

*Quarterly Report on Remittance Inflows:
October-December 2016¹*

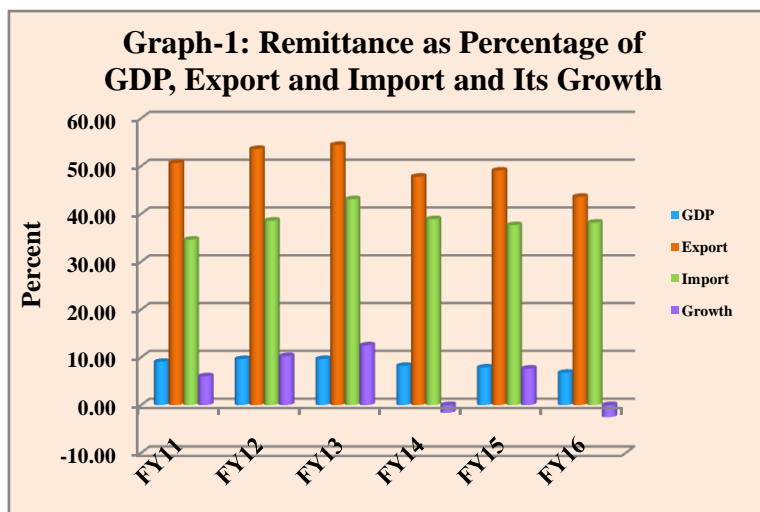


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Introduction

Remittance is the second highest source of foreign currency earning of Bangladesh after exports of readymade garments (RMG). However, remittance can be considered as the highest one in net earning term since in case of exporting RMG a significant portion of earnings is foregone for importing its raw materials.



Remittance plays an important role on the overall economy of Bangladesh. World Bank ranked Bangladesh as seventh in the world for remittance inflow based on the information of 2013. Bangladesh joined in the 10 billion USD club of remittance inflow in FY10. Remittance inflow to Bangladesh experienced 552.32% growth in FY13 over FY03 and the size of yearly remittance inflow in FY13 is more than twenty three times over the inflow of FY95. Contribution of remittance inflow to GDP is also rising. The share of remittance inflow in GDP for Bangladesh was 7.5% in FY07 which has reached to 9.6% in FY13. It was 6.8% in FY16.

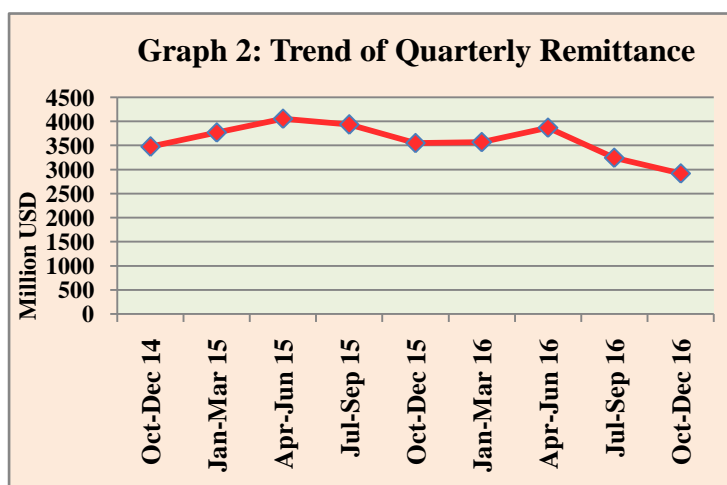
Foreign employment and remittance sent by the Bangladeshi expatriates have immense contribution to the economic development of Bangladesh in many significant ways as lowering unemployment, poverty alleviation and swelling up foreign exchange reserve. The pattern and use of remittances is the most important issue for economic development. If expatriates' earnings are invested in productive fields, they can contribute to output growth, employment, etc. In addition, remittance plays a supportive role in boosting up current account surplus. Gross remittance earnings decreased by 2.52 percent to USD 14931.16 million in FY16 compared to USD 15315.92 million of FY15, which is 6.76 percent of country's GDP, 43.58 percent of total export earnings and 38.18 percent of total import payments during FY16 (Table-1).

Table-1: Remittance as Percentage of GDP, Export and Import and its Growth

FY	Remittance as % of GDP	Remittance as % of Export Earnings (f.o.b)	Remittance as % of Import Payments (f.o.b)	Growth (%) of Remittance
FY07	7.51	49.60	38.54	24.50
FY08	8.64	55.93	40.62	32.39
FY09	9.44	62.11	47.70	22.28
FY10	9.52	67.80	46.29	13.40
FY11	9.05	50.64	34.61	6.03
FY12	9.63	53.58	38.59	10.24
FY13	9.64	54.43	43.07	12.51
FY14	8.21	47.80	42.38	-1.61
FY15	7.87	49.08	37.65	7.65
FY16	6.76	43.58	38.18	-2.51

