

Remittance strikes record high

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Remittance inflow in May was the highest in fiscal 2008-09, taking a break from slowing growth in the last few months.

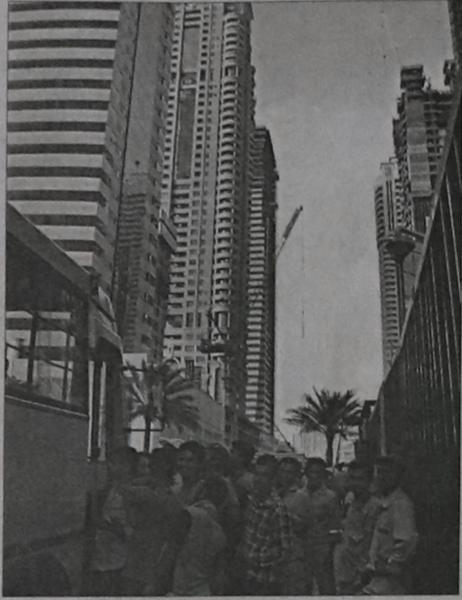
Expatriates remitted \$890 million in May 2009, demonstrating 22 percent growth in remittance inflow from the previous month. Growth usually varied between 9 percent and 13 percent in the last three months.

Non-resident Bangladeshis working abroad remitted \$8,764.91 million until May in the current fiscal year, showing 22.39 percent growth from the same period of last fiscal year. In fiscal 2007-08, workers sent \$7,161 million to Bangladesh.

Around nine million Bangladeshis are living abroad.

A healthy remittance inflow in May is significant, as both global and local experts feared a massive downward trend in remittance flow, due to the ongoing global meltdown.

The foreign currency



Bangladeshi workers board a bus in Dubai, a popular destination for migrants. Remittance inflow reached \$890 million in May, the highest in fiscal 2008-09.

reserve has also become stronger due to the healthy inflow of remittance. Foreign currency reserves touched a new record of \$6.75 billion yesterday.

Business spirits ebb Shamunny says in its report

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The aggregate business confidence index (BCI) decreased to 51 points in the first quarter of 2009 from 69.65 points in the fourth quarter of 2008, pushing export-oriented enterprises to the backseat.

Shamunny, a private think-tank, revealed the data in its seventh Bangladesh Economic Outlook at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

Dr Selim Raihan, associate professor of the Economics Department of Dhaka University, presented the outlook, where former finance minister M Syeduzzaman attended as chief guest.

Raihan said the BCI declined mainly due to non-implementation of the election pledges of the incumbent government and partly because of global recession.

"Regaining the confidence in the business sectors is largely dependent on the measures to be taken in the next national budget for fiscal 2009-10," Raihan said.

The survey was conducted among 200 business enterprises chiefs from 10 different types of industries.

Presiding over the programme, Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Krishi Bank, said the global financial meltdown is not the main reason behind declining business confidence. Rather, some anti-business elements are also responsible for the reduction.

Syeduzzaman said the allocation of Tk 30,500 crore in the next budget for ADP is ambitious, but it is not impossible. "Implementation of the ADP will have a multifaceted impact on our economy," he said.

As a special guest, Fazlul Hoque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said an erratic supply of gas and power coupled with global recession hurt business confidence.

The BKMEA chief said many say the country's readymade garment (RMG) sector remains unhurt from recession, as it recorded 19.93 percent growth in March. "But exports declined sharply after this period," he said.

"Now, many small factories are not getting orders from international buyers due to recession," Hoque said.

The outlook said food inflation for the marginal people of Dhaka in January was estimated at 8.78 percent, 8.41 percent in February and 8.23 percent in March.

Nokia N97 scopes out Bangladesh market

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Nokia, one of the leading mobile devices manufacturers in the world, has recently launched a "pre-order campaign" for its latest arrivals 'Nokia N97' and 'Nokia N86' in Bangladesh.

The campaign, which will continue until June 24, opens an opportunity for 'Nseries' fans to place orders for sets before actual sales start in the first week of July.

Nokia N97, the company's first device to feature a 'personalisable home screen', can be customised with a range of widgets to bring live information directly to the device, Nokia said in a statement on Wednesday.

These widgets include key social networking destinations like Facebook and Hi5 and news services like the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters, as well as weather information.

