

Stakes 'never been higher'
Says IPCC head as nearly 200 nations meet to finalise report on climate impacts

AFP, Paris

The stakes in the fight against global warming are higher than ever, the UN's climate science chief said yesterday as nearly 200 nations met to finalise what is sure to be a harrowing report on climate impacts.

"The need for the Working Group 2 report has never been greater because the stakes have never been higher," Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Chair Hoesung Lee said in a live videocast.

Species extinction, ecosystem collapse, mosquito-borne disease, deadly heat, water shortages and reduced crop yields are already measurably worse due to rising temperatures.

Just in the last year, the world has seen a cascade of unprecedented floods, heatwaves and wildfires across four continents.

All these impacts will accelerate in the coming decades even if the carbon pollution driving climate change is rapidly brought to heel, the IPCC report is likely to warn.

A crucial, 40-page Summary for Policymakers -- distilling underlying chapters totalling thousands of pages, and reviewed line-by-line -- is to be made public on February 28.

"This is a real moment of reckoning," said Rachel Cleetus, climate and energy policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists.



Soldiers walk in front of Howitzers of the German armed forces Bundeswehr as they are prepared for loading to Lithuania at the Bundeswehr military base in Munster, Germany yesterday. A German military aircraft carrying troop reinforcements landed at Lithuania's Kaunas airport yesterday, the first of several planned deployments amid fears in the region over a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Solution still possible

Russia sees 'chance' for agreement with West over Ukraine, says some of its military drills 'ending'

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that a diplomatic solution to Moscow's standoff with the West was still possible and that some of its military drills were ending, after tensions over Ukraine reached fever pitch.

The comments came after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz landed in Kyiv for crisis talks ahead of a visit to Moscow to head off what Berlin said was the "very critical" threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During a televised meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said "there is always a chance" to reach an agreement with Western countries over the standoff.

He told Putin that dialogue with leaders in European capitals and Washington should continue and that "opportunities

are far from exhausted" for a resolution. "I would suggest continuing" talks, Lavrov said.

On his arrival in Ukraine, the German leader headed directly to see President Volodymyr Zelensky, whose government has demanded an urgent meeting with Russia to explain why it has deployed more than 100,000 soldiers to Ukraine's borders.

European leaders warn that the troop build-up is the worst threat to the continent's security since the Cold War, as Putin demands a rollback of Western influence in Eastern Europe and a ban on Ukraine joining Nato.

Western allies have prepared what they warn would be a crippling package of economic sanctions in response.

Earlier, a German government source had said: "We assess the situation as very critical, very dangerous."

Western alarm over Ukraine has been

fuelled by recent Russian military exercises, including Belarus, where the US said Moscow had dispatched 30,000 troops for more than a week of drills.

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told Putin in a meeting yesterday that some of the drills were "ending" and some would end "in the near future".

In Kyiv, Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov hailed "positive" talks with his Belarusian counterpart. He said he had been assured "there are no threats to Ukraine from Belarus".

US intelligence officials worry that weeks of crisis talks have given Russia the time to prepare a major offensive should Putin make the ultimate decision to attack Ukraine.

"We are digging trenches that Ukrainian soldiers could quickly jump into and defend in case the Russians attack," 15-year-old Mykhailo Anopa told AFP.

CRITICISM OF GOVT

Gunmen attack Lanka TV journo

AFP, Colombo

Armed men stormed the home of a high-profile Sri Lankan television journalist critical of the government yesterday, police said, sparking condemnation by local media rights groups. Chamuditha Samarakrama, who had criticised the powerful ruling Rajapaksa family and their allies in recent broadcasts, including on YouTube, was shaken but unhurt after the pre-dawn raid, police said. "They carried weapons to intimidate the guard and gained access to the housing compound," a police official said adding that forensic experts had been called in to launch an investigation. "There were at least three armed men and they travelled in a white van," Samarakrama told AFP. "I heard shots fired. They smashed my windows and threw faeces at the house. It was captured on CCTV. I don't know who is behind this attack, but I want to tell them that they can't silence me." Local media rights organisations denounced the attack on Samarakrama.

