

Getting a consensus in COP 17

How close the world is?

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THE 17th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) will be held in the city of Durban, South Africa from November 28 to December 9. The world is waiting with hope that this time a fruitful and effective guideline will be made towards mitigating and adapting with climate change impacts. Much hype and expectation grew vis-a-vis this convention mainly hangs around the moods and stances of developed and some major developing countries. These countries aligned with capitalist interest may act as the main hindrance to a positive outcome from COP 17.

Capitalism which requires rapid accumulation of capital has resulted into a continuous series of exchange between humans and the earth's ecological system that went beyond its tipping point. This mind-boggling behavior of inhabitants resulted into multi-dimensional global environmental crisis which forebodes extermination of the basis of civilisation and the survival of the human species.

Climate change now poses the greatest threat among all the disturbing, pernicious symptoms the humans are experiencing and with the rapid pace of industrialisation, any respite from this threat seems a far cry unless the very systematic structure underlying this is not addressed. Thus only technical solution will not suffice if the geo-

political consideration is not simultaneously addressed and different interests of countries not aligned and adjusted.

Capitalism which is mainly fired by the combustion of fossil fuels keeps pushing countries around the world in intensifying inter-state competition. This makes these countries to increase their frantic effort to accumulate capital resulting into more industrialisation and thus more rapid buildup of emission. So the real question is whether an attainable deal can be reached in the coming COP 17 to be held at Durban. Much hype and expectation has already grown centering this. It bears paramount importance for us as Bangladesh is believed to be worst-affected by climate change induced disasters and problems.

This could be proved as the last blood-drop effort of developing countries like Bangladesh to exert their existence. The most challenging task will be to get US and China on the same table along with other major developing countries aligned with the same interest of not exceeding the world temperature by 2 degree Celsius.

Now let's have a look at what is the requirement for averting a self-perpetuating disaster induced by climate change. It is estimated by IPCC that global emissions of carbon dioxide must fall by 5085 per cent from 2000 to 2050 in order to prevent global warming temperature from rising beyond 22.4 degrees Celsius on that of pre-industrial times. This is considered



as a must because beyond this temperature our climate change will go to a level where it will start to feed itself and even our complete halt of carbon emission will not be able to stop it. So a clear guideline has to be formulated at the COP 17 as the time for action is quickly running out.

The main threat to the fruitfulness of COP 17 comes from the once torchbearer of world economy -- the US. In a competition for global superiority they always were the major polluters of the environment. As a capitalist country, they are compelled to use a substantial portion of their surplus product in generating more capital.

In this system everything is tagged with a price and can be traded with. This gave a false idea that economic growth can be attained with the advancement in technology and if not can be compensated with. With the existing physical and technical infrastructure running on non-renewable resources and ecologically unsustainable technologies, it is very unlikely that without forsaking this mode of generating power, the world can move towards a sustainable solution.

Along with this China's surge for economic superiority makes it the other major polluter in the world. China and the US together share 40 per cent of the global emissions of one of the principal components of greenhouse gas -- carbon dioxide.

One interesting event has to be mentioned here for highlighting

how hard it is to get to a consensus. In July 2008, at the G8 summit in Japan, G8 leaders after a long hassle came to agree on a vague goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 50 per cent by 2050. A new hope emerged as these capitalist countries came to the realisation of the dangers climate change pose. But this hope was nipped in the bud as this was immediately rejected by the leaders of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa.

They stressed that the onus is on the "developed countries" in reducing emissions by 80-95 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050 and demanded that financial support be provided for helping "developing countries" to adapt to climate change. The diplomatic wrangling gets clear from the words of Chinese President, Hu Jintao, who said that China, being a developing country, would not change its focus from industrialisation and would continue its activities in raising people's living standards.

But it is also a true that without substantial emission reduction by these states (a World Bank data shows that low and middle income

countries account for about half of the world's total carbon dioxide emissions and were responsible for about three-quarters of the world's increase in emissions between 2000 to 2004), there is little hope of global climate stabilisation becoming a reality.

This demand by developing countries was rejected by developed countries and so a solution remained elusive for that time. Again COP 15 was the example of a diplomatic disaster and laid bare the fundamental political fault-lines. In COP 16, there was a participatory method where country leaders agreed to a consensus without the guideline on how to achieve it.

