



Sonia Bashir Kabir, managing director of Microsoft Bangladesh; Choudhury Moshtaq Ahmed, managing director (current charge) of National Bank; and Lahiru Munindradasa, managing director of Tech One Global (Pvt) Ltd, attend a deal signing ceremony yesterday. The partnership will help the bank expand in to digital services.

## Oil prices climb on expectation of Opec-led production cut

REUTERS, Singapore  
Oil prices rose around 1 percent on Monday as Opec moved closer to an output cut to rein in oversupply that has pressured prices for over two years.

Brent crude futures were trading at \$47.31 per barrel at 0743 GMT, up 65 cents, or 0.96 percent, from their last settlement. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was up 0.9 percent, or 41 cents, at \$46.10 a barrel.

Traders said that markets were being supported by advancing plans by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to cut production following over two years of low prices as a result of output exceeding demand.

"Crude oil will continue to be driven by headlines as the 30 November meeting regarding production cuts draws closer," ANZ bank said.

Agreeing deal terms has proved tricky as some producers, including Iran, are reluctant to cut output.

But an agreement has become more likely as Iran, keen to regain lost market share following years of sanctions which were lifted in January, was expected to be

given an exemption if it agrees to at least cap production. This would leave the onus of an outright reduction on other Opec members, including its political rival and de-facto Opec-leader Saudi Arabia.

"I think there will be some kind of agreement next week," said Matt Stanley, a fuel broker at Freight Investor Services in Dubai, although he added that a post-agreement rally would be unlikely to last as any cut would probably not be big enough to bring oil production back in line with consumption.

Barclays also said some form of deal was likely, and also said that an agreement would have little impact.

"We expect Opec to agree to a face-saving statement ... (but) U.S. tight oil producers can grow production at \$50-\$55 (per barrel) and will capitalize on any opportunity afforded to them by an Opec cut," the bank said.

Beyond the talk of a potential production cut, there were also signs of market weakness.

Japan, the world's fourth biggest oil consumer, reported a fall of 9.5 percent in crude imports in October, to 2.78 million barrels per day.

## Wal-Mart will offer Cyber Monday deals starting Black Friday

REUTERS  
Wal-Mart Stores Inc will start offering online deals reserved for Cyber Monday two days in advance this year, joining a growing list of U.S. retailers who offer web promotions over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Wal-Mart's special web promotions will be available on Black Friday, the retailer said in a statement late on Sunday. Cyber Monday is the biggest day of the year for internet shopping and follows Black Friday, which is the busiest shopping day for brick-and-mortar retailers.

Wal-Mart recently said it will boost its online inventory for Black Friday by more than half this year, as it pulls out all stops to grow online sales this holiday season. The retailer has grown its online inventory to 23 million items from 8 million at the start of the year. Wal-Mart's step to boost online sales comes at a time when Black Friday is losing its importance as early discounts and online shopping keep shoppers away from stores.

The year-end shopping season, which spans November and December, is crucial for many retailers because the two months can account for anywhere from 20 to 40 percent of their annual sales. The National Retail Federation expects industry holiday sales to grow 3.6 percent this year to \$655.8 billion.

Wal-Mart said orders that were ordered on the Wal-Mart mobile app and picked up in store, increased more than 75 percent during the first two weeks of November from the same period a year earlier.



Akku Chowdhury, CEO of Transcom Foods Ltd that operates KFC in Bangladesh, attends the launch of Victory Box, a special meal, at all outlets of KFC to mark Bangladesh's 45th victory day, at a ceremony on November 20.

## Alibaba Cloud stretches global reach with four new facilities

REUTERS  
Alibaba Cloud plans to open four new data facilities outside China, the cloud unit of Alibaba Holdings Ltd said on Monday, as it seeks to grab global market share from leading players Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft.

The data facilities in Dubai, Germany, Japan and Australia will extend the reach of China's leading cloud computing service provider to every major continent, and marks the latest step in the unit's \$1 billion infrastructure investment drive.

