

Half of world's glaciers destined to vanish by 2100

AFP, Washington

Half of the Earth's glaciers, notably smaller ones, are destined to disappear by the end of the century because of climate change, but limiting global warming could save others, according to a new study.



The findings, published in the journal Science on Thursday, provide the most comprehensive look so far at the future of the world's 215,000 glaciers.

To help orient policy makers, the study looked at the impact of four scenarios on glaciers, where global mean temperature change is 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), 2.0C, 3.0C and 4.0C.

"Every degree increase produces more melt and loss," said Regine Hock of the University of Oslo and University of Alaska Fairbanks, a co-author of the study.

"But that also means if you reduce the temperature increase, you can also reduce that mass loss," Hock told AFP. "So in that sense, there is also a little bit of hope."

Even if global temperature rise is limited to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels -- the most ambitious goal of the Paris Agreement -- the researchers estimated that 49 percent of the world's glaciers would vanish by the year 2100. That would represent about 26 percent of the world's glacier mass.

Global mean temperature is currently estimated to be increasing by 2.7C which would result in a near-complete loss of glaciers in Central Europe, Western Canada and the continental United States and New Zealand.

Under the worst-case scenario -- global temperature rise of 4.0C -- giant glaciers such as those in Alaska would be more affected and 83 percent of glaciers would disappear by the end of the century.



Shopkeepers fix the price tags of rice at a market in Karachi, yesterday. Pakistan's central bank forex reserves have plunged to \$5.6 billion, posing a serious challenge for the country in financing imports. PHOTO: AFP

US House speaker fight enters fourth day

AFP, Washington

The US House of Representatives plunged deeper into crisis Thursday as Republican favorite Kevin McCarthy failed again to win the speakership -- entrenching a three-day standoff that has paralyzed the lower chamber of Congress.

McCarthy, a favorite of his party's establishment but a bete noire of the far right, has made sweeping concessions to quell a rebellion of around 20 hardliners blocking his bid to be the country's top lawmaker.

But his overtures have fallen on deaf ears and he failed to win over a single renegade Republican across five ballots staged on Thursday before the House agreed to adjourn until noon Friday.

The final round of voting was the 11th in total since the chamber opened for a new term under a narrow Republican majority this week. No speakership contest has gone more than 9 rounds since the Civil War era.

No House business can take place without electing a speaker, meaning lawmakers-elect have to continue voting until someone wins a majority.

VIRTUAL SUMMIT India to host 120 countries on Jan 12-13

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will host a virtual summit of around 120 developing countries next week, its foreign minister said yesterday, as the country looks to bolster international cooperation during its presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) biggest economies.

"India has always been in the forefront and consistently championed the cause of the developing world," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra told reporters, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and the conflict in Ukraine had impacted many developing countries.

Heads of governments, foreign ministers and finance ministers will participate in the "Voice of Global South Summit" where discussions will range from financial development to energy security in developing nations, Kwatra said.

More than 120 invites have been sent for the two-day summit scheduled for Jan. 12-13 and a confirmed list of participating countries will be shared later, Kwatra said.

LEAKED HARRY MEMOIR Book triggers condemnation

AFP, London

Prince Harry yesterday faced a backlash in the UK and beyond over his memoir "Spare", with criticism from the media, commentators, army veterans and even the Taliban, while Buckingham Palace kept silent on the widely leaked contents.

Days before the official publication on Tuesday, disclosures from the book dominated headlines and airwaves after a Spanish language version of the memoir mistakenly went on sale in Spain.

Revelations such as how heir to the throne Prince William allegedly pushed Harry to the ground in a 2019 row to how he lost his virginity, took drugs, and killed 25 people in Afghanistan prompted both condemnation and derision.

Writer AN Wilson called the ghostwritten tome -- the biggest royal book since Harry's mother Princess Diana collaborated with Andrew Morton for "Diana: Her True Story" in 1992 -- "calculated and despicable" and a work of "malice".

The book is the latest hostile blast from Harry and his American wife Meghan after they quit royal duties and moved to California in 2020. The Sun tabloid said that while people sympathised with Harry, 38, over the trauma of losing his mother as a child, "neither can justify the destructive, vengeful path he has chosen, throwing his own family under a bus for millions of dollars".

