

Sugar, flour, rice: panicked Greeks stock up on essentials



People in Spain hold placards reading "No" during a demonstration in support of Greece yesterday.

AFP, Athens

Greeks were hoarding cash and food Saturday amid mounting fears the economy could collapse, cracking open their wallets only to stock up on essentials and stripping supermarket shelves in the process.

Mothers, elderly men and university students were spotted pushing heavily overloaded trolleys or coming out of shops weighed down by bags of food, with essentials such as sugar, flour and pasta top of the list.

In the well-off area of Glyfada in Athens residents appeared to have panicked, thrusting everything from vast rolls of toilet paper to multiple packs of lentils into their carts.

"Most people are buying food now because they fear the worst," said Andreas Koutras, a 51-

year old who works in finance, referring to a referendum Sunday on Greece's bailout which could seal its financial fate.

AFP photographs showed rows upon rows of empty shelves in supermarkets and shoppers said they were taking no chances, snapping up canned milk, chocolate and rice—anything non-perishable that could be stored.

Middle-aged toy shop assistant Marilena, who was praying for customers on what is usually the busiest shopping day of the week, said her family was buying "food, only food, nothing else. Only what's necessary".

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has urged people to vote 'No', insisting that rejecting a bailout deal offered by the austerity-hit country's international creditors will put it in a stronger negotiating position.

His right-hand man, Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, has promised banks will re-open after the vote -- but with so much uncertainty surrounding Greece's future, many doubt him.

Nikos Archondis from the Panhellenic Exporters Association (PEA) told AFP "certain supermarkets are very concerned because they cannot forecast how the situation will evolve".

Stocks of meat, cheeses, fruits and vegetables "risk running low in the following weeks", he said.

Reports that medicines were also flying off the shelves were supported by pharmacist Yannis Triantaphilou. Priorities were "food and medicines" and he had seen "an increase of customers in the pharmacy".

Although the boost in business was welcome, Triantaphilou said if the banks did not re-open on Tuesday, "I don't know how we are going to work, if companies will provide medicines".

With anti-bailout 'No' voters tied neck and neck with the 'Yes' camp, fears a financial disaster may be brewing were compounded by frustration over the decision taken by many shops to refuse card payments. With government-imposed capital controls capping ATM withdrawals at 60 euros (\$67) per day, the number of banknotes in circulation has dropped dramatically, especially the smaller denominations.

Customers want to save their cash, but businesses are also desperate to get their hands on it.

Fortunately, "we have learned to live with less money," says Marilena, "because the last four to five years were very difficult for most of people."

"But we have needs, we adjust of course... but we cannot go any further," she said.

Like many Greeks, taxi driver Theodor Veletzas said he believed there was more at stake than a new deal, and the situation risked getting worse.

The referendum, he insisted, would effectively decide whether his country stayed in the eurozone or not. And he feared what would happen if the 'No' camp won.



GD ASSIST

Nasir A Choudhury, chairman of GD Assist; Farzana Chowdhury, a director; Md Faizul Alam, managing director of Oval Advertising; and Ariful Chaudhury, chief executive, pose at the signing of an agreement at Green Delta AIMS Tower in Dhaka yesterday. Oval Advertising will work as an agency for a yearlong activation programme of Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council. GD Assist is a concern of Green Delta Insurance and the official representative of the Malaysian council in Bangladesh.

Request for Expressions of Interest

Dhaka South City Corporation
Engineering Division
Zone-01, Nagar Bhaban
Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000



Ministry/Division
Agency
Procuring entity name
Procuring entity code
Procuring entity district
Expression of interest for selection of
Title of service

Local Government and Rural Development.
Dhaka South City Corporation.
Executive Engineer, Zone-01, DSCC.
N/A.
Dhaka.
Consulting firm (Lump-sum).
REOI for Recruitment of a Consulting Firm for providing consultancy Services for Preparation of Architectural and Structural Design, BOQ, Estimate, Specification, tender document, evaluation of tenders, and top supervision for 'Construction of Six Storied Hatirpul Kitchen Market'.
46.207.007.25.00.22.2015.
01 July-2015.

EOI Ref. No.

Date

KEY INFORMATION

Procurement sub-method

FUNDING INFORMATION

Budget and source of funds

Development partners

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

Project/programme name

EOI closing date and time

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Brief description of assignment

Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

DSCC's Own Fund.

Construction of Six Storied Hatirpul Kitchen Market.
23-July-2015 12:00 noon.

Experience, resources and delivery capacity required

Other details (if applicable)

Association with foreign firms is

Ref. No.	Phasing of services	Location	Indicative start date	Indicative completion date
1	Design Phase	Hatirpul, Panthapath, Dhaka	October/2015	December/2015
2	Supervision Phase	Hatirpul, Panthapath, Dhaka	January/2016	October/2017

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

Name of official inviting EOI : Tanvir Ahmed.
Designation of official inviting EOI : Executive Engineer.
Address of official inviting EOI : Dhaka South City Corporation, Room # 820, Level-09, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
Contact details of official inviting EOI : Phone: 02-9558454
E-mail: tanvirdcczone03@gmail.com

Special Conditions:

- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during normal office hours.
- The authority reserves the right to cancel all or any of the Expression of Interest (EOI) without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned.

