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# CPD

Centre for  
Policy  
Dialogue  
Bangladesh

## Quarterly

### FROM the editor's desk

It has been seven years since the Doha Development Round (DDR) was kicked off in 2001. In view of the fact that Member countries reached points of convergence on a number of sticking issues, particularly on NAMA and agriculture, a Mini-Ministerial was called in July 2008 to give the negotiations a final shape. However, as is known by now, the Mini-Ministerial was not successful in striving a deal. With regards to issues of interest to the LDCs, although agreement was reached with regards to some points of concern, others remained and the text that was issued by the Chairs, could not fully meet the expectation of the LDCs. CPD, in keeping with its tradition of continuing interest in WTO related issues, organised a dialogue in August on the collapse of the July talks of the WTO, experience of Bangladesh and the way forward.

The ascendancy of the importance of trade, as against aid, in the context of Bangladesh, has been a welcome development in the recent past. However, aid continues to remain a major factor in Bangladesh's growth equation, particularly because it contributes to about half of the development budget of Bangladesh and also because trade related aid is critically important in building up trade related capacities in the country. Importance of aid cannot be undermined, also in terms of supporting efforts towards poverty reduction in Bangladesh. Clearly, the issue here is how to utilise aid effectively. The Paris Declaration adopted in 2005 is an attempt towards raising the efficacy and effectiveness of aid in the context of developing countries such as Bangladesh. Three years on, in 2008 the indicators were to be scrutinised by partners and donors in Accra, Ghana. How much was achieved till the run up to Accra, what Accra meeting promised and what expectations did partner countries have from the meeting - were the main focus of the CPD dialogue organised on August 2008. The issue of aid effectiveness was also emphasised in the UNCTAD's LDC Report 2008 which was launched by CPD in July.

A major objective of CPD's policy research is to examine issues from macro-perspectives. Thus the research on domestic violence attempted to estimate the associated costs and their implications for the Bangladesh economy. The findings of the study were presented at yet another dialogue organised by CPD during the period under consideration.

During this quarter, CPD also initiated an important research which aims to examine the impact of climate change on agriculture in the dry region and devise appropriate strategies. It is hoped that this increasingly important issues will get due attention of both researchers and policymakers that it deserves.



Hossain Zillur Rahman speaks while Feroz Ahmed, Rehman Sobhan and Debapriya Bhattacharya pay attention

## Regional cooperation to tap WTO opportunities

### CPD dialogue stressed

**Trade** experts at the dialogue on *Collapse of Recent WTO Talks and Bangladesh: Experience and Options* emphasised the need for a SAARC coalition and a consensus with the African countries with a view to take a common stand to prepare appropriately solidly and reap the benefits from the next round of WTO negotiations. Organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the dialogue was held on 18 August 2008 at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka. CPD Chairman Rehman Sobhan chaired the dialogue while Advisor for Commerce and Education Hossain Zillur Rahman was the Chief Guest. Feroz Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce was present at the dialogue as the Special Guest. Debapriya Bhattacharya, immediate past Executive Director of CPD and at present Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and United Nations offices in Geneva presented the keynote paper. Bhattacharya in his presentation identified seven challenges for Bangladesh which would need to be addressed in the next round of WTO negotiations. He informed the dialogue

that Bangladesh was included in the recently held Mini-Ministerial meeting of selected WTO trade Ministers as an active Member of the WTO as well as for representing specific interest of the non-African LDCs. The major purpose of the meeting was to finalise the Agriculture and NAMA Modalities and provide guidance on other outstanding issues of the Doha Round. Bhattacharya said that in the Geneva meeting, Bangladesh suggested that the developed countries should allow the LDCs 'commercially meaningful market access' instead of the existing duty-free quota-free (DF-QF) market access. According to the presenter the negotiation was a success for Bangladesh as the US, in principle, agreed to the above proposal. He concluded by stating that Bangladesh needs to remain committed to an open, transparent rule based multilateral trading system and maximise synergy between trade and other development components.

