

Arun Jaitley says no plan to tax farm income

India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Wednesday that the government has no plans to tax agricultural income, a day after a senior economic adviser touched a political nerve by proposing farmers pay income tax like people in cities.

Economist Bibek Debroy, a member of the Policy Commission that serves as the government's own think-tank, told a news conference on Tuesday that farmers should be liable to pay tax on their incomes at the same thresholds, while taking into account seasonal fluctuations over a three-year period.

Any move to tax farm income could provoke a political backlash in rural India after Prime Minister Modi promised to waive off bank loans to help small farmers whose livelihoods are hostage to the monsoon rains.

Income tax in India starts at 5 percent when earnings exceed 250,000 rupees (\$3,900), climbing to a top rate of about 30 percent on incomes upward of 1 million rupees.

"The central government has no jurisdiction to impose tax on agricultural income,"

Jaitley said in a statement, noting that under the Indian constitution only states could tax farm income.

A senior aide to Modi also said the government had no plans to tax agricultural income, but did want to prevent misuse of the tax system by people falsely declaring earnings from other sources as farming income.

Analysts say taxing the agricultural income could reduce tax evasion though most of the farmers would remain outside the tax net due to their low income level.

The loophole in the tax system is often exploited by rich politicians and even Bollywood movie stars, who evade taxes by showing part of their income as farm income.

India's public finances are notoriously precarious, with the International Monetary Fund estimating that tax revenues are equivalent to just 17.7 percent of gross domestic product - low by comparison with other emerging markets.

Debroy's boss, Policy Commission Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya, clarified that the views on taxing farm income were his personal views and not those of the commission.



Atsuki Sugano, president of Chuo Packaging Ltd, and FH Ansarey, executive director of ACI Agribusiness, attend the signing of a deal at ACI Centre yesterday. Premiaflex Plastics Ltd, a subsidiary of ACI Ltd, will export its packaging products for Uniqlo.

Berlin sees faster growth, narrower trade surplus ahead

AFP, Frankfurt Am Main

The German government upgraded its economic forecast for 2017 slightly Wednesday, saying that strong domestic consumption would increase growth and bring down its much-criticised trade surplus.

Europe's largest economy should expand by 1.5 percent this year, Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries told journalists in Berlin, slightly more than the 1.4 percent predicted in January.

She left unchanged the government forecast of 1.6 percent growth in 2018.

"The German economy is growing solidly and remains on an expansionary path. And that's despite a global environment marked by uncertainties," Zypries said. "Good conditions in the labour market and strong increases in employment assure a strong domestic economy."

Berlin expects unemployment to fall slightly further from already historic lows in 2017, before stabilising next year. Low joblessness and rising wages mean that households will have more cash in their pockets, with consumer spending expected to increase by 1.4 percent this year and next.

Companies' investments in equipment will "gradually" pick up in 2017 and 2018, while the construction sector is boosted by public spending and households' demand for homes, encouraged by low interest rates.

Meanwhile, Germany's trade surplus -- which has arisen because it exports more than it imports -- is expected to shrink, as demand from firms and consumers at home grows faster than the world economy and global trade.

Exports will grow by 3.3 percent in 2017 and 3.8 percent next year, the economy ministry predicts, while imports will grow "somewhat more strongly".

The government economists expect a reduction in Germany's surplus to 7.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2018, a full percentage point lower than the 2016 figure.

Longstanding grumbles from European neighbours and America about Germany's export prowess have flared up since Donald Trump took office.

Elected on an "America First" platform of bringing jobs back to the United States, Trump has refused to reaffirm multilateral commitments to fight protectionism and accused Germany of exploiting a weak euro to sell its goods abroad at knock-down prices.

S Korean court fines local Uber unit

AFP, Seoul

Uber's local unit in South Korea was fined Wednesday for operating an illegal taxi service, in the US firm's latest brush with authorities.

The smartphone ride-hailing app started its service in Seoul in 2013, sparking angry protests from South Korean taxi drivers.

