# Zelenskyy blasts 'Russian beasts' after alleged POW beheading video

Urges world leaders to help Ukraine in its looming counter-offensive against Russia

**KYIV** 

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday denounced Russian "beasts" after a video appeared to show the beheading of a Ukrainian prisoner, prompting international outrage.

The emergence of the disturbing footage, which AFP was unable to independently verify, sparked fury in Ukraine, with Kyiv saying Russia is "worse than ISIS" — a reference to the Islamic State group.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine also pointed to another video that is spreading online, saying it "shows mutilated bodies of apparent Ukrainian POWs".

It was not clear when or where the video was filmed. Ukrainian authorities said they were trying to identify the victim.

Moscow and Kyiv have repeatedly accused each other of killing prisoners of war since Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine more than a year ago. A number of videos alleging to show POW killings have made the rounds on the internet over the past year.

Following the emergence of a new video, Zelenskyy said in an address posted to social media that "the world must see" what he called an "execution of a Ukrainian captive.

"There is something that no one in the world can ignore: how easily these beasts kill," the grim-faced Ukrainian leader said. "We won't forget anything, nor will we forgive murderers," he added.

Zelenskyy urged world leaders to act and help Ukraine defeat Russia as Kyiv forces prepare a counter-offensive after a months-long stalemate on the battlefield." We need to act now!" the Ukrainian president said. The video, which lasts around one minute 40 seconds, shows a masked man in camouflage decapitating another man in uniform.

#### Video could be fake: Russia

wrote Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba

The Kremlin on Wednesday said the authenticity of the "horrible" images showing an alleged decapitation of a Ukrainian prisoner of war has to be verified. "First of all, the authenticity of this horrible footage needs to be verified," a Kremlin spokesman told reporters, adding "We live in a world of fakes." However, top Ukrainian officials renewed calls to remove Russia from the UN Security Council where it is a permanent member. "It's absurd that Russia, which is worse than ISIS, is presiding over the UNSC,"

#### **EU vows to punish war criminals**

The European Union on Wednesday pledged to hold war criminals to account after footage spread online allegedly showing the beheading of a Ukrainian prisoner of war by Russian forces. "We don't have more information on the veracity of the video. Having said that, if confirmed, this is yet another brutal reminder about the inhumane nature of the Russian aggression," EU spokeswoman Nabila Massrali said. "The EU reiterates its firm commitment to holding to account all perpetrators and accomplices of war crimes committed," she said

# US sceptical of Kyiv's ability to make gains in upcoming counteroffensive

#### WASHINGTON

THE United States has serious concerns about Ukraine's ability to make significant gains in an upcoming counteroffensive, as well as Kyiv's capacity to keep defending against Russian strikes, according to a Tuesday report and documents reviewed by AFP.

The documents are part of a trove of highly sensitive material that has been posted online, sparking a US criminal investigation into a breach the Pentagon says poses a "very serious" risk to national security.

Ukraine is expected to launch an attack on invading Russian troops in the spring — its first major military push of the

But one top secret document said tough Russian defenses and "enduring Ukrainian deficiencies in training and munitions supplies probably will strain progress and exacerbate casualties during the offensive," The Washington Post reported.

A document reviewed by AFP — this one marked "secret" details the dire state of Ukrainian air defenses, which have been instrumental in protecting against Russian strikes and preventing Moscow's forces from gaining control of the



US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin holds talks with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal at the Pentagon | AFP

skies. Ukraine's international supporters have worked to beef up the country's air defences, providing a mix of cutting edge and older technology to create multi-layered defences that protect against attacks at different altitudes.

But the February 2023 document — the authenticity of which could not immediately be confirmed — said that 89 percent of Ukrainian medium and high-range air defenses was made up of SA-10 and SA-11 Soviet-era systems that could soon run short of ammunition.

Based on munitions use at the time, the document projected that Ukraine's SA-11s would be out of missiles by late March, and its SA-10s by early May.

