

## Xi, Putin hail 'stabilising' China-Russia alliance

AFP, Moscow

China's President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin hailed their countries' "stabilising" economic, political and security alliance in the face of "turbulent" times globally, as they spoke via video call yesterday.

Moscow and Beijing have sought to present a united front against the West.

The call comes days after top officials from both countries agreed ties could "break new ground" this year as Moscow and Beijing ramp up economic cooperation.

"Since the beginning of the year, the international situation has become increasingly turbulent," Xi told Putin.

Addressing Xi as his "dear friend", Putin expressed a similar message, saying "the foreign policy alliance between Moscow and Beijing remains an important stabilising factor".



Federal agents detain an anti-immigration protester in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US on Tuesday. The action comes after a US judge on Saturday denied Minnesota's bid to force Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to suspend its sweeping detention and deportation operation in the state, which has left two US citizens dead and fuelled massive protests.

PHOTO: AFP



## Move on Says Trump as Epstein files trigger probe into British politician

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump made a fresh plea Tuesday for Americans to move on from the Jeffrey Epstein scandal, even as it left a prominent British politician facing a criminal probe on the other side of the Atlantic.

Former British ambassador to Washington Peter Mandelson resigned from the upper house of parliament amid allegations he passed confidential information to late sex offender Epstein.

The fallout from the latest release of millions of documents linked to Epstein continued in the United States too, where former president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary will testify in Congress later this month.

Britain's former prince Andrew has moved from his luxurious Windsor home to a royal estate in eastern England, the BBC reported Tuesday, as he faces renewed scrutiny over his ties to Epstein.

## US-Iran talks 'still scheduled'

Says White House after Iranian drone shot down

AFP, Washington

A US fighter jet shot down an Iranian drone that approached an American aircraft carrier in the Middle East on Tuesday, Washington said, as renewed tensions on the high seas overshadowed plans for nuclear talks.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told Fox News that US envoy Steve Witkoff is still expected "to have conversations with the Iranians late this week," despite the incident.

The downing of the drone was the second clash between the foes in Middle Eastern waters on the same day, after Iranian forces attempted to detain a US-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

Washington and Tehran have agreed to talks after US President Donald Trump repeatedly threatened Iran with military action -- and Iran warned that it would respond with strikes on US vessels and bases.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian confirmed on Tuesday that he had ordered the start of talks with the United States,

provided they were free of threats, after Trump suggested "bad things" would happen without a deal.

US and Iran are due to hold talks in Oman tomorrow after Tehran requested a change of venue to limit negotiations to its nuclear programme, a regional official said.

Iran wanted the meeting to take

place in Oman as a continuation of previous rounds of talks held in the Gulf Arab country on its nuclear programme, asking for a change of location from Turkey to avoid any expansion of the discussions to issues such as Tehran's ballistic missiles, the regional official said.

A prominent Iranian news agency has in recent days published without comment images of US bases in the Middle East. The images carry no comment and only the day of the week and the date according to the Persian calendar. The picture for Tuesday showed an aerial view of the Al Dhafra air base outside Abu Dhabi, which is used

by US and French forces.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Witkoff in Jerusalem on Tuesday that Iran "cannot be trusted," according to a statement from Netanyahu's office.

The US opposes Iran's nuclear program, which it maintains is a precursor to acquiring nuclear



weapons, while Tehran insists it is for civilian research purposes. Washington also wants to curtail Iran's support for proxy forces in the region and cut its vast arsenal of ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, Iranian media reported yesterday that women in Iran can now formally obtain a license to ride a motorcycle, ending years of legal ambiguity surrounding two-wheelers.

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref signed a resolution on Tuesday aimed at clarifying the traffic code, which was approved by Iran's cabinet in late January.

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## Gunmen kill 162 in new Nigeria attack

AFP, Jos

Gunmen have killed at least 162 people in Kwara state in west-central Nigeria, authorities said yesterday, with the toll expected to rise.

Parts of Nigeria are plagued by armed gangs -- locally known as bandits who loot villages and kidnap for ransom -- as well as intercommunal violence in the central states and jihadist groups that are active in the northeast and northwest.

