



Mattur Rahman, chairman and managing director of Uttara Motors Ltd, the sole distributor of Bajaj Auto Ltd, launches a 160cc "Bajaj Pulsar NS160" motorcycle at International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital on Sunday.

# India may keep policy rates on hold

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep its policy rate on hold this week, but could toughen its warnings against inflation, economists say, laying the ground for a hike in 2018 after prices accelerated at the fastest pace in 17 months.

The central bank has already been warning that inflation would return, ending a period of historically low levels that let it cut the repo rate by 2 percentage points to the current 6 percent over the past two years.

But the RBI, whose two-day policy review ends on Wednesday, is worried about higher global crude prices. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, facing elections by 2019, last week unveiled an annual budget that will boost investment in the rural sector and introduce a major health insurance programme.

But how far the RBI is willing to go raises some market fears that it could

switch to a tightening bias from its current neutral one - which would discomfort investors and the government.

"We expect the Monetary Policy Committee to tilt towards a hawkish tone from its neutral tone following higher fiscal targets, oil price increases and higher minimum support prices for crops," said Radhika Rao, economist at DBS Bank in Singapore.

The RBI has held rates steady since a 25 basis point cut in August. But prospects of a rate hike have increased as annual inflation accelerated to 5.21 percent in December, breaching the central bank's medium-term target of 4 percent for a second consecutive month.

Most analysts expect the inflation rate to go higher, especially after the government promised farmers to buy their crops at 1.5 times the cost of production as part of its budget, and as crude prices continue to advance.

At 6.0 percent, the repo rate is at the lowest since November 2010 and the RBI has also worried about destabilis-

ing foreign outflows as global central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve raise interest rates. Nonetheless, the RBI will need to tread carefully, given the prospect that any premature tightening move could throttle an economy expected to grow 6.7 percent in the fiscal year that ends March 31 - the slowest pace in about three years.

Any move towards higher rates is hence unlikely to bode well with executives and government officials, especially as the economy is finally showing signs of recovery. Benchmark 10-year bond yields have risen more than 80 bps since July, the biggest move since the 2013 rupee crisis, due in large part to worries about a more hawkish RBI.

The RBI's focus on a 4 percent target for price increases has also been controversial. Some economists view it as an excessively tough interpretation of the central bank's inflation mandate, currently set at 4 percent but with an "upper tolerance level" of 6 percent and a "lower tolerance level" of 2 percent.

## Nissan to invest \$9.5b in China to drive sales

AFP, Beijing

Japanese automaker Nissan Motor and its Chinese joint venture partner announced on Monday a \$9.5 billion investment plan in China to increase annual sales by one million vehicles and boost electric car production.

Dongfeng Motor Company is the latest Sino-foreign car company to splash out as China rolls out new regulations to limit gas vehicles and boost production of electric cars in coming years.

Nissan's high-end brand, Infiniti, will go all electric in China by 2025, according to the plan.

The company provided few specifics on the investment plan, saying the money would go into several areas, from manufacturing to human resources.

The automaker sold 1.5 million vehicles in China last year, and said it plans to sell 2.6 million vehicles by 2022, when revenue is expected to hit 300 billion yuan (\$47.6 billion).

The expansion plan calls for 20 new vehicle models, with 30 percent of its total sales to be made up of electric vehicles and new energy vehicles.

Beijing has outlined ambitious targets for transitioning China away from gas powered vehicles.

## Euro zone businesses start 2018 in best shape for over a decade

REUTERS, London

Euro zone businesses started 2018 by increasing activity faster than at any time in well over a decade as new orders surged despite firms raising prices at the steepest rate in almost seven years, a survey showed.

The euro zone emerged as one of the best-performing major economies last year, and forward-looking indicators in the survey suggest that momentum will continue for at least another few months, in welcome news for the European Central Bank as it moves to unwind policy.

IHS Markit's Final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good overall growth indicator for the euro zone, rose to 58.8 in January from December's 58.1 and up from the flash estimate of 58.6.

It is now at its highest since June 2006 and well above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction.

"The strong upturn is also broad-based, which adds to the potential for the growth to become more self-sustaining as demand rises across the single currency area," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

"The survey data are therefore indicating that the euro zone has started 2018 with very good growth momentum, and that price pressures are building commensurately. If such impressive numbers continue to be seen in coming months, expect policymakers to sound increasingly hawkish."

