UN confce on climate

'Several key issues on global warming not addressed'

Representatives from local communities in developing countries said yesterday several key issues on global warming are not being covered at a high-level UN conference

on climate change.
Paulo Moutinho, coordinator of the Amazon Institute of Environmental Research, said the rampant burning of Brazilian Amazon forests releasing huge amounts of carbon was out of the realm of discussions under the Kyoto Protocol on global warming

He said that every year nearly 200 million tonnes of carbon were released into the atmosphere because of the burning which was equal to two to three per cent of global emissions

Moutinho added the problem was not being addressed through the Kvoto Protocol because it covers commitments on reduction of industrial emissions only by developed

Kyoto requires industrialised countries, but not developing ones, to make specific cuts in their output of carbon-based gases from their 1990 levels by a deadline of 2008-2012.

A two-week UN conference on Kyoto is currently being held in the Indian capital New Delhi.

"These carbon emissions from forest clearing can double in years when standing forests burn, killing large numbers of trees," he said.

n 1998, the weather phenomenon, E1 Nino, affected local weather causing forest fires which released an additional 250 million tons of carbon in the atmosphere, he said.

"Tropical deforestation is a significant part of climate change and should be addressed more specifically by the international community and by the Kyoto protocol process, Moutinho said.

"In this sense, the Amazon region has a tremendous potential for economic development that is based on sustainable uses of standing forests, agricultural intensification, and forest restoration on lands already deforested."

He said the problem should be recognised and addressed by the local community since the entire globe was being affected

The developing world produces six times less pollution per resident than the industrialised world, according to the UN-backed

UNDP mission wraps up Khagrachhari tour, off to Rangamati

UNB, Khagrachhari

A two-member CHT Development Facility Mission of UNDP spent busy days in the district on Saturday and Sunday and left here for Rangamati Sunday evening

The mission led by Heli Usiki exchanged views with chairman of district council Nakkhattralal Dev Barman, Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir Khan and Police Super Chowdhury Ahsanul Kabir separately on the latest situation and possibility of resumption of development activities here Sunday.

On Saturday evening, the delegation also talked to local people's representatives, political leaders and chief of Mong Circle, NGO representatives and expatriate

Annada Shankar

role in creating public opinions in favour of Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971, by writing articles in the Nabajatak.

His wife, Lila Ray, who passed away long ago, also contributed to building public opinions against the Pakistani army occupation.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

But poor countries' emissions are increasing 3.5 per cent each year, compared with one per cent for the rich world, and the developing world is likely to account for most pollution by 2020, it says.

Ricardo Carrere, international coordinator of the Uruguay-based World Rainforest Movement, said people were planting eucalyptus trees in his country to try to sell them as "carbon absorbers" under Kvoto.

Under the protocol, which is expected to come into force next year, companies in developed nations failing to meet their emission reduction targets can buy "credits" for reduction in carbon emissions in a developing nation

Carrere said the eucalyptus plantations were already being used for exporting logwood to developed nations although the trees were depleting water levels.

Representatives of communities from low-lying Pacific Islands criticised the UN conference for not including them in the talks on climate

"The whole climate change convention is really about us. At the end of the day, we are the ones that are the most affected," said Fiu Mata'ese Ellsara-Laul, executive director of Samoa's Ole Slostomaga

Vasiti Mautia, the legal officer of the Pacific Heritage Foundation, said many of the government leaders holding the talks were cut off from reality as they are not the ones affected directly by climate change.

She said many communities in Papua New Guinea were facing problems such as rising sea levels spoiling food farms on coastal areas, but government officials were not really raising the issue strongly enough at global forums such as the UN conference.

"They will settle for clean development méchanisms to get funds rather than come out strongly and say we want to sign the Kyoto Protocol.

Schoolgirl abducted in Feni

UNB, Feni

A schoolgirl was abducted by listed criminals at gunpoint on her way to school in Sonagazi upazila Sunday.

Police and locals said the victim an SSC candidate from Kazirhat Model High School, was taken away in a private car by Zia and his accomplices from near Boiddya Bari

used to tease the girl on her way to school. Acase was filed with the police.

DCs empowered to issue certificates of CHT residency

UNB, Khagrachhari

The government has issued a circular clarifying its stance on the issue of giving permanent resident certificate to the people of the three Hill districts by the deputy commissioners concerned.

