

# বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস ৫ জুন ২০০১

## বিশ্বব্যাপী জীবন প্রবাহের সাথে একাত্ম হোন

# World Environment Day 5 June 2001

## CONNECT with the World Wide Web of Life

**পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর**

পরিবেশ ও বন মন্ত্রণালয় গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

**Department of Environment**

Ministry of Environment and Forest Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### World Environment Day 2001 and the Department of Environment

**Khondoker Rashidul Huq**  
Director General, Department of Environment

Environment has been among the most talked-about issue in the international agenda. It is mainly due to the fact that continued degradation of the environment has caused peril to the global biosphere. Environmentalists, since long, have been trying to bring this issue to the notice of world leaders. Their endeavour came to bear fruits through the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden, in 1972. The Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit of 1992 made such endeavour still strengthened and imparted dynamism to it. The United Nations Conference on Human Environment had taken a number of decisions toward conserving the world environment and its development. Observation of 5 June each year as the World Environment Day has been among the significant outcomes of the Conference. Bangladesh, in solidarity with the other countries of the world, has been observing this Day and, through it, strengthening her association with the world community on a continued basis.

The World Environment Day bears a special theme as determined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) toward its observance each year. The theme of this year's World Environment Day celebrations has been "CONNECT with the World Wide Web of Life" which is closely linked to the state of contemporary world environment. Life-systems and environment complement each other toward sustenance of the global biosphere. Healthy environment is a prerequisite to better living. Environment is intimately related to every component of the global life-systems. Human beings, animals and birds, plants and vegetation, etc. are the components of the "World Wide Web of Life". These components, for their sustenance, depend, on the one hand, upon themselves and also on the non-living components of the environment, such as, water, air and soil, on the other. As a whole, each of the living and non-living components of the environment plays a decisive role in ensuring healthy and continued flow of the life-system throughout the world. Degradation of any of these environmental components is bound to cause disruption to the entire global biosphere.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is dedicated toward keeping the global 'Web of Life' intact and unharmed. The sphere of responsibilities of the human race as the most active component of the "World Wide Web of Life" is unlimited toward realizing this aim. It is the human race itself which explores, harnesses and utilizes all the living and non-living resources of the environment to meet its own developmental needs. Such needs of the human race can only be met by an intact and unharmed "World Wide Web of Life". In this context, this year's observance of the World Environment Day has been among the global means toward reassuring by the human race to ensure the process of sustainable development through sustainable utilization of all the environmental resources.

As per decision of the National Environment Committee, various scheduled Banks and other financing agencies, now-a-days, while allocating loans, have been ensuring definite and real steps taken by various industries toward controlling pollution of the environment. This has resulted in undertaking environmental impact assessment as a regular process in all enterprises related to industries and projects both at public and private levels. The Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) has been undertaken to contain air pollution in the city of Dhaka while, at the national level, the Air Quality Monitoring Project (AQMP) aims at controlling both national and transboundary air pollution. Lead-free gasoline has been introduced throughout the country since June, 1999. Import of tri-wheelers with two-stroke engines, identified as the principal source of air pollution, has been banned. An inter-ministerial project has been taken up to save the people from the curse of arsenic contamination. Establishing new polythene industries have been banned for the next five-year period in order to gradually phase-out the use of polythene as among the principal sources of environment pollution.

Among the steps taken toward checking degradation of overall global environment have been: signing and ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention on Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; the International Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD), etc.

Various projects and programmes have been and are being taken locally in Bangladesh under the auspices of these international conventions, treaties and protocols. Among those which have already been completed are: 'the Bangladesh Country Study on Climate Change'; 'the Asia Least-cost Greenhouse Abatement Strategy (ALGAS)'; 'the Regulatory Framework for Import and Use of Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes in Bangladesh'; etc.

Under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Father of the Nation, programme toward upholding the environment was undertaken immediately following the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 1973 was promulgated and a project was undertaken toward controlling water pollution. Later, in 1977, a project on Environment Pollution Control was undertaken keeping the overall environment in view through promulgation of the Environment Pollution Control Ordinance and constituting the Environment Pollution Control Cell. This Cell and the project, as follow-up of the recommendation of the Administrative Reform Committee, were merged together into the Environment Pollution Control Department in 1985 with a manpower of 70. In 1989, with the creation of a separate Ministry of Environment and Forest, the Department of Environment Pollution Control was re-nomenclated as the Department of Environment with an enhanced manpower of 173.

