

China def min probed for graft: Report

Dong Jun 3rd Consecutive Serving Or Ex-Def Min To Be Investigated

Beijing: China defence minister Dong Jun has been placed under investigation as part of a wide-ranging anti-corruption probe that has roiled the top ranks of the People's Liberation Army, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.

Dong is the third consecutive serving or former Chinese defence minister to be investigated for alleged corruption, the FT reported, citing current and former US officials.

When asked about the FT report at a daily press briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said it was "chasing shadows". China's defence ministry did not immediately comment. China's military has undergone a

sweeping anti-corruption purge since last year, with at least nine PLA generals and a handful of defence industry executives removed from the national legislative body to date.

Dong, a former PLA navy chief, was appointed defence minister in Dec 2023. His predecessor, Li Shangfu, was removed after seven months into the

job. Dong last week declined to meet US defence secretary Lloyd Austin during a meeting of defence ministers in Laos citing US actions over Taiwan.

As defence minister, Dong is responsible for China's military diplomacy with other nations. He oversaw a recent thaw in US-China military-to-military ties, with both na-



Dong Jun

tions holding theatre-level commander talks for the first time in Sept. But he was not promoted to the six-member Central Military Commission (CMC), China's highest-level military body, during a major Communist Party plenum earlier this year. China's defence minister has traditionally been a member of both the CMC, which is headed by President Xi Jinping, and the State Council, China's cabinet-level executive body. Dong was not appointed to the state council either during a govt reshuffle in March.

Dong's two immediate predecessors, Li and Wei Fenghe, were expelled from the Communist Party in June for "serious violations of discipline", a euphemism for graft. REUTERS

EAM meets Italy's counterpart during G7 meet

FIUGGI (Italy), Nov 27 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar has held a meeting with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani during the G7 Foreign Minister's Meeting in Fiuggi, Italy.

The EAM wrote in a post on X, "A warm meeting with DPM & FM @Antonio_Tajani of Italy today. Discussed opportunities in technology, innovation, clean energy, fertilizers, railways and investments. Also exchanged perspectives on IMEC, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific. The recently announced Joint Strategic Action Plan guides our activities. Look forward to welcoming him in India in 2025."

In another post on X, EAM



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in Fiuggi, Italy. (PTI)

Jaishankar said: "Pleased to attend the G7 FMM Outreach Session with Indo-Pacific partners today in Fiuggi. Thank FM @Antonio_Tajani of Italy for the welcome and hospitality. Noted

that the Indo-Pacific is experiencing significant changes including new convergences & partnerships as well as anxieties, frictions & stresses."

EAM Jaishankar and Italian

Foreign Minister Tajani also highlighted six key responses required in the Indo-Pacific region such as more collaborations in areas like maritime, semiconductors, supply chains, etc; more resources, both to support greater activities and projects as well as to avoid bad borrowing and unsustainable debt; more capacities in fields like governance, health, technology, disaster resilience and natural resource management; more inter-operability and burden sharing to service the global commons and contribute to global good; respect for international law as well as for mutuality of benefits as well as more options so that Indo-Pacific policymakers can make the right choices.

CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON

Israel, Hezbollah agree on US-France-brokered deal

The truce does not address devastating war in the Gaza

TEL AVIV, Nov 27 (Agencies)

AFTER months of skirmishes and thousands of casualties, Israel and Hezbollah agreed to the ceasefire deal on Tuesday, brokered by US- and France and residents in cars heaped with belongings streamed back toward southern Lebanon despite warnings from the Israeli and Lebanese military that they stay away from certain areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, also stressed that the "length" of this ceasefire will depend on "what happens in Lebanon."



Displaced residents return to Dahiyeh, in Beirut, Lebanon following a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah that went into effect on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

Netanyahu warns of action if Hezbollah violates agreement

"With the United States' full understanding, we maintain full freedom of military action. If Hezbollah violates the agreement and tries to arm itself, we will attack. If it tries to rebuild terrorist infrastructure near the border, we will attack. If it launches a rocket, if it digs a tunnel, if it brings in a truck carrying rockets, we will attack", Netanyahu noted.

He gave three reasons for having a ceasefire at this point.

"The first reason is to focus on the Iranian threat, and I won't expand on that. The second reason is to give our forces a breather and replenish

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Ceasefire will bring peace, stability in the region: India

NEW DELHI, Nov 27 (PTI)

INDIA on Wednesday welcomed the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon and said it hoped that these developments will lead to "peace and stability" in the wider region.

The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon-based Hezbollah began early Wednesday morning, according to reports.

"We welcome the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that has been announced. We have always called for de-escalation, restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. We hope these developments will lead to peace and stability in the region," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

UN welcomes agreement

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 27 (IANS)

THE United Nations welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, a senior UN official said in a statement.

The agreement marks the starting point of a critical process, anchored in the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), to restore the safety and security that civilians on both sides of the Blue Line deserve, said Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, the UN special coordinator for Lebanon, on Tuesday, 'Xinhua' news agency reported.

Considerable work lies ahead to ensure the agreement endures, Hennis-Plasschaert said, adding, "Nothing less than the full and unwavering commitment of both parties is required."

'Nuclear-capable ballistic missile tested from INS Arighaat'

New Delhi: India is learnt to have tested a nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), designed for a strike range of 3,500-km, from the newly commissioned nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat on Wednesday, reports **Rajat Pandit**.

There was, however, no official word on the missile test that took place off Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal in the morning. Sources said it was the solid-fuelled K-4 missile that was tested from the 6,000-tonne INS Arighaat. The K-4 has so far only been tested from submersible pontoons over the last several years.

A detailed analysis of Wednesday's test results will show whether the missile firing was actually a success and met the laid down trial objectives and parameters, the sources added.

A few days ago, India had issued a public area warning and notice to airmen (NOTAM) for an intermediate range missile test over a 3,490-km flight corridor in the Bay of Bengal between Nov 27 and 30.

INS Arighaat, the country's second nuclear-powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles (called SSBN in naval parlance), was commissioned on Aug 29. The submarine can carry K-4 missiles, unlike her forerunner INS Arihant armed only with 750-km range K-15 missiles.

India plans to induct the third SSBN, with a displacement of 7,000-tonne, as INS Aridhaman early next year.