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FROM the editor's desk

Following a series of budget-related activities during the second quarter, the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2014-2015 was launched at a dialogue which brought together the business community and relevant key stakeholders. The event provided an opportunity to voice concerns regarding business environment and prevailing investment-related challenges in Bangladesh. CPD, in partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF), popularly known as the Davos Forum, has been preparing the Bangladesh chapter of the GCR since 2001.

The rejuvenated Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS) programme of CPD saw two presentations by young CPD researchers on their ongoing research. The presentations focused on gender dimension of post-2015 international development goals and state governance at urban local government institutions. The YSSS seeks to provide CPD's young researchers a platform for feedback on their ongoing work from senior colleagues and peers, and guides to improve their presentation and public speaking skills.

In August, the Department of History at Dhaka University invited *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* to deliver the Martyred Intellectual Memorial Lecture 2014. The lecture analysed the evolution of the concept of civil society, the role civil society needs to play in a democratic society, the interrelationship between civil society and political society and the challenges facing civil society in contemporary Bangladesh context. The lecture was very well-received and attracted positive comments from concerned quarters.

A number of important research works were carried out in this quarter as part of CPD's rich research portfolio covering both national issues and also under the global programmes *LDC IV Monitor* and *Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals* being hosted by CPD. Outputs of these works will be presented in national and overseas events in the next quarter.

In keeping with CPD's research interest in areas of regional trade and connectivity, CPD researchers published papers and participated in several regional meetings and conferences related to BCIM Economic Corridor and South Asia and Southeast Asia connectivity.



(left) Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Syed Nasim Manzur, Amir Hossain Amu, MP, Syed Manzur Elahi, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Mustafizur Rahman

Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2014 Infrastructure development, policy continuity and conducive politics crucial for Bangladesh's business

Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh have envisaged better economic prospect in 2014 despite dull investment scenario and volatile political climate in recent times, revealed the Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) 2014.

Bangladesh needs to address infrastructural deficits, raise efficacy of public institutions and reduce corruption through good governance to score better in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) which ranks countries on the basis of business competitiveness.

The observations emerged from the CPD dialogue on "Recent Update of Business Environment in Bangladesh and Launching of Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015" held at BRAC Centre Inn on 4 September 2014. The dialogue was chaired by *Mr Syed Manzur Elahi*, Member, CPD Board of Trustees and Former Advisor to a Caretaker Government.

The GCR defines 'Business Competitiveness' as "the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country."

The 2014 ranking placed Switzerland, Singapore, United States, Finland, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong SAR, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Sweden as the top ten economies. In identifying performance of the world economies, respondents have indicated at three major global risks, namely political and social instability, fiscal crises in key economies and prolonged negligence in developing critical infrastructure.

Scoring 3.72 out of 7, Bangladesh moved one notch up to 109th position this year among 144 economies.

Chief Guest *Mr Amir Hossain Amu, MP*, Hon'ble Minister for Industries said that

Bangladesh's improvement should be appreciated given the recent volatile situation. He urged the private sector to invest in higher-end products due to its attractiveness in local and global markets, investment in value chain-related products and services.

While sharing the GCR findings, *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Additional Research Director, CPD stressed to rebuild the business-government relationship by putting in place potential collaborating platforms in association with the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSD PCC) under the Prime Minister's Office.

Broad-based consultation involving the government, private sector, civil society, politicians and other key stakeholders and reforms in public services, governance in the public sector, financial sector, corporate sector governance, environmental and social issues could take Bangladesh higher in future GCR rankings, he added.

Designated Discussant *Mr Syed Nasim Manzur*, President, Leathergoods & Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh noted that ensuring higher productivity of flexible labour market and developing infrastructure will be keys to enhancing Bangladesh's business competitiveness.

During the dialogue, *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, CPD noted that CPD has been partnering with the World Economic Forum since 2001 in preparing the Executive Opinion Survey and Rapid

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CPD Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS)

Post-2015 Development Agenda

Post-MDGs should deal with unaddressed gender issues

Bangladesh has attained major Millennium Development Goal (MDG) milestones including achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education although there remains a lot to be addressed in this area.

The MDG Goal 3 is dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women but this goal does not deal with the structural issues such as labour wage discrimination, labour segmentation, and disproportionate share of women for unpaid work, developing productive capacity, inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised women.

The observations emerged from a study on 'Reflecting gender issues in Post-2015 Development Agenda' presented by CPD Research Associate *Ms Umme Salma* as part of the YSSS at CPD Office on 18 August 2014.

In her presentation, *Ms Salma* covered three major areas, namely systemic flaws of current MDGs in addressing structural issues for empowering women and ensuring gender equality; gender-specific performance analysis of MDGs particularly focusing on the Bangladesh case, and some parting thoughts on gender reflections in post-2015 development agenda.



