

China opposes US move to blacklist Huawei

REUTERS, Beijing

China on Thursday slammed a decision by the US government to put telecom equipment giant Huawei on a blacklist and said it will take steps to protect its companies, in a further test of ties as the superpowers clash over trade.

China strongly opposes other countries imposing unilateral sanctions on Chinese entities, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said, stressing that the United States should avoid further impacting Sino-US trade relations.

The crackdown on Huawei came as US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he would visit China soon for more trade talks. Hopes for a deal to end their trade war have been thrown into doubt after the world's two biggest economies raised tariffs on each other's goods in the past week.

The US Commerce Department said on Wednesday it was adding Huawei Technologies Co and 70 affiliates to its so-called "Entity List" in a move that bans the Chinese company from acquiring components and technology from US

firms without prior US government approval.

US President Donald Trump separately on Wednesday signed an executive order barring US firms from using telecom equipment made by companies deemed to pose a national security risk.

The order did not specifically identify any country or company, but US officials have previously labeled Huawei a "threat" and lobbied allies not to use Huawei network equipment in next-generation 5G networks.

"China has emphasized many times that the concept of national security should not be abused, and that it should not be used as a tool for trade protectionism," Gao Feng, spokesman at the Chinese commerce ministry, told reporters.

"China will take all the necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights of Chinese firms."

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Trump backed the decision to "prevent American technology from being used by foreign-owned entities in ways that potentially undermine US

national security or foreign policy interests."

In response, Huawei, which denies its products pose a security threat, said it was "ready and willing to engage with the US government and come up with effective measures to ensure product security."

It said restricting Huawei from doing business in the United States would "limit the US to inferior yet more expensive alternatives, leaving the US lagging behind in 5G deployment and eventually harming the interests of US companies and consumers."

China is also angry about Canada's arrest of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou in December. Meng is facing extradition to the United States on charges that she conspired to defraud global banks about Huawei's relationship with a company operating in Iran.

She and the company deny the charges.

Separately on Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry announced the formal arrest of two Canadian citizens who had been detained shortly after Meng's arrest.



Hossain Khaled, managing director of Anwar Landmark, poses with the Bizz 2019 Award presented by the World Confederation of Businesses in the category of Excellence in real estate industry, at an event in Amsterdam on Tuesday.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (FIRM)		
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Religious Affairs.
2	Agency	Ministry of Religious Affairs.
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project (ERHAP).
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Media Consulting Firm.
7	Eol Ref. No. & date	No. 16.00.0000.007.09.010.19.4 Date: 15 May 2019
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	GoB.
10	Development partners	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project code	224247500
12	Project name	Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project (ERHAP).
13	Eol closing date & time	Date: 30 May 2019 Time 3:00pm.
The undersigned has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) toward the cost of the 'Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project' (ERHAP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this funds to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by a Consultancy Firm.		
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
14	Brief description of the assignment	The project under which the firm will work mainly aims to create awareness among people about proper teachings of different religions in order to uphold communal harmony in the country. It also focuses on creating awareness among young generation about anti-terrorism and anti-militancy lesson. Therefore, a massive awareness creating campaign will run during project period and the Consultancy Firm will be the sole performing agent for the campaign program. As such, the responsibilities of the Firm are: a) To prepare plan and execute it for project implementation. b) To determine the creative route as per strategy and develop content. c) To follow content approval process and deliver as per execution plan within stipulated time. d) To produce relevant program such as TVC, OVC, Drama, RDC, Press Release, Billboard, Poster, Leaflet etc. e) To prepare publicity planning for electronic, print and outdoor media and execute as per scope and budget. f) To design PR Strategy and execute in relevant national and international media.
15	Required experiences, resources and delivery capacity:	1. Any renowned registered media house bearing up-to-date trade licence, TIN, VAT registration certificate with at least 3 years experience in relevant field. 2. Experience in providing Print, Electronic & Digital Communication services to Govt. and experience in large scale media booking. 3. At least 03 years experience in providing similar/related services to government organizations and experience in working with at least 3 government projects. 4. Work orders of minimum BDT 5 crore in government sector having at least one work order worth of BDT 1 crore in a single contract. The Firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of not less than BDT 5 (five) crore in last 03 [three] years. 5. Dhaka based independent office and required office equipments with in-house capability of relevant manpower or human resources with equivalent position of Project Manager, Creative Director, Strategic Planner, Digital Media Planner, Content Creator, Graphic and Motion Graphic Designer, Copywriter, Script Writer, strong copy writing ability in Bangla & English and so on. 6. Experience of managing and promoting Face Book Pages and YouTube Channels along with interactive communicational experiences and experience of designing, developing and executing TVC and Newspaper Ads along with outdoor branding for government organization. 7. Multiple Companies/Firms (not more than 3) having technical and legal competency can apply jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company will take the lead.
The undersigned now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the Services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experiences in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staff, etc.). Consultant will be selected in accordance with the PPA-2006 and PPR-2008 issued by the GoB.		
16	Special instructions	1) Eol shall be submitted by 3.00pm on 30 May 2019 in sealed envelope delivered to Abdulla-Al-Shahin, Project Director (Deputy Secretary) and be clearly marked 'Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Media Consulting Firm'. 2) Following documents need to be attached with the Eol: a) Certificate of incorporation, up-to-date valid trade licence, TIN, tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate and last 3 (three) years audit reports. b) Company brochure/profile covering company expertise, strength and experience, completion certificate/appreciation letter/contract agreement/ purchase order etc. c) Up-to-date bank solvency certificate. 3) Interested applicants may obtain further information from the address below during normal office hours.
17	Phasing of services	N/A.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
18	Name and designation of official inviting Eol	Abdulla-Al-Shahin, Project Director (Deputy Secretary).
19	Address of official inviting Eol	Office of the Project Director, Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project (ERHAP), Flat # 4/B, 48/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000.
20	Contact details of official inviting Eol	Tel: 47120394 E-mail: harmonyproject2019@gmail.com
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all Eols.	
Abdulla-Al-Shahin Project Director Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project 48/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 47120394		

