

COP15 - AGREEMENT

Anup Khastagir from Copenhagen

COP15 formally takes 'note' for 'Copenhagen Accord'

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 19 (BSS)- Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in its closing session this morning formally has taken a 'note' of an agreement dubbed as 'Copenhagen Accord'.

UNFCCC will facilitate to give the agreement into an accord before the next COP meeting in November 2010 in Maxico.

"The conference of the parties takes note of the Copenhagen Accord," an announcement of the UNFCCC said here this morning, but it is not clear how many countries will sign on to the Copenhagen Accord taken by United States, China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh will sign the agreement. Many interventions proposed by Bangladesh were included in the agreement, he said.

President of COP15 and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, UN Secretary General ban-Ki-moon and USA President Barrack Obama facilitated in preparing the three-page draft of the agreement by group of ministers of nations known as "the circle of commitment".

The group included Colombia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, UK, Maldives, Grenada, Lesotho, Algeria, Bangladesh, India, China, South Africa, Mexico and South Korea.

Reuters said the accord has removed the deadline for reaching a legally binding treaty by the end-2010. But included the limit of a maximum two degree Celsius global average temperature rise.

Danish daily Berlingske said COP15 President, Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen expressed satisfaction over the accord.

"I am satisfied. We have achieved a result. Now nations will need to sign on, and if they do so, they will support what has been agreed (in the Copenhagen Accord). This will have effect immediately," he said.

UN Secretary General ban Ki-moon said "Finally we sealed a deal". "But the accord may not be everything everyone had hoped for, but this decision...is an important beginning," he said.

The accord does not specify greenhouse gas cuts needed to achieve the 2 Celsius goal that is seen as a threshold for dangerous changes such as more floods, droughts, mudslides, sandstorms and rising seas.

It also has no reflection about the prospect of \$100 billion annual aid from 2020 for developing nations to adress climate change. COP15 President Lars Lokke Rasmussen said the two issue will be resolved no later than 2016 when the present emission reduction commitment period of the parties will end..

BSS/AKH

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BSS-

COP15-MVC

Copenhagen agreement recognizes concerns of MVCs

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, Dec 19 (BSS)- The proposed Copenhagen Accord has recognized the impacts of climate change on Least Developed Countries as well as Most Vulnerable Countries and their needs for an comprehensive adaptation programme with international support.

The accord has incorporated many issues to address the concerns of developing nations and most vulnerable states to climate change despite many more remained unachieved.

"The draft of the Copenhagen Accord has focused many of our proposals we placed in the plenary," State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud said today.

"But many things remained pending to achieve," he said Bangladesh would continue its efforts to include the issues of climate displaced persons in the UN framework.

The agreement said various approaches would be taken to pursue the countries to tap the opportunities of carbon market, enhance the cost-effectiveness, and to promote mitigation actions.

Funding for adaptation will be prioritized for the most vulnerable developing countries (MVCs), such as the least developed countries, small island developing states and countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification and floods, which was a great achievement for MVCs as seen by Dr Hasan.

Developing countries, especially those with low emitting economies should be provided incentives to continue to develop on a low emission pathway.

Its said new and additional, predictable and adequate funding as well as improved access shall be provided to developing countries to enable and support enhanced action on mitigation, adaptation, teleology development and transfer and capacity-building.

The collective commitment by developed countries is to provide new and additional resources amounting to 30 billion dollars for the period 2010 - 2012 would have a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation..

To achieve the ultimate objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere the agreement recognized the scientific view for keeping the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development.

It agreed that developed countries shall provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity-building to support the implementation of adaptation action in developing countries.

About the emission reduction the agreement said developed nations individually or jointly reduce their emission by at least 80 per cent by 2050.

But, the agreement has no commitment for reducing greenhouse gas emission by 2020 compared to 1990 or 2005 level, only saying that the Annex I Parties that are Party to the Kyoto Protocol will further strengthen their emissions reductions initiated by the Kyoto Protocol.

Parties also agreed for making emission reduction and financing by developed countries measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) and adopt a guideline in this purpose, which China was opposing to

accept.

BSS/AKH/1515

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World leaders in last-minute climate talks

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 18 (BSS)- Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren today blamed Chinese for "blocking again and again," and on the U.S. for coming too late with an improved offer for climate aid delaying climate negotiations.

The decision caused impasse on the negotiation", he said adding the 27-nation European Union (EU) would continue to press to make last-minute decisions on the thrust of the climate declaration.

President Barack Obama today held close-door talks with 19 other world leaders as his last-minute efforts to work out an climate agreement after release of the text draft.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, after an unscheduled meeting with Obama here said progress in the climate talks was being held back by China.

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said the US president met two key participants in the climate talks- China and Russia- as well as the heads of state from wealthy nations like Australia, the United Kingdom, France and Germany and developing countries like Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Colombia.

"Most of the leaders are still working out to produce a meaningful agreement to be adopted," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kazuo Kodama said.

Broad disputes continued behind closed doors between wealthy nations and developing ones, delegates said – the divide that from the start has dogged the two-week UN climate conference.

World leaders handed off the draft text of about three pages at about 3 a.m.. local time to their ministers and they continued to work on it through the night.

But by 5 a.m., negotiators from Mexico and the G-77 plus China said they were nowhere near agreement on the final document.

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COP15-Agreement-Draft

Core group prepares draft of the Copenhagen climate deal

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 18 (BSS)- Group of ministers of nations known as "the circle of commitment" has worked out a draft agreement last night was handed to 28 world leaders today.

The draft said the countries "ought" to limit global warming to 2C, but does not bind them to do so.

It did not give specific targets for emissions cuts or a peak year for global emissions but says only that "deep cuts" are required.

The countries invited to work on the draft include Colombia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, UK, Maldives, Grenada, Lesotho, Algeria, Bangladesh, India, China, South Africa, Mexico and South Korea.

Negotiators are expected to work until moments before the official signing ceremony at 3pm or later today, to try to produce a document that could be presented as the "operational" or "politically binding" agreement leaders had promised to produce.

Leaders of industrialized countries, particularly USA dominated in preparing the draft which proposed extending negotiations for another year until the next scheduled UN meeting on climate change in Mexico City in December 2010.

Developing country leaders in their initial reaction on proposed text draft of the climate deal is so weak in terms of figures for financial support and emission targets, but it could lead to the collapse of the Kyoto treaty, the only global legal instrument requiring rich countries to cut emissions..

Talking to reporters in the media room Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni declined to make any comment on the text draft saying the negotiation is going on and all parties is trying to reach an agreement.

