

Ditching the growth plan may not save PM Truss



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KAMAL AHMED

Famous for satirical headlines, British tabloids are having a field day due to the UK's tumultuous politics, which is equally brutal. One of them – the namesake of this paper – has been betting Prime Minister Liz Truss' tenure with the shelf life of lettuce for a couple of days. Its front page on Monday also featured an image of a lettuce head bought from Tesco, to see if it can outlast Ms Truss' premiership, and there's a livestream where readers can watch the vegetable's progress, too. For those who have a habit of discarding tabloid headlines as gossip, there's no respite from speculations either. The Conservative-supporting press, too, such as *The Sunday Times*, has advised the Tories that it would be "astute" to let the Labour Party "confront the economic challenges" ahead. *The Economist* has also suggested that Liz Truss' premiership could very well be the shortest one in modern British history.

Political pundits and the media were remarkably unanimous that her sacking of Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng was nothing but buying off a little more time for herself as his so-called mini-budget that rattled the financial markets was drawn fully on her pro-growth economic promises she had made during her leadership campaign. The reactions to her tax plan in the market and other major economies were quite sharp and harsh. Markets saw her tax cuts unaffordable, which simultaneously weakened the value of the pound and pushed up the cost of borrowing for the government.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) weighed into the debate on the issue of unfunded tax cuts and called for reversal of such policies. For the UK, as a member of G7, the club of industrialised nations,

appointed Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has announced a series of U-turns of the government policies, including scrapping the top income tax rate, and a freeze on corporation tax. To calm the markets, he had to make a Monday morning statement over a live broadcast, instead of unveiling it in parliament as per the tradition, in which he scrapped all those tax cuts announced in the "growth plan" by his predecessor a few weeks back.



Political experts believe Liz Truss' sacking of Kwasi Kwarteng was nothing but buying off a little more time for herself.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

it is quite unusual to be publicly lectured by the IMF. And then came criticisms from its allies, including the US. Following the market turmoil, President Joe Biden said the outcome was "predictable" and "I wasn't the only one that thought it was a mistake." He added that he had disagreed with "the idea of cutting taxes on the super wealthy," but it was up to the UK to "make that judgement, not me."

Since assuming the office, the newly

These assertive measures of the new chancellor, however, have been greeted by the media and political observers as a sign of further waning of Prime Minister Liz Truss' authority. In anticipation of Jeremy Hunt's announcement, *The Sunday Times* wrote that the new chancellor had taken "full control" by delaying the prime minister's flagship 1p cut to income tax by a year. It also said Hunt's self-proclaimed "clean slate" on the mini-budget would

add to the sense among some Tories that the prime minister was "increasingly powerless." Another Tory-friendly weekend paper, *The Sunday Telegraph*, wrote, "Good news for the economy may mean bad news for Ms Truss." The paper quoted an unnamed senior Conservative as saying, "She's in office, he's [Hunt's] in power. That's why she's got to go."

The dwindling authority of the prime minister means more speculation and potential plotting for change in leadership. Weekend papers have suggested that Liz Truss' former leadership rival Rishi Sunak is ready to replace her, if asked. The *Daily Mirror* reports that the "rattled" Conservatives want Defence Secretary Ben Wallace to replace Ms Truss as the prime minister. Staunch Conservative supporting *The Sunday Express* reports of a "secret plot to oust" Truss, claiming it's been told that around 100 MPs are backing a plan to bring the prime minister's "catastrophic" stint in No 10 to an end and appoint her successor without a contest. Some observers believe party grandees will prefer crowning the new chancellor as an interim leader, instead of another bruising leadership contest.

Opposition parties have demanded a new general election as the main contender, the Labour Party, has been maintaining quite a significant lead over the Conservatives since the unceremonious exit of Boris Johnson. However, Conservative MPs are terrified about the likely electoral disaster, which makes it more likely that if and when Liz Truss is forced out, a replacement would be found.

