

China working-age population shrinks, presenting pitfall for pension plans

REUTERS, Beijing

China's working-age population fell to its lowest level since 2009 last year and was below a billion for the first time since 2010, data released on Wednesday showed.

Slowing population growth and a shrinking pool of workers present a challenge to China's economic growth as well as its state-run pension programme.

China's total working-age population, or the number of people aged between 15 and 64, was 998.3 million people last year, compared to 1.0026 billion at the end of 2016, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed, the biggest decline since the working-age population began falling in 2014.

The number of people 65 or older meanwhile increased to 11.4 percent of China's population of 1.39 billion people, up from 10.8 percent in 2016.

China's rapidly ageing population has led to a growing shortfall in the nation's pension scheme. Many of China's provinces only have enough money to pay less than one year's worth of benefits.

Holes in local pension funds are often filled through transfers of central government funds, and China said in November that it would begin a pilot programme to transfer shares in state-owned firms to social security funds. The ageing population comes as births in the country fell by 3.5 percent last year despite a 2016 move to relax China's "one-child policy" amid con-

RN Paul, managing director of RFL Group, the owning company of electronics brand Vigo, and actress Purnima, pose at the Vigo dealers' conference in RFL Industrial Park in Gazipur on Sunday.

RFL GROUP



BH Haroon, a lawmaker and a director of Premier Bank, opens the relocated branch of the bank at Raz Bhawan at Dilkusha in Dhaka on Tuesday.

France posts better than expected growth in 2017

AFP, Paris

The French economy grew by a faster-than-expected 2.0 percent in 2017, as investment and output picked up in the fourth quarter, revised figures from the national statistics agency INSEE showed on Wednesday.

At 2.0 percent, full-year growth is nearly a full percentage point above the 1.1 percent recorded in 2016, the data showed, providing a further boost for President Emmanuel Macron after good news on the jobs front earlier this month.

But the performance of the eurozone's second-biggest economy still fell short of 2.5 percent growth for the single currency area as a whole in 2017 and 2.2 percent for Germany.

The government had officially projected full-year growth to come in at 1.7 percent, but in January said that stronger-than-expected investment and production figures could take it closer to two percent.

INSEE revised its previous estimate upwards by 0.1 points after pushing its fourth-quarter growth figure up from 0.6 percent to 0.7 percent.

For 2018, the agency has projected growth of 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent respectively in the first and second quarters, but not yet issued a full-year projection.

The International Monetary Fund is expecting the French economy to expand by 1.9 percent this year.

The growth figures on Wednesday came hot on the heels of data showing the unemployment rate at the end of 2017 at its lowest level since 2009.

Hong Kong cash surplus hits record but critics hit out at budget

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong Wednesday reported a record surplus of almost US\$18 billion thanks to a red-hot property market and announced wide-ranging tax cuts in its annual budget, but critics said the measures did too little to help the city's poor.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan said the business hub had amassed a HK\$138 billion (\$17.7 billion) budget surplus and he wanted to "share the fruits of our economic

success with the community".

He unveiled plans to slash salaries tax by up to 75 percent, with a ceiling of HK\$30,000, a move which he said would benefit almost two million people.

There were also payments of HK\$2,000 to students in need, along with extra welfare allowances for the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

But there was no one-off cash handout to all permanent residents, as some had called for.



Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Md Abdul Karim, managing director, and Abul Kalam Azad, chief coordinator for SDG affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, attend a seminar on sustainable development at PKSF Bhawan in Dhaka yesterday.

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka,
a 450 bed Super Specialty, Multi-Disciplinary, Tertiary Level hospitals, is the first and only hospital in Bangladesh that has been accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI). This prestigious accreditation signifies Apollo Hospitals Dhaka's commitment to quality, safety and continuous improvement in patient care.

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Nursing Supervisor	10	Lead Nurse Trainer	03

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বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা
আবশ্যিক
বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

কর্মকর্তা পদ

- কেন্দ্রীয় লাইব্রেরি**
লাইব্রেরিয়ান-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেলঃ ৮ঃ ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-।
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(ক) নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল ৮ঃ ৩৫৫০০-৬৭১০০/-।
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বিদ্যুৎ- লাইব্রেরিয়ান পদে ইতোপূর্বে আবেদনকারীগণের (আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ ছিলঃ ১৫/১০/২০১৭ইং) পুনরায় আবেদন করিবার প্রয়োজন নাই।

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জিডি-৫৭৪ রেজিস্ট্রার

Amazon launches music streaming service in India

REUTERS, Mumbai

Amazon.com Inc launched its music-streaming service in India on Wednesday, its latest offering to drive customers to shop more on its flagship e-commerce platform.