Remittance Inflows: October-December 2016

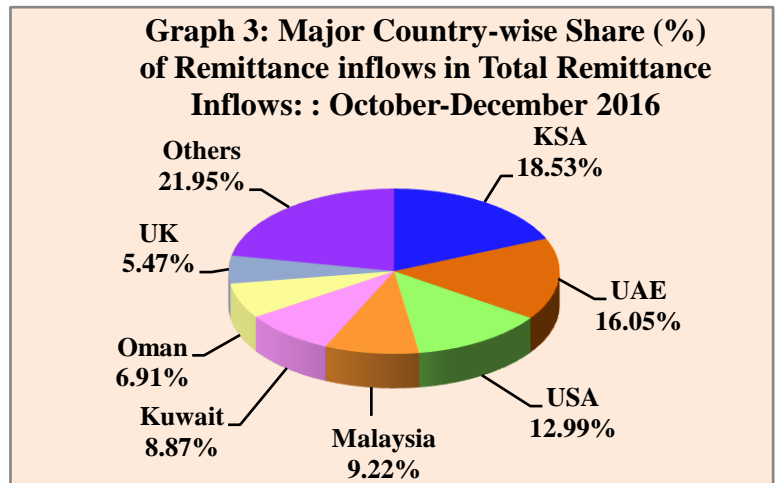
Remittance sent by the Bangladeshi expatriates stood at USD 2921.09 million during the last quarter of FY17 (October-December 2016), which is 10.0 percent and 17.8 percent lower than the previous quarter and the same quarter of the preceding year respectively. During this quarter, decline in remittance



was mainly because of lower earnings from most of the source countries of remittance. It is observed that the number of migration to most of the source countries was lower than that of April-June 16 quarter, which has the negative impact to remittance earning in October-December FY17. However, number of migration to most of the source country shows an upward trend in this quarter under report. In FY16 the inflows of remittance has declined by 2.52 percent to USD 14931.16 million compared to USD 15315.92 million of FY15 due to historic drop of global oil price, recent political turmoil in some Middle East countries, and depreciation of British pound etc. Besides, the gap in exchange rate at the banks and in open market may also encourage the expatriates to remit their earnings through informal channels like hundi.

Country wise Remittance Inflows

Country-wise data on remittance inflow during October-December 2016 shows that the largest amount of remittance has been received from KSA (USD 541.40 million), which is 18.53 percent of total remittance inflows (**Graph-3**), followed by UAE (16.05 percent),



USA (12.99 percent), Malaysia (9.22 percent), Kuwait (8.87 percent), Oman (6.91 percent), United Kingdom (5.47 percent) and other countries (21.95 percent). Considering the group wise countries' remittance share in total remittance inflows, it was observed that 58.25 percent of total remittances has been received from the Gulf¹ countries during October-December quarter of FY17, followed by USA (12.99 percent), Asia-Pacific² countries (11.93 percent), EU³ countries (9.13 percent) and other countries (7.69 percent). The amount of remittances received from Gulf countries is lower by 8.15 percent and 16.67 percent to USD 1701.65 million during the 2nd quarter of FY17 compared to the previous and the corresponding quarter of the previous year (**Table-2**). The amount of remittance inflows from Asia-Pacific and EU countries have decreased by 15.82 and 12.14 percent respectively during the quarter under report compared to the previous quarter.

¹Gulf Countries are KSA, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya and Iran.

²Asia-Pacific countries are Japan, Malaysia and Singapore.

³EU countries are United Kingdom, Germany and Italy.

Table-2: Country group wise Remittance Inflows

(Million USD)

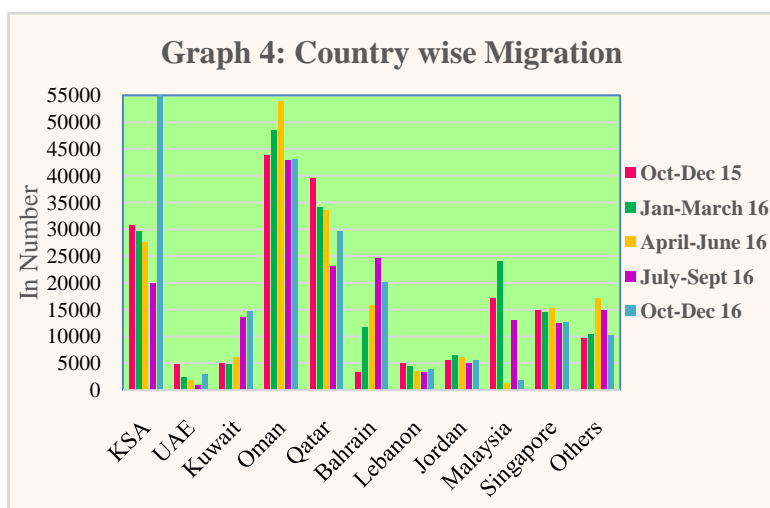
	Oct-Dec 15	Jan-Mar 16	April-June16	July-Sep16	Oct-Dec 16
Gulf Countries	2042.03	2078.81	2197.57	1852.59	1701.65
	<i>57.46</i>	<i>58.19</i>	<i>56.76</i>	<i>57.08</i>	<i>58.25</i>
KSA	737.69	716.3	720.94	603.64	541.40
UAE	623.1	662.55	724.98	554.73	468.89
Qatar	91.94	118.87	129.09	134.32	132.95
Oman	213.86	212.34	241.4	229.69	201.93
Bahrain	118.49	112.76	112.22	83.70	96.84
Kuwait	253.37	254.85	267.99	245.84	259.03
Libya	3.51	1.08	0.91	0.67	0.61
Iran	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00
EU Countries	274.82	271.62	357.37	303.63	266.78
	<i>7.73</i>	<i>7.60</i>	<i>9.23</i>	<i>9.35</i>	<i>9.13</i>
United Kingdom	195.17	190.07	244.47	168.90	159.70
Germany	5.97	6.9	7.76	6.25	7.41
Italy	73.68	74.65	105.14	128.48	99.67
Asia-Pacific Countries	401.03	420.63	464.00	413.90	348.41
	<i>11.29</i>	<i>11.77</i>	<i>11.99</i>	<i>12.75</i>	<i>11.93</i>
Japan	4.81	7.22	6.27	5.34	4.53
Malaysia	307.24	316.37	352.69	321.52	269.42
Singapore	88.98	97.04	105.04	87.04	74.46
USA	604.85	564.24	566	430.06	379.55
	<i>17.02</i>	<i>15.79</i>	<i>14.62</i>	<i>13.25</i>	<i>12.99</i>
Other Countries	230.82	237.13	286.5	245.57	224.70
	<i>6.50</i>	<i>6.64</i>	<i>7.40</i>	<i>7.57</i>	<i>7.69</i>
Total	3553.55	3572.43	3871.44	3245.75	2921.09

