

68 Chinese warplanes detected near island: Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

Dozens of Chinese warplanes and 10 navy ships were detected around Taiwan, authorities in Taipei said yesterday after warning that Beijing was conducting air and sea drills in the Western Pacific.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and relations have soured since the island's independence-leaving President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016. Beijing has in recent years ratcheted up diplomatic and military pressure on Taiwan and the number of warplane flights around the island increased dramatically following visit by Nancy Pelosi, then-speaker of US House of Representatives.

Taiwan's defence ministry said in a statement that 68 Chinese aircraft and 10 naval vessels were detected near the island between Wednesday morning and yesterday.



An Italian police officer sprays a migrant with fresh water after he has crossed the fence to exit the operational centre called "Hotspot" on the Italian island of Lampedusa yesterday. The number of migrants arriving in Italy after crossing on boats from North Africa has surged this year, at almost 124,000 since January -- up from 65,500 during the same period in 2022, according to government data. PHOTO: AFP

INDIA'S AYODHYA Ram temple to be opened to devotees in January

REUTERS, New Delhi

The first phase of Ram Temple in India's town of Ayodhya will be completed in December and will open to devotees in January, an official said yesterday.

The site where the temple was built was bitterly contested for years, with both Hindus and Muslims laying claim to it.

Hindus say the site was the birthplace of Lord Ram, and was holy to them long before Muslim Mughals built the Babri mosque there in 1528.

A Hindu mob destroyed the mosque in 1992, triggering riots that killed about 2,000 people across India. Supreme court awarded the site to Hindus in 2019, paving the way for the construction of a Hindu temple.

Putin, N Korea's Kim send rivals a warning

Say analysts as both leaders vow defence, other cooperation

REUTERS, Seoul

Whatever practical cooperation emerges from this week's summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, their deepening relationship is aimed at sending their rivals a warning, analysts said.

Calling each other "comrade", the men toasted their friendship on Wednesday after Putin showed Kim around Russia's most modern space launch facility and they held talks alongside their defence ministers.

The two countries have an interest in demonstrating that, despite their geopolitical isolation, they have partners they can call on. And both seek to weaken US-led sanctions and pressure campaigns, against Russia over the war in Ukraine and against North Korea for its nuclear weapons and missile programs, analysts said.

"Putin and Kim would both gain

from a transactional bargain but they would also gain geopolitically by giving off the impression that their nuclear-armed countries are cooperating militarily and sending a warning about potential consequences to America's allies and like-minded partners that support Ukraine," said Duyeon Kim, of the Center for a New American Security.

"Kim would also be signalling to Washington, Seoul and Tokyo that Russia has his back in Northeast Asia."

Both Russia and North Korea have denied US claims that they plan to provide each other with weapons, but the leaders promised to deepen defence cooperation, and Putin said Russia would help the North build satellites.

If they simply wanted a secret arms deal, the two leaders did not have to meet in person, said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"Putin and Kim's diplomatic display is meant to claim success in challenging the US-led international order, avoiding over-reliance on China, and increasing pressure on rivals in Ukraine and South Korea," he said.

Discussions of any open violation of UN Security Council resolutions on North Korea would signal that major international agencies will be paralysed, said Andrei Lankov, a Korea expert at Seoul's Kookmin University.

The summit is an indicator that North Korea-related Security Council resolutions are dead, as are all attempts to stop North Korea or penalise it for having a nuclear program, he said.

"It creates an important precedent that is likely to be used not only by Russia but pretty much every major international player that if you don't like a UNSC resolution you just ignore it," Lankov said.

Nasa installs new chief of UFO research

REUTERS, Washington

Nasa yesterday said it has named a new director of research into what the government calls "unidentified anomalous phenomenon," or UAP, while the US space agency's chief said an expert panel that urged more fact-finding on the matter found no evidence of an extraterrestrial origin for these objects.

Administrator Bill Nelson made the announcement of the new research chief - though he did not disclose the person's identity - after the independent panel of experts recommended that Nasa increase its efforts to gather information on UAP and play a larger role in helping the Pentagon detect them. UAP are better known to the public as unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

Human activity risking Earth's life-support systems

Landmark study warns

REUTERS, Berlin



The Earth's life-support systems are facing greater risks and uncertainties than ever before, with most major safety limits already crossed as a result of planet-wide human interventions, according to a scientific study released on Wednesday.

In a "health check" for the entire planet published in the Science Advances journal, an international team of 29 experts found that the Earth is now "well outside of the safe operating space for humanity" due to human activity.

The study, expanding on a 2015 report, said the world had now crossed six of nine "planetary boundaries" - the safe limits for human life in areas such as the integrity of the biosphere, climate change and the use and availability of fresh water.

In all, it said, eight of the nine boundaries are under more pressure than in the 2015 assessment, with only the sky's ozone layer improving - raising the risk of dramatic changes in the Earth's living conditions.

"We don't know that we can thrive under major, dramatic alterations of our conditions," lead author Katherine Richardson from the University of Copenhagen told a news conference.

The authors said crossing the boundaries did not represent a tipping point where human civilisation would just crash, but could bring irreversible shifts in the Earth's support systems.

"We can think of Earth as a human body, and the planetary boundaries as blood pressure. Over 120/80 does not indicate a certain heart attack but it does raise the risk," Richardson said.

The scientists sounded the alarm about increasing deforestation, the excessive consumption of plants for fuel, and the proliferation of manmade products like plastic, genetically modified organisms and synthetic chemicals.

Earn trust of grassroots people

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The PM said, "You [public representatives] will have to stand against drug abuse, terrorism, and militancy. You will have to pay special attention so that no one can be involved in these."

Over 9,000 public representatives of 5,474 local government bodies - 12 city corporations, 61 zilla parishads, 329 municipalities, 495 upazila parishads, and 4,577 union parishads - took part in the event organised by the Local Government Division.

Hasina said, "As people have voted for you once, you have to earn the trust and confidence of the people so they can vote for you again."

Referring to the construction of 560 model

mosques by the government, the premier said they are also providing money for renovating temples and other places of worship.

"The government will do whatever is necessary for the development of mosques, temples, churches, and pagodas."

"We've made this country independent together. This country is a country of non-communal spirit and will continue to be so."

Hasina also asked the public representatives to pay attention to the community clinics so it can render proper services.

She laid emphasis on creating awareness so that the overseas jobseekers are not deceived by the middlemen, rather they can take loans

from the banks, particularly Probashi Kalyan Bank, which offers them loans without collateral.

Mentioning that there are many dirt roads in villages, she said if her party gets the scope to serve the people again, they will develop these roads. "Every village will be developed like a town."

Hasina asked all to be positive about the recently introduced universal pension scheme.

She called upon everyone to be conscious about dengue and use mosquito nets alongside keeping their homes and surroundings clean.

Regarding the subsidy in power, Hasina said now only the rich are enjoying the full benefits of the subsidy and

that is why she has ordered to provide a safeguard in the use of electricity for the common people.

Hasina said when the use of electricity goes up to a certain level, the price will also increase. "We will do it slowly and then we will be able to protect those who consume less power. Those who use more power will pay more."

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam presided over the event, while State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Swapan Bhattacharjee and Local Government Secretary Muhammad Ibrahim spoke on the occasion.

Several public representatives also spoke at the event.

Deeply concerned over rights situation

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The resolution specifically deplored yesterday's sentencing of two Odhikar leaders - Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan - and urged the government to immediately and unconditionally quash the ruling.

It called on the government to immediately and unconditionally reinstate Odhikar's registration and ensure that civil society organisations can access approved foreign grants.

It said, "An Everything but Arms (EBA) enhanced engagement process remains ongoing with Bangladesh owing to its serious violations of international conventions; is concerned that the Odhikar case is a regrettable step back, bearing consequences as to whether EBA preferences [should] continue to apply to Bangladesh."

Under the EBA, Bangladesh now gets duty-free access to the European Union market.

Seven groups of members of European Parliament (MEPs), including the centre-right, social democrats, and leftists, jointly proposed the resolution. It was debated at the parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday and adopted by show of hands yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, however, said that a resolution by the MEPs on a court matter on Odhikar is interference in internal affairs.

"We have a very strong relations with the European Union. From that perspective, we hope that the European Council would not intervene in our internal affairs, especially when it is a legal issue," he said at a media briefing.

The resolution encouraged Bangladesh authorities to cooperate with the UN on establishing a specialised mechanism to investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances and insisted that international observers

are allowed to attend court hearings.

It said the European Parliament was appalled by the murder of trade unionist Shahidul Islam in June 2023 and called for those responsible to be brought to justice.

The resolution asked for the Digital Security Act to be repealed and a cybersecurity law that complies with international standards to be adopted.

