

Don't get too close to Taiwan

Taipei warns Beijing as China defends military drills

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan's defence ministry warned China of strong countermeasures yesterday if its forces got too close to the island, as Beijing defended its incursions into Taiwan's air defence zone as "just" moves to protect peace and stability.

Military tensions with China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, are at their worst in more than 40 years, Taiwan's defence minister said last week, adding China will be capable of mounting a "full scale" invasion by 2025.

He was speaking after China mounted four straight days of mass air force incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone that began October 1, part of a pattern of what Taipei views as stepped up military harassment by Beijing.

No shots have been fired and China's aircraft have stayed well away from Taiwan's airspace, concentrating their activities in the southwestern corner of Taiwan's air defence zone. In a report to parliament, Taiwan's defence ministry said their forces will adhere to the principle of "the closer they are to the island, the stronger the countermeasures", though it gave no details.

The ministry expressed concern again of China's growing prowess, with new aircraft carriers, nuclear-powered submarines and amphibious assault ships coming into service. China's capabilities in denying access and blockading the Taiwan Strait "are becoming more and more complete, which will pose serious challenges and threats to our defence operations", it added.



Lava rolls down behind street light posts in Los Llanos as the Cumbre Vieja volcano continues to erupt on the Canary Island of La Palma, as seen from Tajuya, Spain yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MORE NEWS

Somalia comes out on top in sea border row with Kenya

The UN's top court handed Somalia control of most of a potentially oil and gas-rich chunk of the Indian Ocean on Tuesday after a bitter legal battle with Kenya, which strongly rejected the ruling. Kenya got only a small slice of the disputed tract of sea off the East African coast in the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta responded strongly, saying his government "rejects in totality and does not recognise the findings in the decision". With Kenya refusing to recognise the "biased" court's authority, all eyes will be on what Nairobi does next in one of the world's most troubled regions.

El Nino puts millions in childhood malnutrition: study

Changing rain patterns caused by the El Nino warming phenomenon frequently drives millions of children into malnutrition and saddles them with life-long health issues, researchers said Tuesday, calling for action against the "predictable" impact. El Nino is a periodic event that affects global weather patterns, occurring every few years when eastern Pacific Ocean waters get unusually warm, leading to heavy rain in some regions but relative drought in others. US-based researchers examined 40 years worth of data for more than one million children across all developing country regions and compared their weight in El Nino with non-El Nino years.



Sri Lanka drops charges against admiral over killings

Sri Lankan authorities have dropped charges, including conspiracy to murder, against a former navy chief linked to 11 killings that drew international condemnation, the country's attorney general announced yesterday. The investigation against Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda was part of a case that cast a spotlight on extrajudicial killings during Sri Lanka's 37-year ethnic war that ended in 2009. Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam told the Court of Appeal that the state will not pursue charges against Karannagoda, who was first indicted in 2019. A court official told AFP that a lower court would soon discharge Karannagoda, one of 14 people accused of abducting the teenaged children of wealthy families in 2008 and 2009 and killing them after extorting money.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Countries call for urgent action

Sign historic pledge to put protection of habitats at the heart of their decision-making process

REUTERS, Kunming

More than 100 countries yesterday pledged to put the protection of habitats at the heart of their government decision-making but they stopped short of committing to specific targets to curb mass extinctions.

Chinese Environment Minister Huang Runqiu told delegates to a UN Biodiversity Conference in the city of Kunming that the declaration they adopted was a document of political will not a binding international agreement.

The Kunming Declaration calls for "urgent and integrated action" to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy but crucial issues - like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains - have been left to discuss later.

UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT

'Kunming Declaration' urges countries to take rapid action on species loss

China's willingness to protect 30pc of its land still in question

Declaration marred by wrangling over language

With plant and animal species loss now at the fastest rate in 10 million years, politicians, scientists and experts have been trying to lay the groundwork for a new pact on saving biodiversity.

In a previous agreement signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020, but none of those targets was met.

At the heart of efforts to save

nature is a call by the United Nations for countries to protect and conserve 30% of their territory by 2030 - a target known as '30 by 30', which the conference acknowledged though it was not clear to what extent host China backed it.

"The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target, but did not indicate if Beijing is on board with it or not," said Li Shuo, senior climate adviser with environment group Greenpeace.

Elizabeth Mrema, executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, played down the importance of the adoption of the specific 30% target.

Apart from the question of targets for conservation, some activists have complained that disagreement over the wording of the declaration had diverted delegates' attention when urgent action was needed.

'Act immediately' to keep 1.5C goal in reach

COP26 host asks world leaders

AFP, Paris

COP26 President Alok Sharma on Tuesday asked world leaders to slash their emissions "immediately" to avoid failure at next month's summit and keep the Paris climate goals in play.

Speaking in the French capital less than three weeks before the crunch Glasgow gathering, Sharma said that the keystone 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement would be missed without sweeping emissions reductions by major polluters.

"Success or failure of the COP26 is in their hands," he said.

"Unless we act immediately the 1.5-degree limit will slip out of reach."

Six years on from the Paris accord, nations have failed to align their economies with the 1.5C warming target.

Even the most recent emissions cutting plans -- part of the deal's five-year "ratchet" mechanism -- puts the planet on course to rise a "catastrophic" 2.7C this century, according to the UN.

