

# India turns to corner shops, mobile phones for banking revolution



A woman speaks on her mobile phone after recharging it at a local shop in Kolkata.

REUTERS, New Delhi/Mumbai

India is betting that mobile phone vendors, fuel stations and corner stores can help it put basic banking within the grasp of hundreds of millions of its poor people living beyond the reach of traditional bank branches.

The clock is ticking down to a Feb 2 deadline for applications to set up so-called payments banks under new rules that would allow successful bidders to offer services such as remittances and deposits, but not loans.

The regulations announced by the central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), reflect a realisation that traditional banks alone can't achieve the objective of financial inclusion championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a four-month campaign to end "financial untouchability", Modi has opened 115 million new bank accounts. Yet of those, 80 million have no money in them, underscoring the huge challenge he faces in delivering on his promise.

Backers of the payments banks say they could help bring those accounts to life by bridging the gap from bank branches in town to India's 600,000 villages, making it easier to send money home, collect state benefits or do business deals.

"There's an entirely new set of actors," said Bindu Ananth, a member of the RBI committee that designed the payments banks rules. "We said: Let's create a regulatory framework that allows the participation of non-banks."

Mobile operators and pre-paid wallet players are expected to lead the

charge, seeking to add transaction fees to revenue streams from products such as phone minutes and bill payments.

Retailers are interested too. Future Group, one of India's biggest with a presence in more than 100 cities, says it will apply for a permit. Online players also spy an opportunity to boost client loyalty and scale up volumes. Paytm, a platform that is close to winning backing from China's e-commerce king Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, will bid.

"We are aiming at 100-200 million users (overall)," said Vijay Shekhar Sharma, CEO of Paytm, which provides pre-paid wallet services, helps consumers make bill payments online and offers coupon discounts. Paytm now has 20 million users.

In the most important change, payments banks will be allowed to not only accept cash, but also pay it out, boosting their appeal for low-income savers. Their precursors, Pre-paid Payment Instrument (PPI) providers, were not allowed to pay out cash.

Payments banks could cut the use of cash in an economy where nine out of 10 transactions are still paid in notes and coins and kick-start the use of low-cost payment forms like mobile money that have been used by only one in every 300 Indians.

That compares with 76 percent of people in Kenya, Africa's mobile money pioneer, where Vodafone's M-Pesa affiliate dominates the market.

Payments specialist Oxigen is applying for a licence and wants to become a "last-mile" bank, said group president Rajpal Duggal. Oxigen would treble its

130,000-strong agent network to meet a requirement for the payments banks to have a quarter of their retail 'touch points' in rural India.

For Oxigen agent Gurmukh Singh, who sells air time, runs an Internet cafe and offers city tours from his tiny shop in New Delhi's Karol Bagh market, the payments bank model is a new opportunity.

"Now we can only send money to a bank account, but if we could pay out too it would be a good business," he said as, with a few computer clicks, he made a 2,000 rupee (\$32) bank transfer for a customer remitting money to his family in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

The business model for the payments banks will be driven by transactions, rewarding players like Bharti Airtel that have already built out their infrastructure. India, a country of 1.25 billion people, has more than 900 million mobile phones. The cost to a mobile operator of hosting a payments account would be a tenth of that to a regular bank, according to RBI committee member Ananth. Airtel and Vodafone declined to comment but are widely expected to apply.

Modi, meanwhile, is determined to activate the new accounts opened at conventional banks under his financial inclusion drive, linking them to India's identity card scheme and paying welfare benefits into them.

By partnering with mainstream banks - as Oxigen has with State Bank of India - the payment banks could deliver "cash out" welfare payments, and become a marketing channel for products like loans and insurance.

# Oil prices down in Asia

AFP, Singapore

Oil fell in Asia Monday after the anti-austerity party Syriza swept to victory in Greece's general elections, dealing a further blow to the struggling euro, analysts said.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for March delivery plunged by as much as 2.7 percent to \$44.35 a barrel in New York, and Brent crude for March tumbled by up to 1.9 percent in London.

Both contracts regained some ground and by mid-morning trade in Asia, WTI was trading at \$45.14, down 45 cents or 0.99 percent, and Brent was at \$48.44, off 35 cents or 0.72 percent.

"Oil prices plunged just when they opened. We believe that the initial drop was sparked by the Greek elections," said Daniel Ang, an investment analyst with Phillip Futures in Singapore.

"We even saw a glimpse of panic selling once the market opened. However, prices did rebound shortly after it dropped," he told AFP.

The victory by the Syriza Party, whose anti-austerity policies have sparked fears Greece could exit the eurozone, sent the euro plunging to fresh 11-year lows against the US dollar.

Analysts say this makes dollar-priced oil more expensive, denting demand and adding further downward pressure on oil prices.

# MPs debate controversial French bid to 'unblock' economy

AFP, Paris

French MPs on Monday thrashed out a controversial package of reforms designed to "unlock" France's sclerotic economy, including a proposal to extend Sunday shopping that sparked angry demonstrations.

The reforms, presented by France's youthful Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron, aim to shake up Europe's second-biggest economy as it battles with stubbornly high unemployment and near-zero growth.

