

COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT’S IN THE PACT?

Nearly 200 nations agreed to adopt the Glasgow Climate Pact on Saturday after more than two weeks of intense negotiations, with the UK host of the talks saying the deal would keep alive international hopes of averting the worst impacts of global warming. Here are the biggest achievements of the deal:

RATCHETING UP AMBITION

The agreement acknowledges that commitments made by countries so far to cut emissions of planet-heating greenhouse gases are nowhere near enough to prevent planetary warming from exceeding 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial temperatures. To attempt to solve this, it asks governments to strengthen those targets by the end of next year, rather than every five years, as previously required.

TARGETING FOSSIL FUELS

The pact for the first time includes language that asks countries to reduce their reliance on coal and roll back fossil fuel subsidies, moves that would target the energy sources that scientists say are the primary drivers of manmade climate change. The wording was contentious, though. Just before the Glasgow deal was adopted, India requested that the deal call on countries to “phase down”, instead of “phase out” unabated coal. That minor word change triggered a lot of angst in the plenary hall, but delegations agreed to the request to save the deal. The deal’s wording on “inefficient subsidies”, meanwhile, kept the “phase out” phrasing. Questions remain about how to define “unabated” and “inefficient”.

PAYMENTS TO POOR AND VULNERABLE NATIONS

The deal made some headway on the demands of poor and vulnerable countries that wealthy countries responsible for most emissions pay up. The deal, for example “urges developed country Parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025.” It also, for the first time, made mention of so-called “loss and damage” in the cover section of the agreement. Loss and damage refers to the costs that some countries are already facing from climate change, and these countries have for years wanted payment to help deal with it. Under the deal, though, developed countries have essentially just agreed to continue discussions on the topic. We will see where that leads.

RULES FOR GLOBAL CARBON MARKETS

Negotiators also closed a deal setting rules for carbon markets, potentially unlocking trillions of dollars for protecting forests, building renewable energy facilities and other projects to combat climate change. Under the accord, some measures would be implemented to ensure credits are not double-counted under national emissions targets, but bilateral trades between countries would not be taxed to help fund climate adaptation - that had been a core demand for less developed countries. Negotiators also reached a compromise that sets a cut-off date, with credits issued before 2013 not being carried forward.

IMPORTANT SIDE DEALS

There were a number of notable side deals too. The United States and the European Union spearheaded a global methane cutting initiative in which around 100 countries have promised to reduce methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. The United States and China, the world’s two biggest carbon emitters, also announced a joint declaration to cooperate on climate change measures, a deal that reassured observers of Beijing’s intention to accelerate its efforts to combat global warming after a long quiet period. Companies and investors also made a slew of voluntary pledges that would phase out gasoline-powered cars, decarbonize air travel, protect forests, and ensure more sustainable investing.

CLIMATE ‘LOSS AND DAMAGE’

COP26 recognizes it but offers nothing

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

An agreement reached on Saturday night as the COP26 climate talks closed pushed concerns about growing “loss and damage” from climate change up the agenda, as it becomes harder for many people to live safely on a hotter planet, analysts said.

But the Glasgow Climate Pact, after resistance from the United States, the European Union and some other rich nations, failed to secure the establishment of a dedicated new damages fund vulnerable nations had pushed for earlier in the summit.

Guinea, representing the developing-nation group at the talks, expressed “extreme disappointment” at the decision to initiate only a “dialogue” to talk about “arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimise and address loss and damage”.

Low-lying small island nations that fear losing much of their land to rising sea levels - from the Marshall Islands to Fiji and Antigua and Barbuda - also said they were dissatisfied the fund they had called for had not been created.

Backers of a new “loss and damage” funding



facility insisted it should be set up soon, ideally by the time of next year’s annual talks in Egypt.

Harjeet Singh, a senior advisor with Climate Action Network International, noted the Glasgow outcome did at least recognise the rising costs of losses and damage in developing countries.

It said “climate change has already caused and will increasingly cause loss and damage and that, as temperatures rise ... will pose an ever-greater social, economic and environmental threat”.

But, Singh said, the failure to put a fund in place to help poorer nations pay those costs means “we are walking in inches when we must move in miles”.

The Glasgow deal did agree to fund the Santiago Network, a body that aims to build technical expertise on dealing with loss and damage, such as helping countries consider how to move communities away from threatened shorelines.

Ani Dasgupta, president of the World Resources Institute, a US-based think tank, said COP26 had “finally put the critical issue of loss and damage squarely on the main stage”.

But “to meet the needs of vulnerable countries, it is essential that the dialogues established in Glasgow be more than talk and



result in recommendations on the scale of funding necessary”, he added in a statement.

The United States and Australia, in particular, held up progress towards setting up a new fund for loss and damage.

Both have long pushed back against the possibility that industrialised countries with high historic levels of carbon pollution might need to compensate others for the damage caused.

