

TAIWAN TENSIONS

China's 4-day military drills set to end

AFP, Beijing

China's largest-ever military exercises surrounding Taiwan were drawing to a close yesterday following a controversial visit last week to the self-ruled island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Beijing has raged at the trip by Pelosi – the highest-ranking elected US official to visit Taiwan in decades – ripping up a series of talks and cooperation agreements with Washington, most notably on climate change and defence.

It has also deployed fighter jets, warships and ballistic missiles around Taiwan in what analysts have described as practice for a blockade and ultimate invasion of the island.

Those exercises were set to end yesterday, though Beijing has not confirmed its conclusion.

Taiwan's transport ministry said six of the seven "temporary danger zones" China had warned airlines to avoid ceased to be in effect as of noon yesterday, signalling a partial drawdown of the drills.

It said the seventh zone, in waters east of Taiwan, would remain in effect until 10 am local time today. "Relevant flights and sailings can gradually resume," the ministry said in a statement.

Beijing has also announced fresh drills in the Yellow Sea – located between China and the Korean peninsula – to take place until August 15.

An anonymously authored opinion piece published Sunday by state broadcaster CCTV said that after these exercises, China's military would be able to stage "regular" training drills east of the median line.

That line is an unofficial demarcation in the Taiwan Strait that Beijing does not recognise.

Taiwan has remained defiant throughout China's sabre-rattling, insisting it will not be cowed by its "evil neighbour".

But experts have warned the drills have revealed an increasingly emboldened Chinese military capable of carrying out a gruelling blockade of the island as well as obstructing US forces from coming to its aid.

"In some areas, the PLA might even surpass US capabilities," Grant Newsham, a researcher at the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies, told AFP, referring to China's military by its official name.



Palestinians react near a destroyed house amid Israel-Gaza fighting, in the northern Gaza Strip, yesterday. Israel and Palestinian militants have agreed to observe a truce in Gaza as proposed by Cairo, sources said, after a weekend-long pounding of Palestinian targets by Israel which killed 31 people.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia hits Zaporizhzhia again

Says Kyiv; Moscow denies; four more cargo ships sail from Ukraine

AGENCIES

Ukraine yesterday accused Russia of again shelling Europe's largest nuclear power plant, the Zaporizhzhia, and called for new international sanctions on Moscow for "nuclear terror".

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency raised grave concern about the shelling at the nuclear power plant, as its military said Russian forces had attacked dozens of front-line towns.

The developments came as four ships carrying Ukrainian foodstuffs sailed from Ukrainian Black Sea ports yesterday as part of a deal to unblock the country's sea exports, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said.

The four bulk carriers were loaded

with almost 170,000 tonnes of corn and other foodstuffs, Ukraine's sea ports authority said on Facebook.

Ukraine's state nuclear power firm said Russian forces damaged three radiation sensors at the facility in renewed shelling on Saturday night, wounding a worker with shrapnel.

The plant, in Russian-controlled territory, was also shelled on Friday. Moscow blames Ukrainian forces for the strikes.

Ukrainian nuclear company Energoatom said the latest Russian rocket attacks hit the plant's dry storage facility, where 174 containers with spent nuclear fuel were stored in the open air.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had said Friday's

shelling showed the risk of a nuclear disaster. Those shells hit a high voltage power line, prompting the plant's operators to disconnect a reactor despite no radioactive leak being detected.

On the ground, Russia is trying to gain control of the largely Russian-speaking Donbas region in the east, comprised of Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, where pro-Moscow separatists seized territory after the Kremlin annexed Crimea in 2014.

Ukraine's military said late on Saturday that Russian forces had shelled dozens of front-line towns and were trying to attack in six different areas in the Donetsk region, all of which failed to gain any territory and were held back by Ukrainian forces.

Refiners want

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Edible oil prices in Bangladesh depend on international price movements since up to 90 per cent of the country's annual demand of 20 lakh tonnes is met through imports.

In its proposal to the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission on Thursday, the Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners & Vanaspati Manufacturers Association, called for raising the prices of: loose soybean oil to Tk 180 per litre, a litre of bottled soybean oil to Tk 205 and the five-litre container to Tk 960.

The government last raised the price of soybean oil by Tk 5.7 per litre on June 9 – a week after Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi had said the price would come down.

Then on June 26, edible oil refiners cut the soybean oil price by up to Tk 6 a litre though the consumers' rights organisation said the rates should have been reduced by at least Tk 30 amid its falling price in the global market.

"It is true that the dollar price is increasing but it is also true that the prices of edible oil are decreasing in the international market," said Ghulam Rahman, president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

Referring to a recent report of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations on oil crops' monthly price update, he said the edible oil prices are likely to decrease further in the international market in the days to come.

The government should take a proper decision so that no one can make unusual profit here, he said.