US economy showing signs of strain amid escalating trade war

AFP, Washington

The US economy is showing more signs of strain amid President Donald Trump's multi-front trade war, with a sharp slowdown in manufacturing and a pullback by American shoppers.

Some cooling was to be expected from the red-hot pace of the past year but the drop-off in manufacturing -- especially in the struggling auto sector -- was far worse than economists had expected.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly touted the strong first-quarter growth figures as proof his economic policies and tough trade tactics are producing results.

He cited its 3.2 percent growth rate as proof the United States could weather the impact of his decision to more than double tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to 25 percent as of May 10.

However, economists have long cautioned that the data include troubling signs that could point to a coming slowdown, especially as the short-term burst from the 2017 tax cuts fades away and higher tariffs bite.

US manufacturing declined sharply in April. More worrisome was the economy's total industrial output for the first three months of the year, which was much lower than originally reported, according to Federal Reserve data released Wednesday.

And retail sales fell 0.2 percent -- the mirror image of the 0.2 percent gain economists had instead predicted -- which like manufacturing was impacted by weak auto sales.

Amid the bitter dispute with China, with the pain reflected across in multiple sectors, industrial output in the first quarter plunged 1.9 percent compared to the same period of last year, according to the latest data, revised from a dip of just 0.3 percent reported last month.

In April alone, total output fell 0.5 percent, driven by a decline of the same magnitude in manufacturing, as vehicle production continued to slip.

Economists had been expecting a 0.1 percent gain in industrial production for the month.

"In short, manufacturing is looking weak," economist Jim O'Sullivan of High Frequency Economics told AFP.

Buffett's Berkshire unveils \$861 m Amazon stake

REUTERS

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc said it owned \$860.6 million of Amazon.com Inc shares at the end of March, after the billionaire admitted to underestimating the online retailer and its Chief Executive Jeff Bezos.

The size of the investment was disclosed in a regulatory filing detailing Berkshire's U.S.-listed stocks as of March 31.

Wednesday's filing includes investments by Buffett and his portfolio managers Todd Combs and Ted Weschler, but does not say who bought and sold what.

Buffett told CNBC this month that the 483,300 share Amazon investment, which would now be worth \$904 million, was made by Combs or Weschler, and that he had been "an idiot" for not investing in Amazon himself.

The investment tightens the relationship between Buffett and fellow billionaire Bezos, whose companies teamed up last year with JPMorgan Chase & Co to create a venture, Haven, to reduce their employees' healthcare costs.