It also expressed concerns about the "mass arrests of opposition representatives and the excessive use of force against protesters" and asked the government to "guarantee the conditions for free, fair and participatory elections in 2024".

The European Parliament also called on the European External Action Service, the EU Delegation and the member states' embassies in Bangladesh to raise human rights concerns at the highest levels and increase their support for local human

rights defenders, union workers, and journalists under attack, including by monitoring trials.

Foreign Ministry Statement

The foreign ministry yesterday said that the government is "appalled by the favouritism" reflected in the European Parliament's resolution on 'Odhikar' and disagrees with the text of the resolution, UNB reports.

"The government of Bangladesh expresses its utter disappointment at the adoption of a resolution by the European Parliament on September 14 on human rights situation in Bangladesh, notably the case of Odhikar."

It said Adilur was a deputy attorney general for five years during the BNP-Jamaat government. "Therefore, 'Odhikar' is not at all a neutral or independent organisation that it tries to claim and is unfortunately believed by some in the international community," it said.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY
M2K TECHNOLOGY & TRADING CO. - a company that is registered in Bangladesh and which is carrying out business within power, energy, ICT, water, aviation, petrochemicals, mines, defence, transportation movement, housing, urban development and softwares mainly < m2kttc.com>. The company intends to recruit for the following positions immediately:

| SL NO. | POSITIONS | QUALIFICATIONS |
|--------|---|---|
| 1. | ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - Marketing and Sales | B. Sc. in ECE/EEE with MBA (Marketing) from BUET, RUET, KUET, CUET, DUET, NSU, BRAC, MIST and DU. 3 - 5 years of experience in similar corporate, preferably within multinationals. |
| 2. | ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - Technical | B. Sc. in ECE/EEE from BUET, RUET, KUET, CUET, DUET, NSU, BRAC, MIST. 3 - 5 years of experience in similar corporate, preferably within multinationals. |

Handsome remuneration packages and impressive incentives are awaiting for the most deserving professionals. Interested candidates are requested to send an EOI (Impressive Incentives Expression of Interest) to < info@m2kttc.com > on or before September 30, 2023.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Bhola
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.09.00.000.14.014.23.2906

Date: 14/09/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 14/2023-24
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

| SL No. | Upazila | Package No. | T-ID No. | Name of scheme | Method | Last date of receiving |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---|--------|---------------------------|
| GOBM | | | | | | |
| 1. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-28 | 866974 | (a) Rehabilitation of Doskhali Bridge-Chandraprashad - Janal Bapair Shop-Mir Bazar (Bisso Road) Road from Ch. 00m-2900m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District-Bhola. Road ID No. [509184087] (b) Rehabilitation of Bheduria Bangla Bazar-Char Pata Bheduria via Hazir Hat Road from Ch. 00m-1010m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District: Bhola. Road ID No. [509184012] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |
| 2. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-29 | 866975 | (a) Rehabilitation of Hatner Hat-Arujan Ali Khayghat Road from Ch. 00m-2050m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District-Bhola. Road ID No. [509184036] (b) Rehabilitation of Utar Beduria High School Jungalia Khayghat Road from Ch. 00m-1500m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District: Bhola. Road ID No. [509185016] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |
| 3. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-31 | 866977 | Rehabilitation of Kheyaghat Bridge-Sher-e-Bangla RPS-Nazir Majee Khayghat Road from Ch. 00m-4700m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District-Bhola. Road ID No. [509184044] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |
| 4. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-32 | 866978 | Rehabilitation of Charkali-Majeer Hat Road from Ch.00m-3080m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District: Bhola. Road ID No. [509184042] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |
| 5. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-33 | 866979 | Rehabilitation of East side Velumia Bazer-Nazir Mazi Kheya Ghat Road from Ch. 00m-3000m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District: Bhola. Road ID No [509184056] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |
| 6. | Bhola Sadar | e-Tender/LGED /Bhola/GOBM /23-24/W-34 | 866980 | Rehabilitation of Paranganj-Pangashia FRB Road to Talukder Char Bridge via Guptamunshi - Char Algi - Talukder Hat Road from Ch. 00m-4200m under Bhola Sadar Upazila, District: Bhola. Road ID No. [509185108] | OTM | 18-Oct-2023, Till 12.00pm |

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 (<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 registers bank branches up to Date: 17/10/2023 till 16.00pm. 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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