

Taiwan independence will be 'punished'

China renews threat; New US House creates committee focused on competing with China

AGENCIES

China has renewed its longstanding threat to attack Taiwan and warned that foreign politicians who interact with the self-governing island are "playing with fire".

A spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office yesterday said that Beijing was recommitted in the new year to "safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity" and "smashing plots for Taiwan independence".

"The malicious support for Taiwan independence among anti-China elements in a few foreign countries are a deliberate provocation," the spokesperson, Ma Xiaoguang, said at a biweekly news conference.

"We call on the relevant countries to ... cease sending the wrong signals to Taiwan independence separatist forces and cease playing with fire on the question of Taiwan," Ma said.

China views Taiwan – a self-governing democracy that separated from mainland China in 1949 – as Chinese territory that must be brought under Beijing's control, and by force if necessary.

High-profile visits to Taiwan in recent months by foreign politicians, including

then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and numerous politicians from the European Union, have angered Beijing and spurred huge military exercises around the Island by Chinese forces, which Taipei views as a rehearsal for invasion.

This week, Taiwan's military is staging its own military drills intended to reassure the public of its ability to counter China's threats. The defence drills coincided with a visit to Taiwan by German and Lithuanian legislators.

Meanwhile, the US House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to create a select committee on China, using one of its first votes since Republicans took control to stress members' desire to counter Beijing's growing international influence.

The House voted 365 to 65 in favor of a resolution establishing the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, which will investigate the issue and make policy recommendations.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said the committee would address issues such as bringing jobs back from China to the United States, securing intellectual property and bringing supply chains back to the country.



A woman, *inset*, reacts as Israeli troops stand guard while Israeli machinery demolish a Palestinian house in Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



SYSTEM OUTAGE US halts all domestic flight departures

AFP, Washington

The US Federal Aviation Authority yesterday ordered a temporary halt to all domestic flight departures, after a major system outage that disrupted air traffic across the country.

Airlines and airports were left scrambling with news of the nationwide pause, as the White House said there was no immediate evidence of a cyberattack.

The FAA halted flights until 9:00 am (1400 GMT), but said it expected departures to resume at that time and that takeoffs had already begun at Newark and Atlanta airports due to air traffic congestion.

A key process, it said, had been "impaired" in an outage of its Notice to Air Missions system (NOTAM), which provides information to flight crews about hazards, changes to airport facilities and other essential information.

The pause, it said, would allow "the agency to validate the integrity of flight and safety information."

Speaking to reporters, President Joe Biden said that he had been briefed by the transportation secretary and that "aircraft can still land safely, just not take off right now."

"They don't know what the cause of it is, they expect in a couple of hours they'll have a good sense of what caused it and will respond at that time," Biden said.

There were at least 3,700 flights delayed in the United States by 8:30am US Eastern time.

The halt comes in the wake of a large-scale aviation meltdown in the United States over the Christmas holiday, as a storm brought unseasonably cold temperatures to the majority of the country and caused chaos, with thousands of flights delayed or canceled.

Oceans were hottest in 2022

AFP, PARIS

The world's oceans, which have absorbed most of the excess heat caused by humanity's carbon pollution, continued to see record-breaking temperatures last year, according to research published yesterday.

Climate change has increased surface temperatures across the planet, leading to atmospheric instability and amplifying extreme weather events such as storms.

Oceans absorb about 90 percent of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions, shielding land surfaces but generating huge, long-lasting marine heatwaves that are already having devastating effects on underwater life.

The study, by researchers in China, the US, Italy and New Zealand, said that 2022 was "the hottest year ever recorded in the world's oceans".

Heat content in the oceans exceeded the previous year's levels by around 10 Zetta joules – equivalent to 100 times the electricity generation worldwide in 2021, according to the authors.

"The oceans are absorbing most of the heating from human carbon emissions," said co-author Michael Mann, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Until we reach net zero emissions, that heating will continue, and we'll continue to break ocean heat content records, as we did this year," he said. "Better awareness and understanding of the oceans are a basis for the actions to combat climate change."

Records going back to the late 1950s show a



relentless rise in ocean temperatures with almost continuous increases going back to around 1985.

Scientists have warned that climbing temperatures have wrought major changes to ocean stability faster than previously thought.

The research, published in the journal Advances in Atmospheric Sciences, was based on observations from 24 scientists across 16 institutes worldwide.

It also found other indications suggesting that ocean health is deteriorating.

Increasing water temperatures and ocean salinity – also at an all-time high – directly contribute to a process of "stratification", where water separates into layers that no longer mix.

This has wide-ranging implications because it affects the exchange of heat, oxygen and carbon between the ocean and atmosphere, with effects including a loss of oxygen in the ocean.

