



Abul Khair, managing director of Mango Digital Ltd; Muammer Husain Khan, a director; Owhab Khan, CEO, and Toufique Alam, general manager of marketing, attend the launch of a range of handsets of Mango Mobile, a brand of the company.

EU dodges China market status question

AFP, Brussels

The EU said Wednesday it will no longer debate whether or not China's economy is market driven, but will instead focus on new measures to tackle Chinese dumping and illegal subsidies.

The controversial issue of what is known as Market Economy Status matters because it means that partners will have to treat communist-ruled China as a free market equal when it comes to settling trade disputes.

China says that when it joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001, it was promised the status by end-2016, a move opposed in the 28-nation European Union as letting Beijing off the hook over a long series of disputes ranging from steel to solar panels. The European Commission agreed the bloc would have to meet its WTO obligations regarding China's membership, but at the same time it should draw up plans to "maintain a strong trade defence system."

UK unemployment rate falls to fresh 11-year low

BBC NEWS

The UK unemployment rate has fallen to 4.9 percent, the lowest since July 2005, according to official figures.

The unemployment total fell to 1.65 million in the March-to-May period, down 54,000 from the previous quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

The figures cover the period before the UK vote to leave the European Union.

But some analysts warned the outcome of the vote meant the positive trend was unlikely to continue for much longer.

"The vote to leave the EU will almost certainly now cause some firms to put hiring decisions on hold or cut back headcounts altogether.

"Indeed, we expect the unemployment rate to begin to drift up over the coming quarters. The upshot is that these may be the best set of labour market figures for a while," said Paul Hollingsworth, UK economist at Capital Economics.

The Bank of England had a similar view in its separate monthly summary of business conditions, which was also released on Wednesday.

It said: "A majority of firms spoken with did not expect a near-term impact from the result on their investment or hiring plans.

"But around a third of contacts thought there would be some negative impact on those plans over the next twelve months."

In the March-to-May period, the number of people in work rose by 176,000, with the employment rate remaining at a record high of 74.4 percent.

Earnings, not adjusted for inflation and excluding bonuses, rose by 2.2 percent compared with last year.

There were 23.19 million people working full-time, 401,000 more than for a year earlier.

"The labour market continued to strengthen in spring 2016, with record employment and the unemployment rate at its lowest since 2005," said ONS statistician Nick Palmer.

The inactivity rate, the proportion of people of working age considered economically inactive, was the lowest since comparable records began in 1971 at 21.6 percent.

If the unemployment number does start to rise that could take the momentum out of wage growth, according to Samuel Tombs, the chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

"Rising unemployment and falling job vacancies [is likely to] ensure that wage growth does not respond fully to the looming pick-up in inflation," he said.

Thai junta offers million baht raffle to bring tax returns online

REUTERS, Bangkok

"Want to win a million baht? Go for e-payment," says Thailand's junta, offering a lucky draw as an incentive to use a new online payment scheme for business, in an effort to bring some of the massive informal economy onto the books and boost tax revenues.

As Southeast Asian economies struggle and tax income misses budget targets, Thailand's finance minister is hopeful a nationwide e-payment scheme will add tax revenue of 100 billion baht (\$2.9 billion) a year to the coffers. Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong has estimated the move will save banks and businesses a combined 75 billion baht a year though other policymakers expect it could take some time for businesses to change their habits. Cash and cheques now make up 80 percent of transactions.

A coup in May 2014 ended months of political unrest, but the generals have struggled to revive Southeast Asia's second-largest economy as exports and consumption remain weak.

To promote the scheme, the junta will next year offer consumers and merchants a monthly lucky draw of cash awards worth 7 million baht (\$200,400) for a year. Transactions made through the system will qualify for a chance to win.

Some 5.5 million baht will be for e-payment customers, with the biggest prize of one million baht and the rest for business operators that install electronic data capture (EDC) machines.

"This should make people go for e-payment quickly," Apisak said, adding the junta aimed to bring big and small businesses into the e-payment system.

