

Metropolitan

Pak FM says

D-8 bloc about to enter a more active phase of cooperation

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz, who arrived yesterday for the D-8 summit, said the new economic bloc would enter into a "more active phase" of economic cooperation among the member states, reports UNB.

Talking to UNB on arrival at the Zia International Airport this morning, he said the D-8 has identified a number of ideas, projects and proposals in last two months for cooperation in economic, trade and technical sectors.

The Dhaka summit would give a new momentum for the implementation of those projects, Aziz said.

The D-8 was launched in Istanbul in 1997 with eight OIC member states — Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey and Nigeria — to forge greater economic cooperation.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received his Pakistani counterpart at the airport. Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Karam Elahi and Bangladesh High Commissioner in Islamabad Masum Ahmed Chowdhury were present.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister said the first phase of the bloc was more exploratory, a lot of work has been done identifying various projects and proposals of cooperation.

He said the whole idea behind the grouping was to promote cooperation in economy and concentrate on technical collaboration. "We can learn from each other and share our markets... I hope, the D-8 will enter into a more active phase now."

Asked how he seeds the prospect of D-8 in the backdrop

of slow progress of SAARC. Sartaj Aziz said SAARC has a political problem that obstructs its progress in view of the India-Pakistan relation. India-Sri Lanka problem and India-Nepal problem.

"D-8 has no political problem and the relations between D-8 member countries are smooth and harmonious," he said.

He, however, hastened to add that he is also hopeful about the SAARC since India and Pakistan are now trying to resolve their political differences.

Asked whether the Vajpayee-Nawaz Sharif meeting in Lahore last week would accelerate the solution of Kashmir dispute, the Pakistan Foreign Minister called it a good beginning and said: "For the first time, India has shown willingness to discuss Kashmir as the core issue."

He said: "Before India was not willing to talk about Kashmir. But now they want to discuss Kashmir seriously. They've also accepted that without discussing this issue, the relation cannot be normalised."

About Dhaka-Islamabad relations, the Pakistan Foreign Minister said, "It's very good and cordial" and added: "We need to expand our bilateral trade."

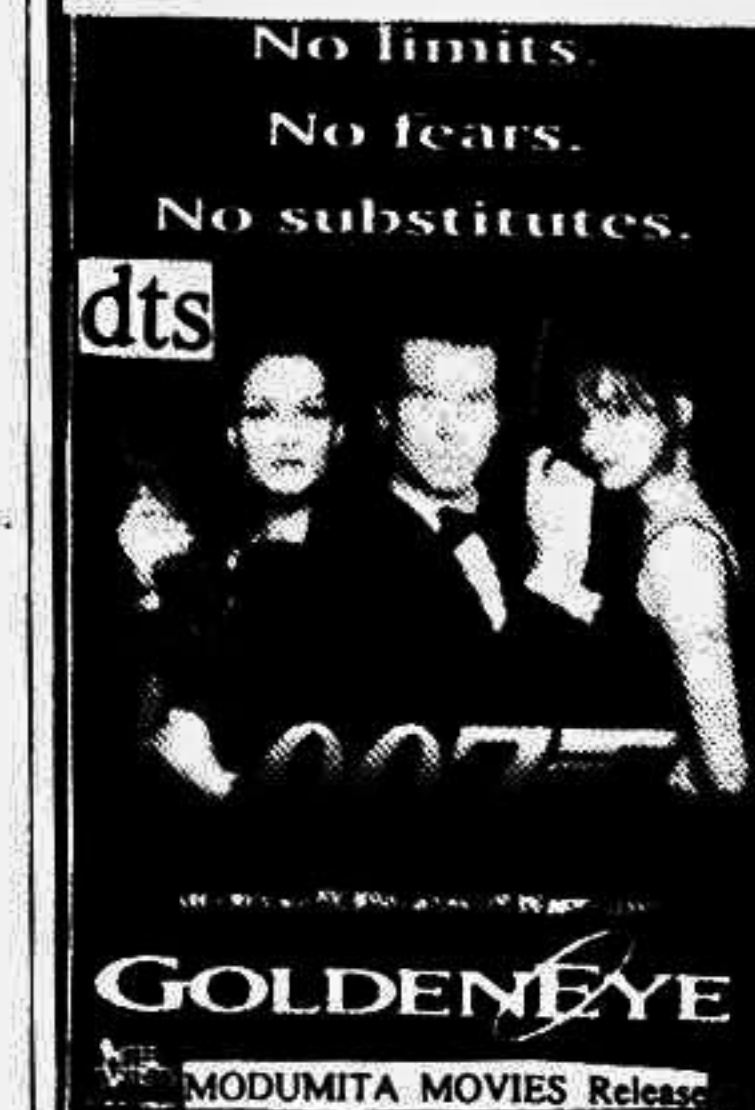
Responding to a query about the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from here, he said the Pakistan government is trying to mobilise funds needed for the housing of these people.

