

Carbon dioxide emissions rise in most countries: WEC

LONDON, July 5: Carbon dioxide emissions blamed for global warming rose 12 per cent between 1990 and 1995, suggesting few countries will meet pledges to cut these emissions by 2000, the World Energy Council said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Industrialised countries in 1995 signed a United Nations convention committing them to cut emissions from burning fossil fuel back to 1990 levels by 2000.

But emissions are rising in most countries, the independent London-based council said in a statement.

"Action is required, starting now," the WEC said.

Measures which should be taken include improving energy efficiency, accelerating the development and use of appropriate and economic non-fossil fuels, and cleaner fossil fuel conversion and use.

The worst offenders were in the Middle East where carbon dioxide emissions were up 35 per cent in 1990-95 and the Asia-Pacific region excluding Japan, Australia and New Zealand, where there was a 30 per cent rise.

In the former Soviet Union, and Central and Eastern Europe however, emissions were down to between 70 and 75 per cent of 1990 levels as a result of economic decline, the WEC said.

The falling emissions in these former Communist countries were excluded from the WEC's global figure. If they were included, the global rise would have been just three per cent instead of 12 per cent.

The WEC warned it expects carbon dioxide emissions to rise in developing countries as their populations grow and they become more industrialised.

The WEC expects developing countries to contribute 50 per cent of the carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.

Serbia summons Plavsic to discuss future of Karadzic

BELGRADE, July 5: Serbia summoned new Bosnian Serb leader Biljana Plavsic on Thursday to discuss the future of President Radovan Karadzic who is still wanted by the West for war crimes despite ceding power, reports Reuters.

Plavsic, who met President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade for the first time since Karadzic surrendered presidential authority to him at the weekend would not comment to reporters after the talks.

International Mediators are pressing Milosevic to extradite Karadzic to the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague and are concerned that he remains at the head of the ruling Serb Democratic Party (SDS) in the Bosnian Serb Republic.

Karadzic's decision not to stand in inter-ethnic Bosnian elections and to give executive power to Plavsic, one of his

vice-presidents, has not convinced mediators that he has been sidelined.

"The issue is this," said Michael Steiner, deputy to the international high representative in Bosnia. "Is Karadzic still in power and is he perceived to be still in power? The answer to both these questions is obviously yes."

Mediators hope Milosevic, who threatened the Bosnian Serbs with reprisals unless they got rid of Karadzic, will persuade Plavsic to complete his removal. The top Bosnia mediator, Carl Bildt, met Milosevic on Wednesday to press his case.

Mediators do not doubt that Belgrade, on which the Bosnian Serb Republic depends for economic survival, could physically deliver Karadzic.

But Milosevic has argued that

arresting Bosnian Serb war leaders would land him in political difficulties and says that the elections would effectively neutralise Karadzic.

The problem with his argument for the west is that it would leave Karadzic and the SDS free to undermine the poll. Meanwhile US Defence Secretary William Perry said on Thursday that he hoped Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and other indicted war criminals would be brought before an international tribunal without resorting to military force.

"We have by no means exhausted diplomatic means, Perry told reporters travelling with him from Bosnia where he confronted reporters who demanded at a Sarajevo news conference to know why US troops in Bosnia did not arrest Karadzic.

BSF kills 6 Kashmiri militants

JAMMU, July 5: Six militants were killed and large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered following an encounter between Border Security Force (BSF) troops and militants at Killar-Malthoi area of Baderwah Town in Doda district today, reports PTI.

A BSF spokesman here said troops launched operation on specific intelligence inputs last evening to nab the hiding militants in the area.

However, militants opened fire with their automatic weapons on search operation parties forcing them to return fire, he said adding heavy exchange of firing continued throughout the night.

The BSF troops recovered six dead bodies of militants including some suspected foreign mercenaries from the site of encounter.

Six rifles including four AK-47, one wireless set and large quantity of ammunition were also recovered from the slain militants.

