

James P McDonald, general manager of InterContinental Dhaka, and Abul Kashem Md Shirin, CEO of Dutch-**Bangla Bank Limited** (DBBL), exchange signed documents of a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday. The bank's VIP customers and Dutch-**Bangla Bank Nexus** Platinum and Titanium credit cardholders will get a "buy one get one free" offer on meals at the hotel throughout the year.



M Mukul Hossain, CEO of MJL Bangladesh; Md Ahsan Kabir, deputy general manager for sales and marketing, and Syed Ghulam Dastagir, head of brands and market communications, attend the launch of Mobil Super 2000 5W-30 lubricants for passenger vehicles and Mobil Super Moto 10W-30 and 20W-40 for four-stroke motorcycles in Dhaka.

Trump says he is in no rush to complete China trade deal

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was in no rush to complete a trade pact with China and insisted that any deal include protection for intellectual property, a major sticking point between the two sides during months of negotiations.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping had been expected to hold a summit at the president's Mar-a-Lago property in Florida later this month, but no date has been set for a meeting and no in-person talks between their trade teams have been held in more than two weeks.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that a meeting between the two was more likely to take place in April at the earliest.

A person familiar with the matter told Reuters that there "were rumblings" in Washington about a possible meeting in late April.

The president, speaking to reporters at the White House, said he thought there was a good chance a deal would be made, in part because China wanted one after suffering from US tariffs

ing to a summit without an agreement in hand after seeing Trump end a separate summit in Vietnam with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un without a peace deal.

"I think President Xi saw that I'm somebody that believes in walking when the deal is not done, and you know there's always a chance it could happen and he probably wouldn't want that," Trump said.

China has not made any public comment confirming Xi is considering going to meet Trump in Florida or elsewhere.

The president, who likes to emphasize his own deal-making abilities, said an agreement to end a months-long trade war could be finished ahead of a presidential meeting or completed inperson with his counterpart.

"We could do it either way. We could have the deal completed and come and sign, or we could get the deal almost completed and negotiate some of the final points. I would prefer that," he said.

Trump decided last month not to increase

tariffs on Chinese goods at the beginning of But he acknowledged Xi may be wary of com- March, giving a nod to the success of negotiations so far.

But hurdles remain, and intellectual property is one of them. Washington accuses Beijing of forcing US companies to share their intellectual property and transfer their technology to local partners in order to do business in China. Beijing denies it engages in such practices.

Asked on Wednesday if intellectual property had to be included in a trade deal, Trump said: "Yes it does."

He indicated that from his perspective, a meeting with Xi was still likely.

"I think things are going along very well we'll just see what the date is," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"I'm in no rush. I want the deal to be right. ... I am not in a rush whatsoever. It's got to be the right deal. It's got to be a good deal for us and if it's not, we're not going to make that deal."

China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that Xi had previously told Trump that he is willing to "maintain contacts" with the US president.

China's industrial output slows, unemployment rises

AFP, Beijing

China's industrial output slowed during the first two months of the year as unemployment rose, official data showed Thursday, while some indicators showed a slowdown in the world's second largest economy stabilising.

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Statistics come as Beijing and Washington painful trade spat, and Chinese leaders convene in the capital for an annual parliamentary session.

Output growth at China's factories and workshops for the first two months slowed to 5.3 percent on-year, from 5.7 percent in December, a multi-year low and short of forecasts.

"We must be aware that there are many uncertainties and instabilities from the external environment," said NBS spokesman Mao Shengyong. "The economy faces downward pressure," he told reporters.

China's normally steady unemployment rate rose to 5.3 percent in February, from 4.9 percent in December, with the NBS saying it had expected worse numbers. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang last week

laid out a lower growth target of 6.0-6.5 percent this year, from 6.6 percent growth in 2018, which was already the slowest pace for almost three decades.

Policymakers huddled in Beijing have The figures from the National Bureau of talked up plans to support the economy, announcing tax cuts, fee reductions, and appear to be nearing a deal to resolve their financing support. A plan to cut valueadded tax for manufacturers will help the struggling sector.

> In January and February car sales continued to fall and manufacturing activity sunk. The latest data showed growth in retail

> sales for January-February remained flat from December, rising 8.2 percent on-year and slightly above forecasts from economists polled by Bloomberg News.

> However, retail sales remain near a 15-year low, said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a note, adding that "the nearterm outlook still looks downbeat".

> Beijing is counting on consumers and renewed investment to stabilise the economy.

M Khorshed Anowar, head of retail and SME banking at Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL), and Aref R Bashir, managing director of payments and services platform D Money Bangladesh, exchange documents after signing a deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka. D Money's customers will be able to make payments online using Visa or Mastercard branded card on EBL Skypay, powered by Mastercard Payment Gateway Service.

Giant UAE port operator posts rise in 2018 profit

AFP, Dubai

Dubai port and logistics giant DP World said Thursday its net profit for 2018 rose over five percent on increased trade and higher returns from new acquisitions.

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The global provider, which runs port operations in over 40 countries, said in a statement that it posted a net profit of \$1.27 billion in 2018, compared to \$1.21 billion the previous year.

"This robust performance has been delivered in an uncertain trade environment, once again highlighting the resilience of our portfolio," said DP World chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem.

He said DP World had made new acquisitions worth \$2.5 billion last year, strengthening its presence around the world.



