

Xi returns to global stage at G20 after Covid isolation

AFP, Beijing

China's Xi Jinping was the leader everyone wanted to meet at this week's G20 summit, where he took centre stage in a carefully choreographed appearance after three years of self-imposed pandemic isolation.

President Xi strode into yesterday's G20 summit the morning after a three-hour meeting with his US counterpart Joe Biden in which they promised to dial down the rhetoric and work to close the yawning gap between the two powers.

With smiles and handshakes — as well as promises of fresh talks on climate change and trade — Xi appeared keen to paint himself as a magnanimous diplomat ready to confront global challenges and build bridges.

"Xi Jinping is certainly working to make up for lost time on the international stage," said Danny Russel, Vice President at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York, adding that Xi's burst of diplomacy resembled a "charm offensive".

"The Biden-Xi summit raised hopes that the two powers might now be willing to separate their global responsibilities from their bilateral differences."

Also on Xi's checklist of world leaders to schmooze were Indonesia's President



Joko Widodo — the G20 summit host — Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, France's Emmanuel Macron, and South Korea's Yoon Suk-yeol.

He is also expected to meet Japanese premier Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok later this week.

And the conspicuous absence of Russia's President Vladimir Putin — isolated on the world stage because of his brutal war in Ukraine — solidifies Xi's place as the prime global counterweight to the US-led international order.

Xi and Biden both entered their tete-a-tete in Bali from a position of strength — the former secured a historic third term as China's top leader at the Communist Party Congress last month, and the latter's Democratic Party exceeded expectations in the US midterm elections.

Flanked by foreign policy and political figures from his reshuffled party top brass, Xi did not waver on Beijing's hardline position on Taiwan and told Biden it was the "core of China's core interests" and an "insurmountable red line in US-China relations".

Nor did he appear to make any clear concessions on the Ukraine war or North Korea's weapons tests.



US President Joe Biden (R) gestures with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi before the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment meeting at the G20 Summit in Nusa Dua on the Indonesian resort island of Bali yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

COP27 leaders urged to fight climate disinfo

AFP, Sharm el Sheikh

Campaigners yesterday urged leaders at the COP27 summit and big tech companies to formally crack down on climate disinformation that undermines efforts to limit the deadly impacts of global warming.

In an open letter, they called on COP27 delegates to adopt a common definition of climate disinformation and misinformation and work to prevent it.

"They called on the bosses of seven digital giants, including Facebook, Google and Twitter, to implement tough policies to stop false climate information spreading on their platforms as they did for Covid-19."

"We cannot beat climate change without tackling climate misinformation and disinformation," they wrote.

"While emissions continue to rise, humanity faces climate catastrophe, yet vested economic and political interests continue to organise and finance climate misinformation and disinformation to hold back action."

EU vows more emissions cuts at UN climate talks

AFP, Sharm el Sheikh

The EU vowed to step up its emissions cuts at UN climate talks yesterday as developing nations admonished rich polluters for falling short on efforts to help them cope with global warming.

The COP27 conference in Egypt has been dominated by calls for wealthy nations to fulfil pledges to fund the green transitions of poorer countries least responsible for global emissions, build their resilience and compensate them for climate-linked losses.

The meeting comes as global emissions are slated to reach an all-time high this year, making the aspirational goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels ever more elusive.

European Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans told delegates that the European Union will update its climate commitment as it will be able to exceed its original plan to cut emissions by 55 percent by 2030.

The 27-nation bloc will now be able to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 57

percent from 1990 levels, he said.

"The European Union is here to move forwards, not backwards," Timmermans told COP27 delegates.

The invasion of Ukraine by fossil fuel exporter Russia has cast a shadow over the talks in Egypt, with activists accusing Europeans of seeking to tap Africa for natural gas following Russian supply cuts.

But Timmermans denied that the

The 27-nation bloc will now be able to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 57 pc from 1990 levels

27-nation bloc was in a "dash for gas" in the wake of the Ukraine conflict.