Harry's claim to have killed 25 people in Afghanistan and likening his actions to removing "chess pieces" from a board, has been seen as boastful and inappropriate.

Senior Taliban official Anas Haqqani tweeted: "Mr Harry! The ones you killed were not chess pieces, they were humans; They had families who were waiting for their return."



BPL starts with contrasting affairs

FROM PAGE 12

and 45 balls to spare -- courtesy of Najmul Hossain Shanto's unbeaten 43 off 41-run knock, laced with three boundaries and a maximum.

Chattogram's 89-run total was the lowest in an opening game in BPL's history, surpassing Rangpur Riders' 98 against Chittagong Vikings back in 2019 to the unwanted feat.

Chasing a lowly target, Sylhet lost Dutch opener Colin Ackerman early, but Shanto, along with Zakir Hasan, added 63 runs for the second wicket to help Sylhet cruise to victory. Zakir was dismissed after a 21-ball 27.

Earlier, Raja led the charge with the ball in hand for Sylhet as he remained the destroyer in

chief, picking up four for 14 from his four overs while skipper Mashrafe ended with the figures of one for 18 in four overs.

Pakistani left-arm pacer Mohammad Amir also reached a milestone as he now stands alongside New Zealand's Jacob Oram for the most economical figure in BPL. Amir picked up two wickets conceding just seven runs from his four overs that included a maiden.

Only three Chattogram batters were able to hit double digits with Afif Hossain's 25 remaining the top score for his side.

In the second game, courtesy of Rony's 31-ball 67-run knock which included eleven fours and a six, Rangpur managed to post 176 for 5 in 20 overs.

At one point it looked

Rangpur would go on to post over 200 run mark but they lost way since Rony's departure.

Veteran Pakistani cricketer Shoaib Malik added 33 runs as Comilla came back well to concede 42 runs and pick up three wickets in the last five overs of innings.

Comilla, in reply, lost wickets at regular intervals. Imrul Kayes top-scored with 35 off 23 balls but eventually it was not enough for the holders to chase down a fighting total, and they were bundled out for 142 in the 20th over.

Pacer Hasan Mahmud remained the pick of the bowlers for Rangpur with three scalps, while Robiul Haque and Sikandar Raza took two wickets apiece.

Mild cold wave likely

FROM PAGE 12

high extends up to West Bengal and adjoining western parts of Bangladesh. Seasonal low lies over the South Bay.

The country's maximum temperature on Thursday was recorded at 26.5 degrees Celsius at Sitakunda and Cox's Bazar, while the minimum temperature was recorded yesterday at 9 degrees Celsius in Chuadanga.

No rainfall was recorded during the last 24 hours preceding 9:00am yesterday.

Flexible

FROM PAGE 12

It found that the larger proportion of workers on reduced hours helped to prevent job losses.

And it determined that the "large-scale implementation of telework" put in place around the world had "changed not only teleworking but also the nature of employment, most likely for the foreseeable future."

The Covid measures provided powerful evidence, the ILO said, that giving workers more flexibility in how, where and when they work could be positive not only for them but also for businesses, including through increased productivity.

On the flip side, restricting flexibility increased costs, including because of increased staff turnover, the report found.

Jubo League

FROM PAGE 12

Rickshaw-puller Mamun, who happened to be at the scene, got shot and died, locals said.

Two others, Sumon Hossain, 28, and Roky Hossain, 26, were taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

Police said they were looking for the other suspects.

Delhi holding

FROM PAGE 12

While the recent softening of commodity prices and supply-side bottlenecks should help in lowering inflation going ahead but risks to growth and investment outlook may rise if inflation persists at high levels, he noted.

Prioritising price stability may be the optimal choice for the South Asian region, Das added.

Myanmar military holds election talks with ethnic rebels

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta is holding talks with three ethnic rebel groups on staging elections in areas they control, a rebel spokesman said yesterday, as the military prepares for polls the US has said will be a "sham."

The Southeast Asian country has about 20 ethnic rebel armies that have fought each other and the military for decades over autonomy and control of the drugs trade and natural resources in its borderlands.

Some have condemned the ouster of Aung San Suu Kyi's government when the military staged a February 2021 coup, and offered shelter and weapons training to the "People's Defence Forces" (PDF) that sprung up as resistance against the junta.

