

# Euro zone economic recovery flounders in September as services struggle

REUTERS, London

The euro zone's economic recovery faltered in September as the reimposition of some restrictions on activity to halt a resurgence in the coronavirus sent the bloc's dominant service sector into reverse, a survey showed.

Rising infection rates in the region, something a Reuters poll said last month was the biggest threat to the recovery, will concern policymakers who had hoped the bloc's economy was healing after contracting an historic 11.8% in the second quarter.

To support the economy, the European Central Bank plans to make 1.35 trillion euros of pandemic-related additional asset purchases and the European Union has announced a 750 billion euro recovery fund due to kick in next year.

But that didn't stop IHS Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good barometer of economic health, falling to 50.4 in September from August's 51.9, close to the 50 mark separating growth from contraction.

It was dragged down by the PMI for services industries, which accounts for around two thirds of GDP, which slumped to 48.0 from August's 50.5, albeit slightly better than a preliminary 47.6 estimate.

"With the euro zone economy having almost stalled in September,



REUTERS/FILE

**Employees of German car manufacturer Porsche install the windshield of a Porsche 911 at the Porsche factory in Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, Germany.**

the chances of a renewed downturn in the fourth quarter have clearly risen," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

"Much will depend on whether second waves of virus infections can be controlled, and whether social distancing restrictions can therefore be loosened to allow service sector activity to pick up again."

Suggesting any pick up may take

some time, demand for services fell in September and firms cut headcount for a seventh month. The new business index fell to 48.1 from 49.8.

Still, optimism about the coming year improved to levels not seen since before Europe felt the full brunt of the pandemic.

The composite future output index rose to 60.5 from 57.8, its highest since February.

# Britain open to Aussie-style EU trade deal but Australia wants more

REUTERS, Sydney

As Britain's negotiations with the European Union on a post-Brexit trade deal go down to the wire, Prime Minister Boris Johnson says his country could trade with the bloc on similar terms to Australia, if no agreement is reached.

But Australia itself is far from happy with its arrangements with the EU and is pushing for the better market access that only a fully-fledged trade deal with the wealthy 27-member bloc and its 500 million potential customers would bring.

Now, the bulk of Australia's 15

been gradually whittled down as disagreements between the two have emerged in often prickly negotiations following Britain's exit from the EU on Jan. 31.

Attempts by former Prime Minister Theresa May in 2017 to secure a "bespoke" deal with the EU were given short shrift in Brussels. Her successor Johnson acknowledges any deal would have to be based on precedents and has cited the EU's tariff-cutting 2014 agreement with Canada as a possible model.

As talks stalled this year, Johnson said Britain could also live with an Australian-style arrangement.

rules and our fishing waters, as well as the freedom to strike free trade agreements with other countries around the world."

In Australia's case, the lack of an EU trade deal means falling back on WTO terms that impose a variety of restrictions.

Its farmers, for example, can export meat to the EU at reduced tariffs with two tranches, one for "high quality" and one for "grain-fed" beef.

The former is a fixed quantity with a 20 per cent tariff and the latter is tariff-free, but it is shared with other countries on a first-come first-served basis. What's more, Australia's share of the grain-fed quota is set to be squeezed as the EU has yielded to U.S. demands that its farmers take 35,000 of the 45,000-tonne allotment.

McDonald said the quotas have restricted the amount of beef his company can sell to Europe, which in turn has forced him to cut his exposure to the EU market.

"You can't go through all the processes and the six, seven months of lead time in terms of preparing product to face significant losses on it," he said. It was concerns like those that prompted Australia to launch negotiations with the EU in 2018 to try to secure what it called an "ambitious and comprehensive" free trade deal.

Canberra wants to get rid of all EU tariffs on industrial goods, which currently include a 12 per cent duty on minerals and metals, 10 per cent on wood and paper, and 7 per cent on chemicals.



REUTERS/FILE

**A ship is loaded with containers at Sydney's Port Botany container terminal, Australia.**

billion euros (\$18 billion) exports to the EU are subject to tariffs and quotas set under basic World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms.

That's why Australian exporters are backing Canberra's moves to strike a new free trade agreement (FTA) with Brussels so they can get the certainty they need to invest and plan.

"If they're emulating our current access to Europe, it is a fairly fractured and limited access, so it's an interesting one they'd like to copy," Andrew McDonald, director of NH Foods Australia, a Japanese-owned beef producer based in Sydney with three processing facilities in eastern Australia, told Reuters.

Britain's aspirations for its future trading relationship with the EU have

Given that Australia does not have a free-trade agreement with the EU, domestic critics say the phrase is simply a euphemism for a no-deal.

On Sept. 7, Johnson repeated the view that an Australian-style EU deal would be a "good outcome" for Britain and this has become the government line.

