

India wins US support for food scheme, ends WTO blockade

REUTERS, New Delhi/Washington

India won US support for a massive domestic food stockpiling scheme on Thursday, rescuing the biggest global trade deal in two decades and giving India's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi a victory without major concessions.

Under the pact with Washington, India will lift a veto on a global agreement on streamlining customs rules that is likely to add \$1 trillion to the world economy as well as 21 million jobs, 18 million of them in developing countries.

Modi, elected in May, had pulled the plug on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement four months ago because he objected to a related deal on food security.

Washington, which was the principal opponent of India's food scheme on the grounds that it distorted trade, hailed Thursday's deal. Trade Representative Michael Froman said it would "give new momentum to multilateral efforts at the WTO" and predicted the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) struck by the WTO last year in Bali, Indonesia, would now win quick ratification.

Yet, at a conference call to brief reporters on the deal, Froman declined to answer questions on what concessions India had given in return.

In talks to break the deadlock, India stressed the importance of ensuring that its 1.25 billion people, many of them poor, have enough to eat. It won an open-ended commitment from Washington to protect its food purchase and distribution scheme from any challenge under WTO disputes procedures.

Without the clause, India could have been vulnerable to attack by trade partners over exports of any surplus grain stocks accumulated in government warehouses.

New Delhi's blockade had plunged the WTO into its worst crisis in two decades, leading Director General



REUTERS/FILE

Labourers work at a rice mill on the outskirts of Agartala.

Roberto Azevedo to float the idea of abandoning the consensus principle on which the 160-member group operates.

Modi's tough line jarred with the 'Make in India' pitch he has taken to investors abroad in his first five months in charge. He could have been isolated at his first G20 summit of world leaders in Brisbane, Australia, this weekend.

But India, home to a sixth of the world's population, is one of the few bright spots in a flagging global economy and Modi was vindicated in his conviction that its promising market for cars, mobile phones and medicines would not be cut adrift.

"This is a huge plus for the world trading system - it uncorks TFA and potentially other deals," said Frederic Neumann, co-head of Asian Economics Research at HSBC in Singapore.

"From Modi's perspective, it's a major victory to say we've got an indefinite stay of execution on our food subsidy scheme."

Modi instructed aides early last week to strike a deal. Throughout the impasse, Indian officials expressed quiet confidence that Azevedo would

not win enough backing to follow through on his threat.

India had called for a permanent 'peace clause' to protect its food stockpiling scheme, subject to certain conditions, until a permanent solution on the issue was found at the WTO. Under the Bali accord, the peace clause would have expired after four years.

India refused to bow to calls to scale back its scheme to buy wheat and rice from its farmers, despite criticism that this encouraged over-production. A food security law passed by the last government actually expanded the number who were entitled to receive cheap food grains to 850 million.

In a recent disclosure to the WTO, India said its state food procurement cost \$13.8 billion in 2010-11, part of the total of \$56.1 billion it spends on farm support. Wheat stocks, at 30 million tonnes, are more than double official target levels.

The India-United States compromise should now go before a Dec. 11-12 meeting of the WTO's General Council, its highest decision-making body, for ratification, Indian trade minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Amazon to keep investing in cloud despite margin pressure

REUTERS, Las Vegas

Amazon.com Inc plans to build data centres in every large country over time as part of a broader investment push that will eventually make the Internet retailer's cloud computing arm the largest part of its business.

In a roundtable with reporters on Wednesday, Amazon Web Services chief Andy Jassy did not provide a timetable for these investments in the AWS unit, which provides Internet-based computing and data management to corporate clients.

Jassy added that the Internet retailer intends to continue investing in AWS, despite investors' concerns it was spending too much and sacrificing margins.

"We are prepared to invest as much as it takes to grow the business," Jassy told reporters. He added that Amazon plans to build data centres in "virtually every large country" over time.

Amazon stunned investors after missing quarterly results expectations across the board last month, including for margins, revenue and net loss. Investors who had long overlooked its streak of quarterly losses are worried that growth is peaking for Amazon.

'Virtual wallets' keep Uber driving in India

AFP, Mumbai

The taxi-hailing app Uber has changed its payment method for Indian customers after new central bank regulations threatened its operations in the country.

Passengers using an Uber taxi in India will now need to pre-pay for their rides through a virtual wallet linked to their bank cards, according to an official blog from the popular startup.

"Once you link your debit card or bank account via a Paytm wallet to your Uber account, you'll easily be able to top up your wallet using multiple payment options," said the San Francisco-based firm, which began operations in India last year.

Paytm is an Indian mobile commerce platform that is used to pay bills and recharge pre-paid mobile phones.

In most countries where Uber operates, passengers simply need to register their debit

or credit cards in the firm's mobile application, which are then debited after each ride.

But the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August expressed concern that Indian bank cards were being used for services that were linked to banks overseas.

It therefore called for a two-step authentication process for all card transactions, with businesses given until the end of October to comply.

Customers hail a cab on the Uber smartphone app, which uses GPS to put the user in contact with the nearest local driver. Uber charges a commission for each ride.

Its initial payment method raised questions over its tax liabilities in India since a Netherlands-based arm of the firm was handling the payments, but local drivers were charging a tax for their services.

An end to Indian operations would have been a blow for the startup founded in 2009, since India is reported to be Uber's biggest market outside the United States.

Jaguar Land Rover UK staff reject pay deal, union calls for more talks

REUTERS, London

British workers at carmaker Jaguar Land Rover have voted against an offered pay rise and pension changes as Britain's biggest trade union said the firm should return to the negotiating table or face a ballot for industrial action.

Talks between the Indian Tata-owned automaker and workers' representatives ended with no agreement in October after the union rejected a pay deal offering staff a rise of at least 3 percent in each of the next three years. On Thursday, trade union Unite said nearly 13,000 staff had rejected the pay offer, with just under 500 accepting.

Unite national officer Roger Maddison said there were concerns over what he said

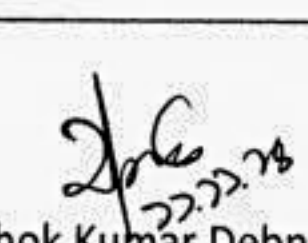
were proposed reductions to pension provisions at the firm. "With the company making a staggering 10 million pounds (\$15.7 million) profit a day, it is no surprise that the workforce is angered by pension cuts and a pay offer that falls short in recognising their role in that success," he said.

Jaguar Land Rover would not comment on details of the pay or pension deal when asked by Reuters but a spokesman said the firm was very disappointed with the result of the ballot but committed to reaching a negotiated settlement. After years in the doldrums, Jaguar Land Rover has enjoyed a new lease of life since it was bought by India's Tata group in 2008, recording a 2013/14 pre-tax profit of 2.5 billion pounds, more than doubling in three years.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat
Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.bpsc.gov.bd
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat		
1.	Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat
3.	Name of Procuring entity	Secretary, Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5.	Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of	Event Management Firm.
6.	EOI Ref No.	80.403.036.00.00.021.2014-543
7.	Date (DD/MM/YY)	11 November, 2014
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procurement Sub-method	Quality and cost Based Selection (QCBS) of PPR 2008.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9.	Budget & Source of funds	GOB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Project Code	
11.	Project Name	Managing event of 4 th Meeting of the Chiefs of Public/Civil Service Commissions of SAARC Member States at Dhaka
12.	EOI Closing date & time	28 November, 2014 at 5.00 Pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
13.	Brief description of work	(a) To manage an international level (4th Meeting of the Chiefs of Public/Civil Service Commissions of SAARC Member States at Dhaka) Conference; (b) to provide administrative support during the events :coordinating Inaugural ceremony& closing, staffing of events, reception , source and liaison with facilitator and stakeholders; (c) to decorate the event venue & rent the equipments necessary for event conduction; (d) to provide additional necessary services as and when required.
14.	Experience, resource & delivery capacity required	(a) At least 7 years of experience in the field of Event Management. (b) Manage at least 3 national / international conferences. (c) Have experience of managing at least 1 international conference. (d) Adequate manpower, logistics and other resources to be assigned for services. (e) Experience for implementing creative execution that involves participation of innovative activities & efficient communication planning is mandatory. (f) Company must have aggregate turnover of at least Tk.5 crore in the last three years. (g) Company must have liquid assets or credit facility of Tk. 50 lac.
15.	Other details	Interested firms are invited to provide (a) brochures submitted by the Applicants summarizing their facilities & areas of expertise; (b) description of similar assignments; (c) experience in similar operating environments & conditions; (d) availability of appropriate experience & professional qualifications among Applicant's staff adequate resources to carryout the assignment; and (e) managerial strength & financial capacity.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
16.	Name of the official Inviting EOI	Ashok Kumar Debnath
17.	Designation of the official Inviting EOI	Deputy Secretary (Finance & Service)
18.	Address of the official Inviting EOI	Bangladesh Public Service Commission Secretariat Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
19.	Contact Details of the Inviting EOI	Tel: 55006638 (Office), Email: <ashokdebnath@gmail.com>