Amid strong protest by the Hill district Councils, expatriate refugees and Parbatya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Samity, the Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs Ministry issued the circular to ease the complexity of issuing certificate.

The circular issued on October 21 said the DCs concerned could issue resident certificates to be used in all purposes except for candidacy in the local district council elections.

On the other hand, the chiefs of three circles could also issue permanent resident certificates.



WB, IMF FROM PAGE 1

capacity.

minister thinks.

needs be.

Saifur told the newsmen, "The mission identified different weak nesses of the central bank and its policy, procedures and institutional

He said he is interested to allow the Bangladesh Bank to work independently but it is the bank itself that

seeks ministerial suggestions when it comes to resolve of problems. It is difficult for Bangladesh to give full autonomy to the central bank, the

The minister quoted the mission

as saying many of the branches of

nationalised commercial banks

(NCBs) are not necessary and as

recommending their closure and

permission to private sector banks

for their operation there instead, if

lending rates are high because their

deposit rates are high. There are

flaws in laws on the banking opera-

tions and their enforcement

friendly for which it has become

difficult to take action against

As the mission has recom-

mended a further reduction in

interest rates of saving instruments

Saifur said he has already cut the

interest rates and has to think seri-

ously about further reduction as

many depend on the income from it.

ness is more serious than the bank-

the government to consider all

recommendations by the mission.

and cannot be accepted but "if we

can identify our problems and

improve things better in our own

way, we won't seek their assistance

14. The case was later transferred to

Following submission of the

charge sheet, Hsina got bail from the

Sessions Judge's Court on October

20 and the three other accused on

The case was originally filed with

Ramna thana on December 11 last

year against Prof Rafiqul Islam for

n future", the minister said.

Charge sheet

the Sessions Judge's Court.

The insurance sector's weak

Saifur thinks it is not possible for

Some are not well thought-out

thieves," the minister said.

ing sector's, Saifur added.

"Legal system is also not very

The mission said the banks'

A young woman weeps, waiting for news about the health condition of her loved ones outside the Moscow's hospital number 13 yesterday. On Monday Russia began a day of mourning for the victims of the hostage drama in Moscow theatre in which 117 hostages died.

Russian forces used gas

oped during the Cold War.

Normally such a gas "could temporarily neutralise scores of enemy troops, and its effects should have been reversible." doctor of chemistry and chief of Russia's chemical security union Lev

Fedorov told Moscow Echo radio. He said the hostages should have been supplied with antidote as soon as they were rescued, and it the mortality rate was this high despite antidote use, it would indicate that the gas concentration was extremely high

More than 800 people had been held hostage since Wednesday by a gang of dynamite-strapped Chechen militants who stormed into the theater during a evening performance of a popular musical and threatened to blow up the building if the war in Chechnya were not ended. Despite the heavy gassing, the

hostage-takers were aware enough to put up a good fight, one of the special service rescue units Many of the guerillas "were fully conscious, and we had to act very

precisely, because we had no time one trooper of the Alpha special service squad told reporters. As soon as the rescue squads were in, they were greeted by a

operation and why the public was

not given any information about it.

When the PM replied that there was

an official order about it, in a chorus

She ordered the document to be

given to the press and one of her

senior political staff promised to

send it the next day. NOTHING HAS

There is virtually no communica-

tion between the government and

the public at this point. There is no

body in the government assigned to

answer the queries of the press or

the public. High-ups in the Prime

Minister's Office (PMO) do not

answer any question and speak

only when they wish and on topics of

their own choice. The home ministry

has stopped its briefing and now

confines itself to sending press

releases. It also refuses to entertain

questions from journalists. The

army high command does not speak

to the press or answer any question.

The ISPR sends a daily account of

how many arrested, how many arms

recovered, what their types are, etc.

They do not entertain questions

press go for answers? How can a

democratic government be so

silent? How can an elected govern-

ment shut itself to the press in such

So where do the public and the

BEEN RECEIVED TILL DATE.

storm of gunfire, Alpha troopers said, adding that fierce resistance met them at the doorstep of every room that sheltered the hostage

Within the theater hall itself, where the hostages were kept, terrorists perched on the stage opened fire on the storming troopers, and one guerilla woman tried to throw a grenade at them.

A number of squad troopers were "wounded or stunned" as the guerillas were well trained, but none were apparently killed, Alpha officials All 50 hostage-takers, including

women, were killed in the raid early

Saturday that President Vladimir Putin described as a success in an address to the nation. "We achieved the near impossible, saving hundreds, hundreds of people." Putin said. "We proved that

He acknowledged the high price paid for ending the crisis, saying: "Now I want to address the families and friends of those who died. We were not able to save everyone. Forgive us."

Russia cannot be brought to its

Russian authorities said Saturday that more than 750 people had been rescued, but since then the number of dead has continued

a manner? One of the fundamental

components of democracy -

accountability of the government -

appears totally absent at the

deaths during and after interroga-

tion. We reject the 'heart attack'

explanation. The authorities are

insulting our intelligence by uttering

such absurdities. Except for that

ridiculous one liner, nothing about

those who died has been made

public. Serious questions surround-

ing these deaths are plaguing the

public mind. It is frightening them, a

feeling they should never have in a

democracy. Newspaper offices are

flooded with readers' questions like

what were the exact circumstances

of death, how and where the victims

were being interrogated and for how

long, what specifically were they

suspected of, what was the evi-

dence in the army's hand that

resulted in the interrogation in the

first place, who were present during

following a list on the basis of which

they are picking up people. Well,

how has that list been prepared?

How authentic is it? Is there one list.

or several? If so, who are the

authors of the various lists? How

much effort has been put to make

that list authentic? Can we rule out

We are told that the army is

the interrogation, etc.

Let us start with the issue of

The White House declined Sunday to criticize Russia for using gas to end the hostage standoff. US President George W Bush's a chief spokesman, Ari Fleischer, placed the blame for the deaths on the Chechen rebels.

"This is a tragedy. The Russian government and the Russian people were victims of this tragedy," he told reporters as Bush left an Asia-Pacific forum in Mexico.

"Everyone wants to save as many lives as possible. It's the hostage-takers who put people in harm's way to begin with," the kesman emphasized.

US diplomat

FROM PAGE 12 waves among Western expatriates in a country where political assassinations are rare and security is normally tight

Jordan is a major US ally in the Middle East. It signed a peace treaty with neighbouring Israel in 1994.

In Washington, a State Department emergency operations dispatcher said a duty officer had been briefed on the death of a diplomat in Jordan but would not take calls about it for several hours.

USAID is the chief US agency for providing disaster relief abroad, helping impoverished countries and promoting democratic reforms.

awarding a contract to the China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Corporation (CNHEC) for development of the site for installation of the AES 450 MW Meghnaghat Power

later dates.

FROM PAGE 1

Plant Phase I for his "personal benefit." SHACO is the local agent of The contract involving Tk 141.65 crore was given to the company ignoring the lowest bid of Tk 123.76

crore, causing a loss of Tk 17.89 crore to the state, the FIR of the case In the charge sheet, the IO said

that names of Hasina and two others were included later as investigation revealed their involvement in the

The court did not pass any order on the petition seeking Hasina's exemption from personal appear-

Man dies

FROM PAGE 1

soon after his body reached Khulna. Meanwhile, Khulna unit of Awami League has announced a three-day programme to protest the death of Masum following army interrogation. The programme includes wearing black badges and hoisting black flags atop party offices in the city and district

A total of 193 people including a listed criminal were arrested during the drive in Khulna division yesterday. Three firearms along with 847 rounds of ammunition were also Our Rangpur correspondent said

the Rangpur district chapter of Awami League brought out a procession yesterday demanding immediate release of its Vicepresident Sharif Uddin Ahmed Jhantu whom army arrested on October 23 from his residence.

Our Bandarban correspondent said army arrested a Union Parishad chairman and three alleged criminals during a raid on Sunday. Three of the arrestees were produced before the court and taken on a three-day remand each. They were being interrogated at the Bandar Police Station.

CNG project

and organise safety and awareness

"This would really popularise the use of CNG in motor vehicles," said a GTCL source.

The full autonomy of GTCL, Titas and RPGCL is expected to take care of the negative trade unionism issues. "But the fact is these organisations lack adequate efficient manpower and that issue would have to be taken care of." the source

Titas gas, the biggest transmis-

sion and distribution company, is

infested with thieves at the level of

meter readers as well as officers

who drain out revenues to the tune

of tk 200 crores annually. "It would be a huge task to reorganise Titas and eliminate thieves from it," said a Petrobangla source. The project would make RPGCL

an important organisation from a low profile one as the use of CNG as mainstream motor fuel is expected to become a reality soon.

Army personnel keep four suspected clients of sex workers blindfolded after they were picked up from a hotel on Nawabpur Road in the city vesterday.

