

5 KEY TAKEAWAYS

The African Union has been inducted as the new permanent member of G20, pushing forward a new world order and offering developing nations a greater say in global decision-making.

Comprehensive rail and shipping connectivity network announced linking US, India, Saudi Arabia and Gulf and Arab states and European Union.

Delhi Declaration was adopted with China and Russia in agreement to it. It called on nations to uphold international law, including territorial integrity and sovereignty, international humanitarian law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. It is being offered as an alternative to China's Belt and Road project, which has left a host of developing countries in deep debt such as Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia, Laos and Mongolia.

PM Modi announced the launch of Global Biofuel Alliance to boost the use of cleaner fuels. It was affirmed that this alliance will accelerate global efforts to meet net zero emission targets by facilitating trade in biofuels derived from various sources, including plant and animal waste.

Trust deficit that has risen in recent years has to overcome by greater cooperation between member countries of G20.

SOURCE: NDTV ONLINE



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears on a screen as he attends “Session II: One Family” at the G20 summit in New Delhi, India yesterday. *Inset*, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud and US President Joe Biden shake hands next to Narendra Modi

PHOTO: REUTERS

G20 SIDELINES US, India, Saudi, EU unveil rail, ports deal

REUTERS, New Delhi

Global leaders announced a multinational rail and ports deal linking the Middle East and South Asia yesterday on the sidelines of the G20 summit in New Delhi.

The pact comes at a critical time as US President Joe Biden seeks to counter China's Belt and Road push on global infrastructure by pitching Washington as an alternative partner and investor for

developing countries at the G20 grouping.

Biden said it was a “real big deal” that would bridge ports across two continents and lead to a “more stable, more prosperous and integrated Middle East.”

He said at an event announcing the pact that it would unlock “endless opportunities” for clean energy, clean electricity, and laying cable to connect communities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of summit host India said: “Today, as we embark upon such a big connectivity initiative, we are sowing the seeds for future generations to dream bigger.”

The deal will benefit low and middle-income countries in the region, and enable a critical role for the Middle East in global commerce, Jon Finer, the US deputy national security adviser, told reporters in New Delhi.



G20 expands as African Union joins bloc

REUTERS, New Delhi

The African Union was made a permanent member of the G20, comprising the world's richest and most powerful countries, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the bloc's summit in New Delhi yesterday.

The African Union, a continental body of 55 member states, now has the same status as the European Union - the only regional bloc with a full membership. Its previous designation was “invited international organisation”.

Modi, in his opening remarks at the summit, invited the AU, represented by Chairperson Azali Assoumani, to take a seat at the table of G20 leaders as a permanent member.

“Honoured to welcome the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 Family. This will strengthen the G20 and also strengthen the voice of the Global South,” said a message on Modi's official account on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

The move was proposed by Modi in June.

The G20 previously comprised 19 countries and the European Union.

SOUTH AFRICA'S ZULU HAWK

Mangosuthu Buthelezi dies aged 95

AFP, Johannesburg

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the once-feared Zulu nationalist and historic leader of Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) which presided over South Africa's deadliest violence ahead of the first all-race elections, died yesterday aged 95, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced.

“I am deeply saddened to announce the passing of Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi ... Traditional Prime Minister to the Zulu Monarch and Nation, and the Founder and President Emeritus of the Inkatha Freedom Party,” Ramaphosa said in a statement.

Born of royal blood on August 27, 1928, Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi was to some the embodiment of the Zulu spirit: proud and feisty. To others, he bordered on a warlord.



Celebrating the legacy

FROM PAGE 12 of Bengali art and culture. It is important to preserve the artist's legacy.”

Shah Alam Sarwar, managing director and chief executive officer of IFIC Bank, and Manjar Chowdhury Sweet, general secretary of Ganasangeet Samannay Parishad, were present as special guests.

In his speech, Sarwar said, “Folk music is an amalgamation of thousands of years of cultural practices of a demographic. Burman, with his individualistic style and musical gift, went forward and contributed outstandingly to foster and develop the music of this subcontinent.”

Presided over by the Banhishikha's President Ghulam Quddus, its secretary Abida Rahman Setu delivered the welcome address.

Following the inauguration ceremony, prominent artists from Bangladesh and India's West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura paid tribute to the maestro, celebrating the richness of his compositions in musical presentations and dance recitals over the weekend.

The cultural part commenced with a rendition of the popular tracks “Dur Kon Porobashe Tumi” and “Tere Mere Milan Ki Yeh Raina”, performed by Banhishikha artistes. Bangladeshi dance troupe Spandan and Assam's Saumitra Shankar Dance Group staged group recitals, choreographed to the songs of SD Burman.

