

# Focus turns to The Economist after FT sale



A man reads Japan's business daily newspaper, the Nikkei or Nihon Keizai Shimbun, in Tokyo.

REUTERS, London

The Economist Group could become the latest British media business to undergo a change of ownership this year as its co-owner Pearson focuses on education, bankers and industry sources said.

The company, whose weekly magazine was first published in 1843, is partly held by Pearson via the Financial Times, which is now in the process of being sold to Japan's Nikkei.

But Pearson has retained control of its 50 percent stake in The Economist Group despite pledges to exit the news industry and fully focus on education.

The remaining 50 percent of the Economist Group is controlled by a series of wealthy families and The Economist's staff and former staff.

The Cadbury family in Britain is among the individual owners of the media group and controls A shares, which have greater voting rights

than Pearson, which holds B shares.

Other individual owners include the Rothschild, Schroder and Agnelli families, who also own A shares.

Any change of control would require an overall consensus among the A shareholders, Bernstein analyst Claudio Aspeli told Reuters on Friday.

The families are unlikely to back any plans by Pearson to sell its 50 percent stake to third parties as they see The Economist as a core asset, several industry bankers said.

In fact the A shareholders may try to buy out Pearson in order to strengthen their grip on the business, they said.

To finance the deal, which could be worth more than 300 million pounds (\$465.15 million), some individual shareholders may need to raise cash, the bankers said.

Pearson and The Economist declined to comment.

The Cadbury, Rothschild, Schroder and

Agnelli families were not immediately available for comment.

Aspeli estimated a 50 percent stake in The Economist Group to be worth between 300 and 400 million pounds, based on a multiple of 15 times its net income of 46 million pounds.

The Economist Group is more profitable than the Financial Times and reported 67 million pounds in annual (adjusted) operating profit in June. That is almost three times more than the Financial Times, which made 24 million pounds in adjusted operating profit in 2014.

Revenues of the two media firms also came close, with The Economist generating 328 million pounds against a slightly higher figure reported by the Financial Times, which had 334 million pounds of sales last year.

It is unlikely that any offer to buy out Pearson would reflect the same rich multiple that Nikkei agreed to pay Pearson for the Financial Times on Thursday.

The Japanese media group will spend 844 million pounds (\$1.31 billion) to buy one of the world's premier business newspapers, valuing it at 35 times its operating profit.

Aspeli pointed to Nikkei's competition with German media group Axel Springer to win control of the trophy asset as a critical factor which pushed up the final price.

Beside The Economist itself, the group operates several subsidiaries including The Economist Intelligence Unit, Economist Events and Economist Corporate Network.

Pearson Chief Executive John Fallon said on Thursday that The Economist is "not a company in which Pearson has management control," just like Penguin Random House, a joint venture between Pearson and Bertelsmann.

"We participate through the board and as shareholders, but we are not directly leading the day-to-day management of the company," he added.

"In terms of the businesses that we actively manage and lead on a daily basis, everything in that category will now be 100 percent related to education," Fallon stressed.



Md Abdus Salam, chief executive officer of Janata Bank, speaks during the inaugural of a two-day course on bank management for 25 of the bank's executives yesterday. Sayeeda Sultana, principal of Janata Bank Staff College, was also present.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore  
Tel No. 0421-68961 Fax: 68960  
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Memo No. 109

