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Climate talks needs political guidance at present: Saleem

BANGKOK, Oct 5 (BSS)- Bangkok round of climate change negotiation witnessed some progress in a number of areas while some major issues including mitigation and finance remained in stagnant as developed countries yet to come forward with specific commitment.

The negotiators working for summarizing the text of a climate deal to be put before the world leaders to sign in Copenhagen in December in the 15th conference of the parties (COP15) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“The talks achieved significant headway in the areas of adaptation, technology and forestry,” observed Dr Ain Nun Nishat, a member BANGLADESH delegation. But, the talks remained stagnant in the areas of mitigation and finance.

According the senior climate fellow of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Saleem UI Huq, one of the important issue- Finance- may get a headway in the next round of negotiation meeting in Barcelona in November provided the developed countries come up with specific proposal for giving fund for climate change.

Earlier of the Barcelona meeting, he said, the Finance ministers of the G-20 will held meeting at Scotland on three crucial issue as decided by the G-20 summit in last month in Pittsburgh, USA.

He hoped that the climate fund might be in between US \$ 100 to 500 billion as proposed by both UK Primer Gordon Brown and World Bank and claims of the developing countries.

The other issue- Mitigation- Saleem said, may remain shelved ‘until the last night’ of the COP-15 so far the developed countries announced their commitment to cut off emission individually or aggregately.

He said most vulnerable countries under banner of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Association of Small Island States and Africa Group, are fighting together for their common interest as the USA, Australia, Japan and Netherlands were united under the Umbrella Group. In the next few day the text of the negotiation will take more concrete shape, he said.

Another supplementary issue is the financial mechanism on how the finance to be put on the table will be managed and operated. Developing countries preferred for UNFCCC itself to manage the fund to maximize the effectiveness of delivery, but USA and a number of developed countries want to engage the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and World Bank.

Saleem said delegates negotiating the new climate treaty in Bangkok but in order to make a significant step towards an ambitious treaty political leaders need to give new guidance at present.

“Despite progress on the text there is no movement on the political stumbling blocks that need resolving before we go to Copenhagen”, said Kim Carstensen, Leader of WWF’s Global Climate Initiative.

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