One of the most controversial planks of the plan extends the number of Sundays that shops can open annually from five to a maximum of 12.

In areas designated "tourist zones" -- such as the iconic Champs Elysees in Paris -- the proposed law would allow shops to open every Sunday and until midnight every day, bringing the French capital more in line with London.

But this has proved hugely divisive in a country where the maximum working week is fixed at 35 hours and leisure time is sacrosanct.

After enormous demonstrations against the reform package last year, several unions plan to hit the streets again on Tuesday to protest against what they see as the "acceptance of work on Sundays and at night."

Another facet of the law -- opening up previously heavily regulated professions such as notarial lawyers -- sparked the unusual sight of these white-collar workers marching through the streets.

Other measures aiming to prise open up the notoriously closed French economy include throwing open inter-city bus routes to competition and privatising the airports of Nice and Lyon.

Under pressure from Brussels, the reform package also aims to improve the parlous state of France's public finances.

Paris sent shockwaves through the European Union last year by going back on a promise to get its budget deficit under EU limits by this year, pushing the deadline to 2017.

Deputies open a two-week debate on Monday on the reforms that have not only split the parliament down party lines but also opened up divisions within party groups.



Md Nazmus Salehin, managing director of Standard Bank, poses with the participants of a workshop on prevention of money laundering, organised by the bank's training institute recently.

## চালনা পৌরসভা

চালনা, দাকোপ, খুলনা  
ফোন : ০৪০২৩৫৬০৬০  
ফ্যাক্স : ০৪০২৩৫৬০৬৯

স্মারক নং-চাপৌ/প্রবি/উভার-৩/আইইউআইডিপি/২০১৪-১৫/২৮১ তারিখ-২১/০১/২০১৫ইং

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৪/২০১৪-১৫

কর্তৃপক্ষ ন্যায় অবকাঠামো উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের অধীন চালনা পৌরসভার নিম্নলিখিত ০৬ (ছয়) টি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প কাজ বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮ ও (PPA-2006) এর সংশোধনী মোতাবেক OTM পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং	কাজের বিবরণ	কাজের পরিমাণ (মি/মি.মি.মি.)	কাজের আনুমানিক মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজের সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা (দিন)
০১	মহালাল/বিভাগ	০২	০৩	০৫
০২	প্রকৌশল/সাহায্যের সরঞ্জাম	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৩	প্রকল্প পরিচালনার দপ্তরের	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৪	সমগ্র পত্রিকার ও তহবিলের উল	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৫	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেখ তারিখ	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৬	দরপত্র প্রবেশের তারিখ ও সময়	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৭	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, স্থান	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৮	দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থানসমূহ	০৩	০৪	০৫
০৯	দরপত্র প্রবেশের স্থানসমূহ	০৩	০৪	০৫
১০	প্রাক দরপত্র সভা	০৩	০৪	০৫
১১	দরপত্রের কার্যক্রম সমন্বয়	০৩	০৪	০৫
১২	প্রকল্প কার্যের বিবরণ	০৩	০৪	০৫

১৩. শর্তাবলী:  
১. Standard Tender Document (STD) for Procurement of Works এর যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী দরপত্রের শর্ত হিসাবে গণ্য হবে।  
২. টিকাদার/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর ফালনাদান লাইসেন্স, গ্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভাটা আয়কর ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সমুচিত করতে হবে।  
৩. নির্ধারিত মূল্যে ও নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থানসমূহ হতে দরপত্র সিডিউল খুলি করা যাবে।  
৪. নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র বাস্তবায়ন করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।  
৫. টিকাদার দ্বারা প্রকল্প কার্যের ব্যবহৃত মালামাল ল্যাবরেটরী টেস্টকরতঃ সন্তোষজনক রিপোর্ট অফিসে দাখিল করে প্রকল্পের কাজ বাস্তবায়ন করবে।  
৬. তহবিল গ্রাভি সাপোর্টের বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে।  
৭. দরপত্র জামানতের অর্থ যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে মেসার, চালনা পৌরসভার অনুমোদিত ব্যাংক হতে রাখা হবে।  
৮. পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮ এর সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন হবে।  
৯. কার্টা/কার্টা/বিদ্যমান/অসম্পূর্ণ/সুইচ ব্যবহার করলে দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।  
১০. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শিয়ে বাতিলকৃত যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের বা প্রবেশের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবে।

প্রণব মল্লিক  
সহকারী প্রকৌশলী  
চালনা পৌরসভা

জিডি-৩৪২

# Spain growth could hit 2.5pc in 2015

AFP, Madrid

Spain's recovering economy could grow as much as 2.5 percent this year if oil prices and the euro stay low, the economy minister said in an interview published Monday.

The government says its tough austerity measures have started to strengthen the economy, which officially emerged from recession in 2013 and grew an estimated 1.4 percent in 2014.

For 2015, "we are conscious that our current forecast of two percent is lower than the market consensus," the newspaper Expansion quoted Economy Minister Luis de Guindos as saying.

