

Developing nations urge rich to scrap their debts

UN Environment Programme forum in Sweden

MALMO, Sweden, May 31: Developing countries called on wealthy nations to scrap their international debts and stop polluting the South, at a United Nations-hosted meeting here yesterday, reports AFP.

"We do not have the financial means to both pay off the debt and to simultaneously apply environmental policies," Tunisian Director general for the Environment Attia Khalil said on the second day of the UN Environment Programme forum in Malmo, southern Sweden.

Six hundred environmental specialists, including 80 environment ministers, several dozen non-governmental organisations and leading industry figures were taking part in the discussions.

The lending countries must write-off or re-structure repayment of the debt, taking in to account the economic situation

of borrowing countries," said Khalil.

Khalil said the industrialised nations carried the responsibility for both financial and pollution problems in the developing world by taking advantage of lax legislation there to re-site polluting manufacturing plants.

He added that the rich countries were also taking advantage of environmental concerns to sell poor countries costly industrial anti-pollution products.

These products come at an exorbitant cost to developing countries which then lose in productivity levels," Khalil said.

Gnacadjia said car manufacturers from the European Union (EU) exported cheap cars to Benin which do not meet with EU pollution standards.

"Some 50,000 vehicles of

this type circulate in Cotonou. The result is an exceptional rise in the number of respiratory problems among children," he said.

"African countries are in a situation where they cannot reject European or American companies using completely outdated production norms," Benin's Environment Minister, Luc Gnacadja, added.

The head of the Portuguese delegation attending the conference said the imposition of tough measures was the only way to fight the regional imbalance in responsibilities taken by companies towards the environment.

"Awareness campaigns, partnerships and voluntary action produce the same old story," he said. "We call for international laws to prevent companies getting away with absolutely anything."

WHO accuses tobacco industry of spreading systematic death

New global campaign launched

BANGKOK, May 31: The World Health Organisation launched a new global campaign against the tobacco industry Wednesday, accusing the companies of systematically spreading death almost unchallenged, reports AP.

The organisation said it would make a global ban on advertising a priority in a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that will be negotiated by its 191 member states.

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general of the WHO, marked World No-Tobacco Day in Thai capital to pay tribute to the success of local anti-smoking advocates, who won a ban on tobacco advertising in 1992.

About 10,000 people marched and demonstrated against the tobacco industry at the Royal Fields in central Bangkok, singing anti-tobacco songs and starting a clock representing one death every eight

seconds from tobacco-related disease.

Brundtland issued a harsh statement against the industry, accusing it of using sports and entertainment figures to market its products toward children and create a new generation of smokers.

In countries where advertising bans are beginning, Brundtland said, subtle product placement in films and videos get the message to young people.

"It is hard, if not impossible, to find any parallel in history where people who have gone about in such a systematic way perpetuating death and destruction have gone unpunished and unquestioned," said Brundtland, a former prime minister of Norway.

Brundtland said that 10 million people a year will be dying from tobacco-related deaths a year by 2030, more than 70 per cent of them from the developing world, an in-

creasingly important market for tobacco companies.

Currently, the figure is 3.5 million to 4 million.

Brundtland launched a new slogan — "Tobacco Kills — Don't be Duped" — and said that focusing on the entertainment, film and sports industry was needed because "the tobacco industry strikes where people least suspect it to be."

On Tuesday, Brundtland told journalists that there would be a global explosion in tobacco use without international efforts to ban or limit advertising, raise tobacco taxes and educate the young.

Tobacco companies increasingly target the developing world to get teen-agers hooked on smoking before they are old enough to know the health risks, she said.

According to the WHO, there are around 1.15 billion smokers out of the world's 6 billion-plus people.

Oil steady despite OPEC hints of more crude

LONDON, May 31: Resilient oil prices held steady yesterday despite hints from exporter OPEC that it may pump more crude if volatile markets stay buoyant, reports Reuters.

Benchmark Brent crude for July ended 25 cents off at \$28.97 a barrel, less than \$1 off an 11-week high touched on Thursday and around nine per cent off a nine-year peak of \$31.95 touched in March.