Rashed Ahmed Titumir of Action Aid said if the proposed draft is accepted it would help reducing only 6.3 giga-tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) emission by 2050 while it requires about 46 giga tonnes to keep the CO2 concentration under 450 ppm in the atmosphere.

"More than 100 countries have committed themselves to seeking emissions cuts that would hold temperatures to 1.5C, but the suggested text would lead to a 3C rise", he said.

The draft stipulated that developed nations "shall provide adequate, predictable, and sustainable financial resources, technology and capacity building" to help developing countries adapt to climate change.

It proposed that the money raised to help poor countries would be operated 'under the guidance' not 'under the authority' of the UN, suggesting that it would allow the World Bank to control the funds, which the developing nations were intensely opposing.

It also allowed the US to continue to use 2005 as its baseline for calculating emissions rather than 1990 levels as other rich countries.

The draft included the previously agreed proposal for industrialised countries to raise \$10bn a year for three years to help poor countries adapt to climate change, between 2010 and 2012 and reaffirmed the proposal to raise \$100bn a year by 2020 for developing countries as proposed by Hillary Clinton yesterday.

Greenpeace said the proposed agreement, a so-called politically binding agreement, is just a fancy way and would not help save the planet.

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OBAMA-CLIMATE-SPEECH

Obama pledges fast-start funding for climate victims

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, Dec 18 (BSS)-US President Barrack Obama today

said future climate agreement must have financing that helps developing countries adapt, particularly the least-developed and most vulnerable to climate change.

"America will be a part of fast-start funding that will ramp up to \$10 billion in 2012 and engage in a global effort to mobilize \$100 billion in financing by 2020, if - and only if - a broad deal accepted to all is done in Copenhagen", he said.

Mitigation, Transparency, and Financing- it is a clear formula - one that embraces the principle of common but differentiated responses and respective capabilities.

The US president said as the world's largest economy and the world's second largest emitter, his country is ready to bears its share of responsibility in addressing climate change.

However, the US President did not move forward from his earlier stance to announce any ambitious emission reduction commitment for short and medium term.

He said his country would cut carbon emission in the range of 17 percent by 2020, and by more than 80 percent by 2050 in line with final legislation.

He said all major economies must put forward decisive national actions that will reduce their emissions, and begin to turn the corner on climate change.

The US president said I, with world leaders have come together here in Copenhagen because he is convinced about the danger of climate change.

"You would not be here unless you - like me - were convinced that this danger is real. This is not fiction, this is science", he said adding "unchecked climate change will pose unacceptable risks to our security, our economies, and our planet".

He said his country has no question about the challenge of the climate. But the question is our capacity to meet it", he said.

"The reality of climate change is not in doubt, but our ability to take collective action hangs in the balance," he said adding he came in Copenhagen as he believed that everybody can act boldly, and decisively in facing the common threat.

Obama said the US administration has renewed its leadership within international climate negotiations, and worked with other nations to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

"And, that is why we have taken bold action at home - by making historic investments in renewable energy; by putting our people to work increasing efficiency in our homes and buildings; and by pursuing comprehensive legislation to transform to a clean energy economy" President Obama said.

He said the US people convinced that actions against climate change would not only meet their global responsibilities, but also America's green economic will create millions of new jobs, power new industry in future.

"We are convinced that use of clean energy is essential to America's national security, because it will reduce dependence on foreign oil, and help deal with some of the dangers posed by climate change".

"So America is going to continue on this course of action no matter

what happens in Copenhagen. But we will all be stronger and safer and more secure if we act together".

He said the future climate deal will have decisive national climate actions all major economies, a mechanism to review whether we are keeping their commitments, and to exchange this information in a transparent manner.

In an oblique reference to Chinese stance for not making its national emission reduction measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) by international community, he said without accountability, any agreement would be empty words on a page.

"These measures need not be intrusive, or infringe upon sovereignty.. They must, however, ensure that an accord is credible and that we are living up to our obligations", he said

Turning point to climate deal the US President said no country would get everything that it wants. It will not a perfect agreement, he said hoping that the world should not be split apart on issues but move forward together to make life better for children and grandchildren.

BSS/AKH/SCB/1445hrs

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OBAMA - HASINA - BREAKFAST

PM joins breakfast meeting with Obama, world leaders

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 18 (BSS)- US President Barack Obama here today held a breakfast meeting with the leaders 20 countries to discuss climate issues and way of crafting an acceptable agreement for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

COP President Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokks Rasmussen, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Australian Prime Minister Kavin Rudd, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Maldives President Mohammad Nasheed, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President of Vietnam Nguyen Minh Triet joined, among others, in the breakfast at Bella Center.

In the meeting Barack Obama hoped that the developed and developing countries through narrowing gaps would be able to craft a new global climate deal which is urgent to save poor countries and mankind as well.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told reporters after the meeting that Obama acknowledged the urgency of the deal to help the poor and vulnerable countries to help adapt to climate change.

"Without a deal the countries like Bangladesh, which are innocent victim of climate change, what will get from the great conference to go back to their home," the state minister said as Obama was saying.

The US President also insisted that any deal must be included transparency issue; the government is accountable to the taxpayers for their money. Any support to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation action should be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV), Obama said.

Dr Hasan said Bangladesh's Prime Minister said the climate deal must

include the issue displacement of people because of climate events and adequate financial support for developing countries for adaptation.

Sheikh Hasina also called for easy ways for technology transfer to developing countries for mitigation.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao outlined China's actions to reduce emissions and repeated his promise to reduce carbon dioxide intensity. He said China would report its emissions as part of an international plan but is not ready to agree with any outside verification measures.

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COP15-DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh unhappy over progress in COP15

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 17 (BSS)- The Copenhagen Climate Conference (COP15) has entered into final phase with keeping fundamental differences among major countries over- who should reduce emissions, by how much and by when.

With only two days remaining, the parties- the US, the EU and China and India and the developing countries - could not narrow their gaps, giving the COP 15 shape up any fruitful agreement on climate issues.

Two weeks of detailed talks on a range of issues - from emissions commitments and finance for adaptation to preventing deforestation and transferring clean-energy technology - reached an impasse on Wednesday when developing nations objected to the process that produced a draft document of the conference.

"I'm not happy, there is no endgame in sight," said State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud while talking to a number of foreign media here today.

"Failure in COP15 will bring make us more vulnerable, more exposed to climate change", he said Bangladesh is making its efforts to narrow down the gaps between developed and developing countries.

U.N. climate chief Yvo De Boer said the world is in an "all-or-nothing situation" and has urged major countries such as the United States to "act now"..

