

COP27 SUMMIT Climate disaster aid scheme launched

AFP, Sharm el Sheikh

A scheme to give speedy financial support to communities battered by climate disasters was launched yesterday by a group of rich and developing nations at the UN COP27 summit in Egypt.

The "Global Shield against Climate Risks" comes as many of the most vulnerable nations are also demanding wider compensation for the "loss and damage" they have already suffered from a heating planet.

The initiative, backed by the G7 and launched with initial funding of more than \$200 million, aims to provide "pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters".

The Global Shield project "is long overdue", said Ken Ofori-Atta, Ghana's finance minister and chair of the V20 group of nations most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

» 'Global Shield' aims to get quick cash to disaster-hit nations

"It has never been a question of who pays for loss and damage, because we are paying for it," he said in recorded remarks at the summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"Our economies pay for it in lost growth prospects, our enterprises pay for it in business disruption, and our communities pay for it in lives and livelihoods lost."

He said he hoped the project would help the most vulnerable communities but also aid wider understanding of the challenges emerging economies face as they are being hammered by climate-induced floods, heatwaves or droughts. A first group of nations that will benefit from the scheme includes Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Pakistan, the Philippines and Senegal.

Nations at the COP27 agreed this year for the first time to include the thorny topic of loss and damage on the formal agenda, after years of reluctance from richer polluters wary of creating open-ended liability. Germany said the Global Shield scheme would be part of a broader effort to respond to loss and damage.



Climate activists demonstrate at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of the same name, during the COP27 climate conference, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Work together on climate

UN chief heaps pressure on G20 nations

REUTERS, Nusa Dua

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres yesterday heaped pressure on G20 nations to work together to slow global warming, saying their action, or inaction, would dictate the fate of the planet.

Guterres was speaking on the Indonesian island of Bali ahead of the annual Group of 20 summit hosted this year by Indonesia, a week after warning a UN climate conference in Egypt that the world

was "on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator."

Guterres has proposed a 'Climate Solidarity Pact', under which developed economies make additional efforts to limit rising global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius while providing financial and technical help to speed emerging economies' transition to renewable energy sources.

"G20 leaders can make or break the Climate Solidarity Pact," Guterres said.

"Action – or inaction – by the G20 will determine whether every member of our human family has a chance to live sustainably and peacefully, on a healthy planet."

On a separate issue to be addressed by the G20, Guterres took aim at global technology firms that he said have allowed their platforms to be used for human rights and privacy abuses, reports AFP.

He called for "global guardrails" to defend an open and free internet for all.

G20 SUMMIT Why Putin is staying away

AFP, Moscow

The last time Russian President Vladimir Putin found himself isolated at a G20 summit was in 2014, soon after he seized Crimea – and he was so shunned that he left early.

Eight years later, after launching a full-scale offensive in Ukraine in February and threatening the West with nuclear weapons, the 70-year-old Russian leader chose to skip this week's G20 meeting on the tropical island of Bali altogether.

Observers say the Kremlin is seeking to shield the Russian leader from a storm of condemnation in Indone-



sia but Putin's no-show risks further isolating a country already battered by unprecedented Western sanctions.

Alexei Malashenko, chief researcher at the Dialogue of Civilisations Institute, said Putin did not want to be publicly humiliated once again, recalling that at the Brisbane summit in 2014 Putin was placed at the far flank of the traditional family photo.

"At the summit, you have to talk to people and be photographed," said Malashenko. "And who is he going to talk to and how exactly will he be photographed?"

The G20 gathering will inevitably be overshadowed by Moscow's offensive in Ukraine, which has shocked global energy markets and aggravated food shortages.

Fyodor Lukyanov, a foreign policy expert, indicated that Putin was not ready to budge over Ukraine.

"His position is well known, it will not change," said Lukyanov, editor of the Russia in Global Affairs journal.

"What's the point of going?"

Fully implement Islamic Sharia law Afghan supreme leader orders judges

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's supreme leader has ordered judges to fully enforce aspects of Islamic law that include public executions, stonings and floggings, and the amputation of limbs for thieves, the Taliban's chief spokesman said.

Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted late Sunday that the "obligatory" command by Hibatullah Akhundzada came after the secretive leader met with a group of judges.

Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August last year, rules by decree from Kandahar, the movement's birthplace and spiritual heartland.

The Taliban promised a softer version of the harsh rule that characterised their first stint in power, from 1996-2001, but have gradually clamped down on rights and freedoms. "Carefully examine the files of thieves, kidnappers and seditionists," Mujahid quoted Akhundzada as saying.

"Those files in which all the sharia (Islamic law) conditions of hudud and qisas have been fulfilled, you are obliged to implement. This is the ruling of sharia, and my command, which is obligatory," Mujahid was not available yesterday to



expand on his tweet.

Hudud refers to offences which, under Islamic law, certain types of punishment are mandated, while qisas translates as "retaliation in kind" – effectively an eye for an eye.

Hudud crimes include adultery – and falsely accusing someone of it – drinking alcohol, theft, kidnapping and highway robbery, apostasy and rebellion.

Qisas covers murder and deliberate injury, among other things, but also allows for the families of victims to accept compensation in lieu of punishment.

Islamic scholars say crimes leading to hudud punishment require a very high degree of proof. Social media has been awash for over a year with videos of Taliban fighters meting out summary floggings to people accused of various offences.

ডেল্টা লাইফের ৩ মুগ পুর্ণিতে
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ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।



লাইফ কান্ট
৪০০৬ কোটি*

দাবী পরিশোধ
২০ লক্ষাধিক
গ্রাহককে
৬৮১৩ কোটি*

সম্পন্ন
৮৫৯০ কোটি*

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইন্সিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

*অনিমোবিলিটি সেক্টরে ৩০, ২০২২ পর্যন্ত

ত্রিপুরার জেনারেল এবং এমপিএইচ
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