

## Moscow will respond

Putin warns of retaliation if West helps Ukraine to strike deep into Russia

REUTERS, MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin said yesterday that Russia's defence ministry was working on different ways to respond if the United States and its Nato allies help Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with long-range Western missiles.

The 2-1/2-year-old Ukraine war has triggered the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War, and Russian officials say the war is now entering its most dangerous phase.

Russia has been signalling to the United States and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Beit Lahia, Gaza City yesterday. The directors of the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency will meet with Qatar's prime minister in Doha to discuss a ceasefire in Gaza. PHOTO: AFP

## Israel hit Iran missile fuel-mixing facilities

Say researchers after analysing satellite photos

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

An American researcher said an Israeli airstrike on Saturday hit a building that was part of Iran's defunct nuclear weapons development program, and he and another researcher said facilities used to mix solid fuel for missiles also were struck.

The assessments based on commercial satellite imagery were reached separately by David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector, and Decker Eveleth, an associate research analyst at CNA, a Washington think tank.

They told Reuters that Israel struck buildings in Parchin, a massive military complex near Tehran. Israel also hit Khojir, according to Eveleth, a sprawling missile production site near Tehran. Reuters reported in July that Khojir was undergoing massive expansion.

Eveleth said the Israeli strikes may have "significantly hampered Iran's ability to mass produce missiles."

The Israeli military said three waves of Israeli jets struck missile factories and other sites near Tehran and in western Iran early on Saturday in retaliation for Tehran's October 1 barrage of more than 200 missiles against Israel.

Iran's military said the Israeli warplanes used "very light warheads" to strike border radar systems in the provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan and around Tehran.

In posts on X, Albright said commercial satellite imagery showed that Israel hit a building in Parchin called Taleghan 2 that was used for testing activities during the Amad Plan, Iran's defunct nuclear weapons development program.

The UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and US intelligence say Iran shuttered the program in 2003. Iran

denies pursuing nuclear weapons.

Albright, head of the Institute for Science and International Security research group, was given access to the program's files for a book after they were stolen from Tehran by Israel's Mossad intelligence agency in 2018.

On X, he said the archives revealed that Iran kept important test equipment in Taleghan 2. Iran may have removed key materials before the airstrike, he said, but "even if no equipment remained inside" the building would have provided "intrinsic value" for future nuclear weapons-related activities.

Albright told Reuters that commercial satellite imagery of Parchin showed Israel damaged three buildings about 350 yards (320 m) from Taleghan 2, including two in which solid fuel for ballistic missiles was mixed.

He did not identify the commercial firm from which he obtained the images.

Eveleth said an image of Parchin from Planet Labs, a commercial satellite firm, showed that Israel destroyed three ballistic missile solid fuel mixing buildings and a warehouse in the sprawling complex.

Planet Labs imagery also showed that an Israeli strike destroyed two buildings in the Khojir complex where solid fuel for ballistic missiles was mixed, he said.

The buildings were enclosed by high dirt berms, according to the image reviewed by Reuters. Such structures are associated with missile production and are designed to stop a blast in one building from detonating combustible materials in nearby structures.

"Israel says they targeted buildings housing solid fuel mixers," Eveleth said. "These industrial mixers are hard to make and export-controlled. Iran imported many over the years at great expense, and will likely have a hard time replacing them," Eveleth added.



## China holds 'combat' patrol after US arms sales: Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

China deployed fighter jets and drones as part of a "joint combat readiness patrol" around Taiwan yesterday, Taipei said, as Beijing slammed the latest round of US arms sales to the island.

The US State Department on Friday approved a \$2 billion arms sale package for Taiwan, including advanced surface-to-air missile systems and radar. The deal awaits approval by Congress.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 19 Chinese aircraft yesterday, including fighter jets and drones, flying near the island over a nearly four-hour period as part of Beijing's "joint combat readiness patrol" with warships.

It was the third such patrol reported by Taiwan's defence ministry this month.

"Taiwan's military closely monitored the situation with joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems, deploying aircraft, naval vessels and shore-based missile systems as an appropriate response," the ministry said.

Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office said yesterday that the latest arms package showed that Washington "time and again contradicts the promises of its leaders not to support 'Taiwan independence'... and damages peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait region".

"'Taiwan independence' is as incompatible with peace across the strait as fire is with water," spokesperson Zhu Fenglian said in a statement.

"We urge the US... to stop arming Taiwan and stop sending the wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' forces."

