

LONG-RANGE WEAPONS FOR UKRAINE

West weighing moves defying Putin’s threat

AFP, Washington

The leaders of Britain and the United States was set to meet in Washington on whether to let Kyiv fire Western-provided long-range missiles into Russia, an option that has sent tensions soaring with Moscow.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s visit to President Joe Biden comes with Kyiv pushing for permission and Russia warning that giving Ukraine the green light would mean Nato was “at war” with Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said President Vladimir Putin’s warning was unambiguous: “We have no doubt that this statement has reached its recipients.”

British media reported that Biden, who is wary of provoking a nuclear conflict, was ready to let Ukraine deploy British and French missiles using US technology but not US-made missiles themselves.

Responding to Putin’s warning, Starmer told UK media travelling with him that “Russia started this conflict. Russia illegally invaded Ukraine. Russia can end this conflict straight away.”

In a sign of increasing tensions, Russia’s FSB security service yesterday announced that the accreditation of six British diplomats had been withdrawn and accused them of spying.

But London dismissed the claims as “completely baseless” and indicated they were a tit-for-tat measure after it slapped new restrictions on Russian diplomats in May.

The talks come at a time when Biden is on his way out of office and November’s US election is a toss up between Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump.

Trump repeatedly refused to take sides on the war during a debate with Harris on Tuesday, saying only: “I want the war to stop.”

Starmer is set to meet Biden in the Oval Office at 4:30pm (2030 GMT) but has no scheduled meetings at this stage with Trump or Harris, both of whom will be on the campaign trail on Friday.

His visit – his second to Washington since his Labour party stormed to victory in July after 14 years – is also aimed at papering over differences on the war in Gaza.

Washington currently authorises Ukraine to only hit Russian targets in the occupied parts of Ukraine and some in Russian border regions directly related to Moscow’s combat operations.



Residents are helped through high flood waters by police in Pynmana town in Myanmar’s Naypyidaw region yesterday, following heavy rains in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi.

PHOTO: AFP

ANNUAL SECURITY FORUM IN BEIJING

China, Russia chide West

Beijing’s defence minister urges negotiations to end Ukraine, Gaza wars

AGENCIES

Chinese and Russian defence officials took swipes at the West at a military diplomacy forum in Beijing on Friday, with China courting the Global South and Russia saying the United States was shifting military conflicts to the Asia-Pacific.

Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun told the annual Xiangshan Forum that Beijing would enhance military ties with its neighbours and with developing countries in particular.

“Major countries must take the lead in safeguarding global security, abandon a zero-sum mindset and refrain from bullying the small and the weak,” Dong said in a veiled criticism of the United States, which he did not name.

Communications between the US and Chinese militaries have eased despite tensions over the South China Sea, Taiwan and Washington’s concerns at Beijing’s close relationship with Russia, which is at war in Ukraine.

Frictions were underscored by Germany’s defence minister confirming that two German warships had sailed through the Taiwan Strait yesterday, the first such transit in two decades and a move condemned by China.

Dong also said that “negotiation” was

the only solution to conflicts such as the wars in Gaza and Ukraine as he addressed a global gathering of military officials in Beijing.

Top military representatives from Russia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Iran and Germany are among more than 500 delegates in Beijing for the Xiangshan Forum, dubbed China’s answer to the annual Shangri-La meeting in Singapore.



Dong told the opening ceremony: “To resolve hotspot issues such as the crisis in Ukraine and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, promoting peace and negotiation is the only way out.” There is no winner in war and conflict, and confrontation leads nowhere,” Dong said.

Russian deputy defence minister Alexander Fomin said during the forum that the US was trying to contain China and Russia while preparing for war in Asia by creating new security blocs.

“Russia and China support the creation of a just, multipolar world order based on equality and mutual respect,” he said.

Beijing is promoting itself as a responsible player in global conflicts, despite difficulties in its own backyard. This year’s forum is themed “Promoting Peace for a Shared Future”.

Some diplomats and analysts are watching for signs of further progress in the military relationship between the US and China on the fringes of the conference.

The US is represented by Michael Chase, deputy assistant secretary of defence for China, Taiwan and Mongolia.

Chase will head a U.S. delegation for talks with Chinese military counterparts after the forum – building on defence coordination talks in Hawaii that resumed in January for the first time since September 2021, the Pentagon said.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met Zhang Youxia, vice-chairman of China’s commanding Central Military Commission, in Beijing last month and U.S. and Chinese theatre-level commanders this week held their first conference call.

AFTERMATH OF TYPHOON YAGI

Myanmar battles floods as toll spikes

AFP, Pynmana

Hundreds of villagers in Myanmar waded or swam through chin-high waters, fleeing severe floods around the remote capital Naypyidaw yesterday, while Vietnam began clearing up after deadly Typhoon Yagi.

People in parts of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar have been battling floods and landslides in the wake of Typhoon Yagi, which dumped a colossal deluge of rain when it hit the region last weekend.

The overall death toll across the four countries stands at nearly 300, including 233 in Vietnam, but with many people missing it is expected to rise.

More than 235,000 people have been forced from their homes in Myanmar, the junta said yesterday.

Authorities were investigating unconfirmed reports that dozens of migrant workers were missing following landslides in a gold mining area in Mandalay region.

The junta gave a death toll Friday of 33, while earlier in the day the country’s fire department said rescuers had recovered 36 bodies.

In the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, residents equipped with shovels, brushes and hoses were out clearing up debris and mud after the waters that had submerged parts of the city receded – and the sun came out for the first time in days.

Northern Thailand was also badly affected, with one district on the Myanmar border reporting its worst floods in 80 years.

Adani Group denies Hindenburg claims on Swiss probe

AFP, Mumbai

India’s Adani Group has denied involvement in a money laundering and securities fraud probe that reportedly saw the freezing of more than \$310 million in funds stowed in Swiss bank accounts.

US short-seller Hindenburg Research, a longtime critic of the Indian conglomerate, cited court records reported on by Swiss media outlet Gotham City in making the claim on X on Thursday night.

“Swiss authorities have frozen more than \$310 million in funds across multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering and securities forgery investigation into Adani,” Hindenburg said.

The firm added that prosecutors in the case had established that an “Adani frontman” channelled funds through the British Virgin Islands, Mauritius and Bermuda – nations known as popular intermediaries for opaque financial transactions – to invest in Adani stocks.

Adani Group quickly rejected the allegations, calling them “preposterous” and “baseless”.

“The Swiss court has neither mentioned our group companies, nor have we received any requests for clarification or information from any such authority or regulatory body,” it said in a statement.

The back-and-forth is the latest in a long-running battle between Hindenburg and the family-run Indian industrial behemoth, which has interests ranging from mining and power generation to ports and media.

Bid to destroy unity

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widespread repression and torture. Mushfiqul Fazal Ansari is one of them.”

Currently based in Washington, DC, Mushfiqul continues his work as the White House and United Nations correspondent for JustNewsBD.

He also serves as the executive director of the human rights organisation, Right to Freedom, and the executive editor of South Asia Perspectives, a foreign policy magazine.

He served as assistant press secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia from 2001 to 2006 and held notable positions in various media outlets in Bangladesh, including The Daily Ittefaq and UNB.

India SC grants bail

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related to the same policy.

Kejriwal, 55, and AAP deny the allegations and say the cases are “politically motivated”.

Ordering Kejriwal’s release, Justice Surya Kant said that the issue related to “liberty” and “prolonged incarceration” could not be justified.

The two-judge bench was split, however, on Kejriwal’s appeal challenging his arrest, with Kant holding it lawful while Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said the timing raised serious questions.

The federal police “must not only be above board but must also be seen to remain so ... in a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters,” Bhuyan said.

In its first reaction following the verdict, AAP said, “Truth can be troubled, but not defeated”.

Opposition parties have been demanding Kejriwal’s release, saying his arrest was an attempt by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to deny them a level playing field in the polls, charges denied by Modi and BJP.

Other countries, including the US, had urged a “fair” and impartial trial.

BJP yesterday said bail to Kejriwal did not mean he was innocent.

US must intervene to stop

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“We must absolutely reject any prospective annexation of West Bank or the land grabbing or the illegal settlements that move on. The West Bank together with Gaza and East Jerusalem, which is part of the West Bank, must be the state of Palestine in the future,” he added.

Meanwhile, one of two US aircraft carrier strike groups deployed to the Middle East in part to deter Iran from carrying out a threatened attack against Israel has departed the region, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

The decision to end the dual-carrier presence came nearly three weeks after US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group to remain in the Middle East, even after the arrival of the Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to replace it.

The Roosevelt has now departed the Middle East and is headed to the Asia-Pacific region, Major General Patrick Ryder, a Pentagon spokesperson, told a news briefing.

In West Bank, the families of

Palestinians killed in an air strike in the occupied West Bank city of Tubas held funerals yesterday after Israeli forces withdrew following their latest raid in the territory.

The Israeli military said in a statement on Wednesday that its forces were engaged in a “counter-terrorism operation” in the area of Tubas, in the northern West Bank.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said the military withdrew Thursday evening, allowing the funerals to go ahead.

The four men buried in Tubas yesterday were killed in an air strike at dawn on Wednesday, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said.

A fifth fatality from the same strike was buried on Friday in Tamoun, also in the northern West Bank.

Since the Israeli offensive in Gaza began on October, more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces. It also wounded more than 92,000 people.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, at least 679 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by the Israeli military or settlers since October 7.

Swechchhasebak Dal leader killed in attack by ‘AL men’

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and brought the situation under control around 6:00pm. Several shops were also vandalised during the incident, he said.