Hossain Zillur Rahman in his speech as the Chief Guest called for a greater partnership within the country, among the government, private sector, think-

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## Aid's importance declined, but still critical says Finance Advisor

In broader terms, the inflow of aid has considerably declined. But we will not be able to meet all the needs on our own. Aid helps the government bear public spending, commented Finance and

Planning Advisor A B Mirza Azizul Islam while addressing the participants at a CPD dialogue as the Chief Guest. Keeping in view the Conference on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana which was to be held from 2-4 September 2008 the CPD organised a dialogue titled

*Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh* at the BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka on 25 August 2008. Fahmida Khatun, Additional Director, CPD presented the keynote paper and Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD moderated the dialogue. The participants included academics, politicians, policymakers, development partners, civil society leaders and journalists.

CPD Chairman in his initial comments, pointed out that over the past years, Bangladesh had experienced significant change in relation to aid flows. The degree of aid dependency was 10-12 per cent of GDP in the 1990s, which is down to approximately 2 per cent today. He emphasised that the issue of aid effectiveness is very important for Bangladesh and it was important that stakeholders in Bangladesh are aware about the global discourse on aid effectiveness. He also highlighted the need to pay more attention to effective use of remittance flows.

Following a brief introduction about the global aid scenario in terms of sources, volume and demand, Khatun proceeded to describe Bangladesh's macroeconomic performance and the level and type of aid flows in the country. She stressed that although the

economic trends indicated that the country was becoming less dependent on aid, there were certain sectors that still needed external financing, such as health, education and physical

infrastructure. She went on to explain the Paris Declaration, its five principles and 12 indicators and affirmed that Bangladesh had made some progress in some of the indicators. Khatun then mentioned about the Accra High Level Forum meeting, which was going to be a stock-taking of all the progresses made so far in relation to the Paris Declaration, and the Draft Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) which was to be adopted at the Ministerial

plenary meeting in Accra. In view of this meeting, Khatun felt that the two opposing views of donors and government, needed to be converged in many areas. She stressed that aid conditionalities inhibit harmonization and alignment (2 pillars of the Paris Declaration) and added to this, institutional rigidities have made it difficult for the donors to adapt country level initiatives.

Furthermore, Khatun emphasised that donor's involvement with the Government of Bangladesh with regards to political governance and human rights issues, have undermined country-ownership (pillar 1 of the Paris Declaration). Khatun concluded her presentation by highlighting two key factors (a) efforts should be deployed towards improving and strengthening Paris agenda within the country; and (b) the High Level Forum in Accra needs to be perceived as part of a longer term process, in the broader context and link discussions to trade, aid for trade (A4T), and wider

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(from left) Fahmida Khatun, Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Rehman Sobhan, A B Mirza Azizul Islam and Mustafizur Rahman

### Rising Food Prices: Global Factors and Local Impacts

CPD IN-house Dialogue

CPD organised an in-house dialogue on Rising Food Prices: Global Factors and Local Impacts on 11 July 2008. Hassan Zaman, Ambar Narayan and Umar Serajuddin of the World Bank jointly made a presentation on the topic. Speakers observed that world food prices in March 2008 were more than two and a half times higher than in 2002. Rising energy costs along with the falling dollar, demand for bio-fuels, increased consumer demand in high growth economies, export restrictions by key exporters and panic buying by large importers were identified as the major factors responsible for such high increase. The authors also estimated the impact of increase in food price on the poverty situation in Bangladesh. The World Bank study indicated that rise in rice price has increased poverty rate by about 3 percentage points, while GDP growth is likely to have reduced poverty rate by around 5 percentage points since 2005. Taking both the effects into account, the authors estimated that poverty is likely to have fallen by around 2 percentage points, between January 2005 and March 2008. CPD researchers shared CPD's own findings with regards to poverty impact of recent inflation. This was followed by a discussion on methodologies used by the World Bank and the CPD in estimating the poverty levels respectively.

### regional cooperation

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tank, NGO and the media to help the national negotiation team to prepare for the next round of negotiations. The Advisor said that even though the mini Ministerial was a failure, Bangladesh was successful in terms of getting herself included in the preference treatment annexure. Zillur alerted the policy movers about the prospect of reversals out of the negotiations like that of Pakistan and

Sri Lanka and advised careful handling of reversals as well as taking solid preparation to spot and tap such opportunities.

Taking part in the discussion, Feroz Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce stressed the need to explore all options bilateral, regional and multilateral trade negotiations and said Bangladesh should optimise the trade potentials.