Under the system, transaction information is sent to the revenue department, so the government "can see all trade flows, making tax avoidance more difficult," said Krisada Chinavicharana, head of the ministry's fiscal policy office.

Tax evasion in Thailand is a major problem for the government. Former Finance Minister Sommai Phae estimated evasion may have cost Thailand 30 percent of VAT revenue.

In the fiscal year ended in September 2015, tax revenue was about 2.3 trillion baht, down 9 percent from the budget target, with VAT at 709 billion baht. Thai tax revenue is equivalent to about 17 percent of GDP.

The junta is also urging small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to register a single accounting book by giving them tax incentives and no tax retroactive checks, which will help expand the tax base and prevent firms from avoiding taxes by keeping two books - one for tax authorities and the other for banks. From 2019, banks will have to use the same accounts companies submit to the tax authorities as the basis for lending decisions.

"We think this policy is a good step, and it will tend to decrease the informal sector," said Kiatipong Ariyapuchya, senior country economist of the World Bank for Thailand, adding Thailand's informal economy accounted for half of GDP between 1999-2007.

Thailand has about 2.7 million SMEs - some 700,000 are registered and only about 450,000 pay taxes, according to the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion.

Under the master plan, a new money-transfer system, PromptPay, will enable people to transfer money and

make e-payments using a mobile phone or national identification card linked to a bank account from October.

The scheme will later be widened to include complete electronic tax services and all government payments.

Electronic payments will be more convenient but some expressed concern about privacy. "It will be good in sense that it will prevent employees from taking money from the cash register, but it won't be good because the tax man will know everything," said Panisa Boonchaiwattana, a coffee shop manager in Bangkok, who said she would use an EDC machine.

"The idea of the government monitoring your bank account is kind of intimidating," said Raweeras Poochareon, owner of tie-dye textiles shop in Chiang Mai. "I feel like I lose my privacy. I refuse. I wouldn't win the lotto anyway."

Bank of Thailand Governor Veerathai Santiprabhob expects it may take some time before the scheme gains general acceptance as it requires a change in behavior. "I think Thai people are quite receptive to new technology. For smaller businesses, there will be a challenge," he said. "But it will take time, it won't be that one day we have this proper system, push the button and people will switch."



Customers pay by credit card at a department store in Bangkok.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-LGED/XEN/NOA/TENDER/2015/3336

Dated: 18/07/2016

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works) e-Tender Notice No-03/2016-17

Reference No: APP ID-30885

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes.

Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Scheme	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank
Tender ID-61732 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/BEG/15-16/W-202	Improvement of Rajgonj Union-Hossainpur via Rajgonj High School & Govt. Primary School road (Jamider market to Munshi Bari road) road ch: 1845-2345m (ID No: 475074221) under Begumgonj Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.
Tender ID-61735 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/BEG/15-16/W-203	Improvement of Aladinagor-Doftori Bari-Modon Bari road ch: 00-494m (ID No: 475075316) under Begumgonj Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.
Tender ID-61736 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/BEG/15-16/W-204	Improvement of Sadari Jahanbad (Nanpur-Shiraj Shop-Sadari Jahanbad) road ch: 00-846m (ID No: 475075116) under Begumgonj Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.
Tender ID-61737 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/BEG/15-16/W-205	Improvement of Aladinagor GPS (Aladinagor GPS-Bakipur) road ch: 00-440m (ID No: 475075317) under Begumgonj Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.
Tender ID-61738 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/BEG/15-16/W-206	Improvement of Rajgonj Dubai market-Sreedharpur mosque road ch: 00-435m (ID No: 475075276) under Begumgonj Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.
Tender ID-61739 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SON/15-16/W-207	Improvement of Badarpur (Shakirpur BC to Badarpur GPS) road ch: 450-920m (ID No: 475885093) under Sonaimuri Upazila, Noakhali	Up to 10-08-2016 at 4:00pm.

