

# Nestle says fresh tests show Maggi noodles are safe



A vendor prepares Maggi noodles at a roadside eatery in New Delhi, India.

AFP, Mumbai

Nestle said Friday that laboratory tests ordered by an Indian court had found its popular Maggi noodles were safe to eat, paving the way for their return following a government ban.

India's food safety watchdog banned the noodles in June, saying lead levels exceeded statutory limits.

But the Bombay High Court, the highest judicial body in the western city now known as Mumbai, overturned the ruling two months later and ordered fresh tests.

"All the 90 samples, covering six variants, tested by these laboratories are clear with lead much below the permissible limits," the Swiss food giant's Indian unit said in a statement.

Nestle India, which has continued to sell the product in other countries, added that it hoped to return the brand to Indian stores as soon as possible, saying it had "always maintained that Maggi noodles were safe".

"In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, we will now commence manufacture and will start selling only after the newly manufactured prod-

ucts are also cleared by the designated three laboratories," the statement read. "We are committed to reintroduce our beloved Maggi noodles at the earliest," it added.

Shares in Nestle India shares rose almost eight percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange following the news.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India imposed a nationwide ban on Maggi noodles after inspectors found excessive levels of lead, as well as traces of flavour enhancer MSG (monosodium glutamate).

It criticised the company for failing to include MSG in the list of ingredients.

Nestle has said it does not use MSG in its Maggi products sold in India, but that glutamate is a naturally occurring substance and may be present in some of the ingredients.

In August, the court in Mumbai called the ban "arbitrary" and said it violated the "principles of national justice".

Nestle's Indian arm has estimated that its run-in with Indian regulators will cost them 3.2 billion rupees (\$50 million).

Nestle had sold the product for over three decades in India, and had 80 percent of the country's instant noodle market before the ban.

# US budget deficit falls to 8-year low in 2015

AFP, Washington

The US government's budget deficit fell to an eight-year low in fiscal 2015, dropping to \$439 billion, the Treasury Department announced Thursday.

The cut in the finance gap -- which was \$1.4 trillion in 2009 -- brought the deficit down to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product, the lowest level since 2007.

The achievement marked a long effort by the administration of President Barack Obama to pare back the budget shortfall after it soared when the economy plunged into crisis in 2008.

A combination of the fall in revenues and an increase in government spending to shore up the economy and rescue the financial and auto industries had sent the deficit skyrocketing.

The figure for 2015, the fiscal year which ended September 30, was down \$44 million from 2014, despite a five percent rise in spending to \$3.7 trillion.

That was helped by an 11.0 percent rise in individual income-tax receipts, and a 7.2 percent rise in corporate tax revenues.

"President Obama's agenda continues to put Federal finances on a sustainable footing while laying the foundation for durable economic growth and broadly shared prosperity," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said in a statement.



Abrar A Anwar, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank, and Anis A Khan, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank, attend the signing of a Straight2Bank Exchange Agreement at MTB head office in Dhaka. Instant access to pricing, high speed execution, deep liquidity, automated compliance, and immediate trade notifications are some of the key benefits of the agreement.

# China set to disappoint with Q3 growth

AFP, Shanghai

China probably grew at its slowest pace since the depths of the global financial crisis in the third quarter, an AFP survey of economists has found, confirming investor fears following stock market turmoil and a currency devaluation.

Signs the world's second-largest economy -- a key driver of global growth -- is struggling will add to pressure on Beijing to do more to head off a hard landing.

Output rose an annual 6.8 percent in the July-September period, according to the median forecast in a poll of 19 analysts carried out this week.

The figure -- to be officially announced on Monday -- would be the worst since early 2009 and comes after a raft of weak data has fueled concerns Chinese growth is slowing sharply, sending shivers through

international markets.

Those worries turned into a worldwide rout after a Chinese stock market bubble burst in June, wiping some 35 percent off Shanghai shares to date, and a surprise devaluation of the yuan currency in August stoked fears about stalling growth.

The wake-up call has slammed other emerging economies, delayed a move by the United States to raise interest rates and sent prices of commodities such as copper and oil, which China imports on a massive scale, plummeting to multi-year lows.

In March, Premier Li Keqiang forecast 2015 economic growth would be about 7.0 percent, as the country shifts to a "new normal" driven by domestic consumption instead of exports and government investment.

The AFP survey of China- and Hong Kong-based analysts for Chinese and international banks,

securities firms and consultancies showed they expect China's economy to grow 6.9 percent this year, missing the target -- though the qualifier of "about" would allow Beijing's leaders to declare victory.

"We all know it is impossible to realise the 7.0 percent growth target this year," said Chang Jian, China economist for Barclays Capital, which is forecasting 6.5 percent for the third quarter and 6.6 percent for the full year.

"The downward trend will continue next year and the slowdown will go on for quite a long time," she said.

China's GDP grew 7.3 percent last year, the slowest pace since 1990.

Economic statistics in China -- where the government depends on growth for legitimacy -- are often viewed with scepticism, fuelling suspicion that the true growth rate is lower than stated.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Sylhet Zone, Sylhet

**Invitation for Tenders (IFT)**

Tender Notice No. 05/315 Model/XEN/EED/SZ/2015-2016 Date: 15.10.2015

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	: Education Engineering Department (EED).
3	Procuring entity name	: Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet.
4	Procuring entity code	: 2571.
5	Procuring entity district	: Sylhet.
6	Invitation for	: Works.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	: Memo No. OM/216/EED/08/315 Model (Part-2)/96.
8	Date	: 06.09.2015

**KEY INFORMATION**

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

10	Budget and source of funds	: GOB.
11	Development partner	: N/A.

**PARTICULAR INFORMARION**

12	Project code	: 5010.
13	Project name	: Transformation of Existing Non-Government Schools into Model Schools in Selected 315 Upazila Headquarters.
14	Tender package No.	: 01.
15	Tender package name	: Construction of 3-storied Academic Building with 4-storied foundation in/c sanitary, water supply & internal electrification works at Mongalchandi Nishikanta High School, Osmaninagar Upazila, Sylhet.
16	Tender publication date	: 18.10.2015.
17	Tender last selling date	: 15.11.2015 (during office hour).
18	Tender closing date and time	: 16.11.2015 up to 1.00pm.
19	Tender opening date and time	: 16.11.2015 at 3.00pm.
20	Name & address of the office(s)	: (a) Selling tender document (principal) : Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet. (b) Selling tender document (others) : (i) Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sylhet district. (ii) Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Sylhet district. (c) Receiving tender document : (i) Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet. (ii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Sylhet. (iii) Office of the Superintendent of Police (SP), Sylhet. (d) Opening tender document (place) : Office of the Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	: N/A.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

22	Eligibility of tenderer	: a) The tenderer shall have a satisfactory completion of similar work of at least Tk 75.00 lakh in a single work order in government/semi-government/autonomous organization of Bangladesh in the last 5 (five) years. (b) Who have minimum annual average construction turnover in the last five years preceding the date of submission of tender is not less than Tk 140.00 (one hundred forty) lakh. (c) The tenderer shall have minimum liquid assets of Tk 35.00 (thirty-five) lakh within the tender invitation period i.e. (15/10/2015 to 16/11/2015). (d) The tenderer must have up-to-date trade license, up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT Registration certificate. (e) Who have minimum tender capacity not less than his/her quoted tender price. (g) Satisfying the other criteria's laid down in the tender schedule.
23	Brief description of works	: Civil, sanitary, water supply & electrification works.
24	Brief description of related services	: N/A.
25	Tender document price	: Tk. 2000.00 (two thousand) only (non-refundable).
26	Package No.	: 01
	Identification of package	: Mongalchandi Nishikanta High School
	Location	: Osmaninagar Upazila, Sylhet
	Tender security (Tk)	: 3,50,000.00
	Completion time in days	: 365 days

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

27	Name of official inviting tender	: Md. Nazrul Hakim.
28	Designation of official inviting	: Executive Engineer.
29	Address of official inviting tender	: Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Taltola, Sylhet.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Phone: 0821-715784, E-mail: eedsylz.govbd@yahoo.com

31 \* Tenders shall be valid for a period of 120 days from tender opening & all tenders must be accompanied by a tender security of amount as mentioned above in Sl. No. 26 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of Executive Engineer, Education Engineering Department, Sylhet Zone, Sylhet.

