

US, China offer

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With the talks in disarray Friday, many delegates had been looking toward China and the US the world's two largest carbon polluters to deepen their pledges to cut emissions to salvage a deal in Copenhagen.

"We are ready to get this done today but there has to be movement on all sides to recognise that is better for us to act rather than talk," Obama said, insisting on a transparent way to monitor each nation's pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Wen told delegates that China's voluntary targets of reducing its carbon intensity by 40 to 45 percent will require "tremendous efforts."

"We will honour our word with real action," Wen said.

China has been criticised at the two-week summit for not offering stronger carbon emissions targets and for resisting international monitoring of its actions. After the impromptu high-level meeting, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said progress in the climate talks was being held back by China.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Friday that the Copenhagen climate summit may fall short and called for talks in 2010 to complete a deal.

The outcome may well fall short of our expectations," Singh said on the final scheduled day of the 194-nation negotiations in the Danish capital.

Singh called for "subsequent negotiations towards building a truly global and genuinely collaborative response to climate change being concluded during the year 2010."

To settle for something that could be seen as diminished expectations and diminished implementations would be in our view a very wrong message to emerge from this conference, he said.

Singh stood by a key demand of emerging economies -- that the Kyoto Protocol, whose obligations to cut carbon emissions blamed for global warming expire at the end of 2012, remain legally in force as a treaty.

The Kyoto Protocol made no demands of developing countries, leading the United States -- the largest industrial power -- to shun it.

"It would go against international public opinion if we succumb in its replacement by a new and weaker set of commitments," Singh said.

"Each one of us gathered here today acknowledges that those most affected by climate change are the least responsible for it," Singh said.

An early draft of the climate agreement, obtained by The Associated Press, called for rich countries to mobilise \$30 billion over the next three years to help poor countries cope with the effects of global warming, scaling up to \$100 billion a year by 2020.

But it called for continued negotiations on targets for emission cuts, with a deadline of a climate conference in Mexico City in December next year.

The lack of progress meant Obama changed the word "agreement" from his prepared speech to negotiators that "the finishing line is in sight,"

reminding them that "the world is watching."

And Brazilian president Luiz Lula da Silva told the joint session of negotiators how frustrated he was that the job was left to heads of state after talks ran into the wee hours Friday.

"I am not sure if such an angel or wise man will come down to this plenary and put in our minds the intelligence that we lacked," Lula said. "I believe in God. I believe in miracles."

To move the talks forward, Lula said Brazil, a developing country, would give money to help other developing countries cope with the costs of global warming.

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said the US president met with world leaders Friday from wealthy nations like Australia, the United Kingdom, France and Germany and developing countries like Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Colombia.

China and Russia, both seen as key participants in climate change discussions, also were at the meeting with Obama.

Delegates earlier were blaming both the US and China for the lack of a political agreement that more than 110 world leaders were supposed to sign within hours.

The conference has been plagued by growing distrust between rich and poor nations. Both sides blamed the other for failing to take ambitious actions to tackle climate change. At one point, African delegates staged a partial boycott of the talks.

World leaders handed off a three-page draft text about 3 am to their ministers and they continued to work on it through the night. But by 5 am, negotiators from Mexico and the G-7 plus China said they were nowhere near agreement on the final document.

China and the US had sought to give the negotiations a boost on Thursday with an announcement and a concession.

Hillary said Washington would press the world to come up with a climate aid fund amounting to \$100 billion a year by 2020, a move that was quickly followed by an offer from China to open its reporting on actions to reduce carbon emissions to international review.

That issue money to help poor nations cope with climate change and shift to clean energy seemed to be where negotiators at the 193-nation conference could claim most success.

Pollution cuts and the best way to monitor those actions remained unresolved. And negotiators also didn't come to an agreement on an important procedural issue just what legal form a future deal would take.

Earlier Prime Ministers of India and China -- Dr Manmohan Singh and Wen Jiabao -- met early this morning in the Directors Room of the Radisson Blu Hotel here.

