



Md Ismail Hossain Siraji, chairman of Jamuna Bank, launches the bank's mobile banking app at their head office in Dhaka recently. Redwan-ul-Karim Ansari, a director, was present.

JAMUNA BANK

Global trade growth strong but at risk if conflict escalates: WTO

REUTERS, Geneva

World trade in goods is maintaining a robust recovery, but it still might falter if trade tensions escalate further, the World Trade Organisation said in its annual forecast on Thursday.

Trade in goods will grow 4.4 percent this year after a decade averaging 3.0 percent a year following the financial crisis. Last year it grew 4.7 percent - much higher than the 3.6 percent forecast in September - and a further 4.0 percent rise is expected in 2019, the WTO said.

"However, this important progress could be quickly undermined if governments resort to restrictive trade policies, especially in a tit-for-tat process that could lead to an unmanageable escalation," WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo said in a statement. "A cycle of retaliation is the last thing the world economy needs."

The United States and China have threatened each other with tens of billions of dollars' worth of tariffs in recent weeks, leading to worries that Washington and Beijing may engage in an all-out trade war.

The WTO's 2018 forecast puts world trade growth at the top end of previous expectations, since the organization said last September that it expected 2018 growth of 1.4 to 4.4 percent, most likely around 3.2 percent.

The latest forecast raises that to 3.1 to 5.5 percent based on current GDP forecasts, but "a continued escalation of trade restrictive policies could lead to a significantly lower figure," the WTO said.

"These forecasts do not, and I repeat, they do not factor in the possibility of a dramatic escalation of trade restrictions," Azevedo told a news conference.

"It is not possible to accurately map out the effects of a major escalation, but clearly they could be serious," he said. "Poorer countries would stand to lose the most."

New trade restrictions could trigger cycles of retaliation that weigh on global trade and output, but disruption could equally come from central banks raising interest rates rapidly or from geopolitical tensions, it said.

Cyber attacks were a further risk, with potentially even greater impact on trade in services than trade in goods. Trade in commercial services grew by 7.4 percent in 2017, after two years of weak or negative growth, the WTO said.

Last year's growth in goods trade was led by Asia, by investment spending and by higher commodity prices. China's rebalancing away from investment and towards consumption could mean it imports fewer capital goods, putting a drag on world trade growth.

"Less investment could also help reduce overcapacity in sensitive sectors such as steel and aluminium, thereby alleviating trade tensions," the WTO said.

Steel and aluminium were the targets of one of US President Donald Trump's three big tariff announcements this year, each more controversial than the one before.

The steel and aluminium tariffs, justified on national security grounds, came soon after a restriction on imports of solar panels and washing machines. They preceded a huge package of tariffs that Trump has proposed to punish China for its alleged theft of US intellectual property.

China's commerce ministry said on Thursday that Washington's attempts at dialogue were not sincere and vowed to retaliate should Trump escalate further.

Walmart close to buying majority of Flipkart

REUTERS, Hong Kong/Mumbai

Walmart Inc is likely to reach a deal to buy a majority stake in Indian e-commerce player Flipkart by the end of June in what could be the US retail giant's biggest acquisition of an online business, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Reuters reported last week that Walmart completed its due diligence on Flipkart and had made a proposal to buy 51 percent or more of the Indian company for between \$10 billion to \$12 billion.

A deal with Flipkart would step up Walmart's battle with Amazon.com for a bigger share of India's fledgling e-commerce market, which Morgan Stanley estimates will be worth \$200 billion in a decade. Local media have reported that Amazon is exploring a possible counter offer for Flipkart.

Both sources declined to be named as the talks are private. Walmart will buy both new and existing Flipkart shares, with the new shares expected to value the Bengaluru-based firm at at least \$18 billion, the sources said. The price for existing shares would value the firm at about \$12 billion, one of the people said.

Japan's SoftBank Group, which owns roughly one-fifth of Flipkart via its Vision Fund, is unlikely to sell any of its shares due to the low price being offered for the existing shares, this source said.

Reuters has previously reported that early investors such as Tiger Global, Accel and Naspers will likely sell their entire stakes in Flipkart to Walmart if a deal is reached. A deal is not yet finalised, and talks between Walmart, Flipkart and its investors are ongoing, one of the people said. Flipkart also counts eBay, Tencent Holdings and Microsoft Corp among its investors.

Flipkart did not respond to a request for comment, a representative for Walmart in India declined comment while SoftBank said it doesn't comment on speculation.

For Walmart, the world's largest retailer known for its superstores, a deal with Flipkart would open up the vast Indian market.

Walmart has for years tried to enter India but has remained confined to a 'cash-and-carry' wholesale business amid tough restrictions on foreign investment. It currently operates 21 such stores in India.

By comparison, Amazon closely trails Flipkart, which along with its fashion units controls nearly 40 percent of India's online retail market, according to estimates by researcher Forrester.



Mashid Rahman, director for real estate division of Rancon, presents a crest to one of the top partners of Rangs Properties Ltd (RPL), a company of Rancon, at the "Partners' Gala Night" of RPL, in Dhaka on Tuesday.