Leaders from the Shan State Progress Party, United Wa State Party and National Democratic Alliance Army -- which have largely stayed out of the post-coup conflict -- are holding three days of

talks in capital Naypyidaw, state media said Friday.

The three groups control swathes of territory that have been relatively calm since the coup, which has plunged much of the country into turmoil.

They and the junta discussed on Thursday the "political needs of the groups and... building a Union based on democracy and the federal system", according to the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The military "asked us to let them hold free and

fair elections in our area", a spokesman for SSPP, which controls territory in northern Shan state, told AFP.

"For us, we will not oppose their election."

A spokesman for the UWSA did not respond to AFP's request for comment. With a standing force of around 25,000, the UWSA is one of the world's largest non-state militaries, conscripting a member from each household in its autonomous enclave on Myanmar's northern border with China.

Signs of fighting after truce

FROM PAGE 12

population. The war has reduced major cities to rubble and crushed Ukraine's economy.

With weapons and financial support from the United States and Europe, Ukraine has driven Russia back from some of its territory but battles are raging over territory in the east and south.

This week, Ukraine's Western allies finally announced shipments of large numbers of armoured fighting vehicles, which Kyiv has been requesting for months to give it the upper hand in mechanised battles against Russian tanks at the front.

Germany said it would

deliver an advanced Patriot anti-aircraft missile system and around 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles within three months.

Washington is also due to announce Bradley Fighting Vehicles as part of a new \$2.8 billion security package. France also announced a package of armoured vehicles this week.

Ukraine's military General Staff said its soldiers repelled repeated Russian attacks over the past day, with Moscow focused on trying to take towns in Donetsk, including Bakhmut.

"The enemy is concentrating its main efforts on attempts to establish control over the

Donetsk region" without success, the General Staff said in a statement, adding that both Ukraine and Russia had launched multiple air strikes over the past day.

US President Joe Biden suggested Putin's ceasefire offer was a sign of desperation: "I think he's trying to find some oxygen," he told reporters at the White House.

Russia's Orthodox Church observes Christmas on Jan 7. The main Orthodox Church in Ukraine has rejected the authority of Moscow, and many Ukrainian believers have shifted their calendar to celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25 as in the West.

Old Nazi map sparks treasure hunt

REUTERS, Ommeren

An old map believed to mark the spot where German soldiers hid treasure worth millions of euros during World War Two sparked the imagination of amateur treasure hunters in the Netherlands this week.

Armed with metal detectors and shovels, groups wandered through the fields surrounding rural Ommeren in the east of the country after the map was made public by the Dutch National Archive on Tuesday.

The archive said the map was believed to indicate where Nazi soldiers had hidden four large boxes filled with diamonds, rubies, gold, silver and all sorts of jewellery which they had looted after an explosion at a bank in

August 1944.

The map was obtained from a German soldier shortly after the war by the Dutch institute that was tasked with tracing German capital in the Netherlands after the country was freed from Nazi occupation in 1945.

The research file which held the map was released this week as the maximum period of 75 years during which it could be held confidential had lapsed.

Although the existence of the treasure could never fully be confirmed, the institute undertook various failed attempts to find it in 1947, National Archive spokeswoman Anne-Marie Samson told Reuters.

"We don't know for sure if the treasure existed. But the institute did a lot of checks and found the story

reliable," Samson said.

"But they never found it and if it existed, the treasure might very well have been dug up already."

But the small chance of finding any valuables did not deter the amateur gold-diggers.

"I see groups of people with metal detectors everywhere," 57-year old Jan Henzen told Reuters as he took a break from his own search.

"Like a lot of people, the news about the treasure made me go look for myself. The chance of the treasure still being here after 70 years is very small I think, but I want to give it a try."

Former Ommeren mayor Klaas Tamme, who now runs the foundation that owns the lands that might hide the treasure, said he had seen people from all over the country.



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10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Interested candidates are encouraged to attend a Walk-in Interview as per the given schedule. Please call for address & attend at any of the following places for interview from 10:00 AM to 02:00 PM. Final interview will be held on 16th January 2023 & training will start from 17th January 2023. Both final interview & training will be held at Radiant Centre for Professionals-RCP, Uttara (Contact: 018333102648).

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For further assistances, please call: **01810101459**

Candidates are requested to bring with them an own hand-written application along with complete resume, a passport size photograph, original academic certificates & photocopy of national ID card.

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