As the Kyoto Protocol is coming to an end in 2012, there is no scope for any further ado because, if CO2 emissions continue unabated, in the next twenty years, the climate system will cross tipping point beyond remission and global warming will begin to feed on itself and become just unmanageable. But the very capitalist structure of world economy prevents developed and BASIC countries from taking a concrete step. The step could be initial-

ising a process which will focus on ways of articulating and operationalising benchmarks for environmental and equity outcomes for guiding the future evolution of the climate regime. This could address geopolitical uncertainties and could bridge the gap in COP 17.

If global leaders and environmentalist and researchers pay their attention to this, a consensus beneficial for all could be reached. But still the very nature of capitalism will always remain a problem and we must not forget what capitalism can result in if goes fully unregulated (e.g. the financial crisis in 2008). COP 17 could be the step towards this benchmarking and finding common ground and could be the catalyst in reformulating developed countries' policies based on solid ground. Unless this can be done, COP 17 will remain as an example of another diplomatic disaster.

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Protecting crop and environment

Herbal pesticide from custard-apple leaves

Every year pesticides worth Tk 30 thousand crore are used in our country which directly or indirectly enter in human body to its detriment. Herbal pesticides like the one from custard apple leaves may help both the exchequer and the human body.

GOUTAM KUMAR ROY

HUMAN and pests both are dependent on foods from plants. In this sub-continent pests eat up two crore maunds of paddy in a year. There is a continuous fight between pests and human beings in procuring food. So far knowledge goes, in the world number of pests supersedes that of other animals together. But pests cannot increase in

number always. Unfavourable weather, destruction by birds and human beings hamper their increase. If all the pests got the opportunity of breeding, then the other animals could not live on the earth due to pests.

All the pests are not harmful either. There are beneficial pests also, but small in number. Human beings have been applying different methods to protect crops. Now they depend on pesticides. Pesticides play a helping role in protecting crops

on one hand but harm on the other the natural ecology. This is a great challenge to our food security. Use of pesticides is essential in agriculture. But we have been losing our well being and ecology in achieving food security. Particularly the fisheries sector is the worst sufferer.

Water and the earth have their own chemistry and power. Chemical pesticides harm the environment and ecology, on the other hand they are equally harmful to human body. Not only the researchers, but the farming communities themselves also have been trying to come out of this harmful way. The pesticides made from the custard apple tree leaves cannot only protect the crop and environment, but generate an abrupt change in agriculture itself. Farmer Kausar Ahmed of Kakiladaha Mollikpara under Mirpur Upazila in Kushtia district has prepared herbal pesti-

cides from the custard-apple tree leaves. Kausar says, he underwent training several months ago under Village Defense Party (VDP). As a fish culture trainer I informed about the technology and requested him to utilise the easy way of making herbal pesticides.

Coming back from the training he collected some leaves of custard apple, kept that in an aluminum pot soaked in water and covered the pot tight with polythene so that air could not enter in. After a week he experimented the water on ants and the ants died. Later on under the intensive instruction of the trainer he boiled the water with leaves. Then cooling it sprayed in the bringal field. It was observed the pests of the bringal field had gone.

This innovation of herbal pesticide from custard apple leaves has created a good deal of enthusiasm among the farm-

ers. Moznu Mollick of village Kakiladaha whose paddy field was attacked by pests informed it to Kausar and got a bottle of the pesticide. It was observed that after two days of spraying the pests were controlled. Lacking laboratory facility the marginal researcher has been promoting the innovation through the farmers. But this innovation may be a milestone in protecting the crop and environment.

The custard apple leaves contain carbohydrate, nicotinic acid, calcium, riboflavin, potassium, phosphorus, thiamine etc. Some ingredients of custard apple leaves are helpful in checking disease of fruits and crops. Every year pesticides worth Tk 30 thousand crore are used in our country which directly or indirectly enter in human body to its detriment. Herbal pesticides like the one from custard apple leaves may help both the exchequer and the human body.

Chemical pesticides are frequently used in crop fields that cause disaster to the environment and human beings. If patronisation is extended to those marginal innovators, then the small initiatives can protect our environment, and crops as well as their consumers in a big way. On the other hand crops production will be increased because of its natural effect. It is possible to expand the use of environment-friendly pesticide from custard apple leaves if the government and any other organisations come forward in promoting it.

