

# Star BUSINESS



## CPD raises flag over US turning into top remittance source

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday raised the flag over the US replacing Saudi Arabia to become Bangladesh's foremost source of remittance in the July-April period of the current fiscal year.

A vested quarter might be sending back black money, which they had earlier illegally taken out of the country, in the form of remittance availing an existing 2.5 per cent government incentive, said the think-tank.

A total of 9.22 lakh people went abroad for work during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year of 2022-23, which is significantly high, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the CPD.

A majority of these people went to the Gulf countries but the remittance flows from this region did not match this rising number, she said.

During this period, remittance coming from Saudi Arabia came down to \$3.04 billion from \$3.86 billion in the same period of fiscal year 2021-22, said the CPD's study.

Meanwhile, remittance from the US increased to \$3.05 billion from

READ MORE ON B2

## Premier Cement to get Tk 350cr loan from Idcol

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Premier Cement PLC will get a Tk 350 crore long-term loan for expanding production at two new units.

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (Idcol) is providing the loan.

An agreement was signed between Idcol and Premier Cement to this end at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka yesterday.

"We have already started production at the two units in Narayanganj and Chattogram involving Tk 1,300 crore," said Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director of Premier Cement.

READ MORE ON B3

## AT A GLANCE

- Commercial production of new unit begins in November this year
- Expansion to help raise exports and local market share

## INVESTMENT

- Total amount: Tk 764cr
- EBL-led syndication provided Tk 25cr

## PRODUCTION CAPACITY

- Existing production capacity 11,000 tonnes per day
- Production capacity to reach 19,500 tonnes per day after expansion



Tk 1.52 in Jan-Mar 2023 | Tk 0.16 in Jan-Mar 2022

## Crown Cement in Tk 764cr expansion Will raise production capacity by 40%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Crown Cement PLC is going to increase its annual production capacity by 40 per cent this year by establishing its sixth manufacturing facility, which will turn it into the country's fourth largest cement manufacturer.

The company will go for the expansion investing around Tk 764 crore which is being availed from local and foreign banks.

A "significant" portion is being secured from an overseas lender while Tk 25 crore from a syndicated loan facility.

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) arranged the syndicated loan facility and a deal was signed in this regard at Sheraton Dhaka on May 25, according to a press release.

The others involved in this facility are the State Bank of India, Bank Asia Limited and Dhaka Bank Limited.

"We are increasing the capacity of production to meet growing demand for cement in Bangladesh and boost exports to neighbouring 'The Seven Sisters' Indian states," said Mohammed Jahangir Alam, chairman of Crown Cement.

READ MORE ON B3



The government is likely to introduce a carbon tax for the owners who possess more than one car in the upcoming fiscal year with a view to discouraging the ownership of multiple vehicles and curbing carbon emissions and air pollution. Nearly 100 passenger cars, jeeps and minibuses hit the streets of Bangladesh on average daily in 2022. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Surcharge likely on second car

Govt plans measures to contain carbon emissions

SOHEL PARVEZ

Owners of more than one car are likely to face an environmental protection surcharge from the upcoming fiscal year as the government plans to discourage the use of vehicles in a bid to contain carbon emissions and air pollution.

**National BUDGET FY2023-24**

According to the plan, the owners of multiple passenger cars, jeeps and minibuses may have to pay the surcharge depending on their engine capacity.

"We are considering imposing a carbon tax to



discourage the rising use of personal vehicles and curb pollution. This tax exists in various other countries too," said a senior official of the finance ministry.

The finance minister is expected to propose the surcharge while placing the budget for 2023-24 in parliament on June 1.

"We are planning to collect the surcharge from all car

owners, including companies and firms. If a company has more than one vehicle, it is likely to come under the carbon tax," the official added.

Officials said the carbon tax is imposed on industries too in other countries. But Bangladesh may introduce the tax in FY24 and start with jeeps and cars.

The move comes at a time when an increasing number

of personal cars are hitting the streets, particularly in the capital city, which suffers from serious air pollution and huge traffic congestion.

Bangladesh has more than 57 lakh registered vehicles and the number of personal passenger cars, jeeps and minibuses stands at over 600,000, data from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority showed.

The finance ministry official said the partial operation of the metro-rail has already improved the public transport system in Dhaka and it would give a further boost when it runs in full swing.

As per the finance ministry's plan, owners of cars up to 1,500cc may need to pay Tk 25,000 in surcharge for every

READ MORE ON B3

## National BUDGET FY2023-24

### FY23 budget was a disappointment Says PRI vice-chairman Sadiq Ahmed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT



The national budget for the current fiscal year has been a disappointment as it did not address the macroeconomic crisis emanating from the joint impacts of global inflationary pressure and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The budget should have adopted an austere stance with an effort to tighten domestic demand through an increase in taxes and the reduction of subsidies and fiscal deficit. The FY2023 budget did not deliver on any of the above," said Sadiq Ahmed, vice-chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, a think-tank.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said evidence shows that the tax to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is falling from its already very low levels.

For FY2023, the most likely outcome would be a further reduction in the tax-GDP ratio to a mere 7.1 per cent as compared with 7.6 per cent in FY2021 and 7.7 per cent in FY2019.

READ MORE ON B3

STOCKS		WEEK-ON WEEK
DSEX ▲	CASPI ▲	
0.56%	0.58%	
6,325.73	18,637.95	

  

COMMODITIES		AS OF FRIDAY
Gold ▲	Oil ▲	
\$1,946.67	\$72.85	
(per ounce)	(per barrel)	

  

ASIAN MARKETS				FRIDAY CLOSINGS
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
▲ 1.02%	▲ 0.37%	▼ 0.33%	▲ 0.35%	
62,501.69	30,916.31	3,207.39	3,212.50	

## National BUDGET FY2023-24

### 'Corporate tax cut of FY23 was good, but conditions didn't help'

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The reduction of tax payable by companies by 2.5 percentage points at the beginning of this fiscal year of 2022-23 was a good move but a precondition on limiting cash transactions has not helped businesses reap the benefit.

"It did not help the business



Aameir Alihussain

community," said Aameir Alihussain, managing director of Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills Ltd, commonly known as BSRM.

The top official of one of the largest steel mills in Bangladesh shared the view in an interview with The Daily Star on the impact of tax measures taken by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) on businesses.

The 2.5 percentage points cut offered by the tax authority brought down the applicable corporate tax rate for companies listed on the stock market to 20 per cent and for non-listed companies to 27.5 per cent.

READ MORE ON B2

"সকল প্রশংসা আল্লাহ তা 'আলার যিনি সমগ্র সৃষ্টিজগতের পালনকর্তা"

ডিবিএইচ নিয়ে এলো  
শরিয়াহভিত্তিক ফাইন্যান্সিং উইং

## ডিবিএইচ ইসলামিক

আমাদের সেবাসমূহ:

- ম্যুদারাবা ডিপোজিটস
- ইসলামিক হোম ফাইন্যান্সিং
- ইসলামিক কার ফাইন্যান্সিং

www.dbhfinance.com | dbhislamic

বিস্তারিত জানতে  
☎ 16562