The Chair of the dialogue Rehman Sobhan emphasised on enhancing Bangladesh's negotiating capacity in the trade

negotiations. He also urged the business bodies to diversify the exportables from Bangladesh.

Ambassadors and other members of diplomatic community, business leaders, civil society representatives, macro economic experts took part in the discussion.

The dialogue ended with the launching of CPD's recent publication titled "Training Manual on WTO and Bangladesh Trade Policy."



## Spousal violence costs more than tk. 13 thousand crore a year

### CPD study reveals

CPD organised a dialogue titled *Domestic Violence in Bangladesh: Cost Estimates and Measures to Address the Attendant Problems* on 9 August 2008 at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka. CPD conducted a study based on findings of field level investigations among 200 victims of domestic violence both from urban and rural areas. The dialogue was organised to disseminate the findings of the study and also gather inputs for finalisation of the study. The study revealed that around 40 per cent women in urban areas and 42 per cent in rural areas suffer from spousal violence, i.e. 1.81 crore women fall victim to such violence every year, which costs Tk. 13,187 crore in terms of health expenditure alone.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, Advisor for Women and Children Affairs and Sultana Kamal, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government were present at the dialogue as Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively. Dora Rappold, Ambassador of Switzerland in Bangladesh was the Guest of Honour and Simeen Mahmud, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) was the Discussant at the event. Fahmida Khatun, Additional Director of Research, CPD made the presentation on the findings on behalf of the team which included Fatema Yousuf, Director of CPD and Ferdous Jahan, Associate Professor of Public Administration, Dhaka University. Rehman Sobhan, Chairman of CPD chaired the dialogue. The study styled as *Missing Dynamics of Spousal Violence Discourse: Measuring the Economic Costs* calculated the total cost covering both direct and indirect costs. The direct cost

included medical cost, housing and refuge/displacement, social service (counseling, rehabilitation), civil legal service, criminal justice, and lost income of the victims. The study also mentioned indirect costs incurred due to violence which included chronic morbidity, increased depression, change of behaviour among children due to trauma etc. which could not be quantified. It reported that allocation for gender equity in the current fiscal summed to only 77.4 per cent of total cost of spousal violence. The victims were randomly selected from Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service, Trust (BLAST), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BPM) and Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) who provided support to them. The study stressed the need



Fahmida Khatun is presenting the keynote paper while Sultana Kamal, Rehman Sobhan, Rasheda K Chowdhury, Dora Rappold and Mustafizur Rahman look on

to increase the allocation to fight spousal violence and recommended that government services, including one-stop service centres, special cells in police stations for such violence and temporary shelters be encouraged and enhanced. The study also recommended for enacting anti-domestic violence law, awareness raising at the grassroots level by the government about state services and called upon all concerned to work together so that the spousal violence is reduced.

Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government Sultana Kamal urged for a social movement to check domestic violence. She said that mindset of people from all strata, including the policymakers had to be changed in order to control domestic violence. She also noted that the victims of domestic violence lead a very low quality of life,

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### aid's importance declined

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discussions about the MDGs and development as a whole.

One of the discussants of the dialogue, Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, PKSF Managing Director noted that various research have found that foreign aid and debt contributed negatively to economic development of our country. In this regard he mentioned about Bangladesh's PRSP and said, even the donors had different views some favoured while some questioned the PRSP.

The other lead discussant, Mustafa K Mujeri, Bangladesh Bank's Chief Economist remarked that in some cases, due to weak management foreign aid had contributed to increased corruption and exploitation of resources. He emphasised on reducing aid conditionalities and collaborative effort of the donors to make aid more effective.