In New York US light crude last traded 30 cents firmer at \$30.30 a barrel, within sight of Thursday's 10-week high of \$30.55.

A sizzling US gasoline market and uncertainties over the UN oil-for-food programme for Iraq are stoking a fresh rally despite an output rise agreed at an OPEC meeting in March.

"High prices and increased volatility, the twin evils that OPEC promised to squash at the last meeting, are back with a

vengeance," said US consultancy Petroleum Finance Company.

The United States has expressed concern over the recent rally, asking the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to keep an open mind about the possibility of pumping more oil when it meets again on June 21.

Prices slumped to \$23.85 for US crudes in early April after OPEC's March agreement raised output by about 1.7 million bpd but later rallied on concerns over gasoline supply shortages during the US summer driving season.

Bears were unable to extract much mileage from comments by OPEC President and Venezuela Energy Minister Ali Rodriguez, who said OPEC would increase output yet again if its basket of seven crudes continued to stay above the \$28 per barrel level.

7 Nasdaq-listed companies begin trading in HK

HONG KONG, May 31: Seven Nasdaq-listed companies began trading Wednesday on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange but local investors worried about the volatility of technology shares showed little interest, reports AP.

The seven companies traded for the first time in Asia during regional hour include Microsoft, Intel, Dell Computer, Cisco Systems, Applied Materials and Amgen — all high-technology companies — and the coffee chain Starbucks.

Turnover on the first day for those stocks was thin.

The stocks are traded in Hong Kong dollars, and investors can buy and sell through any of the territory's brokerages, exchange officials said.

Stamp duties, a tax on stock trading, and a minimum broker commission requirement are waived for trading in these companies.

