

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.



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

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.

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.

Haas meets the victims' families

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visit was leaked. He also said the embassy did not inform beforehand the foreign ministry about his visit.

He said he told the ambassador, "We cannot keep the media restrained. Our media is very active, though you say there is no freedom of speech."

About the gathering, the minister told the ambassador that he cannot stop people from going

someplace. "... We can only keep them away for your protection.

"If anyone attacks you or your people and harms public property, only then we can arrest them. Otherwise, we can do nothing."

Meanwhile, Sanjida told The Daily Star, "We have been demanding the return of our loved ones for around 10 years, but the government is doing

nothing ... rather, different quarters have lately been intensifying threats. We shared these issues with the ambassador."

The families asked for an independent and impartial investigation involving representatives from the judiciary and the civil society, an end to lying about secret detentions and disappearances, allowing the families of the victims of enforced

disappearance to carry out their activities without fear of reprisal, and disclosing the fate of the victims.

They were also working to ensure human rights, Sanjida added.

Asked what Haas had told them, Sanjida said the ambassador listened to them and said they were working to ensure investigations into the incidents of enforced disappearance.

Quader's lawyer Sheikh Muhammed Serajul Islam, however, said he cannot make any comment without reviewing the full text of the order.

Earlier on October 31, a Dhaka court issued an injunction barring Quader from taking any political decision regarding the party after Mridha, who was removed from the party on September 17, filed a case against him on October 4.

On November 16, the same court sustained the injunction order.

Following a revision plea by Quader, the HC on November 29 permitted him to carry out his duties by staying the lower court's embargo until January 3.

On November 30, the SC chamber judge stayed HC's order and sent the petition to the full bench for further hearing.

Quader can't perform his party duties

FROM PAGE 1
till January 9, Mridha's lawyer Mohammad Sayeed Ahmed Raza told The Daily Star.

Quader's lawyer Sheikh Muhammed Serajul Islam, however, said he cannot make any comment without reviewing the full text of the order.

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

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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 HVRS 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 HVRS 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 Completion Time in Weeks
	Lot 1	Server and related accessories TK.14,50,000.00 (Fourteen Lac Fifty Thousand) 90 Days From the Date of Contact Signing.
	Lot 2	Spare Storage Server Hard Disk TK 2,50,000.00 (Two Lac Fifty Thousand)
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
psd.idea2.bd@gmail.com

GD-2311