Source: Foreign Exchange Policy Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Note: Numbers in Italic indicate percentage share in total remittance.

Country wise Migration

About two lakh and eleven thousand Bangladeshi have migrated to abroad during October-December 2016 (Table-3 and Graph-4) for their employment, which is 22.0 percent and 17.9 percent higher than the previous quarter and the same quarter of previous year. Of which majority (31.60 percent) has been migrated to KSA, followed by Oman



(20.35 percent), Qatar (14.02 percent), Bahrain (9.54 percent), Kuwait (6.98 percent), Singapore (5.98 percent), Jordan (2.62 percent), Lebanon (1.85 percent), UAE (1.40 percent), and other countries (4.83 percent). Country-wise migration from 2003 to 2016 is shown in Table-3.

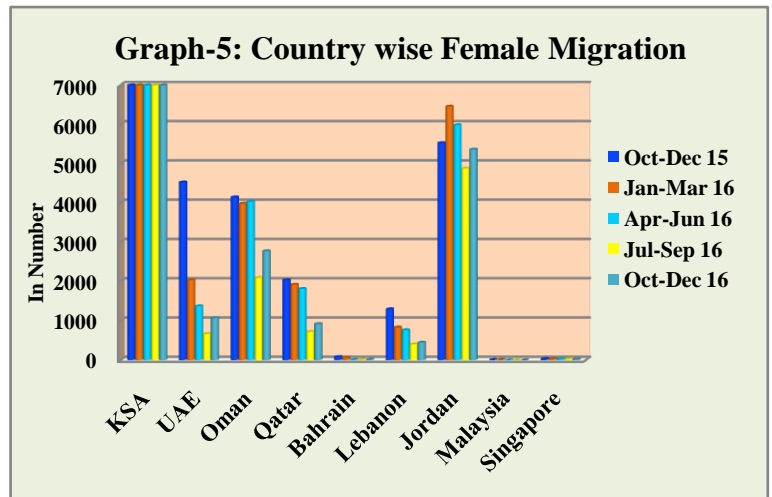
Table-3: Trend of Country wise Migration

Year	(In Number)											Total
	KSA	UAE	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Bahrain	Lebanon	Jordan	Malaysia	Singapore	Others	
2003	162131	37346	26722	4029	94	7482			28	5304	11054	254190
2004	139031	47012	41108	4435	1268	9194			224	6948	23738	272958
2005	80425	61978	47029	4827	2114	10716			2911	9651	33051	252702
2006	109513	130204	35775	8082	7691	16355	0	2822	20469	20139	30466	381516
2007	204112	226392	4212	17478	15130	16433	3541	494	273201	38324	33292	832609
2008	132124	419355	319	52896	25548	13182	8444	682	131762	56581	34162	875055
2009	14666	258348	10	41704	11672	28426	13941	1691	12402	39581	52837	475278
2010	7069	203308	48	42641	12085	21824	17208	2235	919	39053	44312	390702
2011	15030	282734	29	135260	13168	13928	19166	4387	742	48666	34952	568062
2012	21232	215452	2	170326	28801	21777	14864	11726	804	58657	61836	605477
2013	12654	14241	6	134028	57584	25155	15098	21383	3853	60057	65194	409253
2014	10657	24232	3094	105748	87575	23378	16640	20338	5134	54750	74001	425547
Oct.-Dec. '15	30733	4796	4909	43837	39561	3273	4995	5579	17197	14883	9641	179404
2015	58270	25271	17472	129859	123965	20720	19113	22093	30483	55523	53132	555901
Jan.-Mar. '16	29661	2443	4825	48379	34049	11705	4464	6534	23939	14446	10423	190868
Apr.-June '16	27618	1793	6027	53941	33656	15781	3480	6038	1345	15164	17184	182027
Jul.-Sep. '16	19823	934	13580	42898	23030	24510	3229	4911	13072	12481	14912	173380
Oct.-Dec. '16	66811	2961	14756	43029	29647	20171	3922	5534	1770	12639	10216	211456
2016	143913	8131	39188	188247	120382	72167	15095	23017	40126	54730	52735	757731
% Growth (Oct-Dec'16 over July-Sept'16)	237.0	217.0	8.7	0.3	28.7	-17.7	21.5	12.7	-86.5	1.3	-31.5	22.0
% Growth Oct-Dec'16 over Oct-Dec'15)	117.4	-38.3	200.6	-1.8	-25.1	516.3	-21.5	-0.8	-89.7	-15.1	6.0	17.9