Amnesty to black

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comprising houses, land, buildings or flats, stayed unchanged from fiscal 2020-21. That tax depends on the location of the property.

This fiscal year, the government has withdrawn the tax amnesty to black money at home, instead taking aim at wealth stashed abroad.

Cash squirreled away in foreign shores can be repatriated through the banking channel by paying a 7 percent tax remains.

If a Bangladeshi resident has assets abroad and has not disclosed them in the returns, the deputy commissioner of taxes can slap a penalty equivalent to the fair value of the asset.

"The Deputy Commissioner of Taxes shall have the authority to recover the penalty under this section by confiscating or selling any asset held by or on behalf of the assessee," says the amended Finance Bill 2022. If the assessee is suspected of hiding the assets abroad in the returns, the deputy commissioner of taxes will have the authority to open an investigation.

Zim clinch

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umpire's call saw Raza get the lifeline that he and his side desperately needed. From then on, the duo showed the required skill and mental resilience to get the game away from the Tigers.

Chakabva departed to Miraz after a stormy 75-ball 102, laced with 10 fours and two sixes. However, Raza and debutant Tony Munyonga ensured that Zimbabwe won without further hiccups.

Earlier, Bangladesh put on 290 runs on the board, courtesy of Mahmudullah Riyad's unbeaten 80 and Afif Hossain's 41.

Bangladesh got off to a solid start with Tamim Iqbal and Anamul Haque Bijoy's 71-run stand. Tamim looked in good touch during a 45-ball 50 but then Bangladesh lost both openers within the space of nine deliveries as Bijoy departed for 20. Najmul Hossain Shanto and Mushfiqur Rahim got starts during a 50-run partnership but neither went on to make a big score, departing for 38 and 25, respectively.

Ahif accelerated with a run-a-ball 41 after sluggish scoring rate in the middle overs while Mahmudullah's late surge during an 84-ball 80 not out helped Bangladesh to 290 for nine.

Small pterosaurs

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pterosaurs were not strong swimmers, scientists say the soft tissues likely aided in launching from water rather than being swimming adaptations.

5 suspects

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According to the case statement, the staffers of a Bhaluka-bound Taqwa Paribahan bus first beat up the victim's husband, pushed him out of the bus and raped her.

They also robbed the victims of valuables, read the case statement.

Another woman was gang-raped by criminals in a moving bus in Tangail a few days earlier.

Learn from Bangamata

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Recalling the August 15 bloodshed, Hasina said, the killers all used to come to their residence (on Road 32 Dhanmondi) very regularly. "My mother always had treated them with snacks and foods in our house. These people later came [to the house] as killers," she said.

She mentioned that Bangamata was so

courageous that she did not beg for her life when she witnessed the killers firing bullets at Bangabandhu.

In such a situation, people usually beg for their lives, but "my mother did not."

Instead, standing tall before the killers "my mother asked them to kill her too as they killed her husband," she said.

The prime minister said that Bangamata had

nothing to ask for her personal life and she never desired anything for her own.

"We never heard anything like that; rather she gave away everything what she had for the party, the people and the relatives," she added.

Hasina said that Bangamata tried to do everything possible for the betterment of womenfolk.

Launches demand twice

FROM PAGE 1

doubled due to the devaluation of the taka against the US dollar.

As a result, operation cost of launches rose by 100 percent, reads the letter.

They demanded that per kilometre launch fare of journeys less than 100km be raised to Tk 4.60 from the existing Tk 2.3, and per km fare above 100km journeys become Tk 4 instead of the current Tk 2.

Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice chairman of the association, said "If the government can raise fuel prices by 50 percent, then why can't we seek 100 percent launch fare hike?"

Apart from the fuel price hike, prices of all other elements related to launch operation have increased, leading them to seek the 100 percent fare rise, he told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, owners of launches on the Dhaka-Barishal route have already increased fares after decreasing them due to low demand following the opening of the Padma Bridge.

With hikes in fuel prices having knock-on effects on most sectors, Bangladesh Railway is also mulling fare hikes as trains run on diesel, while different associations of goods-laden vehicles demanded that the government either withdraw the decision to hike fuel prices or increase

fares of goods-laden vehicles.

Otherwise, they will go for a movement to realise their demands, they said.

On Saturday, the authorities increased bus fares by up to 22 percent – a blow especially for people with lower incomes.

The move came a day after the government announced record hike in fuel prices with diesel and kerosene seeing 42.5 percent hikes.

OVERCHARGING As per existing government-approved rates, a launch deck ticket is Tk 352, each single cabin ticket is Tk 1,000 and double cabin is Tk 2,000.

But after numbers of passengers declined following the Padma Bridge's opening, launch authorities reduced the deck fare to Tk 200, and single and double cabin fares to Tk 800 and Tk 1,800 respectively.

