



Humayun Kabir, chairman of Modhumoti Bank, presides over the bank's sixth annual general meeting at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden yesterday. The bank approved 10 percent cash and 5 percent stock dividends for 2018. Md Shafiu Azam, CEO, was present.

## Tesla's Model 3 earns insurance industry's top safety rating

REUTERS  
Tesla Inc's Model 3 electric sedan has earned the top safety rating from the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS), becoming the first Tesla to do so.  
The IIHS has given the Model 3 its highest rating, top safety pick+. It said the Model 3 earned good ratings across the board for crashworthiness.  
The car's structure held up well in the driver-side small overlap front test, IIHS said.  
Last month, Tesla said it was launching

an insurance service designed to give drivers in California, its biggest market, lower rates because of safety features on its electric vehicles.  
Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has been one of the strongest proponents of the idea that car insurance rates should plummet as driver-assist and self-driving technology become standard.  
The company's cars generally rank among the most expensive vehicles to insure due to their high repair costs for components and sensor equipment, according to safety researchers and insurance providers.

## OECD slashes global growth forecasts for 2019 and 2020

AFP, Paris  
Escalating trade tensions are eroding global growth prospects with the world economy set for its slowest expansion since the global financial crisis, the OECD warned on Thursday.  
In an update to its economic forecasts from May, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development cut its global growth forecast for this year to 2.9 percent from 3.2 percent.  
The prognosis for 2020 was lowered to 3.0 percent from 3.4.  
"These would be the weakest annual growth rates since the financial crisis, with downside risks continuing to mount," said the OECD.  
The International Monetary Fund already lowered its own global forecasts in July in face of the long-running -- and bruising -- trade war between the United States and China, the world's

number one and two economies respectively.  
Growth prospects for almost all of the Group of 20 countries were revised down by the OECD, particularly those exposed to declining global trade and investment.  
"Escalating trade policy tensions are taking an increasing toll on confidence and investment, adding to policy uncertainty, weighing on risk sentiment in financial markets, and endangering future growth prospects," the OECD wrote.  
The US economy was now expected to expand by 2.4 percent this year, a downward revision of 0.4 percentage points from the May forecast, and significantly slower than the 2.9 percent recorded last year.  
The 2020 forecast was cut by 0.3 percentage points to 3.0 percent.  
Chinese growth was expected to slow to 6.1 percent in 2019, a downward revision of 0.1 point, while next year's forecast was cut by 0.3

points to 5.7 percent.  
The OECD said "collective effort is urgent to halt the build-up of trade-distorting tariffs and subsidies and to restore a transparent and predictable rules-based system that encourages businesses to invest." It revised down its 2019 forecast for the 19-country eurozone to 1.1 percent growth this year and 1.0 percent in 2020, whereas previously it had been expecting activity in the single currency area to pick up speed.  
Britain's growth outlook was also lowered as uncertainty over Brexit persists, with the OECD now pencilling in expansion of 1.0 percent this year and 0.9 percent in 2020, compared with 1.4 percent last year.  
"A no-deal exit would be costly in the near-term, potentially pushing the United Kingdom into recession in 2020 and reducing growth in Europe considerably," the OECD warned.



Mohsin Habib Chowdhury, senior general manager for sales and marketing at Berger Paints Bangladesh Ltd, opens the company's "Experience Zone" in Khulna on Wednesday.



Jamaluddin Ahmed, chairman of Janata Bank, attends "Business performance monitoring conference 2019" for managers of Dhaka south division in the capital yesterday. Md Abdus Salam Azad, CEO, was present.

## China's growth could slip below 6pc, analysts warn, as trade war takes toll

REUTERS, Beijing  
China's economic growth risks slipping below the lower-end of Beijing 2019 target of 6 percent in the third quarter or over the next year, analysts warn, but government economists are slightly more optimistic as they expect stimulus to help stave off a sharper slowdown.  
Economists believe China's economic growth likely cooled further this quarter from a near 30-year low of 6.2 percent in April-June, but they differ on whether the slowing trend could persist despite a raft of government policy measures.  
Economic activity worsened in August, with growth in industrial production at its weakest in 17-1/2 years, as the US-China trade war dented business confidence, investment and domestic consumption.  
"There is a risk for Q3 GDP to be below 6.0 percent," said Zhaopeng Xing, an economist at ANZ.  
"But we expect September will see a jump in fixed-asset investment because many gift projects for 70th anniversary will be confirmed to be in the statistics at the quarter end. So we maintain our forecast of Q3 GDP 6.1 percent," he told Reuters.  
UBS expects China's economic growth to slow to 5.5 percent in 2020 from expected pace of 6.0 percent in 2019. Growth will slow further in the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020 due to the impact from higher US tariffs, UBS's China economist Tao Wang said.  
Beijing is targeting 6 percent-6.5 percent growth for 2019, and government analysts expect the stimulus measures will prop-up the economy.  
"We forecast third-quarter growth would be 6.1 percent, before recovering somewhat in the fourth quarter, to 6.2 percent," said Zhang Yuxian, head of economic forecasting department of State Information Center, a top government think tank.  
"This round of policies, including fiscal, monetary and structural

policies, will definitely be reflected in the fourth quarter, otherwise such policies will be ineffective," Zhang told a group of foreign reporters late Wednesday.  
That would ensure the economy will grow between 6.2 percent and 6.3 percent this year, he said, in line with the government target.  
Chen Wenling, chief economist at China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a well-connected think tank, told reporters that she expected growth to be around 6.2 percent this year and around 6 percent in 2020.  
Zhang Yansheng, another economist at CCIEE, said he cannot rule out the possibility that quarterly growth could dip below 6 percent in

Analysts say Beijing needs to roll out more stimulus to ward off a sharper slowdown as the protracted trade war with the United States takes a toll on businesses and consumers.  
Room for stimulus is limited as policymakers worry about rising debt risks and property bubbles, although accelerating consumer inflation has yet to become a big concern, policy insiders said.  
The market is watching whether the central bank, which has cut reserve requirements seven times since early 2018, will lower its Loan Prime Rate (LPR) on Friday.  
Louis Kuijs at Oxford Economics forecast China's GDP to grow 6.1 percent this year and 5.7 percent in 2020.

