

China, Russia 'destabilizing' Africa: US

Pledges billions of dollars in support

AFP, Washington

The United States warned Tuesday that China and Russia were destabilizing Africa with their growing inroads as it rolled out the red carpet to the continent's leaders and pledged billions of dollars in support.

Forty-nine African leaders flew into the Washington cold for the first continent-wide summit with the United States in eight years as President Joe Biden seeks to use personal diplomacy to win back influence.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, at a panel with several African presidents at the start of the three-day summit, charged that US rivals had a different approach.



Austin said China was expanding its footprint in Africa "on a daily basis" through its growing economic influence.

"The troubling piece there is they're not always transparent in terms of what they're doing and that creates problems that will be eventually destabilizing, if they're not already," Austin said.

Russia was "continuing to peddle cheap weapons" and deploying "mercenaries across the continent," he added. "And that is destabilizing as well."

But the Biden administration has been careful not to present Africans with an us-or-them choice, believing it is futile to try to turn the tide on China's massive infrastructure spending.

Biden plans to unveil \$55 billion for Africa over three years. In one of the first announcements, the White House said the United States would invest \$4 billion by the 2025 fiscal year to train African health workers, a rising priority for Washington since the Covid-19 pandemic.

The summit also brought in Nasa, with Nigeria and Rwanda becoming the first African nations to sign the Artemis accords, a US-led bid for international cooperation on traveling to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

The Artemis accords, come as China rapidly expands its own lunar program and as tensions with Russia threaten its post-Cold War work with the United States on space.



The representatives of the Ukrainian people pose with European Parliament President Roberta Metsola (4th R) as they receive the 2022 European Parliament's Sakharov human rights prize during an award ceremony at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, yesterday. The people of Ukraine received the prize for Freedom of Thought to honour their fight against Russia's invasion.

PHOTO: REUTERS

COP15 SUMMIT

Rich nations oppose new biodiversity fund

AFP, Montreal

Creating a new global fund for biodiversity -- a core demand of developing countries at UN talks in Montreal -- "would take years" and be less effective than reforming existing financial mechanisms, Canada's environment minister said Tuesday.

Ottawa's position reflects the consensus among developed nations on the thorny issue, which has emerged as a key sticking point in negotiations to hammer out a new global pact for nature at the meeting, known as COP15.

Delegates from around the world have gathered for the December 7-19 summit aiming to secure a new deal: a 10-year framework aimed at saving Earth's forests, oceans and species before it's too late.

Draft targets include a cornerstone pledge to protect 30 percent of the world's land and seas by 2030, eliminating harmful fishing and agriculture subsidies and tackling invasive species and



reducing pesticides.

Dozens of countries, led by Brazil, India, Indonesia and African nations, are demanding financial subsidies of at least \$100 billion a year until 2030, or one percent of global GDP, to protect ecosystems. The current figure is around \$10 billion annually.

"The countries of the North understand that ambition must be accompanied by financial resources," Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault said at a press conference held halfway through the talks.

But "my concern is that the creation of new funding could take years, and during those years, countries in the South wouldn't be receiving any money from that fund," he added.

He recalled the Global Environment Facility, currently the main multilateral mechanism for biodiversity, took seven years to create. Donors have pledged \$5.3 billion to this fund for its current cycle, 2022-2026.

"So I think it would be better to use existing funds" while pursuing reforms that would make money more accessible, he said.

"On the other hand, we have to agree on the fact that it cannot only be public money," said Guilbeault, stressing that private and philanthropic contributions must come into play, as well as multilateral lenders such as the World Bank and IMF.

"We all need to push harder this week," he concluded, after the first week of talks ended in stalemate.

Pak to approach UN after blaming India for 2021 blast

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan will take a dossier to the United Nations alleging its neighbour India has backed incidents of terrorism, the foreign ministry said yesterday, a day after Islamabad said India was behind a high-profile bombing. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar said the dossier will include detailed evidence and information of India's involvement in a 2021 bombing outside the house of an Islamist leader, among other incidents of sabotage and what she called terrorism. "We will call it information based evidence," Rabbani Khar said about the dossier. "It is sharing information and sharing evidence on what India has been up to. Let's put the record straight, that's what it is, and... to let the world know that what is happening in the region," Khar said. India's foreign office did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment about the dossier. Rabbani Khar did not say when the dossier was to be presented to the UN, or to which UN body. Pakistan on Tuesday accused India of backing and funding the 2021 bombing outside the house of Hafiz Saeed, the founder of the Islamist militant Lashkar-e-Taiba group blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed 166 people, including foreigners.

Tracking Covid cases 'impossible' Says China as infections soar

AFP, Beijing

China's top health body said yesterday the true scale of coronavirus infections in the country is now "impossible" to track, with officials warning cases are rising rapidly in Beijing after the government abruptly abandoned its zero-Covid policy.