The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI


 Ashok Kumar Debnath
 DS (Finance & Service)
 Bangladesh Public Service
 Commission Secretariat

GD-4245

Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment & Governance Project
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Information and Communication Technology Division
Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
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EOI Ref # 56.109.007.00.00.042-2014-755 Date: 11 November 2014

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For Delivery of Middle Management Training Services for IT and IT-Enabled Services Industry (Contract Package # S 31)

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), an organization of Information & Communication Technology Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance Project (LICT) (IDA Credit No.: 5025-BD), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for payment of services related to Delivery of Middle Management Training Services for IT and IT-Enabled Services Industry.

The objective of this assignment is to recruit a leading skills assessment, development, and certification organization to develop and implement a program to provide IT/ITES middle management and/or supervisory skills training and certification for the IT/ITES industry of Bangladesh.

The Scope of the Services include, but not limited to (i) Provide Inception Report, (ii) Analyze Skills & Roles Gaps, (iii) Develop Middle Management Role Specific Skill Set Dictionary, Standards and Skills Development Framework, (iv) Develop Embedded Middle Management Training (EMMaT) Process, (v) Design and Develop Course Curriculum, (vi) Develop Content, (vii) Pilot, Evaluate and Refine and (viii) Implement Mass Rollout.

The Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance project, invites qualified firms to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for Delivery of Middle Management Training Services for IT and IT-Enabled Services Industry.

Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the assignment. The selection criteria are as follows:

- Certificate of Incorporation/Registration of consultants (firm).
- At least 5 years of experience in conducting similar assignments in home and abroad; preferably with international experience in at least 2 countries.
- Other experiences of the firm(s) for IT and IT-Enabled Services Industry.
- Availability of appropriate skills among staff.
- International Accreditation.
- Availability of resources.
- Support services of the firm .

The attention of interested Firms is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with International/National Firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-contract to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "Joint-Venture" or of a "Sub-Contract". In the case of a joint venture, all members of such "association" should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of three.

The procurement process would be Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated: January 2011".

Interested firms may obtain Terms of References (TOR) at the address below during regular office time 9:00 to 15:30 hours (GMT+06:00) on all working days. They may also obtain the same in the BCC's official website: www.bcc.net.bd. The notice of request for EOI is available on the websites: CPTU (www.cptu.gov.bd).

Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form with all relevant information and documents establishing eligibility to the address below by 15 December 2014 in three sets (1 Original + 2 Copies) and clearly marked "Expression of Interest for Delivery of Middle Management Training Services for IT and IT-Enabled Services Industry".

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs, or annul the process at any stage without assigning any reason(s) whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applicant(s).

Project Director
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