"This morning I was told that 162 dead bodies were counted," Sa'idu Baba Ahmed, a local lawmaker in the Kaiama region, told AFP. The attack was confirmed by police, who did not provide casualty figures, and the state government, which blamed it on "terrorist cells".

"Many others escaped into the bush with guns," Ahmed said, adding that more bodies could be found there.

The gunmen invaded Woro village around 6:00 pm on Tuesday and set "shops and the king's palace ablaze," said Ahmed.

He said the traditional king's whereabouts was unknown.

Kwara state governor Abdurrahman AbdulRazaq condemned the attack as "a cowardly expression of frustration by terrorist cells following the ongoing counterterrorism campaigns in parts of the state".

## 197 separatists killed after attacks in Balochistan

Says Pak security official

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's security forces have killed almost 200 separatist insurgents in southwestern Balochistan province since they launched a wave of attacks over the weekend, a security official said yesterday, taking the overall death toll past 250.

Fighting has continued between government forces and the militants following the coordinated attacks, with sporadic clashes still taking place in some districts after gunmen stormed banks, jails, police stations and military installations.

Pakistan has been battling a Baloch separatist insurgency for decades, with frequent armed attacks on security forces, foreign nationals and non-local Pakistanis in the mineral rich province bordering Afghanistan and Iran.

A senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP yesterday that "197 terrorists have been killed in the ongoing counter-terrorism operations". He added that at least 36 civilians and 22 security personnel were killed during the coordinated attacks in restive Balochistan.



## Russia demands Ukraine give in as UAE talks open

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Moscow yesterday demanded Kyiv accept its conditions to end the four-year-war and vowed to press on with its invasion otherwise, as negotiations between the two sides opened in Abu Dhabi.

The US-mediated talks are the latest round of negotiations in a flurry of diplomacy that has so far failed to strike a deal to halt the war, unleashed by Russia's February 2022 invasion.

The war has spiralled into Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II, with hundreds of thousands killed, millions forced to flee their homes in Ukraine and much of eastern and southern Ukraine decimated.

The Kremlin's hardline rhetoric -- along with a massive Russian drone and missile barrage in the run-up to the talks, pounding Ukraine's energy grid and knocking out power and heating in temperatures far below freezing -- threatened to overshadow any chances of progress in the Emirati capital.

"Our position is well known," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday as the talks got underway.

"Until the Kyiv regime makes the appropriate decisions, the special military operation continues," he said, using Russia's term for the offensive.

On Tuesday, Russian strikes on the southern Ukrainian region of Zaporizhzhia killed three -- including two teenagers -- and wounded at least 12 people, regional governor Ivan Fedorov said on Telegram.

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**e-GP Request for Express of Interest (EOI) Notice**  
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Sl	Proposal ID & Method	REOI Reference, Package & Name of Service	REOI Closing Date & Time
1	1208689 SIC	Ref : 22.02.0000.065.14.020.24- 198 Package : SD10 Name of Service : Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist	02 March 2026 02:00 pm
2	1204040 SIC	Ref : 22.02.0000.065.14.020.24- 199 Package : SD13 Name of Service : Construction Works Supervisor (4), Civil Engineer (1)	02 March 2026 02:00 pm

This is an online REOI, where only e-REOI will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-REOI, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/>). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

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Bangladesh Police  
Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

**Corrigendum of International Tender Notice**  
Memo No-44.01.0000.058.07.019.25/170  
Date: 03/02/2026.

Invitation for International Tender Notice Published in different national dailies as per Invitation tender ref No-44.01.0000.058.07.019.25/05(2025-2026) Date: 02/02/2026 for procurement of 7.62x51 mm Cartridge in FY 2025-2026 is hereby amended as follows:

Published	Revised
Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional): 09 March 2026, at 12.00 hrs. NCCOM Building (Conference Room 2nd Floor), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional): 09 February 2026, at 12.00 hrs. NCCOM Building (Conference Room 2nd Floor), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

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