

## China opposes G20 meet in Kashmir

AGENCIES

China has opposed the holding of a G20 meeting in Kashmir, while Turkey and Saudi Arabia have not registered for the event to be held in Srinagar.

On Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that "China firmly opposes holding G20 meetings in any form in 'disputed' areas and will not attend such meetings."

India countered the objection by saying it is free to hold meetings on its own territory. It said peace on its border is essential for normal ties with China.

The 3rd G20 Tourism Working Group meeting will be held on May 22-24 in Srinagar.

This is the first major international event in Jammu and Kashmir since its special status was scrapped in 2019 and it was bifurcated into two union territories.

Around 60 delegates are expected to attend the meeting in Srinagar.

Sources say Turkey has decided to stay away from the meeting, and Saudi Arabia has not registered for the event so far.

Srinagar is under an unprecedented security blanket. Marine commandos and National Security Guards (NSG) have been deployed in the region as part of the ground-to-air security cover.

Officials say the G20 event is to showcase Kashmir's tourism potential and also send a message to the world that it is an integral part of the country.

The participation of member countries of the world's most powerful club is seen as an endorsement of India's stand.



A Sky crane helicopter dumps water on the Eagle Wildfire Complex near Fox Creek, Alberta, Canada, on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## WAR IS NOT AN OPTION

Taiwan president vows to keep 'status quo' on cross-strait relations

AFP, TAIPEI

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen yesterday vowed to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait in the face of increased military pressure from China, saying that "war is not an option".

Under Tsai's two terms as president, the self-ruled island has seen stepped-up warplanes and sea incursions from China — which claims Taiwan as its territory to be claimed one day, by force if necessary.

Tsai — who rejects that Taiwan is a part of China — said that during her tenure, residents have shown the world "Taiwan's determination to defend itself".

"In the face of China's civil attacks and military threats, the people of Taiwan are calm and not aggressive, rational and not provocative," she said yesterday, the final day of her seventh year in office.

"War is not an option, and neither party can unilaterally change the status quo in a

non-peaceful manner," she said.

"We will not be provocative, aggressive and we will definitely not yield under pressure."

Tsai's speech comes as Taiwan gears up for its next presidential election, to be held in January 2024.

The poll is widely viewed as a referendum on Tsai's handling of Taiwan's relations with China — which has refused to meet her ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for talks because it views her as a separatist.

Due to the democratic island's term limits, 66-year-old Tsai will not be standing for election.

The DPP has named Vice President William Lai as its presidential candidate.

He has been far more outspoken about independence than Tsai, saying in January that he considers Taiwan to already be a "sovereign country".

He will be facing off with the popular mayor of New Taipei City, Hou Yu-ih.

The 65-year-old former police chief was announced as the candidate for Taiwan's main opposition party Kuomintang (KMT) — which traditionally favours warmer ties with China.

He hit back on Lai's earlier declaration that the next election is a choice "between democracy and authoritarianism".

"I want to say to everyone — William Lai is wrong," Hou said during a KMT party rally Saturday.

He accused the vice president of trying to sow division in Taiwan through fearmongering.

"Freedom and democracy are already in our DNA... More than ever, we need to — through dialogue and interaction — find ways to lower chances of conflict and maintain stability in the region," he added.

Hou had in the past said he opposed independence, as well as the "one country, two systems" arrangement under which Hong Kong is governed as part of China.

## Sudan fighting enters 6th week

REUTERS, Cairo/Dubai

Air strikes hit outer areas of the Sudanese capital Khartoum overnight and last morning, as fighting that has trapped civilians in a humanitarian crisis and displaced more than a million entered its sixth week.

The fighting between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has led to a collapse in law and order with looting that both sides blame the other for. Stocks of food, cash, and essentials are rapidly dwindling.

Air strikes were reported by eyewitnesses in southern Omdurman and northern Bahri, the two cities that lie across the Nile from Khartoum, forming Sudan's "triple capital". Some of the strikes took place near the state broadcaster in Omdurman, the eyewitnesses said. The RSF is embedded in residential districts, drawing almost continual air strikes by the regular armed forces.

Eyewitnesses in Khartoum said that the situation was relatively calm, although sporadic gunshot sounds could be heard.

The conflict, which began on April 15, has displaced almost 1.1 million people internally and into neighbouring countries. Some 705 people have been killed and at least 5,287 injured, according to the World Health Organization.

Saudi- and US-sponsored talks in the Saudi city of Jeddah have not been fruitful, and the two warring sides have accused each other of violating multiple ceasefire agreements.

## 40 killed in bloody week for Burkina Faso

AFP, Ouagadougou

Around 40 people have been killed in a fresh wave of attacks in Burkina Faso, in areas where jihadist attacks are rife, sources said on Friday. In the most recent violence, around 20 people were killed in a series of raids on villages in Burkina Faso's troubled north, security sources and local residents told AFP. Armed men attacked three villages early on Thursday in the country's northern Yatenga province. "Yesterday at around 5:00am (GMT), armed groups attacked the villages of Pelle, Zanna and Nongfaire", a local resident said on Friday, giving a toll of 25 people killed. There were "many others wounded", the resident said. The impoverished landlocked Sahel state is struggling with a jihadist insurgency that swept in from neighbouring Mali in 2015. More than 10,000 civilians, troops and police have died, according to NGO estimates, while at least two million people have fled their homes.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi (4L), newly sworn-in Chief Minister of India's state of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah (C) and his deputy, DK Shivakumar (R) along with Senior opposition leaders pose for pictures after the swearing in function, in Bengaluru, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## FBI routinely accessed Americans' private communications: court

AFP, Washington

The FBI frequently abused a restricted database of Americans' personal communications, looking up the names of crime victims and participants in Black Lives Matter protests and the 2021 Capitol assault, documents released Friday showed.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation accessed the database 278,000 times in recent years with often no justification, according to declassified opinions from the secretive Foreign Surveillance Intelligence Court.

