



Nihad Kabir, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, hands over a Bangladesh Business Innovation Award 2019 to Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director of Bank Asia, at an awarding ceremony organised by Bangladesh Brand Forum at a hotel in Dhaka on Saturday. The bank was recognised for its outstanding contribution to business model innovation for accelerating financial inclusion in Bangladesh.

BANK ASIA

# Pound resumes drop at start of key Brexit week

AFP, London

The British pound slid against the euro and dollar Monday, the start of a pivotal week for Britain and the European Union to strike a Brexit deal.

European stock markets also retreated as weak Chinese data offset a partial trade deal between China and the United States, analysts said.

Asian investors had earlier Monday saluted the trade deal, sending regional equity markets rallying, though observers were sceptical about the overall significance of the agreement.

Official data meanwhile showed Chinese imports and exports fell more than forecast in September, as US tariffs and cooling demand at home

and abroad hit trade in the world's second largest economy.

The figures weighed heavily on the oil market, with crude futures slumping two percent. They had surged Friday, fuelled by a blast on an Iranian tanker and news of the US-China deal.

"Although the US and China made some progress late last week and President Trump suspended tariffs due to come in in mid-October, the damage from the existing trade restrictions is being felt," noted Fiona Cincotta, senior market analyst at City Index trading group.

She added: "The pound has dropped like a stone overnight after Brexit negotiations didn't lead to any significant progress over the weekend."

Sterling rallied late last week after

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar said after meeting that they could see a "pathway" to reaching a Brexit deal.

But European officials on Sunday said obstacles remained on how to manage trade and customs between EU-member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is a part of the United Kingdom.

Time is running out to sign off on any deal at an October 17-18 European Union summit, the last such meeting before Britain's scheduled departure from the European Union at the end of the month.

Sterling "has given back some of last week's major gains as traders are less hopeful about the prospect of a Brexit deal being reached", said David Madden, analyst at CMC Markets UK.

# China imports, exports down in September as growth cools

AFP, Beijing

China's imports and exports fell more than expected in September, official data showed Monday, as US tariffs and cooling demand at home and abroad hit trade in the world's second largest economy.

Globally, China's exports dropped 3.2 percent in September from the same period last year, while imports dived 8.5 percent, according to data from the customs administration.

The figures were worse than a Bloomberg forecast, which estimated exports to drop 2.8 percent and imports fall 6.0 percent.

The US is now China's third biggest trade partner -- after the European Union and the Southeast Asian trading bloc ASEAN -- with imports from the US down 26.4 percent on-year in September.

China promised to increase US agricultural purchases in a partial US-China deal announced Friday, which also includes protections for intellectual property and opening



REUTERS/FILE

A truck transports a container at a port in Qingdao, China.

up financial markets.

Engulfed in an impeachment inquiry, US President Donald Trump heralded the deal as a major breakthrough.

But it may only offer a temporary tariff reprieve because it lacks specifics and leaves the thorny

issues such as unfair state subsidies to Chinese firms for later, analysts told AFP. So far, the two sides have imposed punitive tariffs covering more than \$360 billion worth of goods in two-way trade.

China's trade surplus with the US narrowed 3.9 percent to \$25.8

billion in September from \$26.9 billion in August.

"We believe that as Sino-US trade negotiations have made progress... and we expect further healthy development in bilateral trade," said Li Kuiwen, a spokesman for Chinese customs.

China's total trade surplus in September was \$39.65 billion.

A major escalation in the trade war last month was "partly to blame" for the weak figures, said Julian Evans-Pritchard, of Capital Economics. Washington imposed 15 percent tariffs on more than \$125 billion in Chinese imports on September 1, and Beijing retaliated with its own fresh levies.

As a result, "the contraction in exports to the US deepened further, while shipments to the rest of the world held steady", Evans-Pritchard wrote in a research note.

