



**Md Nojibur Rahman, principal secretary to the prime minister, speaks at the first Bangladesh-Dubai joint platform meeting on public-private partnership (PPP) projects at InterContinental Dhaka on September 1.**

## Huawei says US enticing, coercing staff to provide company info

REUTERS, Brussels

China's Huawei Technologies on Tuesday said the US government had instructed law enforcement to "coerce" and "entice" its employees to turn against the company, as it steps up its pushback against a US campaign that could threaten its survival.

Huawei made its assertions in a news release on Tuesday and in an undated document seen by Reuters.

Amid a trade war with China, Washington put the world's No. 2 smartphone maker on an Entity List in May, in effect cutting off its access to essential US components and technology, in particular Google's apps and services for Android devices.

Huawei on Tuesday said the US government was using its judicial and administrative powers as well as other means to disrupt its business and that of its partners.

A Justice Department spokesman said that while they do not comment on specific investigations, "in all matters, our investigative techniques comply with the

law and all subjects of investigations enjoy the same rights to due process afforded by our Constitution and safeguarded by an independent judiciary."

Huawei said in its public statement that staff and Huawei partners were subjected to unlawful searches, detention and arrest while some employees were visited by FBI agents at their homes and pressured to collect information on the company.

According to the Huawei document, eight employees, several of them US citizens, were involved in the incidents. All of them are mid- to high-level executives. The latest incident happened on Aug. 28 when an employee from Huawei's US office informed the company of a visit from the FBI asking the person to be an informant.

The Justice Department said the FBI would not have a separate comment.

Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang referred specific questions to the Huawei statement, but said China opposed US moves to target a specific company without providing any evidence.

## US investment in Malaysia up sharply as trade row worsens

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia approved US investment worth \$5.62 billion in the first half of the year compared with \$113 million the previous year, the government said on Wednesday, a possible sign of a diversion of US business as a trade row with China drags on.

US and Chinese companies alike are looking at moving some of their manufacturing out of China to escape tit-for-tat tariffs imposed on each other's products.

Economists say Vietnam and Malaysia are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries, though countries such as India are also trying to attract companies such as Apple, Foxconn and Wistron Corp.

The Malaysian Investment Development Authority, which shared the data on foreign private investments with Reuters on Wednesday, declined to name any company but said global firms were increasingly attracted to Malaysia for its stable business and political climate.

In the first six months of the year, Malaysia approved US investment proposals worth 11.69 billion ringgit in the manufacturing sector, compared with 307 million ringgit a year earlier, replacing China at the top of the investment list.

## India may miss fiscal deficit target amid stimulus pressure

REUTERS, New Delhi

India is likely to miss its fiscal deficit target for the current financial year, despite receiving an additional dividend from the central bank, five government officials and advisers said, as tax collections have sunk amid a sharp slowdown.

With economic growth falling to a six-year low of 5 percent in the April-June quarter, the sources said the government could toward the end of 2019 be forced to raise the fiscal deficit target to 3.5 percent of GDP from 3.3 percent, amid pressure for additional stimulus measures.

The officials asked not to be identified as they have not been authorized to discuss the matter with media. A Finance Ministry spokesman did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Tax collections could fall by as much as 1 trillion rupees (\$14 billion), or 4 percent of \$344 billion annual target, two of the officials said, noting that sharp shortfalls are expected both in goods and services tax (GST) and income tax collections.

"Overshooting the fiscal deficit target is inevitable this year as the economic slowdown has hit government revenue," a senior adviser said, adding the deficit would rise unless the government resorts to hefty spending cuts.

Separately, a finance ministry official said plans to sell minority stakes in some state-run entities including electricity producer NTPC, state insurer General Insurance Corp and construction finance company HUDCO could be deferred, as market sentiment has weakened.

Two government advisers said they have also urged the Prime Minister



**India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrives at her office before leaving for parliament to present the federal budget in New Delhi.**

Narendra Modi-led government to defer the fiscal target to tackle the economic slowdown and outline stimulus steps to help the hard hit sectors such as autos and textiles.