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Bangladesh

Country wise Female Migration

Considering the gender wise migration of Bangladeshi expatriates to abroad, female migration has been increasing gradually. In October-December 2016 quarter, about 26.7 thousand Bangladeshi female workers have migrated to abroad for employment (Table-4), which is 26.7 percent higher and 15.5 percent lower than the previous quarter and the same quarter of 2015. Among the



total female migration 58.86 percent workers have migrated to KSA, followed by Jordan (20.16 percent), Oman (10.44 percent), UAE (4.04 percent), Qatar (3.46 percent), Lebanon (1.68 percent), Singapore (0.08 percent) and Bahrain (0.03 percent). Rest 1.21 percent has migrated to other countries. Analyzing the data of overseas female employment, it was found that 5.74 lakh female workers have been migrated for overseas employment from 1991 to 2016. Whereas, the total number of overseas workers stood at 96.29 lakh during the same period. Therefore, the percentage share of female workers in total overseas workers is very insignificant (5.97 percent) due to various social and cultural reasons. However, the global demands for some occupations dominated by women (nurse, maid servant etc.) are increasing in recent years. Therefore, Government may take necessary initiatives to create demand for overseas employment of the female workers through Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEW&OE) and Bangladeshi Diplomatic Missions in abroad.

In addition with this, private recruiting agencies may play an important role in this arena. Country wise female migration from 2012 to 2016 (quarterly basis) are shown in Table-4 and quarterly data on country wise female migration from 2015 (Oct-Dec) to 2016 (Oct-Dec) are shown in Graph-5.

Table-4: Trend of Country-wise Female Migration

(In Number)

Year	KSA	UAE	Oman	Qatar	Bahrain	Lebanon	Jordan	Malaysia	Singapore	Others	Total
2012	485	6212	4102	6	38	12496	11582	19	75	2289	37304
2013	167	13710	6068	2100	141	10750	21243	23	133	2065	56400
2014	13	23214	11584	6452	121	11990	20134	15	128	2356	76007
Oct-Dec 15	13445	4529	4149	2040	81	1298	5531	5	30	366	31474
2015	20952	24307	16980	8642	403	8782	21776	12	114	1750	103718
Jan-Mar 16	20036	2036	3986	1923	58	834	6459	8	30	209	35579
Apr-Jun 16	20604	1374	4037	1816	7	765	5986	0	29	295	34913
Jul-Sep 16	11986	666	2097	721	6	404	4880	0	25	207	20992
Oct-Dec 16	15660	1075	2777	921	8	447	5364	0	20	323	26604
2016	68286	5151	12897	5381	79	2450	22689	8	104	1043	118088
% Growth (Oct-Dec'16 over July-Sept'16)	30.7	61.4	32.4	27.7	33.3	10.6	9.9		-20.0	56.0	26.7
% Growth Oct-Dec'16 over Oct-Dec'15)	16.5	-76.3	-33.1	-54.9	-90.1	-65.6	-3.0	-100.0	-33.3	-11.7	-15.5

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Bangladesh

Overseas Employment by Skill Group

A large number of Bangladeshi expatriates are less/un-skilled and skilled workers. The relative composition of skills are changing over time, But their group wise distribution in the importing countries are very important factors. Four skill groups have been identified for demarcation of the profession of workers. These are

Professionals, Skilled, Semi-skilled and Less skilled. The data of overseas employment from 1976 to 2016 by skill group shows that the highest number (48.95 percent) of expatriates are less-skilled followed by skilled (32.51 percent), semi-skilled (15.20 percent) and professional (2.18 percent) (Annexure-1). In 2016, only 0.61 percent of migrated work force was professional, 42.08 percent was skilled, semi skilled was 40.08 percent and semi-skilled migration stood at 15.83 percent (Table-5).

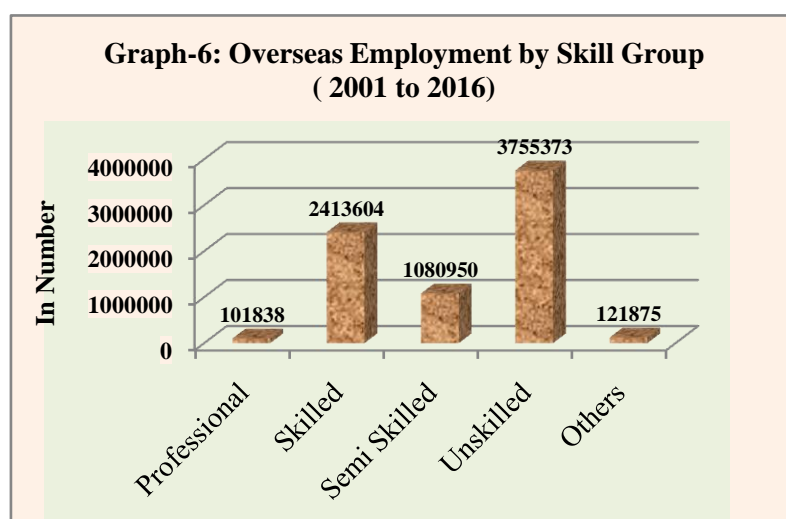


Table-5: Category wise Employee Migration

(In Number)