Off the Record



The Princess of Wales arrives at the Dorchester Hotel late Tuesday for a party hosted by Mr and Mrs Imran Khan in aid of his hospital in Lahore. The Prince of Wales tonight offered the Princess terms for divorce, breaking ten weeks of deadlock which could now signal a quick end to the Royal marriage. —AFP/UNB photo

Gowda prepares to expand cabinet

NEW DELHI, India, July 5: Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda of India prepared Friday to expand his 34-member Cabinet to give representation to all the states and mollify politicians who wanted more important jobs, news reports said, reports AP.

No names were announced, but newspapers speculated that Gowda would induct six more ministers, including a Muslim politician from the state of Jammu-Kashmir, where rebels are fighting for independence.

Gowda also could reshuffle his Cabinet following widespread attacks on one of his ministers who is accused of kidnapping women and beating up officials.

The prime minister has favoured a major change in his Cabinet only after his finance minister presents the annual budget to Parliament next week.

Kohl slams Dole for pushing NATO expansion in campaign

BONN, Germany, July 5: Mindful of Russian hardliners, Chancellor Helmut Kohl criticised Republican challenger Bob Dole on Thursday for pushing NATO expansion in his US presidential campaign, reports AP.

"We should put on hold" the debate over NATO's eastward expansion until the November presidential elections in the United States, Kohl said.

"In that country, one of the candidates is pushing this issue with special intensity to gain votes" among Americans with Polish, Czech and Hungarian backgrounds, Kohl said.

"I don't think it is good to turn such a central question into a campaign issue."

He did not mention Dole by name, but the reference was obvious. Dole accused President Clinton of going "deliberately slow on the expansion of NATO to former Soviet-bloc states in a foreign policy speech last month."

Dole set 1998 as a goal for admitting Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the Western alliance.

Supporters, opponents of immigration clash in US

LOS ANGELES, June 5: Supporters and opponents of a state ballot measure that would restrict services for illegal immigrants clashed at a demonstration on Thursday, first taunting each other than striking out with fist, picket signs and filled soda cans, reports AP.

At least six people were injured and one person was hospitalised, authorities said.

About 150 police officers wielding batons separated the approximately 300 people on both sides of the debate over Proposition 87, and the demonstration was allowed to proceed.

There are plenty of police to stop Americans but no one to stop these people from invading our country," complained demonstrator Glenn Spencer.

Over 80 people killed in Burundi tea factory attack

BUJUMBURA, Burundi, July 5: UN security sources said Thursday the number of people killed by armed gangs at a Burundi tea factory could be higher than the 80 previously reported by Burundi radio, reports AP.

"A nearby hospital is overflowing with victims," said Christophe Boutonyer, head of UN security in Burundi. "The number of people killed may be more than 100."

Armed Hutu militia reportedly attacked the tea factory in Teza, 23 kilometers (14.5 miles) northeast of the capital of Bujumbura. Victims included factory workers and residents of a nearby displaced persons camp.

The attackers reportedly caused considerable damage to the factory, burning all the stocks of tea, about 20 vehicles and the administration offices.



Fireworks explode over Washington DC behind the Two Jima Marine Memorial in Arlington, VA Tuesday. Thousands came out to watch the annual fireworks show and celebrate the 220th anniversary of American Independence. —AFP/UNB photo

'Netanyahu must not forget principle of land for peace'

CAIRO, July 5: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu must "not forget" the principle of land for peace in negotiating with the Arabs, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Shara said on Thursday, report AFP.

"Netanyahu was Israel's representative to the United Nations so he should know better than others the two Security Council Resolutions 242 and 228" calling for Israel's withdrawal from occupied lands, Shara said.

The resolutions "include an important paragraph even stronger than the principle of land for peace, that is the non-acquisition of territory by force," he said.

"Netanyahu says we went to the 1991 Madrid conference and did not approve the principle of land for peace," Shara said.

