

# World food prices fall for third straight month



Declining prices of agricultural commodities brought down world food prices.

World food prices fell for the third month in a row in April as values declined for all agricultural commodities except meat, the United Nations food agency said on Thursday.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) food price index has been falling for five years due to ample supply, a slowing global economy and a strong US dollar.

Food on international markets was still 10 percent more expensive than in April last year, the FAO said, after rising cereals prices drove it to a two-year high in February.

The index measures monthly changes for a basket of products including cereals,

oilseeds, dairy products and sugar. April's reading of 168 points was down 1.8 percent from March.

Pig meat prices were boosted by strong demand in the European Union and higher sales to China and South Korea, while seasonal demand pushed up the cost of ovine meat.

Sugar led the decline in all other farmed commodity prices, slumping 9.1 percent as expectations for large export supplies from Brazil coincided with weak global demand for imports.

The FAO marginally raised its forecast for global cereals output in the 2017-18 season, to 2.599 billion tonnes. Global wheat production is expected to hit 740 million tonnes, short of last year's record harvest.

# Global air passenger demand rises 6.8pc

REUTERS

Global demand for air travel rose 6.8 percent in March as lower fares and improving economies continued to support growth through the first quarter, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Thursday.

The association said that it will have to wait for the April data to see the impact of restrictions on large electronic devices in the cabin on certain direct flights to the U.S. and Britain.

The restrictions, on flights from predominantly Middle East countries, were brought in by U.S. and British authorities in late March.

However, traffic growth at the Middle East carriers slowed to 4.9 percent in March, against 9.5 percent in February as the low oil price took its toll on demand.

"This is related more to developments seen last year, while any impacts from the laptop ban will be visible from April results onward," IATA said in a statement.

# Russia, Turkey agree to lift nearly all trade restrictions: Putin

AFP, Sochi, Russia

Russia and Turkey have agreed to lift nearly all remaining trade restrictions imposed in the aftermath of Ankara's downing of a Russian warplane in 2015, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday.

"You asked when we can speak about the lifting of the restrictions that emerged some time ago. We can speak of that today," Putin said at a news conference alongside his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We agreed on a comprehensive solution to all these problems linked to the restrictions."

Relations between Moscow and Ankara hit rock bottom after Turkey's shooting down of a Russian warplane over the Syrian border in November 2015, which Putin at the time labelled a "stab in the back". In the wake of the incident, Moscow slapped a range of sanctions on Ankara, including an embargo on some Turkish food products, as well as a ban on charter flights and sales of package tours to the country and the reintroduction of visas for Turkish visitors.

# HSBC pre-tax profit slides but hails good result

AFP, Hong Kong

HSBC said on Thursday that pre-tax profit fell 19 percent in the first three months of the year but the bank's chief described them as "a good set of results" after a turbulent 2016.

The London-based giant has been on a recovery drive over the past two years aiming to slash costs with measures including laying off tens of thousands of staff and slimming down its business.

It blamed the drop in reported profit to US\$4.96 billion on a change in accounting the fair value of its debt, while the results from a year ago included proceeds from its Brazil business, which was sold in July 2016.

It also posted a 19.5 percent fall in year-on-year net profit to \$3.13 billion from \$3.89 billion.

However, adjusted pre-tax profit, which excludes one-time items, rose to \$5.94 billion from \$5.3 billion a year earlier. Analysts had forecast \$5.3 billion in a survey by Bloomberg News.

"This is a good set of results," group chief executive Stuart Gulliver said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

He added that the adjusted pre-tax figure was boosted by a \$1 billion share buy-back as well as progress on the cost-saving programme.

Hong Kong-listed shares in the firm were up 1.71 percent at HK\$65.55 in afternoon trade.

Analyst Jackson Wong said he thought the results were positive overall.

"They cleaned up a lot of bad things in the last quarter of last year so this quarter, everything looks pretty decent, even the cost-cutting is on track," said Wong of Huarong International Securities.

The bank in 2015 announced a radical overhaul to cut 50,000 jobs and exit non-

core and unprofitable businesses and focus more on Asia.

But the firm's profits were dealt a hammer blow last year, with executives attributing the decline to protectionist fears under Donald Trump and uncertainties caused by Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

Gulliver said Thursday that 2017 would see the completion of strategic measures announced in 2015, including the removal of low-return risky assets.

"Our cost-saving programme remains on track to hit the higher cost-saving target we announced at our annual results," he added.

The first quarter results were the first since the banking giant announced the appointment of a new chairman in March as part of a management overhaul that will also see it choose a new chief executive, following the massive drop in 2016 profits.

British businessman Mark Tucker, currently group chief executive and president of insurance group AIA, will take over from Douglas Flint in October.

He will lead the hunt for a new CEO to replace Gulliver who is set to retire in 2018.