Private economists have revised growth forecasts to as low as 5.8 percent for 2019/20, one percentage point lower than the prior year, saying the slowdown could persist for two or three years while much needed cyclical as well as structural reforms are put in place.

The flat manufacturing sector growth of 0.6 percent during the April-June period, and contraction in the auto sector by nearly 30 percent in July, has hit GST and corporate

tax collections, while consumer spending cuts amid job losses have dented revenue collections.

So far, the government has resisted pressure to announce a big bang stimulus package while nudging the central bank to cut its benchmark repo rate INREPO-ECI, which is already down 110 basis points since February.

Another government adviser said despite receiving a bonanza of around \$8 billion in extra dividends from the central bank, the fiscal deficit would rise as nominal GDP growth has fallen well below the budgeted estimate for the fiscal year.

Policy advisers fear that the government's recently outlined plan to merge 10 state-run banks into four mega banks this year, could also prove to be a distraction for bankers, reducing their focus on credit growth, delaying recoveries on bad loans, and in turn impacting their profits and their dividend payouts to the government.

In 2018/19, government revenue receipts fell 11 percent against the budgeted target, and the government resorted to spending cuts of 1.46 trillion rupees (\$20.42 billion), and the deficit rose 3.4 percent of GDP against initial target of 3.3 percent.

## Pound extends recovery amid Brexit drama

AFP, London

The pound rebounded further Wednesday, but gains were capped by investor anxiety after Brexit turmoil sent the currency tumbling and set the stage for a potential snap UK election next month.

Global stocks rose, with Hong Kong the star performer on reports -- which were subsequently confirmed -- that city leader Carrie Lam would shelve a loathed extradition bill that sparked months of unrest.

Investors brushed off US President Donald Trump's latest China outburst to push equity markets higher.

Back in London, the pound shot back above \$1.22 Wednesday, an increase of one percent from late Tuesday.

Having dived Tuesday to \$1.1959 -- the pound's weakest level since 1985 except for a 2016 "flash crash" -- it has since rallied on rising hopes that Britain will not exit the European Union without a deal.

"Sterling was thrown a lifeline by a parliament determined to avoid a no-deal Brexit," said analyst Connor Campbell at trading firm Spreadex, but he also injected a note of caution.

"The complicating factor here, and the reason that sterling's gains... are not even greater, is the potential for a general election."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson headed into a fresh Brexit showdown in parliament after being dealt a stinging defeat over his promise to get Britain out of the EU at any cost next month.

The Conservative leader has proposed holding an early general election on October 15 if lawmakers vote against him again on Wednesday and force him to seek a three-month Brexit extension from Brussels.

Many economists argue that a no-deal departure would hammer the British economy, which risks already falling into recession this quarter. British business activity shrank already in August, slammed by weakness in the key construction, manufacturing and services sectors, a key survey showed Wednesday.

The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for all UK sectors dropped to 49.7 from 50.3 in July, according to IHS Markit, which compiles the data. A figure below 50 indicates contraction.

"The PMI surveys are so far indicating a 0.1-percent contraction of GDP in the third quarter," which would mean Britain had fallen into recession, noted Chris Williamson, chief business economist at IHS Markit.

**Shihab Ahmad, chief digital services officer at Robi, and Syed Faisal Omar, senior executive vice president and head of international division of Southeast Bank, cut a cake at an event in Dhaka recently to celebrate their partnership on providing mobile financial services to Robi and Airtel customers by the bank.**



## Google target of new US antitrust probe

REUTERS

More than 30 US state attorneys general are readying an investigation into Alphabet Inc's Google for potential antitrust violations, a source knowledgeable about the probe said on Tuesday.

Texas leads the group of 30-plus attorneys general, which plans to announce the probe on Sept. 9, the source said. Google said that it was cooperating with the state officials.

"We continue to work constructively with regulators, including attorneys general, in answering questions about our business and the dynamic technology sector," Google representative Jose Castaneda said. The probe is focused on the intersection of privacy and antitrust, according to the source, who did not elaborate.

Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, filed comments along with 42 other state officials in June that urged the Federal Trade Commission to focus on privacy and data collection in investigating

potential violations of antitrust law.

In the comment, the state officials argued that the big tech firms have so much user data that it is hard for newcomers to compete.

Another Texas official, Assistant Attorney General Jeff Mateer, alleged in an FTC hearing in June that Google and other big tech companies were misleading in representing themselves as neutral, citing Google's balking at carrying an ad about "what it means to be an American," the Texas attorney general's office said in a statement in June. Google eventually relented on the ad, the statement said.

The tech giants, among the richest and most powerful companies in the world, are facing increasing antitrust scrutiny from Congress, federal agencies and now state attorneys general.

The Justice Department said in July that it was opening a broad investigation of major digital technology firms, focusing on whether they engage in anticompetitive practices.



**Small toy figures are seen in front of Google logo in this illustration picture.**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Local Government Engineering Department**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
 District: Mymensingh.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.001.19.2981

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Date : 03-09-2019

**e-Tender Notice: 07/2019-20**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for 01 No Package of the Mymensingh Region Rural Infrastructure Development Project (MRRIDP), 03 Nos Package of the Countrywide Rural Market Infrastructure Development Project (CRMIDP) & 01 No Package of the Preservation & Reconstruction of Muktijuddha Memorial Project (PRMMP) Schemes Financial Year 2019-2020 for this District.

No.	Name of Package & e-Tender ID	Project Name	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/ Opening Date & Time	Tender Method
1	Improvement of BC Road with protection work of Pabaijuri GC-Tarakanda GC Road via Gorakpur Bazar Road Ch. 2100-5425m and 3.5x3.5m & 2.0x2.0m Size 2 Two box Culvert at Ch. 2550 & 4625m Respectively Under Haluaghat Upazila, District-Mymensingh. Road ID No: 361242006. Salvage Amount Tk: 113805.00 (Package No: MRRIDP/18/ MYM/ HALU/ UZR/80) e-Tender ID: 328878(3 <sup>rd</sup> Call)	MRRIDP	Date:06-Oct-2019 Time: 12:30	Date:06-Oct-2019 Time: 14:00	OSTETM
2	Construction of Two 02 Storied Rural Market Building With 04 Storied Foundation in Pashar Bazar Under Gouripur Upazila, District-Mymensingh. (Package No: CRMIDP/MYM/W-251) e-Tender ID: 345938	CRMIDP	Date:06-Oct-2019 Time: 12:30	Date:06-Oct-2019 Time: 14:00	OSTETM
3	Construction of Two 02 Storied Rural Market Building With 04 Storied Foundation in Bowla Bazar Under Phulpur Upazila, District-Mymensingh. (Package No: CRMIDP/MYM/W-247) e-Tender ID: 335189	CRMIDP	Date:03-Oct-2019 Time: 12:30	Date:03-Oct-2019 Time: 14:00	OSTETM
4	Construction of Two 02 Storied Rural Market Building With 04 Storied Foundation in Kali Bazar Under Nandail Upazila, District-Mymensingh. (Package No: CRMIDP/MYM/W-248) e-Tender ID: 350597	CRMIDP	Date:03-Oct-2019 Time: 12:30	Date:03-Oct-2019 Time: 14:00	OSTETM
5	Nilgonj Boddhobhumi Preservation Under Fulpur Upazila, District-Mymensingh. (Package No: PRMMP/ MYM/M-37/Ful/G-02/2019-20) e-Tender ID: 351462.	PRMMP	Date:22-Sep-2019 Time: 12:30	Date:22-Sep-2019 Time: 14:00	LTM

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 e-Tender Security Submit last Date & Time from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches SLNo: (01 & 02 ) 06 Oct-2019, 12:30, (SL No: 3 & 4) 03 Oct-2019, 12:30 & SL No 5, 22 Sep-2019 12:30 am Respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd)) also from E-mail: [xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd) or Cell to 091-66376, 091-66110, 091-64365.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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