



Maksudur Rahman, senior director of Symphony, and Kevin Henry, vice president for device and data at Robi, launch Symphony Z10 smartphone at a programme in Dhaka yesterday. The handset will be available at Symphony outlets and customer centres of Robi and Airtel at Tk 15,990.

# Alibaba launches \$15b overseas R&D drive

REUTERS, Beijing

China's top e-commerce firm, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, is launching a \$15 billion drive to build overseas research hubs as the deep-pocketed firm looks to compete with global leaders in e-commerce, logistics and cloud technology.

The Alibaba 'Damo' academy would launch eight research bases in China, Israel, the United States, Russia and Singapore and was hiring 100 researchers to work on artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and fintech, the company said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Alibaba DAMO Academy will be at the forefront of developing next-generation technology that will spur the growth of Alibaba and our partners", Chief Technology Officer Jeff Zhang said.

The Chinese giant and its affiliates have undergone a rapid expansion in the past year, bringing it into direct competition with US e-retailer Amazon.com Inc, as well

as global payments, cloud and logistics firms.

Since last year Alibaba has invested roughly \$2 billion to acquire a majority stake in Singapore-based retailer Lazada.com, creating a network of e-commerce hubs across Southeast Asia in partnership with payment affiliate Ant Financial.

It has also pursued a 1.2 billion bid for U.S. money transfer service MoneyGram, in a pending deal that has come under scrutiny from critics who say it poses a national security threat. Along with an existing data science research lab in California, Alibaba has opened new data centers in Europe, the United States, the Middle East, Australia, Japan, India and Indonesia since 2016, in a bid to boost its cloud business.

The investment also comes as Beijing prioritises state funding in quantum computing, AI and big data, urging provincial governments, universities, the military and private firms to play a bigger role in developing advanced technology in areas where China trails developed countries.

# Ireland unveils loans to help small businesses cope with Brexit

AFP, Dublin

The Irish government unveiled Tuesday a 300-million-euro (\$354 million) loan scheme for small businesses buffeted by Brexit, in a move designed to spur innovation and investment needed to tap new markets.

The loan scheme for small and medium-sized businesses was announced as part of a major Brexit-proofing spending package in Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe's 2018 budget.

The heavy reliance of Irish businesses on trade with Britain has spurred fears they could face difficulties when the UK leaves the EU in March 2019. The possible reinstatement of a hard border between the two countries has also caused concerns.

"As the impact of Brexit unfolds over the coming years, it is clear that there are likely to be permanent changes in our trade patterns," Donohoe said.

"Small and medium businesses will need to innovate and increasingly look to new European and international markets other

than the UK," he added.

The proposal -- dubbed a "Brexit Loan Scheme" -- will offer competitive interest rates of around four percent on loans to businesses with up to 499 employees.

The initiative will receive funding from the Irish government as well as the European Investment Bank Group, the European Commission and the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland.

Donohoe also promised that an extra 25 million euros in loans would be set aside for farmers and food processors, noting Irish food businesses are uniquely exposed to the British market.

Deputy head of government Frances Fitzgerald said the measures would "help Irish exporters to grow their international sales and diversify their markets."

The British Irish Chamber of Commerce welcomed the announcements, which it said would provide "much needed support" to small and medium-sized businesses, which employ over 69 percent of the workforce.

# UK stuck in slow growth gear, BoE on course to raise rates

REUTERS, London

Britain's Brexit-bound economy remains stuck in a low gear but is probably not weak enough to dissuade the Bank of England from raising interest rates next month, economic data showed.

Separately on Tuesday, Britain's budget forecasters gave a gloomier medium-term outlook for the economy, potentially leaving finance minister Philip Hammond with less room to offset any big hit from Britain's departure from the European Union.

The somewhat downbeat picture for the world's fifth-biggest economy from a raft of data - including a record goods trade deficit - contrasted with the situation in some of Britain's closest trading partners in the European Union.

German exports outpaced imports in August, adding to signs it performed strongly in the third quarter, and Italian industrial output was much stronger than expected. But there were some signs of encouragement for Britain.

The country's factories had their strongest

two months of 2017 in July and August, and the construction sector grew for the first time in three months.

In year-on-year terms, factory output was 2.8 percent higher, its fastest growth in six months.

Revisions to past data showed Britain's economy had been a bit less weak earlier this year than previously thought.

"They're not storming figures but I think they're good enough to keep the Bank of England on track for a November rate hike," said Victoria Clarke, an economist with Investec.

Britain's economy has slowed sharply this year as consumers felt the pinch from rising inflation, caused largely by the fall in the value of the pound after the Brexit vote, and by weak wage growth.

Nonetheless, the BoE said last month that most of its policymakers thought it was likely that they would need to raise rates for the first time in a decade in the coming months.

The BoE believes last year's Brexit vote will create more inflation pressure by dampening business investment and slowing migration to

Britain.

Sterling rose after Tuesday's official data and British government bond prices edged down.

Figures for the much bigger services sector are due to be released on Oct. 25, along with a preliminary first estimate for third-quarter gross domestic product growth, little more than a week before the BoE's Nov. 2 announcement.

Many economists say only a shock weakening in those figures is likely to cause the BoE to delay raising rates.

In a reminder of the long-standing problems that have held back Britain's economy, Tuesday's data showed the country's deficit in its trade in goods hit an all-time high in cash terms.

That was despite the slump in the value of the pound which some supporters of Brexit have predicted will deliver an export boom. Export volumes in the three months to August were 3.2 percent lower than the previous three months, though they are 8.9 percent higher than a year before.



## Bangladesh Election Commission

Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project  
Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka

### Invitation for Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/division	Bangladesh Election Commission.
2	Agency	Election Commission Secretariat.
3	Procuring entity name	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project.
4	Invitation for	Procurement of Laminating Cards for citizens.
5	Invitation Ref No.	BE/IDEA/G30
6	Date	Issued on 11 October 2017

**KEY INFORMATION**

7	Procurement method	National Open Tendering Method.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

8	Budget and source of funds	Worlds Bank IDA Credit.
9	Development partners (if applicable)	World Bank.

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

10	Project/programme code (if applicable)	4938
11	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project.
12	Tender package No.	G30
13	Tender publication date	12 October 2017 (Estimated)
14	Tender last selling date	7 November 2017 (5:00pm)
15	Tender closing date and time	Date: 8 November 2017 Time: 2:00pm
16	Tender opening date and time	Date: 8 November 2017 Time: 2:30pm
17	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
18	-Selling and receiving tender document	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project, Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka.
18	Place/date/time of Pre-tender meeting (optional)	No pre-tender meeting. Date Time

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

19	Brief eligibility of tenderer	The Tenderer shall have (a) The maximum zero number of arbitration against the tenderer over a period of last five years. (b) The Tenderer shall have a minimum of five years of overall experience in the supply of IT product (computer hardware/accessories) or Office equipment supply or related services/products. (c) The minimum supply of Goods: BDT 5 (five) crore or above supply of IT product (computer hardware/ accessories) of reputed National/International Organization in last five (5) years. (d) Any IT product (computer hardware/accessories) of at least 1 (One) contracts successfully completed within the last 5 years, each with a value of at least BDT 5 (five) crore. (e) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is BDT 5 (five) crore.
20	Brief description of related services	Procurement of Laminating Cards for citizens
21	Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 2,000.00 (two thousand only)
22	Lot No.	Identification of lot
22	1	Procurement of Laminating Cards for citizens
30	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammed Saidul Islam
31	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director
32	Address of official inviting tender	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project, Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor -8), Agargaon, Dhaka.
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 880-2-55007571 E-mail: pd.idea.bd@gmail.com
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

**Mohammed Saidul Islam**  
Brigadier General  
Project Director

GD-2131

## US, Mexican businesses warn Nafta at risk

AFP, Mexico City

US and Mexican business leaders warned Tuesday that talks on a new North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) could collapse because of headline demands from US President Donald Trump's administration.

"There are several poison pill proposals still on the table that could doom the entire deal," said Thomas Donohue, president of the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organisation in the United States.

"We've reached a critical moment. And the Chamber has had no choice but ring the alarm bells," he said in a speech in Mexico City, a day before a crucial fourth round of talks on updating the 1994 deal opens in Washington.

Trump ordered a renegotiation of Nafta and threatened to pull out of the pact if the United States did not get a better deal in talks between the US, Mexico and Canada that began in August to revamp it.

Trump accuses Nafta of shipping jobs south of the US border and calls it the worst trade deal ever signed.

Donohue said potentially toxic US proposals include tightening the "rules of origin" to demand certain amounts of American-made content in products, scrapping Nafta's dispute resolution mechanism and a "sunset clause" requiring the deal to be unanimously renewed every five years.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No. LGED/XEN/CTG/e-tender(16-17)2017/5007

Dated: 10/10/2017

### e-Tender Notice-28/17-18

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.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to 24/10/2017 at 12:00 noon for SI No. 1 to 9, 29/10/2017 at 12:00 noon for SI No. 10 to 18.

