

Soaring prices fuel anti-ECB sentiment in Germany

AFP, Frankfurt, Germany

As inflation soars to its highest level in three decades in Germany, Simon and Lena Wendland, parents of newborn twins, say that their lives have become more uncertain.

Their power supplier has just announced it is doubling its electricity prices, while property prices are looking “rather scary”.

“We don’t know where this is going to lead us,” Simon Wendland told AFP.

From energy and food, to paper and rent, prices have been marching mercilessly higher both in Germany and across Europe. Latest data put inflation in Europe’s biggest economy at five percent year-on-year, a level not seen in the last 30 years.

Bild, the country’s biggest-selling newspaper, blames the European Central Bank for failing to rein in prices and even adding to the problem with its cheap money policy.

The Frankfurt-based ECB has argued that its record-low interest rates and 1.85-trillion-euro (\$2.15-trillion) pandemic emergency bond-buying programme are necessary to prop up an economy ravaged by the coronavirus crisis.



Md Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, and Golam Awlia, managing director of NRB Commercial Bank Ltd, exchange signed documents of a service agreement at the bank head office recently. The logistic solution company will work as the contracted service provider to meet the international air express need of the lender.

DHL EXPRESS BANGLADESH



AB BANK

Sajjad Hussain, managing director of AB Bank Ltd, and Constantinos S Gavriel, general manager of Le Méri dien Dhaka, exchange signed documents of an agreement at the bank's Gulshan head office yesterday. The deal will enable the bank's credit card-holders to enjoy “buy one get one” offers on rooms and buffet meals and 30 per cent discount on health club membership. Abdur Rahman, deputy managing director of the bank, was present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Primary Education
Office of the District Primary Education
District: Thakurgaon
www.dpe.thakurgaon.gov.bd

Reference No. 38.01.9400.000.07.001.21-1107

Date: 03/11/2021

e-Tender Notice-01/2021-22

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
01	Furniture supply for 50 Nos. Class Room and 11 Nos. Teachers Room of selected 13 Nos. of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary School at different location of Baliadangi, Pirgonj and Thakurgaon Sadar upazila under NNGPS Project at Thakurgaon District.	e-Tender NBIDNNGPSP1/Tha /2018-19G1-01	613357	28-Nov-2021 15:00	29-Nov-2021 15:00	29-Nov-2021 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 29-Nov-2021, 15:00.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-2013

Coal to clean power transition: How countries responded at COP26

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Bangladesh is associated with the ETC, but it is not a member of the PPCA. Hence, Bangladesh could seek financial and technical support from the ETC with a view to phasing out of coal energy and promoting clean energy.

Commitments on stop financing fossil fuels abroad by 2022

A group of 20 countries and multilateral development banks (MDBs) have committed to stopping financing fossil fuel abroad by the end of 2022. This commitment includes not only stopping funding coal-based power generation but also oil and gas-based power generation. More importantly, it includes diverting the funds to clean energy development abroad.

The countries that signed the pledge include the US, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Finland, Costa Rica and a number of MDBs, including the European Investment Bank and the East African Development Bank. Major Asian countries that invest in fossil fuel abroad, such as China, Japan and South Korea, are yet to sign the pledges. However, China has recently committed to stopping investing in new coal power generation abroad that partly covers its commitment.

Since China, Japan, Korea and India are major investors in fossil fuel-based power generation in Bangladesh, lack of their commitments in signing the pledges would make it difficult for Bangladesh to shift from fossil fuel-based power generation financed by these countries. Moreover, Bangladesh would lose the opportunity to shift the funding of these countries from fossil fuel to clean power generation.

According to an estimate, if the commitment of the countries and MDBs is realised, about \$18 billion could be made available for investment in clean power projects globally. Despite the funding opportunities, the required funding for clean power for net-zero carbon emission would be much higher. At least \$2-4 trillion per year would be required for low carbon technologies till 2050.

Commitments on domestic coal or fossil fuel use reduction

While countries are making commitments on their role on coal and fossil fuel use or investment abroad, in most cases, they are reluctant to make commitments on their domestic coal use.

China has expressed its willingness to reduce coal use by 1.8 per cent for power generation over the next five years. Similarly, Indonesia, one of the largest coal producers, has made a commitment to ending coal use by 2040. As part of the mechanism, it plans to retire a number of operational coal plants using credit support from the Asian Development Bank.

The Philippines would retire 50 per cent of its coal-fired power plants by 2030-2035. The ADB, under its Energy Transition Mechanism, would provide seed fund to raise low-cost capital for these countries to make it faster to retire coal-fired power plants in Indonesia and the Philippines. Such a financing mechanism could work in Bangladesh to allow early retirement of coal-based power plants that are now in operation or under construction.

Commitments made by Bangladesh

Bangladesh's prime minister said at the Climate Summit that the plans to build a total of 10 coal-fired power plants have been scrapped. According to the Bangladesh Working Group on External Debt, Bangladesh has another nine coal-fired power plants that are either in operation or are being constructed with a combined generation capacity of 9,875 megawatts.

The two plants that are in operation – Barapukuria and Payra -- would generate 1,845 MW. The rest seven plants with a possible generation capacity of 8,030 MW are at various stages of construction. Of the under-construction plants, three have progressed at a considerable level: Rampal (80 per cent), Matarbari (60 per cent) and Banshkhali (55 per cent). The rest made little or no progress, with implementation within the range of 0-35 per cent.

The projects are being implemented in either public or private sector with financial support from a number of Asian countries, including Japan, China and India.

In case of phasing out of coal-based power plants, Bangladesh could take a phase-wise approach. Under the approach, the plants that have made limited progress (five plants) could be targeted for retirement at the stage of construction. The rest of the plants could be considered for gradual retirement with the availability of financial support from MDBs or development partners.

Bangladesh could take support of the Energy Transition Council to help provide technical support to phase out the coal-fired power plants.

As China has recently committed to stopping investing abroad in new coal projects, it is expected that China-backed Bangladeshi projects will be phased out in the coming years. In the case of other coal-fired power projects, Bangladesh could take lessons from Indonesia or the Philippines to seek funds from the ADB to retire the projects. Bangladesh could seek technical and financial support from Japan and India in the construction of renewable energy projects.

It is better to put more emphasis on domestic-led initiatives on reducing coal power and enhancing clean energy. In this case, support of the neighbouring countries will supplement our domestic initiatives.

The author is research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

China's trade surplus with US stands at \$40.75b

REUTERS, Beijing

China's trade surplus with the United States was \$40.75 billion in October, Reuters calculations based on customs data showed on Sunday, down from \$42 billion in September. For the first ten months of

the year, the surplus was \$320.67 billion. Earlier in October, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai pledged to exclude some Chinese imports from tariffs while pressing Beijing over its failure to keep some promises made in a “Phase 1” trade deal made under the Trump administration.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director (SE), RHD
Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh
Roads and Highways Department (RHD)
Room # 226, Part-1, Level-2, Part-2, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka
E-mail: pd.kewatkhali@gmail.com

Request for Expression of Interest (FIRM)

1	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport and Highways Division.
2	Agency	:	Roads and Highways Department.
3	Procuring entity name	:	Project Director, Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh.
4	Procuring entity code	:	N/A.
5	Procuring entity district	:	Mymensingh.
6	Expression of Interest (EOI) for	:	NGO Service (Land Acquisition and Resettlement) for Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh.
7	EOI Reference No.	:	35.01.0000.276.07.007.21-35
8	Date	:	07 November 2021
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement sub-method	:	QCBS.
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	:	Government of Bangladesh (GoB).
11	Development partner (if applicable)	:	AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	:	
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	:	Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh.
14	EOI closing date and time	:	28 December 2021, 16:00 BST.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
15	Brief description of the assignment	:	The Non-Government Organization (NGO) shall primarily assist the PMU of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in land acquisition and resettlement, particularly for assisting affected and entitled persons claiming their compensation from Deputy Commissioner (DC) offices, as per Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). The general scope of work and key tasks of the NGO shall include but not limited to: - Conduct a full census survey in project area (according to Feasibility Study the amount of Land Acquisition is estimated about 33.02 hectares which may vary as per final design) to collect data on land acquisition and to assess the overall project impact on loss of assets and livelihoods of PAPs. - Review and Finalization of Resettlement Action Plan. - Development of software package for menu driven Computerized Management Information System (CMIS) to assist resettlement activities in payment of compensation and purchase of replacement land. - Assist in collecting latest Mouza Maps, Parcha/Khatian, Provide logistic support during the survey/field verification conducted by DC, UNO, AC Land, PWD, Forest Department, Water Development Board and RHD. - Close liaison with Deputy Commissioner (DC) and PD, RHD to expedite the land acquisition and compensation process and assisting in demarcating the Right of Way. If necessary, they will revise the LA Plan to make it acceptable to DC office. - Arrange monthly and periodic co-ordination meeting through RHD involving the Representatives of the Executing Agencies Department and others concerned on a regular basis. - Participate in the Joint Verification Team (JVT) for assessing the quantum of losses and conduct market survey of affected properties through Property Valuation and Assessment Team (PVAT) to obtain Market prices for acquired Properties. - Identify all PAPs by categories following the Compensation Entitlement Matrix (CEM). In addition to that, issue ID cards to all EPs accordingly. Copy of CEM will be made available at PD office. - Prepare an Operational Manual for resettlement management and finalize entitlement Packages for all EPs and PAPs in consultation with RHD official. - Render assistance to the EPs in resolving their Grievances and ensure that they are not harassed. - Prepare Resettlement Budget. - Assist PAPs in obtaining compensation for land, structures, trees and other assets from DC office. - Monitor all and acquisition and resettlement related activities and prepare progress reports on behalf of RHD highlighting monthly progress in all areas as well as implementation issues/constraints that require decisions by RHD, and other agencies involved. - Assist RHD in Land Acquisition and Land Taking-over from Deputy Commissioners and handing over of land to the Concessioner.
16	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	:	The NGO must have experience in land related survey, land acquisition and implementation of resettlement action plan in large-scale completed development project(s). The NGO must be registered in Bangladesh under the NGO Affairs Bureau and the Department of Social Welfare. The NGO must have experience in implementation of at least 02 (two) resettlement Programs in Bridge/Highway/Railway Development Project in the last 08 (eight) years in Bangladesh. Experience of working in resettlement program under Roads and Highways Department or in any other government agency will get preference.
17	Other details	:	The EOI shall include: - Profile of the NGO (e.g., representatives, address, number of staff, history and other information to introduce itself). - General experience of the NGO in brief. - Copy of updated/renewed registration certificate with NGO Affairs Bureau and Department of Social Welfare. Also copy of updated trade license. - Copy of audited financial reports of NGO for last three years. - Provide information on each assignment completed for which your firm and each associate (JV member only) for this assignment, was legally contracted either individually as a corporate entity or as one of the major companies within an association for carrying out consulting services (i.e. land survey, land acquisition, resettlement plan and monitoring) similar to the ones requested under this assignment. The firm will provide the similar experience information in the format (Form 5A2-B) given in the standard RFP published by CPTU in its website (https://cptu.gov.bd/standard-documents/standard-request-for-proposal.html). The EOI will include such similar experience information which has been completed within in the last 08 (eight) years and not more than 10 assignments. The information shall be supported by the copy of experience certificate issued by the respective client and contract document (with salient feature for identification only). The NGO will avoid providing information of assignments which are not similar to this assignment. Nature, size, employer location and type of input for contracts in hand (in tabular form): - Summary of permanent professional and technical employees (no consultant or temporary staff) with key qualifications (in tabular form). - Interested NGO may obtain additional information from the office of the undersigned. EOI with all supporting documents must be submitted at or before 4:00pm by 28 December, 2021 in sealed envelope, marked with “NGO Services (Land Acquisition and Resettlement) for Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh” and delivered to the address of the undersigned. - The EOI shall be submitted in one (1) original, two (2) copies, and one soft copy in USB in a sealed envelope. - The final selection of NGO shall follow Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) procedure in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules-2008. - The costs and expenses incurred by the NGO in connection with the preparation and delivery of the EOI shall be borne solely by the NGO and will not be recovered from the procuring entity whatever the outcome of the procurement process of NGO selection.
18	Association with foreign firm(s)	:	N/A.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
19	Name of the official inviting EOI	:	Noor-E-Alam.
20	Designation of the official inviting EOI	:	Project Director (SE), RHD, Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh.
21	Address of the official inviting EOI	:	Room # 226, Level-2, Part-2, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
22	Contact details of the official inviting EOI	:	pd.kewatkhali@gmail.com
23	The PE reserves the right to shortlist or not to shortlist any or all of the applicant(s) without mentioning any reason whatsoever.		

Noor-E-Alam
ID No. 005074
Project Director (SE), RHD
Construction of Kewatkhali Bridge at Mymensingh

GD-2020