

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME G7 aims to mobilise \$600b: Biden

AFP, Elmau Castle

US President Joe Biden yesterday announced a G7 project to rival China's formidable Belt and Road Initiative by raising some \$600 billion for global infrastructure programmes in poor countries.

"Together with G7 partners, we aim to mobilise \$600 billion by 2027 in global infrastructure investments," the White House said shortly ahead of a speech by Biden unveiling the proposal.

Unlike China's huge BRI initiative, the proposed G7 funding would come largely from private investors and is therefore not guaranteed.

The plan, which relaunches a first attempt unveiled during last year's G7, will target countries desperately needing everything from roads to harbours -- and until now often relying on the Chinese.

The gargantuan BRI project has successfully used Chinese infrastructure know-how to spread Beijing's economic and diplomatic tentacles into strategic points around world, leaving Western governments flat-footed.

Biden, whose presidency is centred on restoring US leadership after the isolationist policies under Donald Trump, says his version will not only catch up but provide a better alternative.

Unlike the Chinese version, reliant on state-controlled funds and companies, Biden said the US and other G7 governments will only provide limited amounts of money, while incentivising massive private sector investments.



Smoke rises after a missile strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in Kyiv yesterday. One man was killed and five others, including a seven-year-old girl, were injured following the early morning strikes on a neighbourhood that includes a weapons factory, said city mayor Vitali Klitschko.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Monkeypox not yet a health emergency

REUTERS, London

Monkeypox is not yet a global health emergency, the World Health Organization (WHO) ruled on Saturday, although WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said he was deeply concerned about the outbreak.

"I am deeply concerned about the monkeypox outbreak, this is clearly an evolving health threat that my colleagues and I in the WHO Secretariat are following extremely closely," Tedros said.

WHO said in a separate statement that although there were some differing views within the committee, they ultimately agreed by consensus that at this stage the outbreak is not a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

21 teens die in S African tavern

AFP, East London

At least 21 teenagers, the youngest possibly just 13, died at the weekend after a night out at a township tavern in South Africa, in a tragedy whose cause remains unclear.

Many are thought to have been students celebrating the end of their high-school exams on Saturday night, provincial officials said.

There were no visible wounds on the bodies. Officials have ruled out a stampede as a possible cause and said autopsies would determine if the deaths could be linked to poisoning.

Crowds of people, including parents whose children were missing, gathered on Sunday outside the tavern where the tragedy happened in the city of East London, while mortuary vehicles collected the bodies, an AFP correspondent saw.

Senior government officials rushed to the southern city. They included national Police Minister Bheki Cele, who broke down in tears after emerging from a morgue where the bodies were being stored.

"It's a terrible scene," he told reporters. "They are pretty young. When you are told they are 13 years, 14 years and you go there and you see them. It breaks (you)." The provincial government of Eastern Cape said eight girls and 13 boys had died. Seventeen were found dead inside the tavern. The rest died in hospital.

Drinking is permitted for over-18s in township taverns, commonly known as shebeens, which are often situated cheek by jowl with family homes or, in some case, inside the homes themselves.

But safety regulations and drinking-age laws are not always enforced.

"We have a child that was there, who passed away on the scene," said the parents of a 17-year-old boy.

"This child, we were not thinking was going to die this way. This was a humble child, respectful," said grieving mother Ntombizonke Mgangala, standing next to her husband outside the morgue.

Floods displaced 5 lakh people in the northeast

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livelihood support is required for those who are not able to engage in income-generating activities, it added.

Safe drinking water, disinfection of water sources and emergency repair or replacement of latrines and tube-wells are needed to avoid an outbreak of water-borne diseases, it said.

Besides Sylhet and Sunamganj, the assessment report covered Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj, Sherpur, Mymensingh and Netrakona districts.

On May 18, flash floods damaged mostly crops and food storages while on June 17 and the following days, floods washed away homes and cattle and the remaining food storages.

The recent floods caused by heavy rains in the northeastern region and upstream Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya inundated 72 percent area of Sylhet division, including 89 percent of Sunamganj.

Abdus Salam, a farmer in Dakkhin Bardal village of Tahirpur, Sunamganj, told this correspondent that his paddy fields, ready for harvesting, went under water in May while the latest flood damaged everything he had.

"It made me homeless and penniless. My house and cattle were washed away. I have never seen such a devastating flood in my life," the 65-year-old farmer said.

Abdul Manan, a 55-year-old of Laki village in Gowainghat, Sylhet, said, "I have lost everything in the

floods this year. I don't know how I will survive."

Kaiser Rejve, co-chair of NAWG, said the damage caused by the latest round of floods will be very high.

"What we are estimating now is a primary assessment. It will take a few more days to find out the exact extent of damage. There will be dire long-term consequences of the flood," Rejve observed.

As the water recedes, waterborne diseases are likely to break out, causing the people to suffer even more.

In many affected areas, a trail of devastation has been revealed after the waters receded, the report said.

NAWG in its previous report said that the flood in May impacted around 12 lakh people in the region and caused a loss of 78 percent of the food stock.

Contacted, Atiqul Huq, director general of the Department of Disaster Management, said the loss from this month's flood could be colossal.

"I cannot tell you exactly how devastating the impact of the latest flood will be on the livelihood because the water has not completely receded everywhere. We are collecting information and it will take some time," he said.

The DG said special attention is being given to the flood-affected areas, especially areas in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona.

"We will take short and long-term programmes after completing the assessment on all the 17 flood-affected districts," he added.

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka hikes fuel prices

Seeks discounted oil from Russia; US delegation arrives for talks



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka has raised its fuel prices, causing further pain for people as officials from the United States arrived for talks in an effort to support the island nation amid its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948.

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) said yesterday it had raised the price of diesel, used widely in public transport, by 15 percent to 460 rupees (\$1.27) a litre while upping petrol 22 percent to 550 rupees (\$1.52) a litre (about four litres to a gallon).

The country announced sending ministers to Russia and Qatar to try and secure cheap oil. Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said two ministers will travel to Russia today to discuss getting more oil following last month's purchase of 90,000 tonnes of Siberian crude.

That shipment was arranged through Coral Energy, a Dubai-based intermediary, but politicians

have been urging the authorities to negotiate directly with President Vladimir Putin's government.

"Two ministers are going to Russia and I will go to Qatar tomorrow to see if we can arrange concessionary terms," Wijesekera told reporters in Colombo.

A delegation from the US Treasury and the State Department meanwhile arrived to "explore the most effective ways for the US to support Sri Lankans in need," the US embassy in Colombo said. "As Sri Lankans endure some of the greatest economic challenges in their history, our efforts to support economic growth and strengthen democratic institutions have never been more critical," US ambassador Julie Chung said in a statement.

The embassy said it had committed \$158.75 million in new financing in the past two weeks to help Sri Lankans. About 1.7 million residents need "life-saving assistance", according to the United Nations which issued a flash appeal last week.

Prince Charles 'given €3m in cash in bags by Qatari politician'

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The Prince of Wales accepted bags containing millions of euros in cash during meetings with a senior Qatari politician, according to a report.

Prince Charles was said to have been given a total of €3m (£2.6m) during meetings with Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber al-Thani, the former prime minister of Qatar.

The cash was handed to the heir to the British throne in a suitcase on one occasion, a holdall on another, as well as in Fortnum & Mason carrier bags, the up-market department store which holds a royal warrant to supply the prince's household with groceries.

The handovers are alleged to have occurred during meetings between the two men, it was claimed.

In a statement, a Clarence House spokesperson said the money given during the 2015 meeting was "passed immediately to one of the prince's charities who carried out the appropriate covenants and assured us that all the correct processes were followed".

Deadly migrant rush 'attack' on territory: Spain

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish prime minister on Saturday described a deadly migrant rush on the enclave of Melilla from Morocco as an attack on Spain's "territorial integrity", as human rights activists demanded an investigation.

At least 23 African migrants died in the latest drama on the doors of the European Union, when around 2,000 mostly sub-Saharan African migrants approached the Moroccan border with the tiny territory at dawn on Friday.

More than 500 people managed to enter a border control area after cutting a fence with shears, Melilla authorities said in a statement.

Moroccan officials on Friday said 18 migrants had died during the rush or succumbed to their injuries, some of which came from falling from the top of the barrier.

On Saturday, they revised the toll upwards to 23 after five of those injured died. More than 20 migrants and two security force personnel remain in hospital Saturday in the cities of Nador and nearby Oujda, they said.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said the incident was a "violent and organised attack by mafias who traffic in human beings, against a Spanish territory".

But Morocco's AMDH human rights group said it was "a true catastrophe that shows the consequences of the latest Moroccan-Spanish entente", just weeks after the two sides resolved a year-long diplomatic rift.



