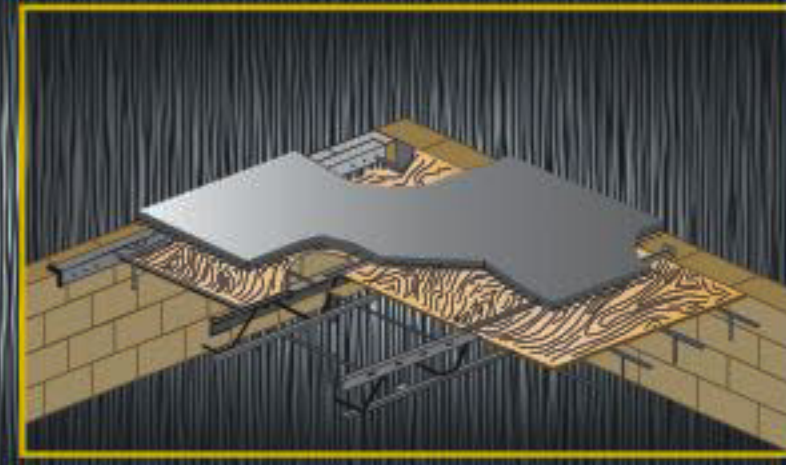


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World agrees landmark deal

All countries for the first time commit to cut emissions

BBC ONLINE

A deal to attempt to limit the rise in global temperatures to less than 2C has been agreed at the climate change summit in Paris after two weeks of negotiations.

The pact is the first to commit all countries to cut carbon emissions.

The agreement is partly legally binding and partly voluntary.

Earlier, key blocs, including the G77 group of developing countries, and nations such as China and India said they supported the proposals.

President of the UN climate conference of parties (COP) and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said: "I now invite the COP to adopt the decision entitled Paris Agreement outlined in the document."

"Looking out to the room I see that the reaction is positive, I see no objections. The Paris agreement is adopted."

As he struck the gavel to signal the adoption of the deal, delegates rose to their feet cheering and applauding.

Nearly 200 countries have been attempting to strike the first climate deal to commit all countries to cut emissions, which would come into being in 2020.

US President Obama was among the first world leaders to tweet his congratulations, describing the deal as "huge".

The chairman of the group representing



some of the world's poorest countries called the deal historic, adding, "We are living in unprecedented times, which call for unprecedented measures."

"It is the best outcome we could have hoped for, not just for the Least Developed Countries, but for all citizens of the world."

The measures in the agreement included reviewing progress every five years, and \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020.

Ahead of the deal being struck, delegates were in a buoyant mood as they gathered in the hall waiting for the plenary session to resume.

Fabius was applauded as he entered the hall ahead of the announcement.

Earlier, French President Francois Hollande called the proposals unprecedented, while UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon called on negotiators to "finish the job".

However, the celebratory mood has not been shared among all observers.

Nick Dearden, director of campaign group Global Justice Now, said, "It's outrageous that the deal that's on the table is being spun as a success when it undermines the rights of the world's most vulnerable communities and has almost nothing binding to ensure a safe and liveable climate for future generations."

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Young left-arm pace bowler Abu Hider is the find of this year's Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). The southpaw took four wickets as Comilla Victorians thrashed Rangpur Riders by 72 runs and romped into the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Hider is now the leading wicket-taker of the tournament with 21. Story on page 14.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

AL, BNP in last-ditch efforts to stop rebels

RASHIDUL HASAN and PANKAG KARMAKAR

Both the Awami League and the BNP are making frantic efforts at the eleventh hour to convince their rebel candidates to quit their municipal bids as the deadline for nomination withdrawal expires today.

In the 235 municipalities that go to polls on December 30, the AL has about 25 rebel mayor candidates and the BNP at least 26.

The AL had originally 52 rebels, but after a 24-hour ultimatum from the party high-ups, about half of them have either pulled out or will do so today,



party sources said.

Some, however, resigned from the party to run in the polls.

After today, the AL will try to persuade its rebels to publicly announce their support for the party-backed candidates.

However, AL rebels at different places say they will not back off as they are "more popular" than the party candidates.

"Things had been the same in the last municipal election in 2011. The party did not support me, but I contested as an independent candidate and won. I

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Saudi women vote for first time

BBC ONLINE

Women in Saudi Arabia have cast their first votes in the country's history, in municipal elections.

Women were also standing as

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



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INDO-BANGLA TIES Trust at new heights

Says Pankaj Saran
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Indian envoy Pankaj Saran has said a new trust and mutual understanding have developed between India and Bangladesh in the last few years which had helped resolve most difficult pending issues.

"This has been a very important stage of our relations. I have been fortunate to be present at a time when the relations have developed in many directions and we have been able to make progress on issues which were stuck for decades," he said.

The trust and understanding made it easier to resolve the land boundary issue, he said during an interaction with a group of journalists at Indira Gandhi Culture Centre

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING

DECEMBER 13
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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