TMC sweeps West Bengal civic bodies' polls

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE



The Trinamool Congress yesterday made a clean sweep in the civic polls to four municipal corporations in West Bengal -- Bidhannagar, Siliguri, Chandernagore and Asansol -- as per data available on the State Election Commission's website. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated the people saying: "The election was held peacefully. The State Election Commission and administration played important roles to ensure people cast their votes. There was no trouble anywhere during polling." Meanwhile, BJP yesterday moved Calcutta High Court demanding Central forces for the remaining Municipalities Polls in West Bengal, scheduled for 27th February. The matter will be heard by the court today.

The names proposed for EC posts

Ajoy Dasgupta, journalist; Md Abdul Motaleb Mia, lawyer; Sultana Kamal, human rights activist; Prof M Shamim Z Bosunia, former president, the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh; Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury, vice-chancellor, World University; Prof Abdulla Abu Sayeed, writer and academician; Prof Abdul Mannan, former chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC); Prof AKM Mostofa Zaman; Zakia Parveen, professor, Dhaka University; Abu Saleh Mahfuzul Bari, professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University; Abdul Awal Biswas, professor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology; AA Mamun, professor, Jahangirnagar University; Kazi SM Khasrul Alam Quddusi, professor, Chittagong University; Golam Rahman, former chief information commissioner; Nazma Shaheen, professor, Dhaka University; Md Kamal Uddin, professor, Dhaka University; Md Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, professor, Dhaka University; Md Mizanur Rahman, professor, Dhaka University; Md Rahmat Ullah, professor, Dhaka University; Md Saiduzzaman, professor, Rajshahi University; Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, prominent writer; Sarker Ali Akkas, professor, Jagannath University; Prof Harun-or-Rashid, former vice chancellor, National University; Prof Dr Jahurul Alam, academician and researcher; Prof Dr Kazi Deen Mohammad; Prof Dr Salimur Rahmabn, former chairman, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University; Prof Dr Sufia Rahman, former adviser, caretaker government; Syed Manzoorul Islam, professor, Dhaka University; Ashok Kumar Biswas, former secretary; A A M S Arefin Siddique, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University; Akhtari Momtaj, former secretary; Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary; Abdur Rashid, former judge; Abu Alam Shahid Khan, former secretary; Abu Bakar Siddiqui, former judge; Abdul Hasem, lawyer; Uzzawal Bikash Dutta, former secretary; AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury, former judge; Shah Md Khasruzzaman, senior lawyer of Supreme Court; M Hasan Imam, former District and Sessions judge; SM Abdul Wahab (freedom fighter), former joint secretary; SM Harun-or-Rashid, former special acting officer (Grade I); Air Commander Ishfaque Islam Chowdhury, treasurer of Asia

pacific University; Air Commander Shafique Elahi, registrar of East West University; Kazi Golam Mostafa, director of KB Enterprise Mymensingh; Kazi Rowshan Akter, former senior secretary; Kazi Riazul Haque, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission; Kazi Habibul Awal, former senior secretary; Kamrun Nahar, former secretary; Krishibid Iqbal Bahar, former additional IGP; Krishibid AKM Saidul Haque Chowdhury, former vice chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University; Krishibid Wares Kabir, former executive chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council; Krishibid Md Afzal, former professor, BSMMU; Krishibid Prof Nitish Chandra Debnath, former vice chancellor of Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Science University; Krishibid Prof Md Monzurul Alam, former professor of Bangladesh Agriculture University; Krishibid Mir Shahidul Islam, former additional IGP; Krishibid Md Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, former professor BAU; Krishibid Md Nurul Islam, former secretary; Mukhlesur Rahman, former additional IGP; Khan Md Abdul Mannan, former session judge; Khandakar Mizanur Rahman, former joint secretary; Khandakar Mohammad Asaduzzaman, former secretary; Khandakar Hasan Shahriar, advocate, Gazi Md Mohsin, advocate, Geetara Safiya Chowdhury, chairman of Adcomm Ltd, Sohul Hossain, former election commissioner, Jalal Ahmed, former additional secretary; Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, former army chief, Apurup Chowdhury, former secretary; Ashoke Madhab Roy, former secretary; Abdulla Shahadat Khan, lawyer; Abdul Malek Mia, former secretary; Abdul Matin, chairperson of EDAB; Abdul Halim, lawyer; Abu Sayeed Khan, journalist and writer; Abdul Malek, former senior information secretary; Abus Samad, former senior secretary; Abul Kalam Azad, former principal secretary; Ashraf Ali, who lives abroad, Ikrar Ahmed, former chairman of PSC; Illias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai; Israil Hossain, former additional secretary, AAM Moniruzzaman, lawyer; AHM Sadiqul Haq, former chairman of land reform board, AKM Shamsul Islam, former registrar general; AFM Ismail Chowdhury, chairman of international peace and solidarity

foundation; ALM Abdur Rahman, former secretary; AKM Shahidul Haque, former IGP; Ejajur Rasel, lawyer, MK Rahman, former additional attorney general; M Janibul Haq, former additional secretary; M Shakhawat Hussain, former election commissioner; MA Hannan, former ambassador, M Nazim Uddin Al-Azad, former minister, M Mosaddek Hossain, managing director of Unimed Unihealth Group, SM Rezaul Karim, lawyer; SM Harun-ur-Rashid, former director general of BTV; SM Abdul Wahab, former joint secretary, Kalachand Mandal, former additional secretary; Jyoti Bikash Borua, freelance consultant; Zillar Rahman, former secretary, Maj Gen (retd) Jamil D Ahsan; Jesmin Tuli, former additional secretary; Johurul Alam, former professor; M Shamsur Ali, educationist; Toafai Ahmed, local government expert; M Nasir Uddin, Tarik-ul Islam, former secretary; Nazibur Rahman, former principal secretary, Firoza Akbar, poet; Foyez Ahmed Bhuiyan, former additional secretary; Brig Gen (retd) Saidur Rahman Khan; Belayet Hossain, former district judge, Mahbub Hossain, former additional IGP, Mikail Shipar, former secretary, Mesbaul Alam, former senior secretary, Abdul Mazid, former district judge, Abu Bakar Siddiqui Khan, lawyer; Abu Kashem, former joint secretary; Md Yusuf, former additional secretary; Janibul Haque, former additional secretary; Dalil Uddin, member, Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority; Nasir Uddin Ahmed, former secretary; Mustafizur Rahman, former additional secretary; Md Rafiuzzaman, tourism expert and travel agent; Shahjahan Ali Mollah, former secretary; Sirajul Islam, former senior secretary; Mustafizur Rahman, former principal secretary; Mostafa Kamal, former secretary; Mostafa Kamal Uddin, former senior secretary; Md Abdul Mobarak, former election commissioner; Md Abdul Karim, former principal secretary; Md Altaf Hossain, senior district and sessions judge; Md Jamil Khan, Supreme Court lawyer; Md Jasim Uddin, FBCCI president; Md Majibur Rahman, tax consultant; Majibur Rahman Muhib, who lives abroad; Md Saiful Azam, former district and sessions judge; Md Iqbal Sohabhan, journalist; Md Mahfuzur Rahman, journalist; Md Ahsan Mansur,

former additional secretary; Akbar Hossain Mridha, former district and sessions judge; Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary; Anwarul Islam Shikder, former secretary; Ansar Ali Khan, former secretary; Aftab Uddin, district and sessions judge; Abdul Majid, former district and sessions judge; Md Abdul Hai, former district and sessions judge; Abdul Motalib Miah, secretary of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Barguna; Abus Samad, former district and sessions judge; Abul Hashem, lawyer; Md Aminul Islam Bulu, convener, Janaswartha Raksha Jatiya Committee; Md Alamgir, former senior secretary; Md Iqbal Hossain, CACC; Idris Miah, former secretary; Wasiuuzzaman Akand, former director, Department of Agricultural Extension; Kamal Uddin Talukder, former secretary; Kuddus Khan, former secretary; Golam Mostafa, lawyer; Nur-ur Rahman, former secretary, Nurun Nabi Talukder, former secretary; Nurul Islam Chowdhury, lawyer; Md Nurul Huda, former district and sessions judge; Mhabubur Rahman Dusal; Manjur Kader Khan, former DIG; Shamsul Arefin Arif, consultant; Shahjahan Miah, former additional secretary; Md Shahiduzzaman, former secretary; Humayun Khalid, former secretary; Rawnak Mahmud, former secretary; Roqsona Quader, former additional secretary; Shamayal Kanti Ghosh, former secretary; Shamsun Nahar Begum, former district and sessions judge; Shahdat Hossain, president, ICB; Sheikh Bashiruddin, managing director, Akij Group; Swapan Kumar Sarker, rights activist; Brig Gen (retd) Saidur Rahman Khan, Sayeed Mahemen Baksh Kallol, Supreme Court lawyer; Shakhwat Khan, country director of UAE-based financing firm; Sirajul Haque Khan, former secretary; Selima Khatun, former special assistant to PM; Syed Enayet Hossain, former district and sessions judge; Syed JR Modassir Hossain, former chief justice; Helal Uddin Ahmed, former secretary; Helal Kabir Chowdhury, editorial consultant; Hossain Shaheed Ahmad, former senior district judge; Dr Atiur Rahman, economist; Dr Anwara Begum, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Dr Afroza Parveen, former joint secretary; Dr Abdulla Al Maruf, professor of Dhaka University; Prof Dr SM Anwara Begum, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Prof Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, former VC of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur; Prof Dr

Farida Adib Khanom, former member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; Prof Dr Abdul Awal, retired professor of SUST; Prof Dr Manju, academician and researcher; Prof Nasrin Ahmed, former pro-VC of Dhaka University; Prashanta Kumar Das, bank executive; Prof Sadeka Halim, former information commissioner; Fauzia Moslem; Brig Gen (retd) Selim Mahmud Chowdhury, former army officer; Brig Gen (retd) Ahsan Habib Khan, former vice chairman of BTRC; Brig Gen (retd) Md Refayet Ullah, former dean of BUP; Brig Gen (retd) Abdul Al-Azhar, former army officer; Brig Gen (retd) Abdus Sobhan Sadeq, former army officer; Abu Bakar, former judge; Abu Bakar Siddique, former judge; Nazmunn Ara Sultan, former judge; Borhan Uddin, former judge; Moinul Islam Chowdhury, former judge; Musa Khaled, former judge; Syed Mahmud Hossain, former chief justice; Bibi Russell, fashion designer; Biswas Lutfar Rahman, former joint secretary; SM Anwara Begum, professor of Jagannath University; Abu Sayeed Khan, journalist; Abdul Malek Mia, former secretary; Kabir Ahmed; former president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Mahmudul Haq, former brigadier general; Ansar Ali Khan, former additional secretary; Fazlul Karim, former deputy secretary; Sarwar Hossain, former additional secretary; Bheem Charan Roy, former additional secretary; Shamser Kabir Chowdhury, Majharul Haq Khandakar, juris doctor (JD); Krishna Devnath, former judge; Rashida Sultana, district judge; Monira Khan, former FEMA president; Abu Naser Md Ilias, former major general; ANM Muniruzzaman, former major general; Salehzaman, former major general and managing director of Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory; Abu Naser Md Ilias, former major general; Abdul Bari, former major general; Mounul Islam, former chairman of REB; Maj Gen Md Masud Rezwan; Maj Gen Mohammad Al Shikdar; Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam; Maj Gen Shakhwat Hossain; Ar-Rashid, former army chief; Abu Kashem, former joint secretary; Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, former judge; Muhammad Mushtarrif Hossain Bhuiyan, former cabinet secretary; Justice Monsurul Haque

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6