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Tanvir Haider Chaudhury, CEO of Kazi Food Industries Ltd, and Farzana Sharmeen, a director of Pathao Food, attend a deal signing ceremony recently. Pathao Food will deliver Kazi Farms Kitchen's fried and frozen foods to customers.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Noakhali Road Division, Noakhali

30321-61124 E-mail: eenoa@rhd.gov.bd

Reference No. Misc-16B/789

GD-492

Date: 13.03.2019

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Noakhali for the procurement of:

SI. No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender ID No.	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01	NRD/e- GP/PMPRoad/ 39/2018-2019	PMP works for Construction of Rigid Pavement at 1st(P) Km of Old C&B Road up to Food Godown Link Road (Z-1450) and Construction of Rigid Pavement at 1st(P) Km of Sonapur Link Road (Z-1440) under Noakhali Road Division during the year 2018-2019	295368	15/04/2019 up to 16:00pm	16/04/2019 12:00 noon	16/04/2019 12:00 noon

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any member of scheduled banks branches up to 16:00pm on 15-04-2019.

To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Binoy Kumar Paul ID No. 602170 Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD Road Division, Noakhali

Frugal consumers, higher costs take fizz out of Japan's food stocks

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's food firms, once seen as a rare group of winners in the country's fight against deflation, are falling out of favor with investors as consumers reject price hikes on many household products.

Food company shares have only added 2.8 percent this year, compared with a 7.5 percent gain in the Topix, which in turn underperformed the world's many other equity indexes.

Prices of food items including soft drinks, yogurt, ramen noodles and ice cream, will go up from this spring, pushed up by higher labor and transportation costs. At the same time, the increase in retail prices firms can expect to deliver will be capped by consumer resistance and what economists describe as Japan's deflationary mindset.

"Even if companies can raise their top lines, they would be struggling to make profits due to rising costs and that's the main challenge that food makers are facing right now," said Keita Kubota, senior investment manager at Aberdeen Standard Investment, adding that the earnings from Coca-Cola and Suntory do not bode well for the food industry.

"While there are lots of price hikes planned in 2019, we still don't know how much these price hikes would lead to profits."

Indeed, many companies, such as Coca-Cola Bottlers Japan Holdings Inc, Suntory Beverage & Food and potato chips maker Calbee Inc, have warned of falls in profits as the planned price hikes fail to cover rising upstream costs.

Mizuho Securities says the combined operating profit for 20 Japanese food companies for the December quarter fell 5 percent year-on-year.

In January, Coca-Cola Japan said it would raise prices on some of its large bottled beverages in April. This, however, would not help counter the full impact of rising costs and on Feb. 14 it said it expected a 29 percent hit to its 2019 annual profit.

गर्लायम् अस्कारी कर्या किया Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat "Establishment of 7 Regional Offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Strengthening" Project Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 www.bpsc.gov.bd Invitation for Tender

Ministry/Division & Agency Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) Secretariat. "Establishment of 7 Regional Offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Procuring entity name Strengthening" Project Dhaka, Bangladesh. Procuring entity district Procurement of 01 (one) Jeep (SUV) and 02 (two) Microbuses. Invitation for Invitation Ref. No. & date No. 80.00.0000.000.14.001.19.36 Dated: 14 March 2019. Procurement method Open tendering method (OTM). Budget and source of funds Government of Bangladesh (GOB). Package 06: Commodity-06: Procurement of 01 (one) Jeep (SUV) and 02 Tender package No. & name (two) Microbuses. Tender schedule last selling date 28 March 2019 (up to 12:00 Noon). Tender closing date and time 28 March 2019 at 2:00pm. Md. Manzurur Rahman, Project Director, "Establishment of 7 Regional Name & address of the officer Offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Strengthening" Project, Room selling tender documents No. 313, BPSC Secretariat, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 12 Name & address of the officer Md. Manzurur Rahman, Project Director, "Establishment of 7 Regional Offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Strengthening" Project, Room receiving tender document No. 313, BPSC Secretariat, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. BPSC Secretariat, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, 28 March 13 Opening tender document place 2019 at 3:30pm & BPSC Secretariat, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar date, time & pre-tender meeting Dhaka-1207, 27 March 2019 at 11:00am. (optional) place, date, time (a) Current year trade licence, (b) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate, (c) VAT Eligibility of registration certificate, (d) 10 years experience in supplying of goods of similar nature to tenderer govt/semi-govt/autonomous organization and (e) Other requirements described in the tender

15 Brief description Purchase of Lot-1: 01 (one) 07-seater Jeep (SUV) (1990-2100cc) with CNG Conversion and Registration (& all other modern facilities as per specification described in the tender of goods documents/schedule) and Lot-2: 02 (two) 16-seater (wide body & high roof) Microbuses (maximum 2700cc) with CNG Conversion and Registration (& all other modern facilities as per specifications described in the tender documents/schedule) 16 Lot Identification of lot Completion document (Tk) amount (Tk) time in days Lot-1 Purchase of 01 (one) Jeep (SUV) Dhaka 1,000/- (Tk one 28 (twenty-1,50,000/- (Tk (1990-2100cc) thousand) one lakh and eight) days fifty thousand) Conversion and Registration. from contract

Dhaka

two lakh and (minimum) Microbuses (maximum thousand and eight) days 2700cc) with CNG Conversion and five hundred) fifty thousand) from contract Registration. award 17 Name & designation of official inviting Md. Manzurur Rahman, Project Director. BPSC Secretariat, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Address of official inviting tender Contact details of official inviting tender Phone: 55006616, Email address: addlsecretary@bpsc.gov.bd.

Purchase of 02 (two) 12-seated

20 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tenders.

Md. Manzurur Rahman Project Director "Establishment of 7 Regional Offices of the BPSC Secretariat including its Strengthening" Project

1,500/- (Tk one

2,50,000/- (Tk

GD-502