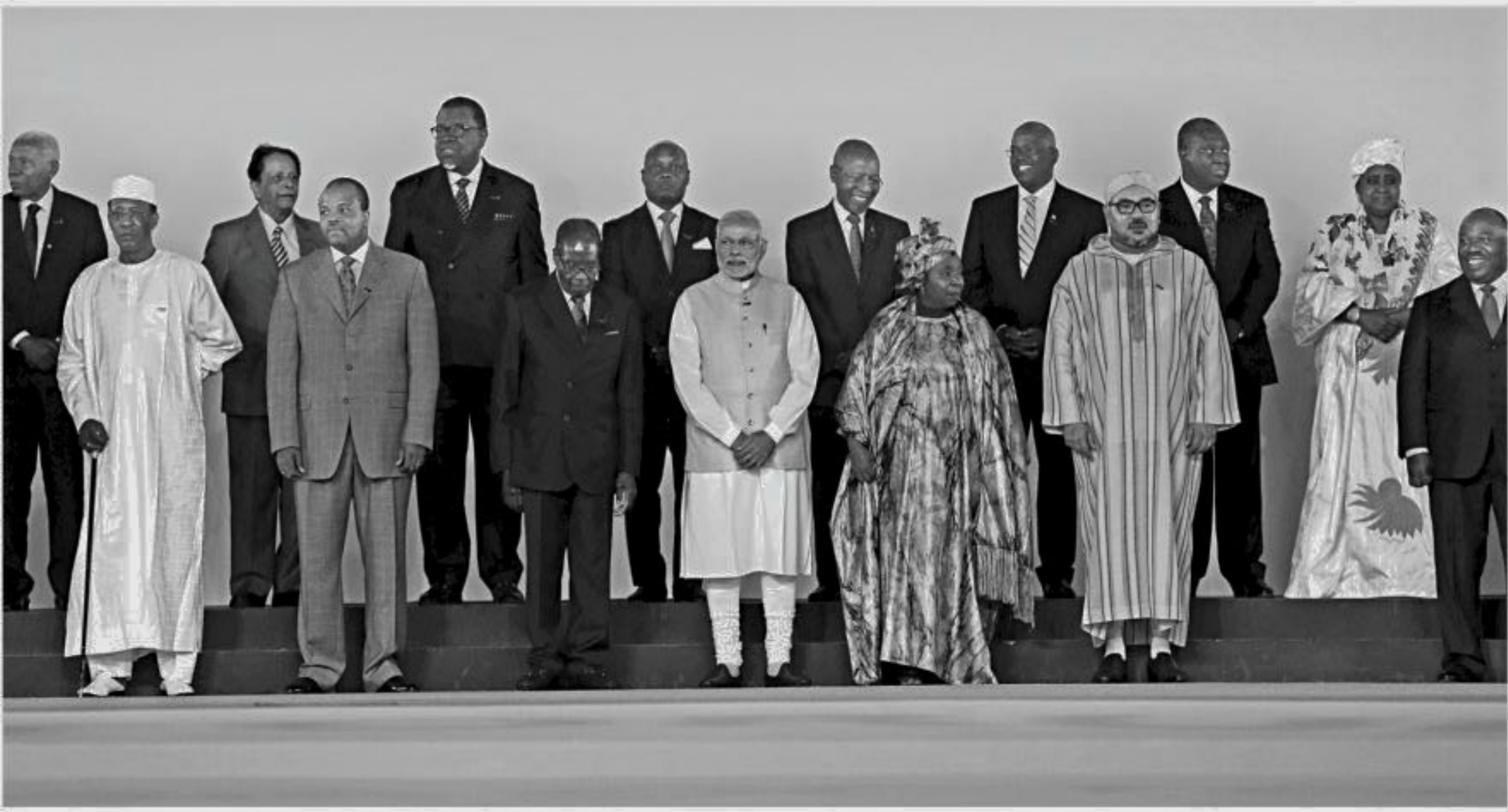


Modi announces \$10b fund for African nations



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) poses with his counterparts from African countries during the Inaugural Session of the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi yesterday.

