



PICARD BANGLADESH

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the National Export Trophy (gold) in the leather goods category for fiscal 2013-14 to Rasheda Khanam, manager of human resource at Picard Bangladesh Ltd, at the opening of Dhaka International Trade Fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on January 1. Picard that manufactures high-end leather goods for export has won the award for many years now.



CROWN CEMENT

Md Alamgir Kabir, additional managing director of MI Cement Factory Ltd, receives the National Export Trophy (bronze) for 2013-14 from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on January 1. The company earlier won the export trophy in 2008-09 and 2009-10.



SERVICEENGINE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over the National Export Trophy (gold) for 2013-14 to ASM Mohiuddin Monem, chairman and co-founder of ServEngine BPO, a concern of Abdul Monem Group, at the opening ceremony of Dhaka International Trade Fair at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on January 1.

Hyundai group aims to sell 8.25m cars in 2017

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's largest automakers Hyundai Motor and its affiliate Kia have forecast sales of 8.25 million vehicles this year amid hopes that new factories will tap into emerging markets.

The projected sales for 2017 mark a slight increase from the previous year's target of 8.13 million, the Hyundai Motor group chairman Chung Mong-Koo said in a New Year email message to employees on Monday.

Hyundai, which along with Kia forms the world's fifth-largest automaking group, has seen profits falling for years amid slowing demand in its key China market and a strong won that hurt its competitiveness overseas.

The group missed its annual sales target for a second year in a row last year when major strikes by South Korean workers hit production. Hyundai-Kia jointly sold a little over 7 million units from January to November in 2016.

But it hopes to turn things around with a new factory to open in Chongqing, China, and the launch of new vehicles.

"We should strengthen production networks among 35 plants in 10 countries, including the Chongqing plant to open this year," Chung said.

"We...will also strengthen product lineup in luxury and environmentally-friendly cars and introduce more than 10 new vehicles this year," he added.

New models -- including sports utility vehicles popular in China -- will also be produced at newly-opened plants in Changzhou in China and Mexico, according to the group.

The Chongqing plant -- Hyundai's 5th plant in China -- is aimed at exploiting the fast-growing midwestern region in the country, the world's largest auto market.

The group has struggled to boost its market share in China, which fell to 8.1 per cent in 2016 following growing competition from Japanese rivals and homegrown Chinese brands.

In October Hyundai Motor announced a sharp fall in profits for a third quarter, hit by lengthy industrial action that also took a toll on the national economy.

Tens of thousands of workers at the firm's plants in South Korea staged full or partial strikes for several weeks through July to October demanding higher wages.

Production losses were estimated at 3 trillion won (\$2.6 billion), and Hyundai said its third quarter net profit fell 7.2 percent from the previous year to 1.1 trillion won.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Government Printing Press
Department of Printing & Publication
(Ministry of Public Administration)
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208

Tender No. 05.83.0000.010.07.041.16-17/2597

Date: 02/01/17

International Tender Notice

01	Ministry/division	Ministry of Public Administration.
02	Agency/department	Department of Printing & Publications, Dhaka.
03	Office of the procuring entity	Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
04	Name of the procuring entity	The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
05	District of the procuring entity	Dhaka.
06	Budget and source of funds	Revenue (GOB).
07	Name of the work	Package No. GPP-01/2016-2017 Lot No-01: Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine Lot No-02: Automatic Positive Plate Processor Machine.
08	Procurement method	Open tendering method, according to Public Procurement Act 2006 & Public Procurement Rules-2008.
09	Price of tender documents (Tk)	Lot No-01: 800/- (eight hundred) Taka only (non-refundable) Lot No-02: 800/- (eight hundred) Taka only (non-refundable) In case of collecting schedule from website: www.dpp.gov.bd/gpp. the price of the schedule as Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank must be submitted with the tender in favour of Deputy Director, Govt. Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
10	Tender security (Tk)	Lot No-01: 40,000/- (forty thousand) Taka only (refundable). Lot No-02: 33,000/- (thirty-three thousand) Taka only (refundable).
11	Name & address of the office selling tender documents	(a) The Director General, Department of Printing and Publications, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (b) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Government Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (c) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Security Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (d) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (e) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms and Publications Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (f) The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (g) Website: www.dpp.gov.bd/gpp.
12	Name & address of the office receiving tender documents	(a) Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka. (b) The Director General, Department of Printing and Publications, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (c) Senior Assistant Secretary, Printing Section, Ministry of Public Administration, Bangladesh Secretariat, Bhaban No-2, Room No-103 (1st Floor), Dhaka-1000. (d) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Government Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (e) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Security Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (f) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (g) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms and Publications Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka. (h) The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
13	Name & address of the office opening tender documents	Office of the Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
14	Eligibility of tenderer	All qualified suppliers/contractors who fulfill the terms and conditions of schedule (other than blacklisted suppliers/contractors of the department).
15	Brief description of goods	As per specifications of schedule.
16	Date & time for selling tender documents	Up to 20-02-2017 (during normal working hours).
17	Date & time for submission of tenders	On 22-02-2017 up to 01.00pm.
18	Date & time for opening of tender documents	At 3.30pm 22-02-2017.
19	Designation, address & contact details of official inviting tender	The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka. Tel: 8870200 (Office).
20	Place/date/time of the pre-tender meeting (optional)	At 18-01-2017 on 11.30am at Office Room of the Deputy Director of Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

N.B.

01. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.
02. Others informations will collect during the normal office hours from the office of the undersigned officer.

Mustafa Kamal
Deputy Director
Phone: 8870200 (Office)

GD-15

Bitcoin jumps above \$1,000 for first time in 3yrs

REUTERS, London

Digital currency bitcoin kicked off the new year by jumping above \$1,000 for the first time in three years late on Sunday, having outperformed all central-bank-issued currencies with a 125 percent climb in 2016.

Bitcoin - a web-based "cryptocurrency" that has no central authority, relying instead on thousands of computers across the world that validate transactions and add new bitcoins to the system - jumped 2.5 percent to \$1,022 on the Europe-based Bitstamp exchange, its highest since December 2013.

Though the digital currency has historically been highly volatile - a tenfold increase in its value in two months in late 2013 took it to above \$1,100, before a hack on the Tokyo-based Mt. Gox exchange saw it plunge to under \$400 in the

following weeks - it has in the past two years been more stable.

Its biggest daily moves in 2016 were around 10 percent, still very volatile compared with fiat currencies, but markedly lower than the trading of 2013, which saw daily price swings of as much as 40 percent.

Bitcoin may have been boosted in the past year by increased demand in China on the back of a 7 percent annual fall in the value of the yuan in 2016, the Chinese currency's weakest showing in over 20 years. Data shows most bitcoin trading is done in China.

Bitcoin is used to move money across the globe quickly and anonymously and does not fall under the purview of any authority, making it attractive to those wanting to get around capital controls, such as China's.

It is also may appeal to those worried about a

lack of supply of cash, such as in India, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed high-denomination bank notes from circulation in November.

"The growing war on cash, and capital controls, is making bitcoin look like a viable, if high risk, alternative," said Paul Gordon, a board member of the UK Digital Currency Association and co-founder of Quantave, a firm seeking to make it easier for institutional investors to access digital currency exchanges.

Though bitcoin is still some way off the all-time high of \$1,163 that it reached on the Bitstamp exchange in late 2013, there are now more bitcoins in circulation - 12.5 are added to the system every 10 minutes. Its total worth is at a record-high above \$16 billion, putting its value at around the same as that of an average FTSE 100 company.

New drug approvals fall to six-year low in 2016

REUTERS, London

Last year turned out to be a disappointing one for new drug approvals with the US Food and Drug Administration clearing just 22 new medicines for sale, the lowest number since 2010 and sharply down on 2015's tally of 45.

Across the Atlantic, the European Medicines Agency recommended 81 new prescription products against a 2015 total of 93. Unlike the FDA, the EMA includes generic drugs in its list.

The slowdown suggests the pharmaceuticals industry may be returning to more normal productivity levels after a spike in approvals in 2014 and 2015, when the haul of new drugs reaching the market hit a 19-year high.

Several factors led to the fall in the approval rate in 2016, John Jenkins, the FDA's director of the office of new drugs, told a conference last month.

Notably, five new drugs that had been scheduled for approval in 2016 ended up winning an early green light at the end of 2015. There was also a decline in drugs being filed for approval and the FDA rejected or delayed more applications in 2016 than in the previous two years.

Some of the delayed drugs may yet go on to win approval in 2017, including Roche's multiple sclerosis treatment Ocrevus and Sanofi and Regeneron's sarilumab for rheumatoid arthritis.

Most industry executives remain upbeat about the hunt for new medicines, given recent advances in fighting cancer and an improved understanding of the genetic basis of other diseases, which has resulted in full development pipelines at many firms.

But it remains challenging to get new drugs through the approval process and to secure a decent financial return once they are launched, given resistance from healthcare insurers and



REUTERS/FILE

Medicines on a shelf of a prescription pharmacy are seen through its window in Tokyo.

governments to the rising cost of medical treatment. According to consultancy Deloitte, returns on research and development investment at the top 12 pharmaceutical companies fell to just 3.7 percent in 2016 from a high of 10.1 percent in 2010.

Increasing political pressure over the high prices of many modern medicines is a growing challenge at a time when biotech and pharma companies are developing more drugs targeted at niche patient populations.

The issue is exemplified by the last drug to

win FDA approval in 2016. Spinraza, from Biogen and Ionis Pharmaceuticals, is the first medicine to treat patients with spinal muscular atrophy, a rare and often fatal genetic disease. It comes at a huge cost of \$125,000 per dose.

That price, implying a total cost of \$625,000 to \$750,000 for patients in the first year and \$375,000 in subsequent years, is likely to invite "a storm of criticism, up to and including Presidential tweets", according to Leerink analysts.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to bring down drug prices.