



Adil Raihan, deputy managing director of Mercantile Bank, and Md Mustafizur Rahman, project director of a2i, attend a deal signing ceremony in Dhaka recently. Customers now can pay their all government utility bills through the bank's branches.

India's trade deficit widens, slow exports growth a concern

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's trade deficit widened in January pushed by a rise in gold imports, while exports growth remained low, deepening concerns for Prime Minister Narendra Modi who wants to accelerate economic expansion ahead of elections.

Modi has set a target of doubling India's share of world exports and reducing its dependence on imports to create jobs, faces criticism from businesses for not doing enough in the last five years.

India's goods exports have shown little growth since Modi took charge in 2014, as small exporters - contributing nearly 35 percent to total exports - have been hit hard by rising input costs after the chaotic launch of national sales tax in 2017.



An employee assembles medium voltage switchgears inside a plant of a company in Gujarat.

In January, merchandise exports rose 3.74 percent from a year earlier to \$26.36 billion, while imports were up 0.01 percent to \$41.09 billion, data released by the commerce ministry on Friday showed.

The gold imports in January rose 38.16 percent year-on-year to \$2.31 billion, widening the trade deficit to \$14.73 billion compared to \$13.08 billion in the previous month.

Indian exports of textiles, agricultural products and engineering items have been hit hard due to a shortage of bank credit and delay in refund of input credit under the goods and services tax, exporters said.

"Exports by small companies could have done much better if supported by flow of bank credit," said Ajay Sahai, director general of the Federation of Indian Export

Organisations:

He said Indian exports face a tough time in 2019 following a slowdown in global economic growth and trade.

India's total April-January exports, including goods and services, are estimated to touch \$440 billion, up 9.07 percent from a year ago, while imports were estimated at \$530.55 billion, up 10.74 percent, the government statement said.

India's goods exports, which had touched \$314.4 billion in 2013/14, have been slowly recovering after falling to \$262.3 billion in 2015/16.

Exporters said Indian exports have not benefited much from the US-China trade war, while countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh have increased their share in export of items like textiles to the United States, gaining from a fall in Chinese exports.

On Thursday, trade officials of India and the United States met in Delhi and announced plans to boost bilateral trade in energy, aerospace, defence, pharmaceuticals and healthcare as part of continuing commercial dialogue.

India and the United States are at odds over a range of trade issues, from India's new rules on e-commerce that affect firms such as Amazon and Walmart to Indian data localisation and tariffs that US President Donald Trump says are exceptionally high.

Indian goods exports to the United States rose 10.5 percent during April-Dec, marginally lower than 11.8 percent growth during a year ago period, while imports from the US rose by more than 35 percent during that period, commerce ministry data showed.

UK retail sales rebound

AFP, London

British retail sales rose far more than expected in January, official data showed on Friday, as consumers appeared to shrug off Brexit uncertainty.

Total sales soared 1.0 percent compared to December, when they dropped 0.7 percent, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) revealed in a statement.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

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GD-290

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Technical Education
F-4/B, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

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Date: 13/02/2019

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GD-303

US manufacturing plunges in January

AFP, Washington

American manufacturing plunged in January, largely on a drop in vehicle assembly, cutting overall industrial production in its biggest decline since mid-2018, the Federal Reserve reported Friday.

Even excluding the sharp drop in vehicle output, manufacturing -- which is at the center of President Donald Trump's aggressive trade policies -- still declined, albeit by a smaller amount.

That was only partially offset by the slight rebound in utilities, while the volatile mining sector edged slightly higher.

Manufacturing fell 0.9 percent last month compared to December, although it is still 2.9 percent higher than January 2018, according to the Fed report.

That drove overall output down 0.6 percent -- in both cases the biggest declines since May of last year.

Economists had been expecting a 0.2 percent gain in production. "In one line: Horrible, with further decline in manufacturing to come," Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said in reaction to the report.

"Manufacturing is under real pressure from the slowdown in China and the trade war and we expect output to drift down over the first half of the year, putting the sector into a mild recession."

