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PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Holiday destinations devoid of tourists for security concerns

JAGARAN CHAKMA, SOHRAB HOSSAIN and MOKAMMEL SHUVU

Hotels, resorts and motels in the country's holiday destinations are lying idle for a lack of tourists amidst the deterioration of law and order since Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post of prime minister on August 5 in the face of a mass uprising. Vandalism and looting of business establishments, houses and places of worship of religious minorities have created panic, denting the flow of tourists to popular holiday destinations. "Not a single tourist came to visit Sajek during the last three weeks due to instability and fear," said Suparna Debbarman, president of an association of the area's resort and cottage owners. During the rainy season, tourists come to witness the beauty of the green hills and small waterfalls, but the prevailing situation is not favourable for travel.

He added that bus services connecting Dhaka and Khagrachhari are yet to resume in full swing. According to him, there are at least 130 resorts and hotels and 16 restaurants in Sajek that can accommodate around 3,500 tourists. These resorts and hotels employ at least 1,000 people, Debbarman said. However, most staff are on leave with pay, which has helped reduce food costs for staff, he added. Basically, people are panicking about the instability and rapid change in the political scenario, which has impacted tourism-centric businesses in Sajek and other holiday destinations, he said. Echoing Debbarman's sentiments, Imranul Alam, owner of Tour Group BD, which offers houseboat services at Tanguar Haor in Sylhet, said the peak season for tourism in the region comes during the months of July and August.

He said the natural beauty of Tanguar Haor, the tea gardens of Sreemangal and the waterfalls of Jallong attract many visitors but there were no such prospects in the foreseeable future. However, the ongoing situation had affected their business. According to Alam, there are at least 200 houseboats in Tanguar Haor passing idle times due to a lack of tourists. Currently, there is little to no tourism-centric business at Cox's Bazar, which boasts the world's longest unbroken sea beach, due to a lack of tourists, said Selim Newaz, general secretary of the Cox's Bazar Hotel Motel Guest House Owners' Association. "We are incurring huge losses every day...this prime tourist destination currently has almost no tourists. But we still have to bear our fixed costs," Newaz said. "We don't know when normality will

return and when we will get tourists," he added. Since mid-July, hardly any tourists have arrived in Kuakata, which features another sea beach, said Rumman Intiaz Tushar, president of the Tour Operators Association of Kuakata. Many bookings have been cancelled since a curfew was first imposed by the government on July 20, he said. There are around 140 establishments catering to tourists, including restaurants and tea shops, alongside people who rent out beach umbrellas and benches in Kuakata. They are all having to deal with potential business losses, he said. There are no tourists in hotels, said Motaleb Sharif, general secretary of Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owners Association. "The owners of the hotels are struggling to meet various expenses, including hotel maintenance costs and electricity bills," he added.

Economy recorded sharp contraction in July: PMI

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's economic activities suffered sharp contractions in July owing to disruption in production and overall businesses amid violence, internet outage and curfew imposed by the immediate past government to quell protests, according to the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The July reading of the Bangladesh PMI – an index based on data compiled from monthly surveys of over 500 private sector enterprises – dropped a hefty 27 points from the previous month to record a sharp contraction at 36.9 points, much below the mid-point reading of 50 that means 'no change'. A PMI reading above 50 generally indicates 'expanding' and below that shows a 'contraction', according to the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Policy Exchange Bangladesh, which developed the PMI. The latest PMI shows contraction in all key sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction and services, said the MCCI.

The Purchasing Managers' Index dropped a hefty 27 points in July compared to the previous month

"The recent events of widespread unrest that culminated in the eventual resignation of the prime minister and fall of the government, have also had an impact on the economy," the MCCI said in a statement regarding the PMI. "All key sectors of the economy recorded sharp contractions as the previous regime resorted to extreme measures to regain control. Nonetheless, there appears to be a silver lining as the future business index of all key sectors posted expansion readings." According to the index developed in 2024, the agriculture sector recorded a sharp contraction after six consecutive months of expansion. The sector posted a sharp contraction rate for the indexes of new business, business activity, and employment. However, the input costs index posted a faster expansion whereas the order backlog index posted a slower expansion rate. The manufacturing sector also posted a sharp contraction after seven consecutive months of expansion, according to the index. The sector recorded a sharp contraction rate for the indexes of new orders, new exports, factory output, and supplier deliveries, whereas the employment index recorded a slower expansion. However, faster expansion rates were recorded for the indexes of input purchases and input prices, and the finished goods index reverted to an expansion.

AGRANI BANK PLC
Establishment & Engineering Division
Head Office
9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka

Invitation for Tenders

1	Procuring entity name	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Upgradation of CCTV System Agrani Bank PLC, 8 Branches of Dhaka Circle-1 & 2
4	Invitation Ref No.	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-272/2024
5	Date	04/08/2024
KEY INFORMATION		
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
7	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank Limited.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8	Tender publication date	04/08/2024
9	Tender last selling date	25/08/2024
		Date Time
10	Tender closing date and time	27/08/2024 3.00pm
11	Tender opening date and time	27/08/2024 3.15pm
12	Name & address of the tender document selling office	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Receiving tender document	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
14	Place of tender opening	Tender Opening will take place at the Primary Place
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
15	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at least 03 (Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFT. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at govt/semi-govt/autonomous organizations/ reputed limited company. e. No joint venture company is allowed.
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	i. Up-to-date valid trade license ii. Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii. Valid VAT registration certificate iv. TIN certificate v. Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 9.25 lac only. vi. Catalogue/ brochure. vii. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 7 lac/-. viii. Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) ix. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. x. International Standard Conformity Certificate and every other documents mentioned in TDS.
17	Price of document (Tk) tender	1500/- (Tk one thousand and five hundred only) non-refundable Pay-Order from any branch of Agrani Bank PLC in favor of Agrani Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka.
19	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abdur Rahman
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager
21	Address of official inviting tender	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	0223381674 eedmechanical@agrani.com.org
23	a) The tenderer shall furnish registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladeshi nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day. c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.	

