

PARIS CLIMATE DEAL ROADMAP

World must remove 1 billion tonnes CO2 by 2025: report

REUTERS, London

Projects in development will remove only a fraction of the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air that needs extracting by 2025 to meet the global Paris climate target and avert catastrophic warming, a report said yesterday.

More than 190 countries have signed the Paris deal designed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but even with pledges of big reductions in emissions many scientists believe removal technologies will be needed to meet the goal.

"Without action to deliver 1 Gigatonne (Gt) of negative emissions globally by 2025, keeping global warming within the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C cannot be achieved," said the report by the Coalition for Negative Emissions (CNE), and consultancy firm McKinsey.

It said countries will need to remove a billion tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere by 2025, if the Paris target is to be met, and more than one billion tonnes annually thereafter.

The current pipeline of projects in development could remove only around 150 million tonnes of CO2 by 2025, well short of what's needed, the report said.

Negative emission projects include bioenergy with technology to capture and store carbon emissions, technology to directly capture and store emissions from the air and natural climate solutions such as afforestation.

Currently removal technology is expensive and while many countries around the world have initiatives in place to put a price on CO2 emissions, the prices are far too low to incentivise new projects. The report said scaling up the technology would lead to lower costs, with a likely average cost of 30-100 pounds (\$41-138) per tonne of CO2 removed by 2050.



People hold up their mobile phones as they watch a light show celebrating the 100th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of China, at The Bund in Shanghai, China, yesterday. China will mark the centenary of the founding of its ruling Communist Party today with pomp, spectacle, and what state media described as an "important" speech by President Xi Jinping in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. PHOTO: REUTERS

Quote of the day



“What’s the use of meeting with Zelensky (Ukraine president) when he has given full control of his country to outside management? Key decisions are being made in Washington, and Berlin and Paris to some extent. I’m not refusing to meet with Zelensky, it’s just necessary to understand what there is to talk about.”

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

NEWS

IN brief

112-year-old Puerto Rican becomes world's oldest man

Emilio Flores Marquez from Puerto Rico has become the world's oldest living man at an age of 112 years and 326 days old, Guinness World Records announced yesterday. Marquez, who was born in Carolina, east of the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan in 1908, was recognised by Guinness and awarded a certificate at his home just a few miles (kilometres) from his birthplace. The previous oldest living man was recognised by Guinness World Records as Romania's Dumitru Comănescu, who died on June 27, 2020, at the age of 111 years 219 days.

China certified malaria-free

China was certified yesterday as malaria-free by the World Health Organization, following a 70-year effort to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease. The country reported 30 million cases of the infectious disease annually in the 1940s but has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous case. "We congratulate the people of China on ridding the country of malaria," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Countries that have achieved at least three consecutive years of zero indigenous cases can apply for WHO certification of their malaria-free status. They must present rigorous evidence -- and demonstrate the capacity to prevent transmission re-emerging. China becomes the 40th territory certified malaria-free by the Geneva-based WHO.



Spain will 'never' allow Catalonia referendum: PM

Spain's ruling Socialists will "never" allow an independence referendum in Catalonia, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said yesterday, as his government prepares to resume negotiations with Catalan separatists. His comments come a week after nine Catalan political leaders were pardoned and freed from jail for their part in the northeastern region's failed push for independence in 2017. "There will be no referendum on self-determination," Sanchez told parliament, saying his Socialist party would "never accept this type of deviation."

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

FOOD SHORTAGES IN DOZENS OF COUNTRIES

WFP warns of 'biblical' famine

AFP, Rome

The head of the UN's World Food Programme yesterday warned there could be "unprecedented famine of biblical proportions" in dozens of countries without further action to address food shortages.

Speaking at a G20 event on humanitarian aid in Brindisi, Italy, WFP chief David Beasley said world leaders had stepped up last year with funds to help those already struggling when the coronavirus pandemic hit -- but must now do so again.

"We thought Covid would be in our rearview mirror by the end of 2020, only to see it recycled, with Delta and other variants taking place, devastating particularly and especially low-income and developing nations around the world who have been catastrophically smited by this perfect storm," he said.

