

আন্তর্জাতিক ওজেন দিবস

১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০০০

International Ozone Day
16 September 2000

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
Department of Environment



আকাশ অক্ষত রাখুন

নিজেকে রক্ষা করুন, রক্ষা করুন ওজেন জুর
Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer

Save Our Sky: Protect Yourself; Project the Ozone Layer

Today, the 16th September, is the International Ozone Day. Since 1995, this day is being observed as declared by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The day is being celebrated for the protection of the ozone layer. It is also a day to raise global awareness on ozone layer depletion and its negative impact on the biosphere and also for the control on ODS use. The government and the people of Bangladesh are also observing this significant day in a befitting manner as elsewhere in the world. The theme of the day for this year has been: "Save Our Sky : Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer".

The atmosphere surrounding the earth is a blanket of gaseous materials. It consists of a number of segments, one of which is the stratosphere. It is situated at ten to fifty kilometers above the earth surface. A pungent pale blue poisonous gas called ozone exists in this layer. Ozone is a molecule made up of three oxygen atoms. Though it spreads over quite a large area, the distribution is so thin that if the ozone layer ozone were collected together, they could have formed a skin around the earth, no thicker than that of an orange.

Importance of the Ozone Layer

The ozone layer protects us from the harmful effects of solar ultraviolet (UV) rays. Any significant decrease of ozone in the stratosphere would result in a higher incidence of UV-B radiation. As a result, plant and animal life of the earth and quality of air will be adversely affected. Depletion of ozone layer is associated with development of skin cancer, eye damage and suppression of immune system in human body. Crop production and aquatic as well as marine foodchain is also affected due to ozone layer depletion. The absorption of UV-B by the ozone layer also creates a source of heat, playing a key role in the temperature regime of the atmosphere.

International Concern for the Protection of Ozone Layer

In 1974, a scientific research pointed out that ozone layer had been decreasing due to gradual depletion due to the continuous emission of chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere. Ozone hole was first detected by British Antarctic Survey Team in 1985. Through the initiation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer" was adopted in 1985. And the "Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" was signed in 1987 for the protection of ozone layer through control of the use of ozone depleting substances.

The present Government has been undertaking various steps toward environment-friendly sustainable development through conservation of the environment and pollution control. The Government has entered into agreements, both regional and international levels, for realization of the above objective. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been among such agreements.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has been working for implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Bangladesh. Banning the import of equipment containing ozone depleting substances and imposition of a licensing system toward control of import of ozone depleting substances have been under active consideration of the government. The Government has also been considering to formulate legislative measures for phasing out the use of such substances in Bangladesh. Under the provisions of the existing Environment Conservation Act, 1995, no new industry utilizing ozone depleting substances as raw materials is allowed to be established. In this way, Bangladesh continues to ensure implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

I wish the International Ozone Day all success.



MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the International Ozone Day is being observed in Bangladesh as part of a global programme.

The impact of depletion of Ozone Layer is more or less spread over in all the countries of the world depending upon their location. Bangladesh falls within the impact zone of the Ozone Layer depletion. Protection of the Ozone Layer is of utmost necessity in ensuring the existence of plants and animals in the world. Bangladesh has been a signatory to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and has been working toward its effective implementation.

I wish every success to the International Ozone Day.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed
President
People's Republic of Bangladesh



State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Ozone is a vital issue of a grave significance. It is inextricably linked with the existence of life and continuance of the Planet Earth. The depletion of Ozone layer around the Earth and gradual warming of weather may prove critical for the beautiful gift and miracle that we have and what is called "life". In this vast universe, so far life is noticed only in our globe and we must ensure that it survives and continues.

In the recent weeks, we have seen in the newspapers that a wide lake has opened up in the North Pole and such opening is a first instance in 50 million years. It was also reported that the temperature rose to 4°C centigrade in Alaska and Siberia. Today Sea-ice is 40% thinner and covers 6% less area than in 1980. In the layer of Ozone, a big hole is noticed almost equal to the size of the United States.

We know, there is a strong correlation between the increase in temperature and the increase of greenhouse gases present in the atmosphere and our activities greatly increase the amount of the green house gases. Carbon Dioxide, Chlorofluorocarbons, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide all together contribute to global warming & Ozone depletion. The Ozone, which is surrounding the earth in its upper atmosphere as the protective shield about 12-25 kilometers from the earth's surface is constantly hammered & dented by the green house gases.

It may be mentioned here that only one meter rise in the sea level which is likely within the next 100 years will inundate quarter of Bangladesh driving quarter of population homeless and without agricultural lands.

What is vitally important and particularly focused is that lot of the abuse done to the nature is self-inflicted by us and due to human activities and still we can rise to the task. We have over-loaded the atmosphere with Carbon Dioxide, Chlorofluorocarbon and green-house gases.

