture consumer handsets out of a R&D facility in China. These reports are false," Nokia said in a statement posted on its website.

"Nokia reiterates it currently has no plans to manufacture or sell consumer handsets."

However, Nokia has said it is looking into returning to the smartphones business by brand-licensing.

Sarwat Siraj, managing director of Leisure Bangladesh Ltd, hands over a dummy key of a Kaalmegh villa to Syeda Nigar Sultana, an owner of the villa, during a programme held at the Westin hotel in Dhaka recently. Dhammaras B Kasem, chief executive of Unique Luxury Hotels of Asia, and Omar Sadat, chairman of Leisure Bangladesh, were also present. The Leisure Kaalmegh Villas and Country Club project is in Sreepur, Gazipur.



KAALMEGH

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Border Guard Bangladesh

### Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Home Affairs.					
2.	Agency	Border Guard Bangladesh.					
3.	Procuring entity name	Director General, Border Guard Bangladesh.					
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.					
5.	Procuring entity district	Not applicable.					
6.	Invitation for	Supply & Installation of 01 (one) No. 400x200mm dia Deep Tube well for Swimming Pool area at Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Peelkhana, Dhaka.					
7.	Invitation Ref No.	44.02.1205.007.03.323.15.					
8.	Date	23 April 2015.					
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>							
9.	Procurement method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM).					
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>							
10.	Budget and source of funds	GOB Fund.					
11.	Development partners (if applicable)	None.					
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>							
12.	Project/program code (if applicable)	Not applicable.					
13.	Project/program name (if applicable)	Not applicable.					
14.	Tender package No.	As per ser No. 27.					
15.	Tender package name	As per ser No. 27.					
		Date					
16.	Tender publication date	27 April 2015.					
17.	Tender last selling date	04 May 2015.					
		Date					
		Time					
18.	Tender closing date and time	11 May 2015	1200 hours.				
19.	Tender opening date and time	11 May 2015	1230 hours.				
20.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address					
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Works Branch, Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Dhaka.					
	- Selling tender document (others)	Not applicable.					
	- Receiving tender document	Works Branch, Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Dhaka.					
	- Opening tender document	Works Branch, Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Dhaka.					
21.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.					
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>							
22.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. Any individual(s) enlisted firm(s) of BGB & other govt./semi govt./autonomous organization of related contractors who fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the tender data sheet (TDS), PCC and other conditions of the tender(s) document(s). b. The required number of similar contracts shall be 1 (one) over the last 5 (five) years. c. Tenderers to fulfillment of conditions mentioned in the tender data sheet. (i) Minimum work experience of similar construction work in single contract (certificate to be attached as per ITT) (ii) The annual average turnover documents to be attached with tender (as per ITT). (iii) The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets) credit facilities (certificate to be attached with the tender as per ITT).					
23.	Brief description of works	Supply & Installation of 01 (one) No. 400x200mm dia Deep Tube well for Swimming Pool area at Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Peelkhana, Dhaka.					
24.	Brief description of related services	None					
25.	Price of tender document (Tk.)	As per ser 26.					
26.	Tender package No., name, Lot No, Identification of Lot, location, price of tender, tender security and completion time as under:						
Package No.	Package name	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tender security amount (Tk.)	Completion time in weeks/months
02/2014-15	Supply & Installation of 01 (one) No. 400x200mm dia Deep Tube well for Swimming Pool area at Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Peelkhana, Dhaka.	WK-2	Deep Tube well	Swimming Pool area at Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Peelkhana, Dhaka.	1,500/-	1,49,585/-	30 days
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>							
27.	Name of official inviting tender	Colonel Md Nazrul Islam.					
28.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director General (Works).					
29.	Address of official inviting tender	Headquarters Border Guard Bangladesh, Peelkhana, Dhaka.					
30.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No: 9650302		Fax: 9650245			
31.	a. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.						
	b. If the tenderers submits any false/incorrect certificate the tender security shall be forfeited.						
32.	If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and same venue.						
www.bgb.gov.bd GD-1536					<b>Deputy Director General (Works)</b> For Director General ddgworks@bgb.gov.bd		