

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.

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.

"We hope that this study will serve not only to acknowledge the part that swearing plays in our work and our lives, but also to indicate that leaders sometimes need to 'think differently' and be open to intriguing ideas."

"Managers need to understand how their staff feel about swearing. The challenge is to master the 'art' of knowing when to turn a blind eye to communication that does not meet their own standards."

The study, "Swearing at work and permissive leadership culture: when anti-social becomes social and incivility is acceptable", is published in the latest issue of the *Leadership and Organisational Development Journal*.

Girl drowns in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

A minor girl drowned in a pond near her home at Sukhandighi village under Durgapur upazila in the district yesterday.

She was identified as Golapi, 2, daughter of one Golap Hossain.

Health adviser leaves for UK

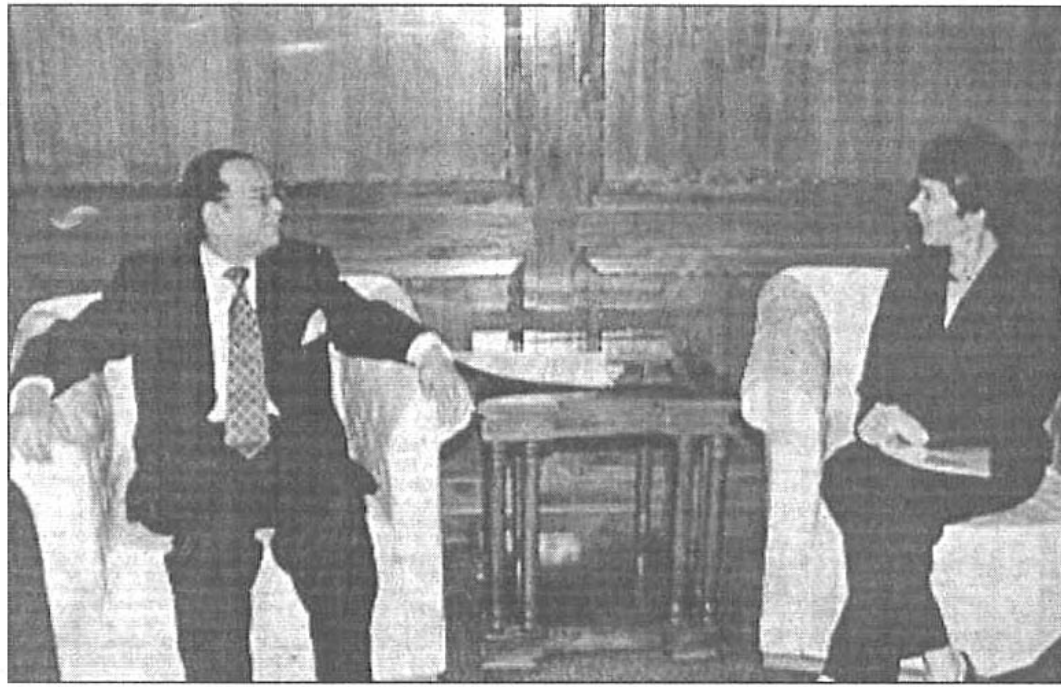
BSS, Dhaka

Health and Family Welfare, Water Resources and Religious Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) ASM Matir Rahman left for the United Kingdom in the early hours of yesterday to attend the Women Deliver Conference.

About 2000 world leaders, including more than 100 cabinet ministers, heads of UN and other multilateral agencies, senior civil servants, health professionals, researchers, economists and reproductive health advocates will attend the conference.

The conference will discuss different aspects of achieving progress in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to cut maternal mortality by three-fourths.

The organising partners of the conference are Women Deliver Planning Group, Department of International Development of UK, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Family Care International, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health, Save the Children, Swedish International Development Agency, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation.



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

Road accidents kill six

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 Horindorra 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 Alaaddin, 26, son of Wasak Uddin of Gonjour 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 Joyag 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 Choumahani hit him from behind on the same road at Joitnuthpur.

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

The bodies were sent to morgue for autopsy.

2 girls commit suicide in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Two girls committed suicide in the district on Tuesday night.

Quoting witnesses, police said Sumi, 22, who obtained masters degree in Philosophy from Rajshahi University, committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan in her bedroom at Budhpara under Motihar thana in the city.

Family feud might be the reason behind her suicide, police said.

Sarashati, 12, of Poranpur Talbaria village under Charghat upazila, committed suicide after she was hurt by the behaviour of her mother.

EC hopeful about timeline

UNB, Laxmipur

The Election Commission (EC) hopes to hold the overdue city corporation and local body elections between February and April next year, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain yesterday said.

"The voter-registration task is going on in those areas to achieve the target," he told a view-exchange meeting on electoral roll at Shilpakala Academy in Laxmipur.

He said work for listing voters will start simultaneously in 76 upazilas on November 4, adding

that a complete electoral roll will be available in October next year.

Sakhawat said parliamentary polls would be held within the timeline announced by the EC.

About participation of political parties in the elections, he said, "It's not the business of the Election Commission to consider which political party is participating and which not."

Replying to a question, he said the EC has brought amendments to matters relating to buying votes by black money.

District officials, among others, were present at the meeting.



Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain attend as chief and special guests an 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 M 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.

Three rapists hanged in public in Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday hanged three convicted rapists in public in the southern city of Shiraz, the latest in a spate of executions officials say are aimed at improving security in society.

The three men, identified as Vahid E, Mohammad A and Ahmad E. were hanged in public for having abducted two women and raping them, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The local prosecutor Jaber Baneshi chose the occasion to urge women to dress in line with Iran's Islamic rules, saying women who did not cover their heads properly were more at risk from sexual predators.

"Badly veiled women are more likely to be the target of these crimes than others. The veil protects women and prevents society from heading towards corruption," he added.

The new hangings bring to at least 210 the number of executions carried out in the country so far this year, many in public.

That figure exceeds the 177 people who were executed in 2006, according to Amnesty International. Iran is the most prolific applier of the death penalty in the world after China.

The last reported hangings were of three convicted rapists in the northern city of Babol on September 27 -- a rare event during the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Capital offences in Iran include murder, rape, armed robbery, apostasy, blasphemy, serious drug trafficking, pederasty, adultery or prostitution, treason and espionage. Iran has stepped up executions of rapists, drug traffickers and others deemed a public menace in recent months as part of the campaign to "increase security in society."

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1/3 degree Celsius over the country, said a Met Office bulletin.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 5:57am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.8	23.4	79	79
Chittagong	26.8	23.7	94	94
Rajshahi	32.0	23.8	85	78
Khulna	33.0	24.0	79	88
Barisal	31.5	24.4	77	92
Sylhet	28.7	22.7	99	80
Cox's Bazar	25.6	22.6	100	96

12 injured as gang blocks road to rob passenger bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twelve people were injured yesterday in an armed robbery in a passenger bus at Baulia in Jessore.

Police said the robbers stopped a Narail-bound passenger bus of Eagle Paribahan putting up barricade on the road at Baulia in Jessore at about 4:00am. When some of the passengers tried to resist them, the robbers beat them up injuring 12 people.

Of them, seriously injured bus conductor Biswajit Das and helper Jagannath were admitted to Jessore General Hospital.

The robbers looted all the belongings of the passengers and escaped the scene.

Police arrested Shyamal Kumar and Tipu Sardar in this connection.

83 bottles of phensidyl seized, 3 held

BSS, Rajshahi

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

Rab-5 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 Alaaddin Sheikh, with 28 bottles of contraband phensidyl syrup during a sudden raid in Halidagachi area under Charghat upazila of the district at 12:10pm yesterday.

In another raid at central bus terminal area 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 phensidyl.

The arrestees and the seized phensidyl 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 68.

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

Joynul Abedin

BSS, Sherpur

Joynul 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, Manobjabin and the Dainik Ajkaler Khabor 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, Quarkhwan, destitute feeding and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Parbatipur.

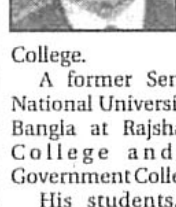
Rahatullah Sarkar was also the then member of East Pakistan Provincial Council and Secretary of the Parliament.

A close aide of Sher e Bangla AK Fazul Haque, Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardi, CR Das and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Rahatullah also actively took part in forming Juktafront 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 Suhrawardi 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 Karim, chairman of Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA), accompanied by Senior Vice-Chairman Sk Farook Hossain and Vice-Chairman Arzu Rahman Bhuiyan hands over a cheque for Tk 3,67,200 to Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed for the flood-affected people at Dhaka Cantonment recently.

IBSA Summit focuses on common voice for developing world

AFP, Pretoria

The leaders of emerging powerhouses India, South Africa and Brazil met for a Wednesday summit focused on building up trade and finding a common voice on the world stage for the developing world.

South African President Thabo Mbeki was the host of the second annual India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) summit in Pretoria which will see him hold talks and sign a series of joint agreements with his Brazilian counterpart Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"We continue of course to face the same common challenges," Mbeki said in brief opening remarks.

"We will look at additional proposals that are made to further expand this cooperation and I am quite certain that the summit will further help expedite the process," the South African leader added.

Lula said that while the countries were invited as participants in talks

with the group of eight (G8) industrialised nations, they needed to ensure that their views carried more influence.

"This mechanism has to be perfected in a way that our voice has a real influence in major world issues," he said.

"It is not of much value for us to be invited to the dessert course at the banquet of the powerful."

Both Lula and Singh arrived in South Africa on Tuesday night after business leaders from the three countries had held a joint seminar in which they urged their respective governments to do more to ease trade barriers.

The three governments' foreign ministers held preparatory talks early on Wednesday before the three heads of state gathered at Union Building in the capital Pretoria.

A statement from the South African government said that the meeting was expected to conclude with a number of trilateral agreements focusing on shipping, information technology and energy.

"India-Brazil-SA have very

vibrant democracies, common views on major global issues and are substantial players in their respective sub-regional economies," it said.

All three governments have ambitions to become permanent veto-wielding members of the United Nations Security Council and analysts see their alliance as an opportunity to push their common diplomatic agenda.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), BCSIR organises a seminar on 'meeting international standards for food and drug'. Venue: IFST seminar room. Time: 10:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30pm.