Nokia N86, a combination of a wide-angle Carl Zeiss optics with an 8 megapixel sensor, is designed to excel in both bright and low light conditions. "It's optimised for both video and still imaging," Nokia said.

"Its high-speed connectivity ensures easy and convenient sharing."

"The Nokia N97 is an important step towards our vision of delivering a highly personalised internet experience and Nokia N86 comes with a promise of best mobile imaging experience," said Prem Chand, general manager of Nokia Emerging Asia.

The first 100 consumers who



An Indian model poses with the newly unveiled Nokia N97 mobile handset in New Delhi yesterday. Nokia launched its new N97 mobile phone equipped with a 32GB onboard memory, 5-megapixel camera, Bluetooth and GPS support available on the Indian market for approximately Indian rupees 35,000 (\$742).

will pre-order and buy any of the two devices from Nokia Stores in Gulshan and Bashundhara city will win Nokia Bluetooth Stereo Headset-BH604 and the next 50 consumers will win Bluetooth Stereo Headset-Bh504.

Nokia Emerging Asia has disclosed Tk 43,500 in estimated prices for Nokia N97 and Tk 33,000 for Nokia N86.

Qatar urged to recruit more workers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday urged Qatar to recruit more workers and import pharmaceutical, leather and jute goods from Bangladesh.

The minister spoke to Qatari Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdurrahman Yousuf Abdurrahman Al-Mulla at her office.

Some 75,000 Bangladeshis work in Qatar, according to an official estimate.

Dipu Moni said investment from Qatar in various sectors would be welcome. She emphasised increased bilateral trade, which has ample scope for expansion.

Dipu Moni thanked the Qatari government for implementation of the foreign worker's rights. She said an exchange of high-level visits could play an important role in deepening the friendly bilateral relations.

Govt must fast-track coal policy: BEA chief

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government should take steps to finalise the coal policy and ensure the best use and protection of natural resources to meet surging demand for electricity, said the president of Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) yesterday.

"It's high time the government addressed the issues over constant power outages, which hamper industrial and agricultural production. The government should ensure an uninterrupted supply of power to drive economic growth," said Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad.

Ahmad was speaking at a discussion meeting on "Energy Security and Combined Policy", co-organised by the Citizens' Commission on Gas, Oil and Coal and BEA in Dhaka.

Ahmad, also convener of the commission, said the government should seriously consider the draft coal policy 2008 in finalising a policy, as the draft contains specific directions on proper utilisation of local resources. The draft also discourages exports

to safeguard natural resources.

"The government should make draft policy public to ensure transparency," he said.

Ahmad suggested the government go for underground mining for coal extraction instead of open pit mining as it threatens local communities.

Professor Abul Barakat, member secretary of the citizen's commission, said the government should increase electricity production and ensure a reduction of system loss in the sector.

"The government can increase local electricity production only by reducing the cost of production, which would be possible if they reduce system loss in the sector," he said.

"Presently, the government has to spend Tk 1.51 for producing a unit of electricity that would come down to Tk 1.25, if system loss can be wiped out."

Barakat stressed ensuring the state's royalty on natural resources, including gas, coal and oil, while hiring foreign companies to explore.

ADB lends Indonesia \$1b

AFP, Manila

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Thursday it has lent Indonesia one billion dollars to help maintain spending on social services in the wake of the global financial crisis.

The Manila-based lender said the loan was one of the biggest it had ever provided to Indonesia.

The loan will allow the country to enhance its safety net, better mobilise funds from commercial markets and maintain financial sector stability, the ADB said in a statement.

It will also reduce the government's cost for borrowing from the market.

"Economic recessions in several of Indonesia's major trading partners have negatively affected demand for Indonesian exports and hindered investment inflows," the bank said.

China Southern Airlines to fly from Dhaka

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Asia's one of the biggest carriers, China Southern Airlines, is set to launch operation from Bangladesh early next month to lure passengers travelling between the destinations mainly for trading purposes.

The airline said it would fly three days a week connecting Dhaka and Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province of China.

"We believe there are passengers as many people from both the countries travel for business purposes," Mofizur Rahman, managing director of Novo Air, the general sales agent of the airline in Bangladesh, told a press conference yesterday.

The carrier, which connects more than 80 cities around the globe, expects to launch flights from Dhaka from July 5, 2009.

The Guangzhou-based 342-fleet airline is going to be the second carrier flying between Bangladesh and China followed by China Eastern Airlines, operating between Dhaka and Kunming of Yunnan province in southwestern China.