Berkshire also invests in JPMorgan, and boosted its holdings in the largest U.S. bank by 19 percent in the first quarter to 59.5 million shares, worth \$6.02 billion.

Bezos has also drawn praise from longtime Berkshire Vice Chairman Charlie Munger.

"I don't mind not having caught Amazon early. The guy is kind of a miracle worker," Munger said at Berkshire's annual shareholder meeting on May 4, referring to Bezos. "It's very peculiar. I give myself a pass on that."

Combs and Weschler's initial investments have sometimes heralded major Berkshire commitments directed by Buffett.

These have included Berkshire's \$32.1 billion purchase in 2016 of industrial and aircraft parts maker Precision Castparts, and a stake in Apple Inc worth close to \$48 billion.

Investors monitor Berkshire's quarterly filings for signs about how where Buffett, Combs and Weschler see value, and stock prices often rise when Berkshire discloses new stakes.

Berkshire also owns more than 90 businesses such as the BNSF railroad and Geico auto insurer.

It often buys stocks when buying whole companies appear too costly. Buffett said on Feb. 23 that prices were "sky-high for businesses possessing decent long-term prospects." The Standard & Poor's 500 has since risen 2.1 percent.

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4	Procuring entity code	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Expressions of Interest for Selection of	ICT Consulting Firm.
7	Eol Ref. No & date	No. 16.00.0000.007.09.010.19.3 Date: 15 May 2019
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
10	Development partners	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
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15	Required experiences, resources & delivery capacity:	1. Any renowned registered IT/ITES company bearing up-to-date trade licence, TIN, VAT registration certificate & BASIS membership and having at least 3 years experience in relevant field. 2. At least 3 years experience in planning, design and supervision on ICT Consulting Services to Government Sector. 3. Experience in digital marketing including govt.'s social media page maintenance, mobile app (android) making and website designing. 4. Dhaka based independent office and required office equipments with in-house capability of relevant manpower or human resources with equivalent position of Project Manager, Creative Director, Strategic Planner, Digital Media Planner, Content Creator, SEO Expert, Graphic and Motion Graphic Designer, strong copy writing ability in Bangla & English and so on. 5. Evidence showing work order of minimum BDT 5 crore in government sector having at least one work order worth of BDT 1 crore in a single contract. The Firm should have a minimum average annual turnover of not less than BDT 5 (five) crore for the last 03 [three] years. 6. Experience with large scale highly available database design and deployment in govt. sector. Experience in online payment & billing system, customer care, complain redresses system and setting up of call center. 7. Experience to handle minimum one Facebook page for government with minimum of 1 Lac Page Likes with a substantial amount of Lifetime Facebook Spent. Experience in large volume SMS/IVR broadcasting and email marketing is also needed. 8. Documentary evidence of continued eligibility of clients' satisfaction, successfully completed assignment along with client list. 9. Capacity to possess own SMS gateway with all operators and to broadcast SMS to minimum 1 million unique MSISDN. 10. Multiple Companies (not more than 3) having technical and legal competency can apply jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company will lead.
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16	Special instructions	1) Eol shall be submitted by 3.00pm on 30 May 2019 in sealed envelope delivered to Abdulla-Al-Shahin, Project Director (Deputy Secretary) and be clearly marked 'Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of ICT Consulting Firm'. 2) Following documents need to be attached with the Eol: a) Certificate of incorporation, up-to-date valid trade licence, TIN, tax clearance certificate, VAT registration certificate and last 3 (three) years audit reports. b) Company brochure/profile covering company expertise, strength and experience, completion certificate/appreciation letter/contract agreement/ purchase order etc. c) Up-to-date bank solvency certificate. 3) Interested applicants may obtain further information from the address below during normal office hours.
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18	Name and designation of official inviting Eol	Abdulla-Al-Shahin, Project Director (Deputy Secretary).
19	Address of official inviting Eol	Office of Project Director, Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project (ERHAP), Flat # 4/B, 48/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000.
20	Contact details of official inviting Eol	Tel: 47120394 E-mail: harmonyproject2019@gmail.com
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Eols.	
Abdulla-Al-Shahin Project Director Enhancing Religious Harmony and Awareness Project 48/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000 Tel: 47120394		