

Erdogan sworn in for third term as president

AFP, Ankara

Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan was sworn in yesterday for a third term as president, promising to serve "impartially" after winning a historic runoff election to extend his two-decade rule.

The inauguration in parliament was scheduled to be followed by a lavish ceremony at his palace attended by dozens of world leaders.

"As president, I swear upon my honour and integrity, before the great Turkish nation ... to work with all my power to protect the existence and independence of the state ... and to fulfil my duty impartially," Erdogan said in parliament after a ceremony where he saluted soldiers under pouring rain.

Supporters in parliament gave Erdogan a minute-long standing ovation while some opposition lawmakers refused to stand up.



Wild elephants eat garbage containing plastic waste at a dump in Sri Lanka's eastern district of Ampara yesterday. Sri Lanka is set to launch a nation-wide cleanup of plastic waste ahead of new laws banning the sale of single use plastics, the Environmental ministry said, after a spate of deaths of elephants and deer in the island's northeast after foraging at open garbage tips filled with plastic waste, whilst shrinking habitat has led to jumbos raiding villages looking for food.

PHOTO: AFP

COLLAPSE OF NUKE TREATY

'Don't brandish ultimatums', Russia tells US

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia warned the United States yesterday it should stop brandishing ultimatums over the collapse of arms control agreements, saying Moscow would only return to a nuclear arms reduction treaty if Washington abandons its hostile stance.

Russia and the US, by far the biggest nuclear powers, have both expressed regret about the disintegration of the tangle of arms control treaties which sought to slow the Cold War arms race and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Amid the crisis triggered by the Ukraine conflict, President Vladimir Putin announced in February that Russia was suspending participation in the New START treaty - an agreement signed in 2010 that limits the number of Russian and US deployed strategic nuclear warheads.

The United States said this week it would stop providing Russia some notifications required under the treaty, including updates on its missile and launcher locations, to retaliate for Moscow's "ongoing violations" of the accord.

Russia's point man for arms control, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, said Washington had informed Moscow about the move ahead of going public with it so it was no surprise.

But Ryabkov said the pillars of arms control were collapsing and were in a "semi-lethal" condition due to what he cast as the hostile policies of the United States.

"Talking to the Russian Federation in the language of ultimatums just does not work," Ryabkov told Russia's three main news agencies.

"Through the fault of the United States, many elements of the former architecture in this area have either been completely destroyed or moved in a semi-lethal state."

The United States is eager to begin discussions with Russia on a strategic arms limitation pact to replace New START when it expires in 2026, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said on Friday.

Ryabkov said Russia would give a detailed assessment of Sullivan's remarks later.

Abducted Pakistani rights activist returns

REUTERS, Karachi

Prominent Pakistani human rights activist and lawyer Jibran Nasir returned home on Friday, a day after his abduction by unidentified armed men in the southern city of Karachi, which prompted widespread outcry in the country.

On Thursday, Nasir was intercepted by armed men in two vehicles on his way home with his wife.

"I have returned home safely," Nasir posted on Twitter, thanking those who called for his immediate release. He pledged to continue his struggle for rights of Pakistanis.

He did not mention whose custody he was in or the circumstances under which had been released.

Nasir has lately criticised the mass arrests of leaders from former prime minister Imran Khan's party and the move to try them in military courts following violent protests earlier month.

SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

Taiwan war would be 'devastating'

Warns Washington, urges China to talk; US-Canada conduct joint mission through strait

CNN ONLINE

A war over Taiwan would be "devastating" and affect the global economy "in ways we cannot imagine," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has warned, as he underlined US support for the island democracy.

"Conflict is neither imminent nor inevitable. Deterrence is strong today - and it's our job to keep it that way," Austin said in remarks at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit yesterday, which is being attended by representatives from dozens of countries including China.

Austin's comments came at a tense time for relations between the US and China, as China recently rejected an offer from Austin to meet at the summit in Singapore, citing US sanctions on Chinese officials and companies.

Austin addressed the lack of communication in his speech yesterday, saying that he is "deeply concerned" that China "has been unwilling to engage more seriously on better mechanisms for crisis management."

"For responsible leaders, the right time to talk is anytime. The right time to talk is every time. And

the right time to talk is now," Austin said. "Dialogue is not a reward. It is a necessity."