"We either get a deal at the end of this week on Friday or we get nothing," Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said at a press conference.

Non-governmental organization World Growth said Copenhagen climate conference is shaping up little more than an agreement to continue to negotiate and vast cost of mounting the conference has mostly gone to waste.

Behind the scene, many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are unhappy with the position of China, leader of G-77 group, on its emission reduction strategy and making the use of climate fund transparent. Disputes also remain within the African group.

Environment ministers have taken over the lower-level negotiators and getting down to produce a draft agreement to put before heads of

States and Governments. The Danish host also proposed for a framework to be completed as a treaty next year to replace Kyoto Protocol.

China said they want second commitment period of annex-1 countries (developed nations) and binding commitment under Kyoto Protocol while USA administration has said they will never support Kyoto Protocol, as developing countries, particularly the big emitters, were exempted from the protocol.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in his speech in the inaugural session of the High Segment Meeting of the COP15 said he from the first day of his office has taken the climate issues with great importance.

But, he said the parties are still trying to maximalist still spending time for unreasonable demands and pressure on negotiating partner.

Ban and Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen yesterday hosted a lunch for G-77 and LDCs and breakfast meeting for Heads of States today to discuss the possible way out to resolve the prevailing stalemate in the climate negotiation process.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton put new life into UN climate talks by announcing that her country would join others in raising \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poorer nations cope with global warming. It is the first figure offered by Washington for long-term climate aid.

Hilary said the offer is contingent on the conference's reaching a broader agreement, including on the issue of "transparency," demanding a Chinese commitment to verify its actions to control emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown told reporters today that he is still hopeful that by working together over the next 48 hours, the parties will be able to reach an agreement that will help the planet move forward for generations to come.

Meanwhile UN has allowed only 300 delegates of NGOs restricting entrance of all NGOs inside the Bella Centre, main venue of the Climate Conference (COP15) for next two days, for what they said maintaining a peaceful environment for negotiations.

The measure has been taken also to ensure the necessary level of security when 110 Heads of State and Government will be present, UN sources here today said.

Danish government has arranged a separate venue at Forum Copenhagen for those NGO, civil society members and observers who will not be able to enter Bella Centre on December 17 and 18, last two days of the conference.

The UNFCCC authorities has given TV link to Forum Copenhagen and Kaliform, where civil society members are holding parallel climate meeting named 'Peoples' Climate Summit' so that the participants in those two centers can have access to the proceedings of the Bella Centre.

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BAN-KI-MOON-HASINA MEETING

Ban, Rasmussen discuss with LDC, G-77 leaders on way out of stalled negotiation

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 16 (BSS)- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen today hosted a lunch for leaders of G-77 group and LDCs to discuss the possible way out to resolve the prevailing stalemate in the climate negotiation process over the last two days.

Presidents of Senegal, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Sudan, and representative of Saudi Arabia joined the lunch at Bella Center, State Minister of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh Dr Hasan Mahmud, who was also present in the meeting said.

Ban and Rasmussen discussed on various aspects of future climate deal with the leaders of countries exposed to climate change and wanted to know their opinion to resolve the deadlock.

Mr. Rasmussen and Ban Ki-moon proposed for constituting an ad-hoc working group for examining the demands of the parties so far placed in the conference and preparing a framework on that basis.

UN Secretary General and Danish Prime Minister envisaged that the framework could be given the shape of a legally binding agreement through discussion with parties within a span of three to six months time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged them to give preferential treatment to the needs of least developing countries (LDCs) in the future climate regime.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh clearly told Ban and Rasmussen that "We do not want to go back home from here without any decision".

Sheikh Hasina said interests of least developed countries must get preferential treatment in the future climate agreement and developed countries must agree to contribute to the climate trust fund of the developing countries.

She said about 20 million people of Bangladesh will be displaced by 2050 due to climate induced extreme events. Bangladesh is unable to bear the burn of the horrible natural and social disorders, she said.

BSS/AKH/1745hrs

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PM-COP15-ADDRESS

Unite once to save mother planet, PM urges world leaders

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 16 (BSS)- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the world leaders to unite once to save the mother planet saying our failure will be a nightmare for mankind.

She also urged all nations to rise above their perceived and petty interests and take wise and resolute decision to avoid the nightmare and deliver justice to climate victims across the world.

"We have come to the beautiful city of Copenhagen with hopes of justice, equity, and a fresh start for the common safety of mankind", she said while addressing in the main plenary in the afternoon session of the first day of the high level segment of the climate conference (COP15) today.

Bangladesh Prime Minister joined with other world leaders mostly developing countries, to make appeal to the leaders of developed nations to show their leadership in resolving the stalemate in the ongoing two-week UN climate conference.

"We have come to see a world united for once, with a singular vision of saving our frail mother planet", she said adding "inability to take decision in Copenhagen would result in topographical changes, food and water insecurity, health hazards and mass migration of people.

The COP-15 must agree to provide compensatory grant funding, which should be adequate, sustainable and easily accessible, to meet full cost of adaptation, particularly of the MVCs, low-lying coastal states, Small Island states and the LDCs, Bangladesh Prime Minister said.

She said to meet climate change challenges all nations must take immediate action on the basis of the Bali Action Plan on sustainable development for survival.

"Developed countries must commit to deep and legally binding cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and annex-I countries must reduce emissions by 45% by 2020, below 1990 level to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees or to no more than 2 Degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels," she said.

Earlier to the Bangladesh Prime Minister, President of European Union Jose Manuel Barroso, President of Maldives Mahamud Nasheed, President of Zimbabwe Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of Union of Comoros President of Finland Tarja halonen and Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung, addressed the plenary.

The Prime Minister said an important development is developed countries' realization of their responsibility of unbridled greenhouse gas emissions. Important also is their readiness to cut emissions for reversing the present adverse climate trends, she said.

Outlining the climate vulnerability of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said "Bangladesh's greenhouse gas contribution is negligible, but is one of its worst victims".

Climate change, and increased frequency, ferocity and erratic pattern of natural disasters are causing havoc in Bangladesh; she said the world has already indentified Bangladesh as the most vulnerable country to climate change.

"We are most vulnerable to floods, third most to tsunami, and sixth most to cyclones in terms of human exposure in addition to intrusion of salinity intrusions in coastal areas, reducing our cultivable land and threatening the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sunderbans, a UNESCO world heritage site, she said.

The Prime Minister also said the number of climate refugees is also on rise everyday. Natural disasters, river bank erosions and salinity intrusion are taking toll on lives and visible sea level and temperature rise are destroying fish sanctuaries and livelihood of our fishermen, she said.

