India passes farm bills amid protest from opposition parties

India's parliament on Sunday passed new big buyers, despite growing protest from

opposition parties and a long-time ally of the and large retailers like Walmart ruling party.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said bills the government says will make it easier the new laws will reform antiquated laws and for farmers to sell their produce directly to remove middlemen from agriculture trade, allowing farmers to sell to institutional buyers



REUTERS/FILE

People stand in front of the parliament building in New Delhi.

The bills also make contract farming easier by providing a new set of rules.

But Modi's food processing minister from an alliance party resigned on Thursday in protest calling the bills "anti-farmer", and the opposition parties have said farmers' bargaining power will be diminished by allowing retailers to have tighter control over them.

On Sunday, some opposition lawmakers raised slogans, tore documents and tried to grab the speaker's microphone in Rajya Sabha, before two controversial bills were passed by a voice

"The passage of both the bills in parliament is indeed a landmark day for Indian agriculture,' one of Modi's senior cabinet ministers, Rajnath Singh, said on Twitter.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Modi's former food processing minister, is from a regional party which has a strong base in the northern state of Punjab and believes the bills will increase farmer suffering in the breadbasket state.

Her party believes the laws will destroy wholesale markets which ensure fair and timely payments to farmers, weaken the state's farmers and the overall state economy.

Many farmer organizations have in recent days held street protests in Punjab and the neighboring Haryana state near New Delhi. On Sunday, India's main opposition Congress party criticized the government.

'We will make sure that the government will have to step down on its knees before the farming community of this country," said Randeep Surjewala, a party spokesman.

"It will be farmers one side and big businesses on the other side, how will they fight?," he added.

Bank Asia arranges Tk 700cr for cement plant of Bashundhara

The banks saw that the sector has potential Cement annually witnessed 20 per cent to increase business along with facilitating infrastructure development projects in Bangladesh, he said.

Besides, Bashundhara Group's profile and transaction records with Bank Asia augmented delivery of the syndicated loan. According to Ali, Bank Asia will provide

Tk 150 crore while the other banks the remaining Tk 550 crore. He said the syndicate approved the

loan for a seven-year term and there is no possibility of any issues to arise over repayment as the size of the loan would not turn out to be a burden for a group with such a profile.

Through this expansion, Bashundhara's daily production capacity will reach 25,000 tonnes, Khandoker Kingshuk Hossain, chief marketing officer of the conglomerate's cement business, told The Daily Star.

The two existing units produce around 14,000 tonnes per day, he said.

"Our target is to export to the Seven Sister states in India as the demand of cement in Bangladesh and India's northern states will increase rapidly in the coming days due to development activities," he said.

According to him, their King Brand growth for the past 10 years while that of the overall sector was 15.6 per cent.

However, he said, this year the growth in cement consumption would not be the same as in previous years for the ongoing pandemic. They have already set up the infrastructure of the new unit at its existing factory in Narayanganj and are hoping to go into production by June next year, he

There are 37 active cement factories in Bangladesh which invested over Tk 30,000 crore to attain a combined annual production capacity of 58 million tonnes against a demand of 33 million tonnes.

According to Bangladesh Cement Manufacturers Association (BCMA), local companies dominate the market where annual sales have reached \$3 billion, or Tk 25,500 crore.

Of the total consumption, individuals account for 25 per cent, real estate companies and developers 30 per cent and the government 45 per cent.

Bangladesh's per capita cement consumption is around 181 kilogrammes. It is expected to increase to 220 kg by 2020.

HSBC introduces dual currency transaction feature on debit card

"The ease of having just one card and using it at home and abroad enhances the customer experience which is one of the major purposes of our operations in Bangladesh," he added. He thanked Bangladesh Bank for allowing this feature in debit cards recently for the banking industry.

HSBC, which has offices in 64 countries and territories around the world, opened its first branch in Bangladesh in 1996.

It offers a range of financial services, including commercial banking, consumer banking, global liquidity and cash management, trade services, treasury, and custody and clearing.

Currently, HSBC Bangladesh operates in both the major commercial hubs of Dhaka and Chattogram and has presence in all eight export processing zones.

Dated: 20-9-2020

Last selling and closing

date & time

19 October 2020;

16:00:00

20 October 2020;

Mobile phone users rise to four-month high

on their mobile phones rose 8.23 per cent in July. The number of broadband

internet users surged 50 per cent.

There were 9.42 crore mobile internet users and 57.43 lakh broadband internet users in February. MA Hakim, president of the Internet Service Providers Association Bangladesh (ISPAB), said people

have become dependent on internet to perform many tasks during the coronavirus pandemic. Today, the internet has become a

The consumption of broadband rose from about 1,500 gigabytes before the pandemic to about 1,750 gigabytes now. Previously, growth in

The number of people using internet on their mobile phones rose 8.23 per cities such as Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet. Now, consumption is growing across the country and even in small towns and rural areas, Hakim said.