Aziz referred to the 50:50 sharing of funds by the Pakistan government and the Rabeta Al Alam Al Islami. He said the preparation is on to build houses in the State of Punjab

for their rehabilitation.

However, the Pakistan Foreign Minister could not give any specific time for the repatriation of nearly 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis languishing in different camps since the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

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If you meet our requirements, please write along with complete CV and a recent passport size photograph to MRK Consultants, Bilquis Tower (3rd floor), 6 Gulshan North C.A. Dhaka 1212. Tel : 885074, 885100 Fax : 880-2-885086 by March 15, 1999.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), a Public Limited Company engaged in financing of Infrastructure Projects sponsored by the private sector, seeks applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the following positions. The duration of appointment will be between 3-5 years and renewable annually on the basis of performance.

1. Post Title: Company Secretary

Duties and Responsibilities: Organisation of Board meetings, recording and drafting of proceedings of the Board/General Meetings, performing other Company matters; overall administrative and financial matters, preparation of Company's business plan and budget, and control of expenditure under the supervision of the Executive Director.

Qualifications:

- Preferably a Chartered Secretary with 5 years practical experience in Company, Commercial and Capital market laws and regulations
- Masters degree in Business/Law/Commerce/Economics, at least two first division/class
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English
- Computer skills including word processing, spreadsheet, graphics and database management
- In case of highly experienced candidates the qualification requirement may be relaxed

Age limit: 50 years

Remuneration: Negotiable, based on compensation received at the present place of employment.

2. Post Title: Executive Assistant

Duties and Responsibilities: Assist Executive Director of the Company in processing of loan applications, project evaluation, project inspection, loan management, protocol, and office administration.

Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in Engineering/Business/Law, all three first division/class
- Some work experience in the private sector
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English
- Computer skills including word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, database management and Programming

Age limit: 30 years

Remuneration: A consolidated all inclusive salary between the range of Taka 20,000 to Taka 30,000 per calendar month on average will be paid.

3. Post Title: Accounts Assistant

Duties and Responsibilities: Maintenance of computer based Company accounts, liaison with Banks, Auditors, and office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms

Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree in Commerce, at least one first division/class
- At least 2 years relevant professional experience
- Knowledge in Company matters
- Computer skills including word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, accounting software management and programming

Age limit: 30 years

Remuneration: A consolidated all inclusive salary between the range of Taka 15,000 to Taka 23,000 per calendar month on average will be paid.

4. Post Title: Office Support Staff

Duties and Responsibilities: Security and cleanliness of office, operation of office equipment, dispatch of letters, transferring telephone calls, taking care of plants, arranging reference materials on the shelves and replenishing supplies of stationery. Performs other duties as directed by the supervisor.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Ability to read English and follow simple conversation in English
- Some previous experience in operation of office equipment.

Age Limit: 30 years

Remuneration: A consolidated all inclusive salary between the range of Taka 8,000 to Taka 13,000 per calendar month on average will be paid.

Persons only fulfilling the above criteria should apply with Resume (no copies of certificates, references or professional papers) and a recent passport size colour photograph to Infrastructure Development Company Limited, G.P.O. Box No.: 619, Dhaka, on or before March 15, 1999. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Any direct or indirect solicitation will automatically disqualify the candidature.

C'wealth Science Council meet begins tomorrow

A two-day Regional Consultation Meeting of the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) begins in the city tomorrow, reports APB.

Organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the meeting of the Council comprising eight South and Southeast Asian and Pacific countries will be held at the Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) auditorium.

The countries are India, Brunei, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

This will be the first-ever meeting of its kind to be held in Bangladesh, said a press release.

The agenda of the meeting will include review of the functioning of CSC in South and Southeast Asian countries, priorities of cooperation within the CSC, and discussion on reports of the CSC's Steering Group.

