



### Russia, China launch huge naval drills eyeing US

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin yesterday warned the United States against trying to outgun Moscow in Asia as Russian and Chinese warships held joint drills as part of the biggest Russian naval exercises since the Soviet era.

Putin said the wider “Ocean-2024” strategic exercise would be conducted from the Mediterranean to the Pacific and would test units’ combat-readiness and the use of high-precision weapons, including promising new types.

“We pay special attention to strengthening military cooperation with friendly states,” he told military officials in televised remarks at the launch of the manoeuvres.

Putin said Russia should be ready for any developments and would keep strengthening its naval forces, including their nuclear component, in the face of what he described as an arms race driven by Washington.

“Under the pretext of countering the allegedly existing Russian threat and containing the People’s Republic of China, the United States and its satellites are increasing their military presence near Russia’s western borders, in the Arctic, and in the Asia-Pacific region,” he said.

“They are openly declaring their plans to deploy medium- and shorter-range missiles in the so-called forward zones.”

“With its aggressive actions, the United States is trying to achieve a tangible military advantage, thereby breaking the existing security architecture and balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region,” Putin said.

China’s Xinhua said the aim was to deepen “the level of strategic coordination between the Chinese and Russian militaries and enhance their ability to jointly respond to security threats”.



In this grab taken from handout footage released by the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday, Russia’s Pacific Fleet warships and submarines sail in the Peter the Great Gulf of the Sea of Japan during the “Ocean-2024” naval drills off the far eastern city of Vladivostok.

PHOTO: AFP

### Moscow struck with 144 drones



REUTERS, Moscow

Ukraine yesterday struck the Moscow region in its biggest drone attack so far on the Russian capital, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing around 50 flights to be diverted from airports around Moscow.

Russia, the world’s biggest nuclear power, said it had destroyed at least 20 Ukrainian attack drones as they swarmed over the Moscow region, which has a population of more than 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

At least one person was killed near Moscow, Russian authorities said. Three of Moscow’s four airports were closed for more than six hours and almost 50 flights were diverted.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the drone

attack was another reminder of the real nature of Ukraine’s political leadership, which he said was made up of Russia’s enemies.

“There is no way that night time strikes on residential neighbourhoods can be associated with military action,” said Peskov.

Kyiv said Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, had attacked it overnight with 46 drones, of which 38 were destroyed.

The drone attacks on Russia damaged high rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, residents told Reuters.

A 46-year-old woman was killed and three people were wounded in Ramenskoye, Moscow regional governor Andrei Vorobyov said.

### Australia plans social media ban for children

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia yesterday said it planned to introduce legislation this year to ban children from using social media platforms, citing the risks it could pose to physical and mental health.

PM Anthony Albanese said his government would begin an age verification trial over the next few months.

“I want to see kids off their devices and onto the footy fields and the swimming pools and the tennis courts. We want them to have real experiences with real people because we know that social media is causing social harm,” Albanese told ABC News.

He did not specify the age limits for the ban but said he was “looking at the range between 14 and 16.”

The move comes after Australia’s eSafety regulator in July asked internet firms to come up with an enforceable code detailing how it will stop children seeing inappropriate material.

### US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE Clash may reshape race

REUTERS

Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris will meet in their first and perhaps only debate on Tuesday, a clash that could prove pivotal in their pitched battle for the White House.

The ABC News-hosted debate at 9:00pm ET (0100 GMT on Wednesday) takes place just eight weeks before the Nov 5 election, with both candidates locked in a tight race that could still easily swing in either direction. Early voting will start in some states just days after the debate.

The encounter is particularly important for Harris, with opinion polls showing that more than a quarter of likely voters feel they do not yet know enough about her.

The nationally televised debate also offers Harris a chance to make her case against Trump, whose felony convictions, outspoken backing for supporters convicted of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and frequent falsehoods all offer plenty of fertile ground.

It will be the first time the two candidates have met and follows weeks of personal attacks on Harris by Trump and his allies that have included racist and sexist insults.