"But the land for peace

principle comes from the two resolutions. No one should forget that," Shara underlined.

Netanyahu has said the 1991 Madrid conference which launched the Arab-Israeli peace process did not commit the parties to a land-for-peace settlement.

Shara made the comments after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to deliver a message from his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al-Assad and discuss Arab relations with Iran.

Shara returned to Damascus after the talks with Mubarak.

AP adds from Jerusalem: Reversing course from Israel's previous government, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the PLO of breaking its promise to revoke sections of its charter that call for Israel's destruction.

The Palestinians insisted

Thursday that they have fulfilled their obligations, and said Israel is violating its signed agreements.

Netanyahu, speaking Wednesday night on CNN's "Larry King Live," said there were "manifest violations by the Palestinian Authority of solemn commitments," including "commitments to fully abrogate the Palestinian Covenant."

"All these things have not been fully done and I expect them to be done."

Netanyahu's position appears to be a setback for Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. Shimon Peres, defeated by Netanyahu by less than 1 per cent point in Israel's May 29 election, had welcomed the PLO's April vote on amending its charter as "the greatest ideological change of this century."



Det Superintendent Jeffery Rees, holds up the notice Tuesday which police officers showed to Chinese hostage Xiao Ming Cao, when they found him handcuffed to radiators after raiding an address in north London Friday. The note reads "Xiao Ming Cao, we are the Police, don't worry, do as we say." —AFP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Flood death toll now 260 in China:

Devastating floods hitting China have killed at least 260 people, affected more than 10 million people and cost 1.2 billion dollars in damage, officials said yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

The worst flooding in half a century has caused havoc in southern and eastern China since June 30 and has spread to other provinces in the centre. China's longest river, the Yangtze, overflowed in Sichuan province, killing 27 people, a Red Cross official told AFP by telephone, adding that they were still waiting for casualty reports from dozens of stricken villages.

US honours Peres, King Hussein:

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan were honoured Philadelphia Thursday for their efforts for peace in the Middle East during US Independence Day ceremonies, AFP reports from Philadelphia.

Imelda barred from visiting US:

A judge who sentenced Imelda Marcos to 24 years in prison on graft charges said Friday he won't allow the former first lady to go abroad right away for treatment of an eye ailment. AP reports from Manila.

"She has to see court-appointed doctors first before I make a decision," said Justice Francis Garchitorena, chief judge of the anti-graft court hearing Mrs. Marcos case. She is pending an appeal. The widow of the late President Ferdinand Marcos told reporters outside Garchitorena's office that "time is of the essence at this moment. My eyes are deteriorating."

Jiang congratulates Yeltsin:

China's President Jiang Zemin set a message of congratulation to Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin on his election victory Thursday pointing out his role in improving once frosty relations Xinhua said, AFP reports from Beijing.

"Sino-Russian relations have thrived in recent years and your excellency has given a direct and strong push to their healthy development, Jiang said in the message. Through the joint efforts of the two countries and peoples China and Russia will definitely realise the goal of everlasting neighbourly friendship, mutual respect and trust, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation and common development and prosperity."

Hun Sen to visit Seoul:

Cambodian Second Premier Hun Sen will visit Seoul in mid-July on a four-day visit aimed at strengthening trade ties with South Korea and upgrading diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry said Friday, AP reports from Seoul.

2 killed in Bogota blast:

Two people were killed and at least one other was seriously injured Thursday when a bomb exploded outside a building in the downtown Teusaquillo neighbourhood of Bogota, police said, AFP reports from Bogota.

Several universities are located nearby, as is the headquarters of the ruling Liberal Party and the residence of the Palancito. Witnesses told local radio they had spotted at least two people leaving a package on the sidewalk.

Suicide bomb attack toll rises to 37 in Lanka

COLOMBO, July 5: The death toll in the suicide bomb attack against a senior minister in Sri Lanka's northern town of Jaffna rose to 37 with more wounded people dying in hospital, official sources said today, reports AFP.