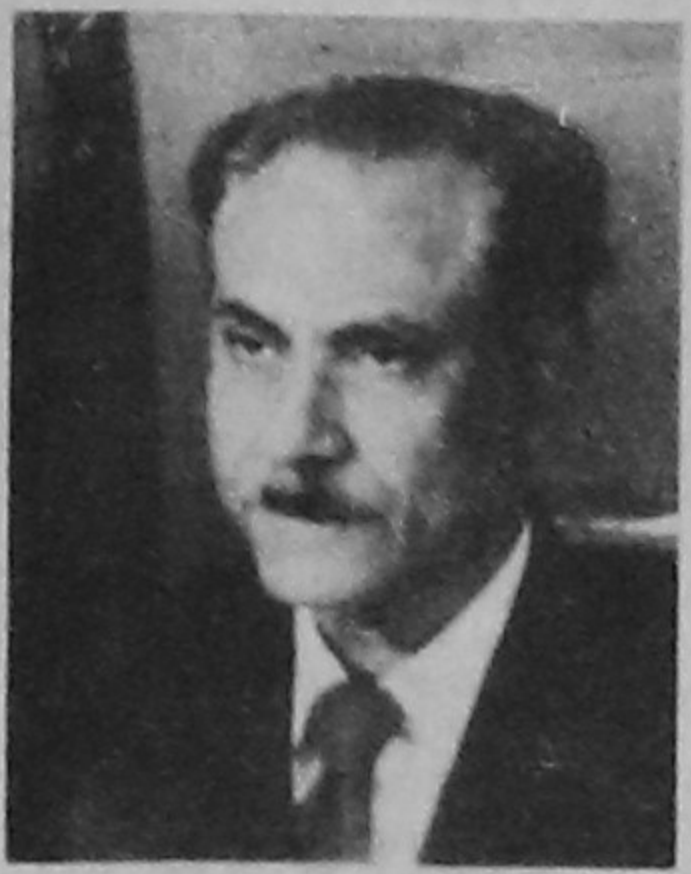
Viewing the Bangladesh perspectives vis-a-vis the contemporary world, it becomes apparent that the adverse impacts of global warming, climate change, sea-level rise, etc., gradually become manifest in Bangladesh also. Increased frequency of the incidence of floods, tornadoes, cyclones, tidal surges, etc., during the contemporary periods has a constant devastating effect upon the life, property and physical infrastructure of the country. Besides the global impact of environmental degradation, Bangladesh has also been subject to local and regional issues. Population explosion, unplanned urbanization, increased salinity in the southern regions, industrial pollution, indiscriminate use of chemicals, scarcity and pollution of inland surface water, indiscriminate extraction of underground water, arsenic contamination, air pollution, etc., have placed the total environment of Bangladesh under constant threat.

Geographical location and pollution caused at the international level have made us to live with floods, draughts, tornadoes, cyclones, tidal surges, etc., on a regular basis. Bangladesh will be the worst affected due to global climate change phenomena with permanent inundation of 18 per cent of its landmass and, as direct consequence, of a projected adverse impact upon a fourth of its total population. But the fact remains that contribution of Bangladesh to causing such calamities is the least and insignificant. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has undertaken a number of important and concrete steps toward controlling environmental degradation and upholding the environment. At the international level, such steps have been

concluding and ratification of twenty eight conventions, treaties and protocols related to environment. At the national level, the government has undertaken Environment Policy and Action Programme, National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP), National Conservation Strategy (NCS), enforced Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2000, Environment Conservation Rules 1997, Environment Court Act 2000, has been in implementation of the on-going project, 'Sustainable Environment Management Programme', etc. An apex body, named, National Environment Committee has also been constituted under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to review the state of implementation of various activities related to environment and that of commitment to the international communities and to identify and provide policy direction toward solution of various issues at the inter-ministerial level. Besides,

Necessary orders have already been issued toward opening Divisional offices of the Department in Barisal and Sylhet Divisions. Besides, the process of enhancing the Department's manpower from 173 to 250 has been in the final stage.

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রাষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

**বাণী**

বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের মতো বাংলাদেশেও বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস পালনের উদ্যোগকে আমি স্বাগত জানাই। এ বছর বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবসের প্রতিপাদনা "বিশ্বব্যাপী জীবন প্রবাহের সাথে একাত্ম হোন" - পৃথিবীতে প্রাণের স্পন্দন টিকিয়ে রাখার জন্য বিষয়টি আমাদের কর্মপ্রচেষ্টার সাথে সামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ এবং অত্যন্ত সমন্বয়যোগ্য বলে আমি মনে করি। বর্তমান পৃথিবী পরিবেশগত অবক্ষয়ের সম্মুখীন। গ্রীণহাউস প্রভাব, আবহাওয়া পরিবর্তন, ভূমিকম্প তীব্রতা, সমুদ্রপৃষ্ঠের উচ্চতা বৃদ্ধি, ওজোনস্তর ক্ষয়, মরুসমতা ইত্যাদি কারণে ধরিত্রীর পরিবেশ ও প্রতিবেশের ভারসাম্য ক্রমাগতভাবে নষ্ট হচ্ছে। এ প্রেক্ষাপটে টেকসই উন্নয়নের মাধ্যমে বিশ্বব্যাপীকে অভিন্ন এই সমস্যা একাত্মভাবে মোকাবিলা করতে হবে। এ লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক কনভেনশনে বাংলাদেশ স্বাক্ষর দান করেছে এবং সেগুলো বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে দেশে ও বিদেশে কাজ করে চলেছে। আমি বিশ্ব পরিবেশ দিবস উদ্‌যাপন কর্মসূচীর সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

বিচারপতি সাহাবুদ্দীন আহমদ  
রাষ্ট্রপতি  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ



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

**MESSAGE**

Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> June, "The World Environment Day", and the theme this year is "Connect with the World Wide Web of Life". We have only one globe to live. Life is a beautiful miracle and we are bestowed with life to live on the earth. The earth is magnificently endowed in its entertaining prospects, in its variety of lives and species, bounteous vegetation and plantation, contrast of nature in its awful fury and beneficence, in hidden resources, challenges and human progress and in ecological equilibrium that sustain the abode of all. Indeed these together, bounded to each other, make this earth beautiful and sustainable. Environment has not been a major concern until recent decades. From the year 1900, the world population of 1.65 billion has jumped to more than 6 billion in the year 2000 in course of only one hundred years. It is no longer possible to avoid smog, smoke, air pollution, water deterioration, depletion of forest resources, environment degradation and mass of waste that we create in different forms—solid, liquid or gaseous. Today, environment is a global concern. Every individual and nation has the fundamental ethical responsibility to respect nature and care for the earth, protecting its life support systems and biodiversity and caring for the needs of other countries and future generations. Indeed, everyone in this world has a right to clean air, safe water, productive soil and to the conservation of the natural, scenic, historic, recreational, esthetic and economic values of the environment. We have entered the twenty first century and are faced with the greatest challenge. The challenge is the self-conscious, intelligent management of the Earth, its resources, fauna and flora and to strike a balance between human development, human consumption and environment. This also involves evolving an environment-friendly legal system superseding suicidal and unbridled economic consideration. We are extremely lucky. In the vast Universe, we are the only ones who have life and proved to be the most intelligent, stable and adjustable. We have the ultimate duty to bequeath a livable home to our children. We talk of human rights. The Earth's right to exist is only a logical extension of the concept of human rights. The most beautiful object that we may have seen in our lives is the photograph of the Planet Mother Earth, seen from a distance, hanging in space, vibrantly alive. The blue sphere is unique among all the planets in our solar system. And it must live. The democratic Government of Bangladesh is conscious of what ought to be done. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is spearheading the campaign to save the environment. This is the best of time that world over, everyone has become conscious and active. This is also the worst of time that we are already at the precipice and the pendulum may swing either way to decline or to progress. We believe, under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina, we shall win the race.

Habibun Nabi Ashequr Rahman  
State Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Forest  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### World Environment Day 2001 and the Department of Environment

Insecticides, checking their indiscriminate use and coordinating with the Plant Protection Department toward their limited and logical use; Undertaking studies on various issues related to environment for taking measures toward conservation of environment and preparing recommendations, etc.; Formulation and implementation of various projects related to environment; Undertaking programmes toward implementing the commitments of various international conventions, protocols and treaties signed by Bangladesh; etc. Besides, the 'Save-the-Buriganga Movement' currently undertaken extensively, has been the outcome of the initiatives of the Department of Environment. Conservation of Environment is a continuous process. Responsibility of conservation and upgradation of the environment does not lie solely upon the government. The general masses of the people have also their inseparable share in such a tremendous responsibility. All of us need to share it equally with equal spirit and dedication. We need to work unitedly. We

need to have a constant vigil so that our activities do not pollute the rivers and other waterbodies and wetlands and also that various townships grow up in an environment-friendly way. Responsibilities of all of us should be to save the country and the people from the pollution through black smokes and various wastes, to ensure equitable utilization of natural resources through curbing shrinkage of the forest resources and through their upliftment and, on the whole, to keep the process of sustainable development of the country on a continuous basis through upholding the environment. It is needless to mention here that it is the environment-friendly development that could bring sustained benefit to our country. Keeping the challenge posed by the twenty-first century in view, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of protection and well-being of the environment toward ensuring clean and favourable conditions of living for the up-coming generations and, thus, realise the goal of the theme "CONNECT with the World Wide Web of Life".

