# Measures to stop migrant workers' harassment urged

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The decline in overseas employment in recent months and harassment of migrant workers are not a result of the ongoing global financial meltdown, rather in most cases it is caused by indifferent recruiting agencies, a dialogue in Dhaka was told yesterday.

Speakers pointed out that migrant workers have to pass through difficult situations in receiving countries mainly because of the failure of recruiting agencies to manage jobs as promised and negligence of Bangladesh missions abroad.

Action Aid Bangladesh organised the discussion on Economic Recession: Fate of Bangladeshi Migrant Workers at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the capital.

In his keynote paper, Zoynal Abedin Joy, chairman of International Migrants Alliance Ovibasi Mahila Sramik Association and (IMA) Research Foundation, said around Shikkha Shastha Unnyan Karjakram, 32,000 cheated migrant workers have been migrant workers organizations also spoke deported mainly from Malaysia, Dubai, on the occasion.

Singapore, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during January-March this year.

He said the number of deaths of migrant workers in receiving countries have also increased to 635 in the period, which raised

"The government should take the situation seriously, as migrant workers are important forces of our national economy," he said.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid, said the expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry should ensure the well-being of the migrant workers abroad.

"The government should take immediate measures to strengthen diplomatic relations with more countries to explore new destinations for our migrant workers," she said

Representatives from Bangladesh



Maksudul Momin, managing director of Abarani International Ltd, the sole distributor of Cooline brand air conditioners in Bangladesh, poses with others at a product expo and corpo-



Mahbub Jamil, chairman of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, presides over the company's 29th annual general meeting in Dhaka yesterday. The AGM approved 30 percent cash dividend for the year 2008.

## Islami Bank wins top scores

STAR BUSINESS DESK

finance magazine, has recently branded Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL) as the Best Islamic Financial Institution in Bangladesh for 2008, says a press release.

IBBL will join the world's best financial institutions to receive the award at a function scheduled for October in Istanbul, Turkey.

The magazine also awarded IBBL the same in 2008 and the Best Bank in Bangladesh in 1999, 2000, 2004 and 2005.

## Wall Street powers up on recovery signs

AFP, New York

US stocks powered higher Wednesday as investors focused on glimmers of recovery in dismal data showing another sharp contraction in the world's largest economy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lifted 163.12 points (2.03 percent) to 8,180.07 at 1044 GMT and the techheavy Nasdaq composite advanced 38.15 points (2.28 percent) to 1,711.96.

The Standard & Poor's 500 broad-market index increased 18.01 points (2.11 percent) to 873.17.

Civil Aviation Authority

## International lending plummets to record low

AFP, Geneva

Global Finance, a US-based Banks cut cross-border lending by a record 1.8 trillion dollars in the fourth quarter last year, the world's biggest central banking body said Wednesday.

> Lending between banks accounted for about half of the drop, while another half of 903 billion dollars constituted lending to non-banks, according to the Bank for International Settlements.

change in total outstanding stocks in the third quarter, banks' external claims shrank by 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008 to 31 trillion dollars," the BIS said in its quarterly report on international banking statis-

"This was the largest reduction ever recorded in a single quarter," it added.

industries.

banklending.

billion dollars.

bankers had to take coordi-

nated action on several

occasions to offer cash to the

markets in a move to prevent

choking off commercial

fourth quarter of last year,

banks were hit by 1.7 trillion

dollars' worth of withdraw-

als to leave them with total

1.873 trillion dollars and

securities by 232 billion

dollars. However, this was

partly offset by "other

stocks,," which gained 369

Deposits plunged by

liabilities of 28.731 trillion.

The BIS statistics also

The biggest fall was recorded in loans, which plunged 1.678 trillion dollars, followed by securities, which fell by 211 billion dollars.

Claims denominated in the credit squeeze from US dollars declined by 6.0 percent while those in yen were down 15 percent. Banks have become indicate that during the

extremely reluctant to lend to each other since the "After a relatively small beginning of the financial crisis in 2007.

The latest statistics revealed the severity of a global credit crunch that emerged following the dramatic collapse of US banking titan Lehman Brothers in September 2008.

