

Intl. News

Amid building tensions with China, US sends Navy warship through strategic Taiwan Strait

Agency
Washington July 25,

The US military said on Wednesday it sent a Navy warship through the Taiwan Strait, which separates Taiwan from China, a move likely to anger China during a period of tense relations between Washington and Beijing. Taiwan is among a growing number of flashpoints in the US-China relationship, which include a trade war, US sanctions and China's increasingly muscular military posture in the South China Sea, where the United States also conducts freedom-of-navigation patrols. China on Wednesday warned that it is ready for war if there was any move towards Taiwan's independence, accusing the United States of undermining global stability and denouncing its arms sales to the self-ruled island. The warship sent to the 112-mile-wide (180-km) Taiwan Strait was identified as the Anietam. "The (ship's) transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the US commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," Commander Clay Doss, a spokesman for the US Navy's



Seventh Fleet, said in a statement. "The US Navy will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows," he added. The voyage risks further raising tensions with China but will likely be viewed by self-ruled Taiwan as a sign of support from US President Donald Trump's administration amid growing friction between Taipei and Beijing. The United States has no formal ties with Taiwan but is bound by law to help provide the island with the means to defend itself and is its main source of arms. China has been ramping up pressure to assert its sovereignty over the island, which it considers a wayward province of "one China" and

sacred Chinese territory. On Wednesday, Chinese Defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian told a news briefing on a defence white paper, the first like it in several years to outline the military's strategic concerns, that China would make its greatest effort for peaceful reunification with Taiwan. "If there are people who dare to try to split Taiwan from the country, China's military will be ready to go to war to firmly safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity," he said. China has repeatedly sent military aircraft and ships to circle Taiwan on exercises in the past few years and worked to isolate it internationally, whittling down its few remaining diplomatic allies.

Attackers of Sri Lanka Easter Sunday bombings inspired by Islamic State

Agency
Colombo July 25,

Sri Lanka's Easter attacks that killed more than 250 people were carried out by local groups who drew inspiration from the Islamic State (IS) group, a top investigator said on Wednesday. Ravi Seneviratne, the head of Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department (CID), said that the suicide bombers who targeted three churches and three hotels had no direct link to the foreign armed group, Al Jazeera reported. The investigator made the remarks in a meeting with the country's parliamentary panel investigating the security and intelligence lapses that led to the April 21 bombings. "They followed the IS

ideology, but our investigations have not shown any link between them," Seneviratne told the parliamentary panel. He noted that remnants of the National Thowheeth Jamath (NTJ), the armed group that was held responsible for the Easter attacks, had persuaded ISIL to claim the attack two days after the deadly events in Sri Lanka. NTJ leader Zahran Hashim made a video with fellow NTJ members pledging allegiance to ISIL leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. The video was released by ISIL two days later. Sri Lanka's former police chief, Pujith Jayasundara, and former secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Hemasiri Fernando, are currently facing criminal charges over their

alleged negligence in failing to prevent the attack. Several NTJ operatives were known to have travelled to India to meet with fellow extremists there, according to the Sri Lankan military. Another investigator, Shani Abeysekara, told the same parliamentary panel that the CID found 105 kilograms of explosives from an NTJ hideout earlier this year. "If not for this discovery, they would have been able to cause much more damage," Abeysekara said, adding that they were already investigating the NTJ when the attacks took place. In a statement last week, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena alleged the attacks "were the work of international drug dealers" to sabotage his anti-narcotics drive.

Afghanistan: 5 people killed, 10 injured as two explosions rock Kabul after bus blast

Agency
Afghan July 25,

Two explosions went off in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Thursday, minutes after a bus carrying government employees was hit by a blast, killing five people, government officials said. "One explosion occurred

near the bus blast site and the second hit the eastern part of the city," said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the interior ministry. Casualties were feared, he said. At least five people were killed and 10 wounded when a bomb attached to the bus carrying government



employees went off, officials said earlier. A witness near the site of the bus blast said a minibus had caught fire and he could see several injured people and bodies. No militant group claimed responsibility for any of the three blasts.

Name changed

I, the undersigned, Akojiam Lokeshori Devi, wife of Akojiam Ishowreandra Singh, a resident of Sapam Mayai Leikai, P.O. Wangjing, P.S. Khongjom, Thoubal, District, Manipur, do hereby declare that I have relinquished, abandoned and renounced the use of my old name Ningombam Lokeshori Devi, as I have assumed my name as Akojiam Lokeshori Devi.

Sd/-
Akojiam Lokeshori Devi

News from neighbouring states

Large scale relief operations by Indian Army in flood affected Jorhat

PIB (DW)
Jorhat, July 25,

As large - scale relief operations are underway in flood hit areas of Assam by the Indian Army, troops of Dao Division in their endeavour to provide medical assistance to populace of flood - affected regions of Jorhat organised a Medical Camp at NeulGaon on 23 July 2019. A team of 10 doctors and paramedics from Army and Civil Administration provided essential medical services, treatment and medicines to the locals. The event received an overwhelming response and approximately 1200 patients from Jorhat and adjoining



flood-affected areas benefitted from the facilities and medicines provided. During the camp, various health issues, & prevention of epidemics arising as fallout of floods, were also addressed. The camp saw a healthy turnout and the locals expressed their gratitude to Indian Army for bringing these facilities to their doorstep. The seamless synergy between Indian Army and Civil Administration particularly the medical department provided a long awaited opportunity to the needy people. The initiative has gone a long way in strengthening the bond of brotherhood between the locals and the Indian Army.

Rail link to North East state capitals on track, Gangtok to be connected by March 2022

Agency
Ghy, July 25,

The railway is set to link Sikkim's capital Gangtok to capitals of all northeastern states by March 2022, a senior official said on Wednesday. With this linkage, all the seven Northeastern State Capitals will be connected to the National Railway Network, the Railways official added. The capitals of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura have been already been connected by broad gauge rail network. Work on new broad gauge lines has been taken up to connect the other state capitals —

Meghalaya (Shillong), Manipur (Imphal), Nagaland (Kohima), Mizoram (Aizawl) — which is expected to be completed by 2020. In Sikkim, the project has been riddled with land acquisition issues. The project of laying a broad gauge line from Sivok to Rangpo of length 45 km was sanctioned in 2008-09, however, the project has been in limbo since then with just 19 per cent of work being completed so far, officials said. "There are land acquisition issues and the extremely challenging terrain in the entire northeast which we have to deal with while taking on such projects. However, we

have already completed 45 per cent of the work in projects of the northeast. We hope to bring Sikkim on the national railways' map by March 2022," said a senior official. Among the most significant of the ongoing projects is the 111 km Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal line, 64 per cent of which has been completed so far will not only put the Manipur capital on the railway map in the next couple of years but also prepare grounds for taking the railways to Moreh on the Myanmar border and beyond to become part of the proposed Trans-Asian Railway. A 10 km section from Jiribam-

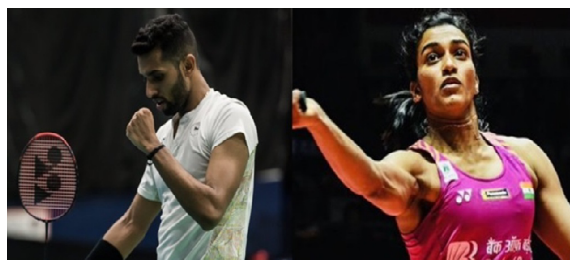
Vaingaichungpao has already been completed. In Mizoram's capital Aizawl, the Bhaibari-Sairang 51.38 km line has been 58.43 per cent completed, while in Nagaland's capital Kohima, the railway has made progress of 25.23 per cent in the Dimapur - Zubza 82.5 km line. In Shillong, Meghalaya, the Tetelia - Byrnihat 21.50 km line has seen a progress of 40 per cent while a 10 km section from Tetelia-Kamlajari has been completed. Another line in the state, the 108.40 km Byrnihat-Shillong line has only seen progress of around 5 per cent.

Sports News

PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy to play second round matches in Japan Open today

Agency
New Delhi July 25,

In Japan badminton Open, ace Indian shuttlers P V Sindhu and H. S. Prannoy will play today their second round matches in Tokyo. Sindhu will take on Aya Ohori of Japan in women's singles while Prannoy will play against Rasmus Gemke of Denmark in men's singles. The unseeded Sai Praneeth will also play the second round match today against Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan. On Wednesday, fifth seed Sindhu beat unseeded Chinese Han Yue 21-9 21-17 in women's singles. Prannoy stunned the higher-ranked compatriot K Srikanth 13-21, 21-11, 22-20 in a match that lasted 59 minutes. Earlier, Praneeth recorded a comfortable win over World No. 11 Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in the first round. In the men's doubles, India's top pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will play today against China's Huang Kai Xiang and Liu Cheng in the second round.



In the mixed doubles event, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa will play today against Thai duo

Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai in the second round. The Indian

duo earlier beat the German combine of Marvin Seidel and Linda Efler in straight games 21-14 31-19.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES (IMPHAL WEST)

NOTIFICATION Imphal, the

No. Prop./SR/IW/2019: An application for registration of a proposed namely "WOMEN DANCE & DRAMATIC UNION" and address Taotuong, Imphal West Manipur has submitted to the undersigned and therefore, objection, if any, to the registration of the proposed society/ association is invited from any interested persons within 20(twenty) days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any complain after this period shall not be entertained.

P.MEMADEVI
Deputy Registrar of Societies
Imphal West.

IT/Abt./A.dina