Amazon Prime Music will be available at no extra cost to members of Prime, the world's largest online retailer's customer loyalty plan that costs an annual 999 rupees (\$15.30) and offers faster deliveries, access to early deals and a subscription to its video streaming service.

"Our entire music organization - Seattle, San Francisco, Bangalore, Mumbai - we have all spent a lot of time, invested our time personally and our engineering resources in India, it's a big priority for us," Sean McMullan, Director International Expansion at Amazon Music, told reporters.

The music service will compete, among others, with Tencent-backed local rival Gaana, which is raising \$115 million in new funding, and Apple Inc's music service. Amazon sees big growth potential in India and had committed to investing \$5 billion in the country.

The Seattle, Washington-headquartered company is engaged in a high-stakes battle with home-grown Flipkart for a bigger piece of India's fledgling online retail market that Morgan Stanley expects to grow to be worth \$200 billion in a decade.

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, স্বপ্নে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ"

ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
Tel: 55138633-36 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-55138637, E-mail: info@egcb.com.bd, Web: www.egcb.com.bd

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (INTERNATIONAL)

1	Ministry / Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
2	Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited.
3	Procuring Entity name	Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Narayanganj
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (Single Lot)
7	Invitation Ref. No.	27.27.2666.103.02.031.18.514
8	Date	28/02/2018
9	Procurement Method	ICT (Open Tendering Method)
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Own fund of EGCB Ltd.)
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
14	Tender Package No	N/A
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Mist Eliminator Filter Element and Tank Gasket for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
16	Tender Publication Date	01/03/2018
17	Tender Last Selling Date	16/04/2018 up to 15:00 Hr (BST)
18	Tender Submission Date & Time	17/04/2018 up to 12:00 Hr (BST)
19	Tender Opening Date & Time	17/04/2018 on 12:30 Hrs (BST) (Tenderers or their authorized representatives, if any, are allowed to attend).
20	Name and Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document - Receiving Tender Document - Opening Tender Document	Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh. Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh. Executive Engineer (Procurement), Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited, Unique Heights (Level-15), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre Tender Meeting	N/A.
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	(a) Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract, shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes and social security contributions under the provisions of laws and regulations of the country of its origin and shall not have a conflict of interest pursuant to Rule 55 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. (b) The maximum three (03) numbers of arbitration against the Tenderer over a period of last five (05) years (c) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five (05) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. (d) The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum USD 18,000.00 value under a single contract in the last three (03) years (e) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is USD 24,000.00. N.B: Years will count backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.
23	Brief Description of Goods	Procurement of Mist Eliminator Filter Element and Tank Gasket for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
24	Brief Description of Related services	N/A
25	Price of Tender Document	TK 2,000/= (Two thousand) or USD 25/=(Twenty Five) to be paid in the form of Bank Draft / Pay order in favor of "Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Limited"
26	Lot No.	Identification of Lot
01.	Procurement of Mist Eliminator Filter Element and Tank Gasket for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh.	Location Tender Security Amount Completion Time
		Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant Store, EGCB Ltd., Narayanganj, Bangladesh USD 550.00 or BDT 45,000.00 One hundred fifty (150) days from the date of opening of Letter of Credit.
27	Name of Official Inviting the Tender	Muhammad Saifur Rahman
28	Designation of Official Inviting the Tender	Executive Engineer (Procurement)
29	Address of Official Inviting the Tender	Corporate office, EGCB Ltd., Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
30	Contact details of Official Inviting the Tender:	Tel: 880-2-55138633-36, Ext.-1114, Fax: 880-2-55138637, E-mail: saifur.rahman@egcb.com.bd
31	a) The Full Tender Document will be available in PDF format in the EGCB website (www.egcb.com.bd). b) The Tenderers are requested to read the tender document carefully before submission their offer.	
32	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27 Name of Official Inviting the Tender: Muhammad Saifur Rahman
28 Designation of Official Inviting the Tender: Executive Engineer (Procurement)
29 Address of Official Inviting the Tender: Corporate office, EGCB Ltd., Unique Heights (Level-15 & 16), 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1217, Bangladesh.
30 Contact details of Official Inviting the Tender: Tel: 880-2-55138633-36, Ext.-1114, Fax: 880-2-55138637, E-mail: saifur.rahman@egcb.com.bd
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Saifur Rahman
Muhammad Saifur Rahman
Executive Engineer (Procurement)
Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd.