



Sarwar Jahan, deputy managing director of KSRM Group, and Jalal Ahmed, president of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), attend a memorandum of understanding signing ceremony at the IAB Centre in Dhaka on Sunday to announce the launch of "KSRM Awards for Future Architects: Best Undergraduate Thesis" for the students of IAB-recognised universities.

German investor morale surges

REUTERS, Berlin

The mood among German investors improved far more than forecast in December, a survey showed on Tuesday, with an unexpected rise in October exports boosting hopes for an upturn in Europe's biggest economy.

The ZEW research institute's monthly index on economic morale among investors rose to 10.7 from -2.1 a month earlier. The reading exceeded even the highest forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, which showed a consensus prediction of 0.0.

Europe's biggest economy has been going through a soft patch as its export-oriented manufacturers struggle against a backdrop of trade friction, an ailing car industry and uncertainties over Britain's planned departure from the European Union.

But data on Monday showed German exports rose unexpectedly in October as demand from beyond Europe increased, helping to buoy investor sentiment. ZEW President Achim Wambach said the rise in morale "rests on the hope that German exports and private consumption will develop better than previously thought".



Muhammad Rashed UI Alam, head of marketing at RFL Plastics, receives the "Best Brand Award" from the Bangladesh Brand Forum at Le Meridien Dhaka on Saturday. RFL Plastics came second among 100 brands that were recognised in the event.



Subrata Ranjan Das, executive director of ACI Motors, the authorised distributor of Yamaha motorcycle in Bangladesh, attends the launch of "Cox's Bazar Riding Fiesta" initiated by the Yamaha Riders Club in the beach town recently.

European companies minimise risks from US-China trade war

AFP, Beijing

European companies in China have been able to minimise the effect from the tariff war between Beijing and Washington, although some are considering relocating their businesses, the EU Chamber of Commerce said Monday.

The world's two biggest economies have been entangled in a lingering trade war for over a year, which has weighed on the global economy and resulted in hundreds of billions of dollars in punitive tariffs slapped on two-way trade.

European companies in China "have effectively negated the tariff effects in a relatively short space of time," said the president of the EU Chamber of Commerce in China, Joerg Wuttke.

Many companies have "effectively side-stepped" the steep tariffs by re-jiggering their supply chains and leveraging their global corporate networks, the chamber said in a statement.

According to a survey of its members released Monday, 64 percent of respondents said they have not noticed "any change" in their business as a result of the trade war.

Another 10 percent said they were "completely affected" by the trade war.

However many European companies said they expected the trade war to be "long-lasting", and 10 percent have already changed suppliers.

At the time of the survey, another eight percent had already relocated parts of their business out of China

or were planning to do so -- mainly to elsewhere in southeast Asia -- while 15 percent had delayed investment or expansion decisions because of the trade war.

This figure was up from six percent since the previous survey in January.

The report, which surveyed 174 companies in China, was completed in September and is released as China and the US continue to negotiate a way to reach a "phase one" trade deal.

In the absence of any agreement, Washington is threatening to impose 15 percent additional customs surcharges on December 15, which will apply to Chinese goods which have so far been spared, including cellphones and sportswear.

They account for some \$160 billion in annual imports.



Kazi Khurram Ahmed, a director of Standard Bank, opens the lender's new Islamic banking window at its branch on the Topkhana Road in Dhaka yesterday. Md Tariqul Azam, acting managing director, was present.

Advertisement for Standard Bank's Islamic banking window. It includes the bank's logo, name in Bengali, and details of the new window opening. It lists the managing director, Kazi Khurram Ahmed, and the acting managing director, Md Tariqul Azam. The advertisement also contains a table with financial details and a list of services offered.

Advertisement for Standard Bank's Islamic banking window. It includes the bank's logo, name in Bengali, and details of the new window opening. It lists the managing director, Kazi Khurram Ahmed, and the acting managing director, Md Tariqul Azam. The advertisement also contains a table with financial details and a list of services offered.