Although inflation is still nowhere near their target ceiling of 2 percent, ECB policymakers halved their monthly asset purchases from January and are expected to end the quantitative easing program completely by the end of the year.

So they will be heartened to see an index measuring prices charged leapt to 54.8 from December's 53.2, it's highest since April 2011.

## Panasonic upgrades earnings targets on cheap yen

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese electronics giant Panasonic on Monday upgraded its annual earnings targets thanks to a weak yen and robust demand for its automotive products.

The Osaka-based company raised an annual profit forecast for the year to March to 210 billion yen (\$1.9 billion), up from an earlier projection of 160 billion yen.

The company now expects an annual operating profit of 350 billion yen, up from a previous target of 335 billion yen. It raised an annual sales target to 7.95 trillion yen from 7.8 trillion yen.

The company has been enjoying a solid recovery, particularly with healthy sales of

electronics products for automobiles such as navigation units.

Panasonic said in a statement it also benefited from currency exchange rates, as "the yen has weakened against major currencies such as the euro".

"Despite being affected by material cost hikes, profitability has improved through (cost cuts) in addition to the effect of exchange rates due to the weak yen," it said.

For the last nine months to December Panasonic said its net profit edged up 1.3 percent to 200.1 billion yen.

But its operating profit surged 14.9 percent to 316.7 billion yen. Sales during the three quarters rose 9.0 percent to 5.91 trillion yen.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Dhaka South City Corporation  
Office of the Project Director  
Clean Air & Sustainable Environment (CASE) Project  
PIU, CASE Project, DSCC & DNCC Component  
Level 10, West Block, Room-919  
Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

**“উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র”**

## e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Project Director, CASE Project, DSCC & DNCC Component, Level 10, West Block, Room-919, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of:

SI	Tender ID, Ref No.	Name of works & goods	Start date & time	Last selling date and time	Tender closing date & time
01	Tender ID: 157740, Ref: 46.207.014.09.10.47.2018, dt.: 23/01/2018	Improvement of signal infrastructure renovation of old cable connection removal of old aspect pole and foundations-things not included in the G1 & G2 Contract and maintenance & operational Services (Package DCC AF W1)	07 Feb 2018 at 17.00 BST	7 March 2018 at 17.00 BST	08 March 2018 at 14.00 BST
02	Tender ID: 156914, Ref.: 46.207.014.09.10.40.2018, dt.: 21/01/2018	Infrastructure for traffic management with supply (Package No. DCC AF G2)	07 Feb 2018 at 17.00 BST	7 March 2018 at 17.00 BST	08 March 2018 at 14.00 BST

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and offline/hard copy(s) will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Shehab Ullah P. Eng**  
Superintending Engineer  
&  
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DSCC/PRD/110/17-18  
GD-346

Ashwin Laddha, head of sales and marketing for Saarc, Middle East, Europe and Latin America at Birla Cellulose, an Indian conglomerate, speaks at a forum in Dhaka on January 27 with the company's value chain partners in Bangladesh's textile sector.

BIRLA CELLULOSE



**Bangladesh Land Port Authority**  
(Ministry of Shipping)

**Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1: Development of Sheola, Bhomra, Ramgarh Land Ports and Upgradation of Security System of Benapole Land Port**  
(IDA Credit No. P154580)

**Subject: Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for National Procurement Consultant (NPC) (Contract Package BLPA S-5)**

Ref No. 18.15.0000.023.11.014.18-66

Date: February 5, 2018

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a USD 150 million credit from the International Development Association (IDA) - a member of the World Bank Group - for financing the cost of the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP-1), being jointly implemented by the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA), National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Ministry of Commerce. Now the BLPA intends to apply part of the IDA Credit for procuring the services of a National Procurement Consultant (NPC) for its Project Implementation Unit (PIU).

**2. The scope of services:**  
The NPC will work as a full-time member of the procurement team in PIU, and will be responsible for assisting BLPA so that the procurements are done as per the relevant guidelines. The NPC will have a significant role in assuring the integrity, fairness, and overall quality of procurement in conformance with the requirements of the guidelines of the World Bank and the procurement laws of Bangladesh. He should not have any conflict of interest while working and should keep all the project information confidential. Detailed scope of works (Terms of Services) and other information will be available upon request from the address provided below, either through email or in person. TOR is also available in BLPA's website ([www.bsbc.gov.bd](http://www.bsbc.gov.bd)).