The firm's global CEO Travis Kalanick and its local unit were indicted for violating a law on passenger transport services after the Seoul city government claimed Uber's operations raised passenger safety issues.

The Seoul Central District Court said Wednesday the company had admitted the charges but had modified "issues that were in violation of the law" and had since been operating legally, according to Yonhap news agency.

It fined the firm 10 million won (\$8,900). CEO Kalanick did not appear for the trial and his case was postponed.

Uber is the most prominent of several smartphone apps that are shaking up the traditional taxi landscape in cities around the world.

But it has faced criticism and significant resistance from regulators in several countries, who accuse it of unfair competition and a lack of standards.

This month it relaunched in Taiwan with a limited version of its ride-hailing service having suspended operations on the island in February after sparring with the government.

The company in March 2015 folded its controversial Uber X service in South Korea, which connects passengers with private drivers with no taxi licence.

Since then it only offered UberTaxi, linking passengers and licensed taxi drivers, and the upscale UberBLACK service.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Principal Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology (BIMT), Narayanganj-1410 IFT Ref. No: BIMT/STEP-SHORT/GD-06.07.08/2017.432 Date: 25.04.2017

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education (DTE).
3	Procuring entity name	Principal, Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology (BIMT), Narayanganj.
4	Procuring entity district	Narayanganj.
5	Invitation for	Tender, Goods.
6	Invitation Ref No.	BIMT/STEP-SHORT/GD-06.07&08/2017.432
7	Date	25.04.2017

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	IDA (World Bank).

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/program code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/program name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP).
13	Tender package No.	GD-06, GD-07 & GD-08
14	Tender package name	GD-06: Supply of Safety & Fire Fighting Equipments GD-07: Supply and Installation of Hydraulic Pipe Bending Machine & Automatic Pipe Threading Machine GD-08: Supply and Installation of Welding Machines and with accessories
15	Tender last selling date	14.05.2017 up to 4:00pm.
16	Tender closing date and time	15.05.2017; 12:00 noon.
17	Tender opening date and time	15.05.2017; 12:30pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s)	
18.1	Selling tender document	1. Office of the Principal, Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology (BIMT), Narayanganj. 2. Director (Training Operation), 6th Floor, BMET, 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka.
18.2	Receiving & opening tender document	Conference Room, 1st Floor, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Conference Room, Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology, Bandar, Narayanganj, 04.05.2017; 12:00 noon.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Qualification criteria	(a) The tenderers should be the manufacturer/distributor/sole agent of the equipment and machineries. (b) The manufacturer of the equipment and machineries should be ISO certified, manufacturer authorization should be submitted by the tenderer for the particular items (mentioned in the specification). (c) The tenderers shall have a minimum of 3 years of overall experience in the supply of equipment and machineries and related services. (d) The tenderers shall have experience of satisfactory completion of supply of equipment and machineries of minimum for GD-6: BDT 5.50 lac, for GD-7: BDT 7.00 lac & for GD-8: BDT 50.00 lac under 01 (one) contract in the last 3 years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. (e) The tenderers should have liquid asset for GD-6: BDT 6.50 lac, for GD-7: BDT 8.00 lac & for GD-8: BDT 60.00 lac.
21	Brief description of goods	GD-06: Supply of Safety & Fire Fighting Equipment GD-07: Supply and Installation of Hydraulic Pipe Bending Machine & Automatic Pipe Threading Machine GD-08: Supply and Installation of Welding Machines and with accessories
22	Brief description of related services	As mentioned in tender document.
23	Price of tender document	BDT 1,000.00 (for each package).

