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FINAL WEEK OF COP26

Focus turns to climate finance

Obama lends his backing to appeal for more help from those on the frontline of global warming

AGENCIES

Former US President Barack Obama yesterday lent his backing to appeals for more help from those on the frontline of global warming, as developing and rich nations engage to try to end years of deadlock over cash for climate change.

At the start of the second and final week of the UN climate talks in Glasgow - known as COP26 - ministers got down to the detail of trying to honour promises to pay for climate-linked losses and damages, and to address how to help nations adapt to the effects of climate change.

"We have to act now to help with adaptation and resilience," Obama told a meeting of island nations at the Glasgow talks, "adding his views on the immediacy of the threat had been shaped by his experience growing up in Hawaii.

He expressed confidence that the Biden administration will ultimately get its \$555

billion climate package through Congress, and faulting US rivals China and Russia for what he calls a "dangerous absence of urgency" in cutting their own climate-wrecking emissions.

Tuvalu's foreign minister, Simon Kofe, will offer a graphic demonstration of how rising sea levels affect his small island nation with a recorded speech to the conference dressed in a suit and tie while standing knee-deep in seawater.

The statement juxtaposes the COP26 setting with the real-life situations faced in Tuvalu due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise," said Kofe, standing at a lectern on the shores of the Pacific island. The speech will be broadcast to the Glasgow conference today.

Britain, which is hosting the COP26 meeting, attempted to set the pace yesterday by announcing 290 million pounds (\$391 million) in new funding, including support

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WAGE OVER LIFE

Labourers working atop an eight-storey under-construction building in the capital's Mohammadpur. With no safety measures taken, they are putting their lives at stake. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



BNP slams govt for fuel price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government "pickpocketed" the people twice, first by raising diesel and kerosene prices and then by hiking bus fares.

"When fuel prices dropped in the international market, the government did not cut the prices here. But as the prices are on the rise in the international market, the government has jumped to hike the prices in Bangladesh, which they could easily do after six months," said party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He said the government did it because "looting [public money] is in the character of the government".

Fakhrul also alleged that the transport strike, called to protest the hike in diesel and kerosene prices, was nothing but a drama staged jointly by the government

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Astronaut becomes first Chinese woman to spacewalk



AFP, Beijing

Astronaut Wang Yaping became the first Chinese woman to walk in space, authorities said yesterday, as her team completed a six-hour stint outside the Tiangong space station as part of its ongoing construction.

Tiangong -- meaning "heavenly palace" -- is the latest achievement in China's drive to become a major space power, after landing a rover on Mars and sending probes to the Moon.

Its core module entered orbit earlier this year, with the station expected to be operational by 2022.

Wang and her colleague Zhai Zhigang stepped out of the module on Sunday night -- waving to

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If dissatisfied with job, they can quit

DMP boss reacts to report on 'overworked' cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam yesterday said that if any police official is dissatisfied with their job and wants a "better life", they will be allowed to leave the profession with dignity.

"A report was recently published about how police members are upset, having to work 16 to 17 hours a day and are annoyed and restless," said the DMP boss, adding that information is occasionally found to be distorted in the news platforms.

He said that in the news, a DMP constable's anonymous quote was used.

The constable, whose quote was used in the report, said he "hoped for a better life" when he joined

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Bangladesh struggle a liberation movement'

NOVEMBER 9, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SOVIET LEADER RECOGNISES LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The leader of the Soviet parliamentary delegation in India, Kudrayavetsev, described the Bangladesh struggle as a "national liberation movement with elements of civil war in it". He was speaking at the press club in New Delhi today.

This was the first time that a Soviet leader openly characterised the Bangladesh struggle as a national liberation movement. What was more significant that Kudrayavetsev made it clear that he was speaking not merely as a visiting parliamentarian, but as a representative of the Soviet Union and its government.

COLLECTIVE FINES WILL BE IMPOSED

Pakistani authorities announced that collective fines would be imposed on entire communities in East Pakistan in case of any guerrilla action against the government, reported The New York Times today.

In Dhaka, according to the newspaper, union and ward committees were warned that when bombings, shootings or other anti-government incidents take place, local populations would be subjected to special fines. Local civic committees were instructed to report any guerrilla activity or face punishment.

The warnings, however, were seen by many residents as

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HC orders status quo on earth filling in Meghna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered maintaining status quo for three months on the earth filling and construction work of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the Meghna river and Sonarampur canal in Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria.

The court also ordered the director general of the Department of Environment, chairman of the National River Protection Commission and deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria to assess the damage done to the river and the canal by the company.

The officials were asked to submit a report on their assessment to the court in 60 days.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government and the Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited to explain why their failure to protect the ecosystem at a part of the Meghna, Sonarampur canal, and the surrounding areas from illegal and arbitrary earth filling and land grabbing should not be declared illegal,

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If there was any mistake, it's lawyers'

SC says on row over execution of 2 convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday said if there was any fault in the executions of two Chaudanga men, Abdul Mokim and Golam Rasul Jhuri, it was made by their lawyers.

The lawyers should have applied to the apex court for analogous hearing of the criminal appeals (filed by the convicts through lawyers) and the jail appeals (filed through the jail authorities), as the jail appeals were included in the cause list. "But why don't you [lawyers] confess

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:00
JAMAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Due to the hike in public transport fares, day labourers resort to commute on top of unauthorised three-wheelers, risking their lives to go back home from work. The photo was taken yesterday on the Chapainawaganj-Dhaka highway in Rajshahi.

Revoke hike in fuel prices

CAB urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers' Association of Bangladesh yesterday demanded that the government make life easier for the people by revoking the hike in the prices of diesel and kerosene.

The surge in fuel prices will add to the sufferings of those who are already struggling with skyrocketing prices of essentials, said CAB President Ghulam Rahman at a virtual press conference.

He said that due to the latest fuel price rise, bus and launch fares too have already gone up, and this will be reflected in the prices of essential goods as well.

The CAB organised the press conference to demand that the government scrap the fuel price hike decision and send a proposal in this regard to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

On November 3, the energy and mineral resources division in a gazette announced the increase of diesel and kerosene prices by Tk 15 per litre.

Following this, transport owners went on a nationwide strike demanding a hike in transport fares.

On Sunday, bus and launch fares were increased by 28 and 43 percent respectively.

Addressing the press conference, Ghulam Rahman said the sudden fuel price hike was a bureaucratic decision that was taken considering only business interest.

"Instead, a political decision was required in this regard."

He proposed that the government form an effective "energy price stabilising fund" to mitigate the adverse effects of fuel price hikes.

Meanwhile, in a written statement, the CAB said the

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