The WFP, which won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for its work, is



appealing for \$6 billion to help 41 million people it says are on the edge of famine in 43 countries.

It says famine-like conditions already exist in Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen, while Nigeria and Burkina Faso are of particular concern.

"These are not just numbers, these are not just statistics, these are people with real names, real lives, fragile and literally on the brink of starvation," Beasley told a joint press conference

with Italian FM Luigi Di Maio. "If we don't address their needs, over the next six to nine months you could have unprecedented famine of biblical proportions, destabilisation of nations and mass migration."

"The simple solution is we need more support. Aid agencies say food shortages driven by conflict, climate change and economic shocks has been exacerbated by the crisis of the coronavirus pandemic."

Scores dead as heat wave grips Canada, US

AFP, Vancouver

Scores of deaths in Canada's Vancouver area are likely linked to a grueling heat wave, authorities said Tuesday, as the country recorded its highest ever temperature amid scorching conditions that extended to the US Pacific Northwest.

At least 134 people have died suddenly since Friday in the Vancouver area, according to figures released by the city police department and the Royal Canadian Mounted police. The Vancouver Police Department alone said it had responded to more than 65 sudden deaths since Friday, with the vast majority "related to the heat."

Canada set a new all-time high temperature record for a third day in a row Tuesday, reaching 121 degrees Fahrenheit (49.5 degrees Celsius) in Lytton, British Columbia, about 155 miles (250 kilometers) east of Vancouver, the country's weather service, Environment Canada, reported.

"Vancouver has never experienced heat like this, and sadly dozens of people are dying because of it," police sergeant Steve Addison said. Other local municipalities have said they too have responded to many sudden death calls, but have yet to release tolls.

Climate change is causing record-setting temperatures to become more frequent. Globally, the decade to 2019 was the hottest recorded, and the five hottest years have all occurred within the last five years.

The scorching heat stretching from the US state of Oregon to Canada's Arctic territories has been blamed on a high-pressure ridge trapping warm air in the region. Temperatures in the US Pacific Northwest cities of Portland and Seattle reached levels not seen since record-keeping began in the 1940s: 115 degrees Fahrenheit in Portland and 108 in Seattle Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

The heat wave has forced schools and Covid-19 vaccination centers to close in the Vancouver area, while officials set up temporary water fountains and misting stations on street corners. Cities across the western United States and Canada opened emergency cooling centers and outreach workers handed out bottles of water and hats.

Amazon dispatches Alexa to tell stories to kids

AFP, San Francisco

Amazon on Tuesday said that its Alexa digital assistant can now be a reading buddy for children, coaching them when they get stuck on words.

A "Reading Sidekick" feature gives people with Echo smart speakers and subscriptions to Amazon Kids+ service a way to help children ages between 5 and 10 years of age become better readers, according to the Seattle-based internet firm.

Alexa will read stories aloud to children while also encouraging them to participate.

"With the arrival of Reading Sidekick, we are hopeful we can make reading fun for millions of kids to set them up for a lifetime of learning and a love of reading," said Marissa Mierow, head of Alexa Education and Learning.

"Alexa provides a welcoming, no-judgment zone and is always ready to help and to read."



Subscriptions to the Kids+ service offering books, movies, TV shows, educational apps, and games start at \$3 monthly.

With Sidekick, children can tell Alexa it is time to read, mentioning the title of the book in hand and telling the digital assistant whether they want many or few turns reading aloud.

As children read, Alexa praises progress and offers prompts when they are stuck on words, according to Amazon. If a child continues struggling, Alexa shifts to a read-after-me mode.



JULY 01

1916 - British and French forces launched the Somme Offensive in World War One.

1946 - The United States tested an atomic bomb over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

1974 - Juan Peron, Argentine president and founder of the Peronist movement, died.

1999 - Germany's parliament held its last session in Bonn before moving to Berlin.

1999 - Scotland opened its first parliament in nearly 300 years.

2004 - An Iraqi tribunal charged Saddam Hussein and 11 of his senior associates with crimes against humanity.

SOURCE: REUTERS

FEATURES

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- Self-opening of Bank Account
- Receiving Foreign Remittance directly
- Utility Bill Payment (DESCO, DPDC & WASA)
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