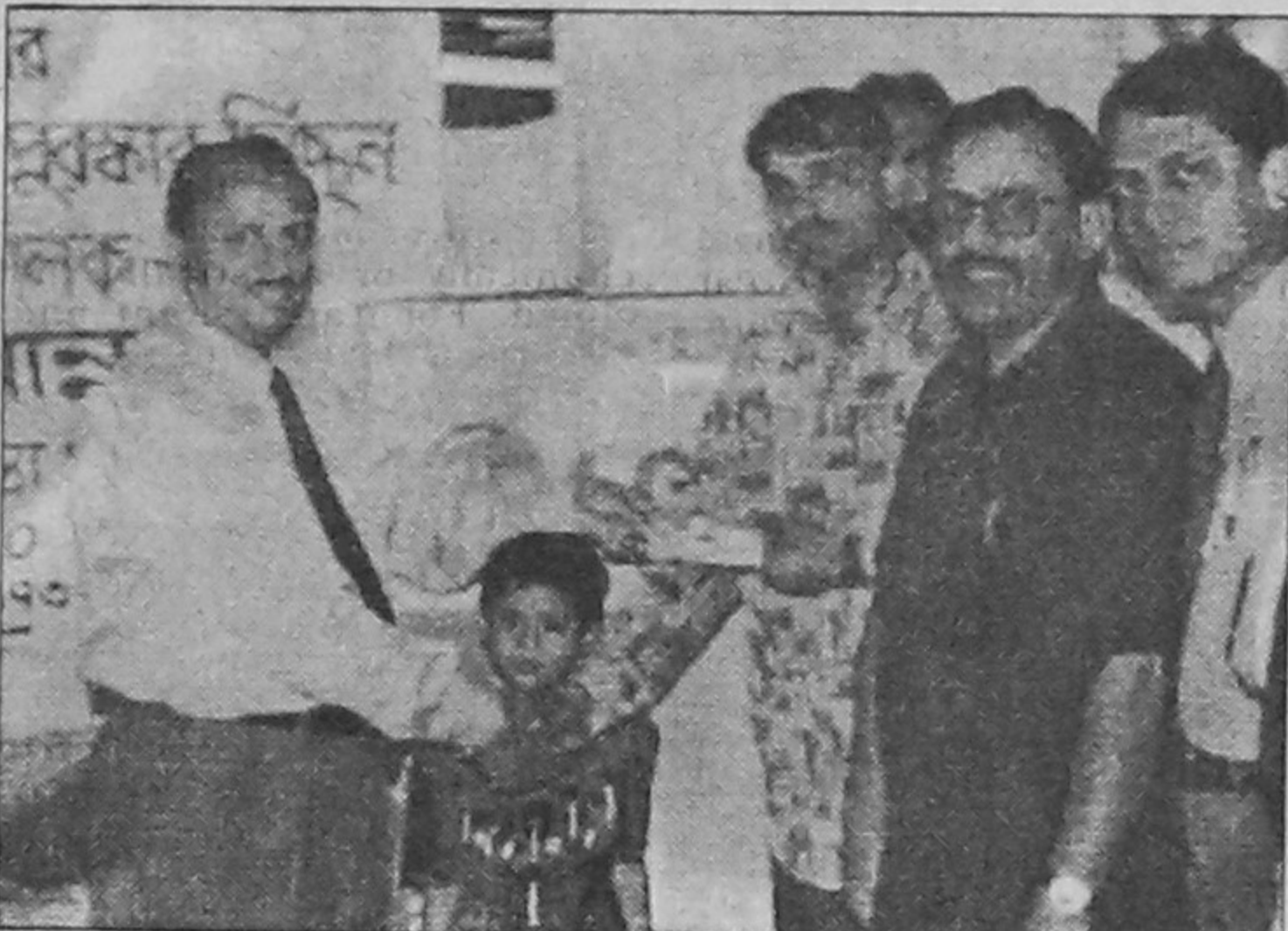
4000 buyers win Butterfly prizes so far

About 4 thousand buyers of LG products have so far won the prizes under Scratch and Win Offer as announced by the Butterfly Marketing Ltd, says a press release.

The prizes include LG refrigerator, Flatron 21" colour TV, LG washing machine, LG microwave oven, LG CD, mobile phone with GP-GP connection, LG wrist watch, tea sets and T-shirt.

An LG refrigerator, one of the most attractive prizes of this Butterfly offer, has been won by Saiful Islam of Khairatala, Jessore. Chairman and Managing Director of the company M.A. Mannan handed over the prize to him yesterday.

He also handed over a 21" Flatron colour TV to Mukhtar Mohd. Yameen of Jessore Cantonment at the Cantonment showroom and a washing machine to Oshim Kumar of Narail Road, Jessore at R. N. Road showroom.



M A Mannan, Chairman and Managing Director of Butterfly, hands over a refrigerator to Saiful Islam, the prize winner under its Scratch and Win Offer.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)

Narayanganj Road Division
Shimrail, Narayanganj

R&H Tender Invitation Notice

1. Tender Notice : 111/Narayanganj Road Division, year 1999-2000.
2. Name of work : Earth work on road embankment on 5th KM (part) intersection point polder road to Narayanganj Link Road (junction point) under Narayanganj Road Sub-Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.

1. Estimated cost : Taka 2,66,775/-

4. Earnest money : Taka 5336/- in the form of Bank Draft/Treasury Chalan/ Protira-kkha Sanchay Patra /5-year Bangladesh Sanchay Patra and Bonus Sanchay Patra in favour of the undersigned.

5. Time allowed for work : 15 (fifteen) days.

6. Eligibility of contractors : 'A' to 'E' general class.

7. Offices where tenders will be available : Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Dhaka/Manikganj/Munshiganj/Gazipur/Narsingdi/ Narayanganj/Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Vitikandi/ Narayanganj Road Sub-Division.

8. Offices where tenders will be received : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (R&H), Narayanganj Road Division, Shimrail, Narayanganj.

9. Last date and time of selling tender : 7-6-2000 till office hours.

10. Date and time of receiving tender : 8-6-2000 at 12-30 PM.

11. Date and time of opening tender : 11-6-2000 at 1-00 PM Executive Engineer, R&H, Narayanganj Road Division.

12. Date and time of lottery : 12-6-2000 at 1-00 PM.

13. Official to approve estimate : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka.

14. Head of expenditure : 168-RBF.

15. Cost of tender : Taka 500/- per set (non-refundable).

MD Abdul Mukhtar
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Narayanganj Road Division.

