

Nato begins sending F-16 jets to Ukraine

Says US top diplomat

AGENCIES

Nato allies have begun the promised transfer of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine to bolster defenses against Russia, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday.

“As we speak, the transfer of F-16 jets is underway, coming from Denmark, coming from the Netherlands,” Blinken said at a Nato 75th anniversary summit in Washington.

Meanwhile, Nato allies have reached agreement on the summit declaration that includes a pledge by the alliance to continue to support Ukraine “on its irreversible path to full Euro-atlantic integration, including Nato membership”, a source told Reuters yesterday.

The declaration goes on to reaffirm that Nato will “be in a position to extend an invitation to Ukraine to join the alliance when allies agree and conditions are met”, according to the source in the alliance.

On the eve of the summit, Russia fired a barrage of missiles on Ukraine, killing dozens.



US President Joe Biden, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, Polish President Andrzej Duda, Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Czech Republic's President Petr Pavel, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and other officials pose for a photo as they attend a Nato event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the alliance, in Washington DC, US on Tuesday evening.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ready to help restore peace in Ukraine

Modi tells Austrian Chancellor Nehammer

AFP, Vienna

India stands ready to give all possible support to restoring peace to war-torn Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday in Vienna after a Kremlin visit criticised by Kyiv.

Modi arrived in Vienna late Tuesday after talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, where the Indian leader urged “peace through dialogue”, saying that “war cannot solve problems”.

“This is not an age of war. Problems cannot be solved on the battlefield,” Modi told reporters in Vienna alongside Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer.

Modi said India and Austria stand “ready to provide all possible support” to “rapidly restore peace and stability”. Nehammer said both countries shared “common goal” to achieve a “comprehensive and lasting peace, in accordance with UN Charter”.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH STATE

India has no right to develop contested region: China

REUTERS, Beijing

India has no right to carry out development in the area China calls South Tibet, China's Foreign Ministry said yesterday in response to a Reuters report on New Delhi's plans to speed up hydropower projects in the border state.

“South Tibet is China's territory,” a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement. It said India had no right to carry out development there and the establishment of what India calls Arunachal Pradesh on Chinese territory is “illegal and invalid”.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that India plans to spend \$1 billion to expedite the construction of 12 hydropower stations in the northeastern Himalayan state.

India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on China's statement.

India says its remote state of



Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the country, but China says it is a part of southern Tibet, and has objected to Indian infrastructure projects there.

Last week, India Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to intensify efforts to resolve issues along their border.

India plans to spend \$1 billion to expedite the construction of 12 hydropower stations in Arunachal Pradesh, two government sources said.

The federal finance ministry under Nirmala Sitharaman recently approved up to 7.5 billion rupees (\$89.85 million) in financial assistance to each hydropower project in the northeastern region, the sources said.

Under the scheme, about 90 billion rupees will likely be allotted for the 12 hydropower projects in Arunachal Pradesh, said the sources, who have direct knowledge of the matter.

The scheme is likely to support northeastern states and help them finance equity holdings in the projects they host. Having state governments on board generally helps in expediting regulatory clearances, locals rehabilitation and negotiations on sharing electricity with the host state.

The plans for the hydropower stations are expected to be announced in the 2024/2025 federal budget that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will unveil on July 23, the sources said.

POST-POLLS FRANCE

Macron urges MPs to agree broad coalition

AFP, Paris

President Emmanuel Macron put the onus on the French parliament yesterday to negotiate a broad-based coalition, after snap elections failed to give a majority to any one party.

Macron said he would name a new prime minister after MPs have had “a little time” to negotiate a governing programme, and that the current government would remain in place for the meantime.

French centrists were looking for an alliance with the right yesterday.

French leftists, however, believe that as the largest bloc in the new National Assembly with some 190 seats they are entitled to suggest a new prime minister.

But many in Macron's centrist camp, which holds around 160 seats, would refuse to support a new government that includes figures from the hard left.

The president's Renaissance outfit yesterday sought to find allies in the lower chamber, but appeared divided, with some seeking to include forces ranging from the centre left to the right in a broad coalition, and others only wishing to join forces with conservatives.

Time short for Biden decision on 2024 bid: Pelosi

AFP, Washington

Democratic Party heavyweight Nancy Pelosi said yesterday that time is running out for US President Joe Biden to make a final decision on his reelection bid, but stressed the call was his to make.

Despite Biden insisting he is staying in the race, Pelosi -- the former speaker of the House of Representatives and an influential voice in the party -- suggested the president still could step aside amid a Democratic divide over his candidacy.

“It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run,” she told MSNBC. “We're all encouraging him to make that decision because the time is running short.”