A similar outburst on stage could turn

off undecided voters, according to John Geer, a professor at Vanderbilt University and an expert on presidential politics.

Trump’s advisers and fellow Republicans have urged him to focus on Tuesday on illegal immigration and high prices, issues that play well with voters, and portraying Harris as too liberal for the country.

“There’s no floor for him in terms of how low he will go, and we should be prepared for that,” Harris said in a radio interview that aired on Monday.

Presidential debates do not always move the needle, but they can transform the dynamics of a race. President Joe Biden’s faltering performance against Trump in June was so damaging that it eventually led him to abandon his campaign.

In a contest that could again come down to tens of thousands of votes in a handful of states, even a small shift in public opinion could alter the outcome. The two candidates are effectively tied in the seven battleground states likely to decide the election, according to polling averages compiled by the New York Times.

“There is more for Kamala Harris to gain and more for her to lose,” said Mitchell McKinney, a former adviser to the US Commission on Presidential Debates, since she remains somewhat of an unknown for many voters.



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**e-Tender Notice: 05/2024-25**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID & Schemes.

SI No.	Package No. Tender ID No. & name of scheme	Tender method	Tender document selling last date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
01	CAFDRIRP/jashore/UZR/AM/W-12/2024-25 (TID-1010401) Rehabilitation of Monohorpur Bazar-Chinatola Bazar Road from Ch: 3866-12440m & Ch: 12640-12750m, under Monirampur Upazila, Dist: Jashore. (Road ID No. 241612014).	OSTETM	09 Oct-2024 17:00	10 Oct-2024 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 (<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 registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from E-mail: [xen.jashore@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.jashore@lged.gov.bd) Or Call to 024777-61422. For any quarries interested tenderer are requested to communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

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GD-394

**AI USE IN MILITARY**

About 60 states endorse ‘blueprint’

REUTERS, Seoul

About 60 countries including the United States endorsed a “blueprint for action” to govern responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the military yesterday, but China was among those which did not support the legally non-binding document.

The Responsible AI in the Military Domain (REAIM) summit in Seoul, the second of its kind, follows one held in The Hague last year. At that time, around 60 nations including China endorsed a modest “call to action” without legal commitment.

Government representatives yesterday said this year’s “blueprint” was more action-oriented, in keeping with advanced discussions and developments in the military such as AI-enabled dronesbeing rolled out by Ukraine, which also endorsed the document.

This includes laying out what kind of risk assessments should be made, important conditions such as human control, and how confidence-building measures can be taken in order to manage risks, he said.

Among the details added in the document was the need to prevent AI from being used to proliferate weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by actors including terrorist groups, and the importance of maintaining human control and involvement in nuclear weapons employment.

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**e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 03**  
of  
**Contract No. e-GP/CRD/ADP/EMRB/WP-02/2023-2024, Tender ID No. 1004890**  
invited by this Office will be as follows:

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Document last selling date & time	18/09/2024 16:00	25/09/2024 16:00
Opening date & time	19/09/2024 12:30	26/09/2024 12:30
Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	18/09/2024 17:00	25/09/2024 17:00
Closing date & time	19/09/2024 12:30	26/09/2024 12:30
TDS/PDS--C. Qualification Criteria- ITT Clause 15.1 (b) Experience Criteria	b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in successfully completion of Flexible pavement construction with DBS (Dense Bituminous Surfacing) works in a single contract or maximum 03 (three) contracts of similar nature, complexity and methods/ construction technology within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least BDT 30.00 (thirty) crore only. If the tenderer submits more than one specific experience certificate as determinant of eligibility, then the minimum specific experience certificate value of one of them should be 15.00 (fifteen) crores or above. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]	b) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in successfully completion of Flexible pavement construction with DBS (Dense Bituminous Surfacing) works in a single contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/ construction technology within the last 10 (ten) years, with a value of at least BDT 30.00 (thirty) crore only. [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT]

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-03 will be the part of the Tender Document. For further information please visit the website: [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)

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GD-401