\* If more than one bidder become lowest i.e. quoting same rate in that case contractor shall be selected by considering his/her previous performance.

\* The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever..

**Note:-** In under any unavoidable circumstances tender documents selling, receiving & opening disturbed the next working days will be applicable for the same respectively.

**Md. Nazrul Hakim**  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Sylhet Zone, Sylhet.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Statistics and Informatics Division  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
Census of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals Staying in Bangladesh 2015 Project  
Parishankhyan Bhaban  
E-27/A Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

BANGLADESH BUREAU OF STATISTICS		
Sl. No.	Item	Description
1.	Ministry/Division	Statistics and Informatics Division
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Census of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals Staying in Bangladesh 2015 Project
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5.	Expression of Interest for selection of	1 (one) Individual Data Processing cum OCR/ICR Consultant for the project with consolidated pay.
6.	EOI Ref. No.	52.01.0000.405.07.031.15.154
7.	Date	15-10-2015

**KEY INFORMATION**

8.	Procurement Sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

9.	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget, Government (GoB).
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**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

10.	Project code	5042
11.	Project Name	Census of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals Staying in Bangladesh 2015 Project
12.	EOI closing date and time	Date: 01-11-2015 & Time: 3:30 PM.

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT**

13.	Brief Description of the Assignment for Data Processing cum OCR/ICR Consultant	<b>I. Responsibilities of the Data Processing cum OCR/ICR Consultant:</b> a) Design data capturing software for main census and PEC; b) To prepare the guideline for data processing; c) To prepare the guideline for on screen data editing guideline and planning; d) To prepare tables for the preliminary report, PEC report, National Report, District report, Analytical report and other report as needed; e) Will be responsible for any other job related to census data entry, editing, cleaning, processing and analysis assigned by the authority. <b>2. Duration:</b> Tenure of employment will be initially for 4 months or till March, 2016 which comes earlier. The duration may be extended subject to the approval of competent authority. <b>3. Educational Qualification:</b> Graduation in Statistics/ Economics/ Business Administration/ Computer Science/ Public Health/ Population Science. <b>4. Experience and Skill:</b> At least 07 (seven) years working experience on Data Processing along with at least 03 (three) years experience in OMR/OCR/ICR data processing in the field of Population, Economics, Demography, Public Health or Social Science. Knowledge in data processing/analyzing software including Stata/SPSS etc. will be given preference.
14.	Other Details	a) Consultant will be selected using the selection procedure of individual consultant as stated in Public Procurement Rules, 2008. b) <b>Remuneration:</b> Tk. 2,00,000/- (Taka Two lac only) per month, and payment will be made at the end of each month based on performance report in cheque issued by CAO, Statistics and Informatics Division, CGA Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. c) Interested candidates are required to submit their Expression of Interest in prescribed form to be obtained from the project office during office hours. d) Applicants should provide attested copies of documents in support of their qualification and experience with EOI. e) EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for the Census Consultant" or "Request for Expression of Interest for the Data Processing cum OCR/ICR Consultant"

**PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAIL**

15.	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Md. Alamgir Hossen
16.	Designation of Official inviting EOI	Project Director
17.	Address of the Official inviting EOI	Census of the Undocumented Myanmar Nationals Staying in Bangladesh 2015 Project Parishankhyan Bhaban, (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Block-2,) E27/A Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
18.	Contact details of Official inviting EOI	Telephone: 02-55006833, Fax: 02-55006832 Email: alamgir.hossen@bbs.gov.bd
19.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the EOIs without showing any cause.	

**Md. Alamgir Hossen**  
Project Director