He said Bangladesh is connecting its unions through the setting up of 20,000km optical fibre cable. But the capacity of this network is largely being unused.

If the government provides the unused portion of the cable to the private sector at a nominal cost, it would be possible to provide internet to the users in small towns and villages at cheaper cost, he said.

The penetration rate of fixedbroadband is about 6 per cent in Bangladesh and the government has

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Food

Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)

Probashi Kallayan Bhaban (Level-17) 71-72, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

fixed-broadband internet penetration mostly came from metropolitan cities such as Dhaka, Chattogram and project director of the Info Sarkar

Under the project, the government has connected 2,400 unions through the optical fibre cable so far and the rest 200 unions would be connected by December this year.

Bangladesh The state-run Telecommunications Company has already connected 1,200 unions. The ICT Division is undertaking a project to connect 617 more unions by 2021. About 100 unions would be connected

by satellite, according to Ghosh.

"This will connect the whole
Bangladesh," he said, adding that
households would have to secure

Date: 20/09/2020

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Dhaka Road Circle, Allenbari, Tejgaon, Dhaka Tel: 880-2-9116467, Fax: 880-2-9114973 Email: sedha@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.2690.175.02.002-20/2792

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing Tender ID: 497064 Widening Pavement, Construction of Drain and DBS Wearing Course work at Package No.: 01/e-GP Ch. 0+235 (Joydevpur Chowrasta) to Ch. 2+406 (Nawjor) = 2.171 km. of Road/SE/DRC/2020-2021 Joydevpur-Tangail-Jamalpur Road (N-4) Road under Gazipur Road Division Publishing: 20th September during the year 2020-2021.

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

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 Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md. Harun or Rashid

Assistant Engineer, RHD Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka

Md. Ataur Rahman ID No. 005153 Superintending Engineer, RHD Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka

www.mfsp.gov.bd Memo: MFSP.13.01.0000.362.07.234.2018.139 Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Country: Bangladesh Project name: Modern Food Storage Facilities Project

Credit Number: IDA 5265-BD

Name of IFB: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Online food stock and market monitoring system of DG

Food including data center, software etc. IFB Number: GD-27a

1. Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments

under the contract for abovementioned package. 2. The Directorate General of Food now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for abovementioned package.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the website www.mfsp.gov.bd and may contact the procuring entity during office hours.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 10,000 (Taka ten thousand only) or USD 120 (USD one hundred twenty only). The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in favour of Director General of Food. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing any international courier service/local agent to collect the same from the address given below. Softcopy of the bidding documents are available (for view only) at website: www.mfsp.gov.bd for information

6. A pre-bid meeting will be held at address below on 07 October 2020 at 11:00 hour. In addition, the pre-bid meeting will be telecast live through videoconference (which will also be recorded) and the link to the videoconference will be sent 7 calendar days before the specified date of pre-bid meeting through email to all prospective bidders who purchased the bidding documents.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **04 November 2020 14:00 hour**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on the same day at 14:30 hour. In addition, the bid opening meeting will be telecast live through videoconference (which will also be recorded) and the link to the videoconference will be sent 7 calendar days before the specified date of bid opening through email to all prospective bidders who purchased the bidding documents who may choose to attend the meeting virtually.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 300,000 or BDT 25 million.

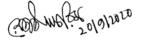
9. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid licence or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which can result in ineligibility to be awarded World Bank-financed contracts.

The address referred to above is:

Project Director

Modern Food Storage Facilities Project Probashi Kallayan Bhaban (Level-17) 71-72, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Tel: +8802 58314339 GD-1487



Md. Rezaul Karim Sheikh **Project Director** Modern Food Storage Facilities Project

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Office of the Executive Engineer **Education Engineering Department** Noakhali District



Invitation for e-Tender (IFT)

Tender Notice No. 09/e-GP/EED/ND/Code-120001602/2020-2021. Dt: 20/09/2020

e-Tender are hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works.

SI No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Reference memo No.	Tender document last selling/downloading (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./001	495791	Construction of Boundary wall at Batakandi Adarsha High School, Senbag, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
02	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./002	495792	Construction of Boundary wall at Hazi Moksudur Rahaman Muslim High School, Senbag, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
03	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./003	495794	Construction of Boundary wall at Kankirhat Multilateral High School, Senbag, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
04	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./004	495795	Construction of Semi Pucca building at Lemua High School, Senbag, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
05	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./005	495797	Repair and Renovation works at Modhua M.A. Ali High School, Senbag, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
06	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./006	495798	Repair and Renovation works at Joyag Multilateral High School, Sonaimuri, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00
07	NOA/Repair/ Non.Govt./007	495799	Repair and Renovation works at Nateshwar Morshed Alam High School, Sonaimuri, Noakhali.	se/eed/chat.cir./ D.A.an/042.2020 .64.8, dt-09-09- 2020	06-Oct-2020 16:00	07-Oct-2020 11:00

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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Dipankar Khisa

ee_noa@eedmoe.gov.bd

Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Noakhali District

GD-1486