

US retail sales post steeper fall than expected

AFP, Washington

Retail sales in the United States slipped more than anticipated in March, according to government data released Friday, extending a downward trend that signals cooling in the economy.

The US central bank has raised interest rates steeply since early last year to lower demand and rein in high inflation, and there are signs that its policy is starting to bite.

Retail sales fell by one per cent in March from a month prior, to \$691.7 billion, said the Commerce Department, adding that February's contraction was revised to a smaller 0.2 per cent as well.

But compared with the same period last year, retail sales were still 2.9 per cent higher.

Dhaka Bank launches 'eRin' app

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Dhaka Bank recently launched an "eRin" app through which a customer can apply for an unsecured personal loan of up to Tk 50,000 for disbursement within two hours on banking days.

Customer can apply for the loan 24 hours a week anywhere from Bangladesh without submitting any physical documents.

Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, and Syed Ali Jowher Rizvi, chairman of CASHe Alliance (technology partner), inaugurated the product at the bank's head office in Dhaka, said a press release.

Mohammad Abu Jafar, additional managing director, Deepak Hazarilal Saluja, vice-chairman of CASHe Alliance, and Lutfe Mawla Ayub, director, were present.



Abu Farah Md Nasser, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated a two-day fair titled "Tara Uddokta Mela 2023" organised by Brac Bank at Alok Convention Centre on Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road in Dhaka on Friday. Maksuda Begum, executive director of the central bank, Md Mafizur Rahman, managing director of SME Foundation, and Selim RF Hussain, managing director of Brac Bank, were present.

PHOTO: BRAC BANK



Emranul Huq, managing director of Dhaka Bank, and Syed Ali Jowher Rizvi, chairman of CASHe Alliance (technology partner) inaugurated an end-to-end digital loan app "eRin" at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: DHAKA BANK

Brac Bank fair promotes products of women entrepreneurs

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Brac Bank organised a two-day fair titled "Tara Uddokta Mela 2023" in Dhaka to promote products of women entrepreneurs and create a market for their "Made-in-Bangladesh" products.

Abu Farah Md Nasser, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, inaugurated the fair at the Alok Convention Centre on Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road in Dhaka on Friday, said a press release.

A total of 50 female entrepreneurs from across the country are showcasing Bangladeshi products at the exposition.

The displayed products included hand-stitched clothing, handmade crafts, clay and jute items, processed leather goods, Jamdani sari, and organic foods.

Moreover, a group of entrepreneurs also showcased traditional indigenous products, clothing, and handicrafts made of bamboo and cane.

Brac Bank provided technological support enabling digital payments, including card and QR code-based payments.

"We have a plan to organise many such fairs with products of women entrepreneurs nationwide annually. Holding this fair shows our strong commitment to women entrepreneurs in the country," said Selim RF Hussain, managing director of Brac Bank.

Maksuda Begum, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, Md Mafizur Rahman, managing director of SME Foundation, and Syed Abdul Momen, deputy managing director of Brac Bank, were present.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (APR 15, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 75	0	3.85 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 50	0	3.23 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 58	-4.24 ↓	50.67 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 95-Tk 100	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 168-Tk 175	0.88 ↑	13.58 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 25-Tk 30	52.78 ↑	52.78 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 30-Tk 40	16.67 ↑	27.27 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 42-Tk 45	2.35 ↑	29.85 ↑

SOURCE: TCB

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project
LGED-RDEC Bhaban (Level-5), Agargaon
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Memo No. 46.02.0000.794.14.05.23-37 Date: 13/04/2023

**Request for Expressions of Interest
(Consulting Services - Firms Selection)**

Country: Bangladesh
Name of the Proposed Project: Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP)
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:-----

Assignment Title: Consulting Services for Design, Supervision, and Management (DSM)
Reference No.: Contract Package Number-RUTDP/PMU/S-01

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Proposed Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project (RUTDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for Design, Supervision and Management (DSM).
The broad scope of consulting services ("the Services") includes feasibility of sub projects, detailed design preparation, environmental impact assessment and social assessment following the environment and social management framework, economic analysis, financial analysis, prepare & check detailed cost estimate of subprojects, supervision and monitoring of civil works; assist in preparation of bidding documents, capacity development of ULB's, reporting etc. The DSM Consultant will review detailed designs, estimates, environmental impact assessment and social assessment, economic analysis, financial analysis of subprojects prepared for 1st year of the project within 2 months of DSM mobilization and necessary corrective measures.