A Tamil Tiger woman suicide bomber strapped with explosives carried out the attack against Housing Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva on Thursday but he narrowly escaped assassination, officials said.

Among the dead were Jaffna's top military commander brigadier Ananda Haman-goda and 10 other officials and security personnel, 25 civilians and the woman suicide bomber.

More than 55 people were seriously wounded and admitted to the Jaffna hospital, officials said.

Meanwhile, a senior minister who escaped a Tamil woman suicide bomb in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday told state radio he was undeterred by the assassination bid and vowed to visit the embattled region again.

Yeltsin jubilant about re-election victory

MOSCOW, July 5: Boris Yeltsin has offered conciliatory words, but election results show a Russia still deeply divided over the painful, imperfect reforms that marked his first term, reports AP.

"Let's not divide this country into winners and losers," a smiling Yeltsin said Thursday, a day after defeating Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov in a run-off.

"Let's go to work," he said in a brief televised address. "We have one Russia — a vast, great country. One Russia. One destiny."

Under Yeltsin's government more liberal economic policies and greater personal freedoms have been born to some — but millions of others have seen their living standards plummet, and remember the certainties of the Soviet past with deep nostalgia.

With 98.2 per cent of the vote counted Thursday night, Yeltsin had 53.7 per cent against 40.4 per cent for Zyuganov. Another 4.9 per cent voted against both candidates. The election commission did not explain why the tally did not total 100 per cent.

Concerns about the 65-year-old president's health also lingered and campaign debts were coming due.

Except for a few wooden, taped TV appearances, the president had stayed out of the public eye for the last week. Aides said he was back at work in the Kremlin on Thursday.

They insist Yeltsin, who has a history of heart trouble, black moods and a reported fondness for vodka, had suffered from nothing more than a cold and the rigors of his frenetic campaign.

"He needs a little rest," his

wife, Naina, said in a TV interview Thursday.

Zyuganov also made himself scarce, dodging reporters on election night. He finally surfaced late Thursday, sending a congratulatory telegram to Yeltsin but claiming a moral victory.

"There is no sense in talking of defeat because considering the conditions under which we campaigned, I believe we achieved a good result," Zyuganov told a news conference, referring to a substantial pro-Yeltsin bias in the Russian news media.

He claimed his bloc had emerged as the "undisputed spiritual leader" of Russian society and vowed that its position would only grow stronger.

The Communist leader went into the race as the front-runner, but Yeltsin steamrolled him with the help

of the national media, the federal treasury and a relentless "red scare" campaign.

World leaders and investors seemed thrilled with the Communist defeat, which they saw as a mandate for continued reform. Stocks surged 8.8 per cent in Moscow.

Ordinary Russians seemed to have a collective sigh of relief that the long, bitter campaign was over.

"I think life in this country will get better now," said Natasha Virtuzova of Moscow, a first-time voter.

In Washington, President Clinton called the election "a triumph for democracy." Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer pronounced himself "absolutely delighted."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said, "It's a great day."

Prime Minister Viktor Ch-

ernomyrdin, charged by the president Thursday with forming a new government, said it was the last time Russians would face such a stark choice.

"Democracy won for good," he told reporters.

Others were less confident that the epic battle between communism and capitalism was over. "Zyuganov came too close," said Olga Praslova, a 19-year-old Muscovite and Yeltsin voter.

Chernomyrdin didn't rule out bringing Communists into the new administration, but said "whatever colour they are when they come into the government, they... become one colour in the Cabinet."

Zyuganov said his Communist patriotic bloc — the largest force now in Parliament — would not demand posts in the new Cabinet.



US actor Tom Cruise (L) is accompanied by his wife Nicole Kidman as both arrive late Tuesday at the Empire Leicester Square in London for the premier of his film Mission Impossible. —AFP/UNB photo