



## World's clean energy transition 'too slow'

IEA says investment must be tripled by 2030 to curb climate change

AFP, Paris

The global transition to clean energy is still far too slow to meet climate pledges and risks fuelling even greater price volatility, the International Energy Agency warned yesterday.

"We are not investing enough to meet for future energy needs, and the uncertainties are setting the stage for a volatile period ahead," said IEA chief Fatih Birol.

In its annual World Energy Outlook report, the IEA calculated that investment in clean energy projects and infrastructure would need to be more than trebled over the next decade if those pledges are to be met.

The IEA -- which advises developed countries on energy policy -- said that renewables such as wind and solar energy continued to grow rapidly, and electric vehicles set new sales records in 2020, even as economies were bent under the weight of Covid-19 lockdowns.

However, "this clean energy progress is still far too slow to put global emissions into sustained decline towards net zero" by 2050, which the agency believes will help limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5C.

The agency analysed two possible scenarios. The first looked at the measures governments had already put in place or specific policies they were actively developing. And while almost all of the increased energy demand until 2050 could be met by low emissions sources, annual emissions would still be roughly the same as today as developing economies build up their nationwide infrastructure, the IEA said. Under this scenario, temperatures in 2100 would be 2.6C higher than pre-industrial levels.

The second scenario looked at promises made by some governments to achieve net-zero emissions in the future, which would see a doubling of clean energy investment and financing over the next decade.

If these pledges were fully implemented in time, demand for fossil fuels would peak by 2025, and global CO2 emissions fall by 40 percent by 2050, the IEA said.

Here, the global average temperature increase in 2100 would be around 2.1C, which would represent an improvement, but would still be way above the 1.5C agreed under the Paris accord, it concluded.

## SUBMISSION OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN BY COUNTRIES

# Pledges fall short of target

'Terrifying' warming predicted as extended deadline passes ahead of COP26

AGENCIES

The world is on track to see "terrifying" climate impacts as stepped-up emissions-cutting plans filed by countries so far fail to limit fast-accelerating global warming, analysts said yesterday.

More than two-thirds of about 195 countries that signed the 2015 Paris climate accord submitted a new or updated climate action plan by an extended UN deadline on Tuesday, a tracker by the US-based World Resources Institute (WRI) shows.

That is an increase from the just over half of countries who filed plans by the end of July. Nations that updated their pledges in recent days include South Africa and Japan, with the latter promising to halve its emissions by 2030 from 2013 levels.

President Vladimir Putin yesterday said that Russia -- one of the world's biggest producers of oil and gas -- is aiming for carbon neutrality by 2060.

China, India, Turkey and Saudi Arabia yet to strengthen their targets

Putin says Russia aiming for carbon neutrality by 2060

ADB boosts climate financing target by \$20b

But other major emitters including China, India, Turkey and Saudi Arabia -- which produce around a third of global emissions -- have yet to strengthen their targets despite pressure growing on them to do so before the UN's COP26 climate summit.

Claire Fyson, a climate policy expert at Climate Analytics, said current emissions-cutting pledges and net-zero commitments put the world on a trajectory to 2.4 degree Celsius of warming by the end of the century.

"This is terrifying considering the impacts we are already experiencing at 1.1C," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Analysts say securing more ambitious emissions-cutting plans and providing the



finance to put them into practice are crucial at COP26, due to take place in Scotland from Oct. 31-Nov. 12.

The conference has been billed as the last chance to galvanise the collective effort needed to limit global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial times, the more ambitious goal of the international Paris Agreement on climate change.

Meeting the 1.5C target will not prevent extreme weather worsening or sea levels rising, but it is seen as vital for avoiding runaway impacts on humans and the planet, including larger-scale hunger and migration.

Green groups have said deeper emission cuts from the world's 20 largest economies, or the G20, would be particularly crucial to keep the 1.5C goal within reach and those countries must come up with more ambitious targets before the COP26 summit.

"China's emissions gap for 2030 - 25% of the total global gap to be on track for 1.5C -- means that China in particular needs to take important steps forward," said David Waskow, the director of WRI's International Climate Initiative.

India, which has yet to set a target year to achieve net-zero emissions, has said it activities to boost the resilience of has been slashing emissions and adding renewables to its energy mix, but any further

commitment will depend on finance from rich countries.