From yesterday, however, launch owners charged Tk 350 for deck tickets, and Tk 1,100 and Tk 2,200 for single and double cabins respectively, reports our Barishal correspondent quoting passengers.

Barishal River Port Officer Abdur Razzak said launch owners have increased launch fares by 75 percent compared to the rate they fixed last month.

MORE FARE HIKES?

Railways Minister Nurul said that apart from the rise

in diesel price, the hike in bus fares has created huge pressure of passengers on trains.

"So, we may have to adjust the train fares. But we did not take any decision yet," he told The Daily Star yesterday.


BR is a state-run agency, so it has to take the prime minister's directive if it wants to hike train fares, he said, adding that they have not yet decided to ask the PM for any such directive.

Hossain Ahmed Majumder, the acting general secretary of the Bangladesh Truck and Covered Vans Owners Association, yesterday demanded that the government cut fuel prices immediately, or it will not be responsible for whatever situation arises.

He said the government had increased the prices of kerosene and diesel by 23 percent in October last year, and with the record hikes announced on Friday, it would not be possible to continue operation of goods-laden vehicles.

Mokbul Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Covered Van-Truck-Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association, another platform of owners of goods-laden vehicles, said they would go for a movement unless fare is increased.

[Our Barishal correspondent contributed the report]

ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি পরিচালকের কার্যালয় ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১২০৯ ফোন: +৮৮-০২-৯৬১৩৭২৮		Institute of Leather Engineering & Technology Office of the Director University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1209 Phone: +88-02-9613728	
টেন্ডার নোটিশ			
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।		
২. একেপি/প্রকল্প	ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি।		
৩. সগ্রাহক সঙ্গার নাম	পরিচালক।		
৪. কাজের নাম	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি এর এসি মেরামতের কাজ।		
৫. টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	নং/আইএইটি/ইসি/২০২২/০৮-৯০৫ তারিখ: ০৭/০৮/২০২২		
৬. সগ্রাহ পদ্ধতি	খোলা দরপত্র (Open Tendering Method)		
৭. বাজেট ও টাকার উৎস	রাজস্ব।		
৮. টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৮/০৮/২০২২	অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	
৯. টেন্ডার দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৮/২০২২	দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত	
১০. টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৮/২০২২	দুপুর ১২.৩০ মিনিট	
১১. যে সকল অফিস থেকে টেন্ডার সিডিউল সগ্রাহ করা যাবে	পরিচালকের অফিস, ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।		
১২. যে সকল অফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তব টেন্ডার দাখিল করা যাবে	ক) কোষাধ্যক্ষের অফিস, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় খ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গ) পরিচালকের অফিস, ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।		
১৩. টেন্ডার খোলার দস্তর/স্থান	পরিচালকের অফিস, ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।		
১৪. ঠিকাদানের যোগ্যতা	অনুরূপ কাজের (৫গাচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আপ-টু-গ্রেট ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, আপ-টু-গ্রেট আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট ৩(তিন) লক্ষ টাকার কার্য সম্পাদনের সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি ও (৫গাচ) লক্ষ টাকার ব্যাংক লিকুইড মানি ট্রেজারের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।		
১৫. টেন্ডার সিডিউলের মূল্য	২,০০০/- টাকা (অক্ষরযোখো) পরিচালক, জনতা ব্যাংক লি., হাজারীবাগ শাখা, একাউন্ট নং-০১০০২২৪৮৬১৭০৭-তে জমা দিয়ে উল্লেখিত অফিস থেকে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র দলিল সগ্রাহ করতে হবে।		
১৬. কাজের বিবরণ	অবস্থান	বায়নার টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা
	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি এর এসি মেরামতের কাজ।	ঢাকা	১২,৫০০/- ৬০ দিন
১৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	অধ্যাপক ড. মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান।		
১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	পরিচালক।		
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর বিস্তারিত যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	পরিচালক, ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি, ৪৪-৫০, হাজারীবাগ, ঢাকা-১২০৯।		
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর টেলিফোন নম্বর	+৮৮-০২-৯৬১৩৭২৮		
২১. কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন টেন্ডার বা উহার অংশ বিশেষ বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষের সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৮, টেন্ডার ফরম, সিডিউল, দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং বিশেষ শর্তাবলী ইত্যাদি দরপত্রের অংশ বলে বিবেচিত হবে। দরপত্রে অশ্রদ্ধাধিকারী ঠিকাদারগণকে খামের উপর কাজের নাম ও তাদের ফর্মের নাম স্পষ্টাক্ষরে লিখতে হবে।			
 অধ্যাপক ড. মোহাম্মদ মিজানুর রহমান পরিচালক ইনস্টিটিউট অব লেদার ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজি ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়			
সিডি-১৫০৪			