

COP29 finance draft reveals divided positions

AFP, Paris

The UN has published a draft on climate financing due to be presented at the COP29 in November, laying out the conflicting positions from which the main country blocs will try to clinch the next climate deal.

The document, which AFP consulted Friday, is the basis for negotiating an accord that is due to be reached at COP29 in Baku under Azerbaijan's presidency.

The "New collective quantified goal", or NCQG in UN jargon, is intended to replace the engagements made by developed countries to provide \$100 billion a year in financing to help developing countries face climate change.

The draft lays out seven rough options that summarise the opposing positions.

Arab countries say developed countries should commit at least \$441 billion a year in grants between 2025-2029 to mobilise loans and private financing that would bring the annual total to \$1.1 trillion.

African countries insist on an annual objective of \$1.3 trillion.

Over the past months, the donor countries -- which the Rio summit in 1992 identified as the United States, the European Union, Britain, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Turkey, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand and Australia -- have said these amounts are unrealistic.

Arguing that they now account for less than 30% of historic emissions, they want to expand the list of donors to China and Gulf countries, who refuse to consider it.

The EU, while accepting that "developed country Parties continue to take the lead in mobilising climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels", said the "collective goal can only be reached if Parties with high GHG-emissions and economic capabilities join the effort."

The EU wrote that all "global investment flows", public and private together, must reach at least \$1 trillion per year by 2035, without specifying the share that would come from rich countries -- a formulation close to that of the United States.

"We now only have 73 days before COP29 begins and Parties need to accelerate their engagement on this top negotiating priority to reach consensus," COP29 President-Designate Mukhtar Babayev said.



People protest calling for an end to the Israeli offensive in Gaza during a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinians in Dublin, Ireland, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Deadly strikes hit Russian, Ukrainian border cities

Media investigation identifies 66,000 Russian soldiers killed in Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Aerial strikes on Russian and Ukrainian border cities killed at least a dozen people on Friday, bombardments that came as Kyiv dismissed its air force commander in a major military shake-up.

Both sides also claimed to have advanced on the battlefield -- Moscow in eastern Ukraine and Kyiv in its shock offensive into Russia's western Kursk region -- with the fighting showing no sign of subsiding, two and a half years into Russia's invasion.

A Russian aerial strike on the northeastern city of Kharkiv on Friday afternoon killed seven people, including a 14-year-old girl, Ukraine's interior minister said.

At least 77 were wounded, including 18 children, the emergency services said.

Another Russian strike yesterday killed two people and injured 10 more including children in a village in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, the governor said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky called on Kyiv's Western backers to up their support after the attack, which officials said was with a glide bomb.

"We need strong decisions from our partners to stop this terror," Zelensky said in a post on social media.

"We need long-range capabilities," he added, referring to Kyiv's appeals to allies to lift restrictions on the use of Western-supplied missiles inside Russian territory and deliver more longer-range weapons.

"We need the implementation of air defence agreements for Ukraine. This is about saving lives," he added.

Across the border some 60 kilometres (37 miles) to the north, Russia said

Ukraine had fired cluster munitions on the city of Belgorod and its suburbs, killing at least five and wounding 37 civilians, including at least six children.

"One woman and four men died of their wounds on the spot before an ambulance arrived," regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said in a post on Telegram.

Meanwhile, independent Russian media outlet Mediazona yesterday said according to its estimates more than 66,000 Russian military personnel have died during the war in Ukraine.

Mediazona has been drawing up a list of known soldier deaths in conjunction with the BBC Russian Service using open-source data.

Previously in April, they announced they had found more than 50,000 names of Russians killed.

Vacuum looms

FROM PAGE 1

students entered my office and started chanting slogans denouncing me. They brought a resignation letter and asked me to sign it," Malek said.

He then signed the paper while the intruders hurled abuse at him.

"I did not get a chance to defend myself. In my 32 years as a teacher, I never faced such humiliation. I never imagined my students would behave this way," he said as his voice cracked.

