CLIMATE FINANCE GOAL

Rich nations must fulfil commitment

Speakers tell webinar ahead of COP26

"Accessibility of climate fund has been a challenging task for Bangladesh since a considerable amount is in the form of loans and non-concessional instruments."
PROF MIZAN R KHAN, CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Developed countries must fulfil their commitment to meeting the hundred-billion-dollar climate finance goal, said speakers at a webinar organised ahead of the COP26 summit to be held in Scotland in a fortnight.

In Bangladesh, the annual average temperatures increased by 0.64 percent in 2018, which was 10 times higher than the annual average temperature increase in 1961, they said.

If the trend of increase in annual average temperature continues, by 2030 the annual average temperature in Bangladesh will nearly be double.

"Since 1971, the average change in the annual average temperature has been 0.30 degrees Celsius [in Bangladesh]. From the year 2000, that increased to 0.57 degrees Celsius," said Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

CPD and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) jointly organised the webinar.

Not only has the global goal for a hundred billion dollars in climate finance not been reached, most of the money to combat climate change has come in the form of loans, pointed out Professor Mizan R Khan, deputy director of ICCCAD. Only 20 percent has been in the form of grants.

"Accessibility of climate fund has been a challenging task for Bangladesh since a considerable amount is in the form of loans and non-concessional instruments," said Prof Mizan. "I call this the new climate debt trap."

Judith Herbertson, development director, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Bangladesh, British High Commission, said, "We are going to need financial institutions like development banks to step up on financing. Currently, private investment is absolutely absent from adaptation [measures]. Public money is not going to be adequate."

Dr Saleemul Huq, director of ICCCAD, said every country goes to this conference asking "what are we going to get out of it?" but that should not be the focus.

"The question we should be: 'what is going to be our contribution?' What are the global leaders going to do to make sure they do not leave behind a dead planet?"

Speakers also criticised the fact that most of the money has been coming for mitigation measures -- steps to mitigate the

Protesters bring out a procession in front of Chattogram Press Club denouncing the communal attacks carried out in different places during the recent Durga Puja celebrations. *Inset*, demonstrators form a human chain in front of Barishal city's Ashwani Kumar Hall, demanding justice.

PHOTO: **STAR**

Govt cancels PECE exam of this year

Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government cancelled this year's Primary Education Completion Examinations and its equivalent exams due to the pandemic.

Primary and Mass Education State Minister Zakir Hossen confirmed the news to The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Annual exams for class-V students will now be held at schools, said a top official of the ministry.

Earlier this month, the ministry wrote to the Prime Minister's Office seeking cancellation of the exams and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the proposal, the official told The Daily Star.

PECE and the equivalent exams, usually held in November, are the largest public examinations. Three million students were supposed to take part in the exams.

The exams were cancelled last year as well because of coronavirus restrictions.

The government may cancel this year's Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) exams. These exams, meant for class-VIII students, were also cancelled last year.

Education Minister Dipu Moni on September 28 said these exams were cancelled because of time constraints.

"Class-VIII students will need to take annual exams at schools," she told reporters after attending a programme at

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Clemency for Bangabandhu if people want it: Yahya

OCTOBER 18, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA'S INTERVIEW
Pakistan President Yahya Khan said in an interview published in Le Monde today, " If the people want clemency for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman I would grant it."

He added that he could not hold any discussion with the Bangladesh leader. "I cannot speak with a rebel unless the court martial which is trying him finds him not guilty," said Yahya.

US URGING INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO SHOW RESTRAINT
The United States expressed concern today over the heightened tensions and build-up of opposing forces along the India-Pakistan border.

Charles W Bray, a state department spokesman, said the United States was urging both India and Pakistan to show restraint in the situation and was practising "a form of preventive diplomacy" with other nations as well. Among the nations reached by American diplomats, officials said, were the Soviet Union, France and Britain.

The United States government acted a day after it was reported that Yahya Khan had proposed that forces be withdrawn from both sides of the border between his country and India.

HOUSE OF COMMONS DISCUSSES BANGLADESH ISSUE
Sir Alec Douglas-Home, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, today said in the British House of Commons that the responsibility for a political settlement in East Pakistan lay with the Pakistan government and people.

"The humanitarian aspects arc indeed a matter of international

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AL leader shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

An Awami League-nominated chairman candidate was shot dead at his house in Rangamati's Kaptai upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Nethoai Marma, 58, had been out of his house for 14 months due to fear that he might be killed. He returned home on Saturday, said Aungswe Chaine Chowdhury, president of Kaptai upazila unit AL.

Nethoai was the candidate for Chitmorom Union Parishad elections.

Some 10-12 criminals surrounded Nethoai's house in Agapara area and shot him dead, said Mir Muddasser Hossain, superintendent of Rangamati police.

"We recovered his body. It was definitely a political murder. No one wants to talk about the murder. But we are investigating it to know the details," he said.

"Nethoai was the president of Chitmorom union unit AL," said Aungswe Chaine.

Darwin family microscope to be sold at auction

REUTERS, *London*

A microscope Charles Darwin gave his son Leonard and which has remained in the family for nearly 200 years is headed for auction in December, and is expected to fetch up to $480,000.

The instrument was designed by Charles Gould for the firm Cary around 1825 and is one of six surviving microscopes associated with the British naturalist, according to auction house Christie's.

The date of its manufacture coincides with the time when Darwin was studying zoophytes, organisms such as coral and sea anemone.

"It is just incredibly spine tingling to look through this and see the microscopic world that Darwin would have seen in the 1820s and 30s," James Hyslop, Head of Department, Scientific Instruments, Globes & Natural History, at Christie's, told Reuters.

"Later in his life in 1858, there's a wonderful

POLICE 'RAID' IN CTG

Youth dies after jumping off building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A youth died by jumping off a two-storey building in Chattogram's Chandgaon area early yesterday.

The dead is Mohammad Munna, alias Monaiya, of the district's Patiya upazila, said police.

Mokhleshur Rahman, deputy commissioner (north) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said Munna jumped off the building during an anti-drug raid by police.

A police team, headed by Sub-inspector Ridoy, conducted the operation on information that a group of drug peddlers entered inside the building, he said.

PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 18

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-50	12-45	4-00	5-36	7-15
JAMAAT	5-25	1-15	4-15	5-39	7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION