

Economic recovery will be slow: Bank of England

to counter weakening US. economic recovery.

The Fed said economic growth had slowed in recent months and reiterated its intent to hold benchmark interest rates at record lows for an extended period. The dollar's gains "could be potentially significant in indicating a more substantial mood change", said Daragh Maher, deputy head of FX strategy at Credit Agricole CIB, adding the pound may have more room to gain compared to the euro.

The new Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast growth of 2.3 per cent for 2011.

The revised figures reflected both the emergency budget of stringent cuts presented by the Conservative—Liberal government in June, and the announcement that Value Added Tax (VAT) is to go up from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent from next January.

Mr. King said inflation, which now stands at 3.2 per cent, was likely to prove more stubborn than previously expected. It would remain above the bank's target of 2 per cent until the end of 2011, he said.

The admission fuelled immediate speculation that a change in key interest rates, which have been at a record low of 0.5 per cent for 17 months, could rise in the near future.

Mr. King said the impact of the 2008 financial crisis would fade only gradually, as credit lending remained tight and consumer confidence low. It would take many years before the situation returned to "anything like normal," he warned.

Oxford Awami League felicitates MP Muhibur Rahman Manik

Manik said this in a reception at Oxford organised by Oxford Awami League on August 8, 2010. He was greeted by the Bangladeshi member of under 15 Oxford United Mr Shoeb Salman. MR Rahman said that the contribution of the NRBs in the developmental work in Bangladesh is immense.

The audience, who are also the NRBs, explained him the problems they face in immigration in airport and communication in Bangladesh. They also demanded a better education and transport system in back home.

President of Oxford Awami League Mahabubul Haq chaired and Abdur Rashid conducted the meeting.

Abdul Malik, Ahab Miah, Vice President of Oxford Awami League Lutfur Rahman, Mojul Haq, and President of Lewisham Awami League Md Fajal Uddin were also present in the meeting. Eminent businessman Mr Shukur Ali organised the meeting at his own restaurant. He also provided refreshment to the guests after the meeting.

UN pledges \$459m to help Pakistan flood victims

Countries have pledged millions of dollars in aid, but the assistance is arriving slowly. Public anger is growing in Pakistan over the government's slow response to the disaster.

The World Food Programme said Wednesday that it had managed to run food supplies to 375,000 people but hoped to increase the effort to feed two million refugees by Aug 20. It said the cost would be about \$150 million.

The \$460 million appeal will fund food assistance, clean water, shelter, medical care and other emergency relief for the millions affected by the floods.

The government of Pakistan is leading the relief and recovery efforts. Pakistan's U.N. Ambassador Abdullah Haroon expressed concern that with continued rains predicted, the floods could continue for the next couple of weeks, causing further death and destruction.

Ambassador Haroon said in addition to the significant humanitarian toll, the government fears an economic disaster as well, with its cotton industry particularly hard hit.

U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes said prior to Wednesday's appeal, many countries had already pledged funds and/or supplies to Pakistan in the area of about \$150 million.

Among them is the United States, whose total commitment is about \$71 million. It is too soon to say how much of the U.N.'s \$460 million appeal has been funded, but early commitments Wednesday were around \$10 million, with additional equipment and supplies promised.

At least 1.4 million acres of crops were destroyed in Punjab, the breadbasket of Pakistan, according to the United Nations. Fields in the floodplains of the northwest have also been devastated as rivers have spilled over their banks.

Food prices shot up significantly as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan started and are likely to exacerbate misery in a country where many people live in abject poverty.

The prices of basic items such as tomatoes, onions, potatoes and squash have in some cases quadrupled in recent days, putting them out of reach for many Pakistanis.

Voice for Justice World Forum 2010 Cardiff International Conference Global Transparency, Racism and Global Warming.

VFJ is a global community organization whose mission is to prevent acts of injustice, and to actively seek and ensure justice against any action of an individual, group or entity deemed illegal, unfair or discriminatory. Although the majority of its members are Bangladeshi professionals living in Western Europe and the United States, the organization seeks the support and cooperation of individuals belonging to all nationalities, races and gender. Its membership is free and invites support and co-operation of all global citizens.

The Conference was moderated by VFJ World Forum's Convenor, Eminent Academic and Member of the Order of British Empire Dr. Hasanat Husain MBE and was attended by Keith Hyde, Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Wales and Rt. Hon. John Griffith, the Counsel General and Leader of the House of the Wales Assembly.

The Keynote Address was by Prof. Abdul Moyeen Khan, Former Minister for Planning, Science and Information and Communication Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The conference was attended by many British Bangladeshis and was aired on Sky News Network. The key strengths of the conference were that it provided a platform for dialogue on a number of global concerns, while not reflecting the VFJ's official positions.

Honorable Lord Mayor of Cardiff congratulated VJF for highlighting global human rights violation and being the voice for the marginalized. He thanked the guest speakers for taking time off and coming to Cardiff to present their research work. He further stated that their presentations would lead to deep reflections and rich discussions amongst the delegates.

Dr. Hasanat Husain, MBE said that Voice For Justice World Forum is an organization, which is built on people's kindness to others and on a shared belief in human dignity, justice and freedom. He stated that the uniqueness of the organization's work lies in the platform that it provides for the collaboration between individuals, society and community leaders.

The two key papers at the conference were presented by Prof. M.G. Quibria, Chairman of Economics Department at the Morgan State University in the USA and Dr. K. M. A. Malik, a retired Lecturer of Chemistry at Cardiff University. Dr. Quibria's presentation highlighted the lessons that Bangladesh could learn from the Philippines in regards to protecting its migrant workers, while Dr. Malik gave the audience an overview of Israel's human rights abuse in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dr. M.G. Quibria compared Bangladesh and the Philippines' labor exporting sector. He affirmed that the Philippines' migrant labor sector was recognizably better to that of Bangladesh. He argued that this divergence in performance among the two nations were because of the differences in national institutions and policies in regard to international labor migration and remittances. He pointed out numerous approaches that Bangladesh could draw upon from the Philippines to improve its policy and institutional framework, in order to protect the welfare of its migrant

Voice for Justice World Forum 2010 Cardiff International Conference



CARDIFF: On Wednesday, 28th July 2010, Voice for Justice (VFJ) World Forum held its Second International Conference at Cardiff City's County Hall. This year the forum covered themes such as Human Rights violations, Rights of Migrant workers in the Middle East, Global Transparency, Racism and Global Warming.

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Dr. K. M. A. Malik, the author of War on Terror – A Pretext for New Colonization (2005) presented a comparative study on the plight of the Palestinian people in their homeland under Israeli occupation and the similar situation faced by the Jewish people under Germany's Nazi Regime. He stressed the fact that the list of crimes against the Palestinian people is long and well-known but disregarded by Western governments, which in turn exacerbates political tension and violence in the Middle East.

The other presenters at this year's conference were Bulbul Hasan, a freelance journalist and political analyst, based in London, UK who presented a paper on 'Fragility of Press Freedom in Bangladesh'; Rudabeh Shahid, a researcher from California, USA who presented a comparative analysis of 'Religious persecution in Iran and Pakistan'; Michele Rowe, a researcher on Australian aboriginal culture from the Northern Territories, Australia on 'Saving the remnants of culture and language of indigenous community in Australia'; Aliar Hossain, a Business and Management Consultant based in London, UK on 'Climate Change and its adverse effect on developing countries' and Shaukat Mahmood, the President of Bangladesh National Press Club on 'Human rights and democracy in Bangladesh'.

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