"Climate induced events are displacing farming families in millions from rural areas swelling our cities and causing social disorders" she said adding funds allocated for development are being diverted for their rehabilitation affecting our MDGs. In fact, climate change is costing us 0.5% to 1% of our GDP, she added.

She said estimated that a meter rise in sea level due to global warming would inundate 18% of Bangladesh land mass, force 20 million climate refugees with 40 million more losing their livelihood by 2050.

Highlighting the Bangladesh's continuous efforts to address climate affects she said at national level, Bangladesh has brought a paradigm shift from relief and rehabilitation, to disaster risk management.

"A priority is dredging to deepen rivers to hold more water, contain flooding, reclaim inundated land, maintain navigability, raise riverbanks with excavated silt, erect homes on raised land for the displaced", she said.

"We have also adopted adaptation and mitigation programs comprising 134 action plans, and designated authorities for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which include afforesting 20% of land by 2015 creating a carbon sink.

Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said, is also working relentlessly for protecting its biodiversity, rebuild coasts, river banks and mangroves, modernizing the disaster management, developing crop varieties attuned to climate change, changing agricultural practices, using clean coal technology, developing nuclear power and renewable energy, she added.

Sheikh Hasina concluded her speech saying- "Time is now for collective wisdom and right decisions for a greener, habitable world. Let us not forget that posterity would judge us for the choices we make here, and the world we leave behind for our future generations".

Meeting with Ban Ki-moon and Danish Prime Minister

Earlier, the Prime Minister arrived at Bella Center this afternoon to attend the lunch given in honour of her and leaders of G77 and LDCs by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen.

State Minister of Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud, who was also attended the meeting, said Ban and Rasmussen, also president of COP15, discussed on various aspects of future climate deal with the leaders.

Prime Minister Bangladesh told Ban and Rasmussen that "We do not want to go back from here without any decision". Presidents of Senegal, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Sudan, and representative of Saudi Arabia joined the lunch.

Sheikh Hasina said interests of least developed countries must get preferential treatment in the future climate agreement and developed countries must agree to contribute to the climate trust fund of the developing countries.

Mr. Rasmussen and Ban Ki-moon proposed for constituting an ad-hoc working group for examining all demands of the parties of the convention so far placed and prepare a framework on that basis. They envisaged for giving the shape of a legally binding agreement within a span of three to six months time through consensus of the parties.

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PM-GORDON-MEETING

Meeting with Hasina, Gordon supports preferential treatment for LDCs for adaptation

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 16 (BSS) - British Prime Minister Gordon

Brown said his country supports Bangladesh's stand for giving preferential treatment to the Least Developing Countries (LDCs) for adaptation to climate change.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here last night the British Primer said his country is very much concerned about the climate vulnerability of Bangladesh and its necessity for adaptation and resilience to cope with the challenges of climate change.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told reporters at Hotel Radisson Blu the two prime minister discussed on various development issues including future regime of reducing carbon emission and ways of help to developing countries to adapt with climate change effects.

Gordon Brown told the Prime Minister that his country believes that China and other high polluting developing countries should come under binding commitment for emission reduction and their commitment should be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh is an innocent victim of climate change which has threatened lives and livelihoods of millions of people of her country. She reiterated that said all support to the developing countries for climate change should be in addition to the existing ODA so that regular development of the country is not hindered.

British Foreign Minister David Miliband, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Health Minister Dr Ruhul Huq, State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud and Ambassador at large Zia Uddin were present, among others, in the meeting held at Hotel Radisson Scandinavian.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh wants 'first track' financial support for climate disaster prone countries so that the fund might be released without any complicated disbursement process or bureaucratic tangle, Dr Hasan said.

The British Prime Minister informed the Bangladesh Prime Minister that his country would propose for constitution of an ad-hoc working group to ascertain the modalities of the adaptation fund. The group, he said, would be asked to give report as soon as possible.

Sheikh Hasina urged the British Prime Minister to give the ad-hoc committee maximum three month time to submit its report aimed at making the adaptation fund operational at shortest possible time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina informed Gordon Brown her government's steps for combating the climate events including programmes for recovering the losses of Aila, Sidr and river dredging with its limited resources.

She also thanked Gordon for discussing the climate relating issues with her over telephone before coming to climate conference in Copenhagen, Kalam said.

BSS/AKH/SCB/1040HRS

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COP15-HIGH SEGMENT

Ban calls nations to sacrifice to get climate deal

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 15 (BSS)- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon today said the Kyoto Protocol as it remains as the lone binding instrument to capture commitment of carbon reduction emission, must be maintain if world leaders fail to reach a new one to replace it.

"The time for maximalist negotiating positions is over and time for unreasonable demands and pressure on your negotiating partner is over..... the time for consensus has arrived," he told the world leaders in the inaugural ceremony of the high segment meeting of the climate conference (COP15) here this evening.

Urging the parties to culminate negotiation process he said no-one get everything they want in the negotiation, but if we work together and get a deal, everyone will get what they need."

Prince of Wales William Charles, Nobel Peace laureate Dr Wangari Maathai, Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokks Rasmussen, COP15 president and Danish Climate Minister Connie Hedegaard and Executive Secretary of UNFCCC Yvo de Boer spoke among others on the occasion.

More than 100 world leaders are due to arrive here over the next three days to address the high segment meeting of the COP15 as the two-week negotiation finally took informal course to reach a decision on major climate issues..

U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, two main rival in the climate meeting and also big polluters are due to arrive in the Danish capital tomorrow.

Many heads of states including U.K. Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have already arrived here while Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez will also join the conference.

Prince of Wales said it is not an overstatement that the door to our future is closing. For Climate change the risk has multiplied. The future of mankind can be assured only if we rediscover ways in which to live as part of nature, not apart from her", he said.

Referring to the very poor progress need for a deal, who visibly became bored with the stalemate in the negotiation over the last two years, said "we cannot continue to run over the same old ground. He urged the nations to show their compassion to prove them great.

World leaders will start deliver their speech at the high level segment from 12 noon tomorrow and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is schedule to address the plenary at 4.30 pm tomorrow.

BSS/AKH/2000

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BSS-

PM-GORDON-MEETING

PM to meet Gordon Brown to discuss climate issue

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 15 (BSS)- A meeting between British Primer Gordon Brown and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be held tonight here.

Officials said the meeting is scheduled will be held at 8 pm at Hotel Radisson Scandinavian, where Gordon Garden will be staying during climate conference (COP15).

Earlier his arrival in Copenhagen, Prime Minister Gordon talked to his Bangladesh counterpart on December on climate issues and actions need to deliver in the COP15.

