



EXIM Bank Chairman Nazrul Islam Mazumder attends the bank's half yearly business development conference at its head office in Dhaka on Saturday. Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Haider Ali Miah was also present.

US-China rifts widen despite economic headway

AFP, Washington

Three months after US President Donald Trump hosted a lavish welcome for his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at his Florida resort, the powers have made headway on an ambitious economic plan even as diplomatic rifts between them have widened.

Speaking in Paris on Thursday, the American leader was full of praise for Xi, proclaiming him a "friend" for whom he has "great respect", a "great leader" and a "very talented man."

The expressions of admiration have gone both ways -- a day earlier Beijing's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang had hailed "positive advances" in China-US economic cooperation based on a spirit of "consensus" between the two leaders.

Both sides see moderate progress on a wide-ranging 100-day economic

action plan, first unveiled at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in April that covers such areas as financial services, investment, energy and trade -- a topic close to the US president's heart.

Evans Revere, an analyst at Brookings Institution, told AFP: "Both sides seem to share the view that the 100-day plan is largely on track."

Jake Parker, vice president of the US-China Business Council in Beijing, largely agreed: "Overall, the 100-day outcomes are positive first steps addressing lingering issues in the US-China commercial relationship," he said, while adding that more needed to be done to address structural issues such as foreign investment restrictions.

But despite the effusive rhetoric, that progress has not been matched in other areas of the relationship with ever widening rifts on a host of for-

ign policy issues.

The US appears bitterly disappointed over China's failure to exert pressure on North Korea in the wake of its first ever intercontinental ballistic missile test, while Beijing has been left fuming at American incursions into disputed territory in the South China Sea, arms sales to Taiwan and statements on human rights.

Trump made China a central part of his presidential campaign, denouncing the country for unfair trading practices that cost Americans jobs and accusing it of manipulating its currency.

Since becoming president, however, he has taken an about turn on the currency issue and in May announced a deal to export American beef and gas to China in the hope of reducing a massive trade deficit that totaled \$347 billion in 2016.



Eminent actor Tariq Anam Khan poses along with other actors at the opening ceremony of "Absolute Barbeque Restaurant" at Ahmed and Kazi Tower in Dhanmondi in Dhaka on Friday.

MATRA

S Africa's white enclave eyes move to e-cash

AFP, Johannesburg

A whites-only enclave in South Africa has resisted the country's multi-racial reality for more than two decades, even adopting its own paper money in its bid to promote self-sufficiency.

Now Orania, a town of 1,400 established during the dying years of apartheid and protected by the constitution, is looking to take its "ora" currency digital.

Orania was created by Afrikaners on private land in 1991 ahead of the dawn of democracy and its residents are mostly white farmers or traders. The town maintains its unique racial makeup by vetting and interviewing prospective residents.

If Orania's audacious plan goes ahead as expected, the "e-ora" will enter the world of virtual currencies -- although it's still a far cry from the likes of cyber-money giant Bitcoin.

Strictly speaking the ora is not a full

currency, but serves as a token or voucher.

It was introduced in 2004 to promote local spending, with users enjoying discounts when they use the local coupons.

Although Orania does not insist on payments in ora, the town profits from every sale of its currency by holding the deposited rands in an interest-bearing account.

The ora is not officially sanctioned by the South African Reserve Bank, but residents can currently exchange South African rands for physical ora at the town's self-styled "central bank" at a rate of one-to-one.

By going electronic, Orania -- where 97 percent of residents are white compared to just one in 10 nationwide -- will take its first steps into the booming world of digital cash.

The market for virtual currencies is thought to be worth billions of dollars, but critics argue they help drug and arms dealers and people traffickers.

"What we plan to do is to digitise the existing physical ora and replace it with an electronic one," said Dawie Roodt, chief economist at the Efficient Group, a financial consultancy hoping to help the town reduce the transaction costs of the paper ora.

"If you can reduce the cost of the transaction, you can boost economic activity quite substantially."

The paper vouchers will continue to circulate alongside the cyber cash, but unlike the physical "banknotes", the e-currency will have no expiry date.

"There are significant technological changes taking place in the financial space -- like Bitcoin," said Roodt.

If everything goes to plan, Orania could have the electronic ora in circulation as soon as mid-August.

It is hoped that the virtual cash will reduce the costs of printing the physical notes, as well as expanding the range of goods and services using the ora -- helping to grow the local economy.



