

SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW

China warns Philippines against provocations

REUTERS, Beijing

China's military said yesterday it had conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea and warned the Philippines against any provocations.

The two countries have been engaged in a long-running maritime standoff in the strategic waterway that has included regular clashes between coast guard ships and massive naval exercises.

A spokesperson for the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command said the Philippines must immediately stop provoking incidents and escalating tensions in the South China Sea.

"We sternly warn the Philippine side to immediately stop provoking incidents and escalating tensions in the South China Sea, as well as bringing in external forces for backing such efforts that are destined to be futile," the spokesperson said.

"Any attempt to stir up trouble or disrupt the situation will not succeed."

The Philippine maritime council and armed forces did not immediately respond to questions outside office hours, while the Philippine embassy in Beijing did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The US Indo Pacific Command said in a statement that Japan, the Philippines and the United States conducted joint maritime exercises in the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone from Thursday to Saturday to strengthen regional cooperation and support a free and open Indo-Pacific region.



Court personnel gather under makeshift tents beside heaps of charred vehicles at the torched Supreme Court premises in Kathmandu yesterday, as judicial operations resume and legal services are provided to Nepali nationals.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia flexes its military muscle during drills

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that it had fired a Zircon (Tsirkon) hypersonic cruise missile at a target in the Barents Sea and that Sukoi Su-34 supersonic fighter-bombers had carried out strikes as part of joint military exercises with Belarus.

Russia's "Zapad", or West, joint strategic exercise with Belarus began on September 12 aiming to improve military command and coordination in the event of an attack on either Russia or Belarus, the defence ministry said.

Moscow and Minsk have said the exercises are exclusively defensive and that they do not intend to attack any Nato member, though the US led military alliance announced an "Eastern Sentry" operation after the incursion of Russian drones into Poland on September 9-10.



VENEZUELA TENSIONS

US F-35s seen landing in Puerto Rico

REUTERS

Five US F-35 aircraft were seen landing in Puerto Rico on Saturday after President Donald Trump last week ordered 10 of the stealth fighters to join a military buildup in the Caribbean to counter drug cartels amid rising tensions with Venezuela.

The F-35s were seen landing at the former Roosevelt Roads military base in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, by Ricky Arduengo, a contract photographer working for Reuters. US helicopters and Osprey aircraft as well as other US transport aircraft and military personnel have been seen at the base in recent days.

The latest sightings come after a surprise visit to Puerto Rico this week by US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth along with the top US general amid escalating tensions with Venezuela.

Asked about the aircraft, a Pentagon duty press officer said: "We have no force posture changes to announce currently."

Sources told Reuters that the Trump administration ordered the deployment of 10 F-35 fighter jets to Puerto Rico to conduct operations against drug cartels.

In announcing the plan last week to send more aircraft to the region, Trump said the United States was not talking about regime change in Venezuela.

Nepal counts cost of Gen Z uprising

Billions lost, thousands jobless as charred hotels, burned vehicles are common sights across the country

THE KATHMANDU POST/ANN

It is autumn, the time of year when Nepal's economy is usually vibrant. Hordes of tourists flock to the country, while Nepalis abroad return home to celebrate the long festive holidays. From retailers to hotels, and from airlines to transport operators, businesses typically boom.

But this week, Thamel—along with Durbar Square and other popular tourist spots like Pokhara, Bhairahawa, and Chitwan—remains much quieter than usual. Charred hotels, blackened by smoke, and burned vehicles are common sights across the country.

The recent anti-government protests have scared tourists from around the world, particularly Indians, whose numbers were expected to swell due to heavy bookings for pilgrimage tours to Kailash Manasarovar, the revered site.

Economists estimate the collateral damage at around Rs3 trillion—nearly equal to Nepal's budget for one and a half years or half of the GDP when damages to both government and private sector infrastructure and government documents are taken into account.

"The economic growth this fiscal year will be under 1 percent, according to our rough estimates," said economist Chandra Mani Adhikari. Nepal's biggest taxpayers—Bhat-Bhateni Supermarket, Chaudhary Group, and Ncell—have all suffered heavy collateral damage.

The losses are staggering. This collateral damage comes on top of the prolonged drought that Nepal recently faced. Moreover, the upcoming elections scheduled for March—more than two years ahead of time—are expected to drain another Rs30 billion from state reserves, said Adhikari.

Estimates compiled by hoteliers, automobile dealers, and retail chain Bhat-Bhateni suggest the bloodshed has rendered nearly 10,000 Nepalis jobless overnight.

This week, the Hotel Association Nepal issued a statement noting that the sector had already suffered damages worth Rs25 billion. Auto dealers estimate their losses at around Rs15 billion.



Out of Bhat-Bhateni's 28 outlets nationwide, 21 sustained damages during Tuesday's Gen Z protests, with several completely destroyed.

Initial assessments indicate the insurance claim of Bhat Bhateni is more than Rs2.5 billion with IGI Prudential Insurance alone, according to Beemapost, an online news portal.

Hopes, however, are high. Yogendra Shakya, a noted hotelier, said that in the short term, quick political stability and the appointment of a new prime minister could reassure travelers, limiting the impact on tourism.

In the medium term, however, Shakya warned that if political parties return to disruptive election tactics, confidence could erode, causing deeper damage to tourism over the next six months.

SUDAN'S SOUTH Paramilitary drones hit key sites

AFP, Khartoum

Multiple paramilitary drones attacked key army positions and civilian infrastructure in Sudan's south yesterday, an army official said, just a week after similar strikes hit the capital.

Since April 2023, Sudan has been gripped by a brutal war between the regular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), killing tens of thousands and displacing millions.

Yesterday's strikes targeted the headquarters of the Sudanese army's 18th Division, along with fuel depots on the western bank of the Nile, east of the army-held city of Kosti in White Nile state, the official said.

Additional attacks hit the Kenana airbase and airport, located southeast of Kosti, while drones also struck the Um Dabakir power station, east of the city, the official added.

Eyewitnesses in Kosti, located some 320 kilometres (200 miles) south of Khartoum, reported extremely loud explosions during the attacks.

There has been no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks and the extent of the damage remains unclear.

An army spokesman separately said that a number of paramilitary drones targeted early Saturday facilities in El-Oheid, the capital of North Kordofan state.

NIGERIA BUS CRASH 19 women, children killed

AFP, Nigeria

A bus taking part in wedding celebrations fell into a river in northern Nigeria, killing at least 19 women and children among the passengers, a union official and residents said yesterday.

The driver stopped the bus on a bridge that had partially collapsed on Saturday evening but it rolled back into the river, Abubakar Muhammed, an official with the NURTW transport operators union, told AFP.

The bus was in a wedding convoy escorting a bride to her new husband's house and crashed near the village of Fass in Zamfara state, added the official, who said the driver may have forgotten to use the hand brake.

The bus had been heading for Jega in neighbouring Kebbi state. Residents of Fass confirmed the toll of women and children killed.

Traffic accidents are frequent on Nigeria's badly maintained roads. Some 9,570 accidents recorded last year caused 5,421 deaths, according to federal road safety statistics.

N Korea leader's sister warns against US joint drills

REUTERS, Seoul



Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, warned joint military exercises of US, South Korea and Japan could bring about "negative consequences" for themselves, state media reported yesterday.

South Korea, Japan and the US will conduct annual defensive drills called the "Freedom Edge" starting on September 15 to upgrade aerial, naval and cyber operational capabilities against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, South Korea's military has said.

"This reminds us that the reckless display of power displayed by the US, Japan, and South Korea in the wrong places, namely around the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, will undoubtedly bring about negative consequences for themselves," Kim said via KCNA news agency.



A protester shouts slogans through a megaphone during a rally against the far-right Rassemblement National (RN) party's meeting in Bordeaux, southwestern France, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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বাউবি'র দীক্ষা: সবার জন্য উন্মুক্ত কর্মমুখী, গণমুখী ও জীবনব্যাপী শিক্ষা

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e-Tenders is invited through e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by University Engineer, Bangladesh Open University, Gazipur-1705 for the procurement of work, which will be available at e-GP website from 15/09/2025, on 10.00am.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Ref. No. & Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1	Tender ID: 1149382 Ref. No. BOU/EE/Repair/Bagerhat/30/2025-2026 Package No. 30	Repair & Renovation works of Bagerhat Sub-Regional Center Bagerhat, BOU.	Date: 29/09/2025 Time: up to 14.00pm	Date: 30/09/2025 Time: at 14.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents can be deposited online through any bank's branches as per tender notice.

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