Gordon Brown informed the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the \$22bn global fund to respond to the world's climate emergency by fast-tracking funds to poorer countries from next year.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here this afternoon to attend historic COP15 where world leaders from more than 115 countries will attend.

Sheikh Hasina will lead a high level Bangladesh delegation as well as addressing the climate vulnerabilities of her country before the world leaders.

She will deliver address at high segment meeting of the COP15 at 4.30 pm tomorrow (December 16).

BSS/AKH/SCB

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BSS-

Urgent

COP-TIMETABLE

Anup Khastagir from Denmark

Copenhagen Conference will not be a nightmare: COP15 president

DENMARK, Dec 15 (BSS)-After long discussion for about two years after preparing the Bali Road Map in 2007 and broader understanding at all level about the urgency of the climate issues, the world leaders are still locked in heated debate on the global action for cooling down the earth heat, keeping only 48 hours time in hand.

President of COP15 and Danish Environment Minister Ms. Connie Hedegaard and UNFCCC Officials are making their hectic efforts over the last two days to make the parties to agree on major issues informally. Some blamed her for pursuing undemocratic and non-transparent process deviating from the basic principles of the convention.

They also blamed United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for his failure to handle the matters over the last two years efficiently and put all the parties in place for a fruitful outcome in the COP15 involving all parties.

"Who is to blame for failure is 'me', UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said at a joint press conference with COP president this morning to inform the press on the progress so far achieved in the conference to reach climate deal.

Ms. Connie Hedegaard said, "Presidency of the COP is not in my hand, it is in the hands of parties. The process is such that we can reach an agreement if all 193 parties of the UNFCCC including newly included Somalia agree on an issue at the same time".

About the informal meeting with some countries to bend them to come to a decision, Connie Hedegaard said the Danish government has done much for an inclusive agreement and the rest depends on the world leaders.

She said the ad-hoc working groups would seat again this afternoon

and it has been asked to report back to the plenary with a new draft text in the early tomorrow where parties would finally take decision about the acceptance of the text.

COP15 president Connie blamed USA for not taking any major steps over the last two years that could be helpful to expedite the negotiation process. But, she firmly said the COP15 will not be a 'nightmare' and repeat of the Kyoto Protocol.

European Union at a press conference urged all not to misunderstand it about its role in the negotiation process saying the EU is prepared to deliver the sacrifice that needs for agreement.

"We prefer a single agreement and for this, two emitters USA and China- which representing almost half of the total global emission- should come to a binding agreement for emission reduction target", EU presidency said in a press conference.

Meanwhile, vice minister of foreign affairs of China He Yafei met the state minister of Bangladesh Dr Hasan Mahmud at bella center to explain the position of his country on major issues particularly on emission reduction as the highest emitting nation is making efforts to woo support of other developing nation in favour of his position against bringing it under any binding commitment and keeping its all national emission reduction action out of the measureable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) measures.

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CLIMATE-MINISTER-DISCUSSION

Ministers start informal negotiation to resolve two major issues

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 13 (BSS)- Major polluters in the ongoing climate conference here have been locked in debate on two major issues while environment minister of the host country called them in an informal meeting with launch at Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs here today to resolve those.

The parties are now scuffling on the issues- firstly- for bringing all developed countries including the USA, a non-party of the Kyoto Protocol, under a common and binding framework to reduce their emission, and secondly- agreeing big developing economies with the provision for making their national emission actions measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV).

"Our interests have been locked in the debate of the major polluters", Bangladesh's state minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud said after the meeting.

European Union (EU) proposed for bringing the USA under a binding agreement under the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN framework convention which would be alike to the Kyoto Protocol (KP).

USA agreed for a binding commitment for all countries irrespective of developed and developing under a new protocol after expiry of Kyoto in 2012. USA did not signed the KP as it has no mandatory emission reduction target for developing countries, despite some of them are larger emitters.

Parties are now investing their time and efforts to prepare a modality for common binding agreement for both KP and non-KP parties about emission reduction, Dr Hasan said there is nothing to win something by one over another.

Taking part in the meeting Dr Hasan said Bangladesh, as the worst victim of climate change want end of all debates and a consensus among all parties for a safe future.

"We have nothing to win something over others", he said adding we have to work for collective achievement, which should be earned through united efforts of all to save us",
Developed countries want register of all national and international climate actions of the developing countries should be under MRV.

Many countries supported it but China, the biggest polluters in the world is opposing the option.

Things were heating up also outside the Bella Center as first week of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15) drew to a close. Several hundred people for the second day demonstrated near American Embassy here today to make their call to the USA for their pragmatic action to address climate change.

Police held around 200 demonstrators from the street and forced others to sit on the ground in 2 degree temperatures like yesterday when around tens of thousands of people came out on the street for reaching a climate deal.

However, the gathering was mostly peaceful with addresses and performances by noted artistes and personalities from across the globe.

Meanwhile, at the halfway stage in the conference, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer and COP 15 President and Danish Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard at a joint press conference said many things are still remained unresolved and good intension is required for action.

Boer said, "given the state of playing and given the amount of remaining time, we cannot find a legally binding agreement here in Copenhagen, but we do need to do that during the next six to twelve months in 2010 to really capitalize on what comes out of Copenhagen and turn into in to a strong legal text.

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COPENHAGEN-BUZZING

Copenhagen is buzzing with cultural climate events

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 12 (BSS)- Copenhagen is buzzing with cultural climate events and activities for all ages in and outside the Bella Center, venue of the Climate Conference (COP15).

As ministers are started arriving Copenhagen, known as the capital of major cultural, business and media center of the Northern Europe, cultural activists thronged here from across the globe became more vocal with demonstration for a legally binding global commitment to reduce greenhouse emission.

During the entire conference, the Copenhagen Town Hall Square turns into "Hopenhagen Live", a city within the city with exhibitions, concerts and more.

The popular Danish band Nephew opened Hopenhagen on December 7 to an excited audience of thousands of Danes and COP15 visitors at the Town Hall Square..

Hopenhagen Live features an extensive cultural programme with best-practice eco-friendly solutions, concerts, parties and documentary screenings every day and of course the latest news from the COP15 negotiations.

In a different part of town at the national stadium 'Parken', a stellar line-up of artists from around the world like Indonesian Anggun, Senegalese Youssou n'Dour, Jamaican Shaggy and Danish artists such as Nahiba and Brinck performed at the 'Dance for Climate Change Concert'.

"We can use music to send out a message to people and politicians in a different way, because melodies speak to your heart," said the singer Anggun.