"A negotiated outcome remains our clear preference. However, whether we trade with the EU on terms similar to Canada or Australia, we will be reclaiming our independence as a sovereign nation at the end of the transition period, which is what the British people voted for," a government spokesman said.

"An Australia-style deal would give us full control over our laws, our

It is seeking to do the same for agricultural exports such as beef, sheep meat, sugar, cheese and rice, which Canberra says are significantly constrained by EU quotas. It recognises, however, that negotiations will be difficult for farm produce.

Australia's foreign and trade ministry cites other advantages of a deal such as less red tape and alignment with EU's high standards on sustainable development.

The stakes for Australia in securing favourable terms with the EU are arguably lower than they are for Britain. The 27 members that now make up the EU accounted for 672 billion sterling (\$870 billion) in two-way trade with Britain last year, making the bloc by far its largest trading partner.

# London transport regulator strips Ola's operating licence over public safety failings

REUTERS

London's public transport authority stripped Indian ride-hailing company Ola of its London operating licence, saying that the taxi app was not "fit and proper" to hold one, having put passenger safety at risk.

Bengaluru-based Ola entered the London taxi market in February this year. The market is dominated by rivals including Uber, Freenow and Bolt, and traditional black cab drivers who previously blocked streets in protest at what they see as a threat to their livelihoods.

Transport for London (TfL) said in a statement that it refused to grant Ola, a Softbank-backed

operator, a new London private hire vehicle (PHV) operator's licence as it "cannot find it fit and proper to hold one after discovering a number of failures that could have risked public safety."

TfL's decision came days after Uber won a legal bid to restore its London operating licence, which was taken away over safety concerns, after a judge ruled that the company was a fit and proper operator despite "historical failings".

TfL said it had discovered a number of failures in Ola's operations, including breaches of its licensing regime, which led to unlicensed drivers and vehicles undertaking more than 1,000 passenger trips on the

platform's behalf.

Ola was also accused of failing to notify TfL of the breaches when they were first identified.

"Ola can continue to operate pending the outcome of any appeal process", TfL said, adding that Ola had 21 days to appeal against TfL's decision.

In an emailed statement, Ola said it was working with TfL during the review period and "have sought to provide assurances and address the issues raised in an open and transparent manner".

"Ola will take the opportunity to appeal this decision", the company said, adding it would continue to operate as normal.

# Netflix India releases three episodes of 'Bad Boy Billionaires' amid legal tussle

REUTERS, Mumbai

Netflix has partially released its much-awaited series on four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations after a state court lifted an injunction over the weekend, a lawyer representing Netflix said on Monday.

The "Bad Boy Billionaires: India" documentary series about liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, Subrata Roy of the Sahara group, IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweller Nirav Modi was set for release last month.

Netflix, the world's largest streaming service, suspended the show's release after an order from the Araria district court in Bihar where the Sahara group argued it would damage Roy's reputation.

Late on Saturday, the court lifted the injunction, said Amit Shrivastava, a lawyer for Netflix. He declined to comment further and it was not immediately clear why the court overturned its previous order. The official order is yet to be released.

Netflix did not respond to a request for comment.

A spokesman for Sahara also did not respond. Roy is currently on bail, having been ordered by a court to repay billions of dollars to investors in a scheme which was found to be illegal. Roy denied wrongdoing in the case and his counsel has said he already has repaid investors.


Some Netflix shows in India have faced court challenges and police complaints for obscenity or for

hurting religious sentiments.


The ongoing legal spat is among the most high-profile ones Netflix has faced in India, one of its key growth markets. The streaming company had argued that halting the show's release "freezes free speech" and hurts the company financially, Reuters has reported.

On Monday, Netflix made three of the four episodes in the series available on its app for viewers in India. The episode focusing on Raju was unavailable.

Raju, who was accused of a \$1 billion accounting fraud more than a decade ago, has obtained a separate injunction on its telecast from a court in south India. The case would be heard later on Monday, A Venkatesh, a lawyer for Raju, told Reuters.



**Gazipur City Corporation**  
Nagar Bhaban, Gazipur-1700  
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.19.0000.019.07.006.20-624

**Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Works)**  
**e-Tender Notice No. 01 (DPP-RD&F)/2020-2021**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, tender is given below.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives/Local Government Division.			
2	Agency	Gazipur City Corporation.			
3	Procuring entity name	Mayor, Gazipur City Corporation.			
4	Procuring nature	Works.			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>					
5	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM) (e-GP).			
6	Source of funds	GOB.			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>					
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB.			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>					
8	Project name	"Construction of Internal Road, Drain & Footpath from Zone 01 to 05 of Gazipur City Corporation."			
9	Tender Package No.	Zone-1/PW-09, Zone-1/PW-10, Zone-2/PW-10, Zone-2/PW-14, Zone-3/PW-08			
10	Schedule tender publication date & time	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>		
11	Tender documents last selling date & time	04.10.2020	18.00		
12	Tender closing date & time	02.11.2020	17:00		
13	Tender opening date & time	03.11.2020	14:00		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>					
14	Brief description of works:				
Sub-Package No.	Tender ID No.	Identification of works	Tender security (amount in Tk)	Price of tender document (Tk)	Completion time (days)
Zone-1/PW-09	500774	1. D-5101 Construction of RCC drain beside from Shataish Road to Khapara Road via Babul Baykare. 2. R-5102 Improvement of the road from Shataish Road to Shataish Loshkor Para by RCC. 3. D-5103 Construction of RCC drain beside from Shataish Road to South Khartul Graveyard. 4. R-5104 Improvement of the road from Shataish Road to Shamsu Garments by RCC. 5. D-5105 Construction of RCC drain beside from Shataish Road to Shamsu Garments. 6. R-5106 Improvement of the road from Shataish Road to Chandora connecting road via Hindu Para Shukhi Nagar by RCC. 7. D-5107 Construction of RCC drain beside from Shataish Road to Chandora connecting road via Hindu Para Shukhi Nagar.	34,00,000.00	4000.00	180
Zone-1/PW-10	500796	(1) (1). R-5201 Improvement of Mudafa Master Bari Road by RCC. (2). D-5202 Construction of RCC drain beside Mudafa Master Bari Road from Mudafa Madrasa to Nojor Ali House. (3). R-5203 Improvement of Darail main road by RCC from Sing Bari Road to Gusulia last portion. (4). D-5204 Construction of RCC drain beside Darail main road from Sing Bari Road to Darail bridge. (5). R-5205 Improvement of the Gutia Road by BC. (6). R-5206 Improvement of the Vadam Dewan Ali Bari Road by RCC. (7). D-5207 Construction of RCC drain beside Vadam Dewan Ali Bari Road. (8). R-5208 Improvement of the Bakral Main Road by RCC. (9). D-5209 Construction of RCC drain beside Mudafa Vadam Road to Bagbari last portion.	36,00,000.00	4000.00	180
Zone-2/PW-10	500913	ID No. R-4101 Construction of BC Road from Mirar Bazar Turag Pump to Baroibari Shorai Baibari Badhun Dargapara and Fatherer Tak to Lisser Tak and Baibari to Hutadangi Bridge. D-4101 Construction of RCC Drain from Mirar Bazar Turag Pump to Noipara Badhun. ID No. R-4102 Construction of BC Road from Tongi-Kaligonj Road to Solaiman Sarker House via Pubail College Market & Anwar Master House. ID No. R-4103 Construction of HBB Road from Khilgaon Abdul Sarker House to Pubertek Nurul Islam House via Mohammad Driver House at east side of Kamaria Shamol House.	48,00,000.00	4000.00	180
Zone-2/PW-14	500914	ID No. R-3803 Construction of BC Road from South Khaikur Joy-Bangla Road Bahar Market to Moiran Road vai Hindu Bari Mor. ID No. D-3803 Construction of RCC drain from South Khaikur Joy-Bangla Road Bahar Market to Moiran Road vai Hindu Bari Mor. ID No. R-3804 Construction of BC Road from South Khaikur Joy-Bangla Road to Shohid Siddik Road Hannan Fency via Mannaf School & Badsha Mia School Road and Bakul Member Road. ID No. D-3804 Construction of RCC drain from South Khaikur Joy-Bangla Road to Shohid Siddik Road Hannan Fency via Mannaf School & Badsha Mia School Road and Bakul Member Road.	54,00,000.00	4000.00	180
Zone-3/PW-08	500915	1. R-40031 Repairing & Widening of road start from Bhararul Battala to west direction via Mawlana Abu Taher Siddique Sarok to bypass road. 2. R-41031 Repairing & Widening of road start from Bhararul Chowrasta to Dirasram Bazar. 3. R-43031 Construction of RCC drain start from Dhirasram west bazar to the bridge of Ayet Ali Member House. 4. R-45031 Improvement of road by WBM BC start from Dhirasram Bazar to north direction via Mawlana Abu Taher Siddique Sarok to Chaitonopur Road & Tarotpara BC Road. 5. R-46031 Improvement of road by WBM BC start from Koler Bazar Road to Dhakhin Khan Primary School Road. 6. R-44031 Improvement of road by WBM BC start from Dhirasram-Chowrasta BC road via House of Ziabo to House Ali Hazi.	50,00,000.00	4000.00	180
15	Tender validity period				90 days
Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.					
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 ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches until <b>17:00, 02 November 2020</b> . Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).					
<b>Md. Mozibur Rahman</b> Project Director Construction of Internal Road, Drain & Footpath from Zone 01 to 05 of GCC (Road, Drain & Footpath) & Superintending Engineer Gazipur City Corporation, Gazipur					
GD-1584					