



Rubel Aziz, chairman of the executive committee of City Bank, and Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of the bank, attend the opening of a Citygem Centre in Uttara.

CITY BANK

Britain to decide how to spend taxpayers' money post-Brexit

REUTERS

Britain will decide how it spends taxpayers' money after it leaves the EU and is looking at ways of securing the best access for businesses to the bloc after Brexit, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on Thursday.

Earlier, Brexit minister David Davis told parliament that Britain would consider making payments to the European Union in return for access to EU markets.

"What he said in the house this morning is consistent with what we have said ... that it will be for the UK government to make decisions on how tax players' money will be spent," the spokeswoman told reporters.

"As we approach these negotiations we want to get the best possible access for British business to trade with, and operate within, the single market while also taking back control of immigration," she said, adding the government was working out the best way to approach the EU negotiations.

Nokia brand-phones poised for comeback

REUTERS, Frankfurt/Helsinki

Nokia-branded mobile phones are about to make a comeback via a new venture that will reunite the Nokia brand with veteran Nokia executives who aim to move into smartphones capitalizing on an existing operation that sells low-cost basic phones.

HMD Global, a new Finnish company set up to revive the Nokia phone brand, on Thursday took over the basic phone business which Nokia Corp sold to Microsoft in 2014. Nokia the company now largely makes telecom network equipment.

HMD, officially founded six months ago, opens for business this month. It has several advantages over other start-ups, including Nokia's strong global brand, experienced management and Foxconn as a manufacturing partner.

But it also has hurdles to overcome if it is to break into a crowded smartphone market dominated by models from scores of different players using Google's Android platform.

"The barriers to entry for the Android phone space are low,"

mobile phone analyst Ben Wood of CCS Insight said. "What HMD has is the Nokia brand and management experience. The key to its success will be driving scale."

HMD has a licensing deal with Nokia giving it the sole use of the Nokia brand on mobile phones and tablets for the next decade and key cellular patent licenses, for which it will pay royalties to Nokia, which otherwise has no investment in HMD.

As part of the plan, HMD has agreed to rely on Foxconn, the world's largest contract manufacturer, to manufacture all its Nokia devices.

HMD said it plans to introduce new Nokia Android smartphones in the first half of 2017.

"We want to be one of the key competitive players in the smartphone business," chief executive Arto Nummela told Reuters. Samsung and Apple are now big players, although Chinese brands like Huawei are closing the gap.

Rather than building its own system, the company is working in close partnership with Android's creator's, Google.

Nummela said he believed his

team's extensive industry relationships with carriers and retailers, powered by the Nokia brand, could help them quickly capture smartphone share by convincing entry-level buyers of its feature phones to upgrade in markets like India, Indonesia and Russia.

"We really see the opportunity to create some space for ourselves on the (store) shelves," Nummela said. "Consumers may be carrying different smartphones now, but are they really in love and loyalty to those brands?"

Nummela is a long-time Nokia sales and product development executive, who moved to Microsoft when the phone business was sold.

HMD President Florian Seiche is a mobile phone industry veteran who previously worked at Siemens, Orange, HTC and Nokia. Chief Marketing Officer Pekka Rantala is a former CEO of Angry Birds game maker Rovio, as well as a Nokia veteran.

"We are not going to skip any markets, in the long term," Seiche said of its global game-plan, adding that HMD has already set up offices in 40 locations around the world.

Global factories had bumper November

REUTERS, London/Hong Kong

Manufacturers around the globe performed strongly in November, but concerns about the protectionist leanings of US President-elect Donald Trump and an OPEC-induced oil price rally could curtail future growth.

Factories across Asia and Europe ramped up activity and data due later on Thursday from the United States are expected to show manufacturers in the world's largest economy also pushed harder on the accelerator.

But some analysts cautioned November might be as good as it gets as the effects of vast monetary stimulus from central banks wear off. "The strength in PMI numbers is unlikely to be sustained as much of it can be explained by previous stimulus measures," said Julian Evans-Pritchard at Capital Economics.

Policymakers at the European Central Bank are expected to announce an extension to their asset purchase programme when they meet next week even after euro zone manufacturers enjoyed their best month in November since the start of 2014 and inflationary pressures, while still mild, picked up.

IHS Markit's final manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for the euro zone chalked up its highest reading since January 2014 in November, registering 53.7, in line with an earlier flash estimate and ahead of October's 53.5. Anything above 50 indicates growth.

But British manufacturing growth cooled

unexpectedly as factories grappled with soaring costs caused by the slump in sterling after Britain voted to leave the European Union. The weaker pound also failed to boost export orders as much as in previous months.

The Markit/CIPS UK PMI fell to 53.4 from 54.2, confounding expectations for a rise to 54.5 in a Reuters poll of economists.

James Smith at ING noted the British PMI figure was still higher than the immediate post-Brexit dip, but forecast a tougher environment ahead.

"We expect domestic demand to slow quite considerably next year as consumer spending gets hit by falling real wages and investment slows in response to post-Brexit uncertainty," he said.

Britain's economy has performed much better than expected since the vote to quit the EU. But a bigger test will come next year when inflation is predicted to rise sharply, eating into households' spending power that had just started to recover.

Also consuming cash will be more expensive oil. Crude prices bubbled to a six-week high on Thursday after the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on Wednesday to cut output for the first time since 2008.

There were stronger PMIs in China, Taiwan and Vietnam, and while activity in Japan's factories was still growing in November, the pace was slower. However, an uncertain outlook for global trade is worrying for Asia's export-driven economies.



