



This picture taken on Friday and released by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) yesterday shows the launch of North Korea's new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) "Hwasong Gun 17", at Pyongyang International Airport. Inset, Kim Jong Un (R) walking with his daughter. The North Korean leader said he would respond to US threats with nuclear weapons, state media said Saturday, after Kim personally oversaw Pyongyang's latest ICBM launch. PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

KOREAN PENINSULA

US redeploys B-1B bomber for joint drill

AFP, Seoul

A US B-1B strategic bomber was redeployed to the Korean peninsula yesterday for a joint air drill with South Korea, Seoul's military said, a day after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"South Korea and the US conducted a joint air drill today with the US Air Force's B-1B strategic bomber redeployed on the Korean peninsula," the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

Some of the most advanced jets in the US and South Korean air forces, including the F-35 stealth fighter, also joined the drill, it said.

North Korea is particularly sensitive about US-South Korean joint air drills, experts say, as its air force is one of the weakest links in its military. While the B-1B no longer carries nuclear weapons, it is described by the US Air Force as "the backbone of America's long-range bomber force" that can strike anywhere in the world.

IMMUNITY FOR SAUDI CROWN PRINCE OVER KHASHOGGI KILLING

US defends move amid outcry

AFP, Washington

The White House denied Friday it was seeking to smooth over frayed bilateral ties with Riyadh when a recent US government court filing granted immunity to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over journalist Jamal Khashoggi's 2018 murder.

"This legal determination has absolutely nothing to do with the merits of the case itself," said White House national security spokesman John Kirby, referring to the civil lawsuit against the crown prince and other Saudis by Khashoggi's fiancée Hatice Cengiz.

Moreover, the determination "has absolutely nothing to do with the bilateral relationship with Saudi Arabia, which as you know, is tense right now," he said, pointing to Riyadh's recent support for the OPEC cartel's decreased oil output, which angered Washington.

President Joe Biden "has been very, very clear, very vocally so, about the brutal and barbaric murder of Mr. Khashoggi," Kirby said.

The White House reaction comes as Amnesty International blasted the Biden administration over granting immunity to the prince, calling the act "a deep betrayal."



The rights group also criticized Riyadh for naming Prince Mohammed prime minister in a royal decree, in a move that sparked suggestions he was looking to skirt exposure in the civil action filed by Khashoggi's fiancée.

"The US government should hang its head in shame. This is nothing more than a sickening, total, deep betrayal, Amnesty's Secretary General Agnes Callamard said in a statement.

"First the evidence of the Crown Prince's involvement in Jamal Khashoggi's murder was disregarded by President Trump, then President Biden's fist bump – it all suggests shady deals made throughout."

Callamand added that it was “beyond cynical” for the Saudi government to seek to extend immunity to Prince Salman by declaring him prime minister.

“It is disappointing that the US government has given effect to this legal ruse,” she said, adding it “sends a deplorable message that those in power...are free to operate above the law with total impunity.”

The publisher of the Washington Post, the US paper Khasshoggi had contributed to, also slammed the decision.

Fred Ryan, the paper’s publisher and CEO, said in a statement that Biden was “granting a license to kill to one of the world’s most egregious human-rights abusers who is responsible for the cold-blooded murder of Jamal Khasshoggi, a Washington Post Columnist.”

But White House spokesman Kirby said Biden “has worked to hold the regime accountable.”

Kirby also pointed to Biden’s order for a review of the US Saudi relationship, which has been extremely close for decades.

The killing four years ago of Khasshoggi, a Saudi insider-turned-critic, in the kingdom’s Istanbul consulate temporarily turned Prince Mohammed into a pariah in the West.

Ecuador prison riot kills 10

AFP, Quito

At least 10 people died Friday in the latest prison unrest to hit violence-stricken Ecuador, where some 400 inmates have been killed since last year, the prison authority said. The violence broke out at El Inca prison north of the capital, Quito, shortly after the government said it was moving two inmates it suspected of being the masterminds behind previous prison disturbances to a maximum security prison. Police commander Victor Herrera told reporters the prison had been secured, with heavy security deployed as forensics personnel removed the bodies of those killed. Herrera said the cause of death "appeared to be strangulation." Since February 2021, Ecuador has experienced eight prison massacres that left about 400 dead, many of them beheaded or burnt.

Panda gifted by China to Taiwan dies

A panda that China gifted to Taiwan 14 years ago as a symbol of what were then warmer ties died yesterday, after suffering a spate of seizures, Taipei Zoo said. Tuan Tuan and his breeding mate Yuan Yuan were given to Taiwan by Beijing in late 2008, at a time when relations between the two were more cordial. China views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day bring the self-ruled democratic island into the fold, by force if necessary. Relations between China and Taiwan have been on ice since 2016 with Beijing severing official communications and government visits between the two sides scrapped.