SI No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	WD-UNR-CTG-MIRSH-17/77	Development of Jogodishpur Noarhat Road (Haikandi UP to Nayarhat Bazar Road via Kamar Ali Bazar) by BC at Ch 4+350+5+540km, Upazila Mirsarai, District: Chittagong (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 543146.00) (ID No-415533004).	124878	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
2	WD-VZR-CTG-HATHA-17/47	Improvement of Qaish High School Road by BC at Ch. 00-482; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 44094.00) (ID No-415374092).	124880	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
3	IRIDP-2/CTG/DW-433	a) Improvement of Burbana Gat Road to Matur Rahman Chairman Road from Ch 00-565m b) Construction of 0.625mx0.625m culvert at Ch 426m on the same road Upazila Mirsarai District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 107660.00 ID No-415535061.	118235	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
4	GCHDP-WD-VZR-CHT-SITA-17/08	Development of Niagazi Road by HBB at Ch 610-800m Upazila Sitakunda District Chittagong ID No-415865024.	114806	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
5	IRIDP-2/CTG/DW-395	a) Improvement of Joynagar Road from Ch 1000-1485m b) Construction of Nos 0.750mx1.125m culvert at Ch 1060m on the same road Upazila Raozan District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 30748.00 ID No-415745050.	102958	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
6	GCHDP-WD-VZR-CHT-HATH-17/44	Development of Lokmania Rd. Mekhal Union Road by HBB at Ch 00-700m Upazila Hathazari District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 251234.00 ID No-415374019.	118183	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
7	IRIDP-2/CTG/DW-398	a) Improvement of Baguan Nasim Jungle Begoan Road from Ch 00-600m b) Construction of Nos 0.750mx1.050m culvert at Ch 505m on the same road Upazila Raozan District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 932907.00 ID No-415745247.	120063	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
8	WD-VZR-CTG-HATHA-17/41	Improvement of Moulana Zahir Ahmamed Road by BC at Ch: 00-715m; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 1214771.00) (ID No-415374034).	124881	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
9	Ctg/Ran/W-11	Construction of 20.00m RCC Girder Bridge at Ch 5500km and 01 vent 1x4.5mx4.5m at Ch 6860km RCC Box Culvert over Kamlachari Khali in Khurushra Abdul Hamid Road-Kamlachari Primary School Road Upazila Rangunia District Chittagong.	125893	24-10-2017 12:00 noon	24-10-2017 14:00pm
10	WD-VZR-CTG-MIRSHA-17/81	Development of Bamonsundor-Darager Hat GC to Bari Bundh R & H Road via Luddakhal Luddakhal-Shahzi Bazar Bamon Sundor Darager hat Road by BC from Ch 1806-2085km 4046-4636km 5096-5196km & 5726-6926km Upazila Mirsarai District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 313558.00 ID No-415533015.	126023	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
11	WD-VZR-CTG-ANOWA-17/38	Improvement of Datter Hat Shilaila Road from Ch 0000-1700 Upazila Anowara District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 76565.00 ID No-415045051.	126007	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
12	IRIDP-2/CTG/SDW-563	a) Improvement of Border Guard Training Center and College Connecting Road from Ch 00-220m b) Construction of 0.500mx0.500m Culvert at Ch 100m on the same road Upazila Satkania District Chittagong ID No-415825059.	125901	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
13	WD-VZR-CTG-RAOZ-16/245	Development of Panch Khain Dharer Tack Road by BC from Ch: 00m-750m; Upazila: Raozan, District: Chittagong (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 1220755.00) (Road ID: 415744075).	124879	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
14	WD-VZR-CTG-HATHA-17/42	Development of Bhaktyer Fakir Road by HBB at Ch: 00-435m; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 271447.00) (ID No-415375332).	125914	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
15	CHLUMP/CHITTAGON G/HATHAZARI/H-31/17-18	Construction of Housing for 01 one freedom fighter Md. Shamsul Alam under Construction of Housing for Landless and underprivileged Muktiyoddha Project CHLUMP, Upazila Hathazari District Chittagong.	126335	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
16	GCHDP-WD-VZR-CHT-HATH-17/48	Development of Bachamia Sowdagor Road N Madrasa by HBB at Ch 100-610m Upazila Hathazari District Chittagong. Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 89453.00 ID No-415375121.	118187	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
17	GCHDP-WD-VZR-RAOZ-17/98	Development of R.D Ram Dulal Road by HBB at Ch 550-850m Upazila Raozan District Chittagong ID No-415744056.	118240	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm
18	IRIDP-2/CTG/DW-562	a) Improvement of Yusuf Ali Bamonsundor Road-Ashad Ali Kari Road via Shabzi Bazar Road from Ch 1500-2000m b) Construction of 0.625mx0.625m Culvert at Ch 1565m on the same road c) Construction of 1x2.00m2.00m Culvert at Ch 1770m on the same road Upazila Mirsarai District Chittagong ID No-415534215.	120945	29-10-2017 12:00 noon	29-10-2017 14:00pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-2128