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অফিস আদেশ নং-৮৪/পি
সরকারী কর্মচারী (শৃংখলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৫, বর্তমানে ২০১৮ এর আওতায় জনাব দীপক রঞ্জন সাহা, ফরেস্ট রেঞ্জার (বরখাস্তকৃত), এর বিরুদ্ধে বুদ্ধকৃত বিভাগীয় মামলা নং-১২ অব ২০১৮ তারিখ ০৫/০৩/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ মূলে আনিত অসদাচারণ ও দুর্নীতির অভিযোগে একই বিধিমালায় ৭(৯) বিধি মোতাবেক ২য় দফা কারণ দর্শনোর নোটিশ:

যেহেতু আপনি জনাব দীপক রঞ্জন সাহা, ফরেস্ট রেঞ্জার (বরখাস্তকৃত), সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, ফরিদপুর এর আওতাধীন মাদারীপুর সামাজিক বনায়ন নার্সারী ও প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তা (মূল দায়িত্ব) ও সহকারী বন সংরক্ষক (অঃদাঃ) নিয়োজিত থাকাকালে উক্ত বন বিভাগের অধিক্ষেত্রাধীন পদ্মা বহুমুখী সেতু প্রকল্পের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তা বিধানকল্পে ৯৯ কম্পোজিট বিঘ্নেত এর স্থায়ী সেনানিবাস স্থাপনের জন্য শরীয়তপুর জেলার জাজিরা উপজেলাধীন ১০১ নং নাওডোবা মৌজায় বিহারএস বিভিন্ন স্থিত্যান ও দাগে ৯৯.৪২ (নিরানব্বই দশমিক চার দুই) একর জমি এলএ ০৮/২০১৫-১৬ নং কেসে অধিগ্রহণ করা হয়। উক্ত অধিগ্রহণকৃত জমির উপর অবস্থিত গাছপালায় মূল্য নির্ধারণে অনিয়ম করায় অসদাচারণ ও দুর্নীতির অভিযোগে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে বিভাগীয় মামলা নং-১২ অব ২০১৮ তারিখ: ০৫/০৩/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ বুদ্ধ করতঃ আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব দাখিলের জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হয়। নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব দাখিলে বার্থ হওয়ায় বিষয়টি তদন্তপূর্বক তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন দাখিল করার নিমিত্ত এ দপ্তরের অফিস আদেশ নং-৪৫৬/পি তারিখ: ১৫/১০/২০১৮ খ্রিঃ মূলে জনাব মোঃ হুমায়ুন কবির, উপ বন সংরক্ষকে তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগ করা হয়। তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তা বিষয়টি তদন্ত করতঃ বিস্তারিত উল্লেখপূর্বক মতামতসহ তদন্তপ্রতিবেদন এ দপ্তরে দাখিল করেন। তদন্তে আপনি, জনাব দীপক রঞ্জন সাহা, ফরেস্ট রেঞ্জার(বরখাস্তকৃত) এর বিরুদ্ধে আনিত অসদাচারণের অভিযোগ প্রমানিত হয়েছে মর্মে তদন্তকারী কর্মকর্তা মতামত প্রদান করেন।

যেহেতু আপনি, জনাব দীপক রঞ্জন সাহা, ফরেস্ট রেঞ্জার (বরখাস্তকৃত) এর বিরুদ্ধে আনিত অসদাচারণ এর অভিযোগ তদন্তে প্রমাণিত ও প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়েছে, সেহেতু কেন আপনাকে নিম্নোক্ত গুরুত্ব প্রদান করা হবে না তার সন্তোষজনক ২য় দফা আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব এ প্রণ প্রাপ্তির ৭(সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে এ দপ্তরে দাখিল করার জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হলো। নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে ২য় দফা আত্মরক্ষামূলক জবাব দাখিলে বার্থ হলে আপনার বিরুদ্ধে বিধি মোতাবেক পরবর্তী পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

প্রস্তাবিত শাস্তি

১। জনাব দীপক রঞ্জন সাহা, ফরেস্ট রেঞ্জার (বরখাস্তকৃত) কে সরকারী কর্মচারী (শৃংখলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা, ২০১৮ এর বিধি ৪(৩)(গ) মোতাবেক চাকুরী হতে অপসারণ করা।

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তারিখ-১৭০২