DFP 13193-28/5
G-1047

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against Taka									
Central Bank USD/BDT rate: Buying BDT 50.85/Selling BDT 51.15									
Selling		Currency		Buying		Currency		Buying	
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer	TT Clean	OD Sight
51.2700	51.3000	USD	50.9000	50.7313	50.6427	50.6427	50.6427	50.6427	50.6427
0.4892	0.4895	JPY	0.4717	0.4702	0.4693	0.4693	0.4693	0.4693	0.4693
30.6236	30.6415	CHF	29.9641	29.9648	29.7601	29.7601	29.7601	29.7601	29.7601
30.0757	30.0933	SGD	28.9913	28.9913	28.8447	28.8447	28.8447	28.8447	28.8447
34.3541	34.3742	CAD	33.5442	33.4331	33.3088	33.3088	33.3088	33.3088	33.3088
5.7215	5.7248	SEK	5.6256	5.6069	5.5953	5.5953	5.5953	5.5953	5.5953
30.5569	30.5748	AUD	27.7405	27.6486	27.4483	27.4483	27.4483	27.4483	27.4483
13.6375	13.6454	MYR	13.2535	13.2096	13.1762	13.1762	13.1762	13.1762	13.1762
6.6135	6.6174	HKD	6.4983	6.4768	6.4630	6.4630	6.4630	6.4630	6.4630
13.7804	13.7885	SAR	13.4628	13.4181	13.3841	13.3841	13.3841	13.3841	13.3841
14.0743	14.0826	AED	13.7426	13.6971	13.6621	13.6621	13.6621	13.6621	13.6621
0.0455	0.0456	KRW	0.0448	0.0447	0.0446	0.0446	0.0446	0.0446	0.0446
77.3305	77.3758	GBP	75.7036	75.4527	75.1690	75.1690	75.1690	75.1690	75.1690
48.2707	48.2990	EUR	46.3801	46.2264	46.1456	46.1456	46.1456	46.1456	46.1456

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Beth position and performance of vessels as on 31.5.2000

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Lady hind	Wheat(P)	Gang	Angelic	5/5	8/6
J/2	Clover Trust	C Clink	Kant	MBL	22/5	3/6
J/3	Ocean-1	Rice(P)/GI	Yang	SMSL	13/5	1/6
J/4	Handy Humanity	Wheat(P)	Darb	Total	28/4	10/6
J/5	Leona	GI	Sing	Prog	22/5	1/6
J/6	Asean Liberty	GI/Log	Sing	HSL	24/5	2/6
J/7	Min Jiang	Sugar(G)	Sing	Bdship	22/5	1/6
J/8	Paulina	Wheat(P)	Turk	Fortune	16/5	6/6
J/9	Axon Andriane	Wheat(P)	Sing	Royal	15/4	4/6
J/10	Green Island	GI(P)	Sing	Royal	7/5	10/6
J/11	Pan Jin Hai	C Clink	Sing	NWSL	22/5	1/6
J/12	Sin Hai	Cont	Sing	RSL	25/5	2/6
J/13	Boxer capt cock	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	25/5	2/6
CCT/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pili(Bd)	25/5	2/6
CCT/2	Banga Bior(Bd Op)	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	26/5	31/5
CCT/3	Banga Bijo(FI/Flag)	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	29/5	2/6
RM/14	Ocean Pride	Cement	Uzan	RSAL	12/5	5/6
RM/15	Norbulk Namir	Cement	Sing	PSAL	9/5	31/5
CCJ	Ban Ann	C Clink	Krabi	BSL	25/5	31/5
GSJ	Ban Ann	C Clink	Pada	RSAL	12/5	3/6
TSP	Elizabeth	R Phos	Hamre	Seacom	22/4	31/5
RM/3	Performance-9	CPO	Indo	Rainbow	28/5	1/6
RM/4	Rosa-T	CDSO	Loren	Sealfit	25/5	3/6
DOJ	Lima-1	Cement	Zaka	SBS	R/A	2/6
DD	Banglar Moni	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	4/6
DDJ/1	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	BSC	17/4	6/6
RM/8	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	2/6
RM/9	Banglar Mamata	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	2/6
SM-10	Tug Le Macapex	Empty	Chand	Karna	R/A	10/6
CULFJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Empty	Karna	R/A	10/6
Kafco(U)	Western Team	Urea	Pena	Everett	29/5	10/6
Kafco(A)	Gaz Kanda	Ammonia	Hald	MBL	29/5	1/6