Video footage of him signing the resignation letter went viral on social media. Many commented that teachers should not be humiliated like that.

Several other videos of teachers being forced to resign made the rounds on social media.

At least 150 teachers across the country were forced to resign after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5, according to a count by The Daily Star. Many were also humiliated and harassed.

The actual number could be much higher as this newspaper could not reach all the places.

"These are acts of anarchy," Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan of Dhaka University told this newspaper.

"Over the last 16 years, there was rampant politicisation of educational institutions. But the way teachers are being humiliated and forced to resign is unacceptable and condemnable," he added.

Some groups seeking opportunities are taking advantage of the interim government's lack of action and destabilising educational institutions, he added.

FORCED RESIGNATION

Around 11:30am on August 19, over 50 students gathered in front of the arts faculty at Dhaka University and demanded the ouster of its dean Prof Abdul Bachir.

The protesters accused him of being a lackey of the Hasina government. They also blasted him for issuing show-cause notices to students who participated in a Quran recitation event on the campus.

An hour later, Prof Bachir signed his resignation letter.

Prof Nisar Hossain, dean of the fine arts faculty at the university, was also forced to resign the same day.

On August 18, around 50 students of Azimpur Government Girls' School and College forced principal Geetanjali Barua, assistant head teacher Gautam Chandra Paul, and physical education teacher Shahnaza Akhter to resign.

Geetanjali said, "Before August 18, they never sought my resignation. That morning, they stormed my office and humiliated me."

At Holy Family Red Crescent Nursing College, principal Shahanara Khatun and assistant professor Sonali Rani Das were compelled to resign on August 19 by 30-40 students.

At Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, acting principal Keka Roy and assistant professor Farhana Khanam were also forced to resign.

"I was confined to a room for four hours and forced to sign the resignation letter. Madam Keka Roy was also forced to resign. She wanted to stay as a regular teacher, but they did not let her," Prof Farhana told reporters.

At Jahangirnagar University, pro vice-chancellor (administration) Prof Sheikh Md Monzurul Huq and treasurer Prof Rasheda Akhter were forced to resign by protesters on August 18.

A group of students locked their rooms and let them go after they resigned.

Teachers were also made to resign at Gulshan Model High School and College, Siddheswari Girls High School, Mirpur Naznin School and College, Keraniganj Kalatia High School, Lalbag Saleha High School and Anwara Begum Muslim Girls High School had to resign.

GOVT SHOULD ACT

Prof Tanzimuddin said, "The government should take an immediate step to stop this."

Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud earlier said, "Complaints against individuals will be noted, but forcing one to resign is not an option."

He emphasised the need for maintaining proper relationships between teachers and students.

The Secondary and Higher Education Division recently issued an order, asking the deputy commissioners to see that a conducive environment is maintained at educational institutions.

Over 15 teachers in Savar, Ashulia, and Dhamrai; nine in Gazipur; 30 in Khulna; 24 in Sylhet and Sunamganj; 12 teachers in Jashore; four in Rajshahi; three in Moulvibazar; three in Cox's Bazar; two each in Chattogram, Barishal, Bogura, Chandpur, and Tangail; and one each in Manikganj, Dinaipur, Thakurgaon, and Narsingdi, were forced to resign.

Additionally, several hundred teachers have voluntarily stepped down as per student demands. Protests are still continuing at various institutions.

Over 20 teachers were barred from entering their institutions and were threatened. Some filed complaints with police stations.

Police file

FROM PAGE 2

Over 3,000 people, including leaders and activists of the BNP and Jamaat, who were arrested in the 228 cases, were relieved of the charges of committing violence and cybercrimes, an inspector at the DMP's prosecution division told The Daily Star yesterday.

"A total of 290 cases were filed at different police stations under DMP between July 17 and August 5 centring violence. Of them, 62 were filed over murder charges," the inspector said, requesting anonymity.

