

China cashing out as mobile payment soars

AFP, Beijing

Yang Qianqian holds out her smartphone to scan a barcode on the mobile of a vendor selling fresh fruit and vegetables at a bustling outdoor market in Beijing.

The dance student is part of an explosion in the use of mobile payment platforms in China as consumers increasingly take out phones instead of cash to pay for everything from a coffee to a language class or a gas bill.

"Even though I have cash on me it's not convenient to get it when I am carrying a lot of bags," said Yang, 25, clutching plastic bags filled with pears, potatoes and watermelon.

China was the first country in the world to use paper money but centuries later the soaring popularity of mobile payment has some analysts forecasting it could be the first to stop.

The gross merchandise value of third party mobile payment rose more than 200 percent to 38 trillion yuan (about \$5.6 trillion) in 2016 from a year earlier, according to China-based iResearch.

The growth of the cash-free system has been supported by China's rapidly expanding e-commerce market as Chinese shoppers increasingly shun bricks and mortar stores.

"I think it's really very possible that

China becomes the first or one of the first cashless societies in the next decade," said Ben Cavender, a director at China Market Research Group.

Cavender estimates China's mobile payment market is already 40-50 times larger than the United States.

Alipay, started by e-commerce giant Alibaba and now owned by its affiliate Ant Financial, and WeChat Pay, which is built into Tencent's popular messaging service, have hundreds of millions of users between them and are China's dominant payment platforms.

In Beijing it is hard to find a product or a service that cannot be purchased with a mobile.

At the fresh produce market, stallholders display barcodes on tables laden with fruit and vegetables for customers like Yang to scan -- though many shoppers appeared more comfortable with cash.

"People at my age don't dare to use it," said a woman in her 50s.

Some restaurants in the capital no longer accept bank notes while it is common for motorbike taxis, street food carts and hair salons to offer mobile payment.

Mobile accounted for eight percent of the total value of retail payments in 2015 and is expected to reach 12 percent in 2020, according to a report

published in April by UN-backed Better Than Cash Alliance.

But cash is still king in China -- although less so than it used to be.

The Better Than Cash Alliance expects cash's percentage of the value of retail payments to fall to 30 percent by 2020. It stood at 61 percent in 2010.

A key attraction of mobile payment is convenience.

People can carry little or no cash and avoid the problem of their debit or credit card being rejected due to the limited number of point-of-sale terminals in stores.

China's relatively short history of using bank cards also makes consumers more open to new technology, said Martin Utreras, vice president of forecasting at eMarketer.

"In China a lot of people never had any financial instruments that were automated in any way and the first thing they had was mobile payment," he said.

But some have been reluctant converts to the cashless system.

Among them is a 63-year-old woman surnamed Song who sells hand-knitted sunflowers and peashooters from the popular video game Plants vs Zombies in a pedestrian underpass in Beijing.

She prefers cash but accepts mobile payment because some customers do not carry real money.



NBR BANK

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader visits a booth of NRB Bank that was collecting special fees of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, to mark the National Public Service Day at Motijheel in Dhaka yesterday. NRB Bank is the banking partner of the programme. AKM Kamal Uddin, head of corporate banking of the bank, was also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges

Bridges Division

Bangladesh Bridge Authority

Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212

www.bba.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges/Bridges Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Engineer, Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).
4	Procuring entity code	Not available.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Rehabilitation works of Main Connecting Road of East Resettlement Area and Providing seal coat from East Round about to Harbour & Picnic Spot Road at Bangabandhu Bridge area, Bhuapur, Tangail.
7	Invitation Ref No.	50.01.0000.146.00.007.15
8	Date	July 19, 2017.

