

Feature Environment

Love for Nature is an Answer to Environmental Pollution

My father, a Professor of Arabic, died early. So our house was rented and we went to live in Mouli Bazar, a small green hilly town of Shahjahan's land.

were red and blue violet and pink everywhere. Dupuri Chapa, Lily, Rose, Jaba, Kunjalata and railway creeper. Green grass and hundreds of weeds joined in our blooming festival, various shades of green painted the weeds.

by Salma Chowdhury

Oh! heaven opened its door to us, wide stretch of green valley and crops below the hills. Everywhere weeds, welcoming streams kissing our feet. Streams singing along. Thorns reminding everyone of the dreamy childhood. Lakes spreading cool breeze over the vast green land.

roof and nostalgic sounds of thousands of insects. Have you looked intently at the size of insects? They are always fresh and original as the weeds. They are the weeds of the animal world. God's wonderful creation is weeds and the beautiful wonderful insects.

The writer recounts personal experiences of her childhood to mould them in the environmental needs of the time.

Commonwealth 'Holy Ghost' Plays Important Role in Rio

by Richard Bourne writes from Rio de Janeiro

THE 'holy ghost' of modern diplomacy paid an important visit to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro was primarily about nations pursuing their own interests — with the North hoping to achieve quite different things than the South. But despite many differences between the two sides, reports Gemini News Service, there is still an important role to be played by one of the oldest organisations to try to bridge that gap.

monwealth is that it acts as a bridge between North and South, but in a wide-ranging international conference it is hard to trace how delegations from Commonwealth states interact.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT Rio de Janeiro 3-14 June 1992. What was achieved...and what was not. Treaty on climate change to check emissions of greenhouse gases, watered down under pressure from US and OPEC nations.

Maurice Strong, UNCED Secretary-General, is Canadian, with that brand of optimistic Canadian internationalism which evokes memories of former prime minister Lester Pearson.

General, Chief Anyaoku, made a speech setting out a philosophy to a plenary session. And there was the 'Commonwealth' of non-governmental organisations who Global Forum was the most intellectually rewarding and entertaining part of the drama in Rio.

community, arising from the break-up of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, added complexity. Although there were cross-currents and trade-offs — the United States was pursuing a policy more negative than that of most industrial countries.

and in agreeing an agenda for action into the 21st century. But the North was disappointed that national sovereignty seemed to prevent more being done for the global environment, especially forests.

Haroun Tazieff: An Angry Ecologist

—by Pierre Albert Lambert

WITH his squashed boxer's nose (which he used to be in the 50s) and his rugby-player's shoulders (which, at the age of 75, he still is), the world-famous volcanologist Haroun Tazieff remains the keen defender of Nature which, to his great fury, he sees being further destroyed every day.

major risks from 1981 to 1986. This polemic researcher does not believe the political power will solve the problems of the environment. Too many interests are at stake. Only a head of government, convinced of the urgency of a serious policy, (and I have never met one yet, or heard that one existed) could lead one. (...) An effective protection of nature has to be decided on locally, by those who are directly concerned.

these Don Quixotes, ignorant of reality, exaggerate risks or invent imaginary ones in order to attain their objectives. Tazieff is particularly hard on big international organisations, particularly UNO which

sitism of some and the personal ambitions and corruption of others. With tranquil assurance, Tazieff makes statements which clash with the general 'concert of moaners', using the arguments of a scientist and proposing solutions inspired by knowledge and experience.



Environment Polluted by War

by Eddie Koch

TAKE a drive around the city of Maputo, the Mozambique capital, or the central Mozambique port of Beira for a taste of what war has done to the country's ecology.

Once grand old cities, miniature versions of Imperial Portugal mixed with the tropical beauty of Africa, the environs of these places have now been reduced to rubble and ruin.

ivory for guns and ammunition. In 1991, government troops captured hundreds of documents when they routed rebel guerrillas from a base at Nhamagoda in the central coastal province of Sofala.



working people could afford it, and they were starting to burn pieces of their houses or apartments — doors shutters, window sills, downspouts, doorframes.

It sustains a mix of animals, birds, snakes, insects, crustaceans, fish, dolphins and marine mammals that make it a nation with amongst the richest diversity of biological species on the continent.

Zimbabwean troops stationed along the corridor between Beira and the Mozambique-Zimbabwe border are believed to be heavily involved in illicit ivory trade and have allegedly shipped large consignments of tusks back home in military aircraft and trucks.

This could be the fate of the entire country because in Mozambique — as in other battle-weary nations — war and ecological degradation are inextricably linked.

There is now a pile of evidence which shows that RENAMO hunts down these animals and uses their tusks to pay for its guns and war material, says Abdul Adamo, director of Mozambique's Forestry and Wildlife Department.

According to local conservation official Armando Cossa, army commanders are employing poachers and deploying them in areas under military orders and protection along the Ruvuma river that borders Tanzania.

Saving Selangor Peat Swamp Forest

by Chng Soh Koon

TO the untrained eye, the lush greenery on both sides of the chry track looks untouched, but to Dr Idris M Said, a botanist with the Asian Wetland Bureau (AWB) headquartered in Malaysia, this verdant forest has been disturbed.

Much of the peat swamp forest has already been logged for more than 50 years, while some parts have been converted for agricultural use, including rice fields, and for oil palm and rubber plantations.

Current logging operations, which make use of extraction canals and logging roads to transport the timber, drain the peat swamp forest. Ditches are also dug on both sides of logging roads to maintain them.



How the nature is being harassed by man.

capital. The 75,000 ha forest is the second largest peat swamp forest in Peninsular Malaysia. It is a rich source of commercial timber such as 'meranti bakau', 'bintangor', 'mertas' and 'ramin melawis'.

North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest. Two forest reserves — the Sungai Karang and the Raja Musa — were formally gazetted in January 1990. Although much of the forest has been extensively logged, these reserves are relatively untouched.

Besides supplying water to the rice fields, the peat swamp forest also plays an important role in alleviating floods. In fact, the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department is already using the forest to control floods effectively.