The writer is a pisciculture trainer.



Pesticide from custard-apple leaves being prepared.



Prepared pesticide being poured in spray bottles.

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আলাদা নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অধ্যক্ষিকার	গ্যাস অফুরন্ত নয়। গ্যাসের চুলচাচী কাজ শেষে নিতিয়ে ফেলুন।
স্বাক্ষর টিএজিউ-ময়ঃ/ময়মনসিংহ/৪৩৬৭/তারিখঃ ০৪/০৯/২০১১	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১। মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিরেক্টর	২। বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও বনবিজ্ঞান সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। সংস্থা	৩। বাংলাদেশ টেলি, গ্যাস ও বনবিজ্ঞান সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন।
৩। প্রকিউরিং এজেন্সি	৪। তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড।
৪। কাজের নাম	৫। টিএজিউ-ময়মনসিংহ শাখার আওতাধীন ১১ (এগার)টি এমএডওয়ার স্টেশন ও ০৩ (তিন)টি ডাম্প স্টেশন রক্ষণ কাজ।
৫। কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়	৬। কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হইতে ৪০ (চল্লিশ) কর্মদিবস।
৬। দরদাতাদের যোগ্য	৭। যে কোন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে হালনাগাদ প্রথম শ্রেণীর পুরকৌশল নির্মাণ কাজের টিকাদার হিসাবে তালিকাভুক্তির সদন।
৭। দরদাতার অভিজ্ঞতা	৮। উক্ত চাপসম্পন্ন গ্যাস স্থাপনায় রক্ষণ কাজের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার সদনদাত্র সম্মিলিত টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৮। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	৯। প্রতি স্টেট ২,০০০/- (টাকা দুই হাজার) মাত্র অফেরতযোগ্য।
৯। বায়নার টাকা	১০। ৮০,০০০/- (টাকা চল্লিশ হাজার) মাত্র। দরদাতা কর্তৃক টিজিউসিএল এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে ডিমাড ড্রাফট বা পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দাখিলের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১০। দরপত্র দাখিল বিরুদ্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	১১। ০৯/১০/২০১১ হইতে ৩০/১০/২০১১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত। সকাল ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সকল কর্মদিবস)।
১১। দরপত্র দাখিল বিরুদ্ধের স্থানসমূহ	১২। ক) হিসাব বিভাগ, তিতাস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড, তিতাস গ্যাস ভবন, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫। খ) হিসাব বিভাগ, পেট্রোবাংলা, পেট্রোসেন্টার, ৩, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫। গ) হিসাব বিভাগ, বাপেঙ্গ লিমিটেড, শাহজালাল টাওয়ার (৪র্থ তলা), ৮০/এ-বি, সিদ্ধেশ্বরী, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
১২। দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণের স্থান	১৩। ক) প্রধান কার্যালয়, তিতাস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড, তিতাস গ্যাস ভবন, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫। খ) নীচ তলার রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজার দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪। ৩১/১০/২০১১ হইতে ৩০/১০/২০১১ তারিখ, ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৪। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৫। ৩১/১০/২০১১ হইতে ৩০/১০/২০১১ তারিখ, ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায়। পরিচালক (অপারেশন), তিতাস গ্যাস টি এন্ড ডি কোং লিমিটেড এর অফিস কক্ষে।
১৫। অনিবার্য কারণে নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা সম্ভব না হইলে, পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে একই সময়সূচি অনুসারে দরপত্র দাখিল গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।	১৬। বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্যঃ ক) দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিন কোন দরপত্র দাখিল বিরুদ্ধ করা হইবে না। খ) আত্মীয় দরদাতাগণ কোম্পানীর সিস্টেম অপারেশন বিভাগ (উত্তর) এর বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়, টলি ৮০ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, আরএমএল অফিস হইতে এই দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত প্রয়োজনীয় অতিরিক্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ করিতে পরিবেন।
১৭। কোন বকম দায়-দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ অথবা কারণ প্রদর্শন ছাড়াই অত্র কোম্পানী যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।	উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক সিস্টেম অপারেশন বিভাগ (উত্তর) ফোনঃ ৯৮১৬৩৯৯
তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-২৯/২০১১-১২ জিডি-৪১৬১	