US climate envoy John Kerry told journalists the United States understood increased resources would be needed to help people on the climate change frontlines but work should first be undertaken to understand how that money could best be delivered.

A range of ideas have been proposed for how to fund loss and damage costs, including new taxes on fossil fuel sales or aviation.

ADAPTATION PROGRESS

Developing countries, at the closing session of the conference, welcomed progress in advancing efforts to adapt to climate change.

Adaptation includes things such as building higher sea walls against flooding, capturing scarce rainwater for irrigation, and switching to drought-tolerant crops.

Countries at the COP26 talks agreed to launch a two-year effort to define a “global goal on adaptation” - something included in the 2015 Paris Agreement but so far still vague.

There was also progress toward setting a firm target for adaptation finance, which currently accounts for just a quarter of international climate finance for developing nations, garnering only \$20 billion in 2019.

The Glasgow pact urged developed countries to “urgently and significantly scale up” their adaptation finance and to at least double it from 2019 levels by 2025, en route to meeting a Paris Agreement goal to fund emissions cuts and adaptation equally.

During the conference, a range of wealthy governments stepped up with new pledges -

totalling about \$960 million - for two key UN-backed funds that help vulnerable nations adapt to climate change.

Still, the amounts pledged remained far below the annual \$70 billion developing countries are thought to need now, an amount that could rise to \$300 billion a year by 2030, according to the United Nations.

COAL PHASE DOWN

There were fireworks in the final moments of the conference when India, which relies heavily on coal power and is still boosting production of that fuel, watered down language in the COP26 deal from “phasing out” to “phasing down” coal power.

It also insisted there be “targeted support for the poorest and most vulnerable” to achieve a just transition away from fossil fuels.

European countries and some small island states that are most under threat from global warming criticised the changes.

But the revised text was ultimately adopted, with vulnerable countries saying they could not afford to walk away without a deal.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the conference had not achieved key goals such as winning agreement to fully phase out use of coal and to end all fossil fuel subsidies.

Wealthy countries also failed to make good on an unmet \$100-billion climate finance commitment to support developing countries from 2020, with the text calling only for the money to be delivered “urgently”.

Debate now will likely rage around whether the conference did enough to keep alive the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avert catastrophic climate change.

If current national emissions-cutting targets are met, temperatures are still due to rise about 2.4C above preindustrial times, a level scientists say would spur widespread crop failures, migration and more extreme weather.

Quotes of the day



“I think today we can say with credibility that we’ve kept 1.5 (degrees Celsius) within reach. But its pulse is weak, and we will only survive if we keep our promises.”

ALOK SHARMA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COP26 SUMMIT



“The #COP26 outcome is a compromise.... Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe.”

ANTONIO GUTERRES, UN SECRETARY GENERAL



“The #COP26 is over. Here’s a brief summary: Blah, blah, blah. But the real work continues outside these halls. And we will never give up, ever.”

GRETA THUNBERG, CLIMATE ACTIVIST

MORE NEWS

Fake hacking warnings sent from secure FBI server

Fake emails purportedly from the US Department of Homeland Security warning of cyberattacks were sent out Saturday from a secure FBI computer server, computer security experts said. In a statement, the FBI and the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency confirmed the incident, without offering details. There was no indication of how the emails were sent -- whether by someone using legitimate access to the server or a hacker from outside.

UK Queen misses Remembrance Day service due to back sprain

Britain’s Queen Elizabeth missed yesterday’s Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph due to a sprained back, extending the 95-year-old monarch’s absence from public life after she was ordered to rest following a stay in hospital last month. A Buckingham Palace source said the sprain was unrelated to the unspecified ailment that caused the queen’s hospital visit. The ceremony is held on the nearest Sunday to Nov. 11 to mark the end of World War One.

Son of Gaddafi to run for Libya president

The son of Libya’s late dictator Muammar Gaddafi registered yesterday as presidential candidate in December’s planned election as disputes rage over the rules of a vote proposed as a way to end a decade of violence. Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, 49, appeared in social media photos in traditional brown robe, signing documents at the election centre in the southern town of Sebha. Analysts say Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi may not prove to be a front runner if election takes place.



Al Jazeera Sudan chief held after 6 die in protests

Sudanese security forces have arrested Al-Musallami al-Kabbashi, the bureau chief of Qatari-based Al Jazeera TV, the network said yesterday, a day after the latest crackdown on anti-coup protesters left at least six dead. It was one of the bloodiest days since Sudan’s latest coup took place almost three weeks ago. The putsch has provoked international condemnation and regular protests by Sudanese upset at the derailment of a transition to full civilian rule in a country which has seen very little of it since independence.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A group of migrants rest by a fire at a camp near the Belarusian-Polish border in the Grodno region on Saturday. Dozens of migrants have been detained after crossing into Poland from Belarus, Warsaw said yesterday, warning of a possible larger breakthrough ahead of an EU meeting to widen sanctions on Belarus. Thousands of migrants from the Middle East are camped out on the EU-Belarus border, creating a stand-off between the EU and US on one side and Belarus and its ally Russia on the other.