### Invitation for Tenders (IFT) (Open Tendering Method)

|                                 |   |                           |   |  |                              |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1.                              | Ministry/Division   | :                         | Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs.   |  |                              |
| 2.                              | Agency  | :                         | Public Works Department (PWD.)  |  |                              |
| 3.                              | Procuring entity name   | :                         | Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore.   |  |                              |
| 4.                              | Procuring entity code   | :                         | N/A.  |  |                              |
| 5.                              | Procuring entity district   | :                         | Jessore.  |  |                              |
| 6.                              | Invitation for  | :                         | Works.  |  |                              |
| 7.                              | Invitation Ref. No.   | :                         | Project Director, Construction of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building (1st Phase) in the 64-District Headquarter Memo No. পি/জে/বি/১০৭/১৪-০২/০১৫তি।  |  |                              |
| 8.                              | Date of publication   | :                         | 26/07/2015.   |  |                              |
| <b>KEY INFORMATION</b>          |   |                           |   |  |                              |
| 9.                              | Procurement method  | :                         | National Competitive Tendering: Open Tendering Method (OTM).  |  |                              |
| <b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>      |   |                           |   |  |                              |
| 10.                             | Budget & source of funds  | :                         | Government of Bangladesh (GOB).   |  |                              |
| 11.                             | Development partners  | :                         | N/A.  |  |                              |
| <b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>   |   |                           |   |  |                              |
| 12.                             | Project/programme code  | :                         |   |  |                              |
| 13.                             | Project/programme name  | :                         | Construction of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building of 64-District Headquarter in Bangladesh (1st Phase) under the scheme one at Kushtia (Remaining Works).  |  |                              |
| 14.                             | Tender package No   | :                         | 01 (one) of 2015-2016.  |  |                              |
| 15.                             | Tender package name   | :                         | Construction of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building of 64-District Headquarter in Bangladesh (1st Phase) under the scheme one at Kushtia (Remaining Works) (SH: Civil, Sanitary, RCC Road, Boundary Wall & Electrical Works).  |  |                              |
| 16.                             | Tender last selling date & time   | :                         | 07/09/2015 during office hours.   |  |                              |
| 17.                             | Tender submission last date & time  | :                         | 08/09/2015 up to 12:00 noon.  |  |                              |
| 18.                             | Tender opening date & time  | :                         | 08/09/2015 at 3:00pm.<br>Intending tenderers or their authorised representatives may remain present during opening of tenders.  |  |                              |
| 19.                             | Name & address of the offices   | :                         |   |  |                              |
|                                 | i) Selling tender document (principal)  | :                         | Office of the Executive Engineer, Kushtia PWD Division, Kushtia.  |  |                              |
|                                 | ii) Selling tender document (others)  | :                         | Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Khulna/All Executive Engineer's Office, under Khulna PWD Zone, Khulna/Dhaka PWD Division-1, Dhaka/Chittagong PWD Division-1, Chittagong/Rajshahi PWD Division-1, Rajshahi/Barisal PWD Division, Barisal/Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet & Rangpur PWD Division, Rangpur. |  |                              |
| 20.                             | Name & address of the offices for receiving tender document   | :                         | i. Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore.<br>ii. Office of the Executive Engineer, Kushtia PWD Division, Kushtia.<br>iii. Office of the Superintendent of Police, Jessore.<br>iv. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore.  |  |                              |
| 21.                             | Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting   | :                         | Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore. 17/08/2015 at 11:00am.  |  |                              |
| 22.                             | Name & address of the offices for opening tender document   | :                         | Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore.   |  |                              |
| <b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b> |   |                           |   |  |                              |
| 23.                             | Eligibility of tenderers  | :                         | This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers as mentioned below:  |  |                              |
| (a)                             | Reputed contractors/construction firms/JVCA who have minimum 10 (ten) years of general experience in construction works.  |                           |   |  |                              |
| (b)                             | Having minimum specific experience in successful completion of at least one (1) number of five (5)-storied building construction works with RCC pre-cast pile foundation of minimum value Tk 10.00 (ten) crore in a single work order in government/semi-government/autonomous organisation during the last five (5) years.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| (c)                             | The tenderer shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk 18.00 (eighteen) crore.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| (d)                             | The minimum amount of free fund (liquid asset) or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk 3.00 (three) crore. Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender. Original certificate of liquid asset must be enclosed along with the tender in the form of letter of commitment for bank's undertaking for line of credit for this purpose shall be submitted as per form PW3-7 of tender and contract forms, otherwise the tender shall be summarily rejected. |                           |   |  |                              |
| (e)                             | Private/self work will not be entertained for the work experience or any purpose.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| (f)                             | The tenderer must possess & enclose:  |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (i) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate.  |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (ii) Valid VAT registration certificate.  |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (iii) Up-to-date trade licence.   |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (iv) Up-to-date ABC category contractor and supervisory licence from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh (Applicable for either tenderers or its JV partner).   |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (v) Attested copy of documents mentioned in Sl. No. i, ii, iii & iv are to be submitted.  |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | (vi) Original money receipt must be enclosed with the tender.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| (g)                             | Other required eligibility and conditions are shown in tender data sheet of tender documents.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| 24.                             | Brief description of works  | :                         | Pre-cast pile foundation, earth work, CC work, RCC work, MS work, brick work, plastering, painting, mosaic work, tiles work, wood work, aluminium & glass works road, boundary wall, sanitary and electrical works.   |  |                              |
| 25.                             | Price of tender document  | :                         | Tk 3,000.00 (three thousand) only.  |  |                              |
| 26.                             | List of works   | :                         |   |  |                              |
|                                 | Package No.   | Identification of package | Location  | Tender security in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee (in form PW3-6) | Time for completion of works |
| i)                              | Construction of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Building of 64-District Headquarter in Bangladesh (1st Phase) under the scheme one at Kushtia (Remaining Works) (SH: Civil, Sanitary, RCC Road, Boundary Wall & Electrical Works)   | Kushtia                   | Tk 45.00 (forty-five) lac   | 18 (eighteen) months   |                              |
| 27.                             | Name of office inviting tender  | :                         | Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore.   |  |                              |
| 28.                             | Name, designation, address & contact details of official inviting tender  | :                         | A.K.M. Golam Kabir, Superintending Engineer, Jessore PWD Circle, Jessore. Telephone No. 0421-68961, Fax No. 0421-68960.   |  |                              |
| 29.                             | Special instruction   | :                         |   |  |                              |
| a)                              | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| b)                              | If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, action shall be taken under rules.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| c)                              | In addition to the original tender, 2 (two) duplicate copies shall be submitted.  |                           |   |  |                              |
| d)                              | The tender notice will be available in PWD & CPTU website respectively.   |                           |   |  |                              |
| e)                              | Tender modification/discount are as below:  |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | i) The modification of the tender price must be on item wise unit price by figure and in words but not on percentage basis.   |                           |   |  |                              |
|                                 | ii) If the modification of the tender is made on percentage basis either on unit rate or on overall quoted rate, the modification will not be accepted.   |                           |   |  |                              |

