

# China splurges on world's biggest online shopping spree

AFP, Beijing

Chinese internet users spent billions of dollars in the planet's biggest online shopping spurge Wednesday, as "Singles Day" hit new heights, despite slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy.

The cumulative national bill for the day-long orgy of commerce dwarfed what Americans spent online over the five-day frenzy from Thanksgiving to Cyber Monday last year.

Singles Day is not a traditional Chinese festival, but e-commerce giant Alibaba has been pushing November 11 -- a date heavy on ones -- since 2009 as it looks to tap the country's huge, and expanding, army of internet shoppers.

At first it was marketed as an "anti-Valentine's Day", featuring hefty discounts to lure singletons and price-sensitive buyers.

But with sales hitting new highs year after year, it has become a massive -- and highly lucrative -- business opportunity embraced by the nation's digital retailers.

Competition for a slice of China's online population of 668 million is turning increasingly fierce.

Alibaba kicked off this year's mammoth event with a television spectacular at Beijing's Water Cube Olympic swimming venue.

James Bond actor Daniel Craig, and Hollywood star Kevin Spacey -- in his role as President Frank Underwood from the Netflix series "House of Cards" -- were just two of the galaxy of foreign and domestic stars involved.

And the company's efforts were paying off in spades, with shoppers splashing out more than \$10 billion in the first 14 hours of the sale.

This year's tally had already outstripped last year's gangbusters effort, with the 2014 US dollar total of \$9.3



A woman walks out a shop past a Singles Day sales promotional board in Beijing.

billion matched a little more than 12 hours after the promotion's midnight start.

In comparison, desktop sales for the five days from Thanksgiving through Cyber Monday in the United States last year stood at \$6.56 billion, according to Internet analytics firm comScore.

"The 2015 sale has eclipsed last year's final results in a little over half the time," the company said.

In an earlier release Alibaba's chief executive officer Daniel Zhang said: "The whole world will witness the power of Chinese consumption this November 11."

Another one of China's main online retailers, JD.com, said it had completed more than 10 million transactions by 10 am. That was almost twice as many as last year's total.

The task of putting customers' purchases into their hands is huge. Alibaba said its logistical arm and its partners would use more than 1.7 million personnel, 400,000 vehicles, 5,000 warehouses and 200 airplanes to handle deliveries.

But the scale of the buying also has

repercussions. Australian company Bellamy's had to apologise to customers Down Under after supermarket shelves there were stripped bare.

In a Facebook post it blamed Chinese demand for milk powder for shortages at Australian stores.

The event has received vocal support from the government at a time when China's economic expansion is slowing and Beijing is trying to transform its growth model into a more sustainable one driven by consumption.

Highlighting the need for the transition, the mega-spending spree came as the government announced industrial output growth had fallen to a six-month low in October.

The 5.6 percent rise is the latest indicator that China's expansion is slowing after years of breakneck growth.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's office phoned Alibaba chairman Jack Ma hours ahead of the promotion, "congratulating and encouraging the creation and achievement of the 11.11 event", said a posting on a social media account of Tmall, the group's business-to-consumer arm.

## UN urges more investment in cutting-edge technologies

AFP, Geneva

Japan, the United States but also increasingly China, are among the few nations driving global innovations like 3D-printing, the UN said Wednesday, urging more investments in fields expected to carry future economic growth.

In a report on the importance of vanguard innovation on economic growth, the World Intellectual Property Organization said nearly all patents within the cutting-edge areas of 3D printing, robotics and nanotechnology were held by a handful of countries.

"We need to reinforce the environments that give rise to the breakthrough technologies of tomorrow," said WIPO director Francis Gurry.

The UN agency pointed out that in the past, game-changing inventions like airplanes, antibiotics and semiconductors created booming industries and became "the root of long-lasting expansions in economic output".

In the same way, 3D printing for instance, with its ability to "print" anything from guns to cars, prosthetics and works of art, is predicted to transform our lives in coming decades as dramatically as the Internet did before it.



Md Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director of Midland Bank, and Abdus Salam, managing director of Brac Saajan Exchange, pose at the signing of an agreement. The bank will disburse wage earners' remittances directly sourced through Brac Saajan Exchange.

## Greece says it is close to deal with lenders over bad bank loans

REUTERS, Athens

Greece said on Wednesday it was close to a deal with international lenders on regulating non-performing loans, a thorny issue which has delayed a disbursement of aid under its latest multi-billion euro bailout.

"On Monday all issues will be finalised ... and at the Euro Working Group there will be a decision to release the installment and the funds for the banks," Government

Spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili told state broadcaster ERT, referring to deputy finance ministers of the euro zone.

A two billion euro cash disbursement and 10 billion euros to recapitalize four systemic banks was delayed this week amid disagreement over the level of protection homeowners should have from foreclosures for non-payment of debts.

Athens insists resolving the issue should not result in thousands of Greeks at risk of losing their homes.



