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Doha climate talks stall

Qatari hosts under fire as talks drag on

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The Qatari hosts of the UN climate talks were being widely blamed yesterday night for frustration and confusion as the negotiations dragged on long through the evening without outcome.

The Kyoto protocol, still the only international treaty stipulating cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, and a touchstone for many environmentalists, had looked on the verge of being rescued by a coalition of rich and poor nations painstakingly assembled over two years. But the prize was thrown into doubt in large part, delegates said, because of "mismanagement by the hosts".

The talks had to be adjourned for several hours because delegates were unable to agree on poorly worded texts. The delay raised the possibility of a breakdown in the talks, and does little to increase faith in the UN climate process.

Negotiators from rich and poor countries alike were furious at the hosts and there were barely veiled insults even in the open conference sessions.

Referring to the latest version of the negotiating text,

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Farmers weed their potato field in Munshiganj where the crop is grown in abundance. The photo was taken from Sirajdikhan of the district.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Robert Blake arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Robert O Blake will arrive here today on a four-day official visit to discuss bilateral and regional issues on labour, development, governance and trade.

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RU students opt to stay outside dorms

Over 400 left halls in 2 months fearing Shibir-BCL clashes

A M JAHID, RU Correspondent

Feeling insecure and fearing further clashes between Islami Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus, over 400 students of Rajshahi University have left their dormitories in the last two months, seeking safe accommodation elsewhere in the city.

Their departure was triggered by the gunfight between Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Shibir and the ruling Awami League-backed BCL on the campus on October 2.

University administration sources said

at least 135 students have formally vacated their seats at the halls since early October. And 270 others did not return to their dormitories after the Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

The latest incident of violence between the two rival student bodies occurred on November 21 when Shibir cadres swooped on RU unit BCL Vice President AKM Tawhid Alam Akheruzzaman alias Takim, stabbed him and cut the tendon of his left leg. He is now fighting for his life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Habibur Rahman, a resident of

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BANNING JAMAAT CPB, BSD call hartal for December 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Shamajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday called countrywide daylong hartal for December 18 demanding a ban on communal politics including that of Jamaat-e-Islami and ensuring quick trial of the alleged war criminals.

The two left-leaning parties declared the hartal from a joint press conference at the CPB central office at Paltan in the capital.

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PATUAKHALI POLYTECHNIC BCL men go on the rampage

Institute closed for 7 days after activists blast bombs, vandalise building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute (PPI) authorities yesterday closed the institution for seven days and its dormitories for an indefinite period after the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League went on the rampage on the campus Thursday night, demanding release of its two leaders from police custody.

During the violence, the BCL men vandalised doors and windows of the academic building, set fire to furniture and

exploded at least 25 hand-made bombs.

Witnesses said two factions of the student body's PPI unit, led by its president Rakib Khan and general secretary Russell, got involved in a clash around noon on Thursday over establishing supremacy on the campus in the town's Sobujbagh area. At least four BCL men were injured in the clash.

In the afternoon, police detained the two BCL leaders over the clash.

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People throng Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday to see around 275 species of live butterflies on display there. The zoology department of the university in Savar organised the event for the third time.

PHOTO: STAR



Manmohan govt wins FDI vote

India now eyes more reforms

REUTERS, New Delhi

The UPA government won a second parliament vote yesterday on allowing foreign supermarkets into the country, paving the way for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to press ahead with more reforms, including freeing up a cash-strapped insurance sector.

While the Rajya Sabha vote was symbolic, the government's victory was a boost for its push to implement a controversial economic reform agenda seen as crucial to reviving growth and reducing a bloated fiscal deficit.

The government had already won a vote on retail reform in the Lok Sabha two days earlier. The policy will allow global retailers such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) to set up shop in the country's \$450 billion retail sector, and is aimed at drawing more overseas investment and taming inflation.

Although both votes were non-binding, defeat would have piled pressure on Manmohan to roll back the measure. "Overall, it is a positive development. More than anything else, I think it reaffirms the political will to start

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2 killed in Pabna fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least two people were burnt to death while 16 shops were gutted in a devastating fire that razed Kashinathpur Bazar in Bera upazila of Pabna early yesterday.

Deceased Md Nayeb Ali, 32, and Md Abdul Jalil, 38, were workers at Bhai-Bhai Restaurant and Biscuit Factory of the bazar.

Fire fighter said the

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PRAYER TIMING			December 8
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5-15	5-50	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	3-45	4-00	
Maghrib	5-19	5-22	
Esha	7-00	7-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Zainul Abidin Faroque's comment that the family members and close associates of the prime minister are also involved in the Padma bridge graft?

Yes (45%)
No (47%)
No Comments (8%)

TOTAL VOTES: 573

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Shamajtantrik Dal's (BSD) demand for banning Jamaat-Shibir from politics is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT [facebook.com/dailystarnews](https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews)

Plan to import power from 4 neighbours

Muhith vows to end electricity crisis

UNB, Dhaka

The government has worked out a plan to import power from the neighbouring countries in near future to meet the growing demand for electricity and keep the country's economic growth unhurt.

"We'll get 500 megawatts of electricity next year from abroad [India] ... we'll import equally 2000 megawatts each from Bhutan and Nepal in near future. We'll also import [elec-

tricity] from Myanmar and Agartala [capital of north-eastern Indian state Tripura]," he told a function in the capital.

The minister said the government was generating over 6000MW and it would continue to increase. "By 2015, we'll hopefully be able to generate 12,000 megawatts."

Muhith said, "Development isn't possible without electricity. We must be prudent in consuming electricity."

He urged all to follow the countries which were utilising electricity. "America shouldn't be our ideal that wastes electricity, [but] we must follow those [Switzerland and Japan] who are making maximum benefit with minimum electricity."

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of 'National Electricity Week-2012' at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh.

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The Daily Star

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