Sources privy to the half-an-hour long meeting said that both leaders broadly discussed the progress of their bilateral ties and how best to take it forward. Premier Wen Jiabao recalled his last meeting with Dr Singh in Thailand, and remarked in an opening statement that there was need to take strategic ties to a higher level.

Dr Singh concurred and said that both countries needed to meet more often and exchange views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Climate accord

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declaration, but by 5:00am the negotiators from Mexico, the G-77 and China said they were nowhere near agreement on the final document.

The signing ceremony was supposed to be held at 9:00pm Bangladesh time yesterday but it was delayed. The lack of a deal caused leaders to sit in informal talks, delaying the opening of the regular session.

Briefing the Bangladeshi press about the development of the talks, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud said a text was finalised on Thursday night but parties did not agree on that.

At least 20 world leaders including Hasina and US President Barack Obama met at a breakfast meeting where Obama said if the nations cannot reach an agreement, most vulnerable countries like Bangladesh will suffer enormously.

Sheikh Hasina demanded including the migration issue of "climate refugees" in the text. She also said Bangladesh and other least developed countries are ready to reduce carbon emission, although it is not mandatory for them, if they get technological and financial help from the developed nations.

"None differed with the prime minister's demand," Hossain said. Amanullah told Bangladeshi reporters.

Asked what Bangladesh's position about the political agreement is, the minister said Bangladesh wants something positive but nothing was settled yet.

Influential leaders of the world including Obama, the Chinese prime minister, the Indian prime minister and the Brazilian president delivered speeches at a session conducted by Danish Prime Minister and COP President Anders Fogh Rasmussen at BellaCentre.

However, none of them announced anything concrete to save the world.

There must be financing that helps the developing nations, particularly the least developed and most vulnerable, adapt to climate change. Obama said in his speech.

Indian PM Manmohan Singh said it will be difficult to reach an agreement once the leaders go back home from Copenhagen because of a lack of political support.

He said, "Equitable burden sharing should underlie any effective global climate understanding, which means rights of emission on a per capita basis."

Meanwhile, a paper of the UNFCCC documents was leaked yesterday, which says current emission reduction pledges by the developed nations and some emerging economies leave the world on track to global warming by at best 3 degrees Celsius and probably more.

Different bodies including the WWF condemned this.

In his speech at the opening session, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change chair RK Pachauri said if global warming cannot be limited within a 1.5 degrees Celsius increase, vulnerable countries like Bangladesh may be submerged partially displacing millions of people.

Mass graves

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Colony, Downyard Colony under Lalmonirhat municipality of Lalmonirhat sadar upazila, Sawnamoti Railway Bridge, Station Para under Aditmari upazila, Dogram, Tusvandar, Votmari, Kakin under Kaliganj and Barokhata, Dawabari, Dalia under Hatibandha upazila in the district.

Freedom fighters of the district said a large number of people were detained and shot to death by the Pakistan occupation forces at Velabari village and Durgapur village under Aditmari upazila while the victims were trying to flee their motherland for safety.

Officials of the company said they talked to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque and the DSPS authorities to exempt the bus companies from Tk 70 fixed by DSPS as service charge for each bus per day.

They said the DMP commissioner agreed in principle with their proposal but he has not issued any letter so far in this regard even after repeated requests from them.

Contacted, DMP Commissioner Shahidul told The Daily Star that no bus

Pak ministers

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Naveed said, also denying reports of an arrest warrant issued for Malik.

NAB officials said earlier the body had instructed the interior ministry to put the names of 253 people on the "exit control list" restricting travel.

"They include politicians, bureaucrats, ex-military officers and some diplomats... Arrest warrants issued against some are also revived and properties of accused frozen again," said NAB's media officer Naveed Sattar.

Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar told local television late Thursday he had been due to go on an official three-day visit to China but that his name had been put on the list restricting travel.

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