

India calls for joint initiative to develop clean technologies

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

India has called for collaboration between developing and developed countries in creating technologies, which will deal with climate change while ensuring energy security and economic development.

Inaugurating the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate in New Delhi on Monday, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said technology was recognised as a fundamental transformation agent in ensuring clean development and tackling climate change.

"This is all the more so for developing countries where there is a

large reliance on fossil fuel. It is our hope that the partnership (between developing and developed countries) will ensure that we collaborate to develop, deploy and disseminate appropriate and advanced clean technologies," he said.

Mukherjee said very little research and development have gone into technologies that respond to the requirements and resource endowments of developing countries and this could be overcome by collaborative efforts between developing and developed countries.

Detailing the steps, including introduction of CNG for public and private transport, taken by India in clean development efforts, the minister said the government

proposed to make available compact fluorescent lamps, which help save electricity, at the price of normal incandescent lamps which consume a lot of power.

Canada became the seventh country to join the Asia-Pacific Partnership, which was earlier comprised of the United States, China, South Korea, Japan, Australia and India.

James Connaughton, chairman of the US President's Council on Environmental Quality, said nuclear power was critically important to meet growing energy demands.

"Emission from nuclear energy was zero and as a next strategy, we need to pursue nuclear energy."

Meanwhile, activists of Greenpeace flagship 'Rainbow

Warrior' are preparing to engage local communities on the Indian part of the Sundarbans to heighten awareness about climate change.

They will also take part in a mangrove replenishing drive, together with Jadavpur University's School of Oceanographic Studies and the Sundarbans Development Board planting about one lakh saplings of Sundari trees over five hectares of degraded land.

"The objective is to test whether mangrove can offset the damage caused to the islands by global warming, rise in sea level and coastal erosion," said Sugato Hazra, director of School of Oceanographic Studies in Jadavpur University in Kolkata.

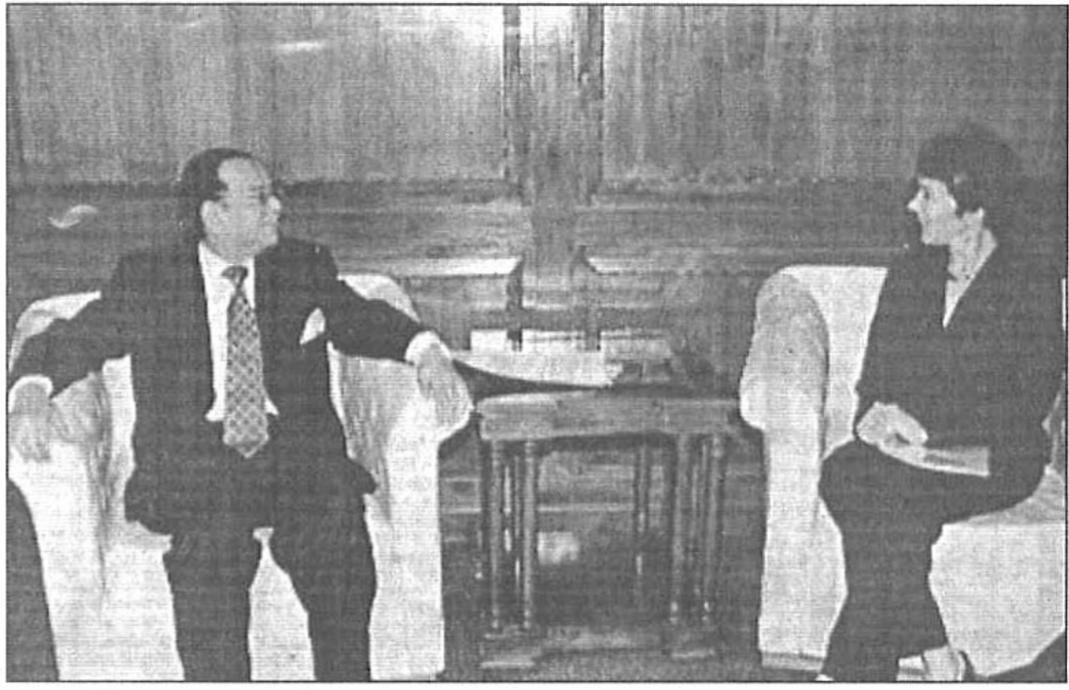


PHOTO: PID

Ambassador of the Netherlands BM Ten Tusscher calls on Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at the foreign ministry in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: PID
Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein attend as chief and special guests at orientation programme for additional district and sessions judges and joint district and sessions judges in the city yesterday. Judicial Administration Training Institute organised the programme. (Story on Page 1)

Abuse against children in conflicts continues

Says UN report

Dozens of conflicts around the world are still robbing children of their childhood, according to a new UN report that reviews progress since the groundbreaking 1996 study on children in armed conflict by Graça Machel.

The report, by the special representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict and Unicef, highlights the changing and devastating impact of conflicts on children, says a Unicef press release received in Dhaka yesterday.

The report notes that advances

have been made in protecting children from war crimes such as unlawful recruitment by armed forces and groups and sexual violence. It also urges the international community to take concrete actions to stop abuses of children in armed conflict.

"The international community has been very active in developing a solid legal protection framework," said Radhika Coomaraswamy, special representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict.

"But much more must be done to ensure compliance, to fight impunity and to address all violations against children."

Over the past decade, conflict has impacted children more brutally than ever. They are victims of strikes against schools and of abductions aimed at forcing them to serve as combatants, sex slaves or servants. And in conflict zones their vulnerability is often greatly increased because violence claims their first line of defence - their parents.