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Norbulk Pine	31.5.2000	Kaus	Seacom	C Clink	-
Vlad	8.6.2000	Pusa	Sinobest	For Visit	-
Monte Chair	31.5.2000	Sing	CTBL	In Ballast	-
Kota Singa	31.5.2000	Sing	Pili(Bd)	Cont	Sing
X-press Resolve	31.5.2000	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Rainbow Light	1.6.2000	Jaka	ASL	GI	-
Achiever	1.6.2000	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Yong Jang	1.6.2000	S Hai	Bdship	GI	-
Jaya Mars	1.6.2000	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Sulu Warrior	1.6.2000	-	Rainbiw	Y Peas	-
Dragon Kalimantan	1.6.2000	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
Larak	2.6.2000	-	SBS	Sugar(G)	-
Nego Lombok	2.6.2000	Vang	Litmond	D Peas	-
Kota Naga	2.6.2000	Sing	Pili(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Asia Harmony	2.6.2000	Sing	Everett(GISt Coll)	-	-
Banga Biraj	5.6.2000	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	Sing
QSG Alpha	3.6.2000	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
AL Shams	3.6.2000	Pada	NWSLC	Clink(Aramit)	-
Siam Ivory	4.6.2000	Jiang	Asa	R Phos	-
Jurong Balsam	4.6.2000	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
(Chiu Hong)	5.6.2000	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kapitan Petko Volvoda	2.6.2000	Col	BBA(GISt Coll)	-	-
Banglar Doct	5.6.2000	Pak	BSC	Rice(P)	-
Bay Fortune	6.6.2000	Bab	SMCL	GI(Bitumen)	-
Arabella	6.6.2000	PKL	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Esco Virgo	6.6.2000	-	Prog	GI(Copra)	-
Jutha Parichart	9.6.2000	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Pintal	9.6.2000	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	9.6.2000	Sing	Pili(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	9.6.2000	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Patty Ann	31.5.2000	-	Rainbow	Cdso	-
Spiros	2.6.2000	-	Jebe	Bsl Crude Oil	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
Burge CSK-6	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Magarita	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (25/5)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (29/5)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IRS	R/A (29/4)
Romina-G	Scraping	Rast	OTBL	17/5
Equator	Scraping	UAE	OTBL	2/5

Vessels at outer anchorage

Undok-1	Cement	Sing	SBS	22/5
Sai King	Sugar(G)	Koshi	Fortune	22/5
AA Venture	GI/Log	Yang	CLA	25/5
Da Fa (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	25/5
OSG Argosy (Cont)	Cont	Col	Everbest	26/5
Torn Pacific	urea	Pena	Oil	26/5
Tiger River (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Nol	26/5
Express Mahalu(Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	27/5
Alum Kembong	C Oil	-	Seacom	27/5
Stevengae pride	HSD/MS	Sing	Atlantic	26/5
Virginia	CDSO	Kaki	Seacom	27/5
Yanino	CPO	Col	Rainbow	29/5
Actuarial(Cont)	Cont	Sing	QCCL	30/5
Coral Hero	GI/St Cj	Sing	Everett	30/5
QC Teal (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	QCCL	30/5
Luna Azul	GI/St Cj	Yang	Everett	30/5
Petrina	Wheat(P)	Alba	MSA	22/5
Selendang KASA	Wheat(G)	Aust	SSST	28/5