None of the local carriers operates between the two countries now, although industry insiders say there is traffic.

"Our estimates show that 750-800 passengers travel between the two countries every week," said Rahman.

Nearly 60 percent of the travellers are from Bangladesh with the rest from China.

Rahman however said movement of travellers has dropped compared with the early months last year. "Until May last year movement was fine. It later dropped because of visa restriction prior to the Olympic Games," he said.

He expected that movement might go up by 40 percent if visa restriction is relaxed.

The carrier, which aims to operate a 156-seater Airbus-320, is yet to fix the fare between the two destinations. Rahman said, "We will offer competitive fare for the travellers."

কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট
(ভিহিকল সেকশন)
বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
প্রধান কার্যালয়
ঢাকা

ওয়েব সাইটঃ www.bangladesh-bank.org

**জীপ (JEEP) গাড়ি ক্রয়ের
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের জন্য সর্বশেষ মডেলের ০১ (এক)টি ব্র্যান্ড নিউ জীপ গাড়ি সরবরাহের জন্য খ্যাতনামা মোটরযান উৎপাদনকারীদের বাংলাদেশে প্রকৃত পরিবেশক/ডিলার ও সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের (যাহাদের নিজস্ব শো-রুম এবং বিক্রয়োত্তর সেবা প্রদানের জন্য মেরামত কারখানা রহিয়াছে) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

দরপত্রের সহিত মহাব্যবস্থাপক, কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক হইতে ইস্যুকৃত ১,০০,০০০/০০ (এক লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র) টাকার ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার বায়না বাদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

গাড়ি সরবরাহের শর্তাবলী ও উহার বিস্তারিত স্পেসিফিকেশন সম্বলিত দরপত্র দিলিগ ব্যাংকের মতিঝিলস্থ ৩০ (ত্রিশ) তলা ভবনের ৭ম তলায় অবস্থিত প্রধান কার্যালয়ের কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্টের ভিহিকল সেকশন হইতে ২৫/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অফেরতযোগ্য নগদ টাঃ ৫০০/০০ (পাঁচশত) মাত্র টাকায় ক্রয় করা যাইবে।

সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র ২৮/০৬/২০০৯ তারিখ সকাল ১১-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্টের উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক-১ মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে সরাসরি দাখিল করিতে হইবে অথবা ডাক কিংবা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিসযোগে উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ের মধ্যে পৌছাইতে হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই সকাল ১১-৪৫ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধির (যদি থাকে) সম্মুখে দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হইবে।

আলোচ্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের উপরোক্ত Web-site-এ প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ডিপার্টমেন্টঃ ৪৮/০৯-৯০০
তারিখঃ ৩/৬/০৯
মোঃ আছান উল্লাহ
মহাব্যবস্থাপক



Kasit Piromya, foreign minister of Thailand, sits for a meeting with members of Bangladesh Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BTCCI) in Dhaka on Tuesday. MA Momen, president of BTCCI, is also seen.

New Indian govt promises to focus on growth, poor

AFP, New Delhi

India's new government promised measures to spur growth and help the country's vast poor population, and announced economic reforms as it spelled out Thursday its priorities for the next five years.

The economy expanded by 6.7 percent in the year to March 2009, down from nine percent a year earlier, and the left-leaning Congress government said it is likely to slow more this year.

"The current financial year is expected to see a slowing down of growth on account of the global recession," President Pratibha Patil told parliament, presenting the government's second-term agenda.

"Our immediate priority must be to focus on management of the economy that will counter the effect of the global slowdown by a

combination of sectoral and macro-level policies," she added.

Patil's speech to parliament came after the Congress party was swept back to power last month with its biggest seat tally in 18 years.

The growth efforts, she added, would be accompanied by an expansion of public investment to improve the country's dilapidated ports, rail, road and other infrastructure -- seen as key hindrances to growth.

"Financing the investment will be a critical constraint" in light of the global financial credit crisis, she said.

But the government was determined to ensure that funds were available "consistent with a medium-term strategy of prudent fiscal management," she said.

Economists have expressed worries that the

government's stress on growth could mean a further ballooning of India's fiscal deficit, which is at a seven year peak of 6.2 percent of gross domestic product.

