

Developing countries worried over climate change fallout

REZAUL KARIM, from Bali, Indonesia

Developing countries participating in the final preparatory committee meeting on World Summit on 'Sustainable Development' have expressed deep concern over the increased risk of negative impacts of climate change.

The meeting held yesterday at Bali International Conference centre was participated by the contact group comprising Bangladesh, Brazil, Pakistan, India, China, The Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Samoa and Argentina.

The session revealed that all countries, particularly developing, least developed and small island states are confronting the risk due to negative impacts of climate change.

The contact group recognised the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food

and health remaining at the centre of global attention. They said the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the key instrument for addressing climate change.

It recalled the UN Millennium Declaration, in which head of the States and Governments resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, preferably by the 10th anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases.

It called upon states to work co-operatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC.

The contact group stressed the need for providing technical and financial assistance and capacity to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with commitments

under the UNFCCC, including the Marrakesh accords.

It emphasised on develop and disseminate innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy and of investment through private sector involvement, market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international co-operation.

Fish trader

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vice-president of the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal's Narayananj unit. The Police later released the Sramik Dal leader, as he was not accused in any case.

Neither the commissioner nor the deputy commissioner, south of the DMP could be contacted for their comments. One of the aides of the home minister, when reached, said the minister was outside.



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina addressing the office-bearers of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at AL's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Freedom of expression

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"The BNP-Jamaat government is afraid of the strength of pens. That's why it wants to snatch the freedom of expression and writing."

Hasina said the government is trying to suppress opposition activists and also journalists by unleashing torture and killing.

Since the takeover by the alliance government, she said, over 200 journalists were tortured and a number of them, including Harunur Rashid of Khulna, were killed. "There is tremendous pressure on the newspapers writing truth."

She alleged that the government, through unleashing torture, is trying to distort truth and history of the nation. She, however, said this government would not be able to implement its evil design.

Hasina said the main target of the government is to eliminate Awami League. They want that only one party, BNP, will exist in the country.

"They won the election through rigging and are now trying to capture all wealth. Even they are ready to hand over the country to foreigners for power," she added.

BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, DUJ president Kazi

Rafiq and general secretary Mollah Jalal spoke on the occasion. DUJ leaders Altaf Mahmud, Zafar Wazed, BFUJ secretary general Akhtar Ahmed Khan, Amirul Momenin, Farazi Ajmol Hossain and Shuva Rahman were present.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Prof Abu Sayeed and Abdul Mannan also attended the meeting.

Kamal Majumder

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The court granted bail till submission of the police report.

The two others were granted bail by the Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka in February.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on April 18 against Kamal and two others.

Meanwhile, the High Court on April 8, extended the ad-interim bail of Kamal Majumder for six months from the date of issuing the order.

Cronje dies

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Cronje, 32, was banned from professional cricket for life in October 2000 for his role in a match-fixing scandal.

He was banned after admitting he had accepted around \$130,000 from bookmakers to influence the course of matches.

The disgraced cricketer's brother Frans Cronje earlier told Reuters the plane had crashed in bad weather.

"Yes, it's true. It was raining and they crashed into the side of a mountain," said Frans Cronje, who was speaking before the Sport Ministry's statement confirming the death.

Cronje made his Test debut in 1992 against West Indies and was appointed South African captain two years later in a home series against New Zealand.

In 1996, he led South Africa to 1-0 home victory against England in their first five-Test series since returning to world cricket after apartheid.

But the star's meteoric rise came to an abrupt halt in April 2000 when Indian police charged him with match fixing after a one-day series in March.

He told a commission investigating the allegations: "I tried to live a Christian life and walk the way the Lord wanted me to walk... I allowed Satan and the world to dictate terms to me."

He admitted accepting about \$130,000 from bookmakers over a four-year period but denied ever throwing a match.

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Salvage ships

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temporary camp erected for relatives of victims of the launch disaster has been closed down.

The victims' relatives who were waiting at the camp and on both banks of the river for the last eight days for bodies of their near and dear ones have started leaving the spot with heavy hearts.

The police super said Tk 10,000 has been given to five local divers who located the vessel under 115 feet water and Tk 10,000 to 12 people and Kathaitali Manab Unnayan Samity, a local NGO, who helped in the rescue of survivors and recovery of bodies.

A list of 20 missing people has been prepared as per the information gathered from relatives of the victims, he said.

The official death toll from the disaster is now 31, he said. The unaccounted toll is 40.

MV Subha sank after being caught in a storm.

JCD leader murder 5 BNP men arrested in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police yesterday arrested five BNP men for their alleged involvement in the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Rabiul Islam, 22, at village Mohabbatpur on Thursday.

Rabiul's father Abedur Rahman filed a case accusing 21 people, including Fulahari union BNP president Nasiruddin Ranju.