Alpana Habib, a Bangladeshi food expert; Mohammad Asaduzzaman Khan, head of retail sales of Bengal Meat, and Golam Shafiul Islam, champion chef of the company's Pro-Chef's Recipe Challenge Season-1, launch Mojlishi Gosht, a traditional North Bengal dish, ahead of Pohela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla new year.



Mashrur Arefin, additional managing director of City Bank, and Arun Kumar Sarkar, resident director of Karnaphuli Wheels Ltd, sole distributor of Renault vehicles, exchange documents after signing a deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently. The bank's customers will get auto loans at a special rate and reduced processing fee for purchasing Renault vehicles.

New Zealand halts offshore oil exploration to fight climate change

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand is halting all new offshore oil and gas exploration to become a global leader in the fight against climate change, the centre-left government said Thursday, but opponents accused it of "economic vandalism".

"(We are) taking an important step to address climate change and create a clean, green and sustainable future for New Zealand," Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. The oil and gas industry in New Zealand generates about NZ\$2.5 billion a year (\$1.8 billion), including NZ\$1.5 billion in exports, and employs about 11,000 people.

Ardern said existing drilling and exploration permits would not be affected, meaning no existing jobs would be lost. She said there would also be limited new on-shore permits around the North Island's Taranaki

region, where most of New Zealand industry is concentrated.

"We're striking the right balance for New Zealand -- we're protecting existing industry and protecting future generations from climate change," she said.

The move by New Zealand comes two weeks after the Netherlands announced plans to rapidly cut production at -- and eventually close -- Europe's biggest gas field as it too seeks to its slash fossil fuel use.

Ardern campaigned heavily on environmental issues when she won a general election last year and is in a three-way coalition government that includes the Greens. She said she saw the impact of climate change firsthand last month when she visited the cyclone-ravaged Pacific island nations of Samoa and Tonga.

This, she said, underscored the fact that climate change was real and New

Zealand needed to be at the forefront of efforts to address it. "We've been a world leader on critical issues... by being nuclear free, the first to support women to vote," she said.

"Now we could be a world leader in becoming carbon neutral. We owe this to future generations."


The government said there were currently 31 oil and gas exploration permits, with 22 of them offshore.

Environmental groups welcomed the move, with Greenpeace declaring "the tide has turned irreversibly against Big Oil in New Zealand".

"This is a huge step forward for New Zealand and a landmark moment in the transition to a clean-energy economy," WWF New Zealand chief Livia Esterhazy said. But the conservative opposition National Party accused Ardern of "economic vandalism" that could put thousands of jobs at risk.



Mostafa Jalal Uddin Ahmed, additional managing director of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce (SBAC) Bank, and Mohiuddin Khan Khokon, director for sales and marketing at Hotel The Cox Today, exchange documents after signing a deal at the bank's head office on Tuesday. The bank's clients will get up to 50 percent discount at the hotel.



জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন

(একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় জীবন বীমা প্রতিষ্ঠান)

প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ ২৪, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

পিএবিএক্সঃ ৯৫৫১৪২৩-২৪, ৯৫৫২০৪৭-৪৯, ৯৫৫৯৯৫১-২ ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৫৬১৮২৫, ৮৮-০২-৯৫৫০৭৯৬

পোষ্ট বক্স নং-৩৪৫, ৬২৫, জিপিও, ঢাকা, ই-মেইলঃ info@jbc.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটঃ www.jbc.gov.bd

বিষয়ঃ জুনিয়র অফিসার পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত MCQ এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনে জুনিয়র অফিসার পদে নিয়োগের জন্য MCQ এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষা একই সাথে আগামী ২০/০৪/২০১৮খ্রিঃ তারিখ রোজ শুক্রবার সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সকল প্রার্থীকে পরীক্ষার প্রবেশপত্র ওয়েবসাইট (http://jbc.teletalk.com.bd) হতে সংগ্রহকরতঃ পরীক্ষা শুরু হওয়ার ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য প্রয়োজনে জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েবসাইট (www.jbc.gov.bd) ভিজিট করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জিডি- ১০০৮ জেনারেল ম্যানেজার-প্রশাসন

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e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by the Chief Engineer (Construction) BADC, Dhaka for Construction of Single Storey Framed Structure Assemble Centre at Polash Bazar Bishwamvarpur Sunamganj. [It is a Deposit work of "Sylhet Anchaler Shoshso Nibirota Bridhdhikoron Prokolpo" of DAM].

Sl. No.	ID/Reference No.	Name of the work	Type of method	Tender publishing date, closing date & time
1	2	3	4	5
01.	1183954, CD/OF/DO/2017-18/009	Construction of Single Storey Framed Structure Assemble Centre at Polash Bazar Bishwamvarpur Sunamganj	NCT, OTM	05-Apr-2018 23:05:00 06-May-2018 11:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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Memo No. 12.255.014.00.02.595.2016-103

Date: 08-04-2018

GD-986

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