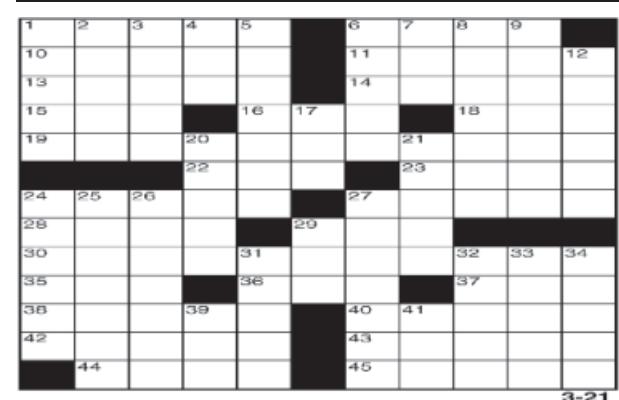
The current party rules prevent a formal leadership challenge for a year following a leadership election or a confidence vote among the MPs. But, if the majority of party MPs submit no-confidence letters to the chair of the back-bench members body known as the 1922 committee, then that could force a rule change and even allow the MPs to bypass party members and elect a new leader themselves.

A handful of MPs in the party have already broken cover to call for Liz Truss to go. Her premiership may very well outlast a lettuce head, but securing it till the next election remains uncertain.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	cheer-leaders	9 Obtain
1 Showed sudden	35 – loss	through trickery
interest	(confused)	12 Past and
6 Baby bull	36 Fellow	present
10 Genetic twin	37 Cereal bit	17 Mud bath site
11 Wiped out, in	38 Telegraphy	20 "Oops, sorry!"
skiing slang	pioneer	21 Baghdad
13 Chopper part	40 Musical set	native
14 Runway sight	in Argentina	24 Grand –
15 Cry of sight	42 Staggering	(Atlantic island)
16 Employ	43 Stair part	25 Good
18 Sprinted	44 RBI or ERA	speakers
19 California	45 Garden	26 Mosque
resort city	starters	tower
22 Supporter's	27 Traps, in a	way
vote	29 Tax time asst.	
23 Part to play	31 Refine ore	
24 Fails	32 Racket	
miserably	33 Like some	communities
27 Casual	5 Reads	34 Flag features
eateries	6 Bank job	39 Yacht spot
28 Diva's song	7 Georgia	41 Compete
29 – au vin	airport code	
(chicken dish)	30 Moves by	
30	31	
35	32	
36	33	
42	34	
44	35	

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SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

C	O	P	S		S	E	A	M
C	A	R	T		L	E	M	N
O	N	A	I	R	E	L	A	T
R	A	T	R	A	C	E	Z	O
E	D	O	P	A	T	D	W	N
D	A	R	W	I	N	I	N	S
C	R	A	M	I	N	S	I	D
H	A	T	B	A	N	D	N	E
A	P	T	B	A	T	C	A	V
S	P	I	K	E	H	O	P	I
M	E	R	I	T	E	L	E	C
R	E	D	S		N	A	T	E