Ukraine's ability to provide medium-range air defences to protect the front line "will be completely reduced by May 23," the document said.

The Post reported that another document said Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ordered the production of 40,000 rockets for shipment to Russia, telling officials to keep it secret to "avoid problems with the

# India's rules strict, says Musk on blocking links to Modi documentary

IN a live interview with the BBC Twitter boss Elon Musk said running the social media network has been "quite a rollercoaster" and acknowledged "many mistakes" along the way, six months after he bought the company for \$44 billion.

When asked about Twitter taking down content related to a documentary critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said he was unaware of what exactly happened, but said rules related to social media content were "quite strict" in India. "The rules in India for what can appear on social me-



dia are quite strict and we can't go beyond the laws of the coun-

try," he said. "If we have a choice of either our people go to prison or we comply with the laws, we will comply with the laws," Musk said. The Centre had directed Twitter to block at least 50 tweets with links to the

He also addressed Twitter's controversial move to strip the New York Times of its blue verified check mark after the company refused to pay to keep it.

From April 20, any legacy verified accounts on Twitter which were verified as authentic under the company's old ownership — will have to pay to subscribe to Twitter Blue.

One of the reasons for this, Musk said, was that he does not want Twitter to boost "some anointed class of journalists" who determine what constitutes news.

Twitter, he said, would "treat everyone equally".

#### **MILESTONE**

# NFSU opens first overseas campus in Uganda's Jinja

#### **KAMPALA**

The first overseas campus of India's National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) was on Wednesday opened in Uganda's Jinja, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar describing it as a "significant milestone" in bilateral ties.

"We have assembled here to mark a significant milestone in our bilateral cooperation. India's National Forensic Sciences University is opening its campus in Uganda, partnering with the Ugandan people's defence forces," he said while speaking at the inauguration of the campus.

Addressing the event attended by Uganda's Deputy Prime Minister, ministers and top officials, Jaishankar said today is a proud day for both India and Uganda. The minister noted that it is actually the first government university of India opening a campus anywhere abroad and added that as a Member of Parliament from the state of Gujarat, where the NFSU is located, it is a particular pleasure for him to see this university take the

"And by doing so, they are realising a project. That is the personal vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he added. The NFSU is an institution of national importance, he said.

### KERALA WATER AUTHORITY E-TENDER NOTICE

& Parakkadavu Panchayaths - Production Components - Laying of Clear Water Pumping Main from Chowara WTP to KANJOOR OHSR AND Existing OHSR at SREEMULANAGARAM and Construction of Kanjoor OHSR. - 2) Providing FHTCs to Keerampara Panchayath WSS to Keerampara Panchayath- Production components WTP Raw water pumping main and Pump sets - General Civil Work. EMD: Rs. 5,00,000/-, 2,00,000/-; Tender fee: Rs. 19518, 13010; Last Date for submitting Tender: 02-05-2023, 03:00; pm. Phone: 0484 - 2360645. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in



Due to some technical problem in uploaded BOQ, e- tender

NCB/01/EE(E&M)/PB/2023-24 for Strengthening of Barrage gates with application of Zinc rich chemical compound at Virbhadra Barrage Rishikesh" under DRIP-II is being re-tendered. Last date of submission & date of opening of bid are as under:

Date of publication of bid on web portal -11 April 2023 from 17:00 Hrs Date of start for Downloading of -11 April 2023 from 18:00 Hrs

bidding documents Pre Bid Meeting -24 April 2023 at 11:00 Hrs

Last date for submission of bid on web portal-12 May 2023 up to 17:00 Hrs -15 May 2023 up to 11:00 Hrs Last date and time for submission of Document in Hard Copy

Bid on web Portal

Other terms & Condition of tender will remain same.

2. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation may be obtained from the website

3. Further details can be seen from the E Procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in Executive Engineer (E&M) "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OSBI

Date & Time of opening of

STATE BANK OF INDIA **ELAKKIAMPATTI BRANCH** 5/297, Salem Main Road, Dharmapuri-636705 Phone No: 04342-230770

-15 May 2023 from 12:00 Hrs

#### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Appendix – IV –A [See Provision to Rule 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rule. 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of State Bank of India, being the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 15.05.2023 for recovery if Rs. 65,82,886/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Six Only) due to the Secured Creditor as on 27.03.2023 , from the Borrower : Shri. R. M. Shankar & Guarantor : Smt. S. Papitha, W/o. R. M. Shankar both are residing at 1/1257, Vennampatti Housing Board, Post Office Road, Collectorate Post, Dharmapuri – 636705. The Reserve Price wil be Rs.78,12,300/- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) will be Rs. 7,81,230/- the amount to be deposited with the Bank, on or before 12.05.2023 (Last date for receipt of EMD)

#### DATE AND TIME OF E\_AUCTION: 15.05.2023 **Time: 11.00 am** with unlimited extension of five minutes each

Reserve Price: Price Below which the property will not be sold. Earnest Money **Deposit (EMD) 10%** of the Reserve Price. **EMD Remittance**: to be remitted by RTGS/NEFT to the Bank account or Demand Draft drawn in favour of SBI Account R. M. Shankar, Elakkiampatti Branch drawn on any Nationalized of Schedule Bank A/c No : 37608146120

Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50.000/-

Date and time for submission of Request letter of participation / KYC Documents Proof of EMD etc. On or before: **12.05.2023 4.00 pm** 

Date and time inspection of properties 10.05.2023 – 3.00 P.M. to 5.00P.M.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES**

Property Details :- In Dharmapuri Registration District, Dharmapuri Joint Sub Registration District Taluk, Virupatchipuram Village Survey No. 339/1 dry 4.80 acres sub division S.No.339/68 dry 0.25.5 hect, sub divisions S.No. 339/6881 dry 0.21.50 hect in this bounded as follows: South of Samy and Amutha vacant house site. East of Parameshwari vacant site and 6ft breadth pathway, West of 10 ft breadth South North Common road, North of 20 ft breadth East — West common road. In this midst East-West both side 371/4 ft, South North Eastern side 80 ft, South North Western side 15 ft

Totally 614½sq.ft (57.09 sq.mt) in this terraced shops buildings constructed therein vith mamul pathway right and all easement rights, situated at Elakkiyampatt panchayat, Dharmapuri union.

Terms and Conditions: E- Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider at the web portal https://www. mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in websites https://www.ibapi.in, https://www. mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp

To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. [Note- if there is any encumbrance known to the Bank,

The Sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The other terms and conditions of the e-Auction are published in the following websites. https://www.ibapi.in,https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ ibapi/index.jsp

Further Details Contact

: 9715683433, BRANCH MANAGER, A.NITHYA ANBARASU : 9965199917 FIELD OFFICER, N.RAJKUMAR

Date: 11.04.2023 Place : Elakkiampatti

**Authorized Officer** State Bank of India

### TAIWAN IN MIND?

# GET READY FOR ACTUAL COMBAT, XI TELLS PLA

### **BEIJING**

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping called on the country's armed forces to "strengthen military training oriented towards actual combat", state media reported on Wednesday, after Beijing conducted military drills intended to intimidate Taiwan. Xi's comments, made on a

naval inspection trip on Tuesday, come amid heightened tension in the region after the show of force by Beijing, which sees self-ruled Taiwan as its territory.

China on Monday concluded three days of military drills launched in response to a visit last week by Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen to the



Xi Jinping

United States, where she met a bipartisan group of lawmakers and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Xi on Tuesday told the People's Liberation Army's Southern Theatre Command Navy that the military must "resolutely defend China's territorial sovereignty and

maritime interests, and strive to protect overall peripheral stability", state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Beijing has also criticised a plan for US forces to use a growing number of bases in the Philippines, including one near Taiwan.

