

UN calls for renewed efforts to meet MDGs

AFP, Geneva

Governments, aid agencies and other international bodies must make more efforts to ensure the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals are met on schedule by 2015, the UN said on Monday.

The global body in particular criticised the failure of the Group of Eight industrialised nations to live up to their commitments at the 2005 Gleneagles summit to double aid to Africa by 2010.

The UN set a 15-year timeframe at the turn of the millennium to achieve its goals of halving extreme poverty, boosting health and education and further empowering women across the developing world.

Halfway through this process, some 20 UN agencies released a report showing progress to date and areas where more efforts are needed -- saying the results are "predictably, uneven."

Although there has been "significant progress" in cutting extreme poverty, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, currently only one out of

eight geographical regions is on track to meet all the goals by 2015, the report said.

In a foreword to the "Millennium Development Goals Report 2007", UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said much remains to be done, but that the goals can be met if concerted action is taken.

"There is a clear need for political leaders to take urgent and concerted action, or many millions of people will not realise the basic promises of the MDGs in their lives," he said.

Paolo Garonna, director of the statistical division of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, said the report is a "scoreboard that would allow policymakers to know where we stand."

"The picture is really mixed and there are a lot of challenges," he told journalists.

The G8's inability so far to live up to its Gleneagles development commitments is "worrying," as is the current deadlocked state of global trade negotiations, he said.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the extreme poverty rate -- defined as

those living on less than one dollar per day -- has fallen by nearly six percentage points since 2000 to 41.1 percent from 46.8 percent, due to economic growth.

"Countries in sub-Saharan Africa are now experiencing rates of growth which are considerable, and some of them are really becoming emerging success stories in terms of market economies," Garonna said.

Despite this progress, the region is still not on track to reach the goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015, and the poor who live there are the most economically disadvantaged in the world, the report noted.

Worldwide, the number of people in developing countries in extreme poverty fell to 980 million in 2004 from 1.25 billion in 1990. However, this success is "unequally shared," and due mostly to rapid economic growth in south and eastern Asia.

In Western Asia by contrast -- a region including the Gulf states, Iraq, Syria and Turkey -- poverty rates more than doubled between 1990 and 2005.

India software exports head for \$60b mark

AFP, Bangalore

India's exports of software and related services are expected to almost double in three years to 60 billion dollars, maintaining the country's lead over rivals such as China, the industry said Monday.

But the rupee's strength and a shortage of talent are major concerns for an industry that posted 33 percent growth in exports to 31.4 billion dollars in the year ended March 31, the National Association of Software and Service Companies said in its annual survey.

"The indicators continue to be positive with a potential addressable market of over 300 billion US dollars, driven by growth of existing business and new services opportunities," said Kiran Karnik, president of NASSCOM, as the industry lobby is known.

India remains the destination of choice for global information-technology sourcing because of its talent pool, management capability and security and quality focus, Karnik told a news conference in Bangalore, India's IT capital.

"But there are certain short- to medium-term challenges that need to be addressed swiftly," he added. "These include rupee appreciation, suitability of available talent and infrastructure development."

Financial expo to begin Aug 23

In a bid to develop the existing relations between the financial institutions and the people from all walks of life, the three-day 'Bangladesh Financial Expo-07' will begin in Dhaka from August 23.

FNF Consortium will organise the show, says a press release. A press conference was arranged on Sunday in Dhaka to announce the schedule of the exposition. Chief Coordinator of the event Mirza Wahid, among others, was present at the press meet.

Three seminars on three different issues relating to the financial sector will be arranged on the sidelines of the show where economists, bankers and high-profile officials of different financial institutions would be present.



PHOTO: KUNG KENG TEXTILE BANGLADESH

Lin Feng Fu, a shareholder director of M/s Kung Keng Textile (BD) Ltd of Dhaka Export Processing Zone, receives the documents of 'no visa required' facility from the director general of the Department of Immigration & Passports, Dhaka, on Thursday for traveling to Bangladesh. A foreigner investing at least US\$ 5 million in Bangladesh is eligible to get the facility.



