

D-8 for market access to developed economies for poverty alleviation

UNB, Abuja

The Seventh D-8 Summit ended yesterday adopting a 24-point Abuja Declaration with emphasis on market access to major world economies for poverty alleviation and economic uplift.

The declaration called upon the private sectors to take advantage of liberal investment, skilled manpower and low cost business in the D-8 member countries to expand trade and economic ties.

It reaffirmed the importance of intense private sector involvement in all activities of the group and emphasised exploring ways of promoting private sector led cooperation and growth among the member states.

The declaration reaffirmed resolve of the member states to take immediate measures to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) in the private sectors and stressed establishment of a D-8 investment fund proposed by Iran.

The next D-8 summit will be held in Pakistan in 2012, according to the declaration adopted at the concluding session of the one-day summit.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Iranian President Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Turkish President Abdullah Gul, Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Ahmed Nazif, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, Indonesian Minister for Coordination M Hatta Rajasa and Pakistani Commerce Minister Makhdoom Mohammad Anis Fahim led their respective countries at the summit.

The declaration said, the D-8 members agreed to encourage regular interaction and sharing of information about investment opportunities with the help of private sector and chambers of commerce to create greater awareness for availing these opportunities.

The D-8 secretariat should develop a business forum webpage on its website to facilitate and engage private sector involvement in D-8 activities and programmes.

Acknowledging the instrumental role of energy in economic growth and development, the declaration reaffirmed the commitment to broaden cooperation in the sector.

It stressed the importance of collaborative efforts on capacity building, transfer of technology, exploration of new energy sources, development of alternative fuels, including renewable sources of energy as well as peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Taking into account the far-reaching consequence of global financial and economic crisis, the D-8 leaders agreed to scale up cooperation and coordination efforts in relevant international forums to promote common interest within the existing multilateral frameworks.

"We would like to see a meaningful and fair conclusion and negotiations of the Doha development agenda of the World Trade Organisation," the declaration stated.

The leaders reiterated their resolve to enhance cooperation to exchange experiences concerning protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, both within the context of D-8 and in other regional and global processes including in the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Welcoming the ratification of

'Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures for the Businessmen of the D-8 member states', the declaration said the agreement would give further momentum to increase and diversify intra-D-8 trade.

It urged the member countries to expedite the ratification and operationalization of D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and multilateral agreement among D-8 member countries on administrative assistance in customs matters.

The declaration endorsed the reports of 12th and 13th sessions of D-8 council of ministers and welcomed the prioritisation of activities of D-8 roadmap in the areas of trade, agriculture and food security, industrial cooperation, small and medium enterprise, transportation and energy and minerals.

Recognising the important role that Islamic banking and finance can contribute to enhancing trade and investment in D-8 countries, it urged the member states to foster greater understanding and cooperation in this field.

The declaration welcomed the proposal of the 12th session of the council of ministers to enhance

greater socio-culture context through training programmes for young diplomats from member countries.

The D-8 leaders approved the 'Kuala Lumpur Initiative to address food security in D-8 countries'.

The D-8 member countries endorsed the 'Tehran Declaration on Industrial Cooperation' and underscored the immediate implementation of the provisions of the declaration.

The Abuja declaration welcomed the outcome of the first D-8 ministerial meeting on marine, fisheries and fertilizers held in Egyptian capital Cairo in April this year.

It underscored the need for exploring new ways of broadening and strengthening cooperation in the health sector among the D-8 members.

The leaders reaffirmed that D-8 can contribute regionally and globally to guide collective action towards the achievement of the millennium development goals.

The D-8 leaders expressed appreciation to the Nigerian government, its president and the people for hosting the seventh D-8 summit.



Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman along with his lawyers in front of the Supreme Court after appearing before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Friends kill boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boy died when his senior friends punched and kicked him in the city's Purba Goran Khilgaon area yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Badsha Miah, 15, who worked at his father Perroz Miah's automobile workshop in the area.

Victim's brother-in-law Masud Rana told The Daily Star that Badsha went out of his house around 3:30pm. Some young men of the area got into an altercation over alleged misbehaviour with them.

At one stage, Babu, Yusuf, Anis and about five others swooped on Badsha and beat him mercilessly, leaving him critically injured.

Relatives rushed the victim to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Officer-in-charge Nazimuddin of Khilgaon Police Station said there was a quarrel at a picnic party between the senior group and his junior group on Road No 8 of Purba Goran.

The police officer said he heard that the boy died at DMCH as the senior group beat him.



Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh Shaher Mohammad inaugurates a new theme park on the eastern side of the new bridge connecting Gulshan and Banani in the city yesterday with a view to beautifying the Dhaka city. Sculptor Shadin designed the theme park adorned with sculptures of life size animals and birds. The theme park was completed under a one-year project financed by the Consulate of Kyrgyz Republic. The Honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan Kazi Shamsul Haque was present at the inaugural ceremony.

SAMIUL MURDER Family not happy over police probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The members of Samiul's paternal family are not satisfied with the police investigation alleging that the law enforcers are trying to save some culprits involved in the killing.

One of the family members seeking anonymity said police are trying to blur the motive of the killing to save some culprits.

On June 28, Arif told Rab that he along with Samiul's mother Ayesha Humaira strangled the boy at her Adabor residence on June 20 and kept the body in a refrigerator for a couple of days.

Arif also gave a similar statement before a Dhaka court on June 29.

Samiul's relatives demanded proper investigation into the incident.

\$79m skills development deal signed with IDA

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed a credit agreement worth US \$79 million with the International Development Association (IDA) for Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP).

The project, approved by the World Bank board on June 11, will assist Bangladesh in developing its human capital resources, said a World Bank release.

Under the initiative, public and private training institutions will be strengthened to improve skills of the workforce. The project will focus on improving the technical and vocational education and training system to develop high-quality workers so that they can respond to the needs of both the domestic and international labour

markets. Arastoo Khan, IDA additional secretary, and Zahid Hussain, World Bank acting country director, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. The credits from the IDA have 40-year maturity with a 10-year grace period, and a service charge of 0.75 percent.

Zahid Hussain said an increasingly skilled labour force is vital to accelerate economic growth in Bangladesh. He said enhancing vocational training will help Bangladesh get overseas employment opportunities.

He said skilled workers can command higher wages in international markets and lead to an increase in Bangladesh's remittance earning.

Remnant of Tagore's literary visit brought down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At a time when India is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a key testimony to the poet's last visit to Shillong, where he had penned some of his important works, has been razed to the ground.

Sidhli House, where the Nobel Laureate had stayed in 1927, has been demolished over the last few days by the owner of the house who is the sibling of Federal Minister of State for Water Resources and Shillong MP Vincent Pala.

Tagore had visited Shillong thrice--the last time at the house located on Upland Road in Laitumkhrah of the city.

"Here lived Rabindranath Tagore in May and June, 1927. His famous novel 'Yogayug' and poems 'Susamay' and 'Debdaru' were written here," reads a plaque that still stands at the lawn of the demolished house.

As per records, the house originally belonged to an Italian, Louis Joseph Dalingrad, who had played host to the poet during his two-month stay in Shillong.

The royal family of the former princely state of Assam later purchased the house. The queen of Sidhli, Rani Manjula Devi, wife of Raja Ajit Narayan, had later resided in the house where she had set up the Jayanta Academy of Indian classical music, dance and art in memory of her son.

The current owner's family said the memorial plaques would be retained and embossed on a portion of the wall of the new structure that would come up.

In 1919, Tagore had stayed at the Brookside Bungalow in the Riblong area here where he composed his famous novel 'Shesher Kobita'. In 1923, the poet was in Jithumi, also in Riblong, where he wrote 'Raktakarabi'.

Kuwait to recruit more Bangladeshi manpower

Envoy tells president

UNB, Dhaka

Kuwait will recruit more Bangladeshi manpower including army officers, engineers and doctors to help develop its infrastructures.

Outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdullah Ali Al-Mawash said this when he paid a farewell call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"Some 2.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers and more than 4000 personnel of the armed forces are presently working in Kuwait and the number of skilled and unskilled manpower will be increased soon," he said.

During the meeting Kuwaiti Envoy told the president that the financial assistance from Kuwait would come soon to establish a 250MW power station at Shikabaha in Chittagong. "Presently an expert team is working in Bangladesh in this regard," he said.

Welcoming the outgoing envoy, the president said there is huge scope to increase trade volume between the two countries. "I hope Kuwait authorities will take necessary measures to increase export from Bangladesh."

