

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 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



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.

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.



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.

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France's President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron visit Borobudur Temple, the world's largest Buddhist monument and a Unesco World Heritage Site, in Magelang, Central Java, Indonesia yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

KSA frees Iran cleric detained ahead of hajj

AFP, Tehran

Saudi authorities have released a well-known Iranian religious figure they detained ahead of the hajj pilgrimage to the Muslim holy places, Iranian media reported yesterday.

"Gholamreza Ghasemian has been released and is on his way to Iran after follow-up by Iranian officials," the ISNA news agency reported.

Iran said it had held consular meetings with the cleric since his arrest on Monday after a video circulated online showing him criticising the Saudi government. Riyadh did not confirm Ghasemian's arrest but Tehran expressed concern about implications for a thaw in ties between the rivals since a 2023 rapprochement deal brokered by Beijing.

CORRUPTION CASE Sri Lanka's ex-ministers jailed up to 25 years

AFP, Colombo

A Sri Lankan court yesterday sentenced two former ministers from the government of deposed president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to decades in prison in a landmark corruption case.

Ex-sports minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage and former trade minister Anil Fernando were found guilty by the Colombo High Court of misappropriating 53 million rupees (\$177,000) of state funds.

The pair were also fined \$2,000 for using government money to donate board games -- including 14,000 carrom boards and 11,000 draughts sets -- in an attempt to boost the failed 2015 re-election bid of Gotabaya's elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Aluthgamage was sentenced to 20 years in jail. Fernando was sentenced to 25 years.

Aluthgamage is now the most senior member of a Rajapaksa-led cabinet to be successfully prosecuted for corruption.

The cases against both men were



initiated six years ago, when the Rajapaksa brothers were out of power, but the case had been making slow headway until a new government took office last year.

Aluthgamage also faces a separate investigation into allegations that he authorised in 2022 a payment of \$6.09 million to a Chinese supplier for a fertilizer shipment that was never delivered.

He caused a stir in 2020 when he accused Sri Lanka's national cricket team of rigging the 2011 World Cup final in favour of India, triggering an investigation that ultimately failed to substantiate his claims.

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.

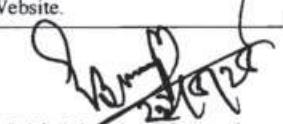
Diplomatic efforts to end the three-year conflict have accelerated in recent months, but Moscow has repeatedly rejected calls for an unconditional ceasefire and shown no signs of scaling back its maximalist demands.

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.

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	
17	Name & Address of the office(s) Selling Tender Document (Principal) Selling Tender Document (Others)	Power Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. Accounts officer, Power Division, Secretariat Link Road, Biddul Vabon (level-10), Dhaka.		
18	Receiving Tender Document	Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3) Power Division, Room # 212, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka		
19	Opening Tender Document	Deputy Secretary (Dev-1), Power Division, Room # 208, Building # 6, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
20	Eligibility of Tender	The tenderer should be well experienced with (1) Trade License (2) Income Tax Certificate (IT) (3) Vat Registration Certificate (4) Bank Solvency Certificate (5) Minimum 3 (Three) successful completion Certificate within last 3 (Three) years etc.		
21	Brief Description of Goods	Lot-1 (Stationery goods), Lot-2 (Desktop Computers, printer, Scanner, DLSR Camera) Lot-3 (Printer toner) Lot-4 (Zoom Apps).		
22	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable		
23	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Lot (1, 2, 3 & 4) Tk. 1,000/- (Per Lot)		
24	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)
25	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.	Tk. 30,000/- Tk. 12,000/- Tk. 30,000/- 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.
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Power Division		
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Senior Assistant Secretary (Admin-3)		
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Room # 212, Building # 6, Power Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.		
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. 02223390024	E-mail: admin-3@pd.gov.bd	
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.			
31	Special Condition: This invitation for tender notice will be available at Power Division's Website.			


 (Md. Mafnum Bhuyan)
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