"With the mini US-China trade deal unlikely to alleviate the main headwinds facing exporters, it will take longer before growth in outbound shipments bottoms out."



IDLC FINANCE

M Jamal Uddin, deputy managing director and head of business at IDLC Finance, receives a silver award as the "Best Women Friendly SME Bank of Bangladesh" presented by Global SME Finance Forum in Amsterdam recently.

## Government of the People's of Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer (RHD)

HDM Circle

Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

EoI Ref. No: HDM/2019-20/02

Date: 13.10.2019

### Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Consulting Firm

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under the Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges has been allocated public funds from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) for Carrying out Road Inventory Survey (with LRP), Road Condition Survey, GPS Survey, Test Pit Survey, Deflection Survey of RHD Road Network of Cumilla and Chattogram Zone by engaging consulting firm (National) during the year 2019-20 (Package No- HDM/2019-20/SR-2).

The Superintending Engineer (RHD), HDM Circle (hereinafter referred to as the 'Client') now invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed consulting firm or firms in joint venture/association for short-listing the consulting services.

#### The services include:

The services include for Cumilla and Chattogram Zone: (a) Carrying out Pavement Inventory Survey (with LRP) of RHD Road Network; (b) Carrying out Road Condition Survey of RHD Road Network; (c) Carrying out Road Centerline GPS Survey of selected RHD Road Network; (d) Carrying out Test Pit Survey (Construction Type and Quality) of RHD Road Network; (e) Carrying out Deflection Survey of selected RHD Road Network; (f) Providing 01(One) no of 4WD, 5 door, 2300 cc Jeep with air-condition system and including all expenses of driver, fuel, lubricants, tolls etc as required. These services shall be completed within six (06) months from the date of commence.

The experience, resources and delivery capacity required: Submitted EoIs will be evaluated based on the following:

1. Brochures & registration of the firm(s);
2. Legal establishment of the firm(s) (TIN, VAT Registration, Trade License etc);
3. General and overall experience of the firm(s) (limited to three pages);
4. Experience of the firm(s) in similar works during the last 10 years including cost and duration; (Limited to three pages);
5. Average annual turnover of the firm(s) during the last 3 (three) years; and
6. Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications. (including academic qualification and experience adequacy to perform the assignment)

Interested bonafide consulting firm/joint venture firms are invited to submit EoI enclosing only the required information mentioned above. In case of joint venture it is preferable to limit the total number of firm including associates to a maximum of 3 (three).

Consulting firm will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008 and procurement procedures issued by the Government of Bangladesh.

EoI shall be submitted on or before **Monday, 04 November 2019 by 12.00pm** in sealed envelope to the Superintending Engineer (RHD), Room No-G/201, HDM Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection of Consulting Firm for Cumilla and Chattogram Zone (Package No-HDM/2019-20/SR-2)"

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EoIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Mohammad Rabiul Alam)

ID No: 000425

Superintending Engineer, RHD

HDM Circle

Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

## Government of the People's of Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer (RHD)

HDM Circle

Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

EoI Ref. No: HDM/2019-20/01

Date: 13.10.2019

### Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Consulting Firm

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The Superintending Engineer (RHD), HDM Circle (hereinafter referred to as the 'Client') now invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed consulting firm or firms in joint venture/association for short-listing the consulting services.

#### The services include:

The services include for Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet Zone: (a) Carrying out Pavement Inventory Survey (with LRP) of RHD Road Network; (b) Carrying out Road Condition Survey of RHD Road Network; (c) Carrying out Road Centerline GPS Survey of selected RHD Road Network; (d) Carrying out Test Pit Survey (Construction Type and Quality) of RHD Road Network; (e) Carrying out Deflection Survey of selected RHD Road Network; (f) Providing 01(One) no of 4WD, 5 door, 2300 cc Jeep with air-condition system and including all expenses of driver, fuel, lubricants, tolls etc as required. These services shall be completed within six (06) months from the date of commence.

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