Except for the murder cases, police have already submitted probe reports to the courts in the rest of the 228 cases, clearing the accused of the charges, he added.

Police sources said almost all the cases were filed by police as per the directives of the previous Awami League government that fell on August 5 following a mass uprising.

A high official at the PHQ said most of these cases were filed accusing innocent people, including students, although violence was carried out by the leaders and activists of the AL and its associate bodies.

But then police high-ups, who performed duties unprofessionally, directed the field-level officials to file cases against those who were not involved, the official said.

"In some cases, the names of the some real suspects were not included in the FIRs of murder cases. We are now investigating those cases and naming those suspects in the FIRs."

For instance, Sub-Inspector Nowsad Ali of Badda Police Station on July 28 filed a case accusing 8,000 to 10,000 people of killing private job holder Towfiqul Islam Bhuiyan. Towfiqul, 34, died from bullet wounds at a hospital on July 21.


The victim's wife, Ismat Jahan Elora, last night said police did not communicate with them before filing the case.

Ismat on August 22 filed a supplementary FIR against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 112 other named accused, including several former AL ministers.

Another supplementary FIR was recorded with New Market Police Station in the murder case of shop employee Shahjahan Ali, 24.

According to the primary complaint, the case was filed against some leaders and activists of the BNP and Jamaat. But the supplementary FIR, submitted to a Dhaka court on August 18, shows that unidentified criminals were accused in the case.

Former AL law minister Anisul Haque, Hasina's former private investment adviser Salman F Rahman, and ex-director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Cell Maj Gen (sacked) Ziaul Ahsan were shown arrested in the case.



Bangladesh Tourism Board
(National Tourism Organisation)
Parjatan Bhaban (Level-9 & 10), West Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Invitation for Tender Notice

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
2. Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB)
3. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
4. Invitation for	Store Rakes & Different types of maintenance work for Bangladesh Tourism Board
5. Invitation Ref No	30.33.0000.111.69.001.24 - 437
KEY INFORMATION	
6. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
7. Budget & Source of Funds	GOB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
8. Tender Publication Date	September 01, 2024
9. Place, Last Date and Time of Selling Tender Documents	Research & Planning Section, Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9 (Parjatan Bhaban), E-5 C/1, West Agargaon Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Dhaka - 1207 September 15, 2024; Time: 5:00 pm.
10. Last Date and Time of Submission of Tender Documents	Date: September 16, 2024; Time: 1:00 pm.
11. Tender Opening Date and Time	September 16, 2024; Time: 2:30 pm.
12. Place of Submission	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9, Parjatan Bhaban, West Agargaon, Sher e Banglanagar (Administrative Area), Dhaka-1207
13. Place of Opening	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9, Parjatan Bhaban, West Agargaon, Sher e Banglanagar (Administrative Area), Dhaka-1207
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
14. Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	a) 5 (Five) Years' Experience as Supplier. b) Credit Line/Liquid asset of Minimum BDT 20 (Twenty) Lac c) At least 3 (Three) similar contracts as Supplier. d) Updated Trade License as Supplier/Producer/Importer (2024-2025) e) VAT Registration Certificate. f) Updated Income Tax Certificate (till 2023-24 tax years). g) Audited Financial Report of last 3 (three) years. (2023, 2022, 2021) h) Other Conditions as specified in TOR and PPR-2008.
15. Brief Description of Supply	Store Rakes & Different types of maintenance work.
16. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 1000/- (One thousand) Non-Refundable
17. Tender Security	Tk. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand) Taka in the form of Pay Order in favour of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bangladesh Tourism Board.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
18. Name & Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Mazharul Islam, Deputy Director (Research & Planning) Bangladesh Tourism Board Level-9, Parjatan Bhaban, West Agargaon, Sher e Banglanagar (Administrative Area), Dhaka-1207
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without assigning any reason.	

Sd/-
(Md. Mazharul Islam)
Deputy Director (Research & Planning)
Bangladesh Tourism Board

GD- 301