As well as far more ambitious emissions cuts, host Britain has said it wants the two-week Glasgow summit to commit to help finance developing countries' climate fight, and to finalise the Paris Agreement's "rulebook". Sharma said that "all eyes" would be on a G20 summit in Rome at the end of October, since those nations account for roughly 80 percent of global emissions. He added that 120 "world leaders" had already confirmed they would attend COP26 in person after its year-long delay due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Mandeep Kaur (C) along with her son and her mother-in-law (C) mourns the death of her husband slain Indian Army soldier Mandeep Singh, who was killed in an encounter that broke out during an anti-insurgency operation in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, at their home in Chatha village Chatha some 20 km from Batala, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Wives earn less than husbands around world

AGENCIES

As gender inequality remains a social barrier in human development, according to a recent global study, the difference in earnings between a heterosexual couple persists across countries, over time, and across rich and poor households.

The study of intra-household gender inequality in wages was conducted across 45 countries over a period from 1973 to 2016.

It claims there isn't a single country in the world where wives are paid more than their husbands, reports RepublicWorld.com.

The researchers, Professor Hema Swaminathan and Professor Deepak Malghan, of the Centre for Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management in Bengaluru, conducted the survey and gathered data from 2.85 million households made up of heterosexual couples between the ages of 18 and 65 years.

The report describes that in India, gender inequality in labour force exists and there are a few women who go to work and they are less likely to be in full-time jobs.

World's clean energy transition 'too slow', says IEA chief

AFP, Paris

The global transition to clean energy is still far too slow to meet climate pledges and risks fuelling even greater price volatility, the International Energy Agency warned yesterday.

"We are not investing enough to meet for future energy needs, and the uncertainties are setting the stage for a volatile period ahead," said IEA chief Fatih Birol.

"The social and economic benefits of accelerating clean energy transitions are huge, and the costs of inaction are immense."

In its annual World Energy Outlook report -- published just weeks before the COP26 summit in Glasgow -- the IEA calculated that investment in clean energy projects and infrastructure would need to be more than trebled over the next decade



if those pledges are to be met.

At the summit, countries will come under pressure to commit to decisive action to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as pledged in the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The IEA -- which advises developed countries on energy policy -- said that renewables such as wind and solar energy continued to grow rapidly, and electric vehicles set new sales records in 2020, even as economies were bent under the weight of Covid-19 lockdowns.

However, "this clean energy progress is still far too slow to put global emissions into sustained decline towards net zero" by 2050, which the agency believes will help limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5C.



OCTOBER 14

1912 - US President Theodore Roosevelt was shot by a would-be assassin in Milwaukee. He was saved by his thick coat and a bundle of paper in his breast pocket.

1964 - US civil rights leader Martin Luther King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1998 - Nigeria's exiled Nobel literature laureate Wole Soyinka returned home, nearly four years after fleeing the military dictatorship he vigorously opposed.

2001 - Two days of anti-American riots in the northern Nigerian city of Kano ended. At least 200 people died in the riots, in which churches, mosques and shops were set on fire.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Halt sales of 'text blast' kit

Philippines tells tech giants after election plug

REUTERS, Manila

The Philippines has ordered tech giants Facebook, Alibaba Lazada and Sea's Shopee to stop allowing sales of cellular equipment used for emergency messaging, after "text blasts" were used to promote a presidential election candidate.

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) ordered the platforms to appear before the agency on October 27 to explain why they should not be held liable for allowing sales of the equipment.

The NTC's order, made public on Tuesday, follows an investigation it ordered last week into an "emergency alert" text blast, typically used during natural disasters, that contained message of support for one of the presidential candidates.

Under local laws, the sale, manufacture and importation of equipment that can send a mass text message for free would require NTC approval.

The NTC has said the mobile text alerts must have come from illegal channels since the emergency Alert Short Message Service is used by disaster agencies.

Lazada Philippines has removed the products mentioned by the regulator and is committed to "strong action" against violators, a company spokesperson said in a statement.

"Our team does a daily manual sweep for product listings that violate existing policies and these are removed once identified," the spokesperson said.

Facebook said it will work with authorities to take down unlawful listings

on its Marketplace platform.

"When we receive a report from the appropriate legal authority about unlawful content, we will review and take appropriate action," a spokesperson said.

Shopee Philippines and Sea did not immediately respond to requests for comment.



Last week, whistleblower Frances Haugen testified before US Congress about the company's problems.

A leaked trove of documents revealed that Facebook purposely hid research about its platform's negative effects on mental health in teenagers. Haugen also claimed that the company stoked division by allowing disinformation on the platform to go unchecked.

This all came after a worldwide outage on October 4 that made Facebook and its family of apps inaccessible for hours.

But the platform's reputation has been crumbling for years and calls for internet regulations have been renewed.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Shariatpur
Website: eed.shariatpur.gov.bd

Memo No. Shar/NGSS/Ver.Ext/C-4/2021/03

Date: 13/10/2021

e-Tender Notice No. 03/2021-2022
(Open Tendering Method)

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work/educational institutions	Document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	ID: 618591	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-30	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Mahmudpur Modern High School, Sadar, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
02	ID: 618593	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-31	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Charchanda High School, Bhedargonj, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
03	ID: 618594	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-32	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Majid Zarina Foundation School and College, Naria, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00
04	ID: 619401	Shar/NGSS/Ver.-Extension/C-4/2021/WD-33	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building (1st floor, 2nd floor & 3rd floor) in/c. Sanitary Water supply & Electrification Works at Charbhaga Bangabandhu Adarsh High School and College, Bhedargonj, Shariatpur.	03-Nov-2021 17:00	04-Nov-2021 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the tender. 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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk: (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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