Package No.	Package name	Location	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time (from the date of contract signing)
GD-06	Supply of Safety & Fire Fighting Equipments	BIMT, Narayanganj	20,000/-	6 (six)
GD-07	Supply and Installation of Hydraulic Pipe Bending Machine & Automatic Pipe Threading Machine	BIMT, Narayanganj	25,000/-	6 (six)
GD-08	Supply and Installation of Welding Machines and with accessories	BIMT, Narayanganj	1,50,000/-	8 (eight)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25	Name, designation, address and contact details of official inviting tender	Mst. Sharifa Sultana Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology (BIMT), Narayanganj, Telephone: 88-02-7661119; E-mail: principalbimtstep@gmail.com
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GD-865 **Mst. Sharifa Sultana**
Principal

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. 05.83.0000.010.07.053.16-17/871 Date: 26-04-2017

International Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the manufacturer/principal/local agent for purchase of the following items for Government Printing Press. The tender documents should be read and filled up carefully, so that the offered package complies with the tender documents. Conditional or alternative offer shall not be evaluated.

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Public Administration.
2.	Agency/department	Directorate of Printing & Publication, Dhaka-1208.
3.	Office of procuring entity	Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
4.	Name of procuring entity	The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
5.	District of the procuring entity	Dhaka.
6.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing, Confirming of Operation and Implementation of 01 Unit Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine.

KEY INFORMATION

7.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), International.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8.	Source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB).
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9.	Tender package No.	GPP-05/2016-2017.
10.	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing, Confirming of Operation and Implementation of 01 Unit Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine.
11.	Tender publication date	Date: 27/04/2017
12.	Last date and time for selling tender documents	Date: 07/06/2017 Time: 5:00pm (BST)
13.	Tender closing date and time	Date: 08/06/2017 Time: 1:00pm (BST)
14.	Tender opening date and time	Date: 08/06/2017 Time: 3:30pm (BST)
15.	Name and address of the office(s)	Name and address
16.	Tender selling points	(a) The Director General, Department of Printing and Publication, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (b) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Government Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (c) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Security Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (d) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (e) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms and Publication Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (f) The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (g) Website: www.dpp.gov.bd/gpp.
17.	Receiving tender document	(a) The Director General, Department of Printing and Publication, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (b) Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka. (c) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Government Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (d) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Security Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (e) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Stationery Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (f) The Deputy Director, Bangladesh Forms and Publication Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. (g) The Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
18.	Opening tender document	Office of the Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

19.	Brief description of goods or works	Supply, Installation, Testing, Confirming of Operation and Implementation of 01 Unit Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine.
20.	Training and services	Training and services are to be confirmed by supplier locally to run the machine properly for Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine.
21.	Brief description of related service	(1) Installation of machines and equipments. (2) 10 (ten) days training for four persons on operation & maintenance of the machines. (3) Carriage in out/transportation cost (charge & others) will be borne by the supplier.
22.	Identification of goods	Tender document price Supply, Installation, Testing, Confirming of Operation and Implementation of 01 Unit Automatic Positive Plate Exposure Machine. BDT 800.00 or Equivalent USD (non-refundable)
		Tender security amount BDT 40,000.00 or Equivalent USD (refundable)
		Completion time 60 days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

23.	Name of official inviting tenders	Md. Mojibar Rahman.
24.	Designation of official inviting tenders	Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
25.	Address of official inviting tenders	Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
26.	Contact details of the official	Tel: 088 02-8870200 Fax: 088 02-8870200 E-mail: dd.gpp@dpp.gov.bd No: bd
27.	Place/date/time of the pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A.

Special instructions:

- No tender will be received after the deadline of submission.
- 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 venue.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to omit, increase or decrease the quantity of tender items.
- Tender document price has to be paid by Pay Order and Tender Security Amount has to be paid in Pay Order/Bank Guarantee will be in favour of Deputy Director, Government Printing Press, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
- CD, Vat, Taxes and other charges have to be paid as per Rules of the Government of Bangladesh.
- The bidders must abide by the decision of the HOPE/Procuring entity.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject or rectify any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- All terms and conditions are included in tender documents.

GD-884 **Md. Mojibar Rahman**
Deputy Director
Phone: 8870200 (Office)