INTERNATIONAL

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 15, 2022 AGRAHAYAN 30, 1429 BS The Daily Star

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.



City

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.

the Ottawa's position reflects 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.

Target is to save Tk 20,000 crore

the annual development

classifying projects into A,

would continue as usual,

spent on the B-category

projects. All C-category

projects have been put

on hold, but ministries

and divisions can re-

route the funds to the

A-category projects being

the PM told the secretaries

that the ongoing global

economic crisis due to the

pandemic and the Russia-

Ukraine war would not

go away very soon, and

the next year might be

In this regard, she

Subsidy expenditure is

directed various measures

to tackle the challenges

tougher.

effectively.

At a meeting last month,

implemented by them.

The A-category projects

by

programme too

B and C categories.

FROM PAGE 1

According to budget documents. the allocation for this end is about Tk 103.406 crore.

If the latest directives from the Finance Division while up to 75 percent of are implemented properly, the allocation could be it would be possible to cut expenses by up to 20 percent, said a finance ministry official.

On the first working day of this fiscal year, the government rolled out a cocktail of austerity measures for its own administration that can conserve about Tk 60,000 crore.

The instructions. which were made in three separate notices issued by the ministry, came after Hasina on June 29 urged everyone to practice austerity from their own

positions. The request came in the face of strained foreign currency reserves, elevated global and domestic inflation, low fiscal space and continued jitters surrounding the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Finance Division also asked the government, semi-government, autonomous and statutory bodies as well as stateowned enterprises and financial institutions not to purchase vehicles, aircraft, ships, boats or barges under any development and nondevelopment budgets until further notice.

There would honorarium no for attending meetings of the project implementation committee, project steering committee, departmental project evaluation committee and departmental special project evaluation committee.

The austerity measures have been implemented in

the main pressure point in the current budget and the pressure has increased, said a finance ministry official. Normally, the government's subsidy remains

expenditure below Tk 40,000 crore. But in the last fiscal year, such expenses were about Tk 60,000 crore. This fiscal year, about Tk 82,000 crore has been set aside for subsidies. And ministries and divisions are demanding more subsidies.

According to an estimate by the finance ministry, the subsidy demand would go up to Tk 105,105 crore if the energy price is not adjusted.

Amid the situation, the government is planning to increase electricity and gas prices alongside taking various austerity measures to reduce pressure on the national budget.

Haas meets the victims' families

someplace. "... We can only nothing ... rather, different disappearance to carry out



BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION

Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase)

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

GD-2308

protection.

or your people and harms the ambassador."

public property, only then we can arrest them. for an independent and the ambassador listened Otherwise, we can do impartial investigation to them and said they nothing."

Meanwhile, told The Daily Star, "We civil society, an end to lying incidents of enforced have been demanding the about secret detentions disappearance. return of our loved ones and disappearances, for around 10 years, but allowing the families of the government is doing the victims of enforced Sanjida added.

keep them away for your quarters have lately been their activities without fear intensifying threats. We of reprisal, and disclosing "If anyone attacks you shared these issues with the fate of the victims.

> The families asked told them, Sanjida said involving representatives were working to ensure Sanjida from the judiciary and the investigations into the

> > to ensure human rights,

Asked what Haas had

They were also working

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)

| SI 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) | | | |
| NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj | | | |

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.

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.

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| 22 | Eligibility of Tenderer | | Tender shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have to fulfil its obligation/obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. Detail information has been provided in the tender document. | | | | |
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| 29 | Contact details | s of Official Inviting Tender | Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Telephone: 00-88-02-55007594; e-mail address: | | | | |
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