Chandana Majumdar mesmerised the visitors with evergreen melodies – “Ke Jash Re”, “Rangela Re”, and “O Jani Bhromora”. Meanwhile, Mamum Jahid Khan beautifully presented “Tumi Aar Nei Se Tumi”, “Kandibona Phagun Geley”, and “Barne Gandhe Chhander”.

Sandipan presented “Jhilmil Jhilmil Jhiler Jole” and “Shono Go Dakhin Hawa” while Setu performed “Ei Chaiti Sandhya Jay Britha” and “O Kalo Megh Boltey Paro”.

Tanuja Dev Burman, great-granddaughter of the legend also performed at the event.

“It is wonderful to see how Bangladesh celebrates SD Burman. We, along with other musicians, come to this festival every year and meet enthusiasts who encourage us to take his legacy further,” she said.

Indian singers Shirshendu Roy and Arina Mukherjee also performed at the event, which concluded yesterday.

Lavrov gives ‘rationale’ for Ukraine war

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the repression on them continued. On the other hand, Zelensky was working to become a NATO member. So, we had no alternatives to intervening,” Rahman said quoting Lavrov.

Russia is open to discussion to end the war, but the Western countries do not want that, Lavrov also said. “They want to defeat Russia,” the Soviet diplomat said. The 73-year-old also accused the US of creating global problems by imposing sanctions.

For example, he told the SAAB members that Russia is helping build the Rooppur nuclear power plant but Bangladesh had to ban 69 Russian ships because of US sanctions, according to Rahman.

Lavrov highlighted the history of

Russia and Ukraine's relationship and the origin of the war, said Muztafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue. Rahman did his Masters from Kharkov State University and PhD from Moscow State University.

“He said it was because of NATO and Ukrainian authority's policies that Russia had to start a campaign in Ukraine,” CPD's Rahman said.

Lavrov also recalled the Soviet Union's role in Bangladesh's Liberation War and that Russia is eager to expand relations with Bangladesh, make investments and promote people-to-people contact.

Russia currently provides scholarships to 40 Bangladeshis a year and wants to increase it to 80.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, a

distinguished fellow at the CPD, who earned his MSc and PhD in economics at Moscow's Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy, and Taqsem A Khan, managing director of WASA, who did his Masters in mechanical engineering at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, were present among others.

During the trip, which was the first by a Russian foreign minister, Lavrov met with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and then held a joint press conference.

On Friday, Lavrov called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Both Hasina and Momen urged Lavrov to end the war in Russia and solve the crisis through peaceful negotiations, apart from other bilateral issues.

Most students didn't get help to cope

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needed to spend Tk 2,400 to Tk. 95,000 on private tuition.

“This is a substantial burden for families, since the majority of them had a monthly income of under Tk 15,000,” it added.

Parents reported spending an average of Tk 669 at the primary level and Tk 2,065 at the secondary level to buy commercial note-books during that same nine-month period.

At the programme, Education Watch Chairperson and Economist Qazi Khaliquzzaman said the mentality that one has to get good results needs to be changed to get rid of private tuition culture. He blamed a group of teachers for having so many students rely on note-books.

Prof Nehal said it is true many students are taking private tuition and relying on note-books, but he doesn't think the number would be high.

In Bangladesh, the share of urban households paying for private tuition increased from 48 percent in 2000 to 67 percent in 2010, while the corresponding share of rural households doubled from 27 percent to 54 percent, according to the UNESCO 2021/2 Global Education Monitoring Report.

Private tuition and distribution of note-books are going on though a government order had forbidden teachers from giving private lessons to students of their institutions, while the Note-Books (Prohibition) Act 1980 prohibits the publication, distribution and sale of notebooks for students up to class eight.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mostafizur Rahman, deputy director of CAMPE and study team member, said this staggering number of students dependent on private tuition and note-books is alarming.

“They [students] are doing so [relying on those] as many teachers are not interested in imparting lessons properly in classrooms and would rather do it at private tuition classes.”

Tariq Ahsan, a professor at the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University, said there is a dependency on private tuition and note-books as the country's assessment system is based on rote learning.

“So, many students and parents look for a shortcut to getting better results in exams.”

Meanwhile, as part of the study, researchers held an assessment of 2,670 class eight and -nine students

on Bangla, English and mathematics to evaluate the extent of learning losses. According to the results, around 29 percent of class-eight students and 26 percent of class nine failed in the exams.

86pc DSA cases pending disposal

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Rights activists and journalists say the proposed law still does not address many of these concerns.