The Chief Guest remarked that even though inflow of aid had declined considerably, the government could not have met all the

demands without aid, particularly the development expenditure. Mentioning about procurement policies, Mirza Aziz said that the government had formulated a procurement policy in consultation with the donors which the latter do not follow, rather they insist on their own policies. Aziz however, welcomed donors' suggestion for sustainable development but declined to accept their interventions in democracy, human rights etc. He informed the dialogue that the second PRSP would only be the continuation of the first one. The Chief Guest mentioned in his concluding remarks that there was a built-in component of adverse incentive in the aid system with better performance, flow of aid declines. Representatives from the EC and the UK registered their appreciation towards CPD, for taking the initiative to hold this important dialogue. Both of them agreed on one crucial point while Milko Van Gool, Counsellor and Head of Operation, Delegation of the European Commission felt that monitoring all actions was vital to aid effectiveness, Chris Austin, Head, DFID,

opined that the CPD can be entrusted with some of these monitoring tasks. M Syeduzzaman, former Finance Minister, stated that he was very sceptical about the Accra Conference. He pointed out that although aid had played a key role throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, its role has diminished. This is because, he explained, public investment was greater than private investment during these periods and also, public utilisation of aid was quite productive in those years. He strongly felt that the issue of governance was the major impediment to aid effectiveness.

Among others A M A Muhith, Former Finance Minister; Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, Additional Secretary of ERD; Wajedul Islam Khan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra; Zhu Xian, Country Director of The World Bank; Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan; Siddiqui Rahman Choudhury, former Finance Secretary; and Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD also took part in the discussion.



## LDCs need to "own" policies to use aid more effectively says CPD press conference on UNCTAD report

Growth, Poverty and the Terms of Development Partnership was the theme of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Report 2008 published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). On behalf of the UNCTAD, CPD launched the report on 17 July 2008. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD presented the highlights of the LDC report 2008 at a press briefing held at the CPD office. The report addressed economic and social trends in the LDCs, including developments in poverty reduction and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite rapid economic growth, number of poor was still rising in LDCs, the report warned and suggested that world's poorest

countries should design and "own" policies in order to use development aid effectively. The report urged for a strong development partnership between donors and national governments for a sustained and inclusive development with the government in driver's seat and the donors aligning their aid disbursements with national priorities and policies, and harmonising them with national systems. The report identified key factors which weaken country ownership of national development strategies, and proposed for improving the situation which is in line with the assessment of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The report estimated that with her current 6.5 per cent real economic growth, Bangladesh would come out from the LDC to become a middle income country by the year 2025. CPD however, differed with the time line and said that Bangladesh would become a middle income country much earlier if the current positive economic trend continues. Compared to other LDCs, Bangladesh had done well in terms of GDP growth, export, import and external finance, but could not do well in poverty reduction, income

inequalities, capital formation, foreign direct investment (FDI) and progress towards MDGs in 2006. Aid dependency was relatively less and at the same time Bangladesh was among the highest workers remittance earner LDCs, the report said. The report ranked Bangladesh 15th (6.5 - 6.7 per cent) among 50 LDCs that had more than 6 per cent real GDP growth. However, her position with respect to gross capital formation, gross domestic savings and the subsequent resource gap (4.6 Per cent) was discouraging in comparison to other developing countries. During 2005-2006, 75 per cent of LDCs total exports in manufactured goods were from the Asian LDCs, where Bangladesh alone exported an average of

USD 7.3 billion of manufactured goods per year. However, Bangladesh's share of percentage in terms of FDI inflows was only 9 per cent among the top five countries. Regarding poverty the report found income inequality was high in general in LDCs with estimation that 26.4 per cent of Bangladesh's population live on or below USD 1-a-day, while 74.8 per cent between USD 1 to USD 2-a-day.

The report affirmed that LDCs were generally off track to achieve the poverty and human development MDGs, particularly the Asian LDCs would perhaps miss the poverty target. In this regard Mustafizur Rahman informed that 30 per cent of the population of Bangladesh is estimated to be undernourished despite steady GDP growth since the early 1990s. Rahman added that extreme rise in food price, particularly of rice and wheat, had significant adverse impact on the overall poverty situation in Bangladesh. Uttam Kumar Deb, Fahmida Khatun, both Additional Director, Research, Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow, CPD also attended the launch meeting.



