

Some nations resisted 1.5°C goal in COP27 text

Says US climate envoy Kerry; Washington targets fossil fuel ‘super-emitters’ of methane

AGENCIES

A few countries have resisted mentioning a global goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius in the official text of the COP27 summit in Egypt, US Special Climate Envoy John Kerry said at the conference yesterday.

“You’re absolutely correct. There are very few countries, but a few, that have raised the issue of not mentioning this word or that word,” Kerry said when asked about opposition by some governments to mentioning the 1.5C target.

“But the fact is that, in Glasgow that was adopted, the language is there. And I know ... Egypt doesn’t intend to be the country that hosts a retreat from what was achieved in Glasgow,” Kerry said, referring to last year’s COP summit in Scotland.

World governments agreed in 2015 during a UN summit in France to try to limit the average global temperature increase to 1.5C, a deal dubbed the Paris Agreement that was seen as a breakthrough in international climate ambition.

Greenhouse gas emissions have been rising ever since, however, and scientists say the world risks missing the target without swift and deep cuts. Breaching the 1.5C threshold risks unleashing the worst consequences of global warming.

Already, the world has warmed more than 1.1C from the preindustrial average temperature - fuelling extreme weather that is already delivering steep economic losses, reports Reuters.

Many developing countries have demanded the establishment of a “loss and damage” fund that could disperse cash to countries struggling to recover from disasters. Kerry said the United States would not support establishing such a fund, and instead believed existing platforms should be used.

Meanwhile, on the hunt for the methane “super-emitters”, US President Joe Biden on Friday unveiled a plan to plug oil and gas leaks and tighten regulation as several global emitters vowed to step up efforts to slash pollution of the powerful greenhouse gas, reports AFP.



Residents of Kherson temporarily living in Odessa, holding Ukrainian flags, celebrate the liberation of their native town in front of The Odessa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre in Odessa, yesterday, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared Kherson “ours” after Russia withdrew troops from the city, which the US hailed yesterday as an “extraordinary victory”. PHOTO: AFP

COMPENSATION COP27 talks not ready to agree on funding: EU

REUTERS, Sharm El Sheikh

Talks about how to compensate vulnerable countries for the damage caused by climate change are not ready to agree on a funding mechanism, a European Union negotiator said on Friday, but did not exclude progress on the issue at COP27.

The topic, known as “loss and damage”, has for the first time made it to the formal agenda at the conference in Egypt in what was seen as a breakthrough for developing nations.

The European Union has said at the COP27 summit it does not rule out the possibility of a fund, a shift after rich countries have long resisted the idea because of fears of spiralling liability for emissions historically linked the developed world.

EU negotiator Jacob Werksman said negotiations were not ready to agree on a single funding solution, but he hoped the COP27 summit would achieve more than just scheduling further talks on climate compensation.

“We don’t think that this process is ready to agree in principle that a new fund or facility is the right or the only way forward,” he told a news conference. “But we are not excluding that and couldn’t exclude that as a significant part of the conversation.”

Climate-vulnerable countries say wealthy industrialised nations should help to pay for irreversible damage from disasters after decades of emissions have caused global temperatures to rise.

US-Asean pact to address ‘biggest issues of our time’

Biden tells Southeast Asian heads; Japan, South Korea denounce North Korea missile tests

REUTERS, Phnom Penh

Southeast Asian heads of government yesterday held talks with visiting global leaders including US President Joe Biden, who hailed the launch of a new US-Asean pact as a critical step towards tackling “the biggest issues of our time”.

In his first visit to Southeast Asia as president, Biden said the region was at the heart of his administration’s Indo-Pacific strategy and Washington was committing resources, not just rhetoric, under a new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

“Together we will tackle the biggest issues of our time, from climate, to health security, to defend against the significant threat to the rule-based order,” he said, opening a meeting in Cambodia with leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“We will build an Indo Pacific that’s free and open, stable and prosperous, and resilient and secure,” he added.

Asean is engaging a host of leaders, including Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol.

The event is the first in a series of summits in Southeast Asia over the next seven days that are expected to discuss tricky global issues, from the war in Ukraine, climate, and regional tensions over the Taiwan Strait, the South China Sea and North Korea missile launches.

Biden’s presence comes as the United States seeks to reassert itself after a period of regional uncertainty about its commitment under US predecessor



Donald Trump, and concerted efforts by rival China to boost its influence and fill the void.

China and Asean announced an upgrade in their ties to the comprehensive strategic partnership level last year.

Earlier yesterday, South Korean leader Yoon proposed a mechanism for dialogue with China and Japan to address future crises including from the impacts of war on areas like security of food and energy as well as climate change.

Yoon and Japan’s Kishida also criticised North Korea’s attempt to boost its nuclear and missile capabilities, calling it a serious and unacceptable threat.

In a separate exchange with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Kishida said Japan and China should strive toward building a “constructive and stable” relationship.

Asean leaders on Friday issued a “warning” to Myanmar’s military leaders, who were barred from the summit, to make measurable progress on a peace plan.

Global leaders will attend an East Asia

Summit in Phnom Penh today, ahead of a business gathering and a G20 leaders summit in Bali next week, before moving to Bangkok for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

At the gatherings, Biden will focus on the Indo-Pacific region and talk about US commitment to a rules-based order in the South China Sea, a senior administration official said earlier this week.

Some analysts played down expectations of any dramatic developments from Biden’s presence, but noted it demonstrated the United States was getting back to “normal diplomacy”, including with the upgrade in strategic ties with Asean.