Today the peril that we are facing is indeed alarming and that may consume us all before we can even predict. Despite the great danger that Ozone depletion & environmental factors are posing, the resources that are allocated to combat the crisis are conspicuously inadequate and that looks indeed small compared to trillions spent during the cold war days.

In the 21st century, the greatest challenge facing us is evolving an intelligent and far-sighted management of the earth and its resources and strike a balance between human consumption and human development. This is the question of sustenance of the earth, its life-support systems and functions. We talk of human rights. The earth's right to exist is only a natural extension of human rights. While combating environment degradation and a war to save the world and the life, we globally must not miscalculate and subject ourselves to narrow interests.

Thank you
Joi Bangla

H.N. Asheque Rahman
State Minister
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Save Our Sky: Protect

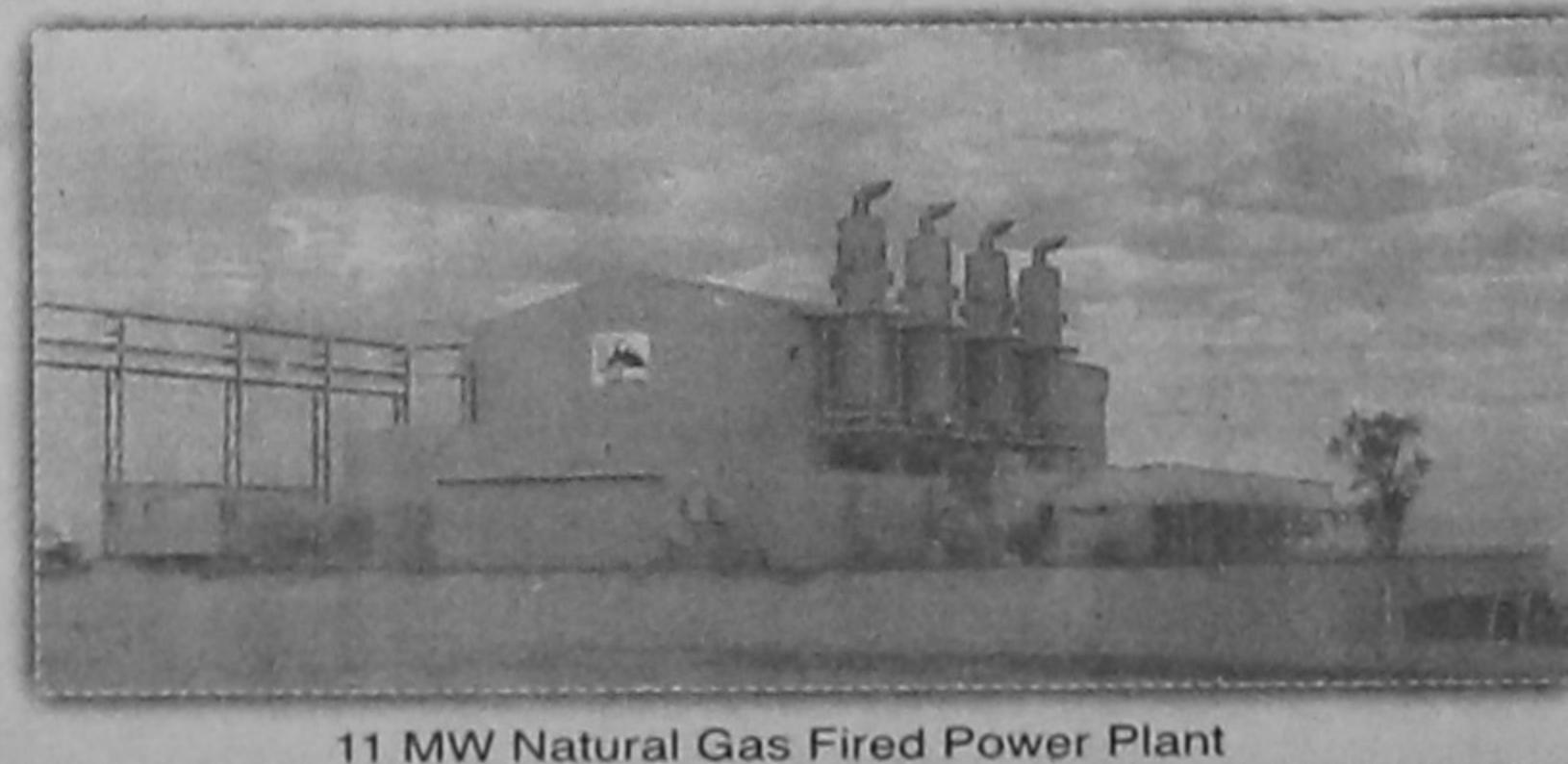
ODS-containing appliances and introducing licensing system on ODS import. Thus, Bangladesh is expected to remain in full compliance of the Montreal Protocol.