The United States and the Philippines are holding their largest-ever joint military drills this week, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken committing to "standing with the Philippines against any intimidation or coercion, including in the South China Sea". Xi added Tuesday that China must be "innovative in its concepts and methods of combat". China and Taiwan

split in 1949.

# China to set up no-fly zone north of Taiwan

China will set up a brief no-fly zone north of Taiwan on Sunday due to what the island's transport ministry described as space activities



miles north of

Taiwan is the

area where

China intends

to impose a

no-fly zone

## TAIPEI'S AIR DEFENCE ZONE

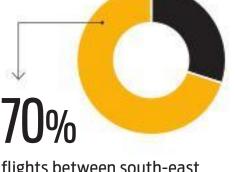
Taiwan's Lieutenant General Yen Yu-hsien said the no-fly zone was within Taiwan's air defence identification zone

The zone is not the same as Taiwan's territorial airspace and includes a far greater area that overlaps with part of China's own ADIZ and even some of the mainland

### CHINA'S CLIMB-DOWN

China had initially announced a three-day closure from April 16-18 but revised it following objections from Taipei. That window of time would have coincided with the G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Nagano, Japan, which starts on April 16

The length of closure has been shortened to just 27 minutes from 9.30 am on Sunday



flights between south-east and north-east Asia as well as flights between Taiwan and South Korea, Japan and North America will be affected by the temporary closure of the airspace

### WHAT SPACE ACTIVITY?

Not clear. Perhaps satellite launches

Beijing's space ambitions have become increasingly bold in recent years, successfully landing a rover on Mars, bringing samples back from the Moon and planning a lunar space station with Russia

# Joe Biden under political fire in restive N Ireland

### **BELFAST**

US President Joe Biden urged political compromise in Northern Ireland on Wednesday, using a brief visit to promote the benefits of enduring peace and investment, but faced heated criticism from

pro-UK hardliners. "I hope the (Northern Ireland) Executive and Assembly will soon be restored," Biden said in a speech at Ulster University, urging feuding political leaders to restore power-sharing government which has been suspended since Febru-

ary last year. Biden touted the "unlimited possibilities" for investment and growth offered in the UK-ruled territory, 25 years on from a historic peace deal brokered by the US

government. But peace and stability must always be guarded, he added, saying the January 6, 2021, riot at Congress in Washington had proved that in every generation, "democracy needs champions". The Irish-American president met Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who declared the UK's relationship with the US was "in great shape".

Biden also greeted local political leaders ahead of his speech. He said Tuesday that the priority for his trip — which includes three



with students after delivering a speech on business development at Ulster University in Belfast on Wednesday | AFP

days in his ancestral homeland, the Republic of Ireland — was "to keep the peace" in Northern Ireland.

But senior figures in the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which is under pressure to resume local power-sharing, were strikingly undiplomatic about the

Sammy Wilson, a DUP member of the UK parliament in Westminster, branded Biden "anti-British", accusing America's second Catholic president of having "made his antipathy towards Protestants in

particular very well known". Another DUP lawmaker, Nigel Dodds, suggested any mediation efforts would prove futile.

### Syria foreign minister in Saudi for first visit since war began

RIYADH: Syria's foreign minister arrived in Saudi Arabia Wednesday, a Saudi statement said, on the first such trip since the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011. Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad flew into Jeddah after an invitation from his Saudi counterpart, according to the statement from the Saudi foreign ministry. They will "hold a session of talks on efforts to reach a political solution to the Syrian crisis that preserves the unity, security and stability of Syria", the statement said. The foreign ministers will also discuss "facilitating" the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland, and securing humanitarian access to the affected areas in Syria". Mekdad arrives two days before nine Arab countries gather in Jeddah on Friday to discuss allowing President Bashar Al-Assad's Syrian government to attend an Arab League summit next month. Ministers and top officials from the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Egypt, Iraq and Jordan have been invited, Qatar foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari said earlier. Over the past few months there has been increasing engagement with Assad, who has been isolated since the start of the Syrian war in 2011.

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