Mustafizur Rahman is briefing the press and electronic media. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Uttam Kumar Deb, A H M Ashrafuzzaman and Fahmida Khatun are also seen

### Brainstorming Session on CPD's Textile Study

As part of its ongoing research on textile sector restructuring, CPD organised an in-house brainstorming session on 3 July 2008. The objective of the session was to get inputs for the design of the CPD study on Bangladesh's backward linkage textile sector. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow, CPD presented an outline of the proposed study. The study is expected to examine the competitive strength of the country's textile sector, identify major challenges facing the industry, both at domestic and international levels, and assess preparedness of the sector to address those challenges. A K Azad, President, Bangladesh, Chamber of Industries (BCI); A Matin Chowdhury, Managing Director, Malek Spinning Mills Ltd.; Syed Nayeem Emran, Business Development Analyst, IFC-SEDF, Bangladesh; Mahabub Hossain, Director, Unifill Group; Md Monirujjaman, Managing Director, Everway Yarn Dyeing Ltd.; A K M Atiqur Rahman, Professor, Department of Economics, North South University; Anisur Rahman Sinha, Chairman, Opex Group participated in the discussion. CPD Executive Director Mustafizur Rahman moderated the session.



## Research division reports

### "Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience"

In view of the current worldwide concern about climate change, CPD has initiated a 3-year long research project titled "Vulnerability to Climate Change: Adaptation Strategies and Layers of Resilience." This is part of a cross-country study project led by the International Crops Research for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The objective of the project is to examine the impact of climate change on agriculture in the dry region and develop a strategy to adapt the agricultural system with the imposed vulnerability. Principal researchers from all the research institutes of seven countries-Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam-involved in this initiative finalised their work plan at the project inception workshop held at ICRISAT, India on 7-9 May 2008. It was agreed that understanding of the climate variability and its impacts would be the major focus of the study in the first year. In the second year, the study will mainly focus to document 'best practices and institutional innovation for mitigating the effects.' 'Strategies to address socioeconomic problems and initiatives for their alleviation' would be the outcome in the final year. The project is scheduled to be completed by April 2011. Uttam Kumar Deb, Head of the Research Division, CPD is leading the Bangladesh country study.

### CPD-ARTNet study on Trade Facilitation

CPD has in the recent past initiated a study in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) UNESCAP. The study, titled "Impact of Information Technology (IT) in Trade Facilitation on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh," aims to analyse how information technology in trade facilitation has had an impact on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh in the context of their meaningful integration into the international trading system. The study team consists of Uttam Kumar Deb,

Head, Research Division and Syed Saifuddin Hossain, Senior Research Associate, CPD.

### End of the First Phase and Start of the Second Phase of the Study on Entrepreneurship and Trade Facilitation in Bangladesh: Unleashing the Potentials of SMEs in a Regional Context

The first phase of the study titled Entrepreneurship and Trade facilitation in Bangladesh: Unleashing the potentials of SMEs in a Regional Context has been completed in September 2008. The study has been undertaken by the CPD in association with the Geneva Trade and Development Forum (GTDF) led by Evian Group at IMD, Switzerland. The findings of the study were presented in an international conference titled Trade as a Development Tool: Partnerships and Policies organised by the GTDF during 17-20 September 2008 in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The working group of the Conference has set activities for the second phase of the study under the broad theme of integration of SMEs of Bangladesh in the global supply chain. A plan of action and timeline for its implementation has been set jointly by CPD and Evian Group along with other organisations. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow is the focal point at the CPD, and Md Abdus Sobhan, Programme Associate, is providing necessary research support for this study.

### IRBD 2008-09 Special Study on Business Competitiveness Environment in Bangladesh: Perception and Reality

As part of the IRBD 2008-09, CPD has recently completed a study on Business Competitiveness Environment in Bangladesh: Perception and Reality. The objective of the study is to analyse

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Thomas R Rumbaugh speaks M Syeduzzaman, Rehman Sobhan, Mustafizur Rahman, Anisatul Fatema Yousuf and Khondaker Golam Moazzem are also seen in the picture

A four member International Monetary Fund (IMF) Article IV mission led by Thomas R Rumbaugh, Advisor of Asia and Pacific Department visited CPD on 10 July 2008. Other members of the mission included Joong Shik Kang, Economist, Matt Davies, Senior Economist, Asia and Pacific Department and Jonathan Dunn, IMF Representative in Bangladesh. The objective of the mission was to review Bangladesh's monetary policy and to make an overall assessment of macroeconomic performance of Bangladesh. Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD briefed them about CPD's views on monetary policy and macroeconomic performance of Bangladesh. Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD and Mr. M Syeduzzaman, Member, CPD Board of Trustees also shared their views as regards policies which Bangladesh should pursue in view of emerging challenges facing the economy. Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Director, Dialogue and Communication Division, and Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Senior Research Fellow, CPD attended the meeting.