European car sales begin 2019 in reverse

AFP, Paris

European car sales fell by 4.6 percent in January from the same month last year, an industry body said Friday, in another worrying sign of economic slowdown.

"Nevertheless, with nearly 1.2 million units registered in total, this still represents the second-highest January volume on record since 2009," the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (EAMA) noted.

The EAMA announced earlier this week it expects auto sales to remain stable overall this year at around 15 million vehicles.

However it warned a hard, no-deal Brexit, could have "very dramatic" consequences for the European car industry.

Recent economic data have shown a troubling slowdown in European economies, with Germany, the continent's economic motor, having just avoided entering

a recession at the end of last year.

Car manufacturing was one reason for the malaise in the German economy, as its carmakers had difficulty meeting emissions tests using new methodology that came into effect in September. They continued to suffer in January, with Europe's top carmaker Volkswagen Group seeing a 6.5 percent drop. Its luxury car sales took a hit, with Porsche sales chopped in half and Audi sales skidding 17 percent lower.

Meanwhile BMW saw a 2.7 percent dip and Mercedes-maker Daimler 1.3 percent.

French carmakers PSA (Peugeot, Citroen and Opel) and Renault saw dips of 1.9 and 0.7 percent respectively.

Sales by the Italian-US carmaker FCA, which includes the Fiat and Jeep brands, slumped 14.9 percent.

The EAMA said demand for new cars fell across almost the entire European Union, including the EU's five major markets.



Md Mehmmud Husain, CEO of NRB Bank, opens its 41st branch at Debidwar in Cumilla on Thursday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয়

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৮-২০১৯ অর্থ বছরে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলায় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদসমূহের কর্মরত গ্রাম পুলিশদের (দফাদার/মহল্লাদার) জন্য নিম্নর্যত পোশাক সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে অভিজ্ঞতসম্পর্ক প্রকৃত পোকাক প্রজ্ঞানী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমান্মোহরকৃত খামে ব্যবিত শর্তে প্রতি আরোহণ করা যাচ্ছে।

গ্রাম পুলিশের বিবরণঃ

০১	মুক্তালীয় বিভাগ	ছানীয় সরকার কার্যালয়, ছানীয় সরকার, প্রাচী উদ্যোগ ও সমুদায় মুক্তালীয়, বাংলাদেশ সর্বিকালয়, ঢাকা।	গ্রাম পুলিশ (দফাদার/মহল্লাদার) সর্বাধা	পোশাক সরঞ্জামাদির বিবরণঃ
০২	দরপত্র আহানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।	০২	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয় ও মহল্লাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতি আরোহণ করা যাবে।
০৩	সংযোগক সংস্থা নাম	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয়।	০৩	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয় ও মহল্লাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতি আরোহণ করা যাবে।
০৪	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	২০১৮-১৯ অর্থ বছরের গ্রাম পুলিশদের (দফাদার/মহল্লাদার) পোশাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।	০৪	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয়ের মান নং-৪০০.০০.০০০০.০০.০০০১-৭৮৮৬, তারিখ ১৮/৮/২০১৮।
০৫	দরপত্র আহানকারী স্থান	ছানীয় সরকার বিবরণের মান নং-৪০০.০০.০০০০.০০.০০০১-৭৮৮৬, তারিখ ১৮/৮/২০১৮।	০৫	জেলা প্রশাসনের কার্যালয়ের মান নং-৪০০.০০.০০০০.০০.০০০১-৭৮৮৬, তারিখ ১৮/৮/২০১৮।
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০৭	অর্থনৈতিক উৎপন্ন	জিবি বি।	০৭	অর্থনৈতিক উৎপন্ন।
০৮	টেক্নো ও প্রাক্টিজ সংস্থা	জিবি।	০৮	টেক্নো ও প্রাক্টিজ।
০৯	দরপত্রের স্থানক নং-	০৯	০৫.৪০.৫৬০০.২০৩.০২.০১৬.১৮- তারিখ।	
১০	মানিকগঞ্জের বিবরণ	০১০.৪০.৫৬০০.২০৩.০২.০১৬.১৮- তারিখ।	১০	গ্রাম পুলিশ (দ