“That doesn’t mean anything concrete, but symbolically it puts the US at the same level as China,” said Greg Poling, head of the Southeast Asia programme at Washington’s Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Biden yesterday said the meetings would discuss Russia’s “brutal” war against Ukraine and US efforts to address the war’s global impact.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is attending those events on behalf of President Vladimir Putin, while hosts Indonesia yesterday confirmed Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky will address the G20 meeting virtually.

At the summit, Biden referred to Cambodia as Colombia. “Now that we’re back together here in Cambodia, I look forward to building even stronger progress than we’ve already made, and I want to thank the Prime Minister of Colombia for his leadership as Asean chair and for hosting all of us,” Biden said

Manzurul Ahsan Khan

FROM PAGE 12

misunderstanding”. They, however, denied the allegation of assault.

Organisers said the council of Sutrapur unit of Bangladesh Hawkers’ Union was being held yesterday.

However, the programme was cut short

as police obstructed them.

The union has condemned the assault on Manzurul Ahsan Khan, in a press release issued by Rahim Ullah Rakib, its office secretary.

About the incident, Joly Talukder, general secretary of CPB, said police do not think while violating the

constitutional rights of citizens.

Contacted, Mohammad Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said, “Police barred the rally as the organisers did not take permission for it. But the assault allegation was not true.”

Get democracy

FROM PAGE 12

“I urge the authorities of Myanmar to listen to their people, release political prisoners and get the democratic transition back on track immediately. That is the only way to stability and peace.”

After meeting Asean leaders, Guterres said it was vital that a peace plan agreed with the junta – but so far not enforced – came into effect. “Indiscriminate attacks on civilians are horrendous and heartbreaking,” he said.

In a reminder of the daily horrors faced by the Myanmar people, residents and media on Friday accused the junta of burning houses and killing at least five civilians in a raid on a village in western Rakhine state.

For football

FROM PAGE 12

The statement from the record five-times champions follows that of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), who said “disagreements and fights” should “take a back seat” when the tournament kicks off on November 20.

Qatar has come under intense pressure over its treatment of foreign workers, restrictive social laws and LGBTIQ rights, leading to many teams

participating, raising concerns, although the country has denied claims that workers were exploited.

326 killed

FROM PAGE 12

It includes at least 123 people killed in the province of Sistan-Baluchistan, on Iran’s southeastern border with Pakistan, a figure which is also up, from 118 in IHR’s last toll.

The Terminal

FROM PAGE 12

He called himself “Sir Alfred”, and a small section of airport parquet and plastic bench became his domain.

Karimi Nasser’s peculiar story came to the attention of Hollywood director Spielberg, inspiring 2004 film “The Terminal,” which starred Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Hanks played a man who becomes trapped at New York’s JFK airport when his home country collapses into revolution.

Russian FM

FROM PAGE 12

The IORA Council of Ministers meeting will be preceded by the 24th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials to be held on November 22-23.

The IORA is an inter-governmental organisation aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region through its 23 member states and 10 dialogue partners.

IORA member states are: Australia, Bangladesh, Union of Comoros, French Republic, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Republic of Madagascar, Malaysia,

Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The 23 member states of IORA and 10 dialogue partners are expected to join the ministerial and senior official meetings.

Bangladesh assumed the position of the IORA chair at the 21st IORA COM meeting in Dhaka held on 17 November 2021 and adopted the theme of “Harnessing the opportunities of the Indian Ocean sustainably for inclusive development.”

G20 SUMMIT IN BALI

Biden to press Xi on North Korea

AFP, Phnom Penh

US President Joe Biden yesterday landed in Asia vowing to urge Chinese leader Xi Jinping to rein in North Korea when they hold their first face-to-face meeting at next week’s G20 summit. Biden touched down in Phnom Penh for meetings with Southeast Asian leaders ahead of his encounter with his Chinese counterpart on Monday in Bali. In the meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Biden will tell Xi that China – Pyongyang’s biggest ally – has “an interest in playing a constructive role in restraining North Korea’s worst tendencies”, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told reporters.

DISCOVERY OF NOOSE

Obama Center halts construction

AFP, Washington

Construction at the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago has been suspended after discovery of a noose, a racist symbol in the United States, companies overseeing the project said. The looped rope – which harkens back to the lynchings of black men in the American South in the 19th and 20th centuries – was found Thursday morning. “We are horrified that this would occur on our site and are offering a \$100,000 reward to help find the individual or individuals responsible for this shameful act,” said the Lakeside Alliance, a group of Black-owned construction companies that are building ex-president Barack Obama’s center.

AMAZON DEFORESTATION

Brazil sets new record for Oct

AFP, Brasilia

Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest broke the monthly record for October, with the destruction of 904 square kilometers (350 square miles), official figures showed Friday. The grim news comes less than two months before far-right President Jair Bolsonaro’s four-year term ends. The former army captain is a climate change skeptic and has been heavily criticized over policies seen as encouraging deforestation. The DETER satellite observation system detected a three percent increase in the deforested area of the world’s largest tropical rainforest compared to October 2021, making it a record for that month, according to the INPE space research institute.

4 hurt in shooting in Canada

AFP, Montreal

A shooting that sent four people to hospital and another gun-related incident forced thousands of students at two Montreal area colleges to go into lockdown on Friday. At 5:30 pm local time (2230 GMT), gunshots rang out at a park across the street from Montmorency College in the Montreal suburb of Laval, police spokeswoman Genevieve Major told AFP. Four people who had been shot sought refuge at the college and were later taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The college, which is attended by nearly 10,000 students and faculty, remained locked down into the evening as police swarmed the area in search of the shooter.