CPD professionals overseas

*Professor Rehman Sobhan*  
Chairman

Attended the "1st South Asian Economic Summit" and delivered the keynote titled "A Vision for South Asia: Combating Poverty Through Peoples Empowerment." The summit was organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) from 28-30 August 2008 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

*Professor Mustafizur Rahman*  
Executive Director

Attended the WTO Mini-Ministerial Meeting as a member of Government Delegation of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh from 21-24 July 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Attended the conference on Global Partnership for Development: Where Do We Stand and Where to Go? jointly organised by Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS)-International, India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from 11-14 August in New Delhi, India.

Participated as a discussant and panelist at the 1st South Asian Economic Summit organised by the Institute of Policy Studies from 27-30 August in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

*Anisatul Fatema Yousuf*  
Director

Attended the WTO Public Forum organised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) from 23-24 September 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland.

*Dr Uttam Kumar Deb*  
Additional Director, Research

Participated at the ARTNeT Research Team Meeting on Impact of IT-based Trade Facilitation Measures, held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), from 29-30 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

*Dr Fahmida Khatun*  
Additional Director, Research

Participated in the Accra High Level Forum 3 on Aid Effectiveness from 2-4 September 2008 in Accra, Ghana.

**more than 13 thousand crore a year**  
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cost of which cannot be measured. She then mentioned that the study has provided some insights as to where government's allocation is necessary. Dora Rappold informed that domestic violence was increasing around the world. According to her the main reason for domestic violence in Bangladesh is imbalance of power. Citing an example from Switzerland she said that as per law domestic violence is termed as official offence and if the victim fails to file a case, the government plays the role of the prosecutor. Also the state takes initiatives to provide social, legal, medical and psychological expenses for the victim. Bangladesh needed her own measures and make adjustment in legislation to address this issue. Simeen Mahmud pointed out that the prevailing culture of acceptance in our society is the root cause of domestic violence which is being transmitted from generation to generation leaving an alarming impact on our social development. She hoped that this study would make policymakers understand by looking at the numbers how nation could save a huge amount of money by taking action to prevent domestic violence.

Participated in the seminar on Global Partnership for Development: Where Do We Stand and Where to Go? from 12-13 August 2008 in New Delhi, India.

*Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*  
Senior Research Fellow

Participated in a meeting on "RTAs and Production Networks Linkages" jointly organised by the ARTNet and ESCAP from 21-22 July 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Participated in a research team meeting of the study titled "Linkages between Regional Trade Agreements and Production Networks in Asia-Pacific" organised by ARTNeT, UNESCAP during 21-22 July 2008 in Bangkok.

Attended a High-level conference on Trade as a Development Tool: Partnerships and Policies which was organised by Geneva Trade and Development Forum (GTDF) from 17-20 September 2008 in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

*Hasanuzzaman*  
Research Associate

Completed the Certificate Programme on Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy. The programme was offered by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada from 26 May - 4 July 2008

*Subir Kanti Bairagi*  
Research Associate

Completed the Certificate Programme on Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy. The programme was offered by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada from 26 May - 4 July 2008

*Suparna Hasan*  
Senior Research Associate

Attended the Hansard/Chevening Research Scholars Programme-Summer 2008 at the London School of Economics in UK from 16 May-2 August, 2008. Along with the Academic coursework on Democracy and Public Policy, she also did an internship at the Overseas Development Institute, UK.

Advisor Rasheda K Chowdhury said that the women of all quarters including the law enforcing agencies were becoming the victims of domestic violence. Regarding awareness building among boys and girls in their childhood, the Chief Guest informed that the government was planning to introduce new chapters in the national curricula on domestic violence from the next year. The government was also examining a draft law against domestic violence and had also taken an initiative to strengthen the monitoring system and curb domestic violence, she added.

Rehman Sobhan concluded the session saying that domestic violence was an important agenda that needed very sincere attention from all stakeholders. He called the perpetrators 'mastans in the bedroom.' He emphasised the role of civil society to identify and put forward best possible agenda to eliminate those mastans and then leave it to the policymakers to formulate and implement the policy.

