

South Asia economies grow despite lack of good governance

Seminar told

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

South Asia's economies are growing despite obstacles like poor infrastructure, inadequate foreign investment and lack of good governance, noted economist Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud said, adding that many people consider this growth as a miracle.

Dwelling on Bangladesh economy, he said the country's economic fate depends on whether people's expectation is finally materialised or vested interest group continues to rule people.

He also lamented that political parties have so far failed to fulfill people's expectations.

"Ruling political parties in South Asia, including Bangladesh, have a tendency to patronise their cadres with numerous benefits. But there is a limit. People do not tolerate such things when it goes

beyond the limit," Wahiduddin Mahmud said.

He was speaking at a seminar on "Understanding growth and poverty: Is there a South Asian model", organised by The Institute of Microfinance at the PKSF auditorium in Dhaka.

The noted economist said the country is under the rule of a caretaker government because political parties have failed to render the desired services to the people.

He said poor governance of the two major political parties in their 15 years regime exhausted people's patience.

Abhijit Sen, member, planning commission, Government of India, presided over the seminar, while Siddiq R Osmani, a professor at the University of Ulster, UK, presented a paper titled 'Explaining Growth in South Asia.' Baqui Khalili, executive director of Institute of Microfinance,

gave vote of thanks.

Prof Mahmud said although South Asian countries have their own model of democracy, they share a common trait every ruling party in their respective countries patronise their party cadres illegally.

"People in Bangladesh have a pro-democratic and pro-development mindset. Also their tolerance is not unbounded," he said, adding that the parties lost their credibility because of their inability to function in a democratic and transparent manner.

Wahiduddin Mahmud said the country's economic fate would depend on when and how the politics turn in next several months.

In his paper, Prof Osmani categorised the South Asia's economic growth pattern into three phases: the early phase between 1952-67, the middle (1968-81) and the final phase that has been continuing since

1982.

He observed that the region witnessed growth in the first and last phases, but had a dismal decade in the middle phase, for which the Indian planning commission member blamed undue political and military intervention and oil and food price hike.

Abhijit Sen said the South Asia has the lowest growth in education and physical infrastructure, which are needed for accelerating the economic growth. He said the region is poorly linked in trade. He also called 'Safta' a so-called treaty.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud said any South Asian country needs 7 percent economic growth at a stretch for 25 years to become a middle-income country.

Only 13 countries have been able to become middle-income country so far. Of which, 10 represent East Asian nations, he added.

Bush pushes lawmakers on oil, trade

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush on Saturday urged the US Congress held by his Democratic foes to back free trade agreements with South Korea and Colombia and clear the way for more oil drilling.

In his weekly radio address, Bush noted that lawmakers were returning from their August break briefly before heading to campaign ahead of the November 4 elections and warned this was their "final chance" to pass key legislation.

"Before they leave Washington, they should show that they can work together on bipartisan measures to help strengthen America's economy," he said, citing the free trade pacts, tax cuts, and the high price of gasoline.

Bush and his Republicans have worked for months to blame Democrats for the painful prices at the pump, and recent polls show deep support for one of the president's key responses: drilling for oil in the United States.

Aktel offers 25pc bonus on talk time for prepaid users

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mobile phone operator Aktel announced Thursday a promotional offer of 'bonus on talk time', said a statement.

Under the offer, the operator's prepaid customers will enjoy 25 percent bonus on the incremental talk time of September compared to August.

This bonus will be available in October for making calls to any mobile operators with seven days bonus validity.

To know about the talk time, customers will have to type USE and send it to 8666.

While announcing the offer, Chief Commercial Officer of Aktel Biddut Kumar Basu said, "We always try to come up with new offers and promotions."

4000 tonnes Dutch potato seed import by November

BSS, Dhaka

Private entrepreneurs will import around 4,000 tonnes of high yielding variety potato seeds from the Netherlands in November for cultivating those during the next Rabi season.

Agriculture ministry sources said the high productive 'Diamond' variety of Dutch potato is a very profitable one to the farmers, particularly to the growers of Munshiganj area, from where 80 percent of the country's total potato output comes.

But the growers are in worry about the price of potato seeds, as they had to buy seeds at a higher price last year, which resulted in the rise of its production cost and ultimately the consumers became the victims of price hike.

Kamal Kazi, a potato grower of Munshikandi village under Munshiganj Sadar upazila told the news agency that they had to buy a crate (50 kg box) of Diamond potato seeds at a price ranging between Tk 10,000 and 15,000 last year, while the import price was only Tk 4,000.

"We had to suffer a lot last year in buying potato seeds due to the artificial crisis created by hoarders. We urge the government to take necessary steps so

that the growers do not suffer from such crisis in the coming season," he said.

Meanwhile, a dilemma has been created between the local agent of supplier company, Agrico Potatoes of Holland, and the importers centring over the next import and distribution process of the variety. The agent and importers are blaming each other due to last year's unusual price hike of potato seeds.