(left) Umme Salma, Research Associate pinpointed missing gender aspects in the post-2015 development goals

Referring to a CPD study titled 'Attaining the MDGs How Successful are the LDCs?' *Ms Salma* mentioned that Bangladesh, along with Cambodia, holds the second position out of 48 LDCs.

Bangladesh is not doing well in achieving Economic Gender Parity other than succeeding to attain gender parity in primary and secondary education, she noted.

The study noted that while the MDGs are approaching an end in 2015, efforts are being taken to craft the set of goals to ensure reflecting core requirement of sustainability and equity.

Inclusive and equitable growth cannot happen without taking into consideration the role of women while half (49.59 per cent) of the world's population and 39.76 per cent of total labour force are women, she said.

The presentation also raised concerns as regards the final architecture of post-MDGs asking whether it will be in favour of gender equality, include ways to achieve balanced transformative gender agenda, and include adequate Means of Implementation targets for empowering women and promoting gender balance.

The CPD YSSS programme provides young researchers an opportunity to present their work in progress, on which other CPD researchers provide observations and comments as regards methodology, study approach, data and information, quality of analysis and soundness of findings in order to improve young researchers' research quality and presentation skills.

Urban Local Government Institutions

Independent Commission for better local governance

Despite residents' increasing demand for urban services from the urban local government institutions (ULGIs), the ULGIs fail to deliver quality services due to bad governance, poor revenue collection and various organisational incapacities.

Establishing an independent finance commission for the ULGIs would help in dealing with the prevailing inefficiency and enable objective distribution and allocation of finance.

The findings emerged from part of a CPD study on local governments in Bangladesh presented by CPD Research Associate *Ms Umme Shefa Rezbana* as part of the YSSS on 9 September 2014.

The CPD YSSS programme is designed to create an opportunity for young researchers to present their ongoing and completed research works on which other researchers provide comments and suggestions in the areas of methodology, study approach, data and information, quality of analysis and soundness of findings.

The study titled 'Towards an Effective Urban Local Government in Bangladesh: Exploring Different Aspects of Governance' aimed to explore the



(centre) Umme Shefa Rezbana, Research Associate, responding to a query during her presentation

state of knowledge on the contemporary local government issues focusing on the nature and extent of devolution of power in the context of Bangladesh.

It drew upon primary-level survey results and evidences to support the fact that the ULGIs in Bangladesh continue to have a poor record of being an efficient, accountable and responsive provider of public services at local level with limited extent of fiscal and financial power.

The findings also identified problematic areas such as creation of new ULGIs without proper assessment; ULGIs failing to deliver quality services due to poor revenue collection and

capacity; lack of accountability as well as lack of discretion and total absence of peoples' participation.

In recommendation, the suggested Independent Local Government Finance Commission is expected to focus on a new leadership style for local government, which would oversee auditing, financial management and accountability systems and monitor overall performance on a regular basis.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and discussion amongst the members of CPD Research Division.

Post-2015 International Development Goals

Validation Workshop on Post-2015 Data Test

Address 'Data Revolution' needs at country-level to cater to post-2015 data needs

Bangladesh's existing National Strategy for Development of Statistics needs review and revision to accommodate post-2015 data needs, noted participants at a validation workshop, as part of the Bangladesh Country Study under the Post-2015 Data Test.

The workshop titled "Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level – Bangladesh Country Study," was organised by CPD at its office on Wednesday 23 July 2014.

On behalf of the country study team, CPD Executive Director *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* and Research Fellow *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan* shared preliminary findings of the country study on available data for monitoring selected post-2015 goals and targets. They highlighted key data sources and frequency of data generation with a view to seeking feedback from relevant experts including data producers, policymakers, academics and development partners.

The study team also provided an overview of data quality assessment which examines the relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, and coherence and comparability of nationally produced data.

Participants acknowledged the value of the study's in-depth examination of data quality for providing an early indication of the state of information and data available for monitoring the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Delivering quality data in a timely manner has the potential to serve as a strong tool for ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance,



Data generation and use must inform the developmental discourse in Bangladesh for which new technology and advanced technique should be deployed

stressed the participants while noting political dimensions of data production.

They recommended better coordination between government and non-government actors to ensure standard of data collection methodologies, data reliability and use of data. The role of private sector, both as data user and producer, was emphasised and collaboration between national statistical institutions and the private sector were considered fruitful.

Availability, accessibility, affordability and usability of data, including disaggregated data

were the needs of the moment, mentioned the participants. Lack of both human and financial resources were pinpointed as major constraints for data availability and quality assurance. Data generation and use must inform the developmental discourse in Bangladesh for which new technology and advanced technique should be deployed, noted the participants.

Participants also extended positive feedback on the potential sources identified by the research team for candidate indicators for which data are not readily available. They proposed a number of new surveys which could be important data sources for measuring progress. It was, however, acknowledged that obtaining data for a number of candidate goals, targets and indicators for a benchmark year of 2010 would be challenging due to the absence of previous surveys.

The research team hoped to incorporate inputs from the validation workshop to finalise the Bangladesh country study.

Gender dimensions of Post-2015 Development Goals

National laws must be geared towards women empowerment

Women's economic and political participation could not be ensured through education alone as specified by the gender-specific goals of MDGs, noted *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*.

The CPD Distinguished Fellow, also Chair of the Southern Voice on Post-MDGs, made the remark while explaining gender dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that would follow the MDGs after 2015.

Dr Bhattacharya was addressing a seminar on 'Post-2015 International Development Agenda: Understanding the Gender Dimensions' organised by Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University, at Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, Faculty of Social Science on 19 August 2014.

Among the proposed 17 goals and 169 targets, SDG 5a reads, "Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial



Positive changes in the socio-political structure would empower women to make contribution to the society

services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws."

Drawing attention to the fact that women's equal rights to inheritance has been put forward in the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda, *Dr Bhattacharya* said that discriminatory national-level laws still undermine implementation of the goal. He also pointed out that the proportion of women parliamentarians in the LDCs increased from 12.7 to 20 between 1990 and 2012.

Dr Bhattacharya urged positive changes in the current socio-political structure which would empower women and

enable them to make significant contribution in betterment of the society which remains largely patriarchal.

Discussion following the lecture was addressed by *Professor Emeritus Najma Chowdhury*, founder of the Department, *Professor Tania Haque*, Head of the Department and *Ms Pratima Paul Majumdar*, Former Senior Research Fellow at BIDS and the participating students.

Meeting with the Palestinian Ambassador to Bangladesh CPD's solidarity with Gaza victims

In the hour of grave danger and turbulence during the Palestinian unrest, a team of officials from CPD called on the Palestine Ambassador in Bangladesh to express sympathy and solidarity towards the courageous people of Gaza.

In a meeting on 3 August 2014 with Ambassador H E Mr Shaher Mohammad, CPD Executive Director Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Additional Research Director Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem handed over a cheque for



(left) Yousef S Y Ramadan, Khondaker Golam Moazzem, H E Shaher Mohammad, Mustafizur Rahman and Debapriya Bhattacharya

two hundred thousand taka for the besieged people of Gaza as an expression of solidarity.

CPD staff contributed two days of their salary towards the fund set up for this purpose. The Palestine Ambassador conveyed his thanks to the CPD for this gesture, and recalled in this connection the support and sympathy voiced by the people of Bangladesh for the people of Palestine.

Deputy Head of the Mission Mr Yousef S Y Ramadan was also present on the occasion.

Post-2015 Development Agenda Implementation Developing countries should address financial resource allocation

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries will require effective measures concerning domestic resource mobilisation, allocation and utilisation of funds, observed Dr Fahmida Khatun.

She was highlighting the importance of financial and non-financial resources in implementing the post-2015 development agenda at an international conference on 'Sustainable Development Goals for Asia and Europe: Means of Implementation for Post-2015 Development Agenda.'

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum) organised the event during 29-30 September 2014, in Brussels, Belgium under the theme 'Sustainable Development & Environment, Governance & Human Rights.'

The conference aimed to contribute to the global debate on SDGs with regard to issues of indicators and targets as well as challenges of SDGs



The key focus was on innovative financing options that might be employed to make the SDGs a reality.

implementation at the national level. As part of the ENVforum contribution to the debate surrounding the means of implementation, the event also examined key governance challenges.

While taking part in the conference, Dr Khatun gave an account of financial flow to during the implementation phase of MDGs and underscored that domestic resource mobilisation has been the most important source of finance for implementing development programmes in developing countries.

Given the slow growth of overseas development assistance (ODA), she observed that developing countries will have to explore new innovative funds for carrying out their development activities and fulfil the SDGs. Availability of resources is only a part of the problem, she added.

According to her, the issues of good governance and institutional efficiency for implementation of SDGs were also equally important.

Global Climate Change More funds needed to mitigate impact on developing world

Global climate change funds need scaling up as pledged to enable countries like Bangladesh and the developing world to address the adverse impact of climate change caused by the advanced countries.

The remark from CPD Research Director Dr Fahmida Khatun came at the conference 'ASEM – Asia and Europe Working Together,' organised by the EU-Asia Centre, on 16 September 2014, in Brussels, Belgium.

At the session on 'Working Together for a Greener World,' Dr Khatun referred to the commitment of the global community at the fifteenth conference of the parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



Climate change-related challenges have received further importance in the post-2015 development agenda

(UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in 2009 when countries committed to raise funds to help poor countries for adaptation.

Dr Khatun also mentioned that at the sixteenth COP in Cancun, countries committed to raise Green Climate Fund equivalent to USD 100 billion per year by 2020; however, such commitments are yet to be fulfilled.

She discussed that with new targets for the post-2015 development agenda focusing for a sustainable and inclusive development, climate change related challenges have received further importance. In order to achieve the new targets during the post-2015 period advanced countries should make their commitments a reality.

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Global Competitiveness Report 2014

Assessment Survey in Bangladesh as part of the Global Competitiveness Report.

Based on opinions from 77 entrepreneurs and businessmen from medium and large enterprises in Bangladesh, the 2014 survey revealed the business community's perception on the economy, underscoring that 21 per cent of Bangladeshi entrepreneurs identified inadequate infrastructure as the top barrier to business. According to over 90 per cent respondents, government's efforts to combat corruption and bribery proved ineffective.

With marginal improvement in the GCI, Bangladesh remained rather motionless in terms of both business competitiveness in the global arena and

GDP growth at the national level due to persistent failure to meet complex and diverse needs of businesses.

In this regard, Special Guest Mr Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Former Minister for Commerce particularly highlighted that governance is the overriding issue as policy continuity and an accountable government would have helped Bangladesh achieve a better position.

The event was also addressed by Dr Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division, Planning Commission; Mr A K Azad, President, BCI; Mr A S M Mainuddin Monem, Deputy Managing Director, Abdul Monem Ltd.; Mr Kamran T Rahman, Former Vice President, MCCI and Dr Ashikur Rahman, Senior Economist, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh among others.

Regional Initiatives and Activities

BCIM Economic Corridor

Connectivity, investment keys for deepening Bangladesh-Myanmar Trade

Better trade facilitation and joint collaboration in the areas of connectivity and investment could stimulate Bangladesh-Myanmar bilateral trade which now stands at a dismally low figure of around USD 100 million.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD made the observation at Myanmar-Bangladesh Track II Workshop, organised by Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Yangon Office, during 22-25 September 2014, in Yangon, Myanmar.

While addressing a session on “Bilateral Trade as Means for Enhanced Cooperation – Opportunities and Challenges” at the workshop, Professor Rahman mentioned that Bangladesh



Myanmar could be a major opportunity in terms of Bangladesh's 'Look East' policy and entry to the ASEAN market

and Myanmar are key components of Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor (EC) and they are also members of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Agreement (BIMSTEC-FTA).

Whilst Myanmar could be a major opportunity in terms of Bangladesh's 'Look East' policy and entry to the ASEAN market, Myanmar could also look at Bangladesh as a gateway to exploit market opportunities in South Asia, he said.

He anticipated that the ongoing opening of Myanmar economy creates an opportunity for Bangladesh to collaborate in terms of developing border regions, building value chains and establishing growth zones.

India-Bangladesh Cross-Border Connectivity Better Trade, Enhanced Economy

Bangladesh-India trade relationship can be better handled through market-based approach, keeping in mind changing perspectives, demand of new generations and ethnic, linguistic and cultural commonalities on both sides.

Both countries need to narrow down the differences in the priorities of the debated issues to achieve a win-win solution, noted Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director, CPD while addressing a workshop on ‘The India-Bangladesh Connectivity: Possibilities and Challenges.’

The two-day workshop, organised by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) during 19-20 September 2014 in Kolkata, India, sought to assess the benefits and adverse impact of India-Bangladesh cross-border connectivity.

Participants at the workshop underscored that geographical locations of India and Bangladesh complement each other and present an opportunity for both to further develop their interconnectivity and economies.

Discussants agreed with the fact that Bangladesh, home to approximately 160 million people with a consistently growing economy between five and six



Access to Southeast Asia through India's Northeast may help Bangladesh achieve its ambition to reach lower-middle income level by 2021

per cent, is an important neighbour of India. Land connectivity with India's Northeast and its access to Southeast Asia through India's Northeast may help the country to achieve its ambition to reach lower-middle income level by 2021.

Being India's largest trading partner in the region, Bangladesh cannot ignore this opportunity, noted the participants.

Divided into four business sessions focusing on rail and road connectivity, connectivity through water ways, possibilities in energy trade, issues and challenges in

border management including border trade, the workshop deliberated on queries on the main impediments that have affected development of rail, road, and water connectivity and ways in which structural changes will bridge the gap in the near future.

The participants underscored that if India and Bangladesh manage to follow through on promises to open up their economies for transit and trade as set out in a memorandum of January 2010, a new era could dawn across the land borders.

Review Seminar

Studies on BCIM Economic Corridor

Ahead of the BCIM Economic Corridor meeting in Dhaka in November, a review seminar on the BCIM Intergovernmental process explored key areas of study on 16 September 2014.

CPD and Bangladesh Institute of International Strategies and Studies (BISS) are spearheading the national study on BCIM Economic Corridor (BCIM EC) to identify the potentials, opportunities and



(second right) Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Government of Bangladesh with (right) Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD

challenges of BCIM countries as well as to discover the possible fields of institutional mechanism and cooperation.

Four sessions at the seminar organised by the BISS focused on trade, investment and connectivity; development, poverty alleviation and people-to-people contact; energy and sustainable development and institutional process.

Major Research Activities during July-September 2014

India's Market Access Offer: Realising Potential Opportunities through Enhanced Trade Facilitation

The objective of the paper is to identify the major trade facilitation related challenges that inhibit realisation of the potential opportunities emerging from the duty-free market access offer of India to Bangladesh. It has been argued in the paper that if the trade facilitation related bottlenecks could be adequately addressed, this would lead to significant reduction in the lead time, result in cost reduction and will raise Bangladesh's competitiveness and hence export in the Indian market. The study is led by *Professor Mustafizur Rahman* with *Ms Khaleda Akhter*, Senior Research Associate and *Mr Naimul Gani Saif*, Research Associate.

Roadmap for Achieving South Asia Economic Union: Second Phase

This study is being jointly carried out by CPD and Asian Development Bank. Its major objectives are to examine the current status of investment cooperation in South Asia and identify domestic regulatory barriers and potential areas for investment using the investment agreement initiatives of particularly ASEAN countries. Specific policy measures will be recommended with timeline for achieving the desired level of cooperation and integration in South Asia. The study is undertaken by *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Additional Research Director with Former Senior Research Associate *Ms Mehruna Islam Chowdhury* and Research Associate *Ms Farzana Sehrin*.

BCIM Economic Corridor Chapter 6: Investment and Financing

As per the decision of the First Meeting of the Joint Study Group (JSG) of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) (Kunming, December 18-19, 2013), the JSG is to prepare a report for the BCIM governments by September 2014. Its outline adopted at Kunming include 12 chapters: three chapters under Overview; seven chapters under Areas and Priorities; one chapter under Institutional Arrangement and the last chapter relates to Summary and Recommendations. As part of Joint Study, CPD is working on Chapter 6: Investment and Financing, which looks into potential benefits of cooperation in investment and financing, similarities in production, state of intra-regional investment flows/trade, policies, institutions and incentives concerning cross-border investment, prospects of establishing special economic zones, financing for investment, institutional mechanism including financial architecture. The research is undertaken by *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem* with Senior Research Associate *Mr Kishore Kumar Basak* and Research Associate *Ms Saifa Raz*.

Financing of Local Government

As part of the CPD-CMI collaborative research, the study examines the current status of local government finance, its limitations to make policy recommendations for improving the modalities of local government financing in the Bangladesh context. The study is based on primary survey conducted in several municipalities and city corporations. *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* heads the study with Professor of Public Administration, University of Dhaka and *Ms Umme Shefa Rezbana*, Research Associate, CPD.

Economy of Tomorrow

The case study provides an overview of current key development and economic policy debates in Bangladesh. It analyses four development dimensions of the country which are considered to be of key importance for economic development and for the political debate in the coming days. These are: i) general macroeconomic overview, ii) income distribution, consumption demand and sustainable development, iii) world market strategy and protection from external shocks, and iv) green new deal and ecological problems in Bangladesh. The study is expected to significantly increase the knowledge about development in Bangladesh. Undertaken in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the study is led by *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan*, Research Fellow and *Mr Muhammad Al Amin*, Senior Research Associate.

CO2 Emissions, Energy Consumption, Deforestation, and Agricultural Income in LDCs: Lessons for Post-2015:

This paper examines the dynamic causal relationship between carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, energy consumption, deforestation, and agricultural production in least developed countries (LDCs) for the period of 1981-2010. The study applies co-integration and vector error correction modeling (VECM) to examine the relationship. A long run relationship is found to exist among the variables. That is, in the long run, energy consumption and deforestation are likely to affect CO₂ emissions positively. This implies that over time, higher energy consumption and deforestation in LDCs give rise to more CO₂ emissions, which is likely to lead to more environmental pollution. In the short run, increase in deforestation and agricultural production causes higher CO₂ emissions, but increase in energy consumption does not. The study suggests that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should include sustainable agriculture as one of the goals, which would be low carbon by nature and can be achieved by balanced and efficient use of fertilisers and pesticides. The study is led by *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Research Director.

Validation Meeting on European Report on Development (ERD) 2014

CPD Research Director Fahmida Khatun presented Bangladesh Country Illustration Report during a validation meeting on ERD 2014 at CPD Office on 17 July 2014.

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Publications outside CPD

Moazzem, K.G. and Basak, K.K. 2014. উচ্চ অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধির জন্য কাঙ্ক্ষিত সক্ষমতা. *Bonik Barta*, 24 September.

Bhattacharya, D. 2014. বাংলাদেশে সুশীল সমাজের বিবর্তন ও কতিপয় বিতর্ক. *Bonik Barta*, 13 September.

Rahman, M. 2014. BIMSTEC: A windows of opportunity for win-win cooperation. *The Daily Star*, 13 September.

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Saif, N.G. 2014. RMG and manpower export: Risk of depending on two markets. *The Financial Express*, 12 September.

Rahman, M. 2014. সুযোগকে সতর্কতার সঙ্গে কাজে লাগাতে হবে. *Prothom Alo*, 9 September.

Khatun, F. 2014. বাংলাদেশে বিদেশি বিনিয়োগ আকর্ষণ. *The Daily Ittefaq*, 9 September.

Bhattacharya, D. 2014. বাংলাদেশে সুশীল সমাজের বিবর্তন ও কতিপয় বিতর্ক. *The Daily Sangbad*, 30 August.

Pervin, S. 2014. The most unrecognized contribution. *The Daily Star*, 26 August.

Moazzem, K.G. 2014. Corporate tax structure and investment. *The Financial Express*, 8 August.

Newspaper and TV Interviews

Rahman, M. 2014. Only dialogues are the solution. *New Age*, 14 September.

Bhattacharya, D. 2014. সংলাপের মাধ্যমে দেশকে এগিয়ে নিতে হবে. *NTV*, 23 September.

Blog Post

Rahman, M. 2014. "Eighth SAFTA Ministerial Meeting: Some Reflections" on *SARCist*. 15 September. Available at: <http://thesarcist.org/EditorIndex/20>

Roundtable Discussion Supplementary

Rahman, M. and Khatun, K. Highlighting women's contribution to raise their status in society. *The Daily Star*, 28 September.



International Fora

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director

- Participated at a multi-stakeholder dialogue and knowledge sharing workshop, organised by Integrated Support Programme for Inclusive Reform and Democratic Dialogue (INSPIRED), funded by the European Union under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), during 2-4 July 2014, in Madrid, Spain.
- Participated at a regional conference on “Developing a Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection in South Asia: A Multi-Stakeholder Contribution to upcoming SAARC Summit,” organised by South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), during 21-22 August 2014, in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Participated in the Myanmar-Bangladesh Track II workshop, organised by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) and FES Yangon Office, during 22-25 September 2014, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow

- Participated at Data Revolution expert workshop at Overseas Development Institute (ODI) during 10-11 July 2014, in London, UK.
- Participated at a workshop ahead of Open Working Group (OWG) 12 on How to craft a Compelling Narrative and Select Transformative Targets at UN Foundation on 12th July 2014, in New York, USA.
- Attended the Asia-Pacific regional consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda during the 70th session of UNESCAP at UN Conference Centre, during 4-8 August 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Attended a peer review meeting of the European Development Report 2014, organised by Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on 17 September 2014, in Brussels, Belgium.

Fahmida Khatun, Research Director

- Addressed the session “Working Together for a Greener World” at the conference ASEM – Asia and Europe Working Together, organised by the EU-Asia Centre, on 16 September 2014, in Brussels, Belgium.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director

- Participated in stakeholders’ consultative workshop on The Role of the Bangladesh China India Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor in Regional Integration: Perspectives from Northeast India,” organised by Institute of Chinese Studies, on 18 July 2014, in Kolkata, India.
- Addressed the session “Border trade and Border Management: Challenges and Possibilities,” at a consultative workshop on The India-Bangladesh Connectivity: Issues and Challenges, organised by Observer Research Foundation during 19-20 September 2014, in Kolkata, India.

Towfiqul Islam Khan, Research Fellow

- Participated at the international conference on “Empirical Research on Trade in Services,” organised by Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, during 21-22 August 2014, New Delhi, India.

