



Tapan Kanti Ghosh, additional secretary to the commerce ministry; Hosna Ferdous Sumi, a private sector specialist at International Finance Corporation (IFC), and Elizabeth A Vazquez, CEO of WEConnect International, pose at a forum on women in corporate value chains in Dhaka yesterday. The forum is part of a technical advisory project titled "Corporate Connect: Strengthening Market Access for Women-Owned Businesses" and is implemented by the IFC and the ministry.

Ziaul Karim, head of communications and external affairs at Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL), and Sohail Murshed, CEO of EBL Finance (HK) Ltd, pose with an award on being adjudged best corporate and investment bank in Bangladesh for a third consecutive time at Asiamoney Country Award 2019 organised by leading financial publication Asiamoney in Hong Kong recently.



India to crack down on sugar sales below floor price

REUTERS, Mumbai

The Indian government has asked regional cane commissioners to take action against sugar mills selling sugar below a government-mandated price, a letter seen by Reuters showed.

The sugar mills are facing a cash crunch as they also have to pay stipulated prices to buy cane from farmers at a time when there is a glut of sugar, and they are heavily in arrears in those payments.

They are under intense pressure from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to make those payments as failure to do so could turn the sugar farmers, a powerful voting bloc, against it in the general election in April-to-May.

The world's biggest sugar consumer introduced a floor price for the sweetener last year to help the mills and the farmers. Last month it raised the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar to 3,100 rupees (\$45.01) per 100 kg from 2,900 rupees but despite that order several mills sold sugar below the MSP, which threatens to undermine the initiative.

"Sugar mills of your state may be advised to strictly adhere to directives

of Government regarding MSP of white/refined sugar and action may be taken for violation of Sugar Price (Control) Order," the federal food and public distribution department said in a March 20 letter to state cane commissioners.

Some mills were selling sugar below the MSP while others are selling sugar at MSP inclusive of a nationwide sales tax, which is in breach of the directive, the ministry wrote.

The sugar price control order allows the government to conduct searches in factories, and penalties include the possible seizure of stocks of mills violating the rule.

India has provided various sops to the ailing sugar industry in the past year but mills still owe cane farmers more than 200 billion rupees as refined sugar prices have fallen below the cost of production.

The sugar mills include Balrampur Chini Mills, Bajaj Hindusthan, and Shree Renuka Sugars.

Fears of a government crackdown on mills led sugar lobby group, the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd (NFCSE), to write to its members this week seeking compliance.

"Due to the cash crunch some mills were selling sugar below MSP and piling pressure on other mills that follow the rules," said Prakash Naiknavare, managing director of NFCSE.

The sugar commissioner in western Maharashtra state, the second-biggest sugar producer in the country, has summoned sugar mill representatives on Thursday to discuss the sale of sugar below MSP, according to industry officials.

"In Thursday's meeting the sugar commissioner of Maharashtra will review how mills are subverting the law," said Sanjay Khatal, managing director, Maharashtra State Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation.

India is set to produce more than 32 million tonnes of sugar for the second straight year in 2018/19, overshooting the local demand of around 26 million tonnes, trade bodies estimate.

Mills have also been struggling to export surplus sugar as global prices are far lower than local prices. To encourage exports, India has given sugar mills transport subsidies of 1,000 rupees a tonne to 3,000 rupees a tonne, depending on their distance from ports.



Sayeed H Chowdhury, chairman of One Bank, opens the bank's 100th branch at Shantinagar in Dhaka yesterday. M Fakhru Alam, managing director, was present.



Mohammed Shawkat Jamil, managing director of United Commercial Bank (UCB); Mohd Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of Toma Group, and Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director of Bank Asia, attend a signing ceremony at a Dhaka hotel recently for syndicated credit facilities of Tk 550 crore for the Toma Construction and Co to build a new dual gauge single railway line from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar. UCB will be the lead arranger, Prime Bank co-arranger and Bank Asia one of the financiers.



Md Abdul Jabber Chowdhury, additional managing director of Premier Bank, opens the bank's 110th branch at Baluchar Bazar in Munshiganj recently.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Project Formulation for the Proposed Bangladesh Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project
Department of Public Health Engineering
DPHE Bhaban (5th fl), 14, Shaheed Captain Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka
Memo No.: PD/PFPBMWSSP, DPHE/427 Date: 24/03/2019

Request for Expressions of Interest (Consulting Services - Firm Selection)

Country	: Bangladesh
Name of the Project	: Bangladesh Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project (BMWSSP)
Assignment Title	: Pourashava Sanitation Support Consultancy
Reference No.	: BMWSSP/S-12

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has applied for financing from the World Bank (with co-financing from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, AIIB) towards the Bangladesh Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project (BMWSSP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh intends to apply a portion of said credit to hire a competent, qualified and experienced consultancy agency that will provide support for development of pourashava sanitation plan. The scope of work of the firm includes the following:

- Review available data, identify key gaps in information, and carry out supplementary data collection with the pourashava;
- Work alongside pourashava personnel in conceptualizing and developing a pourashava wide sanitation improvement plan. The plan will be developed in consultation with the stakeholders and communities. This will include:
 - Household Sanitation Improvements
 - Public Toilets
 - Fecal Sludge Management
 - Fecal Sludge Treatment Trenching (27 pourashavas)
 - Pilot Fecal Sludge Treatment (3 pourashavas)
- Develop an analysis report, which details the existing household sanitation arrangements, public/community sanitary conveniences, septage and solid waste management. Use the analysis to detail options for sanitation improvement beginning with household/public and community toilets, emptying, treatment and disposal;
- Share the findings with all stakeholders to elicit comments and in consultations with stakeholders finalize options for collection, treatment and disposal and solicit suggestions for improvements in sanitation.

Duration of the consultancy services is 30 months. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: (www.dphe.gov.bd) or can be obtained at the address given below.

DPHE now invites eligible Consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The short-listing criteria are:

- The firm should have at least 10 years of experience in the relevant type of services;
- The firm should have sufficient personnel having expertise and experience of providing technical services for similar type of projects;
- Adequate experience in planning and design of sanitation systems or similar type of work etc.
- The firm must have experience in managing/providing implementation support of similar type of project especially in the field of urban sanitation;
- Experience of working closely with urban local bodies and urban communities;
- Corporate Capacity of the Consultants (Annual Turnover, Financial Information for last 5 years, but no audited financial statements in this regard).

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 (Revised August 2018), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours (i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours).

The Expressions of Interest should include as minimum the following:

- Legal names and address of consulting firms including country of registration (i.e. legal documents, Up-to date Trade License, VAT and Tax Certificate);
- Brochure of the consulting firms or description of company profile;
- Description of relevant experience with all necessary information;
- List of professional strength especially related to this assignment with name, qualification and experience;
- Annual turnover;
- Forwarding letter with detail address (i.e. mail address, telephone, fax, email) and contact person for communication.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by 10 April, 2019 up to 10:00am.

For any clarification and background information, intending entities may contact DPHE at the address given below during office hours (i.e. 0900 to 1700 hours).

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