Beijing: China Discussing Possible Meeting Between Xi, Putin, Trump



China's leader, Xi Jinping, welcomed President Vladimir Putin of Russia to Beijing, less than a week after a visit from President Trump.

BEIJING (Dispatches) - **Beijing said Wednesday it was in communication with relevant parties about a possible trilateral summit between Chinese, Russian and U.S. leaders later this month, state media reported.**

"China is maintaining communication with relevant parties on a meeting of the heads of state of China, Russia and the United States," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters in Beijing, Anadolu Agency reported.

She was responding to a Financial Times report that officials from the three countries were coordinating arrangements for such a meeting on the sidelines of the scheduled Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit in Shenzhen, southeastern China, on Nov. 18-19, according to Beijing-based daily Global Times.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host leaders and representatives from APEC's 21 member economies, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump.

"Work is under way on organizing such a meeting," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the UK-based daily.

"One person familiar with the talks said Washington and Moscow were pressing China to agree to a meeting," the newspaper reported Tuesday.

EU Monitoring Aviation Bomb Threats, Says Too Early to Establish Links



In this April 26, 2019 file photo, SAS planes are grounded at Oslo Gardermoen airport during pilots strikes, in Oslo, Norway.

BRUSSELS (Xinhua) — **The European Commission said it was closely monitoring reported bomb threats affecting aviation in Europe, but cautioned that it was too early to determine whether the incidents were linked.**

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are in contact with the affected Member States," a Commission spokesperson said in an emailed response to Xinhua, adding that the European Union Aviation Safety Agency was also involved.

"Any threats against civilians are unacceptable. Ensuring the safety and security of citizens remains a priority," the spokesperson said.

The Commission declined to draw conclusions on possible links between the reported incidents.

"It is too early to draw conclusions on whether the reported incidents are linked. National investigations remain ongoing and fall under the responsibility of the competent authorities," the spokesperson added.

About seven passenger flights bound for Poland, Bulgaria, Italy and Spain received bomb threats on Tuesday, prompting security checks and temporarily disrupting airport operations. No explosive devices were found.

Cuba Slams U.S. Deportation, Detention of Cuban Migrants



******A group of migrants, mostly from Cuba, line up to board a bus after crossing the border from Mexico and surrendering to authorities to apply for asylum on Nov. 3 near Yuma, Ariz.*

HAVANA (AP) – **Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio has accused the U.S. administration of deporting dozens of Cuban migrants to third countries and detaining others indefinitely without specific charges.**

In a Facebook post, the diplomat said dozens of them end up on other continents, separated from their families and without means of support.

"Others are imprisoned indefinitely without specific charges, leaving them and their families in agonizing uncertainty," he said.

Fernandez de Cossio argued that most of the deported Cubans had entered the United States after being driven from their homeland by the effects of Washington's economic sanctions against Cuba and drawn by U.S. immigration policies that encouraged both legal and irregular migration.

He added that many of the deported Cubans had entered the United States with official documents issued by U.S. authorities in Cuba, third countries or at the U.S. land border.

"They did not have to break down a wall or jump over a fence," he wrote, adding that their uncertain legal status in the United States resulted from changes in U.S. government policy rather than their own actions.

He said their presence in the United States and their illegal or irregular immigration status are a result of the actions of U.S. authorities and official policies.

Fernandez de Cossio questioned Washington's treatment of Cubans it claimed to represent, whose welfare it professed to care about and whose interests it said it defended.

He warned that such treatment raised concerns about how Washington might treat the Cuban people if it realized what he described as its "criminal ambition" to take control of Cuba.

The diplomat also urged people to examine the experiences of countries that had faced U.S. aggression, domination or U.S.-backed coups, saying they offered lessons worth reflecting on.

North Korean Leader Calls for 'Rapid' Naval Build-Up, Warns of Stronger Response to U.S. 'Hostility'



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, center, inspects the Nampho Shipyard with officials on Nov. 2.

SEOUL (AFP) - **North Korean leader Kim Jong UN called for a rapid buildup of naval combat power to counter "hostile acts of the enemies," as Pyongyang warned the U.S. that it will mount a stronger response to Washington's "hostile policy" toward the country, state media reported on Wednesday.**

Kim made the remarks during a visit to the Nampho shipyard Monday, where he was briefed on the shipyard's ongoing upgrades and inspected a new warship under construction, state-run Korean Central News Agency reported.

"It is vital and important requirement of the times to rapidly bolster up the surface and underwater combat power for defending the national sovereignty in the sea under various threats," Kim said.

The recent geopolitical environment and hostile acts of the enemies in the region prove the need for "the most developed and powerful warship," he added.

Without providing the ship's specifications, North Korean media said the vessel is "designed to carry out its complex operational mission in consideration of the present-day warfare."