Pelosi stopped short of advocating either way on the Biden question. “I want him to do whatever he decides to do, and that's the way it is,” she said. “Whatever he decides, we go with.”

Biden, 81, has corralled much-needed support from some top Democrats, but several lawmakers in the party have publicly expressed concerns about his mental fitness after his disastrous debate performance last month against White House challenger Donald Trump.



A Palestinian woman holds her daughter as she walks past the rubble of houses destroyed during the Israeli military offensive in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

37 Chinese aircraft skirt Taiwan on way to drill

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan's defence ministry said 37 Chinese aircraft were detected around the self-ruled island yesterday as they headed to exercises with an aircraft carrier in the western Pacific.

China claims democratic Taiwan as part of its territory and maintains a near-daily presence of fighter jets, drones and warships around the island, which is 180 kilometres (110 miles) from the southern Chinese coast.

Taiwan is also a crucial part of a chain of islands that military strategists say serve as a gateway from the South China Sea -- which China claims in nearly its entirety -- to the Pacific Ocean.

At around 9:30 am (0130 GMT) yesterday, Taipei said that “since 0520 today, the Ministry of National Defence detected a total of 37 Chinese aircraft”, including fighter jets, bombers and drones.

Thirty-six of the aircraft crossed the sensitive median line of the Taiwan Strait -- which bisects the narrow waterway separating the island from China.

“(The aircraft) headed to the Western Pacific via our southern and southeastern airspace to cooperate with the aircraft carrier the Shandong in conducting ‘joint sea and air training’,” the defence ministry said in a statement.

Defence Minister Wellington Koo told reporters the Shandong “did not pass through the Bashi Channel”, the area off Taiwan's southern tip where Chinese ships typically transit en route to the Pacific Ocean.

Instead, it “went further south through the Balingtang Channel towards the Western Pacific,” he said, referring to a waterway just north of the Philippines' Babuyan Island -- about 250 kilometres south of Bashi.

12 children killed in South Africa blaze

AFP, Johannesburg

Twelve children were killed in South Africa yesterday when a minibus taking them to school near Johannesburg overturned and burst into flames after being hit by another vehicle, authorities said.

The driver of the minibus was also killed and seven other children were rushed to hospital, according to officials in Johannesburg's Gauteng province.

Television images showed that the minibus was totally destroyed by the fire in the early morning crash in Merafong, more than 70 kilometres (45 miles) west of the city.

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INVITATION FOR TENDER – OTM (International Competition)

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR)
3.	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dr. Quadrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh.
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5.	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Scientific Equipments.[Name of equipments: Item no.(01)Simultaneous TG-DTA-DSC, (02) Simultaneous ICP-OES spectrometer, Item no.(03) FT-IR Spectrometer with Universal Sampling Module & Item no.(04) Surface area analyzer / physical adsorption analyzer (Details will be found in the Tender Document)].
6.	Invitation ref. no.	39.02.0000.022.35.319.24
7.	Date	10.07.2024
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (International Competition)
9.	Budget and source of fund	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Tender last selling date	27.08.2024 during office hour
11.	Tender closing date & time	28.08.2024 at 1.00 PM.
12.	Tender opening date and time	28.08.2024 at 2.00 PM.
13.	Name & address of the office(s) selling tender document	Cashier, BCSIR, Secretariat building (3 rd floor), Dr. Quadrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
14.	Name & address of the office(s) receiving tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th floor) BCSIR, Dr.Quadrat- I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
15.	Name & address of the office(s) Opening tender document	Office of the Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th floor) BCSIR, Dr.Quadrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.
INFORMATION ON AWARD		
16.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology.
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	* The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of similar type of goods. * The satisfactory completion of supply of similar scientific equipments/ instruments of minimum 100% (Hundred percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the Tenderer under maximum 5 (five) contracts in the last 5 (five) years. * Details will be found in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document.
18.	Brief description of goods	As per attached specification in the tender document.
19.	Brief description of related services	
20.	Price of tender document	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) (Non-refundable)
21.	Evaluation will be done "Item by Item" basis.	
22.	Description of goods	Tender security (Tk.) Completion time in months/days
	Scientific Equipment (As per attached specification in the tender document)	The amount of Tender Security shall be at least 2.0% (Two percent) of the total value of the item(s) quoted by the Tenderer in favour of secretary, BCSIR by a tender security. 140 (One hundred forty) days from the date of contract signing.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS		
23.	Name of official inviting tender	Most. Sultana Parvin
24.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Secretary (Addl. Charge), BCSIR, Dhaka.
25.	Contract details of official inviting Tender	Secretary, Secretariat building (4 th Floor), BCSIR, Dr. Quadrat-i-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 58610717
26.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

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(Most. Sultana Parvin)
Secretary(Addl. Charge)