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"It is now plain... if we depend on energy we do not control, then we leave ourselves exposed to prices we cannot control."

UK PM **BURNHAM** tells COP31 delegates



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B4 FARMERS PAY THE PRICE AS GOOD WEATHER BRINGS MORE VEGETABLES

P6 HOW CAN WE MAKE HEALTHCARE DECENTRALISATION WORK?

P7 CTG'S EXPANSION INTO FLOOD-PRONE AREAS IS A DANGEROUS GAMBLE

P10 ADDRESSING THE REAL REFORM IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Grants, not more loans that weigh us down

At COP31, PM calls for debt relief, greater adaptation funding and fair access to green technology



PM'S FIVE PROPOSALS

- Allocate at least 50% of climate finance to adaptation
- Provide debt relief through climate-resilient debt clauses and debt-for-climate swaps
- Ensure fair access to green technologies and technology transfer
- Accelerate renewable energy transition through affordable financing and skills development
- Adopt Belem-Antalya Action Mechanism for a fair energy transition, financing and trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday called for grant-based climate financing instead of additional loans for countries most vulnerable to climate change, warning that rising debt burdens are making it increasingly difficult for them to cope with climate-related losses and damage.

"Climate-related losses and damages are placing a heavy burden on our economy. At the same time, rising debt repayments and limited financial resources are making the situation even more difficult. Climate-vulnerable countries need grants, not more loans that add to their debt burden," he said while addressing the High-Level Segment of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

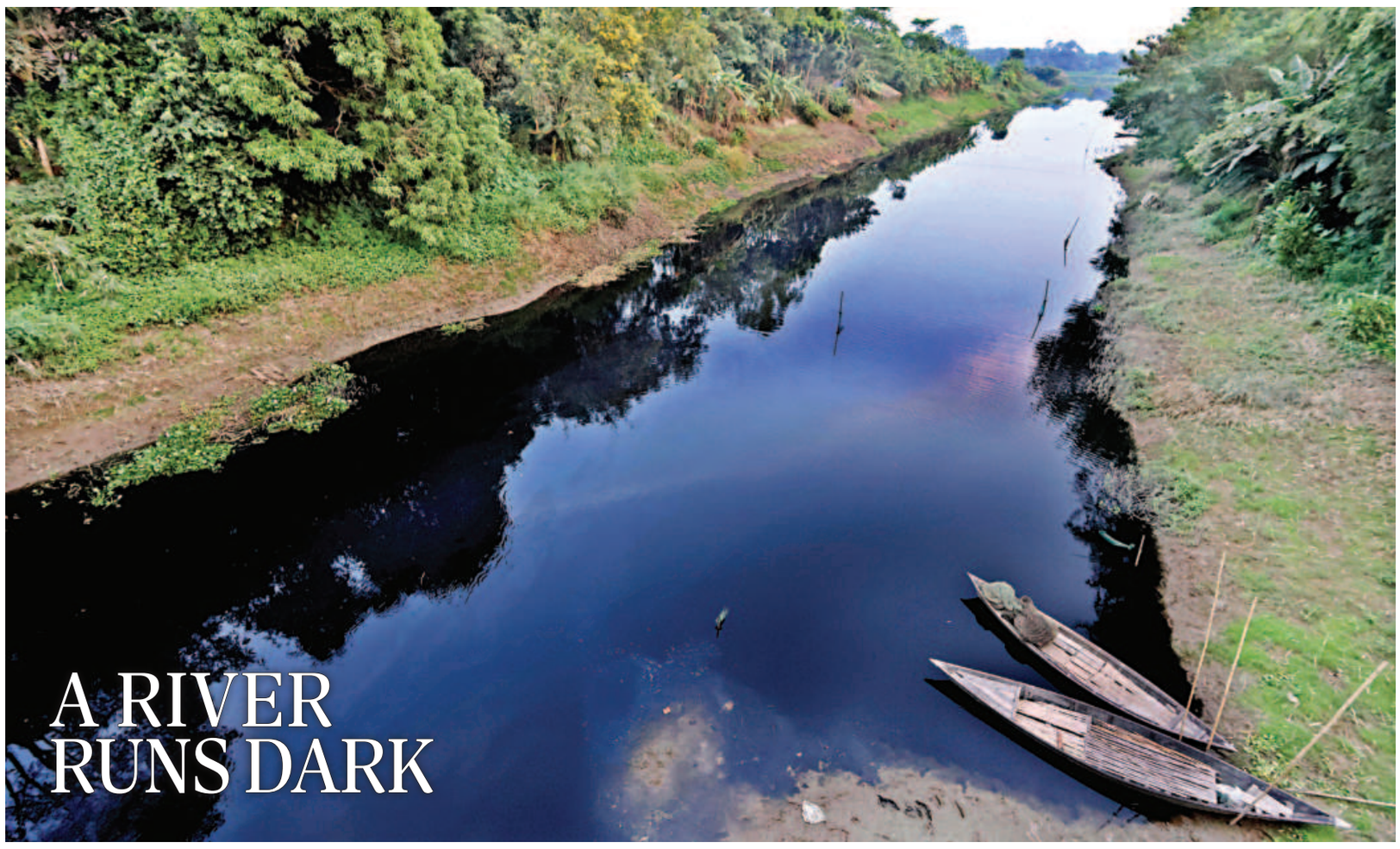
Stressing that the global climate finance system remains inadequate and does not sufficiently meet the needs and priorities of developing countries, the PM outlined five urgent actions at the conference.

Under the first proposal, he called for allocating at least 50 percent of international climate finance to adaptation efforts, based on individual countries' priorities, while continuing to support measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The second proposal focused on urgent debt relief for climate-vulnerable countries through mechanisms such as "climate-resilient debt clauses" and "debt-for-climate swaps", which provide debt relief in exchange for climate protection efforts.

In his third proposal, the prime minister called for ensuring equitable

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A RIVER RUNS DARK

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

The Gazikhali river that runs through Manikganj has turned pitch black as untreated industrial waste from factories, mainly in Saturia upazila, flows into the waterway. A prolonged dry spell and lack of rain have left the river with barely any flow, turning much of it into a sluggish channel of toxic water and intensifying the foul stench that hangs over the area. Once used by nearby residents for household chores and irrigation, the river is now largely avoided, with many fearing health risks from contact with the contaminated water. The photo was taken Tuesday in the Islamnagar area of Singair upazila.

RMG owners to shut units if the unrest continues

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

As the labour unrest for a wage hike is entering its third week in major garment industrial belts, factory owners have threatened to shut their units indefinitely under the Labour Act if the situation does not improve.

At an emergency meeting at its Uttara office on Wednesday evening, leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) discussed ways to break the deadlock. Factory owners from Ashulia, Savar, and Gazipur and several former presidents of the trade body were also present.

Most participants favoured invoking section 13(1) of the Labour Act, which allows employers to stop work and withhold wages under the principle of "no work, no pay", BGMEA

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Fire at NCP MP's home sparks uproar in JS

Home minister says possible short circuit; Nahid alleges arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commotion erupted in parliament yesterday as the home minister and the opposition chief whip were locked in a heated debate over whether MP Nusrat Tabassum's village home had caught fire or been torched.

The fire incident took place at the ancestral home of Tabassum, joint convener of National Citizen Party and lawmaker from the reserved seat for women, in Kushtia's Daulatpur.

Five rooms of a tin-roofed house were gutted in the incident around 12:20am yesterday, said Khaledur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station.

The house was used to keep cattle, goats, ducks, and chickens. A caretaker also stayed there, the OC said.

Tabassum's parents and other family members live in a three-storey building nearby.

In the afternoon, Tabassum alleged, the fire was a "premeditated act of arson".



The fire incident took place at the ancestral home of lawmaker Nusrat Tabassum, also joint convener of NCP, in Kushtia's Daulatpur.

Around three hours before the incident, a threatening post was made from the Facebook account of Kushtia district Chhatra League president, who is hiding, she told a press briefing in her

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Govt approves Chinese FSRU project despite higher cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved a proposal to establish a third floating LNG terminal at Kutubjom in Maheshkhali, Cox's Bazar, through a government-to-government arrangement with a Chinese state-owned company, despite its proposed regasification charges being significantly high.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved the proposal from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division at a meeting yesterday.

Under the proposed arrangement, China National Energy Engineering & Construction (CNEE) will establish the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at an estimated cost of Tk 12,324 crore for 15 years or Tk 13,161 crore for 20 years.

The proposed terminal will have a base regasification capacity of 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd), with a peak capacity of 750 mmcfd.

The approval comes despite concerns

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



STRANDED BETWEEN BORDERS

A woman believed to be in her 30s sits under the open sky in no-man's-land along the Bangladesh-India border in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila yesterday. She has been stranded there for three consecutive days since India's BSF attempted to push her into Bangladesh through the Patharer Char border on Tuesday, according to the BGB. With no shelter or proper food, the woman has been surviving on water and bread provided by nearby residents.

PHOTO: **COLLECTED**

NEWS IN FOCUS

Dhaka-Delhi consular talks postponed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The fifth consular dialogue between Bangladesh and India, which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka in the third week of this month, has been postponed, according to officials in Dhaka and New Delhi.

Officials from both countries said Bangladesh had proposed holding the dialogue in late October, while India wanted to schedule it for November because of Durga Puja.

A foreign ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said India had proposed November 17-18 for the meeting, and Dhaka had agreed to the proposal.

"Dhaka had already made preparations for the meeting, including holding an inter-ministerial meeting to discuss issues to be raised at the dialogue," the official said.

Officials, however, would not

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Surviving only on rice and lentils

Rohingya food aid drops to as low as $7 a month



PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN *and* **MOKAMMEL SHUVO,** *from Cox's Bazar*

For Anowara Begum, feeding her three children is a daily struggle. Her husband cannot work due to kidney disease, forcing her to borrow food or money from neighbours, repaying them when possible.

The family of five now receives $7 per person monthly under the World

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1