Housewife burnt in acid attack in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

A housewife sustained acid burn injuries Sunday at Devnagar village in Sadar upazila as a sequel to land dispute.

The victim was identified as Sufia Begum, 42, wife of Motaleb Gazi.

Police and villagers said Motaleb Gazi had a longstanding dispute over land with his cousins Akbar Gazi and Adam Gazi.

On Sunday, Akbar and Adam picked up a quarrel with Sufia and at one stage hurled acid on her face. She was rushed to Sadar hospital in critical condition. A case was filed

Spl police

FROM PAGE 1

On the other hand, according to the source, the government is contemplating forming joint-squads of police, BDR and army to be kept stand-by in district headquarters for instant strike on terror.

"The measures are being taken to keep criminals on the run and law and order stable after withdrawal of

army," said the source. The ongoing anticrime code-named 'Operation Clean Heart' being jointly conducted by the

army, BDR and police is likely to

continue up to Eid-ul-Fitr. On October 16 midnight, army was sent in across the country in aid of civil administration to curb unrelenting acts of violence.

Auranga FROM PAGE 1

found in the residence. Police submitted a forwarding

report before the court. The report said some important information about Auranga's involvement in illegal possession of arms and ammunition were verified. So, the police said he should be detained in jail till submission of the report. The defence lawyers submitted

three separate petitions for his bail. treatment in jail and granting division in jail. The prosecution opposed the bail petition. After hearing both sides,

Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokan rejected the bail petition and ordered that he be sent to jail.

The magistrate also directed the iail authorities to take necessary steps for treatment of Auranga in iail and asked the defence lawvers to go to the additional district magistrate with the petition regarding division in jail as it was the jurisdiction of the additional district magistrate's court.

Army 'beats up FROM PAGE 1

They also grabbed Shahatunnesa when she came to rescue her daughter-in-law, family members alleged. The 85-year-old lady was allegedly kicked and punched

The army then blindfolded them. took them to a camp at Mugda where they were beaten up and confined. They were however released after more than three

SI Kabirul Islam expressed his grievance over the incident.

"Why should they bat up my old mother and wife? What right do they have? I am a policeman. So, why should criminals stay in my house? said Kabirul

"They (army) were dragging away my daughter and I tried to stop them." said Shahatunnesa, while being treated at the DMCH. "But they kicked me in the waist and clubbed me. Later, they took us to the army camp.'

No case was filed till filing of this report last night.

One to die FROM PAGE 12

and had illicit relationship with a female colleague in his office. This embittered his relationship with his wife. Also, Poritosh's demand for dowry had been refused.

As a sequel to this dispute, Poritosh killed his wife and daughter while they were asleep on the night of November 9, 2000. Poritosh comes from Srimai

village in Patiya. The verdict in the case came after a lengthy hearing during which

the court examined 20 prosecution In another case, five young men were sentenced to jail for life for

killing municipal commissioner Iqbal in the town in 1993. Two of the convicts on the dock were Abul Bashar and Abu Bakar

Mujibur Rahman and Mohammad Ali remained fugitive. They were also fined Tk 5,000

while three others Abdus Salam

each, defaulting on which would result in an extra six-month iail term

Memo to VC

FROM PAGE 12

Students of Meer Mosharraf Hossen (MMH) Hall hearing the victim scream arrived at the spot and brought Amin before the provost of the hall

However, Amin was released after a confessional statement. He has been staying outside the campus since after the incident.

The victim lodged a complaint with the proctor's office on the same day and the university Proctor Prof. Moiibar Rahman served him a showcause notice on October 19 asking him to reply within a week.

Talking to The Daily Star last night Proctor Prof. Moiibar Rahman said Amin had not submitted his reply yet.

"If he does not submit a reply by tomorrow, we will go for unilateral action according to the existing university rules." he said adding that the punishment might be expulsion or

AL walks out FROM PAGE 1

He also protested search of the flag car of State Minister Aman Ullah Aman and the residence of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain.

All the members attending the

meeting -- from both sides of the divide -- reportedly nodded to the opposition whip's contentions. However, members from the ruling BNP refused to take up a censure motion or record a note of

protest in parliament proceedings. Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, who was in the chair, said the meeting cannot take a condemnation resolution as "this is beyond

the jurisdiction of the committee' As the BNP members also refused to record protest. AL members Mirza Azam and Shahiahan

Khan walked out of the meeting. Present in the meeting were also Whip Ashraf Hossain, Mashiur Rahman, Fazlul Haque Aspia and Wahidul Alam of BNP and Shahjahan

Chowdhury of Jamaat-e-Islami. Meanwhile, the meeting decided that MPs would be handed over NAM flats evicting illegal occupants soon.