**CONNECT with the World Wide Web of Life**



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

**MESSAGE**

5 June 'World Environment Day'. The day is being observed in Bangladesh like all other countries of the world. 'CONNECT with the World Wide Web of Life', the theme of this year, bears relevance to, as well as, is timely in respect of ensuring development of environmental knowledge and public awareness. The present-day world is confronted with disastrous consequences of environmental degradation and widespread pollution. Greenhouse effect, global warming, sea-level rise, depletion of the ozone layer, desertification, etc., have been the phenomena due to which disruption is being caused to the global environment and ecosystem. The biological diversity throughout the world is being threatened. Human race being an integral part to global biodiversity will have to bear the adverse consequences of extinction of any of the species of the latter. Concept of sustainable development in containing any upcoming environmental disaster is gradually gaining ground in the contemporary world. Sustainable development facilitates ensures healthy environment and sustenance of various life forms. Peoples of the world need to continue their concerted efforts toward unhampered pace of sustainable development for far-reaching welfare of the humankind. The present democratic government, under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, has been pursuing conservation of natural balance and overall development of the country on a continued basis through upgrading and conserving the environment. Significant number of steps have already been taken toward resisting environmental disaster and ensuring sustainable development. These include formulation, enactment, promulgation and enforcement of Environment Policy, Environment Conservation Act, Environment Conservation Rules, Environment Court Act, etc. I sincerely hope that observance of World Environment Day, 2001 will result in environmental awareness, in still an enhanced degree, among the general masses of the people and creation of a much strengthened based of their healthy relation with the biological diversity in its totality. I wish all success of the programme of observance of the World Environment Day.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh live forever.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury  
Minister  
Ministry of Environment and Forest  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Secretary General  
United Nations

**MESSAGE**

The theme of this year's observance of World Environment Day is "Connect with the World Wide Web of Life", a choice that reflects the need for each and every one of us to recognize our role in preserving our fragile planet and the ecosystems, resources and natural processes that bind us all together. More than ever, life on earth requires of us a sense of universal responsibility - nation to nation, person to person, human to all other forms of life. Albert Einstein once said that in crisis, imagination is better than knowledge. We do need more knowledge about the world's major ecosystems and about the complex interplay between environment and development, since it is impossible to devise effective policy unless it is based on sound scientific information. That is one reason why today marks the launch, by the United Nations and the World Resources Institute, of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international collaborative effort to fill important knowledge gaps and to map the health of our planet. At the same time, we know more than enough already to face the hard choices ahead. We already have the technical skills to halt destructive trends and to place our economies on a more sustainable footing. It is not knowledge and scientific research, but political and economic factors, that will determine whether or not the wisdom accumulating in our laboratories and libraries will be put into practice. Challenges such as climate change, desertification, the destruction of biological diversity and population growth are testing not only our imagination, but also our will. Sustainability is in everybody's interest, rich and poor alike. One in every two jobs worldwide—in agriculture, forestry and fisheries—depends directly on the sustainability of ecosystems. Yet unsustainable practices are woven deeply into the fabric of modern life. And myths have taken hold suggesting there is little alternative to these short-sighted and wasteful patterns of consumption and development. So let us, on this World Environment Day, connect with a new ethic of global stewardship and conservation, and most of all with the imagination and courage to make it a reality.

Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary General  
United Nations



Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**MESSAGE**

Life and environment supplement each other and healthy environment is a pre-requisite to better living. I feel delighted to learn that the "World Environment Day-2001" is being observed in Bangladesh in commemoration of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment. Bangladesh has been vocal in safeguarding the environment both in international and regional fora. We are signatory to the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, etc., and have been working towards their implementation. Our government has placed both confronting environmental issues and poverty alleviation as the highest priority in developmental agenda. I call upon every body irrespective of caste and creed, to come forward in imparting success to the endeavors toward safeguarding the environment. I hope, in the coming days, our commitment of World Environment Day will be effectively reflected among our concerted efforts.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina  
Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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

**MESSAGE**

Fifth June is being observed globally as the World Environment Day on the basis of the decision taken in the 27th session of the United Nations General Assembly as a follow-up of the Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. The theme of this year's World Environment Day has been CONNECT with the World Wide Web of life" which bears special significance in view of the threat being posed by unforeseeing human behaviour to the existence of various life including the human kind in this Earth. The government, over the years, has undertaken projects and necessary programmes towards conserving the environment of the country as follow-up measures of the environment-related international conventions, treaties and protocols it has been Party to and through implementing Agenda 21 and NEMAP. Required Rules, sub-rules and national environmental quality standards have been formulated to make the Environment Conservation Act effective. Such activities will, hopefully, make significant contributions in conserving the environment both at national and international levels. I wish all the success to the observance of the World Environment Day 2001

Mahfuzul Islam

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

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