**3. General qualification and experience:**

- At least graduate in engineering/procurement/supply chain management/commerce/finance/business/management/ law/environmental science or suitable equivalency;
- Minimum 7 (seven) years of general experience out of which three years of experience as procurement specialist/ procurement consultant or have had responsibilities with a substantial content of his/her position in the procurement area (use of internationally accepted contract documents for works, goods and services) in World Bank/Donor assisted projects;

**4. Specific skills and experience:**

- Specialized knowledge of procurement of goods; various forms of construction contracts; selection/contracting of consultant services; preparation of bidding/contract documents for the international procurement of goods, works, services; public procurement policies; sustainable procurement; advanced contract management; FIDIC contracts etc;
- Basic knowledge and understanding of e-Government Procurement (e-GP).
- Knowledge and experience in technical, commercial and legal aspects of procurement of the World Bank-financed project will be an added advantage.
- Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult issues. Ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multidisciplinary team.

5. The Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. The applicants are requested to submit their: (a) CV (*Curriculum Vitae*) with recent photograph, which will indicate that they are qualified to perform the assignment; (b) expected remuneration and (c) submission letter as per prescribed format.


6. The National Procurement Consultant (NPC) will be selected in accordance with the "World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers (July 2016)". It is expected that the consultant's service will be commenced at the end of March 2018 at Dhaka. Duration of the consultancy services would be for 36 (thirty-six) months, to be renewed annually based on performance.

7. Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted by **February 22, 2018 up to 5.00pm** either in sealed envelope clearly marked "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of National Procurement Consultant" in the email's subject line or on top of the envelop or through email sent to the following undersigned address. EOIs received after the last date of submission will not be considered for short listing.

8. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

**Md. Habibur Rahman**  
Project Director (Joint Secretary)  
TCB Bhaban (5th Floor)  
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Phone: 02-55013757, 02-9130923  
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GD-344



**বাংলাদেশ কৃষি উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন**

উপ-পরিচালক (এএসসি)-এর দপ্তর

বিএডিসি, চেহেলগাজী মাজার, দিনাজপুর

ই-মেইল: [asc.badc2011@gmail.com](mailto:asc.badc2011@gmail.com)

টেলিঃ ০৫৩১-৬৩৩১৭

**“কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি”**

## উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১	দরপত্র নং	০২/১৭-১৮ তাং-৩১/০১/১৮ইং।
০২	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	অত্র কেন্দ্রের আওতায় বর্ধিত নশিপুর রাস্তার ফল বাগানের ২০১৭-১৮ইং মৌসুমের ফল বিক্রয়।
০৩	সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০২/১৮ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০২/১৮ইং বেলা ১২ঃ৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
০৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২০/০২/১৮ইং বেলা ৩ঃ০০টায়।
০৬	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	১। উপ-পরিচালক (এএসসি), এম্রো সার্ভিস সেন্টার, বিএডিসি, চেহেলগাজী, দিনাজপুর। ২। যুগ্ম-পরিচালক (পাট বীজ), নশিপুর ভিডি পাট বীজ বামার, নশিপুর, দিনাজপুর। ৩। উপ-পরিচালক (বীজ), বীজ বিতরণ কেন্দ্র, বিএডিসি, সুইহারী, দিনাজপুর।
০৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	১। উপ-পরিচালক (এএসসি), এম্রো সার্ভিস সেন্টার, বিএডিসি, চেহেলগাজী, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাগে। ২। যুগ্ম-পরিচালক (পাট বীজ), নশিপুর ভিডি পাট বীজ বামার, নশিপুর, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাগে। ৩। পুলিশ সুপার, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাগে।
০৮	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	উপ-পরিচালক (এএসসি), বিএডিসি, চেহেলগাজী, দিনাজপুর দপ্তরে।
০৯	আমানতের পরিমাণ	৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার) টাকা নির্ধারিত।
১০	দরপত্রদাতাগণের যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও চিআইএন নম্বরধারী যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান।
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১২	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ/কমিটি যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
১৩	বিশেষ নির্দেশিকাঃ	ক) দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে। খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হবে না। গ) দরপত্র বাতিল বন্ধ করার পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

মোহাঃ শওকত আলী  
পরিচিতি নং-০২০১৯২  
উপ-পরিচালক (এএসসি)  
বিএডিসি, দিনাজপুর

কুউক=১৪৯  
জিডি-৩৪১