"Hello Copenhagen! Are you ready to change the world?" shouted Angelique Kidjo as she took to the stage. The answer was of course a loud 'yes'.

Meanwhile, as part of the religious climate stuff all of Denmark's churches will ring their bells 350 times at 1500 on Sunday to symbolise the 350 ppm (particles per million) deemed to be a safe level of atmospheric Co2 concentration.

An estimated hundred thousand (100,000) demonstrators have taken to the streets of Copenhagen today to call on world leaders to deliver a fair, ambitious and binding global deal on climate change.

The peaceful demonstration is part of a global day of action that brings together millions of people in over 130 countries, including 2,600 candlelight.

Honorary President of Oxfam International and Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, Danish model and photographer Helena Christensen, Bollywood star Rahul Bose, Grammy Award winning singer and UN Goodwill Ambassador Angelique Kidjo and a peasant farmer from Uganda Constance Okollet joined the marchers.

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PACHAURI - TEMPERATURE

Temperature must increase not over 2 degree after 2015: Pachauri

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 12 (BSS) - More than two degree temperature increase after 2015 would effect melting of snow and ice across the globe on account of thermal expansion, rising the sea-level to 0.4 to 1.4 meters and could submerge several small island states and Bangladesh.

Chairman of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Dr Rejeedra Pachauri said this here today stressing that "the global emissions must not be allowed to peak after 2015, that is barely six years from now, to limit the increase in global average temperature to maximum 2 degree.

Dr Pachauri said this at a press briefing "On the road to the next report" on the sideline of the Climate Conference (COP15) here with the other members of the UN body for reviewing the scientific assessments and information.

He said the IPCC is now assessing the latest findings of Climate Change and most of the observed increase in global averaged temperature are very likely due to increase in GHG concentrations.

Observations and paleoclimate information shows unprecedented changes in the climate system would continue both in amplitude and rate for 100's to many 1000's of years, he said.

Dr Pachauri said emitted CO2 remains in the atmosphere for 1000's of years causing irreversible changes in the climate and in ocean chemistry, making small island states and low lying coastal nations like Bangladesh endanger to climate events.

Co-chair of IPCC working Group (I) Tomas Stocker said the geoengineering methods do not mitigate the direct effects of CO2 increase as they have some inherent termination problem.

He said thousands of scientists from all over the world are now contributing on a voluntary basis to prepare the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the IPCC which will be finalized in 2014.

He said the AR5 will have four new features including dedicated chapters on sea level change, carbon cycle and climate phenomenon such as monsoon and El Nino.

IPCC's first assessment report in 1990 played a decisive role in leading to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).. The second assessment report of 1995 provided key input for the negotiations of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the in 2007 paid greater attention to the integration to the climate change with sustainable development policies and relationship between reduction of greenhouse emission and adaptation to climate change.

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COP15 -DEVELOPMENT

EU's commitment for climate finance makes breakthrough in COP15

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 11 (BSS)- Ministerial level meeting of the Climate Conference (COP15) begins here tomorrow to give a quick review on the draft text which are remained under process to finalize at negotiation level.

Ministers from different countries have already started arriving to Danish capital to attend the meeting. But officials said parties are yet to reach any concrete proposal from a number of drafts remain on the table.

UNFCCC Executive Yvo de Boer at his regular press conference said hard work the negotiators achieved signification progress on technology transfer, forest management and shared vision for long term cooperative action and chairs of the ad-hoc working groups have already reported the plenary on the development of the negotiation.

"Hopefully would be able to reach for a common framework before the meeting of the minister at the end of the week and subsequent meeting of the heads of states", he said.

Meanwhile EU has announcement for climate fund to support the developing countries has made a breakthrough in the areas of finance highly welcomed by the delegates of the developing countries.

EU delegation at a press conference here said European countries will present 7 to 9 billion euro to cut the world's greenhouse gas emissions at the United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen.

UNFCCC Secretary General hailed the EU decision saying it would certainly encourage other developed countries to come up with their own commitment.

The EU will push for the world to agree a euro 100bn support package for developing countries trying to cope with the impact of climate change, the delegation said.

Under the EU plan, developed nations would pump between €22bn and €50bn a year into the fund by 2020, which is expected to include an overall EU contribution of €7bn to €10bn. Britain has already committed Britain to put £1bn into the fund.

In addition, the EU will propose creating a fund of £5bn to £7bn to help the developing world cope with climate change between 2010 and 2012, for which Britain already has £800m earmarked.

The rest of the €100bn package, to be phased in from 2013, would come from the global emissions trading scheme as well as some contributions from wealthier developing nations such as China, Brazil and Mexico.

The EU has already promised to cut its emissions by 20 per cent by 2020, compared with 1990 levels, and has said it would aim for a 30 per cent reduction if other parts of the world agree with.

But Oxfam claimed the European offer was not large enough and warned there was no guarantee the money on the table would be "new" or diverted from existing aid commitments.

EU negotiator in the Copenhagen meeting Kaul Falkenberg at a media clinic on the sideline of the conference said the European countries realize the consequences of the climate change in the developing countries as to why they have come up with the specific amount of money on the table to support them.

However, he said the developed countries themselves must carry 20 to 40 percent cost of their climate cost for the common and differentiated responsibility.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary said heads of states of about 115 countries would be coming in Copenhagen when series of bilateral, tri-lateral and multilateral discussion will be held among them when other remaining issues will be resolved.

Bangladesh's state minister for environment Dr Hasan Mahmud arrived here this afternoon to attend the meeting.

BSS/AKH/1430hrs

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CLIMATE - FINANCE - PROPOSAL

"Use IMF gold reserve to give green loan"

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 10 (BSS)- A global financier and philanthropist George Soros urged the world's richest nations to use \$100bn of gold reserves of the IMF to back green loans from rich to poor nations.

"I do believe that developed countries should hand over their 'special drawing rights' - an international foreign currency assets distributed by the IMF - as loans to help poorer nations tackle climate change," Soros, a billionaire investor, financier and philanthropist said here today.

He was talking to non-governmental organizations on the sideline of the Climate Conference (COP15) here today. He called on the 192 governments at the summit to listen to his proposals.

Developed countries have not offered "not sufficient" money to help out developing countries threatening to "wreck the talks", the Hungarian born economist said claiming that he has "found a way to bridge the gap".

"Developing countries would pay interest and eventually the whole loan, but in the event of a default, the sum would be backed by the IMF's gold reserves," he suggested saying it is a different approach to help the poor countries which now rely on contributions from the balance sheets of developed countries.