Khaleda Akhter, Senior Research Associate

- Attended researchers’ meeting of the South Asian Trade and Transport Facilitation Audit Project, organised by SAWTEE, during 3-4 July 2014, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mashfique Ibne Akbar, Senior Research Associate

- Attended a conference on “Regional Cooperation on Energy Security in South Asia among Countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan,” organised by CUTS International and FES, during 7-8 August 2014, in Kolkata, India.
- Participated in the Asia-Pacific Trade Economists’ conference on “Trade in the Asian Century - Delivering on the Promise of Economic Prosperity,” organised by Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT), during 22-23 September 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Umme Salma and Mahenaw Ummul Wara, Research Associates

- Attended the South Asia consultation on “The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Sustainable Development Goals and the Means of Implementation,” organised by ADB, UNDP and UNESCAP in partnership with SAARC, during 26-28 August 2014, in Nagarkot, Nepal.

National Fora

Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director

- Was a panellist at a discussion meeting on “Monetary Policy Statement: July-December 2014,” organised by BIDS, on 14 August 2014.
- Was a designated discussant at the launching of “Selected Macroeconomic Issues: Theory and Practice” authored by AB Mirza Azizul Islam, on 23 August 2014.
- Addressed a session on “Border Trade: Infrastructure Bottlenecks, Trade Barriers and Untapped Opportunities” at “India-Bangladesh Business Conclave,” jointly organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce and India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI), on 24 August 2014.
- Attended panel discussion on “Regional Integration in South Asia: Key Policy Issues” at 13th Annual conference of South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) on “Regional Integration in South Asia,” during 30-31 August 2014.
- Was a panel discussant at a dissemination workshop on Household Survey on Impact of Migration and Poverty and Development, organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), on 31 August 2014.
- Attended a view-exchange meeting on “২০১৩-২০১৪ অর্থবছরের এনজিও কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত কর্মসূচির অগ্রগতি পর্যালোচনা ও কেপিআই বাস্তবায়নের কৌশল উপস্থাপন” organised by NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh, on 27 August 2014.
- Addressed a seminar on “Revised GSP Scheme of European Union: Implications for Bangladesh,” organised by Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), on 4 September 2014.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow

- Delivered the Martyred Intellectual Memorial Lecture on “Evolution of the Civil Society in Bangladesh and Some Debates”, organised by Dhaka University Department of History, on 11 August 2014.
- Delivered a lecture at seminar on “Post-2015 International Development Agenda: Understanding the Gender Dimensions,” organised by Dhaka University Women and Gender Studies Department, on 19 August 2014.

Mustafizur Rahman and Fahmida Khatun, Research Director

- Addressed a roundtable on “Highlighting Women’s Contribution to Raise their Status in Society,” organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and The Daily Star, on 10 September 2014.
- Addressed a meeting on the outline of 7th Five-Year Plan for 2016-2020, organised by National Economic Council, on 11 September 2014.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Additional Research Director

- Was the key speaker at a “Talk on RMG Sector,” organised by AB Bank on 23 August 2014.
- Addressed “World Conference Series 2014: NRB Talent, Investment and Remittance for Development,” organised by Centre for Non-Resident Bangladeshis, on 13 September 2014.
- Made the keynote presentation on “Why FDI is so low in Bangladesh?” at a seminar on “Foreign Investment and Expectations from Fresh Graduates as Entrepreneurs,” organised by NSU Alumni Association (AANSU), on 30 September 2014.

Mustafizur Rahman and Khondaker Golam Moazzem

- Attended a review seminar on National Study on BCIM Economic Corridor (BCIM EC), organised by Bangladesh Institute of International Strategies and Studies (BISS) on 16 September 2014.

Farzana Sehrin, Research Associate

- Attended a seminar on Revised GSP Scheme of European Union: Implications for Bangladesh, organised by BFTI, on 4 September 2014.

Naimul Gani Saif, Research Associate

- Attended a discussion on “Collective Request for LDC Service Waiver at WTO Council for Trade in Services,” organised by Ministry of Commerce, on 7 September 2014.
- Attended a meeting on “Further Analysis of the Collective Request Pursuant to the Bali Decision on the Operationalization of the Waiver concerning Preferential Treatment to Services and Service Suppliers of Least-Developed Countries,” organised by WTO Cell of the Ministry of Commerce, on 29 September 2014.

Political and Civil Society should talk to regain mutual trust

A trust-building policy dialogue between the political society and the civil society under the purview of lenient and participatory nationalistic sentiments has now become urgent for enhancing both democracy and development in Bangladesh.

While delivering a public lecture on “Evolution of the Civil Society in Bangladesh and Some Debates”, on 11 August 2014, CPD Distinguished Fellow *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya* observed that mutual trust between the political and the civil society has turned more fragile than any time

before. The recently announced National Broadcast Policy has weakened it further, which he observed, was not supportive for national prosperity.