Beijing's decision to scrap mass testing and quarantines after nearly three years of attempting to stamp out the virus has led to a corresponding drop in officially reported infections, which hit an all-time high only last month. But those numbers no longer reflected reality because testing is no longer required for much of the country, China's National Health Commission (NHC) acknowledged yesterday.

"Many asymptomatic people are no longer participating in nucleic acid testing, so it is impossible to accurately grasp the actual number of asymptomatic infected people," the NHC said in a statement yesterday. That came after Vice Premier Sun Chunlan said new infections in the capital were "rapidly growing".



Flooding kills 120 in Kinshasa

AFP, Kinshasa

More than 120 people were killed Tuesday as the worst floods in years battered DR Congo's capital Kinshasa following an all-night downpour, authorities said in a provisional assessment.

Major roads in the centre of Kinshasa, a city of some 15 million people, were submerged for hours, and a key supply route was cut off.

The death toll -- which was first estimated in the late afternoon to be at least 55 -- jumped to more than 120 by nightfall.

The government has announced three

days of national mourning that began yesterday, according to a statement from Prime Minister Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde's office.

City police chief General Sylvano Kasongo told AFP that the bulk of people dead were on hillside locations where there had been landslides.

An AFP reporter saw the bodies of nine members of the same family -- including young children -- who had died after the collapse of their home in the Binza Delvaux district.

"We were woken up at around 4:00 am (0300 GMT) by water entering the house," a relative said.

CHINA THREATS

Japan set to overhaul defence policy

AFP, Tokyo

Japan is expected to announce its biggest defence overhaul in decades this week, hiking spending, reshaping its military command and acquiring new missiles to tackle the threat from China. The policies, to be outlined in three defence and security documents as soon as tomorrow, will reshape the defence landscape in a country whose post-war constitution does not even officially recognise the military.

"Fundamentally strengthening our defence capabilities is the most urgent challenge in this severe security environment," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at the weekend. "We will urgently ramp up our defence capabilities over the next five years."

The shift is the result of Tokyo's fears about China's growing military strength and regional posturing, as well as threats ranging from North Korean missile launches to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Key among the new policies is a pledge to boost spending to two percent of GDP by 2027 to bring Japan in line with Nato members.

That marks a significant increase from historic spending of around one percent, and has sparked criticism over how it will be financed.

The money will fund projects including the acquisition of what Japan calls "counterstrike capacity" -- the ability to hit launch sites that threaten the country, even preemptively.



BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION
Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)
Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Election Commission	
2	Agency	Election Commission Secretariat	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Represented by Project Director, Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 nd Phase), Bangladesh Election Commission.	
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
5	Invitation for	Purchasing and Installation of BVRs Server.	
6	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	17.14.0000.240.07.101.2022/ . 3202 ; Dated: 14 December, 2022	
KEY INFORMATION			
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB (Development Budget)	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
9	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	224331200	
10	Project Name (if applicable)	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 nd Phase)	
11	Tender Package No.	GD-35	
12	Tender Package Name	Purchasing and Installation of BVRs Server.	
		Date	Time
13	Tender Publication Date	15 December, 2022	
14	Pre-Tender Meeting Date and Time	01 January, 2023	11:30 A.M.
15	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	12 January, 2023	04:00 P.M.
16	Tender Closing Date and Time	15 January, 2023	11:30 P.M.
17	Tender Opening Date and Time	15 January, 2023	12:00 P.M.
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address	
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Assistant Director (Finance) Room No. 818, (Floor-8), Nirbachan Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.	
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS			
19	Pre-Tender Meeting		
20	Receiving Tender Document	Conference Room No. 721, Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-7), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.	
21	Opening Tender Document		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Tender shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. 2. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. 3. Tenderers shall have to fulfil its obligation/obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. 4. Detail information has been provided in the tender document.	
23	Brief Description of Services	Purchasing of Lot-01 Server and related accessories (Server, ToR Switch, Power Distribution Unit) & Lot-02 Spare Storage Server Hard Disk As specified in the Tender Document	
24	Price of Tender Document	BDT 3000.00 (Three Thousand Tk only) Non-refundable.	
25	Lot	Identification of Lot	Tender Security
	Lot 1	Server and related accessories	TK.14,50,000.00 (Fourteen Lac Fifty Thousand)
	Lot 2	Spare Storage Server Hard Disk	TK.2,50,000.00 (Two lac Fifty Thousand)
			90 Days From the Date of Contact Signing.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sayem	
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director	
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 nd Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.	
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 00-88-02-55007594; e-mail address:	
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.		

Abul Hasnat Mohammad Sayem
Brigadier General
Project Director
pd_idea2.bd@gmail.com



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001: 2018 Certified
(All Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.385 Date: 14/12/2022

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl No.	Tender ID	Brief description of tender	Publication date	Last selling date & time	Opening date
1	757342	Spare parts for GT UPS System	14/12/2022	04/01/2023, 14:00pm	04/01/2023

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj

GD-2308