Greenpeace international welcomed the Soros's proposal made at the UN Climate saying money is one of the keys to a good outcome in Copenhagen.

"We need at least \$160 billion a year for the poorest countries to beat climate change, protect forests and save lives. Every world leader should study Soros this proposal," said Greenpeace Executive Director Kumi Naidoo.

"But no matter what industrialized countries take decision, they must put the money on the table by the end of next week," she said.

She said using the IMF gold reserves as Soros suggests could work if it was combined with a levy on international aviation and shipping, and a small tax on financial transactions."

Pointing out the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's proposal for a \$10bn emergency fund for developing nations, rising to \$100bn a year by 2020 and China and the 137 emerging economies proposal for 1pc of global GDP - or \$600bn a year to support developing countries, is a real cause of tension at the summit.

Gordon's proposal for \$10bn fund is more than nothing, but not much more because of the magnitude of the climate problem and there's a gap between the developed and developing worlds on this issue, he said.

Developed countries' governments are laboring under the misapprehension that climate funding has to come from the national budgets but that is not the case, he said adding "the fund already exists and it is lying idle in their reserves accounts and in the vaults of the IMF, he said.

Soros said he did some informal discussion on the issue with US officials, but they are reluctant to consider such a plan because it would need Congressional approval.

He suggested the best use of the money to look at reducing emissions from agricultural, forestry and land use, because they offer the highest potential for cuts.

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INDEGENOUS - PRAYERS

Indigenous Peoples' prayer against US climate policy

Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec 10 (BSS)- Indigenous Peoples from across North America gathered at the US Embassy here today to take part in a procession, prayer and protest against US climate policy and energy industry's war on indigenous lands and livelihoods.

Indigenous Environmental Network arranged the programme on the sideline of the Climate Conference (COP 15) to deliver a message to President Obama as he now traveled to Oslo to accept his Nobel Prize, said Nikke Alex, one of the organizers.

"The delegation will deliver a clear message to Obama and tell him that peace begins with just energy and climate policies that respect human rights and the environment", he said.

"Our ancestral ways of life and homelands are imperiled by devastating proposals for fossil fuel drilling and development," said Colleen Swan of Kivalina, a member of the indigenous people.

The procession brought out from Osterport train station to United States Embassy in Copenhagen at Dag Hammarskjolds Alle.

The fossil fuels are carbon that compound climate change, and the ecological devastation we see is also compounded by the impacts of climate change. Indigenous people are directly impacted by fossil fuel development and nuclear energy expansion as a false solution to the climate crisis.

The real solutions we need in Copenhagen and in the US are sustainable economies that can thrive without fossil fuels that degrade our land and have life-threatening impacts on the health of our people," said Wahleah Johns of the Black Mesa Water Coalition, located in the Navajo Nation in Arizona

Obama is talking about nuclear power as a way to deal with climate change, but there is nothing safe for our people about this proposal," said Nikke Alex, who works with a coalition of Native Americans fighting uranium mining..

The legacy of 50 years of uranium mining causes cancer, birth defects, and poisoning the land. We're here to tell our story and fight for climate justice in Copenhagen and beyond, he said.

BSS/AKH/1400hrs

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CLIMATE-B'DESH-RISK INDEX

Germanwatch finds Bangladesh as most vulnerable to climate

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 10 (BSS)- Bangladesh with Myanmar and Honduras were the countries affected mostly by extreme weather events from 1990 to 2008, according to the Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2010.

However, the vulnerability of Bangladesh is much higher than the two other countries as it is exposed to all types of climate extreme events including flood, cyclone, precipitation and drought.

During 1991-2008 period, almost 600,000 people died across the globe directly from more than 11,000 extreme weather events, out of which over one-fourth in Bangladesh.

Total global loss of the climate events was around 1.7 trillion USD, said the report released in the sideline of the Climate Conference (COP15) here said.

Bangladesh, during the time, faced 224 climate extreme events, but except one in 1991, the fatality rate narrowed down due to its better preparedness for climate risks and larger-scale disasters, despite having loss of annual 1.81 percent GDP.

In total, 654 events were registered worldwide in 2008, which caused around 93,700 deaths and economic losses of more than US\$ 123 billion.

Vietnam and Nicaragua, Haiti and India were behind Bangladesh in the list of ten worst affected countries. Three other most effected countries are Dominican Republic, Philippines and China.

Among the first 20 vulnerable countries there were only four developed countries affected by any climate event, the report said.

Poorer developing countries are often hit much harder by climate, despite they are least responsible for causing climate change, it said.

The Global Climate Risk Index report said there are two groups of countries facing climate risks. One group is continuously facing threats of extreme events and other facing exceptional catastrophes.

Bangladesh is on the top of the first group where extreme climate events are likely to intensify in the coming years.

Although future changes in tropical cyclone activity cannot yet be modelled, but, analysis of observational data confirmed that the intensity of tropical cyclones might increase due to rise in ocean temperature and it may severely affect Bangladesh.

The Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index is an analysis based on four indicators and these are- number of deaths, number of deaths per one hundred thousand inhabitants, sum of losses in US\$ in purchasing power parity (PPP) as well as losses of per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The report focused on impacts of extreme weather events from 1990 to 2008 marking the 20th years of the first assessment report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, main UN scientific body to analyze climate change.

In the present analysis, only weather related events - storms, floods, as well as temperature extremes and mass movements (heat and cold waves etc.) were incorporated, lead author of the report Sven Harmeling said.

The geological factors like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis were not considered as they don't depend on weather and therefore are not related to climate change.

The report said it is important to distinguish those countries which continuously face extreme weather events from those with exceptional extreme impacts.

An outcome of the Copenhagen climate summit could make a real difference for those countries particularly at risk through the adoption of an ambitious adaptation action framework, it said.

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Danish-Proposal-Uproar

Climate conference: Guardian report on secret Danish proposal proved false

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 9 (BSS)- So called secret proposal of the Denmark for a future climate deal proved false as Denmark and parties relating to negotiation process said British newspaper Guardian has published the old version of the Danish proposal.

Uproar marked the Climate Conference yesterday afternoon on the Guardian report which said Denmark is pursuing a proposal for a political Copenhagen Agreement distracting the Bali Roadmap.

As it published in yesterday's edition, delegates, observers and reporters started downloading the report and study on. However, most veterans and observers close to the process were more interested in knowing 'which version' of the text was leaked, and whether it was in fact the document they had already seen in Barcelona in November.

Denmark today outright rejected the Guardian report saying 'negotiators, not Denmark will decide about the new agreement'.

Guardian said the so-called secret draft text of Denmark government for the new climate deal has been prepared by a small group of individuals not by the parties.