When contacted, local agent of Agrico Potatoes, AR Malik said according to the instruction of the supplying company they have to change their policy to help the farmers.

"We ourselves will import the seeds on behalf of the distributors and the dealers and distribute those through them to the growers at upazila and union levels at a fixed rate so that they (farmers) are not cheated," he said.

Replying to a question on monopolising the business, he said, "As an agent of the supplier I am not supposed to make any profit. My only concern is to realise tax, VAT and other service charges from the distributors and dealers. The potato seeds will be supplied to the distributors and dealers directly from the Chittagong Port."

Elaborating on monitoring of the price, Malik said that he is already in close contact with the local administration and requested them to oversee the distribution process with the help of the joint forces.

Agrico Potatoes also sent a letter to the Director General of the Seed Wing in the Ministry of Agriculture saying as the number of interested importers of potato seeds has been increased significantly it has become impossible for them to satisfy all of them.

As a result they have to revise the process preferring a single importer who will distribute the seeds among the distributors and dealers smoothly, the letter said.

Expressing dismay over the steps taken by Agrico Potatoes and its local agent, AR Malik, President of Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, Major (ret'd) Jashim Uddin said, "We don't support this step as it is an unethical attempt to manipulate markets."

We will file a writ petition challenging the process if Malik goes ahead with it, Jashim said.

Anwar Faruque, DG of Seed Wing said he is aware of the situation and trying to resolve it by consulting with both the parties.

Best Air plans Dubai flight for Sept 8

UNB, Dhaka

Best Air, the country's third private airliner, is likely to start operating flights on its Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka route on September 8, spreading its wings on international routes.

Tito Siddique, a Best Air spokesperson, Saturday said the flights on the route would be operated on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with newly procured 162-seated MD-83 aircraft.

The one-way ticket will cost \$285 while the return one is

\$550, excluding taxes.

Tito said the flight operation of the airliner with Boeing-737 aircraft is likely to resume on September 8 as it fulfilled all the requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

Earlier on August 27, CAAB asked the Best Air authorities not to operate the Boeing-737 for technical problems in the aircraft and on charges of failing to ensure proper safety of passengers.

The Boeing-737 aircraft of Best Air had various problems,

including non-availability of safety equipment for passengers and technical problems in landing gear indicator, according to CAAB officials.

Best Air was operating its Boeing-737 on Dhaka-Colombo-Male route with only one life raft (inflatable rubber boat with lifesaving equipment), instead of three in violation of CAAB rules.

Having an adequate number of life rafts is a must to fly on long-range over water operations as per the requirements under the International Civil

Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and CAAB rules.

Long-range over-water operation is defined as flying to a distance of 100 nautical miles from the shoreline or 30 minutes' flying distance at cruising speed, whichever is the less. The distance between Colombo and Male is about 400 nautical miles, which is a long-range over-water operations.

The inaugural flight of the airliner on Dhaka-Colombo-Male route faced unwanted disruption in Colombo due to technical glitches.



Biddut Kumar Basu (2-R), chief commercial officer of AKTEL, among other officials, poses for photographs at the launching ceremony of a 'bonus on talk time' offer for its prepaid customers.

**E in C's Branch Works Directorate
Dhaka Cantonment**
Invitation for Re-Tenders
Notice No. 400/Ad/62/E-4
Dated: 31 August 2008

Military Engineer Services

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.			
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services.			
3.	Procuring entity name	E in C.			
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).			
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.			
7.	Development partners (if applicable)	None.			
8.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Supply & Installation of air cooler (AC) including ancillary works for room No. 201 and 301 for foreign student against bldg. no. 372 of DSCSC at Mirpur Cantt.			
9.	Selling of tender will commence from	09 Sept. 2008 (during office hour).			
10.	Selling of tender will close on	22 Sept. 2008 (during office hour).			
11.	Last date & time for submission of tender	23 Sept. 2008 12:00 hours.			
12.	Date & time of opening of tender	23 Sept. 2008 at 12:30 hours.			
13.	Name & address of the office(s)	-Selling tender document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project Dhaka & AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. -Receiving tender document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project Dhaka. -Open tender document Tender Selling & Information Centre at GE (Army) Project Dhaka.			
14.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractors Class-E. b. On receipt of security clearance, contractors borne in the approved list of govt./semi-govt./autonomous body or organization may be apply for tender.			
15.	Brief description of works				
Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of AHQ, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantt. (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/months
1	2	3	4	5	6
a.	Supply & installation of air cooler (AC) including ancillary works for room No. 201 and 301 for foreign student against bldg. No. 372 of DSCSC at Mirpur Cantt.	Mirpur Cantt.	500.00	12,000.00	03 (three) months
16.	Name of official inviting tender	Director of Works.			
17.	Designation of official inviting tender	Director of works.			
18.	Address of official inviting tender	Army Headquarters, E in C's Branch, Works Directorate, Dhaka Cantonment. Web address: www.army.mil.bd			
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 8752870	Fax No. 8752906	e-mail- wksdte@yahoo.com	
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

ISPR/Army/08/1606
GD-4019

Director of Works
Works Directorate
Engineer in Chief's Branch
Dhaka Cantonment

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES
BIMAN HEAD OFFICE, 'BALAKA' KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229,
BANGLADESH, CABLE: AIRBANGLA
TELEX: 642649 DABG BJ, PHONE: 8917400-19, 8912390-7, FAX: 88-02-8913005

Recruitment Notice

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd invites applications from the Bangladeshi nationals for contractual employment as Flight Stewardess as per following terms and conditions:

- Competence:** a) 'A' Level/HSC candidates having 3rd division/class or equivalent in academic career are not eligible to apply. GPA 3.50 in the scale of GPA 5.00 to be treated as 1st division/class, similarly GPA 3.00 out of GPA 5.00 to be treated as 2nd division/class.
b) Candidates must possess sound health, fluent in English, unmarried; minimum height 158cm, having a perfect eyesight (6/6).
- Salary and allowances:** As per company rule.
- Age limit:** From 18 to 21 years as on 16-09-2008.
- Application must include name of the candidate, parents name, 3 copies of recent passport size photograph, date of birth, age as on 16-09-2008, present & permanent address (both to be mentioned), educational qualification, nationality, marital status, height, measurement of eyesight, telephone No. (if any).
- Interested candidates fulfilling the requisite qualifications are requested to send their applications to "Manager Employment, Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, Head Office 'Balaka', Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229" latest by 16-09-2008. Applications reaching after the closing date will not be entertained.
- Important:** The date, time & place of primary selection/test/viva-voce following scrutiny will be published on 18-09-2008 at Biman's website at www.bimanair.com. The abovementioned schedule will not be published/hanged on any notice board of Biman.
- Application must be written in plain paper with signature & date. Applications without signature and date will straightway be rejected.

GD-4089

Manager Employment
Biman Bangladesh Airlines
Limited 'Balaka', Kurmitola,
Dhaka-1229

Cantonment Board, Chittagong Cantonment
Invitation for Re-Tender (4th Call)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	DML&C/Ministry of Defence	V
2	Agency	Cannt. Board Ctg.	V
3	Procuring entity name	Cantonment Executive Officer, Ctg. Cantt.	
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present	
5	Procuring entity district	Chittagong	V
6	Invitation for	Original Works	V
7	Invitation ref No	CCB/PW/OW/Advt/08/2/35	
8	Date	31-08-08	V
9	Procurement method	OTM	V
10	Budget and source of funds	Govt./local fund	V (Govt./local fund)
11	Development partners	NA	
12	Project/programme code	NA	
13	Project/programme name	NA	
14	Tender package No	One	
15	Tender Package Name	1) Construction of Baizid Line High School, 2nd floor, 8 (eight) rooms.	
16	Tender publication date	08-09-2008	V
17	Tender last selling date	23-09-2008	V
18	Tender closing date and time	24-09-2008	V 1200 hrs
19	Tender opening date and time	24-09-2008	V 1230 hrs
20	Name & address of the office	Address Cantonment Executive Officer, Ctg. Cantt.	
21	- Selling tender document (principal)	-Do-	
22	-Receiving tender document	-Do-	
23	-Opening tender document	-Do-	
24	Place/date/time of	-Do-	
25	Pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date NA	V Time NA
26	Eligibility of tenderer	1. 1st class enlisted contractors of Cantt. Boards/govt./semi-govt. and autonomous bodies. 2. Purchase for tender documents contractors submit the application along with up-to-date renewal fee of Enlistment License, Income Tax Certificate, Trade License, Vat Registration and successfully completed similar type of work an amount of Tk. minimum 10,00,000/- (ten lac) a single work order and completion certificate from the Executive Engineer or equivalent officer last five years. 3. Requirement of documents must be submitted along with the tender. 4. Minimum liquid asset is an amount of Tk. 10,50,000/- and annual turnover should be Tk. 62,00,000/- for period of the last five years. Completed work certificate from govt./semi-govt./autonomous bodies will be accepted. (Any works certificate from pvt. sector will not be acceptable).	
27	Brief description of works		
28	Brief description of related services		
29	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location
30	1	Construction of Baizid Line High School, 2nd Floor 8 (eight) room	Ctg. Cantt.
31	Name of official inviting tender	Mohammad Nurul Absar	
32	Designation of official inviting tender	Cantonment Executive Officer.	
33	Address of official inviting tender	Cant Board Ctg.	
34	Contact details of official inviting tender	<Tel. No> 681505	<Fax No> 2580779 <e-mail>
35	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		

GD-4048

Mohammad Nurul Absar
Cantonment Executive Officer
Chittagong Cantonment