“We need this provision because the law enforcers' job is to intervene if there is a possibility of a crime being committed, arrest those involved with the crime, and collect evidence,” said the minister.

The minister continued, “If justice must be ensured, then some immediate evidence is required, and it is the duty of the law enforcers to collect that.”

“If we bind the hands of the law enforcers, then they will not be able to do their duty,” said Huq.

He added that this provision is only for situations where immediate intervention is needed.

The law minister reiterated that the Digital Security Act was not meant to be used to target journalists.

Delhi declaration adopted

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“Friends, we have just got good news. With the hard work of our teams, and with the cooperation of you all, there is consensus on the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders Declaration,” Modi said in a brief televised statement during the second session of the summit, speaking in Hindi.

Ukraine, meanwhile, criticised the G20 leaders' statement.

“Ukraine is grateful to the partners who tried to include strong wording in the text. At the same time, in terms of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the Group of 20 has nothing to be proud of,” said Oleg Nikolenko, a spokesman at the Ukrainian foreign affairs ministry, according to AFP.

Nikolenko posted a photo of a part of the statement edited in red, changing “the war in Ukraine” to “the war against Ukraine” and adding references to Russia.

The document had said that “all states” should “refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state”.

There was no explicit reference to Russia, unlike in a G20 statement in Bali last year that cited a UN resolution condemning “in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine”.

“It's obvious that the Ukraine's participation (in the meeting) would allow the participants to better understand the situation,” Nikolenko said.

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28 runs in nine overs.

Miraz scored 28 runs before falling softly to the medium pace of Dasun Shanaka – the first of three wickets for the Sri Lanka skipper. Shanaka soon relieved Naim off his miseries after a 46-ball 21, which featured 33 dots.

Matheesha Pathirana then got into the act by removing skipper Shakib Al Hasan for three while Liton Das soon followed suit, getting caught behind off the bowling of left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage for 15 as

Doing a delicate balancing act, the Indian text on Ukraine said G20 is not a platform to resolve geopolitical and security issues, in an indirect reference to the ongoing conflict but conceded that the war has led to human suffering and impacted global supply chains.

Reconciling divergent views on the Ukraine issue, the declaration says the G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation “and recognises that while the G20 is not the platform to resolve geopolitical and security issues, we acknowledge that these issues can have significant consequences for the global economy.”

While the West and the EU had earlier wanted a reference to the Ukraine conflict, Russia had firmly opposed naming it in the G20 declaration.

As shared by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, the adopted New Delhi declaration says on Ukraine: “Concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling the discussion in Bali (during the previous G20 summit last year), we reiterated our national positions and resolutions adopted at the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly and underscored that all states must act in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in its entirety.”

“In line with the UN Charter, all states must refrain from the threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state. The use

or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible,” it said.

The declaration read, “We highlighted the human suffering and negative added impacts of the war in Ukraine with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro financial stability, inflation and growth, which has complicated the policy environment for countries, especially developing and least developed countries which are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic disruption which has derailed progress towards the SDGs. There were different views and assessments of the situation.”

“We call on all states to uphold the principles of international law including territorial integrity and sovereignty, international humanitarian law and the multilateral system that safeguards peace and stability. The peaceful resolution of conflicts and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical. We will unite in our endeavour to address the adverse impact of the war on the global economy and welcome all relevant and constructive initiatives that support a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine that will uphold all the purposes and principles of the UN Charter for the promotion of peaceful, friendly, and good neighbourly relations among nations in the spirit of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future,’” according to the declaration.

“Today's era must not be of war,” a resolution of the declaration read.

Batting lets Tigers down again

Bangladesh found themselves 83 for four inside 19 overs.

Hridoy and Mushfiqur then added 72 runs in the fifth-wicket stand before the latter threw his wicket away after scoring 29 runs, effectively ending Bangladesh's realistic chances of a victory.

Earlier, Bangladesh bowlers did a decent job to restrict the hosts to 257 for nine after Shakib had elected to field.

The three Bangladesh pacers, despite being on the expensive side, shared eight wickets, with Taskin

Ahmed and Hasan Mahmud bagging three wickets each and Shoriful Islam picking up a couple.

The spinners, meanwhile, kept the Lankan batters in check. Shakib and Nasum Ahmed, who replaced Afif Hossain in the playing XI, conceded 43 and 31 runs, respectively.

Sadeera Samarawickrama was the stand-out batter eventually for Sri Lanka. The right-handed batter's 72-ball 93, which featured eight fours and two sixes, enabled the hosts add 51 runs in the last six overs of the innings.