

Greece defiant on pension cuts ahead of key talks with creditors

AFP, Athens

Greece's prime minister on Sunday said his government will not give in to "unreasonable" demands as the debt-ridden country braces for critical negotiations with international creditors on the thorny issue of pension reform.

The warning came just days after Athens got one billion euros under the terms of its third bailout programme.

The creditors -- the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the ESM -- finalised a third Greek debt rescue programme in August worth 86 billion euros (\$94 billion) after Greece looked to be on the brink of crashing out of the eurozone.

"The creditors have to know that we are going to respect the agreement to the letter, but that doesn't mean we are going to succumb to unreasonable and undesired demands," Alexis Tsipras told Real News newspaper.

"We have no commitment to find the money exclusively from pension cuts. On the contrary, the agreement provides the option of equivalent measures, which we have already processed," he said.

He admitted though that the pension system which is "on the brink of collapse" needs to be overhauled.

The labour ministry is working on a new social security system under which state-guaranteed pensions will be reportedly cut by half -- to a minimum of 384 euros -- and the rest will depend on a person's income and years of social security payments.

"If we don't face the problem of



From left, Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos, Health Minister Andreas Xanthos, Economy Minister George Stathakis and State Reform Minister Christoforos Vernardakis (top centre) attend a parliamentary session in Athens.

the social security system today, in a year we won't be able to pay pensions," the labour ministry's seniormost official, Andreas Nefeloudis, told Mega channel TV on Sunday.

Tsipras' leftist government was forced in July to back down from its anti-austerity electoral pledges and accept a three-year rescue package from its eurozone partners.

The government has since July pushed through parliament a number of unpopular bailout reforms, losing in the process part of its majority in the chamber due to defections.

In December, the government said it had established a privatisation fund

and planned to sell a major stake in electricity distributor Admie, the latest reforms sought by creditors.

Tsipras appeared optimistic for 2016 saying it "will be the year of Greece's comeback after six year in crisis." "We will return to growth, we will put an end to the capital controls, we will reduce the debt and we will return to the markets", he said.

Greeks however do not seem to share his optimism.

According to a poll by Kappa Research for Vima newspaper on Sunday, 55.1 percent of respondents said they believed things would get worse in 2016 while 61.1 percent said a Grexit scenario would resurface.

Bank of Greece governor Yannis Stournaras meanwhile warned of the huge risks involved in case Greece fails to reach an agreement with its creditors.

"A potential failure in the conclusion of the assessment of the new bailout programme will bring back memories of the negative experience of the first half of 2015," he said in an article published in Kathimerini newspaper on Sunday.

"For a number of reasons the European Union is now more vulnerable and less capable of facing a new Greek crisis," he added.

Tsipras said the government aimed to conclude with the negotiations before the end of February.

Russia's oil output hits record high

AFP, Moscow

Russia pumped a record 534 million tonnes of crude oil in 2015 even as it reeled from a fall in oil prices caused by a supply glut, energy ministry data showed Saturday.

The country's oil and gas condensate production last year increased 1.4 percent year-on-year, with output reaching 10.73 million barrels per day, a post-Soviet record, according to data cited by Interfax news agency.

The slide in oil prices and Western sanctions over Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis have pummeled the oil-dependent Russian economy in recent months.

The ruble lost around half of its value in 2014 but recovered slightly as energy prices stabilised last year.

But the recent renewed slump in oil prices -- with Brent crude falling to an 11-year low last month -- casts a shadow on the prospect of economic recovery.

"All states, including OPEC countries, have concentrated on increasing their output and turning out as much oil as possible not to lose their market niches, not taking note that they are driving prices down," energy consultant Mikhail Krutikhin said Saturday on Russian radio.



QM Shariful Ala, managing director of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DBH), hands over one of the 2,000 blankets to Muhammad Musa, executive director of Brac, at Brac Centre Inn in the capital. DBH donated the blankets for distribution among the poor through Brac and Ayesha Abed Foundation.



MA Mannan, state minister for finance and planning, and AKM Shamsuddin Khaza, convenor of Association of Bank Officers Bangladesh, attend a seminar on the banking sector, organised by the association, at the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.



Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, chief executive officer of Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre, and Syed Fazlul Haque, a director of Summit Alliance Port, pose at the signing of a memorandum for resolution of commercial disputes through alternative methods, at Summit's corporate office in Karwan Bazar, Dhaka on Thursday.

Airbus to sell three A380 superjumbo jets to Japan's ANA Holdings

REUTERS, New York

European planemaker Airbus has won a deal to sell three A380 superjumbo jets to Japan's biggest carrier ANA Holdings Inc in a deal valued at about 150 billion yen (\$1.25 billion), the Nikkei reported.

The planes are to be introduced in fiscal 2018 in routes to Hawaii and elsewhere, the paper said.

Orders for Airbus A380s have dried up in recent years reflecting a fundamental shift in the industry toward smaller, twin-engine planes that cost less to fly than the stately, four-engine jumbos, which can carry as many as 525 passengers.

In November, Boeing Co said it had booked two firm orders for its 747-8 jumbo jet, ending what was shaping up to be a second year without net new purchases of the iconic four-engine plane.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong
Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Energy & Mineral Resources Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
4	Procuring entity district	Chittagong		
5	Initiation for	Design, Drawing and Construction of 3 (Three)-storied Office Building (3x600m ² = 1800m ²) & 1 (one)-storied building (93m ²) of Tank Farm Area at Mongla Oil Installation, Mongla, Bagerhat on turn-key basis.		
6	Invitation Ref No.	BPC:(MOI)42.29/07, Date: 21/12/2015.		
7	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (National Competitive Tendering), Single stage two envelop system (Technical & Financial).		
8	Budget & source of fund	BPC, POCL, MPL & JOCL (own fund).		
9	Project name	Construction of Mongla Oil Installation, Mongla, Bagerhat.		
10	Tender package No.	BPC(MOI): WR-3 (Office Building).		
11	Tender publishing date	01-07 January 2016		
12	Tender last selling date & time	22.02.2016		
13	Tender closing date & time	23.02.2016 at 11:00 hrs		
14	Tender opening date & time	23.02.2016 at 11:30 hrs		
15	Name & address of the office			
	Selling tender document (principal)	Cashier, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Selling tender document (others)	Padma Oil Company Limited, 4, Strand Road, Chittagong.	Meghna, Petroleum Limited, 58/59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong	Jamuna Oil Company Limited, Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.
		Padma Oil Company Limited, 6, Paribagh Dhaka.		Jamuna Oil Company Limited, 2, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
	Receiving tender document	Project Director, MOI, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Opening	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Name/address: Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Conference Room, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong, Date: 24.01.2016, Time: 11.00 hrs.		
16	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have the following experiences: a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the design and construction works shall be 07 (seven) years. b) The minimum specific experience in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract of Design, Drawing and Construction of at least 3 storied residential or commercial building successfully completed within the last 05 (five) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 200 (two hundred) lac in gov/ semi gov/autonomous bodies/private company. * Others qualification as specified in tender document.		
17	Brief description of goods and works	Successful tenderer will undertake Design, Drawing and Construction of 3 (Three) storied Office building (3x600m ² =1800m ²) & 1 (one) storied Building (93m ²) of Tank Farm Area at Mongla Oil Installation, Bagerhat on turn-key basis. The following works will be carried out by the contractor for three storied office building: 1) (i) Sub Soil Investigation (ii) Site Development (As Instructed by Engineer-In-Charge. 2) Detailed design, drawing etc. on the basis of the soil test report and choose the nature of piling as required for 3 storied building of Mongla Oil Installation Project Area, Mongla, Bagerhat. 3) Standards and codes of practice: Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC) will be followed for design, drawing & construction purpose. 4) Design & drawing approval will be taken by the contractor from Mongla Port Authority (MPA) & Khulna Development Authority (KDA) at their own cost. 5) Lay out drawing in each floor (12-14 Rooms in each floor with toilet & other facilities). 6) Detailed engineering drawings (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical/Sanitary & others as required). 7) All Engineering Material Tests such as Aggregate, Cement, Reinforcement, Compressive Strength of Concrete (Cube/Cylinder), Pile Load Test, Pile Integrity Test & others as instructed by Engineer-In-Charge. 8) Required survey such as Geophysical, Geotechnical Investigation, Topographic Survey etc. 9) Internal/external services of 3 storied building as under: i) Construction of Underground Reservoir & Overhead R.C.C. Water Tank, external water supply with underground reservoir & overhead water tank, pump house facilities etc. ii) Plumbing and sanitary system, sewerage system & provision of sewage disposal etc. iii) Electrical wiring external electric supply line to be connected with existing transformer & substation room. iv) Telephone line, Intercom, PABX & Internet System, Dish Antenna System, Room AC provision (As required). v) Provision of gas line (as required). vi) Admixture used in construction works (approved by Engineer-in-Charge). vii) Earthquake prevention and Security Alarm system etc. The following works will be carried out by the contractor for 01 (one) storied Building (93m ²) of Tank Farm Area: 1) Provision of Auto gauging system, central control panel erection, cctv installation system, fire fighting control system etc. (04-05 Rooms in 01 (One) storied Building with toilet & other facilities). 2) Others as instructed by Engineer-In-Charge.		
18	Brief description of related services	N/A		
19	Price of tender document	BDT 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand only).		
20	Identification of lot	Complete work		
21	Lot No.	Single		
22	Location	Plot No. 21, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla Oil Installation (BPC Project), Mongla, Bagerhat.		
23	Tender security amount	BDT 7,00,000.00 (Taka seven lac only).		
24	Completion time	06 (six) months from the effective date of contract signing.		
25	Association of foreign firm is	N/A		
26	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Mosaddeque Hossain.		
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.		
28	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong.		
29	Contact details of official inviting tender:	Mob: 01777703334, Tel: 031-610630, Fax: 880-31-618312, 612668 e-mail: mosad86@yahoo.co.in		
30	(a) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. (b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue. (c) This tender notice will also be available at Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) website: www.bpc.gov.bd, CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd & Padma Oil Company Limited website: www.pocl.bd.com			

Engr. Md. Mosaddeque Hossain
Project Director
Mongla Oil Installation
Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation