

Recession-hit returnees' rehabilitation a challenge

Says central bank chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT
The Bangladesh Bank governor yesterday said rehabilitation of the recession-hit migrant workers poses to be a challenge as a bulk of the inward remittance is being used in unproductive sectors.

"Recession has multi-dimensional facets. In our country, rehabilitation of the migrant workers, who are returning home after losing their jobs because of the recession, will be a challenge," said Salehuddin Ahmed.

He was speaking at a programme on the 'Institutional Support for Productive Utilisation of Migrant Workers' Remittances', organised by

the INAFI Bangladesh Remittance Project at Brac Centre Inn, Dhaka.

"It is important to channel remittance earnings into productive sectors and deviate from the present trends in only purchasing property," he said. "Employment generation activities are needed to help those who suffer from fund constraints."

The central bank chief's statement came at a time when migrant workers are returning home almost everyday, as recession bites the economies of the host countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Singapore.

In the last three months to March 2009, about 22,000



migrant workers came back home, on strict enforcement of immigration rules and layoffs or long vacations by the employers.

In March, some 9,127 migrant workers came back home, up from 8,022 a month earlier. The outflow of migrant workers with jobs

has also declined.

"We call migrant workers our unnoticed heroes. We must recognise that they are one of the most important contributors to our economy," the governor said. The foreign exchange reserve reached the highest position at \$6.35 billion due to remittance inflows.

Remittance inflows show signs of a slowdown, even though \$881 million was remitted in March.

In the July-March period of the current fiscal year, remittance inflow grew by 24 percent to \$7029.51 million from \$5649.23 million a year ago.

Ahmed said the time has come to train migrant workers to enable them obtain better jobs and earn more

money.

"But we need to utilise the money in productive sectors so that they get sustainable living conditions upon return," he said. He recommends investing remittances in small and medium enterprises.

The BB governor also called on banks to explore ways to encourage their small clients to invest in productive sectors.

"It is time to recognise some of the small remitters. Give recognition to people who send money via formal channels," he said.

Ahmed also suggested NGOs develop a network with the NGOs in other countries in a bid to mitigate sufferings of the migrant workers in host countries.



Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Xianyi meets Industries Minister Dilip Barua at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

China to provide assistance for ICT, e-governance

UNB, Dhaka

China will provide assistance to Bangladesh for expansion of its ICT sector and introducing e-governance for implementing the roadmap of building 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2021.

China is also keen to cooperate with Bangladesh in implementing its solar and wind energy projects and development of the country's infrastructures, including construction of roads and bridges.

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Xianyi said

this when he met Industries Minister Dilip Barua at his office yesterday, said a hand-out.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral issues with emphasis on raising joint investment in industrial sector of Bangladesh, development of communications infrastructure and energy security.

The minister said Chinese investors could invest in Bangladesh's special economic zones set up to attract foreign investment.

He told the Chinese envoy that Bangladesh gov-

ernment always believes in 'One China policy'.

Both the minister and the envoy also emphasised building Kungming-Chittagong road link for gearing up trade and economic activities between the two countries.

Zhang Xianyi said investment in Bangladesh's industrial sector by Chinese entrepreneurs is increasing.

He said China is keen to invest in various ways, including construction of fertiliser factories, agro-goods processing units and pure water supply.

Cathay Pacific wins award

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The Cathay Pacific Airways has been named the 'Airliner of the Year' and 'Best Airline Asia' in the World Airline Awards, run by the London based Skytrax research organisation, says a press release.

This is the third time in the past decade that the airline has been named the 'Airliner of the Year'.

The awards were presented to Cathay Pacific at the Aircraft Interiors Expo in Hamburg, Germany, where Skytrax was celebrating the 10th anniversary of the World Airline Awards. The 2009 awards were based on the annual survey, conducted between August 2008 and March 2009.

Skytrax Chief Executive Officer Edward Plaisted said: "In a global survey that proved to be our largest ever passenger survey, it is truly a great achievement for Cathay Pacific to have secured the world's best airline title in 2009."

Foreign refrigerators dumped into Bangladesh market

Allege local makers

UNB, Dhaka

In the wake of global financial crisis, the foreign refrigerators are dumped into Bangladesh market at a price much below the production cost.

Local refrigerator manufacturers alleged that refrigerators are imported at US\$ 54-56 per unit from some Asian countries.

They said it is impossible to produce a refrigerator below the cost of \$100 as the price of a compressor of is between \$33 and \$41 in the international market. In such a situation, how can the foreign manufacturers sell a refrigerator at \$54, they question.

They also said that production cost of a small refrigerator is not less than \$100, as \$15-20 for metal sheets, \$10-15 for foaming chemical and copper condenser, \$ 3-4 for thermostat and \$40 for compressor are included in the cost.

Sources said that the customs authorities of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently detected some cases of import at dumping price. But as there is no objection from any quarters, the NBR is yet to take any measure to stop such unhealthy practice by the refrigerator importers.

Local manufacturers are preparing to raise the

issue and lodge complaints with the NBR and the commerce ministry about dumping foreign refrigerators in the market.

Sources said after the global meltdown, many manufacturers in Asian countries, particularly China and Indonesia, were forced either to close down their production units or start some unethical practices like dumping products to other countries to survive.

Officials of RB Group, which set up a huge manufacturing unit with annual production capacity 6 lakh units of refrigerator, said they would formally request the NBR and the

commerce ministry to take immediate step.

"We've already urged the commerce ministry to take some measures to stop the dumping," said one RB Group official.

Because, he said, if there is no action from the government, the local refrigerator manufacturers will face a major setback.

Commerce ministry officials said they would look into the matter. "If it is found valid and justifiable as per the rules and regulations of World Trade Organisation (WTO), we have scope to impose anti-dumping duty against such imports," said a senior official.

SE Asia faces hotel glut

AFP, Singapore

Key Southeast Asian cities will suffer a glut of hotel rooms for the next three years as the economic slowdown hits the travel sector, a global real estate consultancy said Monday.

A CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) survey of five cities including Singapore, Bangkok, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur showed 23,000 four- and five-star hotel rooms will be potentially available from 2009 until the end of 2012.

"Despite the likelihood that some projects will be delayed or even cancelled, a significant number of hotel properties will open across the region in the next two to three years," said Robert McIntosh, CBRE Hotels regional executive director.

"The additional supply, combined with declining demand, will present a challenging period for hotels in the short to medium term," he said in a CBRE statement on the study.

In Singapore, which is already in recession and hit by falling tourist arrivals, almost 10,000 new rooms in the category will come onstream by the end of 2012 on top of the 25,700 in supply now, the consultancy said.

"Until recently, there was general consensus that Singapore could not only absorb the increase in supply, but that additional rooms were essential to accommodate the future growth in visitor arrivals," said Alison Poore, CBRE Hotels senior consultant for Southeast Asia.

"However, with declining occupancy... the addition of new supply will likely result in a further softening of the market in the short term," she said.

Looking beyond the downturn, Singapore's tourist sector stands to benefit from the rise in hotel rooms when the global economy returns back to health, CBRE said.

"Singapore's underlying market fundamentals remain strong," said Poore.

Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC)
Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208

Invitation for Tenders (Local)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Industries.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), Bogra Project.
4	Procuring entity code	3905.
5	Procuring entity district	Bogra.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Air Cooler, PABX Set and Fax Machine.
7	Invitation Ref No.	BITAC/Bogra/PC/2(42)/2006-2nd.
8	Date	09.04.2009.

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	Open tender method (OTM).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	8390.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), Bogra Project.
14	Tender package no.	N/A.
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Air Cooler, PABX Set and Fax Machine.
16	Tender publication date	13-04-2009.
17	Tender last selling date	04-05-2009.
18	Tender closing date and time	05-05-2009 11:00am
19	Tender opening date and time	05-05-2009 11:30am
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document (principal)	(i) Cashier, Cash Section, Ground Floor, Administrative Building, Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
	- Selling tender document (others)	N/A
	- Receiving tender document	Purchase Section, 1st floor, Admin Building, BITAC, Dhaka.
21	- Opening tender document: place/date/time	Conference Room, BITAC, Dhaka, 05-05-2009, 11:30am.
	- Pre-tender meeting (optional)	N/A

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years experience in supplying goods and related services. (ii) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 (three) years specific experience in supplying of similar goods and related services. (iii) Tenderer must have up-to-date trade licences, up-to-date income tax payment certificate, VAT registration certificate and bank solvency certificate issued within the date of tender schedule purchasing and dropping.
23	Brief description of goods	Lot No-01: Air Cooler Lot No-02: PABX Set and Fax Machine.
24	Brief description of related services	N/A.
25	Price of tender document	Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only for each lot (non-refundable).
26	Identification of lot	Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months
	Lot-01 Air Cooler	BITAC, Tk. 5,000.00 06 weeks from the date of issuing NOA
	Lot-02 PABX Set and Fax Machine	Nishindara, Tk. 6,500.00 Bogra.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27	Name of official inviting tender	Md Shahjahan Ali.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director.
29	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC), Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 02-8824729, 880-9697801, 9697798 Ext: 120 Fax No. 880-02-9889255
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md Shahjahan Ali
Project Director
BITAC, Bogra Project
GD-1899

Parjatan's mobile voting begins today

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation is set to organise mobile voting activities from today as part of a campaign to encourage people to vote for Cox's Bazar and the Sunderbans.