"Deoxygenation itself is a nightmare for not only marine life and ecosystems but also for humans and our terrestrial ecosystems," the researchers said in a statement.

Updated data released this week showed that average global atmospheric temperatures across 2022 made it the fifth warmest year since records began in the 19th century, according to Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Countries across the world have faced a cascade of unprecedented natural disasters made more likely and deadly by climate change.

Many of these impacts can be linked to a fast-warming ocean and the related changes in the hydrological cycle.

MYANMAR CRISIS

Junta raid near Indian border kills 5

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta has carried out air strikes on an ethnic armed group's base near the border with India, the rebels and media said yesterday, with one bomb landing close to the international boundary.

The military coup almost two years ago has sparked renewed fighting with long-established ethnic rebel groups, as well as with dozens of "People's Defence Force" groups that have sprung up to oppose the junta.

The bombing by five jets on Tuesday evening killed five fighters at the headquarters of the Chin National Front (CNF), which claims to represent the mainly Christian Chin minority in western Myanmar, spokesman Salai Htet Ni told AFP.

"They dropped seven bombs... Some of our houses were destroyed from their air strike... One bomb landed on the Indian side," he said.

Canada bars Lanka's Rajapaksa brothers

AFP, Colombo

Canada has issued a travel ban on former Sri Lankan presidents – and brothers – Mahinda and Gotabaya Rajapaksa for human rights abuses committed during the island nation's civil war. Mahinda Rajapaksa was in office when a no-holds-barred military campaign wiped out the Tamil Tigers' separatist movement in 2009, while Gotabaya helmed the defence ministry. International observers estimate that up to 40,000 civilians from the ethnic Tamil minority were killed during the war's final months in an indiscriminate bombing and clearance campaign. Top Sri Lankan military commanders have since been sanctioned and handed travel bans by Western nations, but Canada's decision is the first targeting the two members of the powerful political clan.

UN decries loss of 5m children in 2021

AFP, United Nations

An estimated five million children under the age of five died in 2021, the United Nations said Tuesday, urging health care investment in underserved communities around the globe to avoid this "immense, intolerable and mostly preventable loss of life." Some 2.3 million deaths in 2021 occurred in the children's first month, mostly due to being premature or from complications related to childbirth. After a child's first month, infectious diseases, such as pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria become the biggest threats. Most deaths, however, can be prevented, the report said.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of The Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.



Memo no: 22.01.0000.751.29.029.23.132

Date: 11/01/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram for the procurement of:

Sl No	Description of goods & Package no	Tender ID No	Tender Publication Date & Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender submission deadline & Opening Time
01	Supply of Poly-propylene bags for Mixed FG5 nursery raising Ctg-CFD/SUFA/L/2022-2023/GD-10	777877	12/01/2023 10:00	30/01/2023 16:00	31/01/2023 14:00
02	Supply of Decomposed Cow-dung and Loamy Soil for nursery raising Ctg-CFD/SUFA/L/2022-2023/GD-11	777922	12/01/2023 10:00	30/01/2023 16:00	31/01/2023 15:00
03	Supply of Brialia Bamboo, Bamboo Chatai, Sungnara and Temporary Shed Materials for nursery raising Ctg-CFD/SUFA/L/2022-2023/GD-12	777946	12/01/2023 10:00	30/01/2023 16:00	31/01/2023 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please on e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


 (Mohammad Abdur Rahman)
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.
 Phone: 02-33351469
 E-mail: dfocoastalctg@gmail.com

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB)
153, Pioneer Road, Segunbagicha
Dhaka-1000.

TENDER NOTICE NO: 28.05.0000.23.107.022.22.49

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of Goods	Tender last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing/Opening Date & Time	Procurement Method
01.	764939	Supply of toner cartridges for printing machines and related services	26.01.2023, 15:30	29.01.2023, 11:00	LTM (NCT)
02.	764330	Supply of different spare parts for repairing computers and related services	29.01.2023, 15:00	30.01.2023, 11:00	LTM (NCT)
03.	773923	Supply of different books and related services	29.01.2023, 15:30	30.01.2023, 12:00	LTM (NCT)
04.	774939	Supply of different kinds of chemicals for different labs and related services	30.01.2023, 16:00	31.01.2023, 12:00	LTM (NCT)
05.	774475	Supply of various office stationary and related services	06.02.2023, 16:00	07.02.2023, 11:00	OTM (NCT)

for any information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

Date: 11/01/2023

Minhazul Abedin Shakik
 Assistant Director (Procurement)
 For Director General
 G.S.B., Dhaka.
 Phone: 48314810.

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