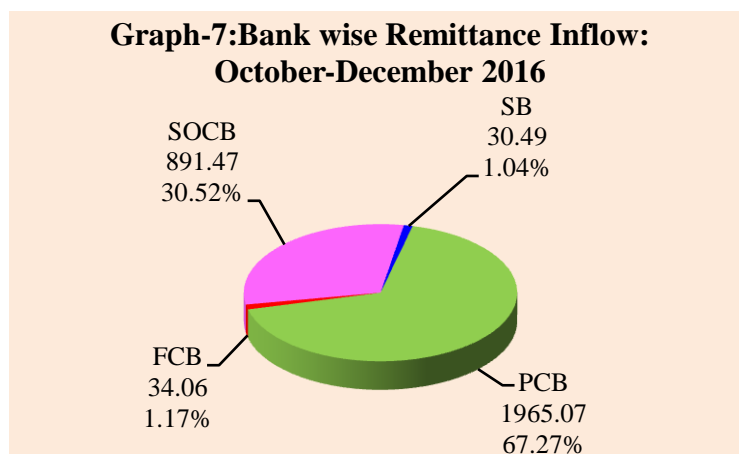
Year	Overseas Employment by Skill Group					
	Professional	Skilled	Semi-Skilled	Unskilled	Others	Total
2001	5940	42742	30702	109581		188965
	<i>3.14</i>	<i>22.62</i>	<i>16.25</i>	<i>57.99</i>		<i>100.00</i>
2002	14450	56265	36025	118516		225256
	<i>6.41</i>	<i>24.98</i>	<i>15.99</i>	<i>52.61</i>		<i>100.00</i>
2003	15862	74530	29236	134562		254190
	<i>6.24</i>	<i>29.32</i>	<i>11.50</i>	<i>52.94</i>		<i>100.00</i>
2004	12202	110177	28327	113670	8582	272958
	<i>4.47</i>	<i>40.36</i>	<i>10.38</i>	<i>41.64</i>	<i>3.14</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2005	1945	113655	24546	100316	12240	252702
	<i>0.77</i>	<i>44.98</i>	<i>9.71</i>	<i>39.70</i>	<i>4.84</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2006	925	115468	33965	220436	10722	381516
	<i>0.24</i>	<i>30.27</i>	<i>8.90</i>	<i>57.78</i>	<i>2.81</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2007	676	165338	183673	472700	10222	832609
	<i>0.08</i>	<i>19.86</i>	<i>22.06</i>	<i>56.77</i>	<i>1.23</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2008	1864	292364	132825	437088	10914	875055
	<i>0.21</i>	<i>33.41</i>	<i>15.18</i>	<i>49.95</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2009	1426	134265	84517	246585	8485	475278
	<i>0.30</i>	<i>28.25</i>	<i>17.78</i>	<i>51.88</i>	<i>1.79</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2010	387	90621	20016	272118	7560	390702
	<i>0.10</i>	<i>23.19</i>	<i>5.12</i>	<i>69.65</i>	<i>1.93</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2011	1192	229149	28729	301552	7440	568062
	<i>0.21</i>	<i>40.34</i>	<i>5.06</i>	<i>53.08</i>	<i>1.31</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2012	36084	173331	104721	284153	9509	607798
	<i>5.94</i>	<i>28.52</i>	<i>17.23</i>	<i>46.75</i>	<i>1.56</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2013	689	133754	62528	203058	9224	409253
	<i>0.17</i>	<i>32.68</i>	<i>15.28</i>	<i>49.62</i>	<i>2.25</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2014	1730	148766	70095	193403	11690	425684
	<i>0.41</i>	<i>34.95</i>	<i>16.47</i>	<i>45.43</i>	<i>2.75</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2015	1828	214328	91099	243929	4697	555881
	<i>0.33</i>	<i>38.56</i>	<i>16.39</i>	<i>43.88</i>	<i>0.84</i>	<i>100.00</i>
2016	4638	318851	119946	303706	10590	757731
	<i>0.61</i>	<i>42.08</i>	<i>15.83</i>	<i>40.08</i>	<i>1.40</i>	<i>100.00</i>
Total (2001 to 2016)	101838	2413604	1080950	3755373	121875	7473640
	<i>1.36</i>	<i>32.29</i>	<i>14.46</i>	<i>50.25</i>	<i>1.63</i>	<i>100.00</i>

Source: Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, Bangladesh.

Note: Italic numbers indicate percentage share of employment by skill group in total employment.