PHOTO: AFP

TENSIONS OVER TAIWAN

US, China trade warnings ahead of Biden-Xi meet

AFP, Washington

The top diplomats from China and the United States have exchanged stern warnings over the flashpoint issue of Taiwan, ahead of today’s hotly awaited summit between their leaders.

The virtual meeting of presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping comes against a backdrop of rising tensions -- in part over Taiwan, a self-ruling democracy claimed by Beijing, but also over trade, human rights and other issues.

In a phone call Friday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss preparations for the summit, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised concerns over Beijing’s “military, diplomatic, and economic pressure” on Taiwan.

Wang warned of the dangers of US actions that might seem supportive of “Taiwan independence.”

Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, but an act of Congress passed that year requires the United States to provide weapons to Taiwan for self-defense.

China has ramped up military activities near Taiwan in recent years, with a record number of planes intruding into the island’s air defense identification zone in early October.

Washington has repeatedly signaled its support for Taiwan in the face of what it has described as Chinese aggression.

Biden has largely kept the tougher approach on Beijing of his predecessor Donald Trump, with both administrations seeing a rising China as the top challenge of the 21st century.

Xi last week warned against the return of Cold War-era tensions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Air strikes ‘kill 80 more rebels’ in Yemen


AFP, Riyadh

The Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen yesterday said it has killed 80 Huthi rebels in the past 24 hours in strikes around the city of Marib.

The Saudi-led coalition has been reporting high death tolls in almost daily strikes since October aimed at repelling a rebel offensive on the city of Marib, the government’s last stronghold in the north.

The Iran-backed Huthis rarely comment on the tolls, which have exceeded 3,000 in the past weeks. AFP cannot independently verify the coalition’s figures.

“Nineteen military vehicles were destroyed and 80 terrorist elements eliminated” in the latest raids, the coalition said in a statement carried by the Saudi state news agency SPA.



ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড

Eastern Refinery Limited

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশনের একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

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ERL hereby invites offers from reputed Suppliers/Manufacturers/Agents/Distributors for the supply of the following goods in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereafter:

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.		
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.		
3.	Purchaser name	Eastern Refinery Limited.		
4.	Purchaser district	Chattogram.		
5.	Invitation for	Goods.		
6.		a) ER/PUR/IT-84/2021(RT) b) ER/PUR/IT-85/2021(RT) c) ER/PUR/IT-86/2021(RT) d) ER/PUR/IT-87/2021(RT) e) ER/PUR/IT-88/2021(RT) f) ER/PUR/IT-89/2021(RT) g) ER/PUR/IT-90/2021(RT)		
h)	Date	14 November, 2021		
KEY INFORMATION				
i)	Procurement method	International Open Tendering Method.		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
j)	Budget and source of funds	Eastern Refinery Limited (own fund).		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
k)	Tender document last selling date	(a), (b), (c), (d)	12 December 2021, 16:00 Hrs	
		(e), (f), (g)	13 December 2021, 16:00 Hrs	
l)	Tender closing date and time	(a), (b), (c), (d)	13 December 2021, 11:15 Hrs	
		(e), (f), (g)	14 December 2021, 11:15 Hrs	
m)	Tender opening date and time	(a), (b), (c), (d)	13 December 2021, 11:30 Hrs	
		(e), (f), (g)	14 December 2021, 11:30 Hrs	
n)	Offer validity	120 days (from the date of tender opening).		
NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)				
o)	Tender document selling address	i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh, Phone: 88-02333301261-7. ii) ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, Phone: 880-2-8391990, 8391991		
p)	Tender receiving address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
q)	Tender opening address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
r)	Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet.		
s)	Brief description of goods	Name	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security
a)	Spares for Pump PM 6002D		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 30,000.00 OR USD 360.00
b)	Nozzle for 3MW STG Turbine		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 51,000.00 OR USD 600.00
c)	Various Mercury Lamp		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 16,000.00 OR USD 190.00
d)	Pump Spares for PM 1108B		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 75,000.00 OR USD 900.00
e)	Electro-pneumatic Positioner & Transducer		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 40,000.00 OR USD 480.00
f)	Low Pressure Osmosis Membrane		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 90,000.00 OR USD 1060.00
g)	Various ERW Pipe		Tk. 1000.00/- set Or, USD 12.00/- set	Tk. 1,00,000.00 OR USD 1180.00
PURCHASER DETAILS				
t)	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Siddiqueer Rahman.		
u)	Designation of official inviting tender	Assistant General Manager (Purchase).		
v)	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
w)	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 880-2333301261-7, Ext. 380, Mobile: 01321149042 Fax: 880-2333301269 Email: agmpurchase@erl.com.bd, officerp@erl.com.bd, md-office@erl.com.bd Website: www.erl.gov.bd		
x)	a) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.			

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