Gulliver and Flint were grilled by British lawmakers in 2015 and apologised for "unacceptable" failings at HSBC's Swiss division following allegations the unit helped rich clients hide billions of dollars from the taxman.

HSBC was one of six major US and European banks that were fined a total of \$4.2 billion by global regulators in a November 2014 crackdown for attempted manipulation of the foreign exchange market.

It was also fined \$1.92 billion by US prosecutors in 2012 to settle allegations that it failed to enforce anti-money laundering rules exposing it to exploitation by drug cartels and terrorist organisations.



Janata Bank Chairman Shaikh Md Wahid-Uz-Zaman presides over a board meeting of the bank in Dhaka on April 30. The bank earned Tk 1,004 crore as operating profit and Tk 260 crore as net profit in 2016, according to its approved financial statement for 2016.

JANATA BANK

# India launches South Asia satellite today

FROM PAGE B1

"Actually, Bangladesh, as a member country of this satellite, was not much aware that India will launch it so fast," Mahmood said.

Bangladesh is also taking preparations to launch its first satellite, which will have a capacity of 36 transponders, on December 16 and for that, BTRC began building its two landing stations last year.

A satellite is very sophisticated and involves complex technology and its infrastructure cannot be built overnight, said the BTRC top boss.

After Bangladesh, India also inked deals with Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives; Afghanistan is expected to join later. Pakistan refused to join since the very beginning.

The satellite is being funded and designed by India involving \$400 million.

Even though the Bangladesh government has not taken any decision on the maintenance and operations of the South Asia Satellite, it is going to form a

company named Bangladesh Satellite Communication Ltd to do so.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi first raised the idea of the South Asian Satellite in the Kathmandu Saarc summit in 2014.

The benefits associated with participation in the project include tele-education, tele-medicine and inter-government networks, emergency communication for disaster situation, television broadcast and direct-to-home (DTH) television services.

Different media in India yesterday on their reports termed this initiative as 'space diplomacy' and the first of its kind.

While singing the deal with BTRC, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh, said this is a part of their prime minister's 'neighbours first' foreign policy -- to add substantial to ties with neighbours and further their common agenda of regional integration.

# 52pc banks in cyber risks

FROM PAGE B1

Linux was used in around 0.35 percent of the terminals, Google Chrome in 2.14 percent, Unix 0.49 percent and Mac 0.02 percent, the report said.

About 98 percent terminals of different banks have licensed operating system while the rest were using free version of different operating systems.

About 30 percent banks have online payment gateway service for e-commerce payment processing.

IT Governance (ITG) is gaining importance in the banking sector due to its increasing reliance on technology to conduct their operations, gain customer satisfaction and improve cost efficiencies.

Survey data shows that 8 percent of the banks are yet to start implementing ITG and 60 percent banks started the process but they have no definite target date to implement it to the full.

Banks should give proper attention to follow appropriate guidelines, standards and framework to successfully implement ITG, the report said. Successful implementation of ITG will help in achieving

sustainable business and offer new innovative products and services to their customers, it said.

The banks' budget for cyber security increased 60 percent after the reserve heist of Bangladesh Bank last year that took away \$81 million from its reserve account with New York Federal Reserve Bank, said the report.

The number of training for the employees to develop cyber security awareness increased 84 percent after the BB heist.

Banks are spending a lot to purchase foreign software to ensure security, but they have failed to become risk free yet, Abu Hena Mohd Razeq Hassan, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, said while addressing the workshop as the chief guest.

He suggested banks should use uniform software to reduce cyber risk and financial damage. He said some banks are lagging behind in terms of technology use, as they spend very low on IT. Banks should allocate more funds for IT, he said.

Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, supernumerary professor of BIBM, said banks should appoint an IT specialist in their audit team to identify IT flaws.

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Memo No: 778 Date: 30-04-2017

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# Gold hits 6-week low

REUTERS, London

Gold prices tumbled to six-week lows on Thursday, under pressure from a strengthening dollar on expectations of further US rate rises this year and receding political uncertainty in Europe.

Spot gold was down 0.3 percent to \$1,234.88 an ounce at 1016 GMT after touching \$1,232.60, its lowest since March 21. The dollar strengthened after the US Federal Reserve played down any threats to the planned rises in interest rates.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়  
কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম।  
সরকারী কার্যভবন-১ (৩য় তলা), আশাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।

নথি নং: এন-২৩/পরিবহন/২০১৬-২০১৭/ তারিখ: ০৩.০৫.২০১৭ খ্রিঃ

## মাইক্রোবাস ও কার ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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|---|--|
| ১। মন্ত্রপালয়ের নাম                    | : অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়   |
| ২। দপ্তরের নাম                          | : কর কমিশনার-এর কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম।  |
| ৩। অর্ধের উৎস                           | : ২০১৬-২০১৭ অর্থ বৎসরের সরকারী বাজেট   |
| ৪। টেন্ডারের নাম                        | : ০১টি ব্রান্ড নিউ ন্যূনতম ২৪০০ সি সি মাইক্রোবাস (১৫ সীট) ও ০১টি সিডান কার ক্রয়।                        |
| ৫। টেন্ডার দাতার যোগ্যতা                | : দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রুলস ২০০৮ এর নীতিমালা অনুসারে ও টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতা থাকিতে হইবে। |
| ৬। টেন্ডার সিডিউল বিক্রির সর্বশেষ তারিখ | : ২২.০৫.২০১৭ খ্রিঃ, বেলা ৪.০০ ঘটিকা।   |
| ৭। টেন্ডার সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান       | : কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম।<br>সরকারী কার্যভবন-১ (৩য় তলা), আশাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।      |
| ৮। টেন্ডার দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় | : ২৩.০৫.২০১৭ খ্রিঃ, বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকা।   |
| ৯। টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়           | : ২৩.০৫.২০১৭ খ্রিঃ, বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।   |
| ১০। টেন্ডার দাখিলের স্থান               | : কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম<br>সরকারী কার্যভবন-১ (৩য় তলা), আশাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম।       |
| ১১। টেন্ডার এর বিবরণ                    | :  |

| গাড়ীর বিবরণ   | গাড়ীর সংখ্যা | টেন্ডার সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারডামেশ্যে) | টেন্ডার সিডিউলটির (ফেরতযোগ্য)  | গাড়ী সরবরাহের স্থান   |
|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| (ক) রেঞ্জিট্রেশন ও সিএনজি কনভারশনসহ ব্রান্ড নিউ ন্যূনতম ২৪০০ সি সি মাইক্রোবাস (১৫ সীট) | ০১ (এক) টি    | টাকা ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা)          | উভূত মূল্যের ৫% টিপ কর কমিশনার, সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন), কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম - ক্রয়কারের পে-অর্ডার মারফত পরিশোধ করতে হবে। | কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম, সরকারী কার্যভবন-১ (৩য় তলা), আশাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম। |
| (খ) রেঞ্জিট্রেশন ও সিএনজি কনভারশনসহ ব্রান্ড নিউ সিডান কার                              | ০১ (এক) টি    | টাকা ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা)          | উভূত মূল্যের ৫% টিপ কর কমিশনার, সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন), কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম - ক্রয়কারের পে-অর্ডার মারফত                  | -ই-  |

১২। টেন্ডার দাখিল ও খোলার দিন যদি সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটির দিন ঘোষণা করা হয়, সেই ক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবস টেন্ডার দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসাবে গণ্য হইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার সময় উভয়দিক/প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবেন।

১৩। কোন দরদাতা মাইক্রোবাস ও কারের জন্য অথবা যে কোন একটির জন্য দরপত্র দাখিল করতে পারবেন। মাইক্রোবাস (১১(ক)) এবং কার (১১(খ)) এর জন্য ভিন্ন ভিন্ন ভাবে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

১৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন টেন্ডার গ্রহণ/বাছিস করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বশেষ দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহে। টেন্ডারে উক্ত দর প্রস্তাব আর্থিক সাল ২০১৬-২০১৭ পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে।

১৫। দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রুলস-২০০৮ কর্তৃক জারীকৃত বিধি মোতাবেক টেন্ডার দাখিল করিতে হইবে হইবে।

১৬। গাড়ী সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিধি মোতাবেক গাড়ীর রেঞ্জিট্রেশন বর্চ, সিএনজি কনভারশন বর্চ, ভাট ট্যাক্সসহ আনুমানিক ব্যয় বহন করিতে হইবে।

১৭। গাড়ী সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বৎসরের গাড়ী সরবরাহের কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা এবং বিগত ০৫ বৎসরের ন্যূনতম ৫০টি গাড়ী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

১৮। ড্রইং লাইসেন্স, ব্যাক সালভেন্সী সার্টিফিকেট, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভাট রেঞ্জিট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

১৯। অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয় হইতে ব্যয় মঞ্জুরী এবং অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ হইতে প্রশাসনিক মঞ্জুরী পাওয়া সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান এবং বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে।

২০। সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী ষাণ্মতভাবে পালন করিতে হইবে।

(মুদ্রা আবেদন)  
উপ কর কমিশনার, সদর দপ্তর (প্রশাসন)  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
বিভাগীয় গাড়ী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র সুল্যায়ন কমিটি  
কর অঞ্চল-১, চট্টগ্রাম।  
ফোন: ০৩১-৭২০১৬

GD-932