

BoI survey gives lopsided FDI picture

Only inflow data counted, not outflow figure, says MCCI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent Board of Investment (BoI) survey on foreign direct investment (FDI) presents a lopsided picture of the subject as a result of a faulty survey method, including inadequate coverage, says the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

The BoI survey report gives only inflow data, excluding outflow, and hence net FDI figures are not available in it. So is the case with private debts, the chamber points out.

"In order to get a fuller picture, one needs to know the stock of FDI at a particular point of time, which is not available in the BoI survey report," the MCCI observes in the latest issue of its monthly publication, the Chamber News.

The chamber thinks the questionnaire used in the BoI survey was too concise and did not ask for any information on possible outflows -- repatriation of capital or profit or payment of interests on private debts.

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PHOTO: STAR

Reddish, highly toxic wastes from Tejgaon industrial area flow through a drain near the bridge on Tejgaon-Gulshan link road into a jheel (large water-body) in Rampura, only to find their way to river Trimohoni.

Khaleda visits RU today, DU tomorrow amid raging protests

STAR REPORT

Amid widespread protests, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is set to inaugurate a three-day Golden Jubilee celebration at Rajshahi University today and distribute gold medals to outstanding students of Dhaka University tomorrow.

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Bangladesh worst victim of tropical cyclones

Saarc meteorologists gather to find ways to minimise damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is the country worst hit by tropical cyclones and associated storm surges.

Of the 10 cases of heaviest loss of

lives in the world due to tropical cyclones recorded in recent history, as many as five occurred in Bangladesh, a seminar in the city revealed yesterday.

Among those cases is the world's

highest recorded storm surge, of 13.6 metre high tidal waves, which devastated Bakerganj in 1876 with a death toll of about 200,000 people. Another two such fierce cyclones, in

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X-mas alert after al-Qaeda threat

REUTERS, Washington/Dubai

The White House said Friday it had ordered US security personnel to be extra vigilant for terror attacks during the Christmas period as the EU's police agency warned al-Qaeda was very active in Europe.

Al Jazeera television broadcast a purported audio tape by al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, vowing to defeat the "infidel" United States.

US authorities said they were concerned by what they called the volume of terrorist threats at home and overseas.

"The Department of Homeland Security has sent out several bulletins... (to) security officials and law enforcement personnel, urging all to continue to be on heightened state

of alert especially as we enter the busy holiday season," said Scott McClellan, President Bush's spokesman.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation dismissed an ABC television report that there was credible information pointing to a possible strike against New York, target of the September 11 attacks in 2001 widely blamed on al-Qaeda.

In the Jazeera audio tape, the speaker purported to be Zawahri said al-Qaeda would target Americans everywhere, including the United States.

"America has been defeated (by) our fighters in Afghanistan despite all its military might, its weaponry," the speaker said in the undated tape.

"With God's help we are still

chasing Americans and their allies everywhere, including their homeland," he said.

Muslims, the speaker said, would see a "new dawn in which the crusaders and infidels would be expelled and the banner of Islam would fly proudly over Jerusalem, the holy Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina as well as Cairo, Baghdad and Kabul."

The speaker said attacks against US troops in Iraq were carried out by Muslim militants and ordinary Iraqis, rejecting US statements that Saddam Hussein supporters were involved.

No independent verification was immediately available that the v o i c e

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Graft charge Action proposal against DFP DG shelved

REZAUL KARIM

A proposal for departmental action against the director general of Department of Films and Publications (DFP) on corruption charges has been shelved mysteriously at the Prime Minister's Office for the last two weeks.

Sources at the PMO and Ministry of Information said a summary proposal for action against DG of

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US troops mistakenly kill 3 Iraqi police

Spanish PM Aznar flies into Iraq to boost morale

AGENCIES, Baghdad

US troops mistakenly killed three Iraqi policemen hours before Spain's Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar surprised Spanish troops in Iraq with a visit yesterday.

Underscoring the nervousness of American soldiers, US troops

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Sircar dismisses TIB report on JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar has brushed aside the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) report that parliamentary democracy is under threat as the Jatiya Sangsad is not functioning effectively and said the report does not reflect the reality and is misleading.

Dismissing TIB's allegation about lack of neutrality of the speaker, Sircar said there is no scope for raising such questions. "I am

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Decentralise cricket to be more competitive

The Daily Star roundtable told

SPORTS REPORTER

Cricket organisers yesterday called for decentralisation of the game and a true first-class infrastructure to make Bangladesh more competitive on international scenes.

Leading cricket officials and experts expressed the views at a roundtable organised by The Daily

Star themed, 'Building A More Competitive Team'.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the lively discussion at the conference room that was participated by 16 prominent cricket personalities.

"We should take cricket to all 64 districts of the country and we must

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Prayer Timings		
December 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-40	4-00
Maghrib	5-23	5-28
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation