

CLIMATE LOSS, DAMAGE UN chief wants 'meaningful action'

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations chief said Wednesday it was time for "meaningful action" on the issue of compensation for damage wrought by the climate crisis, especially in developing countries.

Ahead of the forthcoming COP27 UN climate summit in Egypt, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el Sisi - the latter appearing by video link - co-hosted a meeting of world leaders for "frank exchanges" on climate action.

"My messages were stark," Guterres told reporters at the UN General Assembly following the meeting.

"On the climate emergency: The 1.5-degree limit is on life support - and it is fading fast," he said, referring to the Paris accord goal of limiting long-term warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

"You have all seen the appalling images from (flooding in) Pakistan. This is happening at just 1.2 degrees of global warming, and we are headed for over three degrees."

He called on governments to tackle "four burning issues" between now and COP27: greater ambition to keep the 1.5C possible; meeting financial commitments to the developing world; increasing support for adaptation measures, and the issue of "loss and damage."

This last point has become a critical area in climate negotiations. It concerns damage already caused by multiplying extreme weather events, which neither the measures to mitigate global warming nor those to adapt to its impacts have been able to prevent.

Developing nations argue that historic polluters have a moral imperative to pay for the loss and damage, but the idea was shot down by rich nations at COP26, who offered only to start talking about the issue at COP27.

A few days ago, the group of least developed countries meeting in Dakar once more pushed on the issue, calling for the establishment of a "funding mechanism" to deal with the damage caused by global warming.



Rescuers release a stranded pilot whale back in the ocean at Macquarie Heads, on the west coast of Tasmania, yesterday. About 200 pilot whales have perished after stranding themselves on an exposed, surf-swept beach on the rugged west coast of Tasmania.

PHOTO: AFP

'There is no going back' Russia's Medvedev says on new regions taken from Ukraine; G7 condemns Moscow's 'escalatory steps'

AGENCIES

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev yesterday said that any weapons in Moscow's arsenal, including strategic nuclear weapons, could be used to defend territories incorporated in Russia from Ukraine.

Medvedev, deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said that referendums being organised by Russian-installed and separatist authorities in large swathes of Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory will take place, and that "there is no going back".

"The Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk) republics and other territories will be accepted into Russia."

Medvedev said the protection of all the territories would be significantly strengthened by the Russian armed forces, adding:

"Russia has announced that not only mobilisation capabilities, but also any Russian weapons, including strategic nuclear weapons

and weapons based on new principles, could be used for such protection."

The referendums due to take place in the Russian-held parts of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, as well as part of Mykolaiv province, from today are widely expected to produce results overwhelmingly endorsing joining Russia.

If formally admitted to the Russian Federation, the occupied territories will under Moscow's nuclear doctrine be entitled to protection from Russian nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, G7 foreign ministers have said they will pursue further sanctions against Russia, following President Vladimir Putin's move to mobilize reservists for the war in Ukraine.

The G7 would "pursue further targeted sanctions and are committed to sustained economic and political pressure on Russia," they said after a meeting on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly.

Strong quake kills at least 2 in Mexico

AFP, Mexico City

A strong earthquake jolted Mexico yesterday, leaving at least two people dead as residents rushed into the streets of the capital in the middle of the night days after another powerful tremor.

The epicenter of the 6.9 magnitude earthquake was near the Pacific coast, 84 kilometers south of Coalcoman in the western state of Michoacan.

It was the strongest of more than 1,200 aftershocks from a magnitude 7.7 quake that struck the same area on Monday.

Japan to stop Myanmar military training: ministry

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's defence ministry yesterday said it will halt training for members of Myanmar's military from next year over the junta's executions of pro-democracy activists. Before the executions, then Japanese defence minister Nobuo Kishi had called on the junta to "swiftly end violence" and "take concrete measures to restore democracy". But absent any reform efforts and following the executions, Tokyo has decided to scrap the training. Since 2015, Japan has received 30 members of the Myanmar military as students at facilities including the National Defence Academy.

CONTEMPT OF COURT CASE Former Pak PM Khan apologises

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has apologised for criticising a magistrate, his lawyer said yesterday, likely averting a court case that could have seen him barred from standing for election. Khan, an international cricket star turned politician, was ousted through a no-confidence vote in April but has been plotting his return, harrying the fragile new coalition government with vastly popular protests calling for early elections. He became embroiled in a contempt of court case after criticising a magistrate over the detention of a close aide, and yesterday risked being indicted. But on appearing in court Khan apologised and the case is now "most likely to be dropped", his lawyer Faisal Chaudhry told AFP.

KHMER ROUGE TRIAL Court upholds previous verdicts

AFP, Phnom Penh

Cambodia's UN-backed Khmer Rouge war crimes court gave its final verdict yesterday, upholding the genocide conviction and life sentence imposed on the regime's last surviving leader. The tribunal was ruling on an appeal by Khieu Samphan, head of state for the murderous communist regime which wiped out a quarter of the Cambodian population in less than four years in the 1970s. The court also upheld the 2018 convictions against the 91-year old for multiple crimes against humanity - including murder, torture and enslavement - on the basis of a "joint criminal enterprise", even if he did not personally take part in all crimes. The hybrid court, with both Cambodian and international judges, was set up to try the senior leaders of the genocidal regime, which wiped out about two million people through starvation, torture, forced labour and mass executions during its 1975-79 rule.

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A crime has been
committed against
Ukraine, and
we demand just
punishment.

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** at UN

Trump, children sued for fraud in New York

AFP, New York

Donald Trump and family members lied to tax collectors, lenders and insurers for years in a scheme that routinely misstated the value of his properties to enrich themselves, according to a suit filed by New York's attorney general on Wednesday.

Top state prosecutor Letitia James said that with the help of his children and others at the Trump Organization, the former president provided fraudulent statements of his net worth and false asset valuations "to obtain and satisfy loans, get insurance benefits, and pay lower taxes."

James' office requested that Trump pay at least \$250 million in penalties - a sum she says he made from the fraud - and that his family be banned from running businesses in the state. She also urged that Trump along with his children Donald Trump Jr, Eric Trump and Ivanka Trump be barred from purchasing property in the state for five years.

James said her office, which lacks authority to file criminal charges, was making a criminal referral to the US Justice Department as well as the Internal Revenue Service based on the three-year investigation.

Career Opportunity

United Finance Limited, one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Institutions in the country, is a Public Limited Company listed with Dhaka Stock Exchange established in 1989 as a joint venture between Asian Development Bank (ADB), Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), Lawrie Group PLC (United Kingdom), Shaw Wallace Bangladesh Limited, Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Limited and its associated companies and United Insurance Company Limited.

At present, apart from general public, the shares of the company are held by Lawrie Group PLC (United Kingdom), United Insurance Company Limited, Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Limited and its associated companies.

United Finance Limited serves the financial needs of a diverse client base of both companies and individuals. The company operates in all 64 districts of Bangladesh through 25 offices and a team of more than 800 employees. United Finance was recognized as one of the top 5 NBFIs in the Bangladesh Bank sustainability ratings 2020. To lead this dynamic team, United Finance Limited is presently looking for a competent **Managing Director** according to the following details:

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- Ensure the company's goals and objectives both for the short-term and long-term through a business plan and strategies as per market and business demand.
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