

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.

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 Velezias 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.



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

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.

Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

DSCC's Own Fund.

:

Construction of Six Storied Hatirpul Kitchen Market.

23-July-2015 12:00 noon.

The overall objective of the services shall cover, but not limited to the following scope:

a) Conduct feasibility study and preparation of Layout Plan: Preliminary architectural conceptual drawing (floor plan, elevation, section, perspective view) for the proposed buildings (will prepare for client approval). b) After approval from the client, consultant will prepare detail architectural drawing (floor plan, elevation, section, perspective view etc.). Structural drawing should have the detail calculation including electrical, plumbing and sanitary drawings will be prepared with proper safety consideration by the consultant. c) Preparation of detail working drawings with fire fighting system including provision of modern facilities like security alarm system, internal electrification, external electrification i.e. all facilities required for modern shopping complex. d) Preparation of details Bill of Quantities (BOQ), calculation of BOQ and structural design of the building. e) Submission of all drawings in printed form at least 05 (five) sets along with soft copy. f) Also perform construction supervision during construction period. g) Certify completion of the works.

Experience, resources and delivery capacity required

i) Interested consulting firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The consulting firms should be experienced and reputed in the similar field. Interested firms should submit the following information in sufficient detail including brochures, description of experience in similar assignments, summaries of firm's technical and managerial capabilities, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources etc. ii) The financial capability should be shown as financial turnover supported by a registered Audit Firm for the last three years.

iii) The REOI's would be reviewed on the basis of the following: •Registration of firm •Availability of key professionals •Availability of resources •Turnover of the consulting firm •Experience of the firm(s) in similar task •Experience of the firm(s) in other works •Support services of the firm(s).

iv) History of litigation (if any) in courts or any arbitration proceedings.

The firm(s) may form Joint-Venture, Consortium or Association (JICA) to enhance their qualifications, but should mention whether the Association is in the form of a "Joint-Venture" or "Sub-Consultancy". In the case of joint-venture, all firms/entities shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire consultant's obligations under the contract. But in case of sub-consultancy the lead firm shall sign the contract and shall be liable for the entire consultant's obligations under the contract. It is preferable to limit the total number of firms including their associates to maximum of four. Special Instructions: The Proposals in two sets (1 original+1 duplicate) shall be submitted in sealed envelope.

Not encourage-able.

Other details (if applicable)

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

Designation of official inviting EOI

Address of official inviting EOI

Contact details of official inviting EOI

Special Conditions:

a) Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during normal office hours.

b) The authority reserves the right to cancel all or any of the Expression of Interest (EOI) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

c) 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
2	Procuring entity
3	Lease Quotation Notice No.
4	Name of work & location
5	Earnest money
6	Time allowed for the lease
7	Last date and time of selling quotations
8	Date and time of receiving (sealed) quotations
9	Date, time and place of opening (sealed) quotations
10	Name of offices for availability of quotations
11	Name of offices to receive the sealed quotations
12	Place of opening quotations
13	Eligibility of Quotationer
14	Price of quotation
15	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.
Md. Fazle Rabbe	
Executive Engineer, RHD	
Road Division, Pirojpur	



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

APP, 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 ailing 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 Kosit�ipat 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 APP, having earlier threatened to refuse the national 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.

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 Srisuda 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.