Also known as Aliyun, the unit has

flourished domestically thanks to Beijing's strategic emphasis on building homegrown cloud technology, while foreign firms have grappled with stringent licensing restrictions in the country.

However, it accounts for a much smaller slice of the global market for cloud computing, defined as the storage of data on remote networks rather than local servers, which is expected to reach \$135 billion by 2020, according to research firm Canalis.

Alibaba Cloud is forecast to take 7.8 percent of that market, while leading players Amazon.com Inc,

Microsoft, International Business Machines Corp and Alphabet Inc are expected to account for 69.1 percent.

Yu Sicheng, general manager of Alibaba Cloud's international business, said the unit's strength in China was a significant advantage and a lynchpin in the company's globalisation plans.

"We have the U.S., Europe plus China, which is quite difficult," he told Reuters in an interview.

The new additions bring Alibaba Cloud's total number of foreign cloud facilities to eight, surpassing the six within China, though the majority of the company's data volume remains squarely within China.

## Facebook to expand in UK

REUTERS  
Facebook said it would expand its UK presence by 50 percent in 2017, joining U.S. technology peer Google in boosting investment in Britain despite the uncertainty sparked by the vote to leave the European Union.

Social network firm Facebook said it would hire 500 new staff, adding to the 1,000 people it already employs in Britain, as it gears up to open a new headquarters in London next year.

Before the Brexit referendum in June, pro-remain campaigners had warned that international companies could seek to reduce their presence in Britain as withdrawing from the EU would make it a less attractive place to invest.

But Facebook said on Monday that was not the case. "The UK remains one of the best places to be a tech company and is an important part of Facebook's story," Europe, Middle East and Africa vice-president Nicola Mendelsohn will say at a conference run by the CBI, an employers group, later on Monday.

Facebook's expansion comes after Google, owned by parent company Alphabet Inc, said earlier in November that it would invest in thousands of extra engineers as part of its move to a new London building.

Britain is also benefiting from the growth of online retailer Amazon, which expects to create 3,500 UK jobs in 2016, including at its head office, research and development centres, customer service centres and distribution depots.

It plans a further 2,300 at three new distribution centres in 2017. Facebook said many of its new jobs would be in the high-skilled engineering sector.



MA Sabur, chairman of United Commercial Bank, hands over a cheque for Tk 25 lakh to Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh, for the capacity building of the chamber, at a programme at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka yesterday.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director  
**Study Project for Establishment of Marine Aquarium at Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute, Cox's Bazar (SPEMA at BORI)**  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Room No. 901/1, 9th Floor, Building-06, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
Tel: +88-02-9514514, E-mail: js2@most.gov.bd  
Memo No-39.00.0000.PD.SPEMA.06(01).2015-111 Dated: 20/11/2016

**Request for EOI (3rd Times)**  
**(For the Purpose of Consulting Firm Selection Process Short Listing)**  
**(Expression of Interest from the Bangladeshi Experienced Architectural Firms in QCBS Method under the PPR-2008)**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

1.	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Science & Technology.
2.	Agency	: Study Project for Establishment of Marine Aquarium at Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute, Cox's Bazar.
3.	Procuring entity name	: Md. Abdul Matin, Joint Secretary & Project Director (Addl. Charge), SPEMA at BORI, Ministry of Science and Technology.
4.	Procuring entity code	: Not applicable.
5.	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka
6.	Invitation for	: Expression of interest for short listing of firms from the applicants.
7.	Invitation Ref No.	: Memo No- 39.00.0000.PD.SPEMA.06(01).2015-111
8.	Date	: 20-11-2016

**KEY INFORMATION**

9.	Procurement method	: QCBS Method of PPR-2008, GOB.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10.	Budget and source of funds	: GOB
11.	Development partners (if applicable)	: None

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	: Project Code: 5-2601-5014 (issued by the Ministry of Finance).
13.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	: Study Project for Establishment of Marine Aquarium at Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute, Cox's Bazar.
14.	EOI closing date and time	: Date: 07-12-2016 Time: 12:00 noon Opening: 2:00 pm
15.	Name & address of the office(s)	: Address: Joint Secretary and Project Director (Addl. Charge), SPEMA at BORI, Room No. 901/1, 9th Floor, Building-06, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
	- Receiving application form	: Tender box kept in Gate No. 2 (in front of visitors room), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT**

