

Bangladesh Development Forum 2004 begins tomorrow

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Media Contact:
Subrata S. Dhar Tel. (880-2) 966-9301 Ext. 111
E-mail: sdhar4@worldbank.org

Dhaka, May 7, 2004: Bangladesh Development Forum 2004 begins tomorrow at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka. The Government of Bangladesh and development partners from 32 countries and agencies meet to discuss Bangladesh's progress in poverty reduction and future course of action to meet its development goals.

The Honorable Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the opening session on May 8, along with Mr. M Saifur Rahman, Honorable Minister for Finance and Planning, Mr. Praful C. Patel, World Bank Vice President for South Asia Region and Mr. Nissanke Weerasinghe, IMF Representative.

Co-chaired by Mr. M. Saifur Rahman and Mr. Praful Patel, the working sessions of the Forum on May 9 and 10 will focus particularly on policies and programs to deliver the Poverty Reduction Strategy Program (PRSP) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), issues related to good governance and human security, partnerships between government and NGOs, human development outcomes, trade and investment climate, infrastructure to support development and aid governance that would help better implementation of development programs.

Over the past few years, the Forum has moved away from making any financial pledges and developed a tradition of substantive discussion of development issues where the Government and development partners take lessons from the past, review the progress Bangladesh made in the preceding year and work together to decide on priorities and future directions.

The background papers of the Forum have been posted at:

<http://www.bangladeshdevforum.com>

<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/bdf/index.php>

The Forum will be followed by a press conference hosted by the Minister for Finance and Planning on May 10, 2004.