



From left, Bangladesh Lamps directors Saifur Rahman, Arshad Waliur Rahman, Shamsur Rahman, Shahzreh Huq, Simeen Hossain and Atiqur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer Arshad Huq, independent directors Anis-uz-Zaman Khan and Akhtar Ahmed, Chief Financial Officer Mohammed Sabir Ahmed and Company Secretary Mohammad Ruhan Miah attend the company's 58th annual general meeting at Dhaka Banquet Hall in Gulshan on Wednesday. Manufacturer of Transtec brand electric bulbs, energy saving lamps and tube lights, the company approved 20 percent cash dividend for the year ending on June 30, 2019. Atiqur presided over the meeting.

Western, Chinese consumers divided on electric, self-driving cars

Reuters

Automakers, ride-hailing and technology companies plowing money into the development of electric, self-driving and shared car services will find more enthusiastic consumers in China than in Europe and the United States, a survey on Thursday showed.

Consumers in some Western countries appear unconvinced as automakers overhaul their factories and supply chains to produce pricey electric cars and invest billions to develop self-driving technology, the survey by OC&C Strategy Consulting showed.

While more than 90 percent of Chinese residents said they would consider, were likely to or definitely would buy an electric car, only about half of the surveyed consumers in the United States were eyeing an electric car as their next purchase. In Europe, between 64 percent and 77 percent of respondents said the same.

Euro zone growth curbed by trade, retail sales sharply

Reuters, Brussels

The euro zone economy grew at a modest pace in the third quarter with a negative impact from trade, while retail sales fell at their sharpest rate this year in October, data showed on Thursday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) in the 19 countries sharing the euro was up 0.2 percent in the July-September period, the same figure as the flash estimate released in October and unchanged from the second quarter.

Retail sales in the euro zone in October fell by 0.6 percent, double the amount expected in a Reuters poll, and were up a modest 1.4 percent year-on-year. The monthly decline was the steepest fall of 2019.

The data confirmed a sombre outlook for the single currency bloc, which is facing threats and uncertainty over Brexit and rising global trade conflicts.



Aerial view of a container terminal in the port of Hamburg, Germany.

Britain had been set to exit the European Union at the end of October, a deadline since pushed back until the end of January.

In trade, the United States outlined the first phase of a deal to end its conflict war with China in October, but the two are still arguing about the details.

Year-on-year, euro zone expansion was 1.2 percent, also the same figure as in the second quarter of the year.

The bloc's largest and third largest economies, Germany and Italy, grew by just 0.1 percent during the quarter, while in France, the second largest economy, growth was 0.3 percent.

Household spending was the strongest overall contributor, boosting euro zone growth by 0.3 percent percentage points, followed by government spending and capital investment at 0.1 points.

However, the contributions of trade and of inventory changes were negative, in the case of trade for a second consecutive quarter.

In the October retail sales figures, non-food sales declined, particularly online and mail order sales, although these tend to pick up in November and December ahead of the Christmas period.

Eurostat also said that the growth of employment in the euro zone slowed in the third quarter to 0.1 percent from 0.2 percent in the second quarter. Year-on-year the figure was also softer at 0.9 percent from 1.2 percent previously.

GM, LG Chem to announce EV battery joint venture in Ohio

Reuters, Seoul/Washington

South Korea's LG Chem said on Thursday it would invest \$916 million in its US subsidiary by 2023 to set up an electric vehicle battery joint venture with General Motors.

An LG Chem spokesman confirmed an earlier Reuters report on the joint venture, but declined to give details.

One source familiar with the matter told Reuters earlier that the facility, expected to be located in the Lordstown area of Ohio, would see investment of more than \$2 billion, with GM and LG Chem expected to invest more than \$1 billion each.

The venture is likely to be signed on Thursday, sources said.

A General Motors (GM) spokeswoman declined to comment.

"Talks occur on a regular basis in the auto industry between a variety of partners on different topics, but as a matter of policy we don't discuss who, where or when those discussions might occur," she said.



Entrepreneurs' Organization Bangladesh President Tahsin Aman attends a press conference at a Dhaka hotel on Wednesday when it launched a "Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) 2020" for local students. The business project winning the award on January 11 will go on to participate in GSEA Global Finals in Cape Town, South Africa. Mike Kazi, the competition's chair, was present.

Canada central bank holds key lending rate at 1.75pc

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's central bank on Wednesday maintained its key lending rate at 1.75 percent, saying it is cautiously optimistic that global growth is set to rebound and recession fears are "waning."