Dhaka Bank Managing Director Syed Mahbubur Rahman and Hashkloud Pty Ltd CEO Tarique A Bhuiyan launch "Dhaka Bank TradeCloud", an automated and highly secure Letter of Credit (LC) management solution for the bank's corporate clients, at a programme at the former's corporate office in Dhaka. Through this solution, a customer can apply for LC digitally as well as submit documents, receive advice, statements and SWIFT messages. Hashkloud, an Australia-based blockchain technology focused start-up, provided technical support to the bank's initiative.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Immigration and Passports

Passport Bhaban, E-7, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Re-Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI)

1. Ministry/division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP).
3. Name of procuring entity	Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP).
4. Procuring entity name	Director General.
5. Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
6. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
7. Expression of interest for selection of	Service Support for Data Centre & Disaster Recovery Centre and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, Personalization Centre, 36 Regional Passport Offices, MoFA, 70 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and 65 Bangladesh Mission (BM) for (02) two years.
7. EOI Ref No & date	DIP Est-2/Tender-23/2017/881 Date: 17-07-2017.
KEY INFORMATION	
8. Procurement method	QCBS.
FUNDING INFORMATION	
9. Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget, GOB.
10. Development partners (if applicable)	None
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
11. Project/programme code	N/A.
12. Project/programme name	N/A.
13. EOI closing/receiving date and time	01 st Aug 2017 Time 1:00pm.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
14. Brief description of assignment	<p>The following points describe the broad scope of the tasks to provide Service Support for Data Centre & Disaster Recovery Centre and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance (AM) for Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, Personalization Centre, 36 Regional Passport Offices, MoFA, 70 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and 65 Bangladesh Mission (BM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Managing and Monitoring Network Devices and all LAN, WAN, Electrical and related connectivity, VPN, ISP communication, Security measures and any sort of incident response. b) Troubleshooting and configuration of all servers, workstations and all computing and biometric devices of Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, Personalization Centre, 36 Regional Passport Offices, MoFA, 70 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and 65 Bangladesh Mission (BM). c) Managing DC, DRs, RPOs, BMs related all licensing, Active directory, Mail server, Web server, Domain, DNS, Backup services, Storage and related all application. d) Maintaining all RPOs/BMs database and central database. Data backup, troubleshooting, tuning, checking, restore testing, configuration as required by DIP. e) Maintaining network, Hardware, servers, Split AC, Precision AC, UPS, Firefighting and complete infrastructure monitoring of DC, DR, 69 RPO, 65 BM, 70 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and MoFA in shifts to cover 24/7 presence. f) Supervision of every shift of NOC for DC, DRs, Personalization Centre, 69 Regional Passport Offices, MoFA, 70 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and 65 Bangladesh Mission (BM) to ensure 24/7 support. g) Vendor/Service provider shall be responsible for carrying out "On-Site", "Off-Site" and "On-Line" Comprehensive Annual Maintenance for (i) HP Server Type A, B, C (ii) HP Switch Type A, B, C (iii) Juniper Router Type A, B, C (iv) HP 3 PAR system (v) SAN Switch (vi) SAN storage system (vii) Tape Backup System (viii) Firewall System (ix) HP Desktop (x) HP Laptop (xi) HP Printers (xii) Scanner (xiii) Anti Virus (xiv) LAN Connectivity (xv) Digital Camera (xvi) Digital Signature Pad (xvii) Finger Print Scanner (xviii) Bar Code reader (xix) MRV Printer (xx) Passport and Visa Reader (xxi) Air Condition, (xxii) All Types of UPS and all related equipments. h) The term Comprehensive means vendor will diagnose, repair, replace the faulty equipment/component/peripherals/Driver software, license and operating system whichever and whenever necessary or as per the demand of DIP. i) If any part of the Hardware needs to be replaced the Service provider shall replace the defective part of the Hardware immediately after notifying the DIP. Same models or compatible Spares would be provided by DIP repair cell. j) The Replacement Part shall become the property of the DIP and the Removed Part shall be returned to the DIP. k) In case of replacement of the equipment, service provider must bring back the faulty equipment(s) and handed over to DIP. Work shall normally be done during working hours of the customer. However, in case of emergency, maintenance may have to be done beyond office hours and even on holidays. Prior arrangement through proper communication should be worked out in all cases. l) In case of BM, service provider may provide on-site repair in coordination with BM. If they fail to repair the equipment on-site then they will send new/serviceable equipment as replacement and bring back faulty equipment. Faulty equipment will be repaired by the service provider and deposit to DIP. In case of new/serviceable equipment as replacement, service provider will collect those same models or compatible spares from DIP. Carrying cost will be borne by the service provider. m) Technical Professional Staffs must be stationed in DC, DR and Maintenance Section. Location to be approved by DIP.