"So don't let anybody tell you here or outside that the EU is backtracking," he said.

Campaigners said the EU announcement did not go far enough.

"This small increase announced today at COP27 doesn't do justice to the calls from the most vulnerable countries at

the front lines," said Chiara Martinelli, of Climate Action Network Europe.

"If the EU, with a heavy history of emitting greenhouse gases, doesn't lead on mitigating climate change, who will?"

COP27 has exposed deep divisions between wealthy polluters and nations vulnerable to the most ferocious climate impacts.

"The lack of leadership and ambition on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is worrisome," said Senegalese Environment Minister Alioune Ndiaye, speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group.

Belize Climate Change Minister Orlando Habet called for more action from the G20 group of the world's wealthiest nations, which are responsible for 80 percent of global emissions and are meeting at summit in Indonesia.

"In how many COPs have we been arguing for urgent climate action? And how many more do we need, how many lives do we need to sacrifice," Habet said.

UN climate talks often go into overtime and this year's meeting, due to end on Friday, could be no different.

Trump to launch new W House bid

AFP, Washington



Former US president Donald Trump was expected to launch another White House bid yesterday, even as another one of his fellow election deniers lost a key race in last week's midterms. The 76-year-old billionaire, whose 2016 win shocked

America and the world, has summoned the press to his Florida mansion for a "very big announcement" at 9:00 pm yesterday (0200 GMT Wednesday). Known for his unpredictability, Trump could still change his mind at the last minute, but for months he has barely hidden his desire to vie for the presidency again in 2024. And delaying the announcement now, as some of his advisers have reportedly suggested to him, would be awkward considering Trump's repeated boast about the momentousness of his yesterday's address. "Hopefully TODAY will turn out to be one of the most important days in the history of our Country!" Trump posted overnight on his Truth Social platform. But in a new sign that Trump and his hardcore followers do not lead the electoral juggernaut they once did, one of Trump's staunchest supporters, the election denier and establishment skeptic Kari Lake, was projected to lose her race to be governor of Arizona.

Govt goes soft on 3-wheelers on highways

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The plan will get retrospective effect from January 2021 as the tenure of the previous plan expired in 2020. Quader blamed the pandemic for the delay in its approval.

All these developments came at a time when the country is witnessing a gradual rise in road accidents and thousands of lives perishing every year.

The unchecked and unregulated three-wheelers, including locally made nosimon, korimon and battery-run easy bike, and ever-increasing motorbikes in the last six-seven years are linked to a majority of the deaths.

At least 5,043 people were killed in 4,225 crashes in the first nine months of this year, according to the Road Safety Foundation.

Three-wheelers, including those illegal and locally made, and motorbikes were involved in 59.49 percent of the road deaths this year. Bikes contributed to 37.78 percent of the deaths and three-wheelers 21.71 percent, its data shows.

Experts said operation of speedy vehicles alongside slow-moving vehicles like locally made three-wheelers with poor safety features on highways often leads to accidents, which cause relatively more casualties due to the poor structure of the vehicles.

The number of such vehicles started to increase in the early last decade. The authorities had to ban three-wheelers on 22 major highways in August 2015, following a court order.

Yet these vehicles

continue to ply the highways with their number increasing amid the shortage of public transport. And they become a major income source for many, especially in suburban and rural areas.

Their number could be 30-40 lakh now, according to the sector insiders.

Quader yesterday admitted that they could not execute the ban and blamed the shortage of manpower of BRTA and highway police for it.

He said they would now "closely monitor" five highways — Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Mymensingh, Dhaka-Tangail and Dhaka-Aricha — so that the three-wheelers cannot operate there.

About the other 17 highways, he said a large number of people are involved in the sector in rural areas, and the three-wheeler is a mode of transport for lower-income people.

"If we stop operation of the vehicles, many drivers would be jobless and people will face problems. So, these can be operated, but under a guideline," he said.

The minister said a guideline in this regard is now at the final stage.