2. The objectives of the consultancy services are to support LGED and the targeted ULBs in preparation of different types of subprojects in consultation with stakeholders in accordance with the defined technical standards and specifications, and are cost-effective; proper and effective supervision, cost control, quality control and contract management of all civil works subprojects under the project; and ensure timely, cost effectively, transparently in project implementation and management. The proposed menu of potential investments in the ULBs includes development of resilient basic urban infrastructures including urban roads with streetlights; drains with footpaths; small bridges and culverts; public toilets; bus-terminals; kitchen markets; super markets/multipurpose markets; street lightings; community centers; municipal buildings, parks/public place development. The project will also support the operation and maintenance activities of the participating ULBs.

3. The Project Management Unit (PMU) and the participating ULBs will require consultants' support on a range of activities related to conducting feasibility/appraisal of sub project proposals (both for new investment and O&M enhancement), survey & investigation, engineering design, estimating and preparation of BOQs and bid documents, supervision and quality control, knowledge transfer, and overall project management. For this purpose a Design, Supervision and Management (DSM) consulting firm will be engaged for a period of approximately 6 (six) years. The DSM Consultants will also provide support in the areas of procurement of goods and works, social and environmental safeguard management, and climate change mitigation and resilience of all planned investments/activities funded under the project consistent with World Bank Policies and guidelines.

4. The services will require both national and international inputs.

5. The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information indicating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. The short listing criteria are:

a) General Experience of the Firm in providing similar services (core business and years in business);
b) Experience in similar assignments of compatible size, complexity and technical specialty in the

required areas: Consultancy services for design, construction supervision, contract management; c) Experience in development partners funded similar Projects.

Consultants are requested to submit, but not limited to, the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

(i) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm (ii) Firm's brochures; (iii) description of similar consultancy contracts, including the scope, contract amount, name of Client, period of the contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location/country of the services, etc.

6. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to the Section III, Para 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrows, July 2016 and updated in November 2020 (Procurement Regulations)," setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

7. A consulting firm is allowed to submit the expression of interest alone if it considers itself to be fully qualified on its own for the assignment. Alternatively, consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications and capability, however, then such association shall either be as a Joint Venture (i.e. all members of the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable) and/or Sub-consultants (i.e. the Consultant will be responsible, including for the services of the sub-consultant). In case of an association, the Consultants must explain in the EOI submission (a) the rationale/justification for the proposed inclusion of the JV members and/or sub-consultants in the association; and (b) the anticipated role and relevant qualifications of each member of the Joint Venture and/or of each sub-consultant for carrying out the assignment. Failure to provide the above explanation in the Expression of Interest may risk the association not being shortlisted for the assignment. However, the qualifications/ experience of sub-consultants will not be considered by the Client in the evaluation of Expressions of Interest for Short listing purposes.

8. If shortlisted, Consultants will still have opportunity at the subsequent proposal preparation stage to further enhance their expertise for the assignment by associating with non-shortlisted consultants in the form of a Joint Venture or as Sub-consultants. In all such cases, the Consultant must obtain the written approval of the Client prior to the submission of the Proposal, justifying the rationale for such association and specifying the role and relevant qualifications of the proposed associate(s) for the assignment. In case of associating with non-shortlisted firms, the shortlisted Consultant shall be a lead member. However, Instruction to Consultant (ITC) clauses of RFP will prevail in this regard. The total number of firms in an association including the Lead Firm will be maximum 4 (four).

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

10. Expected date for commencement of the services is October, 2023 and the tentative duration of the entire assignment is about 66 (sixty-six) months. A draft TOR can be found at the following website: www.lged.gov.bd. The draft TOR or any further information can be obtained at the address of the undersigned given below, during office hours from 9:00am to 5:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).

11. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person or by mail or by e-mail) by **1:00pm (BST), May 22, 2023.**

Sincerely yours,

Md. Monjur Ali
Project Director
Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project
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