As banks sought to pro-

deepens in Q1 AFP, Madrid tect their capital base, they stopped lending not only to

recession

fellow banks but also to Spain's recession deepened As a result, major central

during the first quarter of 2009 as its gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 1.8 percent when compared to the previous three months, according to an estimate published Wednesday by the Bank of Spain.

GDP plunged by 2.9 percent in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the same period last year, the bank said in its latest economic bulletin, citing estimates based on partially complete data for the period.

"The available indicators regarding the first months of 2009 point to an intensification of the contraction observed at the end of 2008 amid a severe international recession," it said.

The national statistics office will publish its first official GDP figures for the first quarter on May 14.

If the estimates are confirmed, it will be the sharpest quarterly decline in Spain's GDP since 1970 and the deepest yearly drop in output since 1993.

### Correction

(Md. Shafigul Islam)

Executive Engineer(In-charge)

A caption on Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, published on Wednesday, mistakenly named Rafez Alam Chowdhury as president of Gulshan Club Ltd. In fact. Chowdhury is the president of Gulshan Youth Club Ltd. We regret the mistake.

Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank Ltd, speaks at the bank's 26th extraordinary general meeting and the 10th annual general meeting in Dhaka recently. The meeting declared 20 percent stock dividend for the year 2008.

### rate night, organised by the company at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently. Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat Strengthening Public Accounts Committee Project Invitation for Tenders Ministry/Division Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat. Agency Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat. Procuring entity name Project Director, SPAC Project, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat. Procuring entity code Not used at present. Procuring entity district Dhaka. Invitation for Goods Tender. Invitation Ref No. BJSS-SPAC/3/2007-2008/Procure/38. Date 27/04/2009 **KEY INFORMATION** Procurement method Open tender method. **FUNDING INFORMATION** Budget and source of funds Development Budget PA: Grants Development partners (if IDA, World Bank. applicable) PARTICULAR INFORMATION 0201-5001 Project/programme code (if applicable) Project/programme name (if Strengthening Public Accounts Committee Project. applicable) Tender package no. GD1, GD3 & GD4 Supply & installation of Office Furniture, Computers & others for Tender package name SPAC Project. Tender publication date 03/05/2009. Tender last selling date 19/05/2009. Date Time Tender closing date and time 20/05/2009 2:30pm Tender opening date and 20/05/2009 3:00pm Name & address of the office(s) Selling tender document Office of the Project Director, SPAC Project, 1/2 Minister's Hostel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Sangsad Campus, Dhaka -1207. (principal) -Selling tender document Question Branch, Room No. 734, South West Block, Level-7. (others) Parliament Building, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. -Receiving tender document Main Gate of Bangladesh Parliament. Office of the Project Director, SPAC Project, 1/2 Minister's Opening tender document Hostel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Sangsad Campus, Dhaka-1207. INFORMATION FOR TENDERER Eligibility of tenderer Genuine supplier/manufacturer of Furniture, Computers & others and should have valid certificate of company ownership, trade licence, VAT registration & paying documents, Income Tax and bank solvency. Brief description of goods Office Furniture, Computers, Laptop, Printers, Photocopier, Scanner, Digital Camera & others described in tender documents. Brief description of related In warranty period, any damage or any disfunctioning of services equipments and goods should be replaced or repaired. Price of tender document 500.00 (five hundred Taka only) (cash non-refundable). (Tk) Lot No Identification of lot Tender security Completion time Location in weeks/months amount (Tk) 25 Furniture for the SPAC Two weeks after Bangladesh 16000.00 Project contract signing Parliament Secretariat Computers and others 29000.00 Bangladesh Two weeks after for the SPAC Project Parliament contract signing Secretariat Name of official inviting tender Mr. Md. Mostafizur Rahman.

Project Director (Deputy Secretary).

Campus, Dhaka-1207.

Tel-9125388

Office of the Project Director, SPAC Project, 1/2

Minister's Hostel, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Sangsad

Md. Mostafizur Rahman

Deputy Secretary & PD, SPAC Project

Email:

spacparl@gmail.com

Fax-9123066

Designation of official inviting tender

Contact details of official inviting

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders.

Address of official inviting tender

tender

GD-2181



