# Putin to Visit North Korea Amid Growing Geopolitical Concerns



Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to visit North Korea today, his first visit to the country in 24 years. Ahead of the visit, North Korean state media published a letter from Putin stating plans to build an "architecture of equal and indivisible security in Eurasia." Putin emphasized developing alternative trade mechanisms independent of Western control and resisting unilateral restrictions.

In his letter, Putin praised North Korea's support for Russia's military operations in Ukraine and vowed continued bilateral cooperation. North Korea’s Korean Central News Agency reiterated its support for Russia’s actions and condemned U.S. pressure on Pyongyang.

Meanwhile, Washington expressed concern about the deepening relationship between Russia and North Korea, with U.S. state department spokesperson Matthew Miller claiming North Korea had supplied Russia with significant military aid, including ballistic missiles and munitions, for use in Ukraine. Both Russia and North Korea have denied these arms transfers.

In other developments, an overnight drone attack set ablaze several oil storage tanks near Azov in southern Russia. Local officials attributed the attack to Ukrainian drones but reported no casualties. The fire was managed by over 70 firefighters, including a fire train. This incident follows several similar drone strikes on Russian energy infrastructure close to the Ukrainian border.

Separately, fighting continues in northeastern Ukraine, particularly in the Kharkiv region, where Ukrainian forces are working to regain control from Russian troops.