The civil society came across the pre and post-independence achievements in Bangladesh and often complementarily functioned within the political society. This mutual relationship gradually turned conflicting and even hateful on many occasions during the last two decades of Bangladesh's new journey towards democracy. Taking this into account, *Dr Bhattacharya* called upon all concerned to show sincere and mature efforts in creating the space to resolve such conflict.

Dwelling on the definition and evolution of the civil society, *Dr Bhattacharya* noted that a generic definition could be drawn on the basis of socio-economic evolution, changing state structure and various international trends. But in most cases, the definition is an evolving, country-specific and context-specific concept.

Touching upon the Bangladesh context and recent trends, *Dr Bhattacharya* observed that a fair national consensus to define the civil society of the country was not yet in sight. In this context he pointed out three



The lecture was organised by the Department of History, University of Dhaka at the Serajul Islam Lecture Hall

fundamental characteristics of civil society in Bangladesh, such as the civil society is an organisation beyond the state organs, it stays off political parties and carries out fair activities publicly in line with its programmes.

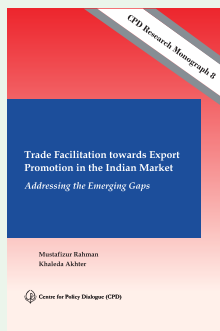
He asserted that there should be a difference between the civil society and the civil society organisations (CSOs), because the civil society may not always be structurally organised. In the backdrop of a divisive political culture, CSOs sometimes face difficulty in maintaining professional neutrality, he observed.

Regarding the debates over involvement of the civil society in politics, he said that political role of a socially conscious and active individual may not be unjustified. But it is unfair to use the civil society to strengthen one's position in politics.

Sometimes allegations of indulgence in depoliticisation moves are also raised against the civil society. *Dr Bhattacharya* pointed out that the analysis of historic facts would reveal that such move was rather rooted in the political society, not within the civil society. He also noted that the validity and leadership of the civil society is determined by its moral strength. This is why the moral stance of members of the civil society or CSOs often comes under attack to weaken their reputation in public.

Professor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice-Chancellor of the University, spoke as the Chief Guest while *Professor Dr Sadrul Amin*, Dean of the Arts Faculty, was present as the Special Guest with *Professor Sharifullah Bhuiyan*, Chairman of the Department of History, in the chair. A number of students and teachers from other than the History Department were present while some family members of the martyred intellectuals also attended the lecture.

CPD Publications



CPD Research Monograph 8

Trade Facilitation towards Export Promotion in the Indian Market: Addressing the Emerging Gaps
Mustafizur Rahman and Khaleda Akhter

The study argues that raising efficacy of trade facilitation measures will stimulate development of bilateral, sub-regional and regional value chains, and will strengthen regional and global integration of the two economies. Resource spent to address the attendant gaps will pay high dividends in terms of efficiency and welfare gains which will benefit key stakeholders on both sides of the border.

The study stresses that better trade facilitation will stimulate domestic and foreign investment in Bangladesh targeting the Indian market and will enable them to take greater advantage of the preferential market access offer extended by India.

CPD-CMI Working Paper 8

Political Parties in Bangladesh
Rounaq Jahan

CPD Working Paper Series

Paper 108: Recent Developments in Myanmar: Opportunities for Sub-Regional Energy Cooperation
Deepti Mahajan Mittal

Paper 109: Recent Developments in Myanmar and New Opportunities for Sub-Regional Cooperation: A Bangladesh Perspective
Debapriya Bhattacharya and Mashfiqul Ibne Akbar

Publications outside CPD

DFID-ESRC Growth Programme (DEGRP) Policy Essays

“Transformation of the export-oriented, ready-made garment sector of Bangladesh: changes, challenges and the future outlook” in *Enhancing Productivity in Bangladesh's Garment Sector*
Khondaker Golam Moazzem

Future United Nations Development System: Briefing 21

The SDGs – What are the “Means of Implementation”?
Debapriya Bhattacharya and Mohammad Afshar Ali

Journal Article

Kolstad, I., Wiig, A. and Moazzem, K.G. 2014. “Returns to education among entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.” *Journal of Asian Economics*, 34: 54-65. DOI: 10.1016/j.asieco.2014.07.001

Asian Development Bank Institute Working Paper Series

Connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia: A Bangladesh Country Study
Mustafizur Rahman, Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mehruna Islam Chowdhury and Farzana Sehrin

UN Association-UK report Global Development Goals: Partnerships for Progress

South-South Cooperation
Debapriya Bhattacharya

Newspaper and Magazine Articles

Sobhan, R. 2014. A Roadmap for Regional Cooperation. *The News Today*, 30 September.

Bhattacharya, D. 2014. বাংলাদেশে সুশীল সমাজের বিবর্তন ও কতিপয় বিতর্ক. *Prothom Alo*, 29 September.

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