DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2026



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Bangladesh in debt for others' climate crimes

$2.34b received in loans between 2002-23 | Only $203m came as grants during the period | Bangladesh emits just 0.24% globally | $90.23b in international support needed by 2040

PINAKI ROY

A decade after the Paris Agreement pledged to support climate-vulnerable nations, Bangladesh is finding itself increasingly burdened by debt as it finances its clean-energy transition largely through loans rather than grants.

More than 90 percent of the climate finance Bangladesh received for its energy sector between 2002 and 2023 came as loans, according to a study released last week by the Dhaka-based think tank Change Initiative (CI).

Researchers say the trend is forcing one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries to borrow heavily to address a crisis it did little to create.

The study found that Bangladesh received about $2.54 billion in identified energy-sector climate finance over the period. Of that amount, 92 percent, or roughly $2.34 billion, came as loans, while grants accounted for only 8 percent, or around $203 million.

"The most climate-vulnerable countries are being forced to borrow their way through a crisis they did not cause. This is not support; it is a second injury written into a contract," said M Zakir Hossain Khan, chief executive of Change Initiative.

According to a World Bank report published on July 22 this year, renewable energy supplies only 1.5 percent of electricity fed into Bangladesh's national grid.

Yet the country's Renewable Energy Policy 2025 aims to raise the share of renewables to 20 percent by 2030 and 30 percent by 2040. Under the third mitigation component of Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UN, the country will require $116.18 billion to implement its plans, of which $90.23 billion is contingent on international support.

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Chief executive of Change Initiative

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050) identifies 113 major interventions across 11 climate-stressed regions and estimates that more than $230 billion will be required to implement them, with nearly three-quarters of that amount needed by 2040.

The interventions include integrated management of coastal polders and the construction of sea dikes and cyclone shelters to protect vulnerable communities from sea-level rise, storm surges and extreme weather.

"Bangladesh is financing its clean-energy transition largely through debt rather than grants and risk-sharing investment," Zakir said.

He argued that the energy sector has become a focal point of that debt burden.

"For every dollar in grants received for the energy sector, Bangladesh has received about nine dollars in loans while remaining dependent on imported

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



This solar-powered irrigation pump under the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority is now inoperative, as the canal has dried up even before the onset of the dry season. Irrigation water is sold to the farmers but poor flow from the Padma is leaving hundreds of acres of Aman fields dry. The photo was taken recently in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila.
PHOTO: **AZAHAR UDDIN**

Hasina 'seeks' passport, Dhaka her extradition

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina has reportedly applied for a new Bangladeshi passport and National Identity Card, with a UK-based legal advisory firm, Matrix Chambers, emailing the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi to request their issuance on her behalf.

Dhaka, however, has ruled out the possibility of issuing her the documents, insisting that she must return to Bangladesh through the existing extradition procedures between the two countries.



Hasina's passport and NID were revoked during the tenure of the interim government.

Matrix Chambers sent the email on November 9, seeking new travel and identity documents for Hasina.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Bangladesh mission's press minister, Md Saidur Rahman, said they had received an email from an organisation called Matrix Chambers requesting Hasina's passport and NID. The firm claimed to be Hasina's legal counsel.

"We are not sure whether the request is genuine. There is no way for us to establish that the request was made on behalf of Sheikh Hasina, as the email sent by the law firm did not include any document or proof of her authorisation. Still, we have forwarded the email to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a foreign ministry official said passports and NIDs were highly personal documents and that a legal representative could process such applications only with proper authorisation from the individual concerned.

"As legal practitioners, they should know the process better than others. For example, if more than 10 law firms sent similar emails seeking Hasina's passport and NID, whom should the Bangladesh authorities respond to? The email from Matrix Chambers therefore raises

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

RMG workers pitch Tk 32,000 wage floor

Board gives owners 4 days to submit a counterproposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' representatives yesterday proposed raising the minimum monthly wage in the garment sector from Tk 12,500 to Tk 32,000, citing rising living costs.

Factory owners, however, did not submit their counter-proposal at the Minimum Wages Board's second meeting in the capital. The board gave them four working days to do so, warning that it would proceed without their proposal if they missed the deadline.

The negotiations come amid protests by garment workers demanding a minimum wage of Tk 30,000. The demonstrations, continuing for more than a week, have forced the closure of hundreds of factories, affecting production and raising concerns over exports.

Presenting the proposal at the board's Segunbagicha office, workers' representative Babul Akhter said a family of four

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Hawkers have once again occupied the streets in the capital's Gulistan area. Dhaka South City Corporation conducted an eviction drive in the area around two weeks ago. However, it is a common occurrence for hawkers to return following such evictions. The photo was taken yesterday.
PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

'Both my sons are gone. Who will I live for now?'

In three days, man loses two children to dengue, measles-like symptoms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Chattogram

Mohammad Kabir ran from one hospital to another, desperately trying to save his two sons. But despite his frantic efforts, he lost both within three days.

His elder son, Nur Mohammad Arafat, 9, died on Friday after battling measles, dengue and pneumonia. Three days later, his 10-month-old son, Mohammad Abu Bakkar, died early yesterday after suffering from dengue and measles-like symptoms.

Both children died while undergoing treatment in the



intensive care unit of Chattogram Ma-O-Shishu General Hospital.

For Kabir and his wife Amena Begum, the deaths have shattered every hope they had for their children.

"Both my sons are gone. Who will I live for now? My home has become empty," Kabir said, breaking down in tears while speaking to this correspondent over the phone.

The ordeal began around 18-20 days ago when Arafat developed fever, vomiting and cough.

He spent four days at Southern Hospital before his worsening condition prompted his transfer to Marine City Hospital, where he remained in the ICU for two days.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6