Outcome of the meeting will be placed at the executive committee meeting of the CSC, due to be held in Port Au Spain of Trinidad from March 22-23.

UK brass band to perform in city, Ctg

The British Council with the support from British Airways will host 'The Wallace Collection', a brass band from the UK, reports BSS.

The Wallace Collection is one of the world's pioneering brass ensembles with an international reputation for innovative programming.

The Wallace Collection will perform in Chittagong on March 6 in the Chittagong Club auditorium and in the National Museum auditorium in Dhaka on March 8 and 9.

Tickets are available at the British Council Library in Chittagong and Dhaka, Sagar Publishers, New Bailey Road and Video Connection, Gulshan.

Fruit vendor killed in city

A roadside fruit vendor was murdered allegedly by his rivals over a petty matter at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday, reports APB.

Police and hospital sources said a group of miscreants assaulted Belal Hossain, 25, in front of his makeshift fruit shop at Purana Paltan First Lane at about 1 pm.

Police personnel, deployed on the streets during the hartal hours, rescued Belal with the help of the local people and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

Police arrested two young men — Shah Alam and Milton — from the scene for their alleged involvement in the killing.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Motijheel police station in this connection.

Punishment to Nurul Huq's killers demanded

A workers' rally was held yesterday at Paltan Maidan to protest the death of central leader of Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League Nurul Huq in a bomb attack during hartal hours on February 23, the first day of the three-day hartal enforced by the BNP-led opposition parties, reports BSS.

The speakers urged the government to immediately arrest the persons involved in the bomb blast incident and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for such a heinous act.

Chaired by Jatiya Rickshaw Samik League President Shukkur Ahmed, the rally was addressed, among others, by city Awami League General Secretary and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, Jatiya Samik League General Secretary Ahsanullah Master, MP, Siddiqui Rouf Khan, Fazlul Huq Montu, MA Hamid, Habibur Rahman Akand, Ashraf Ali Khan, Israfil Alam, Aminul Huq Faruq, Jamaluddin Ahmed, M A Karim and Abdul Huq Sabui.

State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said that the BNP-led opposition parties have been engaged in politics of violence and terrorism in the name of hartal to impede the democratic progress and the pace of development of the country.

"They want to usurp the state power through anarchy and violence," he said and urged the people to remain vigilant against the evil designs of the opposition parties.

People have already rejected the opposition hartal call, he said adding that the large-scale participation of the people in the pourashabha polls across the country has proved it.

He called upon the people to build resistance unitedly against the politics of violence and terrorism of the opposition parties.

WORLD BANK VACANCY
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Position: Team Assistant

Background: The World Bank Dhaka Office is seeking applications from qualified, bright, young candidates for the position of a Team Assistant to provide operational and secretarial support to the Health, Nutrition and Population Team.

Minimum Requirements:

- o B.A. or equivalent degree from a recognized university;
- o 2-5 years of responsible, relevant office support experience;
- o Proficient English language skills and passing scores on the Bank's entry tests for English grammar and proofreading;
- o A diploma in secretarial science is desirable but not essential;
- o Knowledge of personal computer;
- o Knowledge of essential elements of Windows;
- o Accurate keyboarding skills at 50 wpm;
- o Strong command over written and spoken English.

Professional Competencies:

- o Knowledge of and sustained performance in basic office support tasks, including ability to use standard computer applications to produce documents and to import or convert files from one software application to another
- o Ability to maintain current and complete filing systems and record data/information accurately
- o Basic skills in electronic mail
- o Organizational skills to maintain calendar of team members, schedule and organize activities to meet work goals, make arrangements for operational travel, and assist in preparation of travel requests and statements of expense.
- o Ability to retrieve reference materials from various sources (e.g. file stations, Library, Internet)
- o Willingness to seek and accept guidance from more experienced Team Assistant staff in learning the job in the team environment
- o Ability to take comprehensive and accurate phone calls/messages, ensuring they are appropriately routed in a timely manner
- o Ability to produce high-quality work under pressure and in stressful situations including interruptions, obstacles, and setbacks.

Deadline: Applicants are requested to write to Manager, Administration, The World Bank, 3A, Paribagh, Dhaka 1000, by March 10, 1999, with a copy of their resume.

Applications initially short-listed will receive a standard application form for completion before the interview. Thereafter we will correspond only with those candidates.

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