15. Qualification and experience, resources & delivery	<p>Intending firm/service provider shall have to submit the following documents along with EOI. In order to provide the services the DIP consider that the firms must have solid technical background and operational strength to undertake and move this work forward without any hindrances. The firms must also have adequate technical ability, resources and processes. The minimum eligibility criteria of service provider and technical/professional staff are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The firm must be registered as a firm or as a service provider of People's Republic of Bangladesh Government. b. One (01) year adequate experience on DC and DRC of MRP & MRV System in any country. c. The firm must have minimum 5 years experience in Bangladesh about software and services. d. The firm must have full-time data base and system administrators and senior hardware engineers capable of running large scale system in cluster environment. e. The firm having experience in developing software and hardware solutions for Government of Bangladesh or any of its agencies or Government of other countries will be an added advantage. f. The firm should demonstrate its management capacity (brochures and other documents describing similar assignments, experiences, availability of appropriate professional staffs and experiences among applicant's staffs, resources to carry out the assignment) in managing large scale IT projects; g. The firm has to demonstrate its logistic capability, i.e. well-equipped office space in Dhaka with necessary facilities. h. The firm should be in existence for over 05 years in the trade as on 30.06.2016 with maintenance turnover of more than BDT 10 crore per annum during the last 03 years ending 30th June 2016, to be substantiated with audited financial statements. i. Adequate documented experience of successful roll out experience of two projects related to MRP/epassport/NID/Driving License/Banking Sector etc. j. The firm also must have employees with certification on Oracle DBA, Oracle Security Specialist, Oracle and MSC Application Developer and Integrator, HP industry standard architecture, HP server and HP storage devices and network devices including juniper certifications. Also should have experience on Server Base Data Recovery and restoration under MS Windows and Oracle environment. k. Adequate documented experience of Oracle database and Oracle Security Implementation including Database Firewall, Audit vault, Database vault and advanced Encryption. l. The firm provider must have expertise in on-site, on-line and off-site maintenance and repair of computers, printers, network components, Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, peripherals and other hardware parts and accessories. m. Multiple firms (not more than two) having technical and legal competency for developing such a product can apply jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one firm needs to be the lead firm. Both the firms must be Bangladeshi firm. n. The firm should have valid trade license, income tax and VAT certificates. <p>2. Qualification, Experience and Working Position: All experience must be substantiated by reference certificate. Procurement entity reserves the right to interview the resources (Personals) Team Leader/Manager/Enterprise Administrator (No. of Post-1): He/she must have post graduation degree and graduation in CS/CSE/EEE/ECE/TE/IT. At least 05 years experience in introduction and implementation including risk mitigation and change management of DC & DR. He/she must have the experience of implementation, running and monitoring of MRP and MRV system for minimum 02 years. Experience about certification of System Network, Database (Oracle), Database technology and security implementation including RAC, ASM, GI, Database Firewall, Audit Vault, Active Data Guard, HP server, HP storage and systems, Juniper/Cisco devices and other core infrastructure technologies. His location would be in DC. He will act as the representative of the firm.</p> <p>Network & Security Specialist (No. of Post 2): Graduation in Computer Science and Engineering. At least five (05) years working experience in core Network like Juniper/Cisco router configure (VPN, RIP, OSPF, EIGRP, BGP, MPLS and Firewall any Device) Certificate on networking devices and technologies including CCNA/CCNP/CCSP will be an added advantage. He/she must be capable of maintaining Juniper system. His location would be in DC.</p> <p>Hardware Specialist (No. of Post 2): Graduation in Computer Science and Engineering. At least five (05) years working experience in hardware maintenance and operation. Certification on HP Hardware, HP server, HP storage, Juniper/Cisco devices will be added advantage. His location would be in DC.</p> <p>Database Administrator (No. of Post 2): Graduation in Computer Sciences and Engineering. At least five (05) years working experience in Database (Oracle), Database Technology and security implementation including RAC, ASM, GI, Database Firewall, Audit Vault, Active Data Guard, Oracle Cloud Control. Certification on OCP and OCM will be added advantage. His/her location would be in DC.</p> <p>NOC Technician (No. of Post 6): Diploma in computer science and engineering. At least three (03) years working experience in networking and hardware. 03 persons would be in DC and another in DR.</p> <p>Deputy Manager (01): S/he will assist Project Manager. The minimum qualification would be B.Sc in CS/CSE/EEE/ECE/TE/IT. S/he must have three (03) years working experience in this aspect. His/her location would be in Maintenance Section.</p> <p>Technicians (04): They will solve the 1st line repair in DIP's Repair Cell. The minimum qualification of the technicians would be Diploma in CS/CSE/EEE. He/she must have three (03) years working experience in this aspect. His location would be in Maintenance Section.</p>
16. Others details (if applicable)	Envelope containing the application (EOI) along the relevant supporting documents to be marked with "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Service Support for Data Centre & Disaster Recovery Centre and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance (AM) for Data Centre, Disaster Recovery Centre, Personalization Centre, 36 Regional Passport Offices, MoFA, 71 SB/DSB, 27 ICP, 4 ICP-VC and 65 Bangladesh Mission (BM)".
17. Association with foreign firm	Joint venture firm may be formed with the local partner.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS	
18. Name of official invitation EOI	Director General.
19. Designation of official inviting EOI	Director General.
20. Address of official inviting EOI	Director General, Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
21. Contact details about EOI	Director General, Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Attn: Deputy Director (Admin & Est.), Room No-609, Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. E-mail: ddadmin@passport.gov.bd
22. Place of receiving the EOI	Deputy Director (Admin & Est.), Room No-609, Department of Immigration & Passports, Passport Bhaban, E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. E-mail: ddadmin@passport.gov.bd
23. Special instructions	Total work plan and methodology shall be submitted along with EOI.

Procuring entity reserves the right to reject any proposals.

Md. Abu Sayed
Deputy Director (Admin & Est.)
For Director General
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ddadmin@passport.gov.bd