The road transport and bridges ministry formed a committee in June 2019 to recommend measures to control the operation of three-wheelers. Following its recommendations, the ministry prepared a draft regulatory guideline in November last year.

Discussion on banning bikes on highways is going on for the last few months

as road crashes involving motorcycles have seen a sharp rise in recent years.

A government probe committee in June this year recommended that bikes be banned on national highways to reduce the number of accidents.

The two-wheelers can be allowed only if the national highways have separate service lanes, added the committee,

Hunt on for the shooter

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area at the time, it said.

The press release did not mention the officers' names. Tontu Saha, officer-in-charge of Naikkyangchhari Police Station, said the incident took place near a Rohingya camp along the border.

Inspector Bacchu Miah, in-charge of the police outpost at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said the injured Rab member, Sohul Barua, 30, was brought there around 3:00am yesterday.

Fazle Elahi Milad, associate professor of neurosurgery, said "There were wounds on his head caused by sharp weapons. He underwent a

surgery on his head in the morning. Later, he was moved to the post-operative ward. His condition is now stable."

Meanwhile, Sajeda Begum, 20, a Rohingya woman allegedly shot dead during the clash, was buried around 11:00am at a graveyard of the Rohingya camp on the no-man's land, said Dil Mohammad, a community leader of the refugees.

Sajeda gave birth to a girl child just 10 days ago, he added.

Police were yet to issue any official statement about the woman's death as of 8:00pm.

[Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent also contributed to this report.]

Messi picks Brazil

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"If I have to put some above others I think Brazil, France and England are a little bit above the rest. But the World Cup is so difficult and so complicated that anything can happen."

Messi reached the final with Argentina in 2014 but suffered an extra-time defeat by Germany.

Copa American champions Argentina are unbeaten in 35 games and if this is to be Messi's final World Cup, they are in the form to deliver the

title. "We are very excited. We have a very nice group that is very eager, but we think about going little by little," he said.

"We hope to start the World Cup in the best way to face everything that comes after. The more you play and the more time you spend on the pitch, the more you get to know each other."

Argentina's opening Group C match is against Saudi Arabia before they face Mexico and Poland.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Ref. No. 12.23.0000.077.11.010.22.1401

Date: 15/11/2022

Invitation for Tenders (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Agriculture
2	Agency	Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI)
3	Procuring entity name	Programme Director and CSO, BJRI, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Supply of manpower (Efficient Worker-06 Nos. and Lab Attendant-04 Nos.) through Outsourcing services
7	Invitation Ref No.	12.23.0000.077.11.010.22.
8	Date	15/11/2022
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB)
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A
12	Program code	123040201
13	Program name	Development of Innovation Technology by the Application of Reactive dye and various types of prints (Pigment, Rubber, Foil) on jute and jute-cotton blended fabrics
14	Tender Package No.	SR-02
15	Tender package name	Supply of manpower through Outsourcing services
16	Tender publication date	15/11/2022
17	Tender last selling date	28/11/2022
18	Tender closing date and time	29/11/2022 12:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	29/11/2022 12:30pm
20	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document (principal)	Programme Director & CSO, Dyeing and Printing Division, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207
21	Receiving tender document	Office of Programme Director & CSO, BJRI, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207
22	Opening tender document	Office of Director General, BJRI, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207
23	Eligibility of tenderer	Attested copies of updated trade license, income tax and VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate, work completion certificate of similar works (i.e., supplying manpower at govt./semi-govt or autonomous organization), and all other relevant documents as per TDS, tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (original copy) should be submitted with tender.
24	Brief description of services	As stated in tender documents
25	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 1000/- (one thousand Taka) non-refundable
26	Amount of tender security (Tk)	Tk. 30,000/- (thirty thousand Taka)
27	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. M M Alamgir Sayeed
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Programme Director and CSO, Dyeing and Printing Division
29	Address of official inviting tender	BJRI, Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 02-48118528, Mobile No. 01913089225

N.B.: The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

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