## Huawei promises smartest 5G phone, but who will be brave enough to buy?

REUTERS, Frankfurt  
Huawei launches what could be the world's most powerful and feature-packed 5G smartphone on Thursday, but the fate of the device in Europe will hang on whether it can overcome a US ban to give customers the Google software they expect.  
The Chinese telecoms giant will showcase its Mate 30 range in Munich, Germany, in its first unveiling of an all-new phone since President Donald Trump hit the Shenzhen-based company with an export ban in May.  
"The launch will be the most watched ever," said telecoms and media analyst Paolo Pescatore.  
"Despite all the concerns surrounding Huawei, and the challenges it faces, it remains defiant and prepared to soldier on."  
The No.2 smartphone maker is caught in the fallout of a trade conflict between Washington and Beijing that analysts say is morphing into a technology cold war. It expects the US ban to cost it \$10 billion.  
Holding the launch in Europe

underlines the importance of the region's 500 million consumers to Huawei. It lost five percentage points in market share here following the US ban, even as buyers rallied to its brand at home.  
Huawei has been running an online marketing campaign here with the slogan "Rethink Possibilities", recruiting fans to spread the word about the launch. The same website will livestream the event, which starts at 2 pm (1200 GMT).  
The build-up has been marked by uncertainty over whether buyers of the flagship Android device will be able to use apps supported by Google.  
Google, the unit of Silicon Valley tech giant Alphabet says it won't be possible to sell the Mate 30 with licensed Google apps and services, which include the Play Store or popular tools like Gmail or Maps.  
Huawei, for its part, hopes to run the phone on Android 10, the latest version of the operating system, and have access to Google Mobile Services.  
Without those, say analysts, consumers won't want the phone

- unless Huawei can find a way to convince them that its features are unmatched and its home-grown Harmony operating system is a good-enough fallback option.  
Huawei says the phone's 'brain' - the Kirin 990 chipset unveiled at a recent tech fair in Berlin - outperforms the Qualcomm-powered 5G phones already on the market from market leader Samsung.  
In particular, the 'big core-tiny core' configuration of the hardware means it can run power-hungry applications like artificial intelligence or support online gaming, while saving battery on routine tasks.  
The Mate 30 range's look and feel will be superior to Apple's new iPhone 11s, according to analyst Richard Windsor, who said leaked photos showed an attractive circular triple-camera set-up.  
"Huawei has Apple soundly beaten when it comes to form factor design but even these beautiful-looking devices are going to struggle to see any volume without the Google ecosystem," Windsor said in a note.



A man works at a production base of China Construction Steel Structure Corp Ltd in Meishan, China.

the future, but he did not specify a timeframe.  
Despite a slew of growth-boosting measures since last year, the world's second-largest economy has yet to stabilize. That explains why most private economists remain sober about China's growth outlook as demand at home and abroad weakens.

Employment pressures have been partly offset by a more resilient services sector and a shrinking pool of workers as a result of the country's demographic changes, analysts said.  
Chen at CCIEE said the trade war has hit the factory jobs sector, although the overall employment remains steady.



Commodore Syed Arifur Islam, director general at the Department of Shipping; Amirul Islam, chairman of conference and exhibition service provider Savor International, and Md Faizul Alam, managing director, attend the launch of a second "Bangladesh International Marine and Offshore Expo 2019" at International Convention City Bashundhara yesterday. Companies from 14 countries are taking part in the three-day expo.

## Aviation watchdog may ask Boeing to set up 737 MAX simulators in India

REUTERS, New Delhi  
India's aviation safety regulator may ask Boeing to set up simulators in India to train pilots on the 737 MAX planes once it clears the aircraft as safe for flying, a senior official with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.  
The 737 MAX, the fastest-selling plane in Boeing's history, has been grounded the world over since March in the aftermath of two fatal crashes in five months that killed 346 people.  
India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) will also conduct an independent inspection of the grounded planes once they are

cleared for flying by the US regulator, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).  
"Once FAA re-certifies it and says these issues have been resolved then we will evaluate whether what they are saying is right or wrong... We will carry out our own inspections," the official said, adding that it is unlikely the planes will fly in Indian skies until next year.  
Boeing is making software changes and drawing up a new pilot training plan, and will need to conduct a key certification test flight to get the FAA's approval before it can put the planes back in the air. Some federal officials expect the test flight to be conducted

in October.  
"Later this year India will send a team. We would like to take a look at their flight data, some simulators will also be required for training pilots," the official said, adding it may ask Boeing to have simulators in India.  
Indian carrier SpiceJet has about a dozen Boeing 737 MAX planes in its fleet and a total of 155 on order - among the largest single orders for the narrow-body plane.  
Boeing has delivered 219 737 MAX jets to customers globally, with 4,564 orders for jets yet to be delivered. The Boeing 737 MAX is a more fuel-efficient version of the manufacturer's best-selling single-aisle 737 series.