Rabiul's body was buried at his family graveyard yesterday after autopsy.

Rabiul was shot dead and three others were injured when supporters of the rival faction in local BNP led by Panju opened fire on them.

Jubo Dal leader

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had filed a general diary with Khulna thana.

Police said there are three criminal cases against Hasan with Khulna thana. He was on bail in these cases.

No case was filed in connection with the killing till filing of this report yesterday evening.

Spielberg

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college education goals," Spielberg, 55, said in a statement.

Spielberg's decision to finish the remaining requirements for his college degree was kept quiet until recently.

Cal State University allowed the director to matriculate using a pseudonym, and he fulfilled requirements through independent study conducted at his film studio, DreamWorks SKG.

As he marched across the stage to receive his degree Friday he was given a 20-second standing ovation, as the theme music from one of his 1980's-vintage "Indiana Jones" films blared.

"Completing the requirements for my degree 33 years after finishing my principal education marks my longest post-production schedule," said the director, who made no public comment at the ceremony Friday.

Spielberg dropped out of college during his third, or junior, year.

The filmmaker has been honoured during his career with two directing Academy Awards: for "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan."

Nuclear war

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range while the Pakistanis' were in the 20-kilotonne range.

The atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima at the end of World War II was approximately 14-kilotonne.

The official said the DIA assessment was based on a "worst-case scenario" that made some liberal assumptions.

For instance, it assumed Pakistan would likely deliver its nuclear weapons with F-16 fighters and that all would get through India's integrated air defenses, the official said.

Pakistan also has two nuclear-capable ballistic missiles - the Sahhean and the Ghauri, with ranges of 700 kilometers (420 miles) and, 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) respectively.

India, for its part, was judged most likely to use Soviet-made Mig-27 fighters to deliver its nuclear weapons. It also nuclear-capable British-made Jaguar aircraft.

India has only one nuclear-capable ballistic missile, the Prithvi-1, with a range of only 150 kilometers (90 miles), the official said. It is testing a longer range Prithvi-II missile.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said he is prepared to lay out for India and Pakistan the horrific consequences of a nuclear war when he visits the region in a couple of days.

UN pulls families of staff

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Friday urged tens of thousands of their citizens to leave India and offered their diplomats passage home -- part of what appeared to be a concerted effort to impress on India and Pakistan the perils of a war that could lead to nuclear catastrophe.

Canada, New Zealand, Australia, France and other Western nations have also issued similar warnings.

US Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz said yesterday the call for US nationals to leave India reflected a high level of concern about a potential war, but said it was not an ordered departure.

The build-up of troops along the border was triggered by a bloody December attack on the Indian parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistani-based militants.

Tensions flared again after a raid on an Indian army camp in Kashmir on May 14 that left 34 people dead, including the gunman.

There was no sign of a mass exodus of foreign nationals from India, despite the travel warnings.

"Seats are easily available on all airlines," said Akhil Chugh, in charge of international ticketing at the New Delhi office of travel firm Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.

Vivek Anand, a British Airways official at New Delhi airport, said, "Our operations are normal. There has been no major blocking of seats and we are not yet expecting any surge in demand."

In Singapore, visiting Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes said yesterday the

situation on the border remained stable.

"There hasn't been any change. The situation is as it was," he said.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has pledged to halt incursions by Islamic militant groups, but it is far from clear he has the authority to deliver. Kashmir is a popular cause in Pakistan, and militants already based in Indian Kashmir are capable of violence at any time.

Indian Home (Interior) Minister Lal Krishna Advani said New Delhi was waiting for deeds, not words, from Pakistan.

He told a rally in Kashmir that India was "seriously considering how it can counter this proxy war that has been going on for two decades now."

"Which is why we will not take any decisions based on what you (Pakistan) say but on what you do. And this is something you should know."

"We will take decisions based on what happens on the ground," he added.

In a rare joint statement, foreign ministers of the Group of Eight said in Ottawa they were "gravely concerned about the risks inherent in the current crisis between India and Pakistan, which could destabilise the region and beyond."

"We call on Pakistan, in accordance with its commitments, to take concrete actions immediately to end infiltration across the Line of Control (dividing Kashmir), and to stop terrorist groups operating from territory under its control," the state-

ment said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell told the BBC in an interview there were indications Pakistan was trying to stop militants crossing the disputed border. "Instructions have been given to cease this kind of activity, but it is too early to say that it has stopped. If it does stop it must also stop permanently," he said.

Powell, who has been speaking to Musharraf and the Indian leadership almost every other day, also invoked the threat of nuclear war.

"Now, I think both sides recognise this most horrific thing that could happen in the year 2002 is, for the second time in history, a nuclear exchange to take place," he said.

"The whole world would condemn whoever does that, and I think that is a sobering reality that both understand. Nevertheless, they are nuclear-armed, and we don't want to go down this road to test any propositions as to whether they will or they won't," he said.

US President George W. Bush is sending Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage to South Asia in a couple of days to try to cool passions.

Russia is hoping to persuade Musharraf to hold one-on-one talks with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee during a regional security meeting next week in ex-Soviet Kazakhstan. India has effectively ruled out such a meeting.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning separate meetings with the Indian and Pakistani leaders.

Bus accident kills 3 in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Three persons were killed and ten others injured in a bus accident on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria Highway yesterday.

Witnesses and hospital sources said an Ashuganj-bound passenger bus from Brahmanbaria met with the accident when its driver lost control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch at Sahagpur under Ashuganj upazila at about 6 pm.

Two passengers died on the spot while the other on way to hospital.

They were identified as Sayeb Ali, 18, Fakrul Islam, 17 and Mizan, 35.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and four others released after first aid.

AL: Talks

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lawmakers are no more safe and they are opposed to any negotiation with the government," he said.

"In fact, the government is talking about the proposed dialogue for media coverage only under pressure from the donors. They do not want us to join the House."

The deputy opposition leader's statement came after Sheikh Hasina recently ruled out any dialogue between her party and the BNP.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shahid, AL parliamentarians Rahmat Ali, Faruk Khan, Abdur Razzaque Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Atiqur Rahman Atiq were also present at the press conference.

Dhaka concerned

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meeting, he said.

The Bangladesh foreign ministry last week called in both Pakistani and Indian high commissioners and urged for restraint.

Meanwhile, foreign citizens in Bangladesh are all learnt to have become very alert following the serious military standoff between Pakistan and India, both of which have close geographical proximity with Bangladesh.

There is also a heightened fear that any outbreak of conflict may lead to the use of nuclear devices.

The fear was fuelled further following urgings by several western governments including USA, Britain and Germany to its citizens to leave India and Pakistan.

A spokesman for the British High Commission said yesterday it has not yet issued any special advisory but asked all British citizens in Bangladesh to keep in touch with the high commission. It has also asked those planning to travel to Dhaka to keep themselves abreast of the latest situation.

A source close to the US embassy said last night that the US citizens are keeping themselves posted about travel advisories. "There is no advisory (on the current situation) for US citizens in Bangladesh till now," the source added.

A foreign ministry spokesman said they had no information of any special travel warnings issued to foreign citizens till yesterday.

Guard dies

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hanged him from the ceiling in a room on the second floor, said the sources.

The on-duty police of the area recovered the body at about 5:30pm yesterday and arrested two persons, Zahangir and Abu Bakar, in connection with the killing.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

No case was filed till the report was filed at 10 last night.

Ctg dockers opt for go-slow

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issued by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on Monday.

The Parisad however postponed the work abstention following a meeting with the CPA on Thursday. It was decided in the meeting to have the legal aspects of the revision of section 22(B) of the Shore-handling Agreement examined by a retired justice of High Court or Supreme Court, and accordingly take measures for the enactment of the revised circular.

Meanwhile, to make up for the loss during the work abstention, CPA decided to keep the port operational during the weekly holiday on Friday.

On the other hand, the office of joint-director of Labour has served notices to five workers' organisations of the port asking them to show cause within seven days as to why their registration should not be cancelled due to the huge loss caused by the wildcat work abstention.

CPA on Thursday had also prepared show cause notices to be served against ten top ranking leaders of some workers' organisa-



Workers of Roland Garments staged a demonstration in front of BGMEA office at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday demanding payment of three months' arrear salary.

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tions including some CBAs. The notices however could not be served on the day as Thursday was a half working day, sources said.

Revision of section 22(B) of the Shore-handling Agreement that sparked agitation among the workers and employees would allow the BMSA to employ workers from any place of its choice. Before the revision, it was binding on the BMSA to employ only from among the 1435 workers enlisted with the Stevedoring Staff Union.

Regarding the revision, the Member (Operation) of Chittagong Port Mohsin Sarkar said that legal advice had been taken and legal aspects of the revision also discussed before the issuance of the revised circular.

"Yet it would be examined by a retired justice and further decision on the revision would be made accordingly," he said.

"But the revision has not been withheld or changed and enactment of the revised circular is also not possible by the time we get the judgement on the issue. This is because employment of stevedoring workers requires no objection

certificates from both the CBA and employers' association of BMSA as well as from CPA," Sarkar further told The Daily Star.

Manpower export

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migrants are required.

"They need people to fill in the gaps, to do several types of jobs, to pay taxes."

Besides IT specialists, Germany will need doctors, nurses and migrants for several other jobs.

McKinley said if the German model succeeds, other European countries would follow its example and encourage 'organised migration'.