Country Programme Update and Equipment for Identifying ODS:

The 'Country Programme for Phasing-out of ODS in Bangladesh' was prepared in 1994. Since then significant changes have taken

See page 11

Empowering Rural Bangladesh



11 MW Natural Gas Fired Power Plant

সিএফসি-মুক্ত ফ্রিজ, রিফ্রিজারেটর,
এরোসল ব্যবহার করুন

Use CFC-Free Fridge,
Refrigerator, Aerosols

পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয়
Ministry of Environment and Forest
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

অসম্ভাৱ ও পৰিকল্পনায় : ধাৰা এ্যাড

Khondoker Rashidul Huq
Director General
Department of Environment

Reporting of Data on ODS
import and uses to the Montreal
Protocol Secretariat
Publication of information
brochures, both in Bangla and in
English

Organization of Seminars in
1996 and 1997 on the eve of
observance of International Ozone
Day. Holding the seminar in 1998
was dropped due to the
unprecedented and devastating
floods that affected the entire
country during the year.

A local Economic Consultant
was engaged to analyze the
economic implications of ODS
phase-out in Bangladesh with a
view to evolving a policy and
institutional framework for
implementation and monitoring of
the Country Programme.

A local Legal Consultant was
also engaged by the government for
formulating a legal framework for
phase-out of ozone depleting
substances in Bangladesh.

The consultants submitted the
reports after making the improvements
and updating through holding
consultative workshops. These workshops were widely
participated by relevant policy and
decision levels of the Government,
the judiciary, members of the legal
professions, NGOs, mass-media,
various professional bodies related
to academic pursuits in the field of
ozone depletion and trade
associations. The reports have been
under active considerations of the
government.

Co-ordination was accom-
plished with ACI Ltd. for phase-out
of ODS in Aerosol sector. A project
entitled "Conversion to CFC-free
Technology at ACI Ltd." to this end
was implemented by the
Department of Environment.

Launching of awareness
campaign was made targeting
importers, users and technicians
engaged in repair and service shop
of refrigerators and airconditioners.

An awareness campaign was
launched among the importers and
users of ODSs about the negative
impacts of ozone layer depletion
throughout the country.

Observance of International
Ozone Day in 1997 coincided with
10th Anniversary of the Signing of
Montreal Protocol. The Department of
Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest,
Government of Bangladesh undertook
various programs on the day which
include, inter alia, holding a
seminar, publication of a poster
and a brochure and bring out
special supplements in various
national dailies. The Bangladesh
Betar had broadcast a special
programme highlighting the
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Awareness campaigns were
launched, on World Environment
Day 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999
about the importance of ozone layer
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The International Ozone Day is being observed in Bangladesh since
1995. The theme of the day for the current year is "Save Our Sky:
Protect Yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer". This theme highlights the
significance of saving the ozone layer from depletion thus in saving
the human race and the biosphere.

The harmful consequence of greenhouse effect on the world
environment is being aggravated by the ozone layer depletion.
Resultant effect has been gradual adverse impact on the environment
and the ecosystem. Like all other countries of the world, Bangladesh,
too, is being severely affected.

The Government of Bangladesh has signed the Montreal Protocol
with a view to controlling the import and use of ozone depleting
substances. The Department of Environment is currently
implementing a project with a view to making aerosol sector free of
ozone depleting substances (ODS). It is hoped that ODS use in
Bangladesh will be reduced by 60% during the current year.

The Department of Environment has also taken up a recovery and
recycling project to restrict the use CFC-12 a major ODS and its
unnecessary release to the environment. As a result, the need of
import of CFC-12 will soon be reduced.

People's participation along with these government endeavors
toward saving the ozone layer is, in my opinion, an extremely necessary
process. All citizens in their individual capacity may contribute
significantly in the protection of the ozone layer by limiting their
purchases to CFC-free Fridge and aerosols, which are available in
local markets of Bangladesh. This will substantially help in protecting
the ozone layer.

I wish the International Ozone Day all success.

Manun-Ur-Rashid

Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forest
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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commercial and domestic refrigerators containing CFCs are in use
throughout the country. A developing country like Bangladesh
can hardly afford to discard such a large number of refrigerators.
To prevent leakage of CFCs to the atmosphere, a project on Recovery
and Recycling of Refrigerant under the Montreal Protocol
is being implemented by the Government under MEF assistance.
Recycling will reduce demand for new domestic need.

The Government is now at the
stage of examining the existing
laws to determine the nature of
legislation and regulation required
to phase-out ODSs in Bangladesh.
In the interim period, till such
legislation is in place, existing laws
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