Austin on Taiwan further said, "the whole world has a stake in maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. The security of commercial shipping lanes and global supply chains depends on it. And so does freedom of navigation worldwide. Make no mistake: conflict in the Taiwan Strait would be devastating."

In a question and answer session after his speech, Austin added: "Conflict in the Taiwan Strait would affect the global economy in ways we cannot imagine."

Shortly after Austin spoke, Chinese People's Liberation Army Lieutenant General Jing Jianfeng told China's state broadcaster CCTV that the US defense chief's comments on Taiwan were "completely wrong."

Jing accused Washington of trying to "consolidate hegemony and provoke confrontation," adding that US actions were damaging regional peace and stability.

Yesterday afternoon, a US Navy spokesperson said US and Canadian warships were sailing through the Taiwan Strait while the discussions were going on in Singapore.

The transit by the destroyer USS Chung Hoon and frigate HIMCS Montreal was routine and occurred "through waters where high-seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law," US Navy spokesperson Lt Kristina Wiedemann said in a statement.

"Cooperation like this represents the centerpiece of our approach to a secure and prosperous region where aircraft and ships of all nations may fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," the statement added.

Austin in his speech also criticised China for its "alarming number of risky intercepts of US and allied aircraft" in international airspace, Austin added that the US would support allies and partners against "coercion and bullying."

A Chinese J-16 fighter cuts directly in front of the nose of the US RC-135 Rivet Joint on May 26th, forcing the US aircraft to fly through the wake turbulence of the intercepting aircraft.

US says Chinese jet conducted 'unnecessarily aggressive maneuver' intercepting US spy plane over South China Sea

"We do not seek conflict or confrontation," Austin said. "But we will not flinch in the face of bullying or coercion."

Austin reaffirmed US readiness in the region.



UN TREATY ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

170 countries agree to develop first draft

REUTERS

After a rocky start to a week of negotiations, around 170 countries agreed to develop a first draft by November of what could become the first global treaty to curb plastic pollution by the end of next year.

Country delegations, NGOs and industry representatives gathered in Paris this week for the second round of UN talks toward a legally binding pact to halt the explosion of plastic waste, which is projected to almost triple by 2060, with around half ending up in landfill and less than a fifth recycled, according to a 2022 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report.

By the session's close on Friday, countries agreed to prepare a "zero draft" text of what would become a legally binding plastics treaty and to work between negotiation sessions on key questions such as the scope and principles of the future treaty.

The "zero draft" text would reflect options from the wide-ranging positions of different countries by the start of the next round of talks to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November.

"My appeal to you at the beginning of this session was that you make Paris count. You have done so by providing us collectively with a mandate for a zero draft and intersessional work," said Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution at the closing plenary.

"The stakes are high, but we are optimistic by the growing awareness," said co-chair of International Pollutants Elimination Network.

CIA chief visited China in May

REUTERS, Washington



CIA director William Burns visited China last month for talks with Chinese counterparts, two US officials said on Friday as Washington seeks to boost communications with Beijing.

"Last month, Director Burns traveled to Beijing where he met with Chinese counterparts and emphasised the importance of maintaining open lines of communication in intelligence channels," one of the officials told Reuters.

The CIA, which does not regularly announce such visits, declined to comment on the China trip.

1 dead, 3 missing after heavy rain in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

Heavy rain across parts of Japan has killed one person, left three missing and injured dozens more, authorities said yesterday, with thousands of residents issued evacuation warnings.

The inundation has been caused by the remnants of former Typhoon Mawar, now downgraded to a tropical storm.

Dozens of rescue workers also searched for a residents in Aichi and western Wakayama.

A total of six people were seriously injured and 29 suffered minor injuries as of yesterday afternoon, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said.

India asks Germany to return 2-yr-old

REUTERS, New Delhi

India on Friday urged Germany to send back a 2-year-old Indian girl who has been in its foster care system for more than 20 months, saying it infringed on "her social, cultural and linguistic rights."

Ariha Shah was taken from her Indian parents by German authorities in Berlin in September 2021 when she was seven months old.

Shah's parents, according to Indian media reports, said she was accidentally injured by her grandmother, who was visiting from India, and authorities took the girl's custody of Germany's



A woman films a ransacked supermarket Auchan with her mobile phone, after Senegal opposition leader Ousmane Sonko was sentenced to prison in Dakar, Senegal yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

বাণিজ্যিক ফ্লোর বিক্রয় হবে

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