"There is nascent evidence that the global economy is stabilizing," the Bank of Canada said in a statement, adding that growth was "expected to edge higher over the next couple of years."

Financial markets, it said, have been bolstered by "waning recession concerns" despite being "buffeted by news on the trade front."

Earlier, Wall Street stocks rose on upbeat reports on US-China trade talks. Worries about the on-again off-again negotiations have pressured stocks in recent days, leading to three straight declines.

But analysts cited a Bloomberg News report that characterized Washington and Beijing as near finalizing a partial trade agreement that would avert new tariffs threatened for later this month.

While others around the world, including the US Federal Reserve, have cut rates in recent months in an attempt to stimulate their economies and head off a global downturn, the Bank of Canada's main lending rate has stood at 1.75 percent since October 2018.

It noted that ongoing trade conflicts and "related uncertainty are still weighing on global economic activity, and remain the biggest source of risk to the outlook."

Canada's economy slowed in the third quarter to 1.3 percent as exports fell, but consumer spending, housing and business investment have been strong.

Inflation also remains near the central bank's 2.0 percent target, which it said was "consistent with an economy operating near capacity."

CIBC analyst Andrew Grantham commented that the bank's overall statement was "a little more hawkish than markets were expecting."



Md Nojibur Rahman, principal secretary to the prime minister, attends a programme where he handed over certificates to four skills providers as registered training institutions of the National Skills Development Authority on its Dhaka premises yesterday. The four are Bangladesh-Korea Technical Training Centre, Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila Technical Training Center and UCEP Mirpur Technical School.



Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of MJL Bangladesh, presides over the company's 21st annual general meeting at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday. The company approved 45 percent cash dividend for June 30, 2019. Directors Aminur Rahman, Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, Md Gias Uddin Ansary and NKA Mobin were present.

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e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have been published through e-GP Portal

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID: 394640, Package No.: 10/e-GP /Dev/SE/DRC/2019-2020 Publishing 05 December 2019	Construction of Dedicated Service lane, Bus Bay, Footover Bridge, New Jersey Barrier, Surfacing on existing pavement, at (Ch. 32+900m to 33+500m) Kalampur Bus Stand of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Natakhola-Kashinathpur-Bogra-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020. (WP-04)	05-January 2020; 17:00:00 06-January 2020; 12:00:00
Tender ID: 394644, Package No.: 09/e-GP /Dev/SE/DRC/2019-2020 Publishing 05 December 2019	Construction of Dedicated Service lane, Bus Bay, Footover Bridge, New Jersey Barrier, Surfacing on existing pavement, at (Ch. 29+650m to 30+340m) Joypura Bus Stand of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Natakhola-Kashinathpur-Bogra-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020. (WP-03)	05-January 2020; 17:00:00 06-January 2020; 12:15:00
Tender ID 394647, Package No.: 14/e-GP /Dev/SE/DRC/2019-2020 Publishing 05 December 2019	Construction of Service lane, Bus Bay, Footover Bridge, Footpath, New Jersey Barrier, Construction of Drain, Protective work and Surfacing on existing pavement at Baniajuri & Pukhuria of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Natakhola-Kashinathpur-Bogra-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) Road under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020. (WP-08)	05-January 2020; 17:00:00 06-January 2020; 12:30:00
Tender ID: 395617, Package No.: 12/e-GP/Dev /SE/DRC/2019-2020 Publishing 05 December 2019	Construction of Dedicated Service lane, Bus-Bay, Footover Bridge, New Jersey Barrier, surfacing of existing pavement, U-Loop from Barobaria -Gloria (Ch. 41+900m to 42+320m & 45+300m to 45+700m) of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Paturia National Highway (N-5) under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020. (WP-06)	05-January 2020; 17:00:00 06-January 2020; 12:40:00
Tender ID: 395622, Package No.: 15/e-GP/Dev /SE/DRC/2019-2020 Publishing 05 December 2019	Construction of Dedicated Service lane, Bus Bay, Footover Bridge, Footpath New Jersey Barrier, Baily Bridge, Construction of drain, Protective work and Surfacing on existing pavement at Mohadebpur & Barangail of Dhaka (Mirpur)-Utholi-Natakhola-Kashinathpur-Bogra-Rangpur-Beldanga-Banglabandha (N-5) under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2019-2020. (WP-09)	05-January 2020; 17:00:00 06-January 2020; 12:50:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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