Abdul Wahed, chairman of DBL Group; Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of City Bank; and Ershad Hossain, MD of City Bank Capital Resources, pose with high officials of Eastern Bank, Midland Bank, IDLC and IPDC at DBL's office at BGMEA Complex in Dhaka on Tuesday. The financial institutions have arranged a syndicated alternative investment of Tk 100 crore for DBL Group's Flamingo Fashions.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Planning  
Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Division (IMED)  
Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU)  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Tel: 9144252-3, Fax: 9180968, E-mail: info@cptu.gov.bd, Website: www.cptu.gov.bd  
IFT No. 21.361.025.10.00.561.2015-1839

Date: 10 November 2015

### Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Project: Public Procurement Reform Project II (2nd Revised)  
Credit Number: 4350-BD & 5242-BD

IFB Title: Bangladesh e-GP: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of New Data Center and Mirror Data Center

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Public Procurement Reform Project-II (Additional Finance) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit towards the payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of New Data Center at CPTU and Mirror Data Center at BCC.
- The Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU), IMED, Ministry of Planning, Dhaka, Bangladesh serves as the implementing agency for the project and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.
- Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) 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 January 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.
- A complete set of bidding documents (official hard copy) in English may be obtained by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of equivalent US\$ 100 (US\$ one hundred only) or BDT 8,000 (BDT eight thousand only). The method of payment will be Bank Draft or Pay Order in favour of Director General, CPTU, IMED, Ministry of Planning. For overseas delivery, the bidder may obtain the bidding document by instructing any international courier service to collect the same from Director General, CPTU, IMED, Ministry of Planning, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. For the convenience of the bidders an unofficial electronic copy of the bidding documents may be obtained by writing to email: cptudg@cptu.gov.bd
- The Pre-bid meeting shall be held at conference room of the CPTU, IMED, Ministry of Planning, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 on 29.11.2015 at 11:00 hours Local Time (GMT+6 hours).
- Bidder qualification criteria: The bidder's major qualification requirements are as follows (additional details are provided in the bidding documents):
  - Experience:
    - The bidder must have been in the business of supply and installation of IT equipment for the last five (05) years.
    - The bidder must have completed the similar IT contracts with total contract value of at least US\$ 4 million or equivalent in other currencies under maximum 3 contracts in last 10 years. Similar IT contract means supply, installation, commissioning of data center with passive and active components (includes servers, network equipment, security devices, SAN storage with remote replication).
    - The bidder must have completed at least one contract on supply and implementation of data center based on Hyper-V based virtualization. The bidder will submit certificate from previous client stating successful implementation and operation of this data center based on Hyper-V based virtualization.
  - Financial Capability:
    - The bidder must demonstrate Average Annual Turnover of US\$ 5 million within best three years out of the last five years.
    - The bidder must have capacity of minimum US\$ 4 million or equivalent as liquid assets and/or line of credit.
- Bidding document last selling date 29.12.2015 at 14:00 hours Local Time (GMT+6 hours). Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 30.12.2015 at 14:00 hours Local Time (GMT+6 hrs). Bid need to be secured by a bid security of US\$ 175,000 (US\$ one hundred seventy-five thousand only) or BDT 13,650,000 (BDT thirteen million and six hundred fifty thousand only) or equivalent amount in any freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 14:30 hrs Local Time (GMT+6:00 hours) on 30.12.2015. Electronic bid submission is not allowed.

Director General  
Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) &  
Project Director, PPRP-II  
IMED, Ministry of Planning  
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Sher-e-Bangla Nagar  
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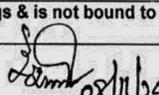


### Export Promotion Bureau

1, Kawran Bazar (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215

### Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce		
2	Agency	Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)		
3	Procuring Entity Name/Designation	Vice-Chairman, Export Promotion Bureau		
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Computers, UPSs, Printers, Routers, Scanners & Related Services for the offices of Export Promotion Bureau located at Chittagong & Narayanganj		
6	Invitation Ref No	26.02.0000.006.67.545.15.914		
7	Date	08/11/2015		
KEY INFORMATION				
8	Procurement Method	National Open Tendering Method (NOTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9	Budget and Source of Funds	Self-financed by Export Promotion Bureau (EPB)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Tender Publication Date	08/11/2015		
11	Tender Last Selling Date	Upto 5pm on 03/12/2015		
12	Tender Closing Date and Time	At 12.30pm on 06/12/2015		
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	At 3.00pm on 06/12/2015		
14	Name & Address of the office :			
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Administration Section Export Promotion Bureau, 1 Kawran Bazar(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215		
	- Receiving Tender Document	The Secretary Export Promotion Bureau, 1 Kawran Bazar(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215		
	- Opening Tender Document	Conference Room, Export Promotion Bureau 1 Kawran Bazar(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
15	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	- The supplier/Tenderer should be well-reputed in dealing with Government & Autonomous Organizations - Must have the Authorization from the Original Manufacturer(s) - 5 Years Specific Experiences in Supply of similar Office Equipment - Financially solvent in handling such cases - Valid and Up-to-date business documents		
16	Brief Description of Goods to be Procured	Desktop Computers, UPSs, Printers, Routers, Scanners & Related Services (details will be available in the Tender Document)		
17	Brief Description of Related Services	- Delivery & installation to be made to the Offices of Export Promotion Bureau located at Chittagong & Narayanganj respectively. - Commissioning/Installation to be done at the cost & responsibility of Tenderer. - 1 year post sales warranty including servicing/repairing.		
18	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1,000/-(One Thousand) only		
19	Lot No : 1	Identification of Lot/Part	Location	Tender Security (Tk)
		Part-I	EPB/CTG	Chittagong
		Part-II	EPB/BNG	Narayanganj
				3% on the quoted amount
				3(Three) weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Yousuf Ali		
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Secretary, Export Promotion Bureau		
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Export Promotion Bureau 1 Kawran Bazar(4 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1215		
23	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel.	Fax	e-mail
		+880255013420	+88029119531	secy@epb.gov.bd
24	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings & is not bound to accept the lowest price.			



(Md. Yousuf Ali)  
Secretary