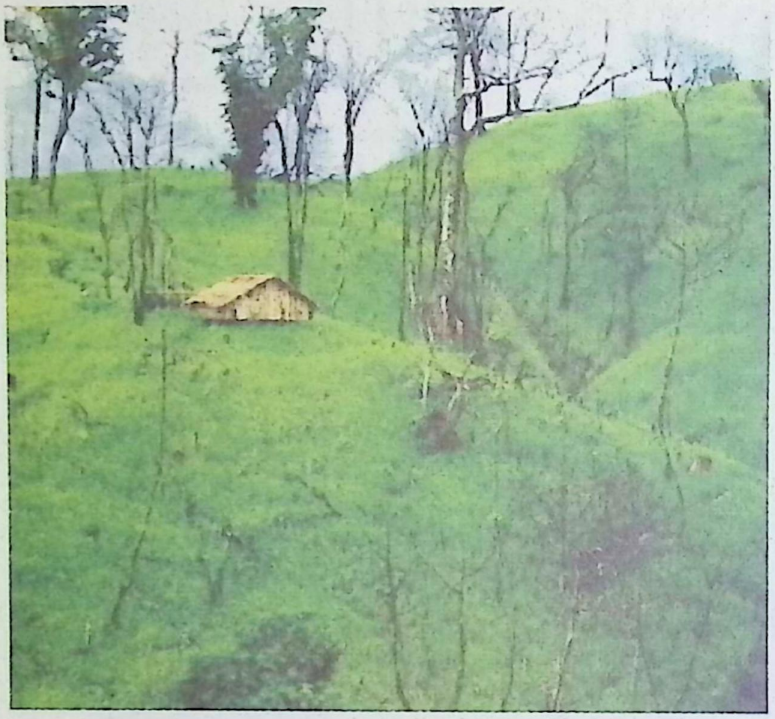


If we really want to save Bangladesh from the grips of global warming, we need to do take initiatives ourselves besides acting by the government's plan and policy.

For a Green Bangladesh

Mohammad Shahidul Islam

ACCORDING to some of the world's leading NGOs, global warming today threatens human advancement. The United Nations (UN) targets to lessen poverty could also be difficult to attain because of it. Oxfam, Greenpeace, Christian Aid, Friends of the Earth, WWF and 15 other NGOs state in a journal that governments of rich countries must immediately address climate change to avoid "obscene levels" of worldwide poverty. "Food production, water supply, public health and people's livelihoods are already being damaged and undermined," they say. "There is no either/or approach possible. The world must meet its commitments to achieve poverty reduction and also tackle climate change. The two are inextricably linked."

Bangladesh will be greatly affected by global warming. If we really want to save Bangladesh from the grips of global warming, we need to do take initiatives ourselves besides acting by the government's plan and policy. "Green" should be the buzzword for the people of Bangladesh. Above all, we need to welcome "Green technology" in our everyday lives.

In America and Europe, green technology is a broad term for more environment-friendly solutions -- whether it is manufacturing carpeting that produces zero landfill, developing a planned community, turning radioactive cesium into glass, or bringing down packaging of frozen foods. We do not need to be chemists to understand or use green technology. We can do our own research and use products that support the initiative.

Amenities and technology are frequently publicised as ways to make our lives easier. The ugly flip side is that many of the products and the technologies required to make them end up harming our environment. The industries and regulatory bodies of the country are taking steps in the right direction. But why should we wait for them to come up with all the answers? By using green technology, we can help heal our environment.

Let's see how this works. When we go grocery shopping, instead of using paper or plastic bags, we can buy our own reusable bags. Durable, washable bags made of cotton or jute can endure the weight of groceries. As we stroll down the walkways, we can buy various organic produces including eggs.