Elon Musk asks Twitter users on Trump's return

AFP, San Francisco

Just hours after saying he had not yet decided on whether to lift the Twitter ban on Donald Trump, the social network's new owner Elon Musk asked users to vote on reinstating the former president to the platform. "Reinstate former President Trump," the billionaire Twitter owner posted, with a chance to vote either yes or no. At 01:45 GMT, 59.6 percent of the nearly two million responses were in favor of a return of the former president, who was banned from Twitter for his role in last year's attack on the US Capitol by a mob seeking to overturn the results of the 2020 election. There was no indication that the mercurial boss of Space X and Tesla would adhere to the results of the ad hoc poll. He has done similar polls in the past, asking followers last year if he should sell stock in his electric car company Tesla. Following that poll, he sold more than \$1 billion in shares.



Kherson residents charge their phones at the city's train station, one of the few buildings in the city with electricity as the city's critical infrastructure including power and water supplies was destroyed, in Kherson yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

MASSIVE RUSSIAN STRIKES IN UKRAINE

Millions still without power

AFK, Kyiv

Millions of Ukrainians in more than a dozen provinces are experiencing severe power disruptions as temperatures plunge and almost half of the country's energy infrastructure is in need of repair after weeks of Russian attacks, officials in Kyiv said.

The assessment by Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal of the widespread damage to the country's grid comes after weeks of sustained Russian attacks on its energy infrastructure.

"On November 15 alone, Russia fired about 100 missiles at Ukrainian

cities. Nearly half of our energy system has been disabled," Shmyhal said, appealing to European allies for support.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said 17 provinces and the capital Kyiv were struggling with power cuts, but engineers were working to repair the power grid and blackouts were becoming less frequent.

The Russian defence ministry said Friday it was only targeting military-linked facilities and that a series of long-range and precision strikes the day before had "hit exactly the designated objects".

The Kremlin this week blamed the blackouts and their civilian impact on Kyiv's refusal to negotiate with Moscow. Zelensky on Friday dismissed the idea of a "short truce" with Russia, saying it would only make things worse.

Meanwhile, British PM Rishi Sunak yesterday vowed to stand by Kyiv's side during a visit to the Ukrainian capital.

"I am here today to say that the UK will continue to stand with you... until Ukraine has won the peace and security it needs and deserves," Sunak said in a press conference with Zelensky in Kyiv.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Survey of Bangladesh
Upazila Project
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry	Ministry of Defense.			
2	Agency	Survey of Bangladesh.			
3	Purchaser name	Project Director (Preparation of Upazila Digital Maps in Bangladesh (Topographic))			
4	Purchaser district	Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Procurement of Computers and Accessories.			
6	Invitation Ref No. and date	23.08.0000.041.26.050.22.01 Date: 20-11-2022.			
7	Procurement method	Open Tender Method.			
8	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).			
9	Project code	224360600.			
10	Project name	Project Director (Preparation of Upazila Digital Maps in Bangladesh (Topographic))			
11	Tender Package No.	GD 01.			
12	Tender package name, date	Procurement of Computers and Accessories, 20-11-2022.			
13	Tender publication date	20-11-2022.			
14	Tender last selling date	04-12-2022 at 10.00am.			
15	Tender closing date and time	04-12-2022 at 11.00am.			
16	Tender opening date and time	04-12-2022 at 11.30am.			
17	Selling tender document	1. Office of the Project Director, Upazila Project 2. Security Gate (Office hour) Survey of Bangladesh, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208			
18	Receiving tender document	Security Section, Survey of Bangladesh, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.			
19	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer must have a minimum of 05 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of Computer and related services as a supplier in government and non-government organizations.			
20	Brief description of goods	Computer and Accessories should be powerful to operate some Geo-spatial related software such as GIS, GIS database, Summit evaluation and so on.			
21	Brief description of related	Desktop-14 Nos. Laptop-12 Nos.			
22	Price of tender document: Tk 500.00 (five hundred) only				
23	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
	1	Procurement of Computers and Accessories	SOB	BDT 100,000.00/= (hundred thousand)	45 (forty-five) days from the date of contract signature
24	Name of official inviting tender		Md. Shofiqur Rahman, PD, Upazila Project, Atten: Md. Saidus Jaman, PM, Upazila Project.		
25	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 88-02-8170396, 01520100431		
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.				

(Signature)

Project Director

Upazila Project, Survey of Bangladesh
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208

GD-2148