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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

M A Sattar

Executive Engineer

Phone: 0321-61340

E-mail: xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

Shaving start-up firm bought by Unilever

BBC NEWS

Unilever has bought US start-up Dollar Shave Club for a reported \$1bn (£764m) in cash to compete in the male grooming market.

The four-year-old e-commerce company sells disposable razors and other male grooming products directly to consumers for as little as \$1 a month. Dollar Shave Club has 3.2 million members - but has yet to make a profit.

Founder Michael Dubin, who will remain as chief executive, said he was "excited" by the deal.

His company came to global attention after he posted a humorous marketing video about shaving on YouTube. The video went viral, crashing the company's server within an hour.

It now operates in the United States, Australia and Canada.

But the company is facing legal action from rival Gillette, owned by Procter & Gamble, seeking unspecified damages. It claims that the coating used to strengthen its blades infringes on a Gillette patent.

Since that YouTube video, Dollar Shave Club has taken a sizeable slice out of Gillette's market share. In response Gillette introduced its own Gillette Shave Club last year.

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)
DSHE, Ministry of Education
(website: <http://www.seqaep.bd.gov>)
Memo No- seqaep/admin/vehicle- repairing -04/2016/264/920
Dated: 19-07-2016

Invitation for Tender	
1	Ministry/Division Ministry of Education
2	Agency Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education
3	Procuring Entity Name Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)
4	Procuring Entity District Dhaka
5	Invitation for Goods.
6	Invitation Ref. No Memo No- seqaep/admin/vehicle- repairing -04/2016/264/
7	Date 18.07.2016
8	Procurement Method Open Tendering Method (National)
9	Budget and Source of Funds Development Budget (Credit)
10	Development Partners International Development Association (IDA)
11	Project Code 5-25-2531-5620
12	Project Name Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP)
13	Tender Publication Date 19.07.2016
14	Tender Last Selling Date 08.08.2016 During Office Hours
15	Tender Closing Date and Time 09.08.2016 at 03.00 PM
16	Tender Opening Date and Time 09.08.2016 at 03.30 PM
17	Name & Address of the office (Selling, Receiving & Opening of Tender Document) Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP), Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education, Sikkha Bhaban, 2 nd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
18	Eligibility of Tenderer a) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of overall experience in the supply of spare parts and repairing of motor vehicle. b) The satisfactory completion of supply of spare parts and repairing of microbus/car/jeep of minimum Tk. 3,00,000/- (Three Lac) for lot-1, tk. 3,50,000.00 (Three Lac Fifty Thousand) for lot-2 tk 1,20,000.00 (One Lac Twenty Thousand) for lot-3 and tk. 3,50,000.00 (Three Lac Fifty Thousand) for lot-4 under one (01) contract in the last five(5) years, i.e., years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.
19	Brief Description of Goods or Works Supply of the parts and Repairing of 04(four) motor vehicle for the Project Office. For Lot-1; Dhaka -Metro -Cha-51-3713(microbus); Lot-2: Microbus Toyota 2008, Dhaka -Metro -Cha-53-2000(microbus); Lot-3: Hard Jeep Mitsubishi 2012, Dhaka -Metro -Gha-13-7236 (Prado Jeep) and Lot-4: Hard Jeep Toyota 2001, Dhaka -Metro - Gha-11-3998 (Prado Jeep)
20	Price of Tender Document (Tk) 500.00 (Five Hundred) Only for each lot
21	Tender Security (BG/PO) BDT 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Only) for Lot-1; 12,000.00 (Twelve Thousand Only) for Lot-2; 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Only) for Lot-3; 13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand Only) for Lot-4
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender Project Director
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP), Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education, Sikkha Bhaban, 2 nd Block, 2 nd Floor, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender Tel: 9555137, 9588331 Fax: 9555134 seqaep@bdcom.net
25	a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders at any time prior to contract award without assigning any reason whatsoever. b) Tenderers may also submit Tender by Post/Courier Service and Tender must reach in the Office within the scheduled date & time as mentioned in SI Nos. 15 & 17 respectively.

GD - 1479

Project Director
SEQAEP, Dhaka.