Among others Rounaq Jahan, Adjunct Professor, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University, USA; Ayesha Khanam, President, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Dina Siddiqi, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania, USA; and Monira Rahman, Executive Director, Acid Survivors Foundation also took part in the discussion.



### CPD's 30th Board of Trustees meeting held

The 30th meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was held at CPD Dialogue Room on Sunday 10 August 2008. The Board reviewed CPD's research, publication and dialogue activities at national, regional, and international levels during the period January-July 2008. The Board expressed its satisfaction over the performance of the CPD in this period. CPD BOT approved CPD's half yearly accounts for the year 2008 and the revised budget for the year 2008. The meeting also discussed and approved CPD's Research, Dialogue and Publication plan for the rest of the year 2008. In this connection, the BOT members advised CPD to undertake research in a number of areas including food security and energy, problems of migrant workers and monetary policy.

Presided over by Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD, the BOT meeting was attended by CPD Trustee Syed Manzur Elahi, Chairman, APEX Tannery; Nurul Haq, Former Member, Planning Commission; Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori; M Syeduzzaman, Former Finance Minister, Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank and Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD and Member Secretary of the CPD Board. Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Director, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD attended the meeting on invitation.

### Expert group consultation on Costing of Domestic Violence *Initial Findings*



Prior to holding the dialogue on the issue CPD hosted an Expert Group Consultation on Costing of Domestic Violence: Initial Findings on 3 August 2008 at the CPD dialogue room. Fahmida Khatun, Additional Director, Research and Ferdous Jahan, Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University jointly made a presentation on the study findings. The presentation focused on the types and extent of violence, the direct and indirect impact of violence on the victim and quantified them in monetary terms. Among others Monira Rahman, Executive Director, Acid Survivors Foundation; Mitali Jahan, Programme Officer, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA); Mahmuda Islam, Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka; Ruchira Tabassum Naved, Gender & Reproductive Health Specialist, ICDDR,B; Simeen Mahmud, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS); Tahsinah Ahmed, Programme Manager, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC); A K Enamul Haque, Professor, School of Business, United International University (UIU); M A Mannan, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS; Dina Siddiqi, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania, USA and CPD researchers participated at the meeting. The meeting provided some valuable inputs as regards calculating the economic and social costs of domestic violence.

### research division report

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Bangladesh's business competitiveness at global level based on the primary data collected from leading business executives of the country over a period of eight years (2001-2008). The study has identified major bottlenecks and impediments for functioning of the business and has analysed intertemporal changes in the business environment of the country. This study will provide inputs to the policymakers and stakeholders in their efforts to prioritise the areas for improving economic governance in the country through focused initiatives. The study is divided into two parts: part A illustrates conceptual and theoretical notion of the business competitiveness and portrays Bangladesh's position in global and regional perspective, part B identifies the state of business environment in Bangladesh. The study is led by Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director of CPD.

### Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh

This study was undertaken in view of the upcoming Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness. The objective of the research was to articulate the perspectives from Bangladesh as an aid recipient country on the evolving international aid system and more particularly on the Accra agenda. This study argues that Accra

conference needs to be seen in the broader context and link discussions to trade, aid for trade (A4T), and wider discussions about the MDGs and broader development. In doing so a number of key challenges which are slowing progress towards the Paris Declaration should be dealt with.

First, the capacity has been a major constraint. Traditionally, the donor-recipient relationship has been an asymmetric one involving a strong and a weak party where political and economic structures of domination and exploitation provided little space for the latter to choose. The recipient countries remained largely engaged in debates at national level on the nature of impact. Capacity is not just lacking on the partner side, donors too lack capacity to implement their commitments.

Second, the level of participation of civil society in the global aid debate has been traditionally very low. While it has been mentioned that the OECD/DAC has undergone extensive consultation in the run-up to the HLF3, and in many ways unprecedented for the DAC, there is still a participation deficit in terms of substantive input and impact on the research and the outcomes from the HLF3. Such participation should also be ensured at the national levels by the partner countries.

Third, Paris Declaration is not only about aid effectiveness indicators and principles. Rather it should be about impact on the ground and development effectiveness. The ultimate aim must be development effectiveness and this must be seen in broader terms, emphasising social justice and not just growth.