The database includes private emails, text messages and other communications that the National Security Agency says it sweeps up when it is spying on foreigners.

Although FBI is supposed to tap the NSA database only when investigating a foreign intelligence issue, the court opinions showed they used it casually for domestic cases.

Agents ran random searches in domestic drug and gang investigations, the 2020 protest over the police murder of African American George Floyd, and the

January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol by Donald Trump supporters.

In one case an agent ran a query into the database on 19,000 donors to a congressional election campaign.

In each of the cases, there was no foreign intelligence or domestic crime justification for the FBI accessing the database, the intelligence court said.

The documents were released as Congress debates the renewal of Section 702, a law that allows the NSA to access US hosted internet accounts to surveil foreign intelligence targets.

A number of lawmakers say it needs revision to better protect personal information of Americans.

Intelligence agencies worry that could crimp their activities, but legal rights experts and Democrats said the revelations showed reforms are needed.

"The government has dramatically expanded its spying under Section 702 in ways never contemplated by Congress, but it's refusing to tell Americans what it's doing," said

Patrick Toomey of the Americans Civil Liberties Union.

Senator Ron Wyden, a longtime critic of Section 702, said the intelligence court documents showed "shocking abuses" of the law.

"If Section 702 is to be reauthorized, there must be statutory reforms to ensure that the checks and balances are in place to put an end to these abuses," Wyden said.

The issue arose nearly two decades ago when the US intelligence community realized it needed to tap into the email and phone accounts of foreign intelligence targets that were hosted on US-based computers.

Both the NSA and the CIA are forbidden from spying on Americans or on foreigners inside the United States, so in 2008 Congress passed Section 702 to permit the NSA to access those US-hosted accounts.

In doing so the NSA also collects emails and phone messages of US citizens and resident foreigners who communicate with the agency's targets, or even mention an NSA target.

Project Package # 02 (2023PP#02)

KPC CONSORTIUM

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES)

Korea Productivity Center Procurement Team intends to invite foreign and local eligible Bidders for Implementation and Execution of "Entrepreneurship Program" in Project for the "Capacity Building of Universities in Bangladesh to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship".

### Brief of Bidding

<b>Bid Title</b>	Implementation and Execution of "Entrepreneurship Program" in the Project for the "Capacity Building of Universities in Bangladesh to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship"
<b>Summary of Services</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrepreneurship Education Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrepreneurship Learning Material Development (1 set)</li> <li>Implementation of Entrepreneurship Program (4 batches)</li> <li>Capacity Building of Stakeholders (Support on Invitational Training, Instructor Workshop, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strengthening the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and Implementation on Various Activities for Developing Entrepreneurship (Seminar, Hackathon, Boot Camp, Thematic Session, Stakeholder Workshop, Entrepreneurship Competition, etc.)</li> <li>Support and Update on Community Mapping</li> </ul> </li> <li>Project Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support on Project Implementation and Management</li> <li>Support on Monitoring and Evaluation</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Service Area</b>	People's Republic of Bangladesh (Dhaka)
<b>Duration</b>	From the date of signing the contract to 31, Dec, 2024 (The Contract duration is subject to change as per the Contract between KPC consortium and KOICA.)
<b>Budget Limit</b>	708,645,000 KRW (Korean Won) The budget limit for this procurement assignment is KRW 708,645,000 and the Bidders' financial proposals shall be stated in KRW. * Note that that final contract price will be paid in US\$ with the exchange rate of the day of transaction. The contract price cannot exceed the above KRW nominated amount regardless of the exchange rate.

- A. Employer: Korea Productivity Center (KPC) Consortium
- B. Bid Type: International Bidding
- C. Type of Currency: Korean won (KRW)
- D. Language of Proposal: English
- E. Bidding Schedule (Korean Standard Time):

Schedule	Date, Time	Place
Closing Date for Submission of Bid	21 <sup>st</sup> of May, 2023 ~ 3 <sup>rd</sup> of June, 2023	E-mail: <a href="mailto:cylchoi@kpc.or.kr">cylchoi@kpc.or.kr</a>
Bid Result Date	15 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2023 (Can be adjusted)	Selected bidder will be contacted individually

### F. Contact Information

KPC Address: 32, Saemunan-ro 5ga-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-751, Republic of Korea  
Procurement Team: E-mail: [cylchoi@kpc.or.kr](mailto:cylchoi@kpc.or.kr)

For further information, Please contact [cylchoi@kpc.or.kr](mailto:cylchoi@kpc.or.kr) or access to the KPC website ([www.kpc.or.kr](http://www.kpc.or.kr))

May 2023  
Korea Productivity Center Consortium