

China slams US call to G7, NATO countries to impose tariffs on it

BEIJING, Sept 15 (PTI)

BEIJING on Monday described the US call to G7 and NATO countries to impose tariffs against China and other countries importing Russian oil as a “typical act of unilateral bullying” and “economic coercion”, and threatened countermeasures if Washington’s call is heeded.

China’s rejection of the US push came even as the Chinese and US delegations reconvened in Spain on Monday for the second day of their talks on economic and trade issues.

At a regular news briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said that China’s normal economic and energy cooperation with countries around the world, including Russia, is legitimate, lawful,

and above reproach.

He made the remarks when asked to comment on reports that the US has asked G7 and NATO members to collectively impose additional tariffs on China for purchasing Russian oil to pressure Beijing. “The US move is a typical act of unilateral bullying and economic coercion, which seriously undermines international trade rules and threatens the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains,” Lin said. “Facts have proven that coercion and pressure are unpopular and will not solve the problem. China’s position on the Ukraine crisis is consistent and clear. Dialogue and negotiation are the only viable way out,” he said. US President Donald Trump on

Saturday said NATO countries should impose 50 to 100 per cent tariffs on China and stop buying oil from Russia to help end the Ukraine conflict.

On the same day, Treasury Secretary Bessent, during a call with G7 finance ministers, reiterated President Trump’s call to the bloc’s partners about joining the US in imposing tariffs on countries purchasing oil from Russia to end the war in Ukraine.

Lin said since the very first day of the Ukraine crisis, China has been taking an objective and impartial stance, promoting peace talks. “We firmly oppose parties directing the issue at China and firmly oppose the imposition of unlawful, unilateral sanctions and long arm jurisdiction,” he said.

China throws open its secret military complex to Zardari

BEIJING, Sept 15 (PTI)

PAKISTAN President Asif Ali Zardari has been given a rare tour of a secret military complex in China, the first foreign head of state to tour the sprawling compound, where he spoke of joint defence production.

Zardari, who is the constitutional head of the Pakistan military, visited the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) on Sunday where he was given a tour and a special briefing on its most-advanced military hardware, especially the new fighter jets, according to Pakistani media. He was briefed on AVIC's advanced capabilities, including the J-10 fighter jet, the co-production of the JF-17 Thunder with Pakistan, as well as progress in the J-20 stealth 5th-generation

fighter aircraft, Zardari's office said in a statement in Islamabad.

Zardari, who is on a 10-day visit to China, was also briefed on unmanned aerial vehicles, fully automated units, and integrated command-and-control systems for modern multi-domain operations.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday played down Zardari's visit to AVIC and his call for stronger cooperation with China on defence production.

The Ministry instead spoke of his support for Global Security Cooperation (GSI), a Chinese security construct, projected as a counterweight to the US global dominance.

Zardari's visit to AVIC is seen as an attempt by Pakistan to look for replenishments to losses suffered during Operation Sindoor.

South Korea, US, Japan launch trilateral Freedom Edge exercise

SEOUL, Sept 15 (IANS)

SOUTH Korea, the United States and Japan launched their tri-



lateral multi-domain exercise Monday, the military said, in what is seen as their continued efforts to deepen three-way security cooperation against North Korea's military

threats. The five-day Freedom Edge exercise got under way in international waters east and south of South Korea's southern island of Jeju from September 15-19, according to the military.

"The Freedom Edge exercise is conducted through Friday to strengthen capabilities to deter and respond to North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats," Yang Seung-kwan, spokesperson for the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), told a regular press briefing.

The ongoing exercise is the third round of the trilateral drills, following previous rounds of the exercise conducted in June and November last year, respectively.

It is the first such exercise to be held since President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump took office.

The military earlier said the three countries will aim to enhance their interoperability to maintain a "solid and stable" trilateral cooperation through the exercise.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said the exercise "demonstrates the countries' shared commitment to collectively achieve and maintain peace in the Asia-Pacific."

The exercise will feature training aimed at sharpening ballistic missile defense capabilities, as well as air defence exercises, medical evacuation training and maritime interdiction operation training, it said. North Korea has protested against joint drills among the three nations, warning of military action against the previous Freedom Edge drills that involved US nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. Following the inaugural exercise in June last year, the North criticised the drills as an attempt to strengthen a "US-led military bloc."

'Israel's strikes violated sovereignty of Qatar'

NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

IRAN'S Ambassador to India, Iraj Elahi, has said Israel's recent air strikes on Doha targeting Hamas leaders "directly violated the national sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Qatar and "threatened its national security".

Israel last week carried out strikes on the Qatari capital, the latest in a series of attacks it launched against Syria, Iran and Lebanon, triggering global outrage. In an interaction with PTI Videos on Sunday, Elahi alleged, "This is the third time in the past year that Israel has directly attacked regional groups or leaders, who have gone to the negotiating table for peaceful conflict resolution."

This has occurred in Lebanon, Iran and now in Qatar, he said.

The Iranian envoy added that "the meaning of attacking the



Iraj Elahi, Iran's Ambassador to India

negotiating table is clear: Israel does not believe in peaceful conflict resolution and sees negotiations as an opportunity to weaken or eliminate the opponents".

On the strikes on Doha, he said the attack "carried out by the Israeli regime" has "directly violated the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of an Arab country in the Persian Gulf and threatened its national security". "Repeated attacks on the negotiating table show that for Israel, negotiations are nothing more than a trap," he alleged.

Elahi also warned of a regional fallout of the Doha incident, portraying Israel as a "threat to order and stability in West Asia".

The attack, he claimed, has sparked "major concern among the Arab countries in the region, and may prompt them to take the Israeli threat more seriously", potentially derailing the Abraham Accords -- the 2020 US-brokered normalisation deals between Israel and several Arab states. "The attack has shown that security and defence cooperation with the US does not guarantee a country's safety, because America never abandons its proxy in the region," Elahi argued. Another important lesson from this "attack" is that the region needs an "indigenous security mechanism, and regional countries have to cooperate with each other to face the challenges posed by Israel", Elahi said.

India's exports to US decline by 14 pc in Aug to \$6.86bn

NEW DELHI, Sept 15 (PTI)

INDIA'S exports to the US declined by around 14 per cent on a month-on-month basis to USD 6.86 billion in August when the 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods by the Trump administration came into effect in two tranches.

Indian exports to the US stood at USD 8 billion in July.

The US, however, continued to remain the top export destination for Indian goods in August as well as in the five months of the current fiscal year. On a yearly basis, exports to the US in August were up

7.15 per cent, according to the Commerce Ministry data.

The US had imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods effective from August 7 and an additional 25 per cent penalty for buying Russian crude oil effective August 27.

After the US, the top destinations for Indian exports included the UAE (3.24 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.83 billion), China (USD 1.21 billion) and the UK (USD 1.14 billion), according to data. Regarding imports, China accounted for USD 10.9 bn, Russia (4.83 bn), UAE (4.66 billion), US (3.6 billion) and Saudi (2.52 billion).