for its 1.25 billion people. Modi also appealed to the African countries to join an alliance of "solar-rich" countries at the forthcoming UN climate change summit beginning in Paris next month to promote clean and affordable energy. "When the sun sets, tens of millions of homes in India and Africa become dark. We want to light up lives of the people and power their future," Modi said. "We want to do it in a way that the snow on Kilimanjaro (hills) does not disappear, the glacier that feeds the River Ganga does not retreat and our islands are not doomed." "When terror snuffs out life on the streets and beaches, and in malls and schools of Africa, we feel your pain as our own. And, we see the links that unite us against this threat. When nations are caught in conflict within, no one around remains untouched."

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

In a major outreach to African countries, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday announced a concessional credit line of \$10 billion for them, in a move many perceive as playing a catch-up with China's bigger presence in the countries of the continent.

Addressing the biggest-ever India-Africa Summit in India, he also offered a grant assistance of \$600 million, which will include an India-Africa Development Fund of \$100 million, an India-Africa Health Fund of \$10 million, expansion of Pan Africa E-Network and institutions of skilling, training and learning.

"To add strength to our partnership, India will offer concessional credit of \$10 billion over the next five years. This will be in addition to our ongoing credit

programme," Modi said. He spoke in front of the heads of states and government of more than 40 African countries at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Sports Stadium, which is located near the bank of Jamuna river. India had earlier provided \$7.4 billion in soft loans and \$1.2 billion in aid since the first India-Africa summit held in 2008. Modi unleashed the charm offensive on African leaders not only by loosening the purse strings but also by articulating a "partnership of prosperity" and pitching a broad alliance for global reform with a continent gifted with vast natural resources and the world's fastest-growing population.

Modi travelled back and forth in time recalling the civilization links between India and Africa through trade and movement of people between the two continents, India's

unflinching support for African countries' struggle against colonialism and laying out a roadmap for the future.

Modi said India and Africa must speak with one voice on global matters, including reform of the United Nations.

India aspires to a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council, contending that it is rooted in the post-war global order and fails to reflect the realities of today's power relations.

He also sought African support on trade, saying a World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting in December in Nairobi should ensure that free trade talks serve both regions' goals.

India is pressing for a permanent deal on food stockpiling; an issue that has complicated the long-running Doha Round, arguing that it must hoard food to ensure food

networks bring opportunities but also carry huge risks. So, when it comes to security, distance no longer insulates us from each other," he said.

"That is why we wish to deepen our cooperation in maritime security and hydrography and countering terrorism and extremism; and, why we must have a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism."

India says it is not in any race with China to assert its dominance in Africa. China's annual trade with Africa stands at \$200 billion as against India's \$74.2 billion.

Instead, India has focussed on its soft power like information technology and capacity-building in Africa as against China's extraction of natural resources and deployment of its own personnel in Africa which has drawn a backlash from African countries.

Pfizer, Allergan weigh blockbuster merger

AFP, *New York*

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer recently approached Botox-maker Allergan over what would be the biggest takeover deal this year, *The Wall Street Journal* said Wednesday.

This year has seen an unprecedented period of intense deal-making throughout pharmaceuticals and health care and a merger with Allergan -- which has a market capitalisation of \$112.5 billion (103 billion euros) -- would be a major coup for Pfizer.

But citing people "familiar with the matter," the newspaper said that the process is very much in its infancy and may not end in agreement.

One major hurdle is the price and another is concern over the degree to which Pfizer would want to cut staffing and close facilities, the WSI said.

It added that other issues are the fate of Allergan CEO Brent Saunders and the makeup of a combined company's management team.

The Financial Times, citing two people familiar with the situation, said Ian Read, Pfizer chief executive, had recently contacted Saunders over a deal.

Last year, Pfizer unsuccessfully sought to acquire British pharma behemoth

AstraZeneca for \$120 billion after the British company refused to negotiate.

New York-based Pfizer had sought to snap up AstraZeneca in part to shift its headquarters for tax purposes to a foreign jurisdiction with lower tax rates -- a takeover of Allergan could offer similar advantages because it is based in lower-tax Dublin.

In February, Pfizer said it was to expand its line of drugs and therapies with the \$17-billion takeover of Hospira, adding Hospira's portfolio of sterile injectable treatments and biosimilar drugs to Pfizer's broad pharma offerings.

Pfizer in 2013 announced it was reorganising its drugs business, separating older medications from research-oriented divisions. Many analysts believe the company will eventually split in two -- one business selling patent-protected drugs and another selling off-patent drugs.

Pfizer reported better-than-expected earnings Tuesday, as strong sales in oncology and vaccines offset a hit from patent expirations. The pharma giant reported third-quarter earnings of \$2.1 billion, down 20.1 percent from the year-ago period.

Revenues were \$12.09 billion, down 2.2 percent from the year-ago period, in part due to the impact from the strong dollar.



Md Harunur Rashid, chairman of Globe Pharma Group, and Sajjad Alam, head of direct sales at Grameenphone, pose at the inauguration of an exclusive enterprise service kiosk at the Group's head office in Tejgaon, Dhaka yesterday. The Group's business solutions users will get instant telecom service at the kiosk.

Sony, Panasonic post big profits as turnaround plans take hold

AFP, *Tokyo*

Two of Japan's biggest electronics giants booked soaring profits Thursday in a sign that efforts to fix their tattered balance sheets were finally paying off.

Sony kicked off the upbeat news by reporting a six-month net profit of almost \$1.0 billion, crediting its PlayStation video game unit and smartphone parts business for a big improvement in its finances.

Shortly after Sony's announcement, rival Panasonic also said that its fiscal first-half profit jumped, as the firm presses on with a corporate shakeup.

The pair, along with still-struggling Sharp, have stumbled in the consumer electronics business that built their global brands, including losing billions of dollars in television sales over the past decade as they faced fierce competition from lower-cost rivals from South Korea and Taiwan.



Akram Hussain, chairman of Mercantile Bank, opens the bank's 102nd branch on Gareeb-e-Newaz Avenue in Uttara, Dhaka yesterday. M Ehsanul Haque, managing director, was also present.

Japan factory output bounces, easing pressure on BoJ

AFP, *Tokyo*

Japan's factory output unexpectedly rebounded in September, data showed Thursday, tempering expectations the central bank would unleash more stimulus after a string of weak data from the world's number three economy.

Government figures showed industrial production expanded 1.0 percent, after two consecutive monthly falls, thanks to brisk production of electronics devices and chemical products.

The reading beat market forecasts for a 0.5 percent decline and marks a sharp bounce from the previous month, while the economy ministry also lifted its assessment on factory output.

The surprisingly positive data damp-

ened predictions the Bank of Japan would announce an expansion of its huge easing programme after a meeting Friday.

Japan publishes inflation and unemployment figures Friday morning, which could also be key to the BoJ's decision on whether to unleash more stimulus in the face of slowing global growth.

"Today's data have reduced the chances that the Bank of Japan will announce more stimulus tomorrow," research house Capital Economics said in a commentary.

"However, any signs in tomorrow's inflation and unemployment data that the earlier slowdown in activity has reduced price pressures may still convince policymakers to step up the pace of easing."

Nokia raises 2015 outlook, share price soars

AFP, *Helsinki*

Finnish telecom group Nokia on Thursday raised its full-year outlook as it posted better-than-expected third quarter earnings, sending the company's share price soaring by over nine percent.

At a time when operators are postponing or cutting investments in the roll-out of 4G networks amid a challenging economic climate, Nokia has seen strong sales growth in China which has compensated in part for declines in North America and Europe. Once the world's top mobile phone maker, Nokia's main business is now its Networks division.

"While net sales were down slightly year-on-year on a reporting basis, Networks notched one of the highest underline gross margins in our history at 39.5 percent," Nokia chief executive Rajeev Suri told reporters at a conference call.

The Networks division posted an operating margin of 13.6 percent in the third quarter, up from 13.5 percent a year ago.

For the full-year, that figure is expected to come in "around or slightly below the high end of the long-term range of 8 to 11 percent," instead of the "midpoint" range previously forecast.

Overall the company's third quarter

attributable net profit dropped to 152 million euros (\$166 billion), a fifth of what it was in the same period a year ago, while sales were down two percent to 3.0 billion euros (\$3.4 billion).

Suri said it was the Networks results that brightened the picture.

"The performance at Nokia Networks was the highlight of the quarter, and allowed us to raise our full-year outlook for that business," he said.

Also last week Nokia announced that the French authorities had given a final go-ahead for the acquisition of its French-American rival Alcatel-Lucent, which Nokia expects to conclude in the beginning of 2016.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Nishindara, Bogra
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. LGED/EE-B/2015/2029

Date: 28-10-2015

e-Tender Notice No. 06/2015-2016

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of upazila	Description of work & package No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
1	Nandigram	Periodic Maintenance of Kathom Kaligonj RHD-Panditpukur GC Road via Bhatra UP from Ch. 00m-6050m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-16) Tender ID-34385	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (12.30pm)
2	Kahaloo	Periodic Maintenance of Ranirhat-Durgapur Road from Ch. 3500m - 4562m & 9800-10400m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-17) Tender ID-34387	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (12.30pm)
3	Kahaloo	Periodic Maintenance of Khaloo Upazila H/Q-Nandigram GC via Vatgram Road from Ch. 4730m-9000m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-18) Tender ID-34388	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (13.00pm)
4	Sherpur	Periodic Maintenance of Mirzapur (NHW)-Ranirhat GC Road from Ch. 4000m-8000m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-19) Tender ID-34389	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (13.00pm)
5	Sherpur	Periodic Maintenance of Mirzapur (NHW)-Ranirhat GC Road from Ch. 8000m-11620m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-20) Tender ID-34390	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (13.30pm)
6	Sherpur	Periodic Maintenance of Sherpur NHW-Nimgachi GC Road from Ch. 3900m-9080m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-21) Tender ID-34436	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (13.30pm)
7	Sherpur	Periodic Maintenance of Sonka NHW-Mothurapur GC Road from Ch. 00m-3942m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-22) Tender ID-34437	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (14.00pm)
8	Gabtali	Periodic Maintenance of Bogra-Tornihat GC Road from Ch. 7950m-11300m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-23) Tender ID-34438	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (14.00pm)
9	Gabtali	Periodic Maintenance of Sukhanpukur Rail Station-Nepaltali UP Office via Shahbajpur Road from Ch. 00m-2950m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-24) Tender ID-34439	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (14.30pm)
10	Bogra Sadar	Periodic Maintenance of Mohasthan NHW-Namuja GCM Road from Ch. 2750m-5500m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-25) Tender ID-34440	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (14.30pm)
11	Bogra Sadar	Periodic Maintenance of Bogra-Tarnihat Road from Ch. 2600m-6100m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-26) Tender ID-34446	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (15.00pm)
12	Bogra Sadar	Periodic Maintenance of Namuja GCM-Bihar GCM Road from Ch. 00m-1800m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-27) Tender ID-34448	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (15.00pm)
13	Sariakandi	Periodic Maintenance of Fulbari GC-Kutubpur GC Road from Ch. 2723m-6050m (GOBM/BOG/15-16/W-28) Tender ID-34449	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (15.30pm)
14	Sariakandi	Periodic Maintenance of Tornihat-Jorgacha-Sonahata GC Road from Ch. 00m-2300m (GOBM/BOG/15-15/W-29) Tender ID-34451	16 Nov/15 (17.00pm)	17 Nov/15 (12.00 noon)	17 Nov/15 (15.30pm)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 16 November/2015. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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