

## World resource extraction could surge 60pc by 2060 UN warns

AFP, Paris

Extraction of Earth's natural resources could surge 60 percent by 2060, imperilling climate goals and economic prosperity, the UN said yesterday, calling for dramatic changes in energy, food, transport and housing.

Enormous expansion of infrastructure, energy demand and consumer consumption over the last half century, particularly in wealthier countries, has driven a tripling of the world's use of materials, according to the 2024 Global Resource Outlook by the UN Environment Programme's International Resource Panel.

And the hunger for natural resources – everything from food to fossil fuels – keeps growing by an average of more than 2.3 percent per year, it said.

People in wealthy countries drive most of that demand, using six times more materials and responsible for ten times more climate impacts than those in low-income countries, according to the analysis.

Extraction and processing of the huge amount of resources accounts for over 60 percent of planet-warming emissions, the report said, as well as devastating ecosystems and harming human health.

Lead author Hans Bruyninckx said the current trajectory would cause the world to far exceed the temperature limits set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement, in which countries agreed to cap global warming "well below" two degrees Celsius and preferably at 1.5C.

But he acknowledged that natural resources will be needed "to turn things around", both to boost development in poorer nations and to provide the minerals and metals needed for the energy transition.

The report follows an agreement by countries at UN climate negotiations last year in Dubai, to triple global renewable energy capacity this decade and "transition away" from polluting fossil fuels.



Palestinians run along a street as humanitarian aid is airdropped in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pakistan parliament elects speaker amid pro-Imran protests

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's new parliament elected a speaker yesterday, despite protests from lawmakers loyal to jailed ex-prime minister Imran Khan three weeks after an election they claim was brazenly rigged.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq of the military-backed Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party was elected by parliamentarians from his party and a handful of others in a coalition pact shutting Khan's followers out of power.

The 336-seat National Assembly convened on Thursday for the first time since Pakistan's February 8 elections, and the alliance is slated to vote in PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister on Sunday.

As lawmakers prepared to elect Sadiq, parliamentarians backed by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party

berated the outgoing speaker overseeing the ballot.

"How can intruders take part in voting?" asked senior PTI politician Omar Ayub Khan. "How can you exclude Imran Khan's party which has a real mandate?"

As he cast his vote, the PTI lawmaker raised his fist and shouted, "Who will save Pakistan?"

"Imran Khan!" replied a crowd of PTI-backed lawmakers from the debate floor.

PTI's candidate for speaker was defeated, receiving 91 votes to Sadiq's 199.

PTI claim last month's election was rigged to prevent their landslide victory – citing a massive delay in results and a polling day mobile internet blackout as evidence.

In the lead-up to the election Khan was jailed, barred from standing for office and given lengthy sentences for treason, graft

and an illegal marriage.

PTI was targeted by a campaign of arrests and censorship analysts say was orchestrated by the powerful military establishment.

Party members were forced to run as independents in the election.

They defied the odds to secure more seats than any other party but fell far short of the majority needed to form a government.

That cleared the way for PML-N to ally with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) run by the family of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto, as well as a smattering of smaller parties.

Sadiq, who will shepherd the new government's legislative agenda, was also speaker in a similar PML-N and PPP coalition which ousted Khan back in 2022 and put Sharif in power for the first time.

## Over a billion people worldwide are obese WHO study says

REUTERS, London

More than a billion people globally are now considered obese, a condition linked to an increased risk of numerous serious health problems, according to updated estimates from the World Health Organization and an international group of researchers. Obesity is so prevalent it has become more common than being underweight in most nations, including many low and middle income countries that have previously struggled with undernourishment. "A staggering number of people are living with obesity," said Majid Ezzati, senior author of the paper published in The Lancet on Thursday and a professor at Imperial College London. The findings, considered among the most authoritative of independent estimates, are based on data from more than 220 million people in more than 190 countries. While obesity rates are plateauing in many wealthier countries, they are rising rapidly elsewhere, Ezzati added. "In the past, we have been thinking of obesity as a problem of the rich. Obesity is a problem of the world," said Francesco Branca, head of nutrition at the WHO, in a press conference. Obesity rates for adults more than doubled between 1990 and 2022, and more than quadrupled among children and adolescents aged 5-19, the paper said.

## MYANMAR'S RAKHINE STATE 12 killed in market shelling Says rebel militia

REUTERS

At least 12 civilians were killed in Myanmar when artillery shells landed in a busy market in western Rakhine State, as the ruling military and anti-junta forces traded blame for the latest violence to rock the Southeast Asian country. The insurgent group Arakan Army (AA) operating in Rakhine State, which borders Bangladesh, said that a military warship off the port city of Sittwe fired shells into Myoma market on Thursday, killing 12 and injuring more than 80 people. The junta published a statement on state TV channel Myawaddy, claiming the shells were fired by the AA. It did not confirm the number of casualties. Reuters was not able to independently verify the incident. Sittwe and other towns in Rakhine are facing information blackouts as the junta has reimposed internet and mobile data curbs in the state.

## Divided G20 blocked

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invasion and pouring military and financial aid into Ukraine.

Russia – also a G20 member – has meanwhile courted support from fellow emerging powers such as Brazil, China and India.

The group is also divided over Gaza, with the United States and Western allies reluctant to condemn Israel, even as non-Western members grow increasingly critical of a spiraling humanitarian crisis there.

"We can't have business as usual at the G20 when there's a war in Ukraine ... and the humanitarian situation in Gaza," Lindner told journalists.

"We oppose avoiding those issues. Even if we're central bankers and finance ministers, we represent the values of our countries and must defend the international rules-based order."

The meetings are meant to lay the groundwork for the annual G20 leaders' summit, to be held in Rio in November.