Bank wise Remittance Inflow: October-December 2016

As the most important functionary of the financial system, banks drive the legal channels for remittance mobilization. Remittance earnings by migrant workers sent back from the country of employment to the country of origin play a vital role in the economies of many labour exporting



countries (Puri & Ritzema 1999). Remittance as the significant source of foreign currency also helps in macroeconomic development process in the home country. A large number of Bangladeshi expatriates are working abroad and sending home their hard earned foreign currencies. They have sent on an average USD 3.73 billion per year from 1976 to 2015. Non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) sent USD 15.27 billion to Bangladesh in 2015 compared to USD 14.94 billion in 2014. “Despite global economic recession and political turmoil in the Middle East, Bangladesh’s financial and external sectors continued to remain resilient with attractive foreign exchange reserves, which was mainly aided by the robust growth in exports and due to unflinching remittance inflows.”

Most of the commercial banks in Bangladesh are providing services to a large number of migrants working abroad through collecting their remittances from all over the world and distributing this money to their beneficiaries as possible shortest period. Among the different group of commercial banks, Private Commercial Banks (PCBs) collect the highest amount of remittance, followed by State owned Commercial Banks (SOCBs), Foreign Commercial Banks (FCBs) and Specialized Banks (SB). During October-December 2016, SOCBs have collected USD 891.47 million (30.5 percent of total), which is 10.79 percent and 15.93 percent lower than previous quarter and the same quarter of the previous year respectively. Among all SOCBs, Agrani Bank Ltd. is in the top position with USD 325.56 million and Sonali Bank Ltd. attained the second position with USD 281.98 million. During the period under report, PCBs have collected USD 1965.07

million (67.27 percent of total), which is 9.72 percent and 18.36 percent lower than previous quarter and same quarter of preceding year respectively. Among the PCBs, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. (IBBL) has collected highest amount of remittance. IBBL has collected USD 659.94 million, which is around 22.59 percent of total remittance inflow of the country. During October-December 2016, FCBs have collected USD 34.06 million (1.17 percent of total), which is 11.14 percent and 25.75 percent lower than the previous quarter and the same quarter of 2015. Among FCBs, Standard Chartered bank has collected the highest amount of remittance with USD 14.17 million. During October-December 2016 Bangladesh Krishi Bank has solely received USD 30.49 million as remittance. It is observed that along with the above-mentioned banks some other banks (Sonal Bank Ltd, Janata Bank Ltd., Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd., National Bank Ltd., Bank Asia Ltd., Pubali Bank Ltd., Uttara Bank Ltd., Woori Bank have also contributed in collecting remittance during October-December 2016. Trend of bank wise quarterly remittance inflow is shown in Table-6.

Table-6: Bank-wise Quarterly Remittance Inflow

(Million USD)

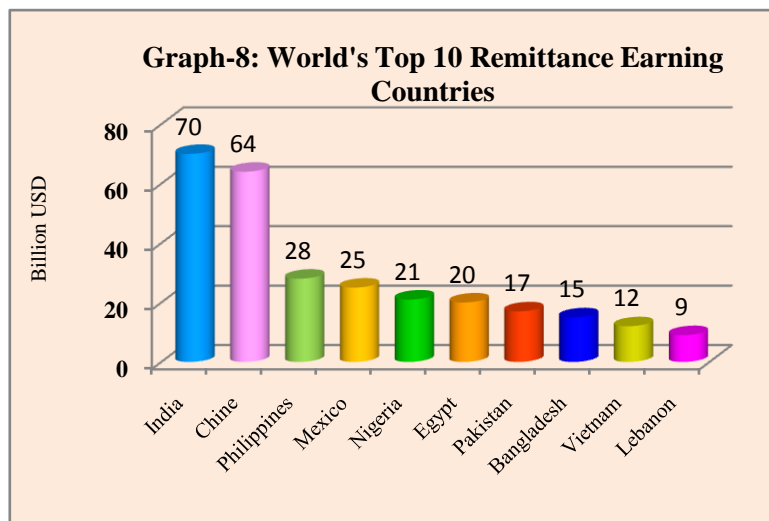
Bank Name	Oct-Dec 15	Jan-Mar 16	April-June 16	July-Sep 16	Oct-Dec 16
Nationalized Commercial Banks	1060.45	1086.52	1188.40	999.34	891.47
	(29.84)	(30.41)	(30.70)	(30.79)	(30.52)
Sonali Bank	334.81	333.80	362.23	289.95	281.98
Agrani Bank	380.54	400.82	434.59	375.12	325.56
Janata Bank	291.57	299.68	327.05	278.74	240.79
Rupali Bank Ltd	53.16	51.86	64.05	55.18	42.87
Basic Bank Ltd	0.37	0.36	0.48	0.35	0.27
Specialized Banks	40.09	35.74	37.13	31.47	30.49
	(1.13)	(1.00)	(0.96)	(0.97)	(1.04)
Bangladesh Krishi Bank	40.09	35.74	37.13	31.47	30.49
Private Commercial Banks	2407.14	2405.80	2598.33	2176.61	1965.07
	(67.74)	(67.34)	(67.11)	(67.06)	(67.27)
IBBL	855.14	867.10	926.21	780.34	659.94
	(24.06)	(24.27)	(23.92)	(24.04)	(22.59)
National Bank Ltd	156.31	155.95	166.28	141.34	118.89
Uttara Bank Ltd	134.53	132.38	130.59	119.88	98.93
BRAC Bank Ltd	74.93	71.34	75.5	60.29	59.27
Pubali Bank Ltd	125.95	132.02	136.99	114.60	100.84
Prime Bank Ltd	84.59	82.93	84.91	66.75	62.41
AB Bank Ltd	65.07	62.65	59.15	50.67	64.73
NCCBL	40.97	44.33	74.01	56.79	49.94
Eastern Bank Ltd	25.40	12.37	12.68	10.15	18.97
Bank Asia Ltd.	88.44	93.87	139.84	98.24	80.72
South East Bank Ltd.	87.05	67.33	71.02	48.68	51.53
The City Bank Ltd	78.02	72.69	57.15	38.14	61.31
Dhaka Bank Ltd	67.49	53.93	33.53	13.30	6.86
Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.	30.97	36.58	39.8	45.64	44.68
The Trust Bank Ltd	61.37	73.81	69.39	56.66	72.04
Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd	129.45	142.84	169.33	142.61	124.65
ShahjalalIslami Bank	5.01	5.23	6.86	7.27	6.48
IFIC Bank Ltd	22.68	17.11	19.71	12.19	8.14
UCBL	22.20	22.45	21.47	17.81	16.57
Mercantile Bank Ltd.	60.68	56.64	77.00	78.27	56.84
Jamuna Bank Ltd	46.67	37.85	38.00	22.32	42.79
The Premier Bank Ltd	14.07	24.56	25.67	8.44	15.85
Exim Bank Ltd	8.13	10.13	10.24	56.07	7.54
Social Islami Bank Ltd.	23.44	23.03	43.19	56.07	45.78
ICB Islamic Bank	0.41	0.30	0.28	0.05	0.03
First Security Bank Ltd.	16.31	23.31	20.66	23.76	17.12
One Bank Ltd	2.92	2.84	2.95	2.15	1.92
Al-ArafahIslami Bank Ltd.	27.98	30.32	34.36	38.05	35.88
Standard Bank Ltd	28.97	21.77	25.03	14.90	15.79
BD Com. Bank Ltd.	2.74	3.09	3.47	3.07	2.79
NRB Commercial Bank	1.23	0.63	0.59	0.56	0.40
Other Banks	18.02	24.42	22.47	20.51	15.44
Foreign commercial Banks	45.87	44.44	46.21	38.33	34.06
	(1.29)	(1.24)	(1.19)	(1.18)	(1.17)
HSBC	13.89	13.04	14.08	9.37	8.76
Standard Chartered Bank	18.60	16.75	17.40	13.57	14.17
Woori Bank Ltd	9.57	10.23	10.83	11.63	8.69
Com. Bank of Ceylon	3.75	4.30	3.74	3.65	2.24
Citi Bank NA	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Bank Al Falah	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.06
State Bank of India	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.02	0.09
Habib Bank Ltd	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
National Bank of Pakistan	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.01
Total	3553.55	3572.50	3871.49	3245.75	2921.09