## Amazon rallies as investors celebrate profits

AFP, New York

Amazon shares shot to record levels Friday after a blowout earnings report seen as a potential watershed for the US online giant.

Amazon leapt as much as 17 percent, before closing with a 9.8 percent gain at \$529.42 a day after reporting a surprise profit, which fueled hopes that the company's strategy of big investments is finally paying off.

"After questioning the investment rationale for years, Amazon is seeing the fruits of its labors in both revenue growth and operating margin," said Deutsche Bank analyst Ross Sandler in a note to clients.

"Few mega-cap consumer Internet companies can sustainably demonstrate accelerating revenue and margin expansion at the same time, and when it happens, it's a magical trend that rightfully gets rewarded."

Amazon's shares have doubled since hitting lows last October on pessimism over its profit outlook, and Friday's surge put its market capitalization at nearly \$250 billion, overtaking the brick-and-mortar retail leader Wal-Mart.

The US e-commerce giant, which is also a major player in online video and cloud computing, on Thursday reported a net profit of \$92 million while revenues jumped 20 percent from a year ago to \$23.18 billion.

The company founded by Jeff Bezos 20 years ago has been known for investing in long-term projects with little concern for short-term profits, but some of those investments now appear to be paying off.

## India's Reliance Q1 profits up despite oil price slump

AFP, Mumbai

India's Reliance Industries announced better-than-expected profits Friday as income from core operations of refining and petrochemicals offset the impact from the slump in global oil prices.

The Mumbai-based firm owned by Mukesh Ambani, India's wealthiest man, said in a statement that standalone profit in the three months until June 30 rose 11.8 percent to \$6.18 billion rupees (\$987.19 million) from \$5.49 billion rupees a year ago.

This outpaced the profit estimate of \$6.25 billion rupees predicted by sixteen analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Reliance chairman, Mukesh Ambani, said the firm's "integrated hydrocarbon chain activities" helped it perform well despite crashing global prices. Ambani added that "the sharp increase in demand for transportation fuels helped us realise strong refining margins."

The firm's gross refining margin -- earning from each barrel of crude -- jumped 19.5 percent to \$10.40 in the June quarter from \$8.70 per barrel a year ago.

Strong margins helped Reliance offset impact of the 44.9 percent fall in its export earnings to \$367.17 billion rupees and the 28.1 percent fall in its revenue to \$714.12 billion rupees.

Although Reliance derives most of its earnings from its massive energy operations, it is trying to diversify and owns a supermarket chain and a telecommunications company.

Reliance Jio Infocomm has already seen billions of dollars being poured in by its parent for purchasing wireless spectrum and other infrastructure and was expected to start India's first 4G mobile services by end of this year.

| দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৩/২০১৫-১৬   |  |  |  |  |
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| ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন আওতাধীন নিম্নোক্ত কাজের জন্য PG-3 ফরমে সীলনোক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। |  |  |  |  |
| তাত্ত্ব ও ক্রয় বিভাগ<br>www.dncc.govt.bd  |  |  |  |  |
| আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন<br>আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন   |  |  |  |  |
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| ০১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ   |  |  |  |  |
| ০২ সংস্থা  |  |  |  |  |
| ০৩ দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী   |  |  |  |  |