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	BBA/GoB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14	Tender package No.	01 (one).
15	Tender package name	Rehabilitation works of Main Connecting Road of East Resettlement Area and Providing Seal Coat from East Round about to Harbour & Picnic Spot Road at Bangabandhu Bridge area, Bhuapur, Tangail.
16	Tender publication date	July 26, 2017.
17	Tender last selling date	Date August 22, 2017
18	Tender closing date and time	Date August 23, 2017 Time: 12.00 noon
19	Tender opening date and time	Date August 23, 2017 Time: 3.30pm

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the civil construction works shall be 05 (five) years. (ii) The minimum specific experience in bituminous road construction/road maintenance works of at least 02 Nos. contracts successfully completed within the last 10 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 1.25 crore (one point two five crore) supported by authentic documentary evidence. (iii) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk. 3.00 (three) crore over the last 05 (five) years supported by authentic documentary evidence. (iv) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be minimum Tk. 75.00 (seventy-five) lac supported by authentic documentary evidence (v) The work experience of the said work should be certified by designated officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer rank of the concerned Authority/Department.
Special Instructions:		

(A) As per latest Amendment of PPR-2008 and according to ITT Clause No. 40.2 (Section-I of Tender Document), Tenderers having quoted the tender price more than 10 (ten) percent above or below the official cost estimate, the tender will be rejected.
(B) In case of tie for the evaluated price, the lowest evaluated tenderer shall be selected based on past performance mentioned in ITT Clause No. 40.3 (Section-I of Tender Document). So all tenderers are requested to submit the related documents mentioned in ITT Clause No. 40.3 (Section-I of Tender Document).

23	Brief description of works	a) Rehabilitation works of Main Connecting Road of East Resettlement Area b) Construction of Drain at Resettlement Area c) Providing Seal Coat from East Round about to Harbour & Picnic Spot Road at Bangabandhu Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail.
24 Brief description of related services		

25	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (BDT)	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time in months
	1	Rehabilitation works of Main Connecting Road of East Resettlement Area and Providing Seal Coat from East Round about to Harbour & Picnic Spot Road at Bangabandhu Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail	East Resettlement Area, East Round about to Harbour & Picnic Spot Road at Bangabandhu Bridge Area, Bhuapur, Tangail	3,000.00 (three thousand only)	5,00,000.00 (five lac Taka only)	06 (six) months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Kabir Ahmed.			
27	Designation of Official inviting tender	Chief Engineer			
28	Address of official inviting tender	Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.			
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No: 55040313 Fax No: 55040313			
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings				

Kabir Ahmed
Chief Engineer, BBA
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Shakib Al Hasan, national cricketer, launches Huawei Y6II Prime smartphone at the Westin Dhaka yesterday. Mashrur Hassan Mim, head of marketing (device business department) of Huawei Technologies Bangladesh Ltd, was also present.

Office of the Project Director		
Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area		
Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation		
BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawran Bazar, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215		
Invitation for Tenders		
1	Ministry/division	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation.
3	Procuring entity name	Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawran Bazar, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
4	Invitation for	
5	Invitation Ref. No.	33.03.0000.111.03.032.17.321 Date: 20-07-2017
6	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
7	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
8	Project/programme name	Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area.
9	Tender selling date	30-07-2017 to 13-08-2017 (09.00am-5.00pm).
10	Tender selling place	a) Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawran Bazar, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. b) Account Division, Chittagong Fish Harbour, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Ichanagar, Karnaphuli, Chittagong. c) Fish Landing Centre & Wholesale Market, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, 5 No. Skid Ghat, Khulna. d) Fish Landing Centre & Wholesale Market, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, Patharghat, Bargon.
11	Tender dropping place	a) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. b) Police Commissioner, Office of the Metropolitan Police-DMP, Ramna, Dhaka. c) Office of the Project Director, Establishment of Fish Landing Centres with Ancillary Facilities in 3 Coastal Districts at 4 Selected Area, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation, BFDC Bhaban, 23-24, Kawran Bazar, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215.
12	Tender dropping date & time	16-08-2017 Time: 09.00am-12.00 noon.
13	Tender opening date & time	16-08-2017 Time: 0