## Publications of CPD researchers

### Book Chapter

Moazzem K. G. (2008). Regional Cooperation for Investment in South Asia: In Search of New Areas for Cooperation. In V. A. Pai Panandiker and Rahul Tripathi (ed.) *Towards Freedom in South Asia: Democratization, Peace and Regional Cooperation*. India: Konark Publishers.

### Occasional Paper

#### OP 66: Current WTO Negotiations under Doha Round: Insights from CPD's Geneva Tracking Mission 2008

CPD has been closely following the negotiations on the Doha Round Agenda in Geneva. As a part of it, a four member delegation from the CPD went to Geneva during 14-20 March 2008. This paper present the outcome of these discussions with high level WTO and other officials. The current paper delineates the developments of negotiations in areas of interest to Bangladesh including agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services sector, environment, rules, trade remedies, trade related intellectual property rights, trade related investment measures special and differential measures and aid for trade (A4T).

#### OP 67: State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY2007-08: Second Interim

This paper provides an analysis of the performance of major macroeconomic indicators of Bangladesh during the first three quarters of FY2007-08. The paper examines the performance of both monetary and the real sectors. The analyses presented in this paper deals with the dynamics and trends of performance of major relevant correlates as well as flags emerging challenges in each of these areas. The analysis in this report is expected to provide a reference point for the performance of the economy prior to the placement of the upcoming budget for FY2008-09.

#### OP 69: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) XII: Outcomes and Subsequent Priorities for Bangladesh and other LDCs

This paper focuses on the UNCTAD XII Conference that took place in Accra, Ghana during April 20-25, 2008. In view of the world-wide volatile price situation of essential commodities alongside the deadlock in the Doha Round of trade negotiations, UNCTAD XII had generated high expectations for developing countries in general and LDCs in particular. This paper makes an analysis of the final draft (Accra Accord) of the twelfth UNCTAD Conference (with respect to the sub-themes, coupled with UNCTAD's contribution in those areas) against the pre-Conference drafts and provide inputs as well as policy options for Bangladesh and other LDCs in order to reap the benefits emanating from both the evolving world trading regime and the process of globalisation.

#### OP 70: State of the Bangladesh Economy in FY 2007-08 and Some Early Signals of FY 2008-09

As Bangladesh enters into the second quarter of FY2008-09, a number of challenges confront the economy. The confidence

generated through the strong resilience, demonstrated by overcoming the formidable difficulties faced in FY2007-08, has given way to uncertainties originating from global financial crisis and the political transition. In this backdrop, this paper examines the performance of major macroeconomic variables relating to performance of both the financial and the real economy sectors in FY2007-08. The paper also makes an attempt to capture the signals emanating from the macroeconomic situation emerging from the first few months of FY2008-09.

### Newspaper Article

Hasanuzzaman. (2008). The 15th SAARC Declaration: A Political Economy Perspective (The Daily Star, August 2008).

Hasanuzzaman. (2008). Is There any Trade Remedy to Riceflation? (The New Age, August 2008).

Moazzem, K. G. (2008), Poshak Shilpa Poristhiti niye Prashongik Bhabna. (in Bangla). (ProthomAlo, 25 August 2008).

Hossain, S. S. Fast-tracking SAARC Trade. (The Daily Star, 24 September 2008).

### Magazine Article

Sobhan, R. (2008). Balance of Power, Forum. (Monthly Publication of The Daily Star, July 2008).

### Research Report

Moazzem, K. G. and Kibria, A. (2008). Bishshayan, Sramabazar ebong Sramik Sangathan: Prekhit Bangladesh (in Bangla). Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

### Policy Brief

Deb. U. K. and Amin, M. A. (2008). Revised Draft Modalities on Agriculture (10 July 2008): Implications and Strategies for Bangladesh. CPD Trade Policy Brief No. 35. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

### Dialogue Report

CPD. (2008). Interpreting Recent Inflationary Trends in Bangladesh and Policy Options Dialogue Report No. 93. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

CPD. (2008). Future of Doha Round, Dialogue Report No. 94. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

CPD. (2008). Accra Conference on Aid Effectiveness: Perspectives from Bangladesh, Dialogue Report No. 95, Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

CPD. (2008). State of the Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses 2008. Dialogue Report No. 92. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