Source: Foreign Exchange Policy Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Note: Numbers in bracket indicate percentage share of total remittance.

Global Comparison

As per observation of the paper “Migration and Development Brief of World Bank April 13, 2015”, Bangladesh attained the 8th position in 2014 among the world’s top ten remittance earner countries and 3rd in South Asian region. Where India is the world’s top most remittance earner and China attained the 2nd position. Though



Bangladesh is in 6th position among world’s top 10 manpower exporter countries, it’s remittance earning is 11.14 percent of the country’s GDP.

Table-7: Top 10 Remittance Earning Countries in 2014

Top 10 remittance earning countries*		Top 10 countries (considering Percentage Share of GDP)**	
Country	Amount of remittance (Billion USD)	Country	Percentage Share of GDP
India	70	Tajikistan	49
China	64	Kirgiz Republic	32
Philippines	28	Nepal	29
Mexico	25	Moldova	25
Nigeria	21	Tonga	24
Egypt	20	Haiti	21
Pakistan	17	Armenia	21
Bangladesh	15	Gambia	20
Vietnam	12	Lesotho	20
Lebanon	9	Samoa	20

*Source: Migration and Development Brief, World Bank, April 13, 2015.

**Top 10 Countries according to percentage share of GDP (%) in 2013

Recent Policy Measures Towards Migrant Workers

Although Bangladesh is in 6th position among world's top 10 manpower exporter countries, the share of skilled migrants is still insignificant where country needs to give more attention with policy measures. In this context, Bangladesh government and Bangladesh Bank have taken various regulatory and institutional measures to boost up remittances through formal channel in the early 2010s, which contributed to boost up the remittances. The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEW&OE) has started various projects under the **ADP of FY 2016-17**. Some recent policy measures are given below.

Policy Approved by the government

- With a view to protect the rights of all migrant workers and their families, the cabinet has approved a more detailed and comprehensive "Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016" on 11th January 2016 in line with the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013 and the United Nations' international convention. The new policy replaces the 'Overseas Employment Policy 2006'.
- This policy includes a provision for setting up a 'National Migration Forum' to supervise the policy implementation.
- The policy also proposed on formation of a national steering committee comprising ministers and secretaries of the concerned ministries to deal with issues relating to overseas employments.
- The main objective of the policy is to ensure safety and security of the migrant workers, who are contributing significantly to the country's economic development, and their families.
- The policy recommends for providing proper training to migrant workers and taking up labor migration diplomacy across the globe.
- The policy also recommends to fix up the possible reasonable costs for migration in a transparent way by the Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited.

- One of the major objectives of this policy is to simplify the migration process for the female workers who are seeking overseas jobs.
- The policy also recommends to increase the number of female officials in Bangladesh missions abroad, particularly in those countries where an increased number of Bangladeshi women were working.
- Apart from G to G facilities with low cost migration, government has also given strong emphasis on private sector labor migration process recently.

Projects under the ADP

- Renovation and Modernization of Bangladesh Institute of Marine Technology (January 2014 to June 2018);
- Establishment of Bangladesh-IDB Friendship Technical Teachers Training Institute (July 2015 to June 2019);
- Establishment of Technical Training Center at Upazilla level (July 2015 to June 2019);
- Enhancement of the Vocational Training Program of TTC, Rajshahi under KOICA's Deep Program (July 2015 to December 2018);
- Enhancement of the Vocational Training Program of TTC, Faridpur under KOICA's Deep Program (July 2015 to December 2018).
- Capacity Development Program of TTC, Rajshahi (January 2016 to December 2019).

Measures taken by the Bangladesh Bank

- Banks are allowed to establish drawing arrangements with the exchange houses all over the world for collecting remittances;
- For better control on the remittance collection, the local banks are encouraged to establish their exchange houses/branch offices abroad and under this arrangement some banks have already established their offices abroad to collect remittances by their own.
- With a view to quick delivery of remittances to beneficiaries through bank-to-bank clearing systems, Bangladesh Electronic Funds Transfer Network (BEFTN) was established from 28 February 2011 with other funds transfer activities;
- For enhancing distribution network, accelerating and simplifying the delivery process of inward remittances, some Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are allowed to perform the job of remittance distribution now;
- Banks (Bank Asia Ltd., BRAC Bank Ltd., Dhaka Bank Ltd., Trust Bank Ltd., Mercantile Bank Ltd., Citibank N.A and Sonali Bank Ltd.) are now allowed to distribute remittance using the countrywide outlets of different mobile operators like Grameen Phone, Banglalink & Robi.
- To increase the competition among the money transmitters, commercial banks are instructed to amend the contracts with some Multinational Money Remitters/ Exchange Houses through their mutual understanding to remove “Pay Cash Exclusivity Clause” or any other such clause that can a ceiling on the competition in the market among the related parties;
- Bangladesh Bank has simplified the approval policy of drawing arrangements between foreign exchange houses and domestic banks

Annexure-1

Category-wise Overseas Employment from 1976 to 2016						
Year	Worker's Category					Total
	Professional	Skilled	Semi-skilled	Less-skilled	Others	
1976	568	1,775	543	3,201	-	6,087
1977	1,766	6,447	490	7,022	-	15,725
1978	3,455	8,190	1,050	10,114	-	22,809
1979	3,494	7,005	1,685	12,311	-	24,495
1980	1,983	12,209	2,343	13,538	-	30,073
1981	3,892	22,432	2,449	27,014	-	55,787
1982	3,898	20,611	3,272	34,981	-	62,762
1983	1,822	18,939	5,098	33,361	-	59,220
1984	2,642	17,183	5,484	31,405	-	56,714
1985	2,568	28,225	7,823	39,078	-	77,694
1986	2,210	26,294	9,265	30,889	-	68,658
1987	2,223	23,839	9,619	38,336	-	74,017
1988	2,670	25,286	10,809	29,356	-	68,121
1989	5,325	38,820	17,659	39,920	-	101,724
1990	6,004	35,613	20,792	41,405	-	103,814
1991	9,024	46,912	32,605	58,615	-	147,156
1992	11,375	50,689	30,977	95,083	-	188,124
1993	11,112	71,662	66,168	95,566	-	244,508
1994	8,390	61,040	46,519	70,377	-	186,326
1995	6,352	59,907	32,055	89,229	-	187,543
1996	3,188	64,301	34,689	109,536	-	211,714
1997	3,797	65,211	43,558	118,511	-	231,077
1998	9,574	74,718	51,590	131,785	-	267,667
1999	8,045	98,449	44,947	116,741	-	268,182
2000	10,669	99,606	26,451	95,950	-	222,686
2001	5,940	42,837	30,702	109,581	-	189,060
2002	14,450	56,265	36,025	118,516	-	225,256
2003	15,862	74,530	29,236	134,562	-	254,190
2004	12,202	110,177	28,327	113,670	8582	272,958
2005	1,945	113,655	24,546	100,316	12240	252,702
2006	925	115,468	33,965	220,436	10722	381,516
2007	676	165,338	183,673	472,700	10222	832,609
2008	1,864	292,364	132,825	437,088	10914	875,055
2009	1,426	134,265	84,517	246,585	8485	475,278
2010	387	90,621	20,016	272,118	7560	390,702
2011	1,192	229,149	28,729	301,552	7440	568,062
2012	36,084	173,331	104,721	284,153	9509	607,798
2013	689	133,754	62,528	203,058	9224	409,253
2014	1730	148,766	70,095	193,403	11690	425,684
2015	1,828	214,328	91,099	243,929	4,697	555,881
2016	4,638	318,851	119,946	303,706	10,590	757,731
Total	227,884	3,399,062	1,588,900	5,118,697	121,875	10,456,418
%	2.18	32.51	15.20	48.95	1.17	100.0