Despite a push from Western countries for the group to condemn President Vladimir Putin's invasion, the G20's last summit, held in New Delhi in September, ended with a watered-down statement that denounced the use of force but did not explicitly name Russia.

## Govts weaponising

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reporters, editors and dictate to them what to publish and what not to."

Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, emphasised on maintaining neutrality and solidarity among journalists to fight government repression.

"Many senior journalists in Bangladesh don't publish what they are supposed to for their own political stances but give the excuse of state persecution."

Siddharth said, "In several states of India, the state governments have adopted bulldozer policy. Whenever they arrest a Muslim individual for an alleged offence, the municipality, by whatever means, finds some irregularities in their houses or establishments and sends bulldozers immediately to knock them down."

"We need to find ways to reach out to our readers and viewers without depending too much on social media as they also collaborate with the government agencies and block many credible news contents. We also need to ensure that our readers, viewers or people in general become our main source of revenue, not some big corporations."

The speakers also recommended that media offices become independent in terms of earning revenue and increasing their subscriber base.

## Don't repeat mistakes

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communications blackouts, sources indicated that nearly 200 people have died in Rakhine, of which at least 50 were Rohingya. Over 150,000 people fled their homes seeking safety – most Rohingya, however, are not allowed to flee.

"Just yesterday [Thursday], military naval vessels shelled a market in Rakhine's capital of Sittwe, reportedly killing at least 16 civilians and injuring over 80 others. This violence impacts every community, many of which are still reeling from last year's Cyclone Mocha," he said.

"In Rakhine State, we have heard reports that displaced Rohingya youth are being offered money, food, and even citizenship if they join the ranks of those who displaced them years ago. They are threatened with punishment if they refuse. And reports of forced recruitment, including child recruitment, have already proliferated among many warring parties."

"Military-imposed movement restrictions have almost completely disrupted the delivery of life-saving humanitarian aid. Homes have been burned down. Supply routes connecting Rakhine to other parts

of Myanmar have been closed, creating an acute food shortage and significant price hikes. Most families are now surviving on one meal a day."

"Up to 5,000 Rohingya undertook perilous boat journeys last year in their search for safe haven. Hundreds of others have been detained as they seek to escape to other parts of Myanmar," Türk added.

He said his office has received multiple credible reports that hundreds of Rohingya fleeing violence are being prevented from entering Bangladesh. I appeal to all Member States to ensure international refugee protection to people fleeing persecution and conflict in Myanmar.

Four years ago, the International Court of Justice called on Myanmar to halt any activities that could violate provisions of the Genocide Convention. It ordered that the authorities protect Rohingya communities, preserve evidence of wrongdoing against them, and create conditions conducive to a safe, dignified, and voluntary return to their places of origin.

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## PM inaugurates bancassurance

FROM PAGE 2

Institutions Division, Ministry of Finance, Sheikh Mohammad Salim Ullah, Chairman of IDRA Mohammad Jainul Bari and Bangladesh Insurance Association President Sheikh Kabir Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

A documentary on the insurance sector was screened at the ceremony.

On March 1, 1960, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started working for the then Alpha Insurance Company. Therefore, the government has decided to celebrate March 1 as National Insurance Day every year.

The government subsequently upgraded "National Insurance Day" from "B" category to "A" category commemorating the great architect of independence, and the greatest Bangalee of all time Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

## Tamim inspires

FROM PAGE 12

The in-form Tamim was looking dangerous, smashing Moeen Ali for a maximum and two boundaries in successive deliveries before he departed in the same over when he was stumped while trying to hit the English off-spinner for another maximum in the last ball of the eighth over.

The departure of Tamim, who hit a total of three maximums and as many sixes, was followed by Miraz's wicket, also to Moeen, an over later but two quick wickets for Comilla still could not put a dent in Barishal's charge.

Kyle Mayers continued his purple patch, smashing a 30-ball 46 with five fours and two maximums on his way to stitching together another crucial stand of 59 runs with the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim. By the time Mayers was removed in the 17th over by Mustafizur Rahman, who returned to the Comilla ranks after missing four matches due to a blow to the head in training in the Chattogram phase, Barishal looked all set to go all the way to glory.

Barishal's win also saw Mushfiqur (13) and Mahmudullah Riyad (7 not out) join the big five of Bangladesh – also including Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza – with at least one BPL title to their names.

Earlier, Comilla batters failed to get momentum early in the innings after being put in to bat as the Barishal bowlers kept things in check. Mahidul Islam Ankon's 35-ball 38 was their team-high while Barishal's James Fuller took two and Mayers, Mohammad Saifuddin and Obed McCoy grabbed one wicket each.



PHOTO: AFP

A woman places flowers to pay tribute to late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny at a makeshift memorial outside the Borisovo cemetery following his funeral ceremony in Moscow's district of Maryino yesterday.

## Seven new faces take oath

FROM PAGE 1

Waseqa Ayesha Khan, AL's finance and planning affairs secretary, took charge as the state minister for finance, Rokeya Sultana, who is a doctor and also the party's health and population affairs secretary, got the portfolio as the state minister for health, and Shamsunnahar, AL's education and human resources affairs secretary, took charge as the state minister for education.

Nahid Izhar Khan, daughter of martyred Col Khandoker Nazmul Huda, was given the responsibility of the state minister for cultural affairs.

They are MPs to the reserved seats for women.

Abdul Wadud, lawmaker from

Rajshahi-5, became the state minister for Rural Development and Co-operatives Division, and Md Shahiduzzaman Sarker, lawmaker from Naogaon-2, the state minister for planning.

Chattogram-14 MP Md Nazrul Islam Chowdhury was given the job of the state minister for labour and employment.

Of the 44 members in the council of ministers, 26 are full ministers and 18 state ministers. Two are technocrat ministers in this cabinet.

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