Kim's powerful sister Kim Yojong Wednesday said that dialogue with Washington remains "an option for peace, but that it would not be necessary for its own interest."

She said that the continued "hostile signal" by Washington was compelling the regime to reconsider the "true nature" of the U.S.

"The choice for peace includes dialogue of course, but this is not surely equated with national interests for us," Kim said in a statement.

Her remarks came a day after she rejected the FBI findings that Pyongyang was behind the theft of more than $6 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange.

"The so-called 'cryptocurrency hacking case by the DPRK' is no more than a tip of iceberg that shows the essence of the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK," she maintained.

DPRK refers to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The U.S. abandonment of its hostile policy" toward Pyongyang "is a major premise and key to solving all problems," she said, adding that North Korea has no reason to engage in talks with the U.S. unless that happens.

She warned that Pyongyang would respond to what it views as continued U.S. hostility.

French Blood Banks Hit Alongside Cyberattack on European Supermarkets

PARIS (Reuters) - **The refrigerators at three regional blood banks in France were hit by a cyberattack overnight between Sunday and Monday, at the same time hackers struck supermarkets from Sweden to Belgium.**

"Several regional facilities of the French Blood Establishment (EFS) were affected by a cybersecurity incident that impacted certain cold storage room monitoring and control systems," the health ministry said in a statement.

The incident had no impact on blood supplies, EFS spokesperson Charley Dubois said.

"We have staff round the clock since blood can be needed at any time. They were warned about the problems by alerts and moved the blood to other refrigerators that were not connected," she said.

Around the same time, hackers tampered with refrigerators at stores in eight European countries, forcing retailers to discard large quantities of food, in an attack that echoed an incident affecting dozens of supermarkets in France three weeks earlier.

The situation was under control on Wednesday, the health ministry said, adding that remote access to the affected refrigerators had been disabled.

Investigations are under way into how the attack was carried out, what equipment may have been affected and when systems can safely return to service.

The attack followed a similar incident in France last month when police said hackers seized control of cooling units at hundreds of supermarkets, causing fires and food losses.

News in Brief

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's transport minister handed in his resignation following a train crash that killed 69 people, one of the worst railway disasters in Europe this century. Oscar Puente, who had earlier pledged to work "tirelessly" to restore confidence in the world's second-largest high-speed rail network, also said he was withdrawing from the Nov 29 general election. "A transport minister in a country like Spain cannot remain in office after two accidents of such seriousness in less than a year, however different they may be, whether or not I bear direct responsibility," Puente told members of parliament, referring to the latest tragedy and a January crash in Andalusia that claimed 46 lives. "I made my decision about my future in the first few minutes after the tragedy, as soon as I learned about it," he said.

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ROME (Anadolu) - Italian President Sergio Mattarella called Wednesday for a major overhaul of the country's armed forces to address growing cyber threats, disinformation and the increasing use of artificial intelligence in warfare, ANSA news agency reported. In a message to Defense Minister Guido Crosetto, Mattarella warned that traditional conflicts continued to affect large parts of the world, including Europe. He said these conflicts were increasingly accompanied by widespread disinformation, cyber threats and the growing use of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems. The president described the use of these technologies in hostile activities as a worrying development, stressing the need for the armed forces to adapt rapidly to changing security conditions.

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MANILA (Reuters) - China and the Philippines pledged to maintain dialogue and communication despite strained ties, as both countries offered their own account of a recent call between their foreign ministers. The Philippine foreign ministry said on Wednesday that Foreign Minister Ma. Theresa Lazaro spoke with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at length on Tuesday, describing the phone call as "frank, pragmatic and constructive". Wang said relations between their countries face "malicious interference" and accused some politicians of "irrational and intolerable" conduct that crossed China's red lines, according to Chinese state news agency Xinhua on Tuesday.

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GENEVA (AFP) - The world is falling behind in efforts to adapt to worsening climate impacts, with developing countries facing growing funding shortages and climate-related losses, the UN Environment Program warned on Wednesday. In its Adaptation Gap Report 2026, the agency said international public funding for climate adaptation in developing countries increased by just $1 billion between 2023 and 2024, reaching an estimated $28.2 billion to $31.7 billion in 2024. The report estimated that developing countries would need approximately $305 billion annually by 2035 to address escalating climate risks.

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CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africans began voting Wednesday in local government elections that will test support for the African National Congress (ANC), the party that led the struggle against apartheid but has suffered significant electoral setbacks in recent years. Polling stations across the country opened at 7 am local time (0500GMT) and are scheduled to close at 9 pm (1900GMT). Nearly 29 million people are registered to vote at some 23,700 polling stations nationwide, according to the country's electoral commission. "I am voting for change. I want to see adequate service delivery in my community," Chris Mazibuko, 38, a resident of Soweto, told Anadolu.