



COP31 turns to negotiations

World leaders wrap up two days of speeches, lay out competing priorities

AGENCIES

World leaders have set out competing positions and made clashing demands in two days of intense speech-making at the COP31 climate change talks in Turkey, leaving negotiators with a tough task to draft a meaningful deal that all can agree.

Small island states, among the most vulnerable in the world as global warming makes sea levels rise, pleaded for urgent cuts to greenhouse gas emissions.

They aim to create a fund backed by a charge on money that islanders receive from abroad to eventually raise around $3 billion a year for projects to make their nations less vulnerable to climate change.

"We decided that there had to be a way that we can guarantee more reliable sources of funding for the islands," Antigua and Barbuda's UN ambassador Walton Webson said. "We cannot rely solely on development assistance again."

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said on the sidelines of the UN conference: "The situation could not be less under control. The planet is not dying. It is being killed. It is being killed by the very same people often thought to come to our rescue. No one is coming to our rescue."

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A Trojan Horse installation by Greenpeace International and Danish artist Thomas Dambo, aimed at drawing attention to the fossil fuel industry's expansion into plastics, stands in the city centre during the UN climate conference COP31 in Antalya, Turkey, yesterday.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Give wage board time, return to work

RMG union leaders urge workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With labour unrest brewing again in major industrial zones, union leaders in the textile and garment sector yesterday urged agitating workers to return to their workstations while the minimum wage board works to fix their monthly pay scale.

At a joint press conference, leaders of five alliances of different federations of unions urged the garment workers to shun street agitations.

IndustriAll Bangladesh Council President Mir Abul Kalam Azad also urged factory owners to resume production and not shut their units under Section 13(1) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, which stipulates 'no work, no pay'.

"Shutting the factories is no solution; rather, this will increase uncertainty and unrest among workers," he said, calling on workers to be

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UP poll ambition suspected in BNP leader's murder

Police also probing business disputes; no case filed or arrests made yet

DIPANKAR ROY, *Khulna*

A day after BNP leader and sand trader Jakir Hossain was shot dead in Khulna's Rupsha upazila, police had neither recorded a case nor made any arrests as of yesterday.

Investigators are giving priority to the possibility that his plan to contest the upcoming union parishad election as a chairman candidate led to the killing. They are also looking into possible business disputes.

Jakir, 43, was shot in a shop in Swalpabahirdia village around 10:30pm on Thursday.



Jakir Hossain

A resident of Khajadanga village under TSB Union, he was also a member of the union BNP's search committee, formed as part of the party's organisational restructuring.

Khulna Superintendent of Police Sarker Omar Faroque said investigators were examining whether Jakir had any disputes related to his business.

"He also wanted to contest the upcoming union parishad election. That could also be a reason behind the killing," he said.

Police were working to establish the motive and identify those responsible, he added.

Jakir's brother, Abu Sayeed Sheikh, also suspected electoral rivalry behind the killing.

"We suspect that someone who considered him a political rival might have been involved in the killing," he told The Daily Star.

His wife, Nasrin Begum, said Jakir, who left behind three children, had disputes with several people.

"Just a day before the killing, he had an altercation with a local individual who is a member of a search committee over the purchase of bricks for a school," she said.

A local resident, requesting anonymity, alleged that Jakir had played a role in the arrest of several Awami League leaders and activists by the administration, which might have created hostility towards him.

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Microsoft battles major outage

Rules out 'malicious' activity; Outlook, Teams, Copilot hit worldwide

REUTERS

Microsoft's Outlook, Teams and Copilot were still down yesterday as one of the company's worst outages stretched beyond 12 hours, disrupting communications for businesses and governments worldwide.

Microsoft blamed server problems for the outage and said it was not aware of any malicious activity. It said in its latest update yesterday that it was seeing signs of stabilization after implementing fixes more broadly to attain a persistent recovery of services.

The disruption hit government agencies in Australia, Japan, and the United States, and caused disruptions at trading firms, delays to companies publishing their results and airlines warning customers of delayed communication.



In Europe, stock exchange operator Euronext said its listing teams were experiencing email communication issues, while Britain's insurer Aviva said it was putting backup plans in place for its earnings calls. Danish shipping company Maersk warned customers of delays to emails and updates.

US AI companies OpenAI and Anthropic said they had faced issues with Microsoft connectors, while Indian airlines IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India said their email

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No respite from dengue as winter approaches

At least **64** deaths, **23,880** hospitalisations in Nov so far



HELEMUL ALAM

At least 64 people died of dengue and 23,880 others were hospitalised in the first 13 days of November, as the outbreak continues to take a heavy toll towards the end of the year.

Experts warn that the situation could remain severe throughout November, with December likely to see more cases than in previous years.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), dengue claimed 174 lives in October, 148 in September, 43 in August, 36 in July and 13 in June.

Hospitalisations stood at around 53,000 in October, 43,774 in September, 20,536 in August, 9,206 in July and 2,907 in June.

Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University's Department of Zoology said the outbreak might not subside as quickly as previously expected, particularly due to recent rainfall, including rain two days ago.

Based on current trends, the decline in dengue cases during November could be smaller than initially anticipated, he said.

Bashar, an entomologist, stressed the need to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds, warning that rainfall could create new breeding sites wherever water accumulates.

He recommended applying larvicide where stagnant water could not be removed and regularly monitoring potential breeding sites to control the Aedes mosquito population.

Outbreak may remain severe throughout Nov • Dec cases could exceed previous years • Recent rainfall creating fresh mosquito breeding grounds • Experts urge stronger mosquito control, early hospitalisation

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On a Friday afternoon, when Motijheel's usually busy streets take a break from the weekday rush, a group of young men turn a stretch of road into their own cricket ground. With wickets, bats and boundless enthusiasm, they enjoy a game in the heart of Dhaka's commercial hub.

PHOTO: **MEHEDI HASAN**

NEWS IN FOCUS

Veggie prices rise after weeks of relief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the onset of winter, prices of several vegetables, including country beans, bottle gourd, pointed gourd, potatoes and tomatoes, have risen in Dhaka's kitchen markets.

Meanwhile, prices of broiler and Sonali chicken and green chillies fell over the past week, while fish, meat, eggs and other essentials remained unchanged.

Visits to kitchen markets in Shewrapara, Kazipara, Ibrahimpur and Karwan Bazar yesterday revealed the mixed trend.

Mustafa Kamal, a retailer at Shewrapara kitchen market who sources produce from the Mirpur-1 wholesale hub, said prices of several vegetables had risen over the past couple of days after remaining low for weeks.

Country beans rose from Tk 50-60 to Tk 60-70 per kg, pointed gourd from Tk 30-40 to Tk 50, pumpkin from Tk 30-35 to Tk 40, and bottle gourd from Tk 30-40 to Tk 60 apiece.

Prices of green tomatoes, new potatoes and papaya also increased, he said.

Jamal Hossain, a wholesaler at Karwan Bazar, attributed the increases to a slight drop in supply. He also said the US dollar had strengthened against the taka last week, raising the prices of imported vegetables.



New potatoes were selling at Tk 100-120 per kg, up from Tk 90-100 last week, while ripe tomatoes rose from Tk 110-130 to Tk 120-140.

Old potatoes remained at Tk 20-30, onions at Tk 40-50 and brinjal at Tk 40-60 per kg.

Green chillies, however, fell to Tk 50-60 per kg at Karwan Bazar and Tk 80-

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