



people were killed and six others wounded in a knife attack at a kindergarten in southeast China's Jiangxi province

GLOBAL WEATHER table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions.

27 Chinese jets enter Taiwan territory

Hours after Pelosi lands, Beijing announces series of live-fire military exercises and fresh curb on imports from Taipei

TAIPEI

TWENTY-SEVEN Chinese warplanes flew into Taiwan's air defence zone on Wednesday, Taipei said, as US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made her controversial visit to the self-ruled island that Beijing considers its territory.

"27 PLA aircraft... entered the surrounding area of (Republic of China) on August 3, 2022," the defence ministry said in a tweet.

The incursion comes as China announced fresh military exercises around the Taiwan Strait in response to Pelosi's visit. The drills will include "long-range live ammunition shooting" in the Taiwan Strait, which separates the island from mainland China and straddles vital shipping lanes.

Taiwan's defence ministry described the drills as "an irrational move to challenge the international order".

"The Chinese military's conducting of military exercises in the sea near China's Taiwan are a necessary and just measure to resolutely protect national sovereignty," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying

FEAR BENEATH ANGER

For days before the military plane carrying Nancy Pelosi landed at Songshan Airport, Beijing wielded increasingly bellicose language, issuing threats of consequences and making demonstrations of military force. A look at what could be behind Chinese anger

INSECURITY

Analysts say beneath the bombast there is insecurity. Beijing's sabre-rattling stems in large part from a perception that the US' engagement with Taiwan has become more proactive and threatening to the mainland's interests in recent years, said Li Mingjiang, professor of international relations at Nanyang Technological University

told a regular media briefing. "In the current struggle surrounding Pelosi's Taiwan visit, the United States are the provocateurs, China is the victim. The joint provocation by the US and Taiwan came first, China's just defense came after," she added.

China on Wednesday also imposed curbs on the import of fruit and fish from Taiwan. Its customs authorities said

it would suspend some citrus fruit imports over alleged "repeated" detection of excessive pesticide residue.

It also banned the import of certain fish from the island, pointing to the discovery of the coronavirus on packages.

These bans came a day after Taipei's Council of Agriculture said China had cited regulatory breaches in suspending the import of Taiwanese goods in-

PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping is anxious to project strength against the US — its greatest military and economic rival — ahead of a key meeting expected to secure him an unprecedented third term

EMERGENCY OF TAIWANESE IDENTITY

There is a greater sense of distinctive Taiwanese identity among the younger generation, which is another of Beijing's worries

Combined with the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's pro-independence agenda, this means that to Beijing's elite the whole Taiwan issue does not really look positive

cluding fishery products, tea and honey. Beijing has ramped up pressure on Taiwan since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, as she views the island as a de facto sovereign nation and not part of "one China".

The Chinese State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office said Wednesday that it will punish two Taiwan organisations with close links to "die-hard" seces-

DIVERTING ATTENTION

Drumming up nationalist sentiment also serves to distract from China's slowing economy and growing public impatience with Beijing's harsh zero-Covid restrictions that have dampened the mood in what would have been a jubilant year for Xi

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OPEC+ agrees on slight increase in oil production

Oil prices had fallen earlier this week but they rose more than 1% on news of the OPEC+ decision, with the main international contract, Brent, climbing back above \$100 per barrel.

VIENNA

THE OPEC oil cartel and its allies decided Wednesday to boost production in September by a much slower pace than in previous months, likely disappointing US President Joe Biden who lobbied for a big hike to tame soaring energy prices on a recent trip to Saudi Arabia.

The OPEC+ coalition said it will increase output to 100,000 barrels a day next month after raising it by 648,000 barrels per day in July and August. The group considered what effects staggering inflation and rising COVID-19 rates may have on global demand for fuel in the fall, with gasoline prices at the pump still high.

Oil prices had fallen earlier this week but they rose more than 1% on news of the OPEC+ decision, with the main international contract, Brent, climbing back above \$100 per barrel. "The small increase in OPEC+ history will do little to help the ongoing global energy crisis," Edward Moya, analyst

at OANDA trading platform, told AFP. "Oil looks like it will still remain stuck around the \$100 barrel level even as the global economic slowdown accelerates. The Biden administration will not be happy and this will be a setback in improving US-Saudi relations," Moya said.

OPEC curtailed production during the pandemic as oil prices and demand plummeted, and those cuts are due to expire in September. Some OPEC nations, like Angola and Nigeria, have been producing less than the agreed-upon amount. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, on the other hand, have the capacity to increase production, although it's unclear if they will want to.

In the US, a gallon of regular gasoline was selling for \$4.19 on average Tuesday. That's substantially lower than in June, when the nationwide average surpassed \$5 a gallon, but it is still painfully high for many to afford and about 32% higher than what drivers were paying a year ago.

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Bangladesh lines up before IMF for bailout

TK VINEETH

AFTER the collapse of the Sri Lankan economy, attention has turned to the state of affairs in other South Asian countries such as Pakistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh. All the three countries have either curtailed imports or are planning to do so, to salvage their fast depleting foreign exchange reserves and avoid a Lanka-like forex crisis.

While the presence of Pakistan, which is deeply indebted to China like Lanka, and tourism-dependent Bhutan that has taken a massive blow from the pandemic-induced travel restrictions on the list of trou-

bled economies is not surprising, that of Bangladesh is. Just last year, the tiny nation was celebrated for beating India in per capita income. And the UN decided to graduate it from the least-developing country category to the developing country grouping by 2026. Bangladesh seems to have lost that momentum as Dhaka is now beseeching the IMF for a \$4.5 billion bailout package to tide over its deepening economic crisis. It has also knocked the doors of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank seeking immediate relief of \$1 billion from each.

So, what went wrong? Bangladesh's \$416 billion economy is heavily de-

pendent on its garment industry that survives on exports mostly to Europe, the US and Latin American countries. It has been supporting the country's growth for years but things changed dramatically following the Ukraine war that pushed prices of everything up. In response to the soaring energy prices, the Sheikh Hasina-led government was forced to introduce scheduled outages that directly impacted the textiles industry.

On the other hand, demand also dwindled as retailers in the US and European markets started holding or cancelling orders due to disruptions and uncertainties in their own economies.

Kansas first u.s. state to vote to protect abortion rights



Abortion-rights supporters rejoice after voting results were out in Kansas | AP

TOPEKA

KANSAS voters sent a resounding message about their desire to protect abortion rights, rejecting a ballot measure in a conservative state with deep ties to the anti-abortion movement that would have allowed the Republican-controlled Legislature to tighten restrictions or ban the procedure outright.

It was the first test of voter sentiment after the US Supreme Court's decision that overturned the constitutional right to abortion, providing an unexpected result with potential implications for the coming midterm elections.

While it was just one state, the heavy turnout for an August primary that typically favours Republicans was a major victory for abortion rights advocates. With most of the vote counted, they were prevailing by roughly 20 percentage points, with the turnout approaching what's typical for a fall election for governor.

"This vote makes clear what we know... women should have access to abortion and should have the right to make their own health care decisions," President Joe Biden said.

The Kansas vote is the start of what could be a long-running series of legal battles playing out where lawmakers are more conservative on abortion than governors or state courts.

Meanwhile, Joe Biden will sign an executive order aimed in part at making it easier for women seeking abortions to travel between states to obtain access to the procedure.

More specifically, one of the directives Biden will issue will allow states that have not outlawed abortion to apply for specific Medicaid waivers that would help them treat women who have travelled from out of state.

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED advertisement including details about a notice for sale of immovable property, loan terms, and contact information.

Canara Bank advertisement for a possession notice regarding an immovable property, including details about the borrower and the bank's terms.

Canara Bank advertisement for an e-auction sale notice, detailing the auction process, terms, and contact information.

Office of Deputy Commissioner advertisement for a tender notification in Chickballapur, including details about the tender process and terms.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE advertisement for a tender notification, including details about the tender process and terms.