Mentioning that Bangladesh and Kuwait have long ties with shared

history, religion, culture and tradition, Zillur expressed satisfaction over the commonality of views of the two countries. "Both in bilateral and multilateral context have given further impetus to the strong relationship."

He hoped that the existing bilateral relations between the two countries would be further expanded and consolidated in both depth and dimension in the coming days.

He thanked the outgoing envoy for his constructive role during his stay in Dhaka to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan at his residence at Abuja in Nigeria on Wednesday.

US consular service fees increased

UNB, Dhaka

The US Department of State will increase passport and citizenship services and Diversity Visa (DV) application fees from July 13.

In order to ensure that the department has sufficient resources to meet the increasing cost of delivering consular services, it is changing the current schedule of fees, including raising fees associated with passport and citizenship services and DV applications, said a US Embassy press release.

The new fees reflect the estimated costs for American Citizen Services, Immigrant Visas and other consular services per applicant through FY2010.

Among the fees that will change are: adult passport of birth abroad, additional passport pages, notaries and authentication services, passport book security surcharge, formal renunciation of US citizenship and DV application.

Girl dies in road accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A girl was killed in a road accident in Gopalganj yesterday.

Deceased Lamia Khanam, 7, was a playgroup student and daughter of Tota Mia of Bandal village under Kotalipara upazila of the district.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 25.0 degrees at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	27.7	74	69
Chittagong	31.7	26.5	79	79
Rajshahi	35.0	26.2	76	70
Khulna	34.5	27.0	75	69
Barisal	33.6	26.5	77	84
Sylhet	33.3	28.5	83	72
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.5	82	77

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Prosecutors to get gunmen

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would provide gunmen to all seven prosecutors of the International War Crimes Tribunal to ensure security so that they can work without any fear, said Law Minister Shafiqe Ahmed yesterday.

The investigators of the tribunal need not gunmen, as they themselves can ensure their security, he said.

The law minister said this at a press briefing after a weekly meeting with the prosecutors and investigators at his secretary office in the afternoon.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam also attended the meeting.

Shafiqe said trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity and war crimes will be completed within the tenure of the present government.

The start of trial is being late, since the investigators are slowly proceeding with the investigation into the allegations of the 39 years' old crimes against humanity and war crimes, he said, adding that the investigation is going on in a very fair manner.

He said the government will hold trial of 1971 crimes against humanity for meeting the desire of the nation.

DHAKA TODAY

Free distribution ceremony
The Meril Baby brand of Square Toiletries will organise a prize distribution ceremony of 'Meril Baby Adorey Gora Bhabishyat 2009' programme. Venue: Grand Ball room, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 6:30pm.

Human Chain
The Save Environment Movement along with a number of similar organisations will organise a human chain for "Hospital waste -- a threat to public health: Proper management of clinic-hospital pathology waste". Venue: in front of DU Faculty of Fine Arts, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
The Phyathai Hospital of Bangkok will organise a health awareness seminar. Venue: Gulshan Club, Time: 9:30am.

Seminar
The Dhaka University Political Science Alumni Association will organise a seminar titled "Two Decades of Democracy in Bangladesh (1991-2010) Disillusionment with Practice". Venue: DU Senate Hall, Time: 9:30am.

Discussion
Bangladesh National Awami Party will organise a discussion titled "National Unity and Moshir Rahman Jadu Mia" and hold a doa mahfil on the occasion of the 86th birth anniversary of Jadu Mia. Venue: Maulana Bhashani auditorium, Bhashani Bhaban, Time: 4:15pm.

Discussion
Bastuhara Samaj Kalyan Samity will hold a meeting. Venue: Aukpara Bastuhara Rehabilitation Centre, Time: 11:00am.

Exhibition
Cheshire Foundation will organise an exhibition of handicrafts made by the persons with disabilities. Venue: Cheshire office (house no. 32, sector no. 9, Uttara Model Town), Time: 4:30pm.

Reception
The Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) will organise a reception for the mime Partho Protim Majumdar. Venue: JBFH OPD lobby, Time: 3:00pm.

Cultural Programme
The British Council along with Journey Communications will organise a cultural programme. Venue: British Council, Fuller Road, Time: 10:am.