That forecast was calculated before the recent plunge in oil prices and a decline of the euro against the dollar, which can give Spain's domestic activity and exports a boost.

"If the oil price and the exchange rate stay at these levels, we will have additional growth of 0.5 percentage points, and that is a cautious estimate," Guindos said.

The government is due to release its updated official forecasts in April.

## ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Haripur 412 MW Combine Cycle Power Plant (CCPP), EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.  
Fax: 880-2-9118345, E-mail: info@egcb.com.bd, Web: www.egcb.com.bd

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

No.	Ministry / Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
1	Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
2	Procuring Entity name	Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant.
3	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
4	Procuring Entity District	Narayanganj
5	Invitation for	Package-1: Procurement of Goods (Multiple Lot), Package-2: Procurement of Works (Single Lot)
6	Invitation Ref. No.	EGCB/CE/Haripur/412.08/2015/76
7	Date	20/01/2015
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement Method	NCT (Open Tendering Method.)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (Own fund of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.)
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
14	Tender Package No	N/A
15	Tender Package Name	Package-1: Procurement of 01 (one) no. Brand New Double Cabin Pickup & 01 (one) no. Fork Lift with all necessary accessories for Haripur 412 MW CCPP of EGCB Ltd. Package-2: Vertical extension work (1st floor to 2nd floor) of administration building of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
16	Tender Publication Date	27/01/2015
17	Tender Last Selling Date	15/02/2015 up to 15:00 Hr (BST)
18	Tender Submission Date & Time	16/02/2015 up to 12:00 Hr (BST)
19	Tender Opening Date & Time	16/02/2015 on 12:30 Hrs (BST) (Tenderers or their authorized representatives, if any, are allowed to attend).
20	Name and Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	- Receiving Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	- Opening Tender Document	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre Tender Meeting	N/A.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer/Manufacturer should have valid Trade License, should be financially solvent, Income Tax payee, should have the legal capacity to enter into the contract, and shouldn't have a conflict of interest pursuant to Rule 55 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. <b>Package-1:</b> a) The Tenderer/Manufacturer shall have a minimum of seven (07) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. b) The Tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 02 (two) numbers supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 03 (three) years for each lot. i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. c) The satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum value under maximum 01 (one) number contract in the last three (03) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper is: i. For Lot-1: BDT Fifty lak (50,000,000/-) only. ii. For Lot-2: BDT Twenty Lac (20,000,000/-) only. <b>Package-2:</b> a) The Tenderer/Manufacturer shall have a minimum of seven (7) years of overall experience in the construction works as Contractor. b) The Tenderer shall have a satisfactory completion of similar works (Civil Construction works) of at least Tk One Crore Fifty Lac (1,50,00,000/-) under a single contract over a period of last five (05) years i.e., years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper shall be required. c) The Tenderer shall have average annual construction turnover of greater than Tk Three Crore (3,00,00,000/-) over the last five (05) years. d) The Tenderer shall have the minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of Tk One Crore (1,00,00,000/-).
23	Brief Description of Goods & Works	Package-1: Procurement of 01 (one) no. Brand New Double Cabin Pickup including all necessary accessories, CNG Conversion, Registration and 01 (one) no. Fork Lift including all necessary accessories, Registration for Haripur 412 MW CCPP of EGCB Ltd. Package-2: Vertical extension work (1st floor to 2nd floor) of administration building of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
24	Brief Description of Related services	NA
25	Price of Tender Document	BDT 1000/- (Taka One Thousand only) for each package to be paid in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order in favor of Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
26	Package No.	Identification of Lot
	Package-1	Lot-1: Procurement of 01 (one) no. Brand New Double Cabin Pickup including all necessary accessories, CNG Conversion & Registration for Haripur 412 MW CCPP of EGCB Ltd. Lot-2: Procurement of 01 (one) no. of Fork Lift including all necessary accessories & Registration for Haripur 412 MW CCPP of EGCB Ltd.
	Package-2	Vertical extension work (1st floor to 2nd floor) of administration building of Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
		Location
		Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
		Tender Security Amount
		Tk. 1,50,000/-
		Tk. 70,000/-
		Tk. 5,00,000/-
		Completion Time
		One Hundred Fifty (150) days from the date of signing of Contract.
		Thirty (30) days from the date of signing of Contract.
		06 (Six) months from start date.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
27	Name of Official Inviting the Tenderer	Md. Fazlur Rahman
28	Designation of Official Inviting the Tenderer	Superintending Engineer (Maintenance)
29	Address of Official Inviting the Tenderer	Haripur 412 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant, EGCB Ltd., Haripur, Bandar, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.
30	Contact details of Official Inviting the Tenderer:	Tel: 01730-331349 Ext. .... Fax: ..... E-mail: fazlurdgm360@yahoo.com
31	The Full Tender Document will be available in PDF format in the EGCB website	
32	The tenderers are requested to read the tender document carefully before submission of their offer.	
33	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.	

(Md. Fazlur Rahman)  
Superintending Engineer (Maintenance)  
Haripur 412 MW CCPP, EGCB Ltd., Dhaka.