Md. Abdur Rahman
Deputy General Manager

Congestion at Ctg port clearing up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The congestion of import and export containers at the Chattogram port is slowly clearing, with port activities ramping up since yesterday morning. The backlog had accrued as container handling at the country's premier seaport came to a halt after the government enforced public holidays to quell the unrest stemming from a nationwide student movement. The movement, which claimed more than 591 lives till yesterday according to The Daily Star's count, climaxed on August 5, when Sheikh Hasina resigned from her position as prime minister and fled the country. According to the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA), importers are slowly clearing their goods in a bid to minimise risks amid security concerns. CPA data shows that around 3,924 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers were released as of 8:00am yesterday, with 3,039 TEUs being export-oriented. However, 41,581 TEUs of import containers are still awaiting release in port yards. CPA officials say container congestion is gradually decreasing as port activities are returning to normal. Omar Hazzaz, president of the Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said traders are still delaying the clearance of import and export cargo in fear of theft as there has been no police presence along the highways for at least two days now. "But the situation is slowly returning to normal," he added. Hazzaz also hoped port activities would move ahead at full steam after the interim government is sworn in.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part) Department of Agricultural Marketing Dipnagar, Gabtali, Mirpur, Dhaka.

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Agriculture		
2	Agency	Department of Agricultural Marketing		
3	Name of Procuring Entity	Agency Program Director, Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part)		
4	Invitation for	Hiring of event management/HR institutes/logistics provider for Entrepreneur hunt, award ceremony, branding, road shows, events etc.		
5	Invitation Reference	Memo No. 12.02.0000.549.23.003.24.989 Dated 08/08/2024		
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) [PSN]		
7	Budget and Source of Fund	Development Fund, World Bank, GoB		
8	Project Code	224374700		
9	Package Name	Hiring of event management/HR institutes/logistics provider for Entrepreneur hunt, award ceremony, branding, road shows, events etc.		
10	Tender Publication Date	09/08/2024		
11	Tender Last Selling Date	04/09/2024 (within office hours)		
12	Tender Submission Date and Time	05/09/2024 up to 14:00		
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	05/09/2024 at 14:30		
14	Office Address of Selling Tender Document	Agency Program Director's Office Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part), Department of Agricultural Marketing, Gabtali Flower Wholesale Market (Level-2, Room No-302), Dipnagar, Gabtali, Mirpur, Dhaka.		
15	Office Address of Receiving and Opening Tender Document	Department of Agricultural Marketing, Head Office Khamarbari (Front Building, Level-4, Room No-501), Farmgate, Dhaka.		
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	a) Minimum 10 (ten) years overall experience in the field of event management, branding and marketing of products or services nationally; b) Minimum 2 Contact in public sector at least minimum contract value of BDT 2 (two) Crore over the last 5 years in Agribusiness related project and Experience of working with 100+ Micro Entrepreneurs under one project in Agriculture Related Project; c) Experience of performing similar assignments under the development partner funded projects; d) Experience of implementing full-fledged marketing and branding campaign (360-degree campaign) like television commercials, Radio Commercials, Press/Print media, Digital (Facebook and other digital), Events/Activation, Outdoor (shop sign, billboards) etc; e) Evidence of permanent office in Bangladesh; Evidence of updated Trade license (2023-24) mentioning event management service; Income Tax Clearance Certificate (2022-23); TIN Number; BIN Number and Proof of VAT submission status (December, 2023); f) List of Manpower having the criteria as per the required qualifications and experience in the TOR and having adequate permanent manpower and other office equipment and logistic support; g) Audited financial reports for the financial years (2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-21); and h) The firm must demonstrate at least BDT 2 (two) crore as Working Capital in the form of a Letter of Credit or Credit Commitment or equivalent.		
17	Price of Tender Document	BDT 4,000.00 (Four Thousand only)		
18	Description of Activities	Hiring of event management/HR institutes/logistics provider for Entrepreneur hunt, award ceremony, branding, road shows, events etc. [Details Terms of Reference (TOR) are available at www.dam.gov.bd at Tender Menu box]		
	Package No	Identification of Package		
	Location	Completion Time		
	Tender Security Amount (Tk)			
SD-11	Roadshow and Entrepreneur Hunting Campaign, National Fair/Export Fair/Divisional Fair/Agribusiness Summit on Women Entrepreneurship (2-3 days), Social Media Campaign, Award Giving Ceremony (National and Divisional), Public relation and Media Engagement, AV (OVC), Printing Materials (Flyers/Posters), Festoon and Banner, SMS, Miking etc.	All over Bangladesh	BDT 35,00,000/- (Thirty Five Lac Only)	30 June 2028
19	Name and Contact Details of Procuring Entity	Agency Program Director Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part), Department of Agricultural Marketing, Gabtali Flower Wholesale Market (Level-2), Dipnagar, Gabtali, Mirpur, Dhaka. E-mail: partner.dam@gmail.com		
20	Reserved Right	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders		
21	Procurement Rules	The tender will be performed according to the Public Procurement Rules 2008		

Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Faroque
Agency Program Director
Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition,
Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part)