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# Southern DAILY

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## Biden visits Congress to rally votes for his agenda, vows to 'get it done'



WASHINGTON, Oct 1 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden on Friday urged his fellow Democrats in Congress to overcome divisions that threaten his agenda and pass legislation to bolster safety-net programs, fight climate change and rebuild the nation's roads and bridges.

Biden's visit to the Capitol capped a tumultuous week that saw lawmakers narrowly avert a government shutdown and postpone a House of Representatives vote on a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill already passed by the Senate.

Fresh disagreements emerged among Democrats over the size of a multi-trillion-dollar companion bill that would fund health, education and climate measures.

The president acknowledged in a closed-door meeting that Democrats currently did not have enough votes to pass the two massive spending bills that have divided moderates and progressives, lawmakers said. "It doesn't matter whether it's in six minutes, six days or in six weeks. We're going to get it done," Biden

told reporters after the meeting.

Members of the party's progressive wing vow to block the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill until they can be sure that moderates will not derail the bigger social spending and climate change bill. Moderates say that bill is too expensive.

U.S. presidents rarely visit Capitol Hill, preferring to summon lawmakers to the White House for discussions. Democrats said they hoped Biden's visit could help renew momentum.

"I think the president might be the only person that can bridge both the trust gap and the timing gap," Representative Dean Phillips said before the meeting. Lawmakers said Biden told them the social-spending bill should cost about \$2 trillion -- a significant drop from his initial \$3.5 trillion proposal, and closer to the \$1.5 trillion that key moderate Senator Joe Manchin said he would support.

Democratic leaders in the House did not appear to have a clear plan to resolve the impasse earlier.

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi talks with members of her House of Representatives leadership team, including House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) and Assistant Speaker Katherine Clark (D-MA) at the "In America: Remember" public art installation of hundreds of thousands of flags commemorating Americans who have died due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), that has been installed on the Washington Monument grounds in Washington, U.S. October 1, 2021. REUTERS/Leah Millis "We are working on trying to get to a place where everybody is comfortable," No. 2 House Democrat Steny Hoyer told reporters before Biden's visit.

With a narrow majority in the House, Biden's party cannot afford to lose too many votes on the infrastructure legislation, which would double spending on roads and other infrastructure. The bill has already passed the Senate with bipartisan support.

Democrats said they also planned a vote to ensure that transportation funding, which expired on Thursday, is not

disrupted while they continue to negotiate.

Progressives are angry that two Senate moderates - Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema - oppose the size of Biden's plan to boost social spending and fight climate change. The Senate is split 50-50 with Republicans, all of whom oppose the multi-trillion-dollar bill, so every Democratic vote is needed for passage with Vice President Kamala Harris the tie breaker.

Sinema has met with Biden multiple times to discuss the bill. She was home in Arizona on Friday but remained in touch with the White House, a spokesman said.

House Republicans are unlikely to help pass the infrastructure bill, eager to deny Biden a policy victory ahead of the 2022 midterm elections, when history favors their chances to recapture majorities.

DEBT-CEILING THREAT

Congress has little time to focus on the infrastructure fight due to another fast-approaching deadline: the debt

ceiling.

A historic U.S. debt default could occur around Oct. 18, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has estimated, if Congress fails to give the government additional borrowing authority beyond the current statutory limit of \$28.4 trillion.

Republicans want no part of the debt limit increase, saying it is Democrats' problem since they control Congress and the White House. Democrats note that about \$5 trillion of the nation's debt is the result of tax cuts and spending passed during Republican Donald Trump's presidency.

The House approved a bill late on Wednesday suspending the debt limit through December 2022. The Senate could vote on it "as early as next week," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said, but Republicans are expected to block it again as they have twice before.



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

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We All Need To Live In Hope



We often call Autumn the season of the year between summer and winter when the temperature gradually decreases, the leaves fall from the trees and the temperature transitions between summer heat and winter cold.

I was walking through my backyard where many trees are changing their colors to red or brown and suddenly I

felt a deep sadness as many tragedies passed through my mind.

In the last twenty months the world has really turned upside down because of the Covid-19. We lost many of our dear friends, brothers and sisters. They lost the battle with the coronavirus and many families lost their loved ones or their businesses which they had built up over

their lifetime.

Dear brothers and sisters, we still need to live in hope. Hope can erode when we perceive a threat to our way of life and these days all of us face plenty of uncertainty out there.

All of us need to have hope even when there is no hope. People can't picture a desired end to their struggles and they lose their motivation to endure.

According to research at

Harvard, they found that those with more hope throughout their lives had better physical health, better health behaviors, better social support and longer lives.

Today we live in a very chaotic world. Many things are uncertain.

We need to make our minds stronger every day and always look for more hope to help each other fight for a better future.





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Editor's Choice



Former diplomat Michael Kovrig, released from detention in China, embraces his wife Vina Nadjibulla following his arrival on a Canadian air force jet at Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Ontario, Canada September 25, 2021. Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou flew home to China from Canada after reaching an agreement with U.S. prosecutors to end the



Lava is seen through the window of a kitchen from El Paso following a volcanic eruption on the Canary Island of La Palma, Spain, September 28, 2021. The Cumbre Vieja volcano, which has been ejecting a destructive cocktail of ash, smoke and lava since Sept. 19, has destroyed more than 800 buildings, as well as banana plantations, roads and other infrastructure. REUTERS/Jon



A couple hugs as they look at the white flags, September 26, 2021. "Once you take one flag and think about all the grief that is embodied by that flag, then you lift your gaze. That's the power of this art - understanding the immensity of our loss," said Firstenberg, adding that the flags are meant to mimic the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



Chloe Benuen of the Innu First Nation poses in traditional costume and a red handprint on her face that symbolizes missing and murdered indigenous women, after a ceremony at an annual Innu clan gathering on the eve of Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, at Gull Island, Labrador, Canada September 29, 2021. The day honors the lost children and survivors of indigenous residential schools, their families and communities. REUTERS/Greg Locke



New York State Governor Kathy Hochul wears a necklace that reads "Vaxed" at a news conference about the coronavirus vaccination mandate for health-care workers, in New York City, September 27, 2021. REUTERS/David 'Dee' Delgado



Demonstrators burn the belongings of Venezuelan migrants at a makeshift camp in a public square during a rally against their migration in Iquique, Chile, September 25, 2021. Thousands of local Chileans marched with anti-immigration slogans and set fire to belongings of the Venezuelan migrants, tossing clothes and mattresses in bonfires in the street, after a camp was cleared by police. REUTERS/Alex Diaz



“We’re still living in what I would call the ‘1918 pandemic era’ 102 years later” says Taubenberger, “and I don’t know how long it will last.” (Courtesy history.com)