

China officials make rare visit to Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

A group of officials from Shanghai arrived in Taiwan yesterday for the first visit to the island by Chinese politicians since 2020.

“China get out,” shouted some demonstrators outside Taipei’s airport in protest against Beijing’s claim that self-ruled Taiwan is part of its territory.

The six-member delegation, led by Li Xiaodong, deputy head in charge of Taiwan affairs in Shanghai, did not comment to the media upon arrival at the airport.

Beijing has ramped up military, democratic and economic pressure on Taiwan under President Xi Jinping, who has said “reunification” with Taiwan must not be passed on to future generations.

Tensions reached their most intense in decades after Beijing staged massive military drills around Taiwan in August to protest against a visit to Taipei by then US House speaker Nancy Pelosi.



Activists of National People’s Power (NPP) party protest, urging the government to hold local council election as scheduled, in the suburb Maharagama, Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: AFP

N Korea fires ‘ICBM, lands in JapanEEZ’

AFP, Tokyo

A North Korean missile that is believed to have landed in Japan’s exclusive economic zone was intercontinental ballistic missile-class, the government in Tokyo said yesterday.

Pyongyang “fired one ICBM-class ballistic missile toward the east. It flew for about 66 minutes,” chief government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters.

He said the missile flew an estimated 900 kilometres, reaching a maximum altitude of 5,700 kilometres, and is believed to have landed at 6:27 pm (0927 GMT).

Matsuno responded “yes”, when asked if the missile may have had a lofted trajectory, and said that whether it used solid fuel would be analysed.

“This series of actions by North Korea threatens the peace and stability of Japan and the international community, and is absolutely unforgivable,” Matsuno added.

He said Japan had lodged a protest through “diplomatic channels”. “The government will respond by coordinating closely with the international community including the US and South Korea through the ongoing G7 foreign ministerial meeting and the UN Security Council.”

Japan’s deputy defence minister Toshiro Ino earlier said the missile was expected to land about 200 kilometres west of Oshima island in northern Japan’s Hokkaido.

PM Fumio Kishida said he had “instructed (officials) to provide information to the public and thoroughly check the safety situation”.

“It is an escalating provocation against the international community as a whole, and naturally we severely lodged a protest against it,” he added.

Last November, a missile fired by Pyongyang was also believed to have landed in Japan’s EEZ as North Korea carried out an unprecedented volley of launches.

‘Give Ukraine what they need to win’

Allies urged to ramp up Ukraine support at Munich meet

AGENCIES

Ukraine’s Western backers yesterday urged allies to give Ukraine what it needs to beat Russia, with Nato’s chief warning of the risks of victory for Moscow, ahead of the anniversary of the war’s outbreak.

World leaders are meeting at the Munich Security Conference with conflict still raging almost a year after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine, upending the global security landscape.

Dozens of senior figures are attending, including the leaders of Germany and France, US Vice President Kamala Harris, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and China’s top diplomat Wang Yi.

Allies, led by the United States, have sent billions of dollars of armaments to Kyiv, from artillery to air defence systems, but the government says it needs more to launch a successful counter-offensive.



A general view shows an apartment building destroyed by Russian military strike in the town of Borodianka, outside of Kyiv, Ukraine. The building was hit on Thursday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

breakthrough that could help Kyiv’s forces to punch through Russian lines.

But Germany – which has pledged to send some tanks from its own military stocks – is now struggling to get allies to agree to join them in delivering the armaments to Kyiv.

Zelensky has recently stepped up calls for Western backers to give it combat jets, although its allies have downplayed the prospect of that happening any time soon.

Stoltenberg also warned Russia’s invasion has exposed the dangers of Europe’s over-reliance on authoritarian regimes and should serve as a lesson.

“We should not make the same mistake with China and other authoritarian regimes,” he said.

The Ukraine war has stoked fears among Western powers that China could try something similar in Taiwan, a self-ruled democratic island that Beijing claims as part of its territory.

On the battlefield, blasts wounded two civilians and shattered several hundred windows in the west Ukrainian city of Khmelnytskyi as Russia fired missiles from the Black Sea yesterday, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine’s air force said Russia launched four Kalibr missiles from the Black Sea, two of which were shot down by air defences.