He hoped that Australia, Canada and the US, all developed by migrants, will continue to encourage inflow of more foreign workers and open up further.

"But for that migration should be orderly to retain confidence of the society to which the migrant moves to."

"Despite certain negative effects, most labour absorbing countries are moving towards a multi-cultural society."

106 seats snatched

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It questioned how the alliance bagged 220 seats by obtaining 46.9 per cent vote when the AL got only 62 seats with 40.02 per cent vote.

The alliance this time particularly 'targeted' 158 seats and won 132 of those. In the 1996 elections, the BNP and its present allies got only 47 of those seats.

Out of the other 141 seats, the number of seats won by BNP and its allies rose to 88 this time from 73 in the previous election, it pointed out.

The report includes case studies on some specific constituencies to substantiate AL's allegations of crude rigging in the last election.

The study found the role of the last caretaker administration, the chief advisor in particular, and the chief election commissioner (CEC) 'anti-Awami League.'

"The caretaker government and the CEC took some steps to create a situation in which it seemed that the entire administration was working against the immediate past ruling party," it said.

A 15-member team led by AMA Muhiit conducted the study and

prepared the report.

Sources said leaders of different political parties including the ruling BNP, members of the civil society and elite of the city would be invited to the report-launching programme.

"We want to dispel the popular misconception that Awami League lost the last polls. The reality was something different," party leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury told newsmen yesterday.

Judiciary

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virtual separation of the judiciary within the May 30 deadline. It has sought a four-month extension of the deadline and the Supreme Court will hear the matter on June 18.

After coming to power, the government got the deadline extended four times for implementation of the 12-point directives by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Earlier, the Awami League government and the caretaker government also had the deadline extended nine more times.

Acid attack on teenage girl, her brother in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

A teenaged girl and her younger brother sustained burn injuries from acid attack while reading inside their residence at village Jugichator in Kachua upazila Thursday night.

Police said the attackers threw acid on Rumi Afroze, 13, daughter of Mostafa Sarwar, and her brother Masum, 11, through a hole in the fenced wall of the house leaving both critically injured.

With left side of Rumi's face, hand and back, and Masum's hands burned, both have been admitted to Kachua upazila health complex.

The reason behind the acid attack could not be known immediately.

Police arrested two people - Zahir, son of Delwar Hossain of Majhigachha, and Ripon, son of Mashur Rahman of Jugichator, suspecting their involvement in the heinous attack.

A case has been filed with the local police.

Govt-UNDP

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to the overall development of the people of the CHT ensuring peace and stability, while UNDP development assistance for the CHT will supplement government projects already underway there," said an official announcement on Friday.

The programme of the mission includes visit to various parts of the three hill districts and holding discussion with cross-section of people and tribal leaders focusing on how to improve cooperation and partnership between the donor agencies and local people to carry forward development works. Later, the mission left Chittagong for Rangamati in the afternoon.

Gujral, Asma Jahangir

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truth that war has never solved any issue, the statement noticed that people from both countries desire only peace. A war between India and Pakistan at this point in time will further fuel the focus of militancy, terrorism and quasi-religious bigotry that have already soured relations between these close neighbors and also plagued domestic peace on both sides.

"Unfortunately, their diabolic designs are beginning to cloud the minds of governments of Pakistan and India," said the statement, adding that both governments do not seem to have any control over events and seem to be quivering at the brink of disaster. "This is what the terrorists want and this is what people on both sides must resist."

In order to arrest this slide towards disaster, it stressed the need for sincere efforts and political will of both governments. "This demands the immediate restoration of democratic rule in Pakistan and honest pledge by its government to disassociate itself from any form of militancy, which is essential not only for peace in the region but also for the rejuvenation of Pakistan's

society. Militancy must be neutralised in order to bring peace. It will also demand reinforcement of India's secular ideals."

"Geography has thrown us together and we cannot run away from their duty and obligation towards one another. We have to march together on the path for a better tomorrow. Hostilities will only increase the sufferings of people on both sides, destroy whatever is being preserved as part of civilisation and push back whatever agendas we may have for the development of our people."

Other signatories to the statement are Farah Kabir, Sigma Huda, Hameeda Hussain, Subrata Chowdhury, Mahfuz Anam and Iktedar Ahmed of Bangladesh, Syeda Hameed, Kamla Bhasin, Saifuddin Soz, Nirmala Deshpande and Kuldip Nayyar of India, Mohammad Siddiqui, Meena Acharya and Devendra Raj Panday of Nepal, IA Rehman, Sairah Irshad Khan, Fakhruddin G Ebrahim and Cecil Chowdhury of Pakistan, and Damans Wickremesekara, Sathivale Balakrishnan, JC Weliamuna and Lakhmali Dasanayake of Sri Lanka.