Tanvir Ahmed
Executive Engineer
Zone-1 (Nagar Bhaban)
Dhaka South City Corporation

DSCC/PRD/01/15-16
GD-2310

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Pirojpur Phone No. 0461-62576/Fax-63599		
Memo No. 1570		Dated: 01/07/2015
Quotation (5th Call)		
1	Employer	Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Road Transport and Highways Division.
2	Procuring entity	Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.
3	Lease Quotation Notice No.	04-PRD/2014-2015
4	Name of work & location	Toll Collection of Amrajhuri Ferry Ghat at 22nd km of Sorshina-Swarupkathi-Kawkhali-Naikathi Road under Pirojpur Road Division.
5	Earnest money	10% of the quoted amount in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank of Bangladesh Bank. (NB: No Bank Guarantee will be allowed)
6	Time allowed for the lease	Up to {(1 (one) year or 365 days} from the date of issuing work order.
7	Last date and time of selling quotations	22-07-2015 up to office hours.
8	Date and time of receiving (sealed) quotations	23-07-2015 up to 12-30pm.
9	Date, time and place of opening (sealed) quotations	23-07-2015 at 3-30 pm.
10	Name of offices for availability of quotations	Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur/Barisal/Jhalakathi/Bhola/Planning Division 1, (P & D), Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer RHD, Road Sub-Division, Pirojpur/Kawkhali.
11	Name of offices to receive the sealed quotations	Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal/ Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.
12	Place of opening quotations	Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Pirojpur.
13	Eligibility of Quotationer	Enlisted contractor of all government/semi-government/non-government/autonomous/experienced lease holder and solvent citizens of Bangladesh who are eligible as per condition of quotation.
14	Price of quotation documents	Tk. 2000/- (two thousand) only per set. (non-refundable).
15	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.	
Md. Fazle Rabbe Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Pirojpur		
GD-2319		



AIRTEL

Asif Ahmed, head of HR operations for Airtel Bangladesh, and Muhammad Tariq Mahmud, head of corporate sales for Rangs Industries Ltd, attend the signing of a corporate agreement at Tazwar Centre in Banani, Dhaka recently. Airtel employees will get discounts on products of Rangs Industries.

Chinese tourists boost Thai economy but stir outrage

AFP, Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Accused of urinating in public, spitting on the street, or kicking a sacred temple bell -- free-spending Chinese tourists are receiving a mixed welcome as their soaring numbers help the kingdom's creaking economy.

Growing outrage over the perceived disrespect of visitors from the Asian giant saw authorities print thousands of Chinese-language etiquette manuals earlier this year in a bid to keep their tourists in check.

Last month it was a photo of a young girl peeing in the grounds of Bangkok's Grand Palace that triggered the latest round of enraged, and sometimes racist, comments as Thai social media users claimed she was Chinese.

In March a Thai model's video of tourists from China jumping the queue at an airport was viewed more than two million times and saw a similarly angry rant against Thailand's largest group of foreign holidaymakers.

At the gleaming Wat Rong Khun, also known as the White Temple, in northern Chiang Rai province, owner Chalermchai Kositpipat complained about the state of the toilets after a recent visit by a Chinese group.

"We had problems with some Chinese who defecated anywhere, so I asked the guides to explain to them that rules must be respected in Thailand," Chalermchai told AFP, having earlier threatened to refuse the nationals entry.

But he stopped short of issuing a ban, and like Thai authorities is loath to cut out the Chinese at a time when they are bucking the trend of dipping visitor figures in the kingdom, where tourism accounts for 8.5 percent of gross domestic product.

Last year around 4.6 million Chinese nationals visited Thailand, with the average tourist spending 5,500 baht (\$160) per day -- more than the average European visitor.

Their collective contribution, expected to reach \$5.6 billion this year, is not one the ruling junta can afford to lose as it struggles to revive a sclerotic economy -- one of its key promises after seizing power from an elected government in May 2014 that was paralysed by months of protests in Bangkok.

At the White Temple, Thai tour guide Pin Su says her job has become an art in diplomacy due to the growing number of Chinese visitors.

"They do not always pay attention, they spit, talk loudly, sometimes they leave the toilet in a catastrophic state," she said in between ferrying tourists around the building. "But I cannot remind them every day that we must be careful to be clean. I do not want to offend them. And all these tourists, it is for Thailand!"

Bangkok's ruling generals have been busy courting Beijing as they build new diplomatic allies after last year's coup was widely condemned by Western nations, including longtime friend the United States.

Late last year the two Asian nations forged new agricultural ties, and Beijing was also granted a major railway contract to construct two new lines criss-crossing Thailand.

With the recent easing of visa rules between the kingdom and China, where the growing ranks of the middle-classes are increasingly holidaying abroad, even more Chinese tourists are expected to arrive in Thailand this year.

Unsurprisingly, Thai authorities appear keen to downplay any incidents of strife.

"Chinese tourists do not create problems for us. They are nice tourists," said Srirada Wanapinyosak, an executive director at the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

"But sometimes there might be cultural misunderstandings as we have different cultures," she admitted before running through the tips laid out for the Chinese in the new manuals.

Back at the White Temple, Cai Zheng Hua and his wife from Fujian, a province in southeast China, are enjoying their long-awaited honeymoon.

He says that while some of his compatriots may "not have enough education to know how to behave", they are very much in a "small minority".

For most visitors Thailand is a "dream" and "very fashionable", said the holidaymaker, raving about the architecture at the site.