



Arshad Huq, second from left, managing director and CEO of Transcom Electronics, poses at the launch of products of American brand Stanley Black & Decker at the Transcom Digital outlet in Dhaka's Gulshan 1 yesterday.

Samsung unveils foldable phone, Galaxy S20 to fend off Apple, Huawei

REUTERS, San Francisco/Seoul

Samsung Electronics on Tuesday unveiled a foldable smartphone shaped like a large makeup compact and put 5G mobile network capabilities into all of its other flagship devices as it strives to retain the mantle of biggest global phone company.

Samsung's second attempt at a folding phone after a delayed rollout last year comes as the South Korean firm fends off its traditional rival in the premium smartphone market, Apple Inc., along with ascendant Chinese makers such as Huawei that have eaten into its sales in China and

Europe. Huawei has only released its own folding phones in China, and Apple has yet to release a 5G iPhone of any kind.

Some analysts said sales of Samsung's new flagship series, the Galaxy S20 - which feature as many as four powerful cameras - will be slightly less than those of its predecessor, expecting foldable phones could eat into some of its sales.

Shares of Samsung, which generated 34 per cent of its profit last year from the mobile business and half from its chip business, rose 0.2 per cent in a flat wider market.

The Galaxy Z Flip, with folding glass, starts as a large square when

closed and expands to look like most smartphones. It will start at \$1,380 and be available from Friday in purple, gold and black, executives said in San Francisco.

Last year's Galaxy Fold, a larger unit that folds like a book and was panned for its construction, had a plastic screen and was priced at nearly \$2,000.

Carriers are betting on 5G handsets to revive demand, as people keep their phones for as long as three to four years with the global smartphone market maturing, said Cristiano Amon, president of Qualcomm Inc, which supplied the chips for many of the Samsung devices.

'Everyone is guessing' about coronavirus economic impacts: experts

REUTERS, Boston

The coronavirus that spread from a seafood market in Wuhan, China to infect tens of thousands has shuttered businesses, grounded flights and killed over 1,000 people so far, mostly in China.

As the world's second-largest economy struggles to get back to work after an extended Lunar New Year holiday, analysts and bankers have been revisiting their estimates of the economic impact of the virus.

Most believe China faces a short but sharper economic shock than originally thought, one that will be felt around the world. Expectations of how harsh the impact will be vary widely, however. Health professionals and economists say opaque Chinese data and lack of precedent hinder clear estimates.

China's gross domestic product growth in the first quarter could fall to as low as 4%, Nicholas

R. Lardy, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, estimated on Tuesday. That compares to Chinese government estimates of 6% annual growth before the virus emerged.

However, if the number of confirmed new coronavirus cases continues to decline, then adverse effect on annual growth will be much smaller, he added. Analysts from S&P, meanwhile, estimated Tuesday that the virus could lower China's GDP growth to 5 per cent this year, with a peak effect in the first quarter before a rebound begins in the third quarter.

"The numbers are very imperfect, and that's the basic reason behind the wide range of estimates," said Lardy. "Everyone is guessing." Many economists and analysts are looking closely at the historical precedent from the SARS virus spread in 2003. But when SARS struck, China's contribution to global GDP was just 4 per cent, compared with 15 per cent in 2017, and Chinese companies were much less integrated

into global supply chains.

Any forecasts are also complicated by the fact that Beijing has a history of closely managing China's economy to hit specific targets, and there were already doubts whether China's economy could reach 6 per cent growth this year.

Further, much remains unknown about the coronavirus, including its exact incubation period and the effectiveness of China's quarantine measures, Catherine Troisi, a University of Texas public health specialist, said Tuesday during a National Association for Business Economics call on the virus's economic impact.

The authoritarian nature of China's government could also hinder the response by making officials afraid to report problems, she said, adding the latest update of around 43,000 infections is likely an undercount.

"It's a culture that shoots the messenger. Because of the bureaucracy, local officials are afraid to say anything," she said.

Headwinds from the virus could knock 40 to 50 basis points off expected U.S. economic growth of up to 2.4 per cent per quarter for 2020, said Constance Hunter, KPMG Chief Economist and president of NABE, also speaking during the call.

Hunter, however, cautioned that could change if infection and death rates spike up. The virus could shave a percentage point off China's revised growth rate of 5 per cent for the first half of the year, she said.

Jay Bryson, acting Chief Economist for Wells Fargo & Co, said on the call that while some U.S. industries including air travel and electronics could be affected by a Chinese economic slowdown stemming from the epidemic, trade with China still accounts for a small part of the overall economy.

"We wouldn't say this is going to bring the U.S. economy to its knees," he said. "Americans are pretty resilient when it comes to consumer spending," especially on services. Supply chain disruptions "would have to occur for a while to have a meaningful impact," he said. It is unclear whether the coronavirus will prove more or less deadly than other similar outbreaks, Troisi added. "I'm not a fortune teller," she said.



Workers wearing face masks rope a container ship at a port in Qingdao, Shandong province, China.



BANGLALINK

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Banglalink CEO Erik Aas pose with the top seven participating digital startups selected for the third cohort of the Banglalink IT Incubator—a joint initiative of the ICT ministry, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority and Banglalink to promote innovative ventures—at an event in the capital on Tuesday.

BMW aims to slash CO2 output by 20pc in 2020

AFP, Frankfurt Main

German high-end carmaker BMW aims to slash the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted by its cars sold in Europe this year by 20 percent, its chief executive said Wednesday.

The pledge comes as new European Union regulations bite this year, requiring carmakers to sharply reduce fleet-wide emissions on pain of massive fines. "We will achieve an improvement of 20 percent in Europe this year alone" compared with 2019, CEO Oliver Zipse said during a speech in western German city Bochum.

Manufacturers and experts agree that sales of battery-electric and hybrid cars must rise massively if companies are to squeeze CO2 output below the threshold of 95 grammes per kilometre on average.

In 2018, new BMWs sold averaged 128 grammes per kilometre.

The firm only forecast a "slight decrease"

last year and has not yet published final figures for 2019.

Slightly more generous limits for heavier cars could work in favour of the carmaker, which tends to offer larger vehicles.

Ola Kallenius, chief executive of Mercedes-Benz parent Daimler, said Tuesday the group's adjusted per-kilometre CO2 target was slightly "north of 100 grammes".

But the longtime BMW rival is "not guaranteed" to meet even that laxer limit this year or next, he added.

By contrast, Zipse said "it's clear for the BMW group that we will achieve our goals." One-third of the carbon reductions would come from less-polluting combustion engines, and two-thirds from electric-powered vehicles, he added.

Zipse, who took over BMW from Harald Krueger in July, aims to lift EU electric and hybrid sales from 8.6 percent in 2019 to 25 percent next year, one-third in 2025 and 50 percent in 2030.

Intel, Facebook drop out of key mobile fair over virus fears

AFP, Madrid

US chip giant Intel, Facebook, Chinese phonemaker Vivo and Cisco all withdrew from the Mobile World Congress over coronavirus fears Tuesday, joining other industry heavyweights pulling out of the world's top mobile fair.

The annual Barcelona-based congress normally draws more than 100,000 people, but this year, participation has been hit by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, which has claimed more than 1,000 lives since first emerging in China.

Over the past week, a string of major tech names have dropped out, among them Sony, Sweden's Ericsson, South Korean giant LG and Japan's NTT DoCoMo, raising questions about whether the event would be cancelled.

"The safety and wellbeing of all our employees and partners is our top priority, and we have withdrawn from this year's Mobile World Congress," said an Intel statement sent to AFP.

Facebook, which operates Instagram and WhatsApp, said in a statement that it was pulling out of the Barcelona event because

of public health risks related to the virus. Vivo, which is one of the world's top five smartphone manufacturers, also confirmed it would not participate in the show, a key date in the tech calendar where firms unveil their latest gadgets and innovations.

"In light of the current situation, we have taken the decision not to attend MWC 2020 or any other associated event in Barcelona at the same time" it said, pledging to postpone the presentation of its latest mobile offering.

"The health and security of our employees and the wider public are a priority for us," it said. Vivo is the second Chinese firm to withdraw from the show after Umidigi, a smaller handset maker, pulled out on Monday.

US tech company CISCO had taken the "difficult decision to withdraw" from the event due to concerns over the virus, the company said in a statement on Twitter.

For now, China's top smartphone manufacture Huawei as well as its smaller rival ZTE are still set to attend and have said their executives and staff would undergo a self-imposed two-week quarantine period before appearing at the show.



Abdul Matlub Ahmad, third from right, chairman of Hero MotoCorp Bangladesh Ltd and Nitul Niloy Group, poses at the launch of new Hero branded motorcycle—Spendor—at Dhaka Regency Hotel and Resort in the capital on February 11. The 100cc motorbike will be available in candy red and black with silver colours at a price of Tk 96,990.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NOAKHALI ZONE, NOAKHALI

"শিক্ষা নিয়ে গড়ব দেশ
শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ"

Invitation for e-Tender (IFT) (Re-Tender 2nd Call)

Tender Notice No: 45/e-GP/EED/NZ/non-govt./hs/2019-2020. Dt: 11/02/2020.

e-Tender are hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works.

SL No	Package No	Tender ID No	Name of works	Reference memo No	Tender Document Last Selling/ Downloading (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01	nz/non-govt/construction/hs/18-19/9	342228	Construction of 5 -storied academic building with 5-storied foundation Ground Floor Open including sanitary water supply and Internal electrification works at Hazi Rahim Ullah High School Sonagazi Feni. (Coastal)	37.07.0000.017.19.430.15,dt-04/11/2018	02-03-2020 16:00	03-03-2020 11:00
02	nz/non-govt/construction/hs/18-19/5	423653	Construction of 5 -storied academic building with 5-storied foundation Ground Floor Open including sanitary water supply and Internal electrification works at Chorking Girls High School, Hatiya, Noakhali. (Coastal).	37.07.0000.017.19.430.15,dt-04/11/2018	02-03-2020 16:00	03-03-2020 11:00
03	nz/non-govt/construction/hs/18-19/1	423655	Construction of 5 -storied academic building with 5-storied foundation Ground Floor Open including sanitary water supply and Internal electrification works at Oshkhali S.T Girls High School,Hatiya, Noakhali (Coastal).	37.07.0000.017.19.430.15,dt-04/11/2018	02-03-2020 16:00	03-03-2020 11:00
04	nz/eed/ngss/2018-2019/08	423656	Construction of 5 -storied academic building with 5-storied foundation Ground Floor Open including sanitary water supply and Internal electrification works at Char Sahavikhari High School under Sonagazi upazila in Feni District. Category-4	37.07.0000.017.19.430.15.1465 Date: 19.06.2019	02-03-2020 16:00	03-03-2020 11:00

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 System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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