"Threats to children caught in conflict are increasing," said Unicef Executive Director Ann Veneman.

"They are no longer just caught in the crossfire. They are increasingly the intended targets of violence, abuse and exploitation, victims of myriad armed groups that prey on civilians."

But the damage that war wreaks

on children's lives is not limited to attacks by combatants. Malnutrition, disease, displacement and poverty also threaten them.

The report urges all UN member states to fulfil their responsibilities to children, by providing them with access to basic services like education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

"The needs of children must be prioritised before, during and after conflict. They must be part of all peace-making and peace-building processes," said Coomaraswamy.

Other key recommendations include a call to end impunity for those responsible for heinous crimes against children. This means ensuring prosecution of war crimes and adherence to relevant international norms, many of which have been established since the original Machel study was published.

Ten years ago the original landmark Machel study alerted the world to the brutal realities faced by children recruited by armed groups and on the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

The follow-up strategic review offers concrete recommendations for the next decade, including a call for member states and civil society to safeguard children living in over 50 conflict zones around the world, as well as those struggling in post-conflict settings.

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But the damage that war wreaks

Swearing at work boosts team spirit, morale

Says British research

AFP, London

Regular swearing at work can help boost team spirit among staff, allowing them to express better their feelings as well as develop social relationships, according to a study by British researchers.

Yehuda Baruch, a professor of management at the University of East Anglia in eastern England, and graduate Stuart Jenkins studied the use of profanity in the workplace and assessed its implications for managers.

They assessed that swearing would become more common as traditional taboos are broken down, but the key appeared to be knowing when such language was appropriate and when to turn to blind eye.

The pair said swearing in front of senior staff or customers should be seriously discouraged or banned, but in other circumstances it helped foster solidarity among employees and express frustration, stress or other feelings.

"Employees use swearing on a continuous basis, but not necessarily in a negative, abusive manner," said Baruch, who works in the university's business school in Norwich.

Banning swear words and reprimanding staff might represent strong leadership, but could remove key links between staff and impact on morale and motivation, he said.

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STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed in separate road accidents in Comilla and Noakhali yesterday.

A Correspondent from Comilla reports: At least three people were killed and seven others injured in a road accident in Horindora area on Comilla-Sylhet bypass road under Burichang upazila yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred at about 7.00am when a Kishoreganj-bound night coach collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound passenger bus, leaving three people dead on the spot and seven others critically injured.

Of the dead, two were identified

as Md Alauddin, 26, son of Wasak Uddin of Gonjor village in Muradnagar upazila and night coach helper Sirajul Islam, 30, son of Noor Hossain of Horkot village in Kishoreganj while identity of other could not be known immediately.

The critically injured were sent to different hospitals and clinics in Comilla.

The bodies were sent to the Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Noakhali adds: Three people, including two students, were killed in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

A Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Chatkhil run over a student

on Begumganj-Ramganj road while he was crossing the road near Joyog Bazar in the morning, leaving him dead on the spot.

The dead was identified as Jewel.

Another student identified as Mohon, 17, was killed when a passenger bus from Choumohani hit him from behind on the same road at Joymuthur.

An old man was killed when a speedy Lakshmpur-bound passenger bus hit him from behind on Begumganj-Sonaumuri road near Bazar Hospital, leaving him dead on the spot. The dead was identified as Golam Rahman, 65.

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy.

83 bottles of phenisidyl seized, 3 held

BSS, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), in two separate drives, captured three alleged drug-peddlers with 83 bottles of phenisidyl from different areas in the region in the last three days.

Rab sources said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force arrested Ashraf Ali, 56, son of late Ajahar Ali and Bachhu, 20, son of Alaudin Sheikh, with 28 bottles of contraband phenisidyl syrup during a sudden raid in Halidagachhi area under Charhut upazila of the district at 12:10pm yesterday.

In another raid at central bus terminal in Joypurhat, another Rab team arrested Anisur Rahman, 25, son of late Nazrul Islam of Atpara village under the same district, with 55 bottles of phenisidyl.

The arrestees and the seized phenisidyl were handed over to the concerned police station.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Prof M Ibrahim Khalil, former head of English department at Govt Ananda Mohan College, passed away due to old age complications at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Friday at the age of 88.

He left behind his wife, five daughters, a son, and a host of relatives and students to mourn his death.

Joynal Abedin

BSS, Sherpur

Joynal Abedin, general secretary of Sherpur Press Club, passed away due to brain hemorrhage at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday.

He served as the general secretary of Sherpur Press Club for the past 10 years and worked for several newspapers, including the Dainik Sangram, Manobojan and the Dainik Ajker Khabar as the district correspondent.

Death anniversary

Today is the 25th death anniversary of Rahatullah Sarkar, a noted political activist, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwan, destitute feeding and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Parbatipur.

Rahatullah Sarkar was also the then member of East Pakistan Provincial Council and Secretary of the Parliament.

A close aide of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy, CR Das and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rahatullah also actively took part in forming Juktawront in 1954.

He was one of the organisers who organised the freedom fighters from Balurghat in West Bengal in 1971.

Sheikh Saleh Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Sheikh Saleh Ahmad, former principal of Pirojpur Government Suhrawardy College.

A former Senate member of National University, he also taught Bangla at Rajshahi Government College and Chittagong Government College.

His students, relatives, colleagues and admirers have been asked to pray for the salvation of his soul.



Md Rezaul Kar