However, the Danish government today said the draft is nothing new as it placed in climate negotiation meeting in Barcelona in November. Denmark also discussed with various countries on the proposal of the draft but later withdraw it as developing countries strongly opposed it.

Senior climate change fellow in the London based International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) Saleemul Huq said Denmark has already withdrew their proposal leaving the matter to the negotiators.

"The rumour has been spread over to create uproar in the negotiation as part of attempt to create some deadlock in the negotiation process", he said adding everything became clear after the denial of the Danish government, he said.

Saleem said the delegates of parties have fully engaged them in the negotiation in Copenhagen to make the final text of the agreement and they are expecting to complete their work one day ahead of the ministerial level meeting on Saturday.

According to the Guardian the Danish draft was a departure from the Kyoto Protocol principle. It proposed for binding commitment for developing countries for emission reduction.

The draft, Guardian said, understandably made for dividing the poor countries further by creating a new category of developing countries called "the most vulnerable".

The draft proposed for allowing the poor countries not to emit more than 1.44 tonnes of carbon per person by 2050, while allowing rich countries to emit 2.67 tonnes, the newspapers said.

Many environmental organization including Greenpeace and World Wildlife Fund also reacted very sharply on the so-called Danish proposal saying the proposal was 'non-transparent' and too discriminatory to poor countries.

Leading environmental organization Greenpeace said "Rasmussen (Danish

PM) needs to get serious and focus on solving the roadblocks that have been caused by the industrialised countries.

One of the member of Bangladesh delegation said Denmark had meeting with 17 countries including Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Sudan on its proposal which recommended for giving additional priority to the needs of most vulnerable countries than other LDCs.

G77 and China in a press conference today said they are preparing a draft of the deal which will largely address the necessity of the most vulnerable countries.

BSS/AKH/1815hrs

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Climate Conference

Overfull Bella Center filled in anticipation

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, Dec 8 (BSS)- As the critically important COP 15 of the UNFCCC opened here yesterday (Monday), the halls of the Bella Center in Copenhagen filled quickly as eager delegates and observers arrived to attend the inaugural ceremony.

UN official sources said with around 34,000 participants applied for accreditation, COP- 15 is by far the biggest meeting held under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Given the capacity of the Bella Center to accommodate only 15,000 people and limited space in the plenary halls, organisers were already worrying about access to the negotiations and side events. Media accreditation suspended after reaching the 5,000 ceiling.

The mood in the crowded corridors seemed to be one of anticipation, excitement, and even cautious optimism. Some wondered, however, whether the hopefulness would ultimately translate into political will to reach a strong outcome setting the world on the track to avoid dangerous climate change.

"The meeting is too big to fail," commented a host country participant. But, many others appeared to be genuinely uncertain about what Copenhagen will ultimately achieve.

"Some of the high-level opening statements were less ambitious than I had hoped for," lamented some LDC parties, with others gave their mixed reaction.

As the Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen in his remarks in the inaugural session urged for political will to reach an agreement, many developed countries were heard talking about political declarations and COP decisions, with a possible roadmap for adopting a legally-binding instrument later.

But, LDCs, especially vulnerable developing countries, continued working towards preparing text of an agreement that would result in a legally-binding outcome to be adopted in Copenhagen.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh delegation at a press conference here yesterday said they are worried about attempt of some influential parties of the LDCs to bypass the most vulnerable countries.

"The negotiations are being conducted elsewhere by very few of the influential parties," said a statement issued by Bangladesh

delegation.

Chair of the delegation Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP said Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries (MVC) to climate change has been actively participating in the multilateral negotiation as part of G77 and China and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

He said Bangladesh supports preferential treatment of LDCs while allocating adaptation fund on the basis of their vulnerability to climate change.

Nepalese negotiator Dr Uday Sharma in the LDC group on adaptation who was present at the conference, said interests of most vulnerable countries should give priority in future agreement particularly his country's high exposure to glaciers melting.

UNFCCC secretariat has asked the chairs of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Ad-hoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) to complete their negotiation and complete the draft of the text by Tuesday (Dec 8), which will be placed before the ministers of the countries on Wednesday.

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Climate-Conference-Begins

Anup Khastagir from Copenhagen

Final negotiation to seal a climate deal begins in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Dec 7 (BSS)- Momentous United Nations Climate Change Conference has begun in the Danish capital here today to culminate the two-years intense negotiation process to deal with the global warming to protect the lone living planet.

Several thousand delegates from government and non-government agencies from 192 member countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and large number of media people from north and south have poured into the major culture, business and media center of the Northern Europe making the conference as the biggest earth show on climate issues.

Reports of the presence of US President Barrack Obama in the conference has added a new dimension and optimism among people who said "the summit is unlikely to collapse due to his presence". About 110 world leaders have confirmed their presence at the high-level segment of the conference on December 16-18.

The conference will include the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UNFCCC and fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP) of the Kyoto Protocol, first international agreement to reduce global emission.

The COP15 marks the culmination of a two-year negotiation process to enhance international climate change cooperation under Bali Roadmap adopted by the COP13 in 2007 to replace the Kyoto Protocol after its expiry in 2012.

Attention of the world will focus on Copenhagen over the next two weeks from where a Fair, Ambitious and Binding (FAB) climate deal is expected to sign to reduce at least 80 percent GHG emission by 2050 from 1990 level as scientists said, to keep the concentration of CO2 below 350 parts-per-million (PPM) equivalents in the air.

Helping the poor developing countries to adapt with adverse impacts of climate change and equip them with technology are major elements to get priority.

Rich and emerging economies have made a series of promises to curb their greenhouse gases and recent new commitments from major emitters the USA, China and India to control emissions are showing signs of breakthroughs.

But major issues including creating fund for poor countries for adaptation and technology transfer to help poor countries to fight the effects of climate change still remained unresolved.

Addressing the inaugural session Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said, at this moment only political resolve can manifest a global climate agreement. If the political will is present, the deal is possible, he said.

COP15 president and Danish environment minister Connie Hedegaard said the key to an agreement is finding a way to raise and channel public and private financing to poor countries for years to come to help them fight the effects of climate change.

"If governments miss their chance at the Copenhagen summit, a better opportunity may never come," she said adding "this is our chance... if we miss it, it could take years before we got a new and better one".

Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Yvo de Boer, Mayor of Copenhagen Ritt Bjerregard, Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra Pachauri addressed the inaugural session at Bella Center.

The conference opened with video clips of children from around the globe urging delegates to help them grow up in a world without catastrophic warming..

BSS/AKH/1840 local time