16.	Brief description of the assignment (TOR in brief)	(i) Preliminary survey and BORI site will be visited by consultant team to prepare feasibility study including preliminary design and estimate for the preparation of DPP of the main project of Art Marine Aquarium; the team also collects data digital survey report of existing facilities and other related data of tourists of Cox's Bazar and surrounded area. (ii) The firm has to arrange one study tour programme in Japan and The Philippines which will help to acquire practical knowledge to see the real scenario of Marine Aquarium (Detailed will be mentioned in TOR). (iii) The consultant firm should take all the responsibilities of the study tour and bear all the expenditure as per govt. rules incurred during the visit programmes and collecting documents from the visiting places. (iv) A preliminary design of the Art Marine Aquarium with the schematic diagram, architectural and engineering design along with facilities, events and galleries design shall be completed by the consulting firm. (v) Making an approximate operational and maintenance cost for each year of the proposed marine aquarium which will be needed for cash inflow statement for feasibility study and Development Project Proforma (DPP). (vi) Final submission of completed (1) Feasibility Study Report (2) DPP including preliminary design and estimate etc. and others analysis done by the consulting firm to the Project Director office.
17.	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required (required document and certificate should be submitted with EIO)	(i) Must have updated valid trade license. (ii) Must have updated TIN certificate along with last 5 year's tax clearance certificate. (iii) Must have updated VAT registration certificate. (iv) Must have last 2 years audit report audited by a Government recognized firm. (v) Must have organizational capacity proved supporting documents of sufficient office staffs and professional experts in concerned fields. (vi) Must have bank solvency certificate. (vii) Must have 10 years General Experience proving list of works (must submit) on Planning, Designing, Estimating, Supervision and/or of any research/educational/residential area/zoo/safari park/Dairy farm/livestock/amusement or theme park complex etc. (viii) Must have 5 years experience proving works completion certificate (must submit) from the Government/Autonomous/Public body/Corporate private body in Bangladesh. (ix) If the firm has any specific experience in the relevant fields of living/aquatic lives related zoo or marine/fresh aquarium constructions/ estimating/supervisions/planning/designing etc in National or international level directly, indirectly and jointly involvement with other at home and abroad firms for the same purpose will be given preference. (x) Eligibilities of the applicant should be proved by submitting proper documents.
18.	Other details	(i) The appointed consulting firm will conduct the feasibility study of the main project named "Establishment of a state of the Art Marine Aquarium." (ii) On the basis of feasibility study and study tour knowledge, the consulting firm shall prepare DPP (Development Project Proposal) of the main project including preliminary design and estimate etc. according to the govt. prescribed format. (iii) Consulting firm should take the responsibility of arranging discussion and material share among the study tour team and the authorities of all the visiting marine aquarium. (iv) The appointed firm shall build a bridge between the study tour team and the respective Marine Aquarium authorities. (v) They will collect necessary plan, design and other needful documents as well as take necessary photographs and shoot videos which may be incorporated in the existing design of the aquarium. (TOR and list of items of costs to be considered by the study consulting firm in details will be delivered along with the prescribed application form).

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

19.	Name of official inviting EOI	: Md. Abdul Matin, Joint Secretary and Project Director (Addl. Charge), SPEMA at BORI, Cox's Bazar.
20.	Designation of official inviting EOI	: Joint Secretary and Project Director (Addl. Charge), SPEMA at BORI, Cox's Bazar.
21.	Address of official inviting EOI	: Room No. 901/1, 9th Floor, Building-06, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
22.	Contact details of official inviting EIO	Tel. No. 02-9514514 e-mail: js2@most.gov.bd
23.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all applications.	

**Md. Abdul Matin**  
Joint Secretary  
&  
Project Director (Adl. Charge)  
SPEMA at BORI, Cox's Bazar  
Ministry of Science & Technology  
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