The UN's climate science panel has said planet-heating emissions need to fall by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and then hit net-zero by mid-century, to have a good chance of keeping warming to 1.5C.

A 25% reduction is needed this decade to limit planetary heating to 2C, the higher ceiling in the Paris Agreement.

But a September report by the UN climate change body, which assessed climate action plans from 113 countries that filed by a July deadline, said those commitments would bring greenhouse gas emissions down by only 12% by 2030.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank has raised its financing target for climate change adaptation and mitigation by \$20 billion over the next decade, the Philippines-based lender said yesterday.

Under the 2019-2030 financing goal, which will include loans and grants, ADB will dedicate \$66 billion to climate mitigation, including energy efficiency and low-carbon transport. It will also commit \$34 billion to adaptation to boost the resilience of countries to the impacts of a warming planet.

## UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT

# Countries adopt Kunming Declaration

Stop short of committing to specific targets to curb mass extinctions

REUTERS, Kunming

More than 100 countries yesterday pledged to put the protection of habitats at the heart of their government decision-making but they stopped short of committing to specific targets to curb mass extinctions.

Chinese Environment Minister Huang Runqiu told delegates to a UN Biodiversity Conference in the city of Kunming that the declaration they adopted was a document of political will not a binding international agreement.

The Kunming Declaration calls for "urgent and integrated action" to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy but crucial issues -- like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains -- have been left to discuss later.

With plant and animal species loss now at the fastest rate in 10 million years, politicians, scientists and experts have been trying to lay the groundwork for a new pact on saving biodiversity.

In a previous agreement signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020, but none of those targets was met.

At the heart of efforts to save nature is a call by the United Nations for countries to protect and conserve 30% of their territory by 2030 -- a target known as '30 by 30', which the conference acknowledged though it was not clear to what extent host China backed it.

A one-size fits-all target would also be inappropriate for countries like Indonesia and Brazil, where a 30% goal would actually allow more deforestation, she added.

## MORE NEWS

### UN rights report warns of N Korea 'starvation risk'

North Korea's most vulnerable are "at risk of starvation" with the economy worsening due to a self-imposed coronavirus blockade, and UN sanctions imposed over the country's nuclear programmes should be eased, a UN human rights expert said yesterday. The impoverished nation has been behind a rigid blockade since early last year to protect itself from the pandemic, with the economy suffering and trade with key partner China dwindling to a trickle. Ordinary North Koreans are "struggling on a daily basis... to live a life of dignity", and the worsening humanitarian situation could "turn into a crisis", Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN special rapporteur on human rights, said in his latest report.

### Pandora Papers: Impeachment bid launched against Chile leader

Chilean opposition lawmakers launched impeachment proceedings against President Sebastian Pinera yesterday over possible irregularities in the sale of a mining company, after new details emerged about the deal in the Pandora Papers leak. The move comes after Chile's public prosecutor said this month it would open an investigation into possible bribery-related corruption charges as well as tax violations related to the sale. Leaked documents appear to outline a deal involving the 2010 sale of the Dominga mine, a sprawling copper and iron project in Chile. At the time, Pinera, a billionaire businessman, was in his first year of his first term in office. The leak stirred controversy in Chile because it suggested the deal, which involved a firm linked to Pinera's family, was contingent on a favorable regulatory environment.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## INCURSIONS INTO TAIWAN'S AIR DEFENCE ZONE

# China says drills 'just' moves to protect peace

Taiwan warns of strong countermeasures

REUTERS, Taipei/Beijing

Taiwan's defence ministry warned China of strong countermeasures yesterday if its forces got too close to the island, as Beijing defended its incursions into Taiwan's air defence zone as "just" moves to protect peace and stability.

Military tensions with China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, are at their worst in more than 40 years, Taiwan's defence minister said last week, adding China will be capable of mounting a "full scale" invasion by 2025.

He was speaking after China mounted four straight days of mass air force incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone that began Oct. 1, part of a pattern of what Taipei views as stepped up military harassment by Beijing. No shots have been fired and China's aircraft have stayed well away from Taiwan's airspace, concentrating their activities in the southwestern corner of Taiwan's air defence zone.

In a report to parliament, Taiwan's defence ministry said their forces will adhere to the principle of "the closer they are to the island, the stronger the countermeasures", though it gave no details.

China blames Taiwan, and its most important international backer the United States, for the tensions, a point Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, made again in Beijing, pointing the finger at Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP).

"If the DPP authorities obstinately persist in going about things the wrong way, and do not know how to draw back from the edge, it will only push Taiwan into a more dangerous situation," he added.

China sees Taiwan as its territory and determined to reunify the territory with mainland. Taiwan says it is an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name, and will defend its freedom and democracy.

Despite Ma's comments, both Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen made relatively conciliatory speeches at the weekend, even as Xi vowed to bring Taiwan under its control and Tsai said they would not be forced to bow to China.



An anti-government protester covered in red paint flashes the three-finger salute during a protest against the Thai government demanding Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's resignation and the abolition of 112 Lese-Majeste law, in front of the Bangkok Remand Prison in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday

PHOTO: REUTERS

# 'To dehumanise, terrorise us'

A fortnight after forceful eviction, evicted in Assam find themselves cramped in shanties propped up with whatever is left of their homes

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

A fortnight after the Assam government's forceful eviction of Muslim villagers allegedly living on government land, the displaced people of Dhalpur -- a cluster of villages on a Brahmaputra sandbar in the Sipajhar area -- find themselves in cramped shanties propped up with whatever was left of their homes.

The villages are being cleared to make space for a farming project by the Assam government over 25,600 acres of land, which the evicted families say they have been living on for more than 40 years. The Gorukhuti Agriculture Project aims to set up "modern farming" and hand them over to the state's Indigenous youths.

The first round of evictions took place on September 20 in Dhalpur 1. "A notice was issued at midnight on September 18 and by September 20 morning, police and administration started clearing the houses," Sohabbuddin Ahmed, a 28-year-old displaced resident, told Al Jazeera.

But things spun out of control during the second round, on September 23 in Dhalpur 3. The eviction notices had been served late the previous night and the villagers were protesting, asking for more time. Policemen in riot gear, armed with sticks and guns, clashed with the protesting villagers -- all of them



Muslims of Bengali origin.

Two people, including a teenaged boy, were killed and many others injured, including policemen. A 72-second video of photographer Bijoy Baniya jumping on the body of one of the Muslims shot by the police went viral, triggering outrage across the nation. Houses were razed to the ground, some set on fire.

The evicted families have been pushed to a patch of land in flood-prone Dhalpur 3 and left to fend for themselves without any medical aid, drinking water and other basic amenities.

"Had it not been for that video, no one would have seen the real face of Assam police and Assamese 'jatiyatadhis' (nationalists) like Bijoy Baniya," said Khalilur Rehman, 38, whose house was also demolished on September 20.

This was not the first time the Dhalpur villagers had been displaced. Ever since the BJP came to power in Assam in 2016, the families have

been evicted at least three times -- in November 2016, January 2021 and June 2021 -- before the September drive.

The brutality of the latest eviction drive has many in the area believing the intent was not limited to clearing government land alone.

In the aftermath of the violence during the Dhalpur eviction, rising popular sentiment in Assam holds that government land should be freed of "illegal immigrants".

"In today's Assam, every Bengali-speaking person is labelled a foreigner without any proof. All these people have identity proofs and their names are in the NRC," said Mehdi of the All Assam Minority Students Union.

The 2019 NRC (National Register of Citizens) left some 1.9 million people off list. However Assam's right-wing BJP-led government announced earlier this year the NRC would be "reverified", claiming the 1.9 million number the list found was "too less". The demand was backed by several civil society groups which claim around 8 million "foreigners" were "illegally" included in the NRC.

One victim Sohabbuddin Ahmed sees the eviction drive as a clear move to further ghettoise the Bengali-origin Muslims of Assam. "They have pushed us to one corner and closed all paths. This was not done to clear government land but to dehumanise, terrorise and harass us."

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
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Memo No. Shar/NGSS/Ver.Ext/C-4/2021/03 Date: 13/10/2021

**e-Tender Notice No. 03/2021-2022**  
(Open Tendering Method)

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work/educational institutions	Document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	ID: 618591	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-30	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Mahmudpur Modern High School, Sadar, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
02	ID: 618593	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-31	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Charchanda High School, Bhedarganj, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
03	ID: 618594	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-32	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Majid Zarina Foundation School and College, Naria, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
04	ID: 619401	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-33	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Charbhaga Bangabandhu Adarsh High School and College, Bhedarganj, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To Submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk: ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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