PHOTO: FNF CONSORTIUM

A press conference was arranged on Sunday in Dhaka to announce the schedule of the three-day 'Bangladesh Financial Expo-07' that will begin in the capital from August 23. Chief Coordinator of the event Mirza Wahid, among others, was present at the press meet.



Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) Ltd and BracNet on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under which BracNet will provide full network solution for Desco for its Sales and Distribution divisions. Desco Company Secretary AHM Nurul Huda and Deputy General Manager of BracNet Tawfiq Hassan signed the MoU, while Managing Director of Desco Saleh Ahmed and Chief Executive Officer of BracNet Khalid Quadir, among others, were present.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 2/7/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dtof arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/5	Pagan	GI(log)	Yang	MTA	30/6	2/7	655
J/7	Xiang Jiang (liner)	GI	Dali	Cosco	26/6	2/7	2601
J/8	Csav California	Cont	Col	PSSL	30/6	3/7	109
J/9	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	29/6	2/7	86
J/13	Dali	Cont	Col	Seacon	1/7	4/7	443
CCT/3	Eagle Pioneer	Cont	Sing	CT	27/6	2/7	--
NCT/1	Banga Borak	Cont	Sing	Bdship	28/6	2/7	--
NCT/2	Oel Singapore	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	28/6	2/7	--
GSJ:	Banglar Mookh	--	Yang	BSC	16/6	2/7	--
DOJ/6	Lion Trader	--	--	MMSL	R/A	4/7	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Splendor	2/7	Kaohs	ASA	GI(hrc)	--
Success	4/7	Viza	MBL	Urea	--
Liberty Glory	2/7	P. Land	Benam	Wheat(g)	12790 Gsj
Pari	2/7	Viza	Rsship	Scraping	--
Santa Barbara	2/7	Krabi	Uniship	C. Clink	--
Hao Hang (gearless)	2/7	--	Cosco	GI(St)	--
Marblue	2/7	Taishan	Cosco	GI(St)	--
Yong Yue-8	3/7	Ptp	QCSSL	Cont	Col
Hansa London	4/7	Hald	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borti	4/7	P.kel	Bandhri	Cont	P. Kel
Gassam	3/7	Krabi	ASLL	C. Clink	--
Phu Tan	3/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Cho
Kota Rukun	3/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Mol Karina	4/7	P.kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Eagle Progress	4/7	P.kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Aetos	2/7	Sing	Rainbow	CDSO(RM/3)18000wlt
Siam Pavinee	3/7	Srira	ECSL	L.B. Oil
Spring Glory	4/7	P. Kel	Jnship	CPO (RM/3)
Tabtrim	3/7	Belwa	Jnship	CPO(RM/3)
Al Sabiyah	4/7	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD
Borak	7/7	Hald	FSA	Bitumen (RM3)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (30/6)
United Dynamic	Crude Oil	Jebel	DSL	27/6

Outside Port Limit

Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (30/6)
United Dynamic	Crude Oil	Jebel	DSL	27/6

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	28/6
Eagle Prestige	Cont	Ptp	QCSSL	1/7
Bbc Finlandia	P.I. Equip	Sikka	Sunshine	1/7
Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bandhri	1/7
Thanh Son	GI	Sing	Prog	2/7
Josco View	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	2/7
Maritime Chiangmai	C. Clink	Tarj	BSL	29/6

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Banglar Kallol	Ballast	Ind	BSC	13/6
Banglar Robi	--	--	Olm	R/A (17/6)

Vessels not entering

Arya Payam	R. Sugar	Braz	USL	20/6
Asian Star-1	C. Clink	Kohsi	Saraf	20/6
Pearl River	Wheat	Sing	Rainbow	21/6
Trust Fortune	Wti(p)/r.s.	Vanc	USL	21/6
Parshiva	C. Clink	Kohsi	ANCL	25/6

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.



PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd opened its 177th branch at New Market in Rajshahi on Thursday. Mohammad Shafiul Alam, divisional commissioner of Rajshahi, and M Nazrul Islam, director of the bank, among others, are seen at the inaugural function.

STOCK