

China overcapacity darkens Asia's 2016 growth prospects: ADB



Imported coal being unloaded from a cargo ship at a port in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province.

Huge industrial overcapacity in China will drag on both the country's and the region's growth this year, the Asian Development Bank said Wednesday, cutting its forecast for the world's second-largest economy.

China's GDP growth is expected to slow to 6.5 percent in 2016, the ADB said in its flagship Asian Development Outlook, lowering its December forecast of 6.7 percent.

With China casting its shadow over the continent, the bank also reduced its prediction for Asia's growth to 5.7 percent, down from 6.0 percent and slower than last year's actual 5.9 percent expansion.

China's "growth moderation and uneven global recovery are weighing down overall growth in Asia", said the ADB's chief economist Shang-Jin Wei.

The document comes at a time of global uncertainty about Beijing's ability to make much-needed cuts to its steel, coal, and cement sectors and manage a tough economic transition to a more consumer-led model.

China's economy grew at its slowest pace for a quarter-century last year, and concerns have been mounting it could soften further after Beijing set a 6.5-7 percent target for 2016.

"Weak external demand and excess capacity in some sectors, on top of a shrinking labour force and rising wages, continue to induce a gradual decline in the PRC's growth rate," Wei said.

A "sharp slowdown" in Chinese real-estate investment will be a "drag" on the economy, the bank added, although it would be partly offset by consumption and green investment.

The ADB's China economics head Jurgen Conrad said the government "urgently needed" to accelerate cuts to excess capacity in real-estate and manufacturing, and cited high corporate debt as another challenge.

"Supply-side reform is what China needs and what Asia needs," he said, adding that Beijing would not use "shock therapy" to make changes.

Elsewhere across the continent the prospects were brighter, however, according to the Manila-based bank.

The ADB predicted growth in India, the fastest-expanding large economy in the world, would slow to 7.4 percent, from 7.6 percent in 2015, but would accelerate again to 7.8 percent in 2017.

"India is growing faster now than China... and is likely to remain so in the near future," Wei said, saying structural reforms and improvements to labour market regulations would help boost activity.

Indonesia will lead Southeast Asia as Jakarta ploughs cash into infrastructure and encourages private investment, the ADB added, predicting GDP would grow 5.2 percent this year, up from 4.8 percent in 2015.

China's heavy industries, many of them state-owned, have provided mass employment for tens of millions of people but are increasingly loss-making and debt-ridden.

Shutting inefficient companies could cause further problems, the bank said, potentially leading to 3.6 million job losses and drying up tax revenues for local governments.

"What China is now attempting to do, in terms of the transformation of the economy, is absolutely unprecedented in human history," China country director Hamid Sharif said in Beijing.

"We know from the experience of other countries that reform is very much an art, and not a science."

"In every country, decisions have to be made taking into account what is possible, and what is achievable, rather than what some theoretical economist may sit in a room and decide ought to be done."

In the long run, the bank warned China faces a demographic squeeze as the population ages, which increases pressure on authorities to act now to reform the economy.

"Rising wages... and shrinking working age population are fundamental reasons why there will be a slowdown," ADB chief economist Wei told reporters in Hong Kong.



Mustafa Anwar, chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh, and Mohammad Abdul Mannan, managing director, attend a discussion organised to mark the bank's 33rd anniversary, at Islami Bank Tower in Motijheel, Dhaka yesterday. IBBL also launched five new products and a mobile app at the event.

Thousands of jobs at risk as Tata Steel seeks British exit

REUTERS, London/Mumbai

Tata Steel is seeking to sell Britain's biggest steelmaking business, putting thousands of jobs at risk in an industry that once dominated Britain but has been brought low by falling prices, high costs and Chinese competition.

After a marathon board meeting in Mumbai, Tata said it would draw a line under its almost decade-long foray into Britain's steel industry, exiting the country entirely.

The move could have an impact on Britain's closely fought vote in three months over whether to stay in the European Union. Britain's traditionally anti-EU media have blamed Brussels for preventing London from taking greater steps to protect the industry, although supporters of membership say EU policy is not responsible for the industry's plight.

Tata, which employs about 15,000 people in Britain at sites including the giant Port Talbot plant in Wales, said its financial performance in Britain had deteriorated sharply in recent months and it wanted to exit as quickly as possible.

The British government and the

Welsh authorities said they were looking at all viable options to protect the steel industry, which has already shed thousands of jobs in just the last year.

"We are, and have, and continue to look at all options, and I mean all options. But what we first want to achieve from Tata is this period of time to allow a proper sale process," Anna Soubry, a minister for business, told BBC radio. She said she could not rule out the possibility of the government buying the plants until a new owner could be found.

The sale ramps up pressure on Prime Minister David Cameron's right-leaning Conservative government, which has sought to cultivate closer ties with China.

Cameron's fate hangs in the balance when Britain votes on whether to stay in the EU in May, and his government has sought to avoid controversies during the runup to the vote.

The Conservatives are resented in Britain's industrial heartlands for the demise of mining and manufacturing under former prime minister Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

The government has said it is taking measures to help the steel sector but

the fundamental problem remained the halving of steel prices in the past year, caused by overcapacity in China.

Once a driver of the economy through the 19th and 20th centuries, many of Britain's former steel towns have been decimated by the industry's decline since its peak in the 1970s.

The leader of the opposition Labour party, Jeremy Corbyn, called on the government to take a public stake in the industry which he called "the cornerstone of our manufacturing sector".

Tata Steel bought Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus in 2007 and has since struggled to turn the giant around.

Port Talbot, though far from its 1960s peak, still employs about 4,000 people, and Tata is one of the most significant private companies in Wales.

Unions welcomed the decision not to shutter the plants but called on Tata to be a "responsible seller" and on the government to play its role.

"We don't just want more warm words. We want a detailed plan of action to find buyers and build confidence in potential investors in UK steel," Roy Rickhuss, general secretary of steelworkers' trade union Community, said.



Aziz Al Mahmood, chairman of IDLC Finance, presides over the company's 31st annual general meeting at Radisson Blu hotel in Dhaka yesterday. IDLC declared 25 percent cash dividends for 2015 and enhanced its authorised capital to Tk 1,000 crore. Arif Khan, chief executive, was also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
 Noakhali
 www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: LGED/XEN/NOA/Tender/2015/1704 Dated: 28/03/2016

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

E-Tender Notice No-74/2015-16
 Reference No: APP ID: 21565(Re-tender) & APP ID-25283

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes.

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of scheme	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank
Tender ID-52780	NOA/RPM-249	Rehabilitation & Periodic Maintenance of Char Elahi Road (CH 0+000-10+700 KM) Upazila: Companiganj, District: Noakhali.	Up to 25-04-2016 at 12:00 noon
Tender ID-52791	e-Tender/LGED/Noa/GOBM/15-16/W-45	Periodic Maintenance of Akkabarpur-Jirtali Road CH: 00-1113m [BEGUMGONJ] (Road Code-475074022).	Up to 17-04-2016 at 16:00pm

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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

M A Sattar
 Executive Engineer
 Phone: 0321-61340
 E-mail- xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

GD-744

German inflation inches higher in March

AFP, Frankfurt

Inflation in Germany edged higher in March, with rising prices for food, services and rents offsetting falling energy prices, a preliminary flash estimate showed on Wednesday.

Germany's national inflation yardstick, the consumer price index, rose by 0.3 percent in March after zero percent in February, the federal statistics office Destatis said.

And using the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) -- the barometer used by the European Central Bank -- the inflation rate stood at plus 0.1 percent in March, compared with minus 0.2 percent in February.

The inflation data were a preliminary flash estimate calculated from consumer price data for six of Germany's 16 regional states.

Final data based on all 16 states were scheduled to be published on April 12.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Directorate General of Health Services
 Director of Stores & Supplies, Central Medical Stores Depot
 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Procurement of Vehicle

Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP)

Credit No. 4954-BD

IFB No. CMSD/G-1505/ICB/2015-2016/D-2/57 Date: 29-03-2016

- This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in UNDB; issue No. 803 of 31 July 2011.
- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association & grants from development partners toward the cost of Health, Population & Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement of "Vehicle".
- The Director (Stores & Supplies), & Line Director, Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management, DGHS, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply of "Vehicle" as follows:

Sl No.	Brief description of goods	Quantity	Delivery Location	Delivery Period
Lot-1 (Ambulance)				
01	Ambulance (Well equipped)	50	CMSD	98 days from the date of signing of contract
Lot-2 (Others Vehicle)				
01	Sedan Car	1		
02	Cross country vehicle	1		
03	Microbus, 12 seater (Type-1)	2		
04	Microbus, 12 seater (Type-2)	1		
05	Microbus, Petrol, 15 seater (Type-3)	10		
06	Vehicle (Pick up van)	2		
07	Truck 3 tons	3		

- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from office of the Director (Stores & Supplies), & Line Director, Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management, DGHS, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 to 17:00 hours Bangladesh standard time (BST=GMT+6 hrs). The bidding document is also available at the DGHS website (<http://www.dghs.gov.bd/index.php/bd/dghs-tender>). However, the web version of the document is for information purpose only.
- Qualifications requirements include:**
 - Liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination. At least the amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility or their combination mentioned below:
 - For Lot No. 1: US\$1,000,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency(ies);
 - For Lot No. 2: US\$ 400,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency(ies)
 - General Experience: The bidder should have at least five (5) years of general experience in supplying vehicles (i.e. years counting backward from the date of IFB publication).
 - Specific Experience: The bidder will at least have experience of supplying vehicles having value mentioned below in not more than two contracts within the last five (5) years (i.e. years counting backward from the date of IFB publication):
 - For Lot No. 1: US\$1,000,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency(ies);
 - For Lot No. 2: US\$400,000 or equivalent in any freely convertible currency(ies)
 - Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 4,000 or USD 50 only. The method of payment will be in Pay Order from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. The bidding documents will be delivered from the counter of CMSD to the bidders or their authorized representative. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing an international courier service to collect the same from the following address.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below before 11:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 12-05-2016. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 11:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs.) on 12-05-2016. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 50,000 for Lot 1 and USD 20,000 for Lot 2 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
- A pre-bid conference will be held on 10-04-2016 in the office of the undersigned at 11:30 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6 hrs). All bidders are requested to attend the conference on time.

Director (Stores & Supplies)
 &
 Line Director, Procurement, Logistics and Supplies Management, DGHS, CMSD
 Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh
 Tel: 9129231; Fax: 9126547
 e-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net

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