

## SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW

# China’s most advanced bombers seen on Paracel islands

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Satellite imagery shows China landed two of its most advanced bombers in the disputed Paracel islands in the South China Sea this month - a gesture that some analysts described as Beijing's latest signalling of its growing military capabilities to rivals.

The deployment marks the first time the long-range H-6 bombers have landed on Woody Island in the Paracels since 2020, and the movement of the now upgraded aircraft comes amid tensions with the Philippines, operations near Taiwan and ahead of the region's biggest defence forum this weekend.

"China's long-range bombers don't need to be on the Paracels so it does appear to be omni-directional signalling by Beijing - against the Philippines and against the US



and other things that are going on," said Collin Koh, a defence scholar at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

French President Emmanuel Macron is due to open the three-day Shangri-La Dialogue forum in Singapore with a speech today while US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth will outline the Trump administration's approach to the region tomorrow. A British aircraft carrier is expected in the South China Sea on a rare deployment next month, diplomats say.

Satellites captured two H-6 planes flying over the hotly disputed Scarborough Shoal, also in the South China Sea, just ahead of Hegseth's visit to the Philippines in late March, when he reaffirmed the United States' "ironclad commitment" to its treaty ally.

Regional diplomats and analysts say deployments of the jet-powered H-6 are closely scrutinised, given the way its Cold War-era airframe has been modernised to carry anti-ship and land attack cruise missiles, while some of the planes are capable of launching nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. A potential threat to US bases in the region, H-6 bombers were deployed in wargames around Taiwan in October, and in July flew close to the US mainland for the first time.



A destroyed airplane lies on the tarmac at Sanaa International Airport in Yemen yesterday, following an Israeli military strike. PHOTO: AFP

## Musk to exit US govt role after break with Trump

AFP, Washington

Elon Musk on Wednesday announced he was leaving his role in government, intended to reduce federal spending, shortly after his first major break with President Trump over his signature spending bill.

"As my scheduled time as a Special Government Employee comes to an end, I would like to thank President Donald Trump for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending," he wrote on X.

"The DOGE mission will only strengthen over time as it becomes a way of life throughout the government," he added.

# Trump warns Israeli PM off Iran strike

## Says he believes US close to reaching a new nuclear deal with Tehran

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he warned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week not to take actions that could disrupt nuclear talks with Iran.

"I told him this would be inappropriate to do right now because we're very close to a solution now," Trump told reporters gathered in the Oval Office. "That could change at any moment."

Israel earlier rejected a report in the New York Times that Netanyahu has been threatening to disrupt talks on a nuclear deal between the United States and Iran by striking Iran's main nuclear enrichment facilities.

Citing officials briefed on the situation, the newspaper said Israeli officials were concerned that Trump was so eager to reach a deal with Iran that he would allow Tehran to keep its nuclear enrichment facilities, a red line for Israel.

Israel was particularly concerned about the possibility of any interim deal that would allow Iran to maintain its nuclear facilities for months or even years while a final agreement was reached, the paper reported.

US officials were concerned Israel could decide to strike Iran with little warning and said US intelligence estimated that Israel could mount an attack on Iran in as little as seven hours, the paper reported.

## US to crack down on Chinese visas

### Beijing condemns 'discriminatory' US plan

AFP, Beijing

Beijing yesterday reacted in fury at the US government's vow to revoke Chinese students' visas, condemning President Donald Trump's crackdown on international scholars as "political and discriminatory".

Trump's administration on Wednesday said it would "aggressively" remove permissions for Chinese students, one of the largest sources of revenue for American universities, in his latest broadside against US higher education.

The US will also revise visa criteria to tighten checks on all future applications from China and Hong Kong, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

Blasting the US for "unreasonably" cancelling Chinese students' visas, foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Beijing had lodged its opposition with Washington.

Rubio had upped the ante after China criticised his decision a day earlier to suspend visa appointments for students worldwide at least temporarily.

## Russia proposes new Ukraine talks in Istanbul

AFP, Moscow

Russia said Wednesday it wanted new talks with Ukraine in Istanbul next Monday to present its plan for a peace settlement, but Kyiv said it needed to see the proposal in advance for the meeting to yield results.

Diplomatic efforts to end the three-year conflict have accelerated in recent months, but Moscow has repeatedly rejected calls for an unconditional ceasefire and shown no signs of scaling back its maximalist demands.

The two sides previously met in Istanbul on May 16, their first direct talks in over three years. That encounter failed to yield a breakthrough.

Kremlin yesterday said it was waiting for Kyiv's response to the proposed talks in Istanbul. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called on Russia and Ukraine not to "shut the door".

Meanwhile, Russian army had captured three more villages in eastern Ukraine, with its troops pressing on.

## GM Quader’s house in Rangpur attacked

FROM PAGE 12

around half a kilometer away, around 7:00pm.

In protest of his visit, SAD announced a rally and a sit-in around 7:30pm, branding him as an "Awami League ally".

According to eyewitnesses, around 80 to 90 demonstrators -- allegedly affiliated with SAD -- marched through key streets of Rangpur before converging at Grand Hotel Mor. They then moved towards Quader's residence, after which the attack reportedly took place. The group later proceeded towards Rangpur Press Club.

SM Yasir, general secretary of Rangpur city Jatiya Party, said, "We were at the party office when we heard

that protesters, including members of the NCP and another political group, attacked our chairman's house ... We want to practise peaceful politics, but those who lit this fire in Rangpur today [yesterday] will not be able to extinguish it easily."

Meanwhile, Imtiaz Ahmed, convener of SAD's Rangpur city unit, denied the allegations in a Facebook post.

He wrote they had been peacefully marching to demand action against GM Quader, whom they described as a supporter of fascism, when JP activists attacked them. He added that a scuffle broke out, but they did not attack the residence, reports Prothom Alo.

He was, however, unreachable

when journalists tried to contact him later for further comments.

Following the incident, Mustafizur and several JP leaders, including SM Yasir, staged a sit-in in front of the house.

Around 9:45pm, both police and army personnel arrived at the scene. Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Majid Ali said law enforcers were trying to restrain both sides.

Ataur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, said, "We have deployed police to control the situation. The situation is currently under control."

As of filing this report, no arrests had been made in connection with the incident, he added.

## Shibir behind the attacks

FROM PAGE 2

15 people were injured in the Chattogram attack.

Annie said the acquittal of Azharul goes against the ideals of the July uprising and urged students and the public to raise their voices against "terrorism".

She also claimed that Wednesday's attack was pre-planned.

"The attackers tore and burned our banners, and verbally and physically assaulted female activists," she said.

Among the injured were Ripa Majumder, president of the Chattogram city unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front; Shrikant Biswas, general secretary of the Chattogram district unit of Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote; and Sudipta Guha, its finance

secretary.

Annie alleged that Abrar Hossain Riyad, publication secretary of Shibir, and Akash Chowdhury, a Jamaat leader, were among the attackers.

Police have arrested two individuals in connection with the incident.

However, Ripa alleged that none of those seen attacking women in widely circulated photos and videos have been arrested.

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Karim said a case has been filed, and the investigation and arrest drives are ongoing.

Meanwhile, Shibir, in a written statement yesterday, denied involvement in the attack.

Its Chattogram city (north) unit President Tanjir Hossain Jewel

and General Secretary Mominul Haque said they learned about the clash through the media and eyewitnesses.

"Several people from both sides, including a female activist, were injured. Such clashes are unacceptable in post-uprising Bangladesh. We strongly condemn the incident," they said in the statement.

About videos that went viral on social media showing a man kicking and assaulting a female protester, they said: "The person seen attacking a woman was previously associated with Chhatra Shibir ... Currently, he holds no position in our organisation. Therefore, blaming Chhatra Shibir for the actions of an individual is unjustified."

## Another 22 pushed in by BSF

FROM PAGE 2

following legal formalities.

Bahadur Islam, one of the returnees, told The Daily Star, "People from border areas often cross into India illegally due to a lack of local employment opportunities. I had been working at a brick kiln in Delhi for the past 15 years."

In Dinajpur, BGB detained 13 individuals -- 11 women and two men -- after they were pushed in through the Enayetpur border.

They were picked up from Karuliapara village, near the border, said Lt Col Abdullah Al Moin Hasan, commanding officer of BGB-42

Battalion of Dinajpur.

"Primary interrogation suggests they had been arrested by Indian police from different locations over the past month. We're verifying their identities, and necessary legal steps will follow," he told The Daily Star.

With this, at least 1,106 people have been pushed into Bangladesh from India through border points in 17 districts and the Sundarbans's Mandarbaria area since May 7, according to a statement from BGB headquarters.

(Our Correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Thakurgaon contributed to the report)

## Over 10,000 killed in two years in north, central Nigeria: Amnesty

AFP, Lagos

The number of people killed in violence committed by jihadist groups and criminal gangs topped over 10,000 in two years in central and northern Nigeria, Amnesty International said yesterday.

In a report, the global rights group blamed the government of President Bola Tinubu for failure to protect people in swathes of the country hit by raids by jihadists, and criminal gangs known as "bandits" who attack villages, killing and kidnapping residents.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Power Division				
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
Invitation for Tender (OTM)				
1	Ministry/Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources		
2	Procuring Entity Name	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources		
3	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present		
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
5	Invitation for	Stationery goods, Desktop Computers, printer, Scanner, DLSR Camera, Printer Toner & Zoom Apps.		
6	Invitation Ref No	27.00.0000.043.07.028.24.264		
7	Date	29.05.2025		
KEY INFORMATION				
8	Procurement Method	OTM		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue/GOB		
10	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not Applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11	Tender Package No.	03 (2024-2025)		
12	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Stationery Desktop Computers printer, Scanner, DLSR Camera, Printer Toner & Zoom Apps.		
13	Tender Publication Date	30.05.2025		
14	Tender Last Selling Date	17.06.2025 Time: 4.00 PM		
15	Tender Dropping Date and Time	18.06.2025	Time: 3.00 PM	
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	18.06.2025	Time: 3.30 PM	
Name & Address of the office(s)				
Power Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
Selling Tender Document (Principal)				
Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
Selling Tender Document (Others)				
Accounts officer, Power Division, Secretariat Link Road, Biddut Vabon (level-10), Dhaka.				
Receiving Tender Document				
Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3) Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka				
Opening Tender Document				
Deputy Secretary (Dev-1), Power Division, Room # 208, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
18	Eligibility of Tender	The tenderer should be well experienced with (1) Trade License (2) Income Tax Certificate (IT) (3) Vat Registration Certificate (3) Bank Solvency Certificate (4) Minimum 3 (Three) successful completion Certificate within last 3 (Three) years etc.		
19	Brief Description of Goods	Lot-1 (Stationery goods), Lot-2 (Desktop Computers, printer, Scanner, DLSR Camera) Lot-3 (Printer toner) Lot-4 (Zoom Apps).		
20	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable		
21	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Lot (1, 2, 3 & 4 ) Tk. 1,000/- (Per Lot)		
Lot No				
Identification of Lot				
Location				
Tender Security Amount (Tk.)				
Complementary equipment's				
22	Lot-1 (Stationery goods), Lot-2 (Desktop Computers, printer, Scanner, DLSR Camera) Lot-3 (Printer toner) Lot-4 (Zoom Apps).	Power Division Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.	Lot-01 for Tk. 30,000/- Lot-02 for Tk.12,000/- Lot-03 for Tk. 30,000/- Lot-04 for Tk. 6,000/-	Ready stock or purchase/supply from main dealer/reputed company of Bangladesh within 30 days from the date of issue work order. The Tenderer Must submit sole distributor certificate /distributor authorization letter along with tender document.
Name of Official Inviting Tender				
Power Division				
Designation of Official Inviting Tender				
Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3)				
Address of Official Inviting Tender				
Room # 212, Building # 6, Power Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.				
Contact details of Official Inviting Tender				
Tel. 02223390024 E-mail: admin-3@pd.gov.bd				
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.				
Special Condition: This invitation for tender notice will be available at Power Division's Website.				

GD-1319

(Md. Mamun Bhuyan)  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
Ph: 02223390024