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm

Item No.	Item	Description
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Health Service Division
2	Agency	Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka, Bangladesh
3	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director Essential Drugs Company Limited 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm (International) to procure Consultancy Service for Establishment of a modern, state-of-the-art, cGMP compliant Pharmaceutical Plant on a total area of 31.5 acres as per US-FDA and WHO guidelines
6	Title of the Service	Consultancy Service for the Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Manikganj Plant
7	EOI Ref. No.	EDCL/Manikganj/EOI/Consultant/2022/001
8	Date	13-10-2022
9	Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) Method
10	Source of Funds	Development Budget (GoB)
11	Project Name	Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Manikganj Plant.
12	Publication Date	19-10-2022
13	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 13-11-2022, Time: 03:00 PM (BST)
14	Brief Description of Assignment	Preparation of Master Plan, Layout, Detail Engineering, Drawing, Design, Machineries & Equipment List, Documentation, URS, Price Schedule, Estimated Cost, Tender Documents and Top & Full time Supervision for the following manufacturing and utility buildings considering all parameters of cGMP as per US-FDA and PIC's guidelines: Production Unit: Tablet, Capsule & Dry Syrup Liquid (Oral & External) Sterile Lyophilized (Injection) Powder Filling Future Provision of Soft Gelatin, Anti TB Drugs and ORS etc. Other Building: ETP, STP, Scrap Yard, Incineration Flammable and Explosive Item Storage Boiler House, Utility, Substation, Generator & Engineering Administration , Guard House & Reception Room Central Ware House Quality Operation (QA, QC, R&D) Central Prayer Hall, Officers & Workers Dormitory Vehicle workshop etc. N.B. Detailed scope/information of the assignment available in the Terms of Reference (ToR) which is integral part of this Request for Expression of Interest and will be available at EDCL web-site: www.edcl.gov.bd . The potential firms are requested to download the ToR and examine it clearly before submission of EOI application.
15	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	The interested Consulting Firm must prove that they have solid technical & financial background and operational strength to undertake this assignment without any hindrance. Consulting Firm must also have adequate Technical

& Financial ability, Staffing & Logistics and Processes. The Firm must meet the following criteria for short listing:

- 1) Should have at least Ten (10) years experience of Consultancy Services in Establishment of Pharmaceutical Project.
- 2) Should have Consultancy Experience in successfully completion of at least Three (03) similar contract/projects out of which one of them (fully/partly) US-FDA Approved.
- 3) The Firm should have pool of Consultants relevant to this field with highly academic degrees and relevant experiences.
- 4) Consulting Firm must have a registered office in Bangladesh and sufficient skilled technical strength to execute all Consultancy Works (as per ToR) and implement the project within the stipulated time.
- 5) Successful completion of Consultancy Services in Establishment of any Pharmaceutical Project having Two (02) contract with minimum value of USD 01.50 Million (One Million Five Hundred Thousand US Dollar) or equivalent currency in last Five (05) years.

16 *Other Details* The interested Consulting Firm are requested to submit the following supporting documents against the above mentioned criteria:

- Application for Expression of Interest
- Brochures of the Firm containing relevant Experience, Staffing & Logistics Facilities and Area of Expertise etc. Information in sufficient detail including description of experience with related documents in similar assignments, summarize of Firms technical and managerial capabilities, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources etc.
- Copies of original documents defining the constitution or legal status, place of registration and principal place of business; written power of attorney of the signatory of the EOI to commit the Consulting Firm.
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement from last 03 (Three) Years
- A list of Key Professionals and Experience in similar working conditions should be submitted along with signed CV (including photograph)
- Similar Service Experience record list (including employer name, location of the service, scope of service, contract value, date of commencement, date of completion (along with award of contract and completion certificate) etc.)

The interested Consulting Firm should sign and stamp the all pages of TOR and submit the same along with EOI. The EOI shall be submitted in 02 (Two) sets (One Original & Another Copy). EOI with supporting documents shall be submitted in sealed envelope with clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consulting Firm for the Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Manikganj Plant" and delivered to the address mentioned herewith prior to the closing of EOI.

17 *Association with other firms* Consulting Firm may associate or form consortium with other Consulting Firm(s) as joint venture to participate in this Consultancy Service.

18 *Name of Official Inviting EOI* Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir

19 *Designation of Official Inviting EOI* Managing Director
Essential Drugs Company Limited

20 *Address of Official Inviting EOI* 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh.

21 *Contact details of Official Inviting EOI* Phone: 8151080, 8113463, 9130036
9130489-9130490 (PABX)
Fax: 8119697
E-mail: manikganj@edcl.gov.bd
Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

22 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the Expression of Interest (EOI) without assigning any reason.

Prof. (Dr.) Ehsanul Kabir
Managing Director
Essential Drugs Company Limited