

Rs 19,000 cr mega Indian Navy deal for BrahMos missiles



Sea trial of BrahMos missile by a Indian Naval ship. (File photo)

■ By Ajit Dubey

NEW DELHI, Feb 22 (ANI)

IN A megaboo for the Indian Navy, the Cabinet Committee on Security has cleared the acquisition of over 200 BrahMos extended-range supersonic cruise missiles for deployment on its warships.

The deal worth around Rs

19,000 crore was cleared in a meeting held on Wednesday evening, top Government sources told ANI.

The contract is set to be signed in the first week of March between the BrahMos Aerospace and Ministry of Defence. The BrahMos is the main weapon for anti-ship and attack operations for the Indian

navy warships which have been regularly firing the weapon system.

The BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture of India and Russia and produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

The BrahMos missile has been indigenised in a big way by the BrahMos corporation and more parts are being indigenised. The BrahMos missile is also set to be exported soon to the Philippines which is its first global customer.

Many countries in the Southeast Asian region have started showing serious interest in the missile system for deployment in multiple ways.

BrahMos Aerospace, headed by Atul Rane, is also working towards achieving the USD 5 billion export target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Yemen's Houthi militants set another ship ablaze; Israel shoots down missiles

■ By Jon Gambrell

DUBAI, Feb 22 (AP)

A SUSPECTED missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels set a ship ablaze in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday as Israel intercepted what appeared to be another Houthi attack near the port city of Eilat, authorities said.

The attacks come as the rebels escalate their assaults over Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The attack on Thursday in the Gulf of Aden saw two missiles fired, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. It said the unnamed ship was



ablaze, without elaborating.

Meanwhile, sirens sounded early on Thursday morning over Eilat, followed by videos posted online of what appeared to be an interception in the sky overhead.

The Israeli military later said the interception was carried out by its Arrow missile defence

system.

Israel did not identify what the fire was, nor where it came from. However, the Arrow system intercepts long-range ballistic missiles with a warhead designed to destroy targets while they are in space.

The system "successfully intercepted a launch which was identified in the area of the Red Sea and was en route to Israel," the Israeli military said. "The target did not cross into Israeli territory and did not pose a threat to civilians."

The Houthis did not immediately claim either attack. They typically acknowledge assaults they conduct hours afterward.

EAM holds bilateral with counterparts of Tanzania, Ghana, Slovak Republic

NEW DELHI, Feb 22 (ANI)

ON THE sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue in Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Slovak Republic, Ghana and Tanzania and discussed cooperation with both countries in multiple sectors.

EAM Jaishankar held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Ghana, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey and assessed the progress of India-Ghana bilateral cooperation, especially the development partnership.

Taking to X, EAM Jaishankar shared about the meeting saying, "Glad to meet FM @AyorkorBotchwey of Ghana on #RaisinaDialogue2024 side-

lines. Assessed the progress of our bilateral cooperation, especially development partnership. Also spoke about the need to reform the Commonwealth."

Additionally, EAM Jaishankar assessed the progress in the bilateral cooperation between India and Tanzania with his Tanzania counterpart, January Makamba. "A warm meeting with FM @JMakamba of Tanzania. Carried forward our Raisina panel discussion on India-Africa solidarity. Assessed positively the progress in our bilateral cooperation," EAM posted on X.

EAM Jaishankar also held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic,

Juraj Blanar and reviewed the status of India-Slovak Republic bilateral ties. EAM Jaishankar posted on X, "Good to meet FM

Juraj Blanar of Slovak Republic on his first visit to India. Reviewed the status of our bilateral relationship. Look forward to deeper collaboration in bilateral and regional formats."

INDIA-NORDIC-BALTIC 8 MEET HELD: THE India-Nordic-Baltic Eight meeting was held on Thursday on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue here with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar saying the exchange of perspectives on regional, global and multilateral issues was extremely useful.



In a post on X, Jaishankar said he was pleased to host the India-Nordic-Baltic 8 meeting and thanked the Foreign Ministers of Sweden (Tobias Billström), Finland (Elina Valtonen), Denmark (Lars Løkke Rasmussen), Estonia (Margus Tsahkna), Latvia Krisjanis Karins, and representatives of Norway, Iceland and Lithuania for joining.

"Clean and green technologies, digital and cyber cooperation, high quality skills and global supply chains hold great promise for our future endeavors," the minister said.

The exchange of perspectives on regional, global and multilateral issues was extremely useful, Jaishankar said.

India-SL-Maldives drill kicks off as Chinese vessel docks near Male

Male: A high-tech Chinese marine research ship on Thursday arrived near Maldives after spending about a month in Indian Ocean near the island nation, reports said. The ship, 'Xiang Yang Hong 03' reached Maldives on the same day when Indian

and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the strategically located archipelago for a trilateral naval exercise.

India had already expressed concern about the movement of the Chinese ship in Indian Ocean and also prevailed on Sri Lanka to re-

fuse permission for the ship to dock at Colombo port.

'Xiang Yang Hong 03' was moored close to Male city this morning. Around noon, the ship was shown to be near Thilafushi," news portal Editio-n.mv reported, quoting Marine Traffic website that tracks

all ocean liners across globe.

"Xiang Yang Hong 03 began its journey on Jan 14, 24 hours after Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu concluded his state visit to China. It arrived near Male' today after spending about a month near Maldives' Exclusive Eco-

nomie Zone (EEZ)," said Adhadhu.com, a news portal. It also claimed the vessel was "not visible on common tracking sites starting from Jan 22. It is believed the vessel's tracking systems had been turned off when it was in Java Sea off Indonesia then." ൧൩

PM dedicates to nation 2 'made-in-India' N-reactors

Surendra.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Giving a boost to nuclear power generation, PM Narendra Modi Thursday dedicated to the nation two new indigenously-developed reactors at Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant in Gujarat. The reactors — unit 3 and unit 4 — are the first two in the series of 16 indigenously Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) of 700 MW each be-

ing set up in the country.

Built by NPCIL at a cost of over Rs 22,500 crore, KAPS-3 and KAPS-4 projects have a cumulative capacity of 1,400 (700x2) MW and are the largest indigenous PHWRs. They are first of its kind reactors and with advanced safety features comparable with the best in the world. Together, they will produce about 10.4 billion units of clean electricity per year and benefit consumers of multiple states.

Houthis using sub-weapons in Red Sea attacks

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis will escalate their attacks on ships in the Red Sea and other waters and has introduced "submarine weapons", in continued solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza war, the group's leader said. "Operations in the Red and Arabian Seas, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden are continuing, escalating, and effective," Abdulmalik al-Houthi added in a televised speech. He gave no details of the sub-weapons. The speech came the same day the Houthis sent shippers and insurers formal notice of what they termed a ban on vessels tied to Israel, the US, the UK from sailing in surrounding seas, seeking to reinforce their military campaign. REUTERS