He added that Didar’s body was recovered from the Charpatalia area around 7:30pm.

Sikdar Shahidul Islam Lelin, president of Gopalganj Sadar BNP, said, “We were on our way to Tungipara to visit the graves of SM Jilani’s parents when Awami League men attacked us.”

He added that the attackers were led by Gopalganj municipality councillor Amin Mollah and Gobra

Union AL President Alimuzzaman.

Contacted, Alimuzzaman said when the motorcade was passing through the Ghonapara area, the BNP activists tore down banners bearing pictures of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

“When we protested, the BNP men attacked us. Several Awami League activists, including myself, were injured,” he added.

Jibites Biswas, superintendent of Gopalganj 250-Bed General Hospital, said 21 people were admitted there and four were referred to Dhaka for better treatment.

China signs finance co-op deal with debt distressed Maldives

REUTERS, Beijing

China’s central bank on Friday said it had signed an agreement with the Maldivian authorities to strengthen trade and investment, as the debt-distressed Indian Ocean nation strives to avoid default.

The People’s Bank of China and the Maldivian Ministry of Economic Development and Trade signed a memorandum of understanding to boost local currency settlement for current account transactions and direct investment, a statement from the People’s Bank of China said, giving no further details.

Shrine

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There is an orphanage on the shrine’s premises, he said.

Only helpless people were assisted with the money raised by the shrine, Zakir said.

Langta Kabir, head of the shrine, said, “I’m leaving the shrine as it has been vandalised.”

He was seen leaving the place along with three others.

Mustafizur Rahman, OC of Gazipur Sadar Police Station, said he heard that the shrine was vandalised.

Teams of army and Rapid Action Battalion reached the scene around 4:30pm.

Drop names

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“Though such directives were in the CrPC and service rules, these were issued to ensure that no one is subjected to harassment.”

The directives follow criticism of the police over the filing of “arbitrary cases” against journalists and other people.

The letter has been sent to police stations across the country, asking the officers-in-charge to inform the Police Headquarters via mail on actions taken in response to the directives by September 22.

At least 875 killed

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journalists, and 41 were people from other professions.

Analysing the causes of deaths of 772 people, the HRSS revealed that 77 percent of them were shot dead.

The report states that at least 599 were shot dead, 61 burnt to death, 85 beaten to death, and 27 were killed by other means.

It stated that most of the victims, approximately 77 percent, were killed

by police. Information was available for 541 victims. Of them, 419 were killed by police, 45 by other law enforcement agencies, 44 by Awami League members, and 33 were killed in mob attacks.

The report shows that out of 875 killings, 540 occurred in Dhaka division, 91 in Chattogram, 81 in Khulna, 64 in Rajshahi, 38 in Mymensingh, 29 in Rangpur, 20 in Sylhet, and 13 in Barishal division.

‘Comrade Kamala’

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tactic called “red baiting,” which aims to discredit an opponent by accusing them of not being a capitalist.

The strategy involves labelling an opponent as a “communist,” “socialist,” “Marxist,” or a “red,” said Barbara Perry, a presidential studies professor at the University of Virginia.

It is “an attempt not only to denigrate them, but also to get them to fight back and maybe present themselves in a not very nice way,” she added.

Perry said the terms were “very weighted” in the United States, and invoke the repeated “red scares” of the era following the two world wars, when Washington was competing with the Soviet Union for dominance. “The country tends to turn inward at those times” of competition with a rival ideology, she said.

The most well-known example of the “red scare” phenomenon was practiced by US Senator Joseph McCarthy, the chief “red baiter and the witch hunter in the Senate,” Perry said.

A fervent anti-communist, McCarthy warned of the supposed infiltration of communists into every stratum of American society, creating a widespread climate of paranoia across the country.

“Red baiting also has this... long history in the US, and it’s kind of interesting to see it sort of come back,” said Zeitzoff.

He also identified a common thread running between McCarthy and Trump: a lawyer named Roy Cohn.

Cohn was an advisor to McCarthy, and in the 1970s became a mentor to the real estate magnate and future president of the United States, Trump.

Harris only became the Democratic Party’s presidential candidate in July, after President Joe Biden dramatically dropped out of the race following a disastrous debate performance against Trump.

With voters having a limited time to get to know the vice president, Trump has attempted to influence their image by repeatedly characterizing her as a communist.

To explain why Trump has done this, both Zeitzoff and Perry use the same metaphor: that of throwing spaghetti against the wall and seeing what sticks.

Trump appears to be trying to attract a certain type of voters by calling Harris a “Marxist,” said Zeitzoff, particularly Hispanic and Latino Americans.

Many voters from that background may have come from families that fled communist countries and therefore have unfavorable views of them.

Trump is also targeting another demographic with this rhetoric: older voters.

“There will be some people in the electorate who are remembering, as I can... the height of the Cold War,” Perry said.