A subcommittee with Mashiur Rahman as convenor and Mirza Azam and Shahjahan Chowdhury members was formed for taking action in this regard. After elaborately discussing

housing problems of the MPs the meeting also stressed strengthening power-supply system and security measures at the MP Hostel. Proceedings of the sixth meeting

of the JS body were approved at the beginning of yesterday's meeting.

Saber sent to jail terday. In the report, the investi-Saber to iail. gation officer (IO) of the case said

he had gathered some important information about Saber's involvement in the attack on Khaleda's motorcade and that he (Saber) should be detained in jail till submission of the charge Saber told the court that he

was not present at the place of occurrence on the day of the incident. That day, he along with wife, son and daughter was in Makkah for performing umrah. He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. Besides, his name was not mentioned as an accused in the case in the first information report (FIR), he said and sought justice from the court. Defence lawyers submitted a

petition seeking bail for the accused. The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

After hearing both the sides,

Magistrate Delwar Hossain

Chowdhury rejected the bail

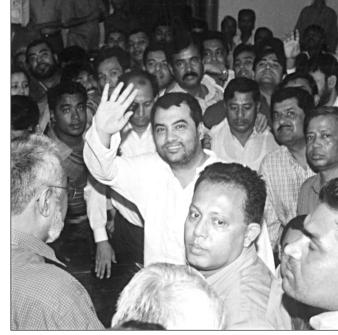
petition and ordered sending

Following the order, the defence lawyers submitted four other petitions for his treatment for heart ailment, giving him division in Jail and for allowing his wife to supply food and medicine

The court however directed the iail authorities to take steps for Saber's treatment and to allow his wife to supply food and medicine. It sent the petition for division to the additional district magistrate's

Saber, a former chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board, was arrested by army pesronnel from Zia International Airport on October 20 before flying to London. Later, he was shown arrested under section 54 of the CrPC and placed on a two-day

On October 24, he was shown arrested in a case filed with Savar Police Station in connection with the motorcade attack and placed on a three-day remand



Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, waves to AL activists and supporters on arrival at a first class magistrate's court, Dhaka before he was sent on a one-month detention in the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

What is happening? settling of scores and the army being used for it? In villages and in rural towns falsely implicating a rival is an old custom. Most importantly, did we not establish democracy to do away with the whole culture of secret lists?

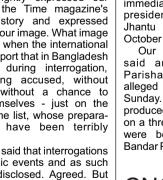
> Our job is not to sympathise with the criminals nor to plead for the quilty but to protect the innocent What if one, two, three or more of those who have died were innocent or simply accessory to the crimes or, even worse, only circumstantially, not substantially, implicated. Did they deserve to die? The al-Qaida terrorist captured by the US soldiers are being denied many of their rights at the Guantanamo Bay prison for which the US is being rightly criticised. But at least they are not having 'heart attacks' after interrogation. The suspected Washington DC area sniper accused of 10 coldblooded murders through single sniper shots will NOT die, we believe, during interrogation. Why? Because civilisation guarantees that. We are part of that civilisation We have rightly expressed our outrage at the Time magazine's unfounded story and expressed worry about our image. What image will we have when the international media will report that in Bangladesh people die during interrogation, without being accused, without proof and without a chance to defend themselves - just on the basis of some list, whose prepara-

> It may be said that interrogations are not public events and as such cannot be disclosed. Agreed. But once someone dies in the process then it has to be investigated and made public. That is how justice is

urgent questions that needs to be answered. How are our

tion might have been terribly f there is no iustice? Then there is another set of

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS being protected? On Sunday I was at a wedding where a Daily Star reader asked me, "What happens if I am picked up for questioning on my way home? What sort of legal protections do I have at the moment? What happens if the questioning person(s) do not pelieve me and consider me a suspect just because I look similar to somebody, or happened to have been in an area at a time when some incident took place or some influential person put my name in a list, which I have never seen or will never see, because of business, political or financial rivalry? He insisted, "Isn't my fate completely dependent on my interrogators who may or may not choose to believe



guaranteed. And what is democracy