"The main objective of this programme is to encourage more people to vote for Cox's Bazar and the Sunderbans and ensure that the two places remain at the top of the list of seven natural wonders of the world," Shafique Alam Mehedi, chairman of the corporation, told a press meet in Dhaka yesterday.

"Currently, both the spots are on the top of their own respective groups. Now we need to cast more votes in favour of these places, so that they can eventually win," Mehedi added.

Parjatan Corporation and Heidelberg Cement Group jointly organised the briefing at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the capital.

Heidelberg Cement Group, a German based construction company, is assisting the state-run tourism promotional agency to carry out the mobile voting, due in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla and Cox's Bazar simultaneously.

Organisers plan to set up booths at different festival sites countrywide, especially at Ramna Batamul, TSC and Rabindra Sarabore in the capital.

Ramakanta Bhattacharya, deputy managing director of Heidelberg Cement Group, said it is the social responsibility of the business community and government to help the tourism sector develop.

He stressed the need for promoting domestic tourism by developing infrastructure and communication to different tourist spots.

The organisers are expecting several thousand votes through the programme.

Kazi Shafayet Ahmed, manager of Heidelberg Cement Group, and Parvez Ahmed Chowdhury, communication manager of Parjatan Corporation, were also present at the press conference.



Prasanta Bhushan Barua, member of Investment Promotion of the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Md Nurul Haque, managing director of Styra Fashion Ltd, exchange documents after signing a deal at the Bepza Complex in Dhaka on Sunday. Under the deal, Styra will invest \$3 million to set up a garment factory in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone and create employment opportunities for 1,000 people. Other senior officials from both the sides were present.

G7, G20 finance chiefs set to meet

AFP, Washington

Finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) and Group of 20 (G20) will hold talks in Washington on April 25 as they gather for the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the US Treasury said Monday.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner "will host a G7 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting followed by a G20 ministerial meeting in Washington, DC," on that date, a statement said.

This will be Geithner's first time hosting a finance ministerial meeting since becoming Treasury Secretary under the administration of President Barack Obama, who took office on January 20.

Geithner will hold a press conference following the ministerial meeting of the G7, which comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, the statement said.

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান
কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
গাজীপুর-১৭০৬, বাংলাদেশ, টেলিফোন: পিএবিএক্স (০২)
৯২০৫৩১০-১৪, ফ্যাক্স ৮৮০-০২-৯২০৫৩৩৩

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University
Gazipur-1706, Bangladesh, Telephone: PABX (02) 9205310-14,
Fax: 880-02-9205333

Invitation for Tenders

Tender Serial No. 19 (2008-09)

Memo No. BSMRAU/P&D/ScEP/DQHEIFU/Project/185/2007-08/BTL/468 Date: 05/04/2009

1.	Source of funds	Development of Quality in Higher Education and Infrastructural Facilities in the Universities (1st Phase) Project.
2.	Tender package No.	1
3.	Invitation for tenders Ref. & date	No. 19 (2008-09), date 05/04/2009
4.	Tender name	Procurement of Scientific Equipment for Biotechnology Department of BSMRAU.
5.	Time for completion of delivery	90 days from receipt of the work order.
6.	Eligibility of tenderers	Registered Bangladeshi bonafide scientific equipment tradesman/company/sole agent/sole distributor and dealers.
7.	Price of tender document	750/-
8.	Amount of tender security	40,000/-
9.	Name and address of the office(s) selling tender document	Planning & Development Section, BSMRAU, Saina, Gazipur-1706.
10.	Name and address of the office receiving tenders	Planning & Development Section, BSMRAU, Saina, Gazipur-1706.
11.	Name and address of the office opening tenders	Planning & Development Section, BSMRAU, Saina, Gazipur-1706.
12.	Last date and time for selling tender document	03/05/2009 at 5:00pm.
13.	Last date and time for submission of tenders	04/05/2009 time: 2:00pm.
14.	Date and time for opening of tenders	04/05/2009 time: 2:15pm.
15.	Brief description of goods and services	Supply and install of scientific equipment.
16.	Special instruction:	Attested photocopy of trade license of current fiscal year, VAT registration, TIN, bank statement against of liquid asset and experience certificate. Earnest money to be deposited with the tenders as Pay-Order from any schedule bank in favour of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), otherwise tender will not be considered as genuine. Quoted rate to be written in figure and in words and only two digits to be used after the point. Selected contractor will have to deposit performance guarantee @ Tk. 10% (ten percent) of quoted amount before signing of the contract. Tender will have to obey all terms of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. Tenderers should study all terms of tender and then sign every page of schedule which is a must for tenderers. Authority reserves the rights to full/part accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Prof Dr. MA Khaleque Mian
Director (P&D)
BSMRAU, Saina, Gazipur-1706
GD-1878