Two explosions were heard in Khmelnytskyi, which 274 km west of Kyiv, the regional governor said.

Oleksandr Symchyshyn, the mayor of Khmelnytskyi, said on national television that the explosions, which he blamed Russia, had wounded two people, but their injuries were not serious.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon on Friday said a first group of more than 600 Ukrainian soldiers have finished a US training course involving larger-scale maneuvers that could aid Kyiv’s forces in upcoming offensive operations.

US declares Russia committed ‘crimes against humanity’

REUTERS, Munich

The Biden administration formally concluded that Russia has committed “crimes against humanity” during its nearly year-long invasion of Ukraine, US Vice President Kamala Harris said yesterday.

“In the case of Russia’s actions in Ukraine we have examined the evidence, we know the legal standards, and there is no doubt: these are crimes against humanity,” Harris, a former prosecutor, said at the Munich Security Conference.

“And I say to all those who have perpetrated these crimes, and to their superiors who are complicit in these crimes, you will be held to account.”

The official determination, which came at the end of a legal analysis led by the U.S. State Department, carries with it no immediate consequences for the ongoing war.

But Washington hopes that it could help further isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin and galvanize legal efforts to hold members of his government accountable through international courts and sanctions.

She said Russia was now a “weakened” country after Biden led a coalition to punish Putin for the invasion, but Russia is only intensifying assaults in Ukraine’s east. Meanwhile, Ukraine is planning a spring counteroffensive, for which it is seeking more, heavier and longer-range weapons from its Western allies.

The nearly year-long war has killed tens of thousands, uprooted millions from their homes, pummelled the global economy and made Putin a pariah in the West.

Washington had already concluded that Russian forces were guilty of war crimes, as has a UN-mandated investigation, but the Biden administration conclusion that Russia’s actions amount to “crimes against humanity” implies a legal analysis that acts from murder to rape are widespread, systematic and intentionally directed against civilians. In international law, it is seen as a more serious offence.

The UN-backed Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has not yet concluded that the war crimes it says it has identified amount to crimes against humanity.

Russia, China ties growing

Warns Nato chief

AFP, Munich

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned Friday about growing ties between China and Russia, urging countries that believe in “democracy and freedom” to stand together to counter authoritarian powers.

After Russia sent troops into Ukraine, China sought to position itself as neutral but at the same time deepened ties with Moscow, and has not condemned the invasion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Stoltenberg said NATO was “following closely the increased and stronger relationship between China and Russia”.

The countries were conducting military exercises together, as well as naval and air patrols, he said.

“When authoritarian powers are coming closer and working more closely together, it’s even more important that all of us that believe in democracy and freedom stand together in NATO, and with our partners throughout the world,” he said.

Stoltenberg said that Beijing was watching the war in Ukraine closely.

“If President (Vladimir) Putin wins there, it will impact the calculations and decisions they will make in Beijing,” he said.

Russia’s war in Ukraine has stoked fears among Western powers that China could try something similar in Taiwan, a self-ruled democratic island that Beijing claims as part of its territory.

The Munich Security Conference, which began Friday, is being attended by world leaders including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, US Vice President Kamala Harris and China’s top diplomat Wang Yi.



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Ref. No. (G)/e-GP/BSHI/2022-2023/11

Date: 18/02/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods:

Sl.	Description of goods	Tender ID	Publication date & time	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01	Supply, fitting, fixing, commissioning and functioning of medical equipment Genetic Analyzer ABI 3500 (Sequencing) Machine.	727169	19/02/2023 10:00	20/03/2023 16:00	21/03/2023 12:00

- 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 System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Chief Engineer
Sirajganj Power Station
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.006.07.003.22.90

Date: 18/02/2023

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	789745	Carrying of Liquid Fuel (HSD) and Related Services by Road Transportation for Sirajganj Power Station, Soydabad, Sirajganj under Frame Work Contract of maximum Three (3) years.	18-Feb-2023	19-Mar-2023 1:30 PM	20-Mar-2023 2:30 PM

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 System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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