BSRM GROUP

Mostafizur Rahman, country director of Smile Train, a charity based in the USA; Kazi Anwar Ahmed, head of Dhaka corporate office of BSRM Group of Companies, attend a ceremony where BSRM signed a deal with Smile Train and SNAD Foundation to provide free of cost cleft lip and palate congenital abnormality surgery support to 400 children of poor and disadvantaged families.



MEGHNA LIFE

Nizam Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Meghna Life Insurance Company Ltd, opens Meghna Life Corporate Zone on the premises of the company. Narayan Chandra Rudra, CEO, was also present.

India's Reliance Jio extends free services, as telecoms price war intensifies

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Reliance Industries announced a three-month extension to an offer of free data and voice services by its telecoms unit Jio, signalling that a brutal price war in India's mobile sector that has already hurt its rivals is intensifying.

Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man, said in a live feed on YouTube on Thursday that Jio's existing and new customers

will get free voice and data till March 31, 2017. The free offer was earlier valid till Dec. 31.

Jio had made a splash in September by offering the free data, and rivals such as Bharti Airtel have been forced to respond with price cuts of their own, though at a steep cost.

After Ambani's announcement on Thursday, Bharti shares slumped 2 percent while Idea Cellular Ltd plunged 6 percent.

Ambani added that Jio has crossed 50 million customers in the three months since launching on Sept 1, and accused its competitors of unfair tactics, including blocking voice calls made through Jio to other networks.

Jio has so far invested over \$20 billion in establishing a country-wide telecoms network, but still lags well behind Vodafone's around 200 million customers and Bharti's more than 257 million subscribers.

China theme park to raise the Titanic, with wi-fi

AFP, Shanghai

Construction of the world's first full-size replica of the Titanic has begun in China, state media reported Thursday, where it is expected to enjoy smoother sailing as a lakeside tourist draw than its namesake.

The 269-metre (883-foot) long, 28-metre wide ship will be docked permanently on a reservoir in a rural area of Sichuan province, the official Xinhua news agency cited a senior executive of the ship-builder as saying.

It will feature an interior reproducing some of the grandeur of the original including a ballroom, theatre, swimming pool and first-class cabins, with the addition of wifi, said Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group's deputy general manager Wang Weiling.



SIBL

Md Anisul Hoque, director and chairman of the executive committee of Social Islami Bank, opens the 123rd branch of the bank in Narsingdi yesterday. Md Shafiqur Rahman, managing director, was also present.

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/2015/5011

Dated: 28/11/2016

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works) e-Tender Notice No-43/2016-17

Reference No: APP ID-38446

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-77350 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SAD/16-17/W-257	A. (i) Improvement of Anowar Gonj Road (Uday Sadhurhat sluiceway-Bangla Chowrasta Bazar-Anowar Gonj) Ch. 3500-6100m. ID No. 475874099. A. (ii) Construction of 2 Nos. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 3650m & 5650m. B. (i) Improvement of RHD (Islamia road)-Abdullah Chowdhury Regd. primary school road Ch. 00-1150m. ID No. 475875241. B. (ii) Construction of 1 No. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 520m.	Up to 26-12-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-77351 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SAD/16-17/W-258	A. (i) Improvement of Bhabaniganj DB road Ch. 3450-7950m. ID No. 475874077. A. (ii) Providing 44.00m Palisading work. A. (iii) Construction of 4 Nos. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 4250m, 5650m, 6150m & 6950m. B. Improvement of Bharmapur-RHD (Datterhat road-Charmatua RHD Embankment) road Ch. 00-785m. ID No. 475875230.	Up to 26-12-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-77352 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SAD/16-17/W-259	A. (i) Improvement of Bharmapur Thekarhat road Ch. 00-1297m. ID No. 475875231. A. (ii) Providing 98.00m Palisading work. A. (iii) Construction of 1 No. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 756m. B. (i) Improvement of Uday Sadhurhat-Bharmapur-Thekarhat road Ch. 00-1061m. ID No. 475875240. B. (ii) Providing 215.00m Palisading work. B. (iii) Construction of 1 No. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 45m.	Up to 26-12-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-77353 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SUB/16-17/W-260	(i) Improvement of Ali Azzam road (UNR Swapon Market-Dasher hat-Dorbesh Bazar road) Ch. 756-6256m. ID No. 475894057. (ii) Construction of 2x3.00x3.00m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 1976m. (iii) Construction of 11 Nos. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 799m, 1298m, 1375m, 2515m, 3278m, 3574m, 4184m, 4518m, 5582m, 5797m & 5975m.	Up to 26-12-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-77354 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SUB/16-17/W-261	(i) Improvement of Janata Bazar (Fokrul Islam Madrasa)-Bangla Bazar (1 No. Colony) road Ch. 2258-6485m. ID No. 475894012. (ii) Construction of 8 Nos. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 3047m, 3342m, 3900m, 4555m, 4803m, 5189m, 5646m & 6233m.	Up to 26-12-2016 at 4:00pm
Tender ID-77355 Package No: GNP-2/NOA/SUB/16-17/W-262	(i) Improvement of Aktermarhat-Hemayet Bazar (Tulatoli road-Mohammadpur UP-Hemayet market-Char Alauddin Bazar-Mostan Nagar Bazar) road Ch. 701-3152m. ID No. 475894124. (ii) Construction of 2x4.50x4.00m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 2320m. (iii) Construction of 9 Nos. U-Drain Culvert at Ch. 876m, 1108m, 1320m, 1526m, 2013m, 2210m, 2435m, 2740m & 3074m.	Up to 26-12-2016 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).

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