

China's Xi hails Iran 'solidarity' Calls for early resolution of nuclear issue

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed Beijing's "solidarity" with Iran yesterday as he hosted the Islamic republic's President Ebrahim Raisi at the start of a three-day trip.

For the first state visit by an Iranian president to China in more than 20 years, Raisi has brought a large trade and finance delegation to Beijing and was earlier greeted by Xi on a red carpet.

"In the face of the current complex changes in the world, times, and history, China and Iran have supported each other (and) worked together in solidarity and cooperation," Xi said, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

Both countries face pressure from Western nations over their positions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while Iran is already under strict US sanctions due to its nuclear programme.

Iran has emerged as one of Russia's few remaining allies as Moscow has been pushed deeper into international isolation over the invasion.

Western countries have accused Tehran of supplying armed drones to Russia for use in the war in Ukraine, a charge it denies.

In December, Washington outlined what it said was an extensive relationship between Iran and Russia involving equipment such as helicopters, fighter jets and drones.

China "supports Iran in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity... and in resisting unilateralism and hegemonism", CCTV reported Xi as saying.

Beijing also "opposes external forces interfering in Iran's internal affairs and undermining Iran's security and stability", and will continue to "promote the early and proper resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue", the Chinese leader said.



An aerial photo taken yesterday shows flooding caused by Cyclone Gabrielle in Awatoto, near the city of Napier. New Zealand declared a national state of emergency yesterday as Cyclone Gabrielle swept away roads, inundated homes and left more than 100,000 people without power.

PHOTO: AFP

MAJOR NEW OFFENSIVE

Russia pounds Ukraine's south, east

REUTERS, KYIV

Russian forces bombarded Ukrainian positions along the frontlines in eastern Donetsk region yesterday in what appeared to be early salvos of a new offensive as Nato allies met in Brussels to plan stepped-up supplies to the Kyiv government.

The Donetsk region city of Bakhmut, a major target for Russian President Vladimir Putin's invading troops, was in a precarious position.

"There is not a single square metre in Bakhmut that is safe or that is not in range of enemy fire or drones," regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko told Ukraine's national broadcaster.

He said Russian artillery was hitting targets all along the frontlines in Donetsk, which along with Luhansk region makes up the Donbas, Ukraine's

industrial heartland and a main objective for the Russians.

With the first anniversary of the invasion approaching, the Kremlin has intensified operations across a broad area of southern and eastern Ukraine and a major offensive has been widely anticipated.

Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Monday that the bombardments and ground attacks indicated the offensive was already underway.

Ukraine's military said yesterday its forces had repelled attacks in five settlements in Luhansk and six in Donetsk, including in Bakhmut, over the past 24 hours.



They had also beaten back an attack on a town in Kharkiv region, which borders Russia in northeast Ukraine.

"The situations is difficult as a whole, but controlled," Kyrylenko said. "The enemy has not been able to achieve a tactical or strategic success there."

The Russian assault on Bakhmut has been spearheaded by mercenaries of the Wagner group. Britain's defence ministry said yesterday the mercenaries had made small gains in the northern outskirts in the past three days.

The capture of Bakhmut would give Russia a new foothold in Donetsk and a rare victory after months of setbacks.

VALENTINE'S DAY IN PHILIPPINE

Mayor gives singles extra pay

AFP, Manila

A life-long bachelor mayor in the Philippines has declared to give single staff extra pay yesterday for Valentine's Day, to show gratitude for the extra hours they work and show that "someone loves them". Lonely hearts at General Luna town hall in Quezon province were set to receive three times their normal daily wage if they have been single for more than five years, Mayor Matt Florido told AFP. Other footloose and fancy-free staff will get double pay - or the option to take a paid day off. "I know what they're going through today, I feel for them," said Florido, 42, who says he has been single "since birth". "On Valentine's Day no one will give them chocolates, flowers... so we thought of giving them this kind of incentive so they can also feel someone cares for them, someone loves them." It is the third year in a row that Florido has handed out bonus payments to singletons in local government. Of the 289 town hall employees, 37 qualified for the compensation after passing a stringent vetting process to confirm their claimed single status. Eligible staff were asked questions about when they were last in a relationship, the reasons they broke up, and why they are still single.

BID TO SAVE ELEPHANTS

Lanka bans single-use plastics

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will ban single-use plastics, the government said yesterday, in a move that follows a series of wild elephant and deer deaths from plastic poisoning. Cabinet spokesman and media minister Bandula Gunawardana said the manufacture or sale of plastic cutlery, cocktail shakers and artificial flowers will be prohibited from June. The move was recommended by a panel appointed 18 months ago to study the impact of plastic waste on the environment and wildlife. Non-biodegradable plastic bags were banned in 2017 due to concerns over flash floods. And imports of plastic cutlery, food wrappers and toys were banned two years ago after a spate of deaths of elephants and deer in the island's northeast after foraging at open garbage tips. Autopsies showed the animals had died after eating plastics mixed with food waste. But local manufacture and sale of plastic products continued. Sri Lanka's top authority on Asian elephants, Jayantha Jayewardene, welcomed the move to stop them.

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GD-243

Rangamati Government College

Sadar, Rangamati Hill District
www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd

Date: 15/02/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	788791	Establishment of Campus Networking and Related Service in Rangamati Govt. College, Rangamati	02/03/2023; 1:00 pm	02/03/2023; 2:00 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches upto 01/03/2023 at 4:00 pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Held Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD- 267

আপনার ব্যাংকিং হোক শরি'আহ্-এর আলোয় আলোকিত

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