On Saturday, Beijing's foreign ministry condemned the arms package and said it had "lodged solemn representations" with the United States.

A ministry spokesperson said Beijing would "take all necessary measures to firmly defend national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity".

## Georgia thrown into political turmoil after disputed vote

AFP, Tbilisi

Georgia plunged into political turmoil yesterday after the ruling party declared victory in parliamentary elections decried by the opposition as "falsified".

The European Union had warned that Saturday's vote, seen as a crucial test of democracy in the Caucasus country, would determine Tbilisi's chances of joining the bloc.

A group of international observers said the vote was "marred by an uneven playing field, pressure and tension," while noting that election day was generally well organised.

A mission from the EU parliament meanwhile expressed concern about "democratic backsliding", saying it had seen instances of "ballot box stuffing" and the "physical assault" of observers.

## SNAP POLLS

## Japan ruling party misses majority

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's ruling LDP party yesterday fell short of a majority in snap elections for the first time since 2009, national broadcaster NHK projected, in a blow to new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

It was unclear whether Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party would be able to secure a majority in parliament together with its long-term coalition partner, the Komeito party.

Ishiba, 67, took office on October 1 after being narrowly selected last month to lead the LDP, and called a snap election within days of taking office.

The self-confessed defence "geek" and maker of model planes set as his target in the election the coalition winning a majority.

Missing this objective would seriously undermine his position in the LDP and mean finding other coalition partners or leading a minority government.

## New Delhi's air pollution worsens

Residents complain of breathing difficulties

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE



The air quality in Delhi has further deteriorated in the national capital yesterday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) being recorded at 352, in the 'very poor' category, according to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). AQI in areas such as Anand

Vihar crossed the 400 mark, being recorded as 405 at 7:00 am, categorized as "severe", worse than the AQI of 367 recorded on Saturday.

This forecast is significantly worse than the average AQI recorded at 255 on Saturday, categorized as "poor". AQI at the Akshardham Temple deteriorated 261, whereas IGI airport recorded an AQI of 324, both categorized as "very poor". The city has been covered by a layer of smog, which is most prominent early in the morning. In conversation with news agency ANI, Himanshu who is visiting Delhi, said the rising pollution feels "suffocating".



territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation.

Putin said on September 12 that Western approval for such a step would mean "the direct involvement of Nato countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine" because Nato military infrastructure and personnel would have to be involved in the targeting and firing of the missiles.

Putin said that it was too early to say exactly how Russia would react to such a move but that Moscow would have to respond accordingly and different options were being examined.

"(The Russian defence ministry) is thinking about how to respond to the possible long range strikes on Russian territory, it will offer a range of responses," Putin told Russian state TV's top Kremlin reporter, Pavel Zarubin.

With Russia advancing at the fastest rate in eastern Ukraine since the first months of the invasion, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with the West to allow Kyiv to fire deep into Russia with Western missiles.

The US has not said publicly if it will allow Ukraine to strike Russia, but some US officials are deeply sceptical that doing so would make a significant difference in the war.

### Sundarban Gas Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Operation Division  
218, M.A Bari Sarak, Sonadanga, Khulna

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

Tender Invitation Reference No. 28.21.0000.181.49.003.24.1

Date: 24-10-2024

#### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Operation Division, Sundarban Gas Company Limited for the procurement of the following work which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date 29-10-2024 & time 10.00:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Package No.	Description of works	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
01	1028417, 28.21.0000.181.49.003.24.1	28.21.0000.181.49.003.24	Coating Defect & Gas leak detection works of 10 inch dia x 1000 psig x 33 km high pressure gas transmission pipeline of SGCL in Bhola.	17 November 2024 17:00	18 November 2024 12:00	18 November 2024 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders 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 National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engr. Md. Tauhidur Rahman**  
General Manager  
Operation Division  
SGCL, Khulna

GD- 804

### বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute  
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা  
গাজীপুর-১৭০১।

কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি

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Memo no: 12.21.0000.007.02.112.24.1398

Date: 23 October 2024

#### e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No. 02 (2024-2025)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below :

Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
01.	PN-GD-06	1028418 & IRN : 112	Field Equipment 03 (Three) Items.	03.11.2024 11:00	03.11.2024 12:00	03.11.2024 12:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Budget Type : Farm Machinery Technology Development for Profitable Crop Production.**

**(Md. Younus Ali)**  
(BARI-0663)  
Deputy Director (In-Charge)  
On behalf of Director General

GD- 803