New Delhi would also encourage public-private partnerships for infrastructure improvement as well as list minority stakes of public sector companies as part of economic reforms.

"Foreign direct investment needs to be encouraged through an appropriate policy regime," Patil added.

Stressing the government's commitment to raise the living standards of the country's poverty-ridden millions who were key to the Congress victory, she pledged more low-cost housing, subsidised food and an overhaul of public food distribution, which suffers from widespread corruption.

Mongla Port Authority
Office of the Chief Engineer(M&E)
Mongla, Bagerhat

Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping	
2. Agency	Mongla Port Authority	
3. Procuring entity name	Mongla Port Authority	
4. Procuring entity code	5205	
5. Procuring entity district	Bagerhat	
6. Invitation for	Lot 1: Procurement of Tyre Tube for Equipment, Vehicles etc of Mongla Port Authority. Lot 2: Procurement of Hydraulic Hose Pipe for 35 Ton Capacity Straddle Carrier No-2 of Mongla Port Authority. Lot 3: Procurement of spare parts for the Maintenance Work of Vehicles of Mongla Port Authority.	
7. Invitation Ref No.	MPA/XEN/W&E/190/P-3/2009-	
8. Date	03-05-2009	
9. Procurement method	Open tendering method	
10. Budget and source of fund	MPA's own fund	
11. Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable	
12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable	
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable	
14. Tender package No.	MPA/XEN/W&E/190, MPA/XEN/W&E/215 & MPA/XEN/W&E/167.	
15. Tender package name	As Serial No-6.	
16. Tender publication date	Before 03-06-2009.	
17. Tender document last selling date	Date	Time
	24-06-2009	During office hours
18. Tender receiving date and time	25-06-2009	12:00 noon
19. Tender opening date and time	25-06-2009	12:30pm
20. Name and address of the office selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Chief Engineer (M&E), Mechanical, Electrical & Marine Building, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat.	
Selling tender document (others)	i) Office of the Executive Engineer (Div-IV), Mongla Port Authority, Khalishpur, Khulna. ii) Liaison Office, Mongla Port Authority, 6/6, Segunbagicha, Dhaka. Office of the Chief Engineer (M&E), Mechanical, Electrical & Marine Building, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat.	
Receiving tender document	Office of the Chief Engineer (W&E), Mechanical, Electrical & Marine Building, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat. Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives may remain present during opening of tender.	
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A	
22. Eligibility of tenderer	As stated in the tender document.	
23. Brief description of goods or works	Lot 1: Different sizes of Tyres & Tubes for different Equipment and Vehicles of MPA. Lot 2: Various sizes of High Pressure Hydraulic Hose Pipe for Straddle Carrier of MPA. Lot 3: Different Types of Filters, Spare Parts etc for the Vehicles of MPA.	
24. Brief description of related services	N/A	
25. Price of tender document	Lot 1: Tk 1,500/= (one thousand five hundred) only, (non-refundable) Lot 2: Tk 300/= (three hundred) only (non-refundable) Lot 3: Tk 300/= (three hundred) only (non-refundable)	
26. Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location/site of the work
1	MPA/XEN/W&E/190/P-3/2009	M&E Store, Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat
2	MPA/XEN/W&E/215/P-2/2009	-Do-
3	MPA/XEN/W&E/167/2009	-Do-
27. Validity of tender and tender security	120 (one hundred twenty) days and 180 (one hundred eighty) days respectively from the date of opening the tender.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
28. Designation of the official inviting tender	Chief Engineer (Mechanical & Electrical)	
29. Address of official inviting tender	Mongla Port Authority, Mongla, Bagerhat	
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No. 04662-75234, Fax No. 04662-75224, E-Mail x_mpa@btbb.net.bd Web site: www.monglaport.gov.bd	
31. Special instruction	i) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept/reject any or all of the tenders. This tender shall be guided by "The Public Procurement Rules-2008". ii) If selling/receiving/opening of tender is not possible on the last date of selling tender or on the date of receiving tender or on the date of opening tender beyond control situation the tender will be sold, received or opened on the next working days respectively as mentioned in the IFT. iii) Any tender received by the purchaser after the deadline for submission of tender shall be declared late, will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer. iv) The procuring entity reserve the right to accept or reject all tenders or split up the tenders/offers for any of the item without assigning any reason.	

No. MPA/B&PR/PR/58
GD-2849

Chief Engineer (Mechanical & Electrical)