

Russia, China won't back Iran sanctions

Tehran testfires missile

AP, Moscow

Russian and China indicated that they will not support a draft UN resolution imposing tough sanctions on Iran for its refusal to halt its nuclear enrichment programme.

The comments by Russia's foreign minister and China's UN ambassador were the strongest reactions yet to the draft by the two key UN Security Council members, and signalled difficult negotiations ahead on the resolution drawn up by Britain, France and Germany.

"We cannot support measures that in essence are aimed at isolating Iran from the outside world, including isolating people who are called upon to conduct negotiations on the nuclear programme," the Interfax news agency quoted Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov as saying Wednesday.

China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said "there are still different views on what kind of actions the council needs to do under the current circumstances."

Wang said "the major concern" is that some members want tough sanctions like those in the resolution that the council approved on Oct. 14 to punish North Korea for conducting a nuclear test.

The European draft on Iran orders all countries to prevent the sale and supply of material and technology that could contribute to Tehran's nuclear and missile programme. It imposes a travel ban and freezes the assets of people involved in these programmes and also orders countries to freeze the assets of companies and organisations involved in Iran's nuclear and missile programme.

"I think the situation, the cases, are slightly different," Wang said. "Of course, the main concern is nuclear, but I think that North Korea had a test and the Iranians always claim that their programme are for peaceful use."

Unlike North Korea, Iran has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, he said.

Both Russia and China, which have strong commercial ties to Tehran, agreed in principle to sanctions over Iran's defiance of the council's ultimatum to freeze uranium enrichment and dramatically improve cooperation with the UN probe of suspect Iranian atomic activities.

But both nations have continued to publicly push for dialogue instead of UN punishment, despite the collapse last month of a European

Union attempt to entice Iran into talks. The EU had proposed that Iran at least temporarily freeze enrichment as a condition for multi-lateral talks aimed at erasing suspicions it may be trying to build nuclear arms in violation of its treaty commitments.

Wang said the question is "what is the best way out."

"We want to have a solution of the Iranian nuclear issue, whether sanctions is the right way or whether further negotiation," he said.

The five veto-wielding permanent council members the US, Russia, China, Britain and France were expected to discuss the resolution this week at the United Nations.

Lavrov said that Russia would seek to focus the document on aspects of Iran's programme that the International Atomic Energy Agency has identified as possibly serious risks, including uranium enrichment and a heavy-water reactor, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

While Russia and China

BNP-led alliance acts as caretaker of caretaker govt

Alleges LDP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday claimed that the members of the last government still think they are in power and it shows in their attitude and activities.

"They (members of the BNP-led four-party alliance) are acting as if they are the caretaker of the caretaker government," said LDP president Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at a press conference

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Interim govt must deliver neutrally

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the caretaker government will have to perform its duties neutrally for holding free and fair elections in the country.

"We have demanded reform of the caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC) to ensure proper exercise of people's voting right through free and fair

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Usual traffic jams reappear on Dhaka streets yesterday as traffic becomes normal following the Eid holidays and political turmoil. The photograph was taken from Paltan area.

Butenis meets JP, Jamaat leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad said his party might contest the elections independently if other alliances boycott the polls. Otherwise, JP may take part in the elections as a partner of the BNP-led four-party coalition.

"Jatiya Party is making preparations to participate in the elections," he told reporters after his meeting with US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia Butenis at his Banani office yesterday.

He said his party might join the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Teachers for education sector free of politics

Place reform proposal to caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday placed a 13-point education reform proposal to the caretaker government with a view to free the education sector of partisan influence.

The teachers under the banner of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) also demanded formation of an enquiry committee to probe the corruption

and irregularities of the immediate past education minister Osman Farruk, state minister for education Ehsanul Haque Milon and education secretary Shahidul Alam.

"Caretaker government will have to investigate the irregularities and corruption in different projects in the last five years including Tk 500 crore Uni-track education project, Tk 20 crore teachers training project, Tk 28 crore English learning project and 650 crore upgrading the education standard

project," said Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chief coordinator and convener of NFTE. He was addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club where the NFTE leaders placed the education reform proposal and two election commission reform proposals.

They also demanded bringing the ex-ministers and high official to book for illegally giving go-ahead to two private universities and eight new institutes under MPO to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



Power Grid Company of Bangladesh installing underground cables digs a long trench on the fast lane of the street near Rampura bridge in the capital and puts the rubble on the road, creating hazards to passing vehicles.

Mufti Hannan remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Hannan, operations commander of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad (Huji), his brother Huji member Mahibullah alias Mafizur Rahman and their close associate Badrul Alam Mizan on an eight-day remand for each after they were shown arrested in the Badda double murder case.

The case was filed with Badda Police Station in connection with the killings of Shahidul Islam and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

8 die in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight people died and 20 others were injured in road accidents in Bogra and Faridpur yesterday and on Wednesday night.

Of them, four died at Mirzapur under Sherpur upazila of Bogra yesterday, while the rest at Kanaipur on the Faridpur-Khulna highway on Wednesday night.

Our correspondent from Bogra reported that a truck collision left four labourers dead and 20 others injured yesterday morning.

Two of the dead were identified as Idris Ali, 30, son of Alal of Shatvita Village in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram district, and Haider Ali, 40, son of Pagla Bapari of the same

village. Identity of the remaining two could not be known.

Seriously injured Younus Ali 15, Asjer 30, Saiful Islam 20, Dudu Mia 25, Kajal 35 and Omor Ali were admitted to Bogra Mohammed Ali Hospital.

According to Sherpur police, the accident occurred at 4:30 am when a Dhaka bound truck from Kurigram collided head on with a Rangpur bound truck, killing two labourers on the spot and injuring 22 others.

The injured were taken to Bogra Mohammed Ali Hospital where the two unidentified persons succumbed to their injuries.

In Faridpur, four people died

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

11 arms found from pond in Kurigram

UNB, Kurigram

Police yesterday recovered 11 firearms and ammunition from a pond at Chandrakhana village under Fulbari upazila of the district.

The recovered firearms and ammunition include six revolvers, one pine gun, one SLR, one SMG, two pistols and 101 bullets.

Police sources said Mithu, son of Ensar Ali of the village, found the firearms and ammunition inside a schoolbag kept amid water hyacinth in the pond and informed the law enforcers. The boy went to the pond for fishing.

On information, a police team, led by the officer-in-charge (OC) of Fulbari Police Station, rushed to the spot at about 11:45am and seized the firearms and ammunition.

Shibir leader killed in clash with BNP

50 also hurt in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

An Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leader was shot dead and 50 others were injured during a clash between the activists of BNP and Jamaat at Nangolkot upazila headquarters yesterday morning.

Witnesses said an armed group, led by former BNP lawmaker Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan, launched an attack on a rally called by former Jamaat MP Quamruzzaman at about 11:00am.

M Shajahan, president of Chhatra Shibir Nangolkot upazila unit, was hit by bullets during the clash and died instantly.

At one stage, the attackers set the house of Quamruzzaman afire. Some shops and houses were also ransacked.

Locals said both sides exploded cocktails and exchanged over 100 rounds of bullets during the clash that continued for an hour.

Our Sirajganj correspondent

reported that at least 22 people were injured in a clash between the BNP and BJP men at Shahjadpur upazila headquarters yesterday.

Police and local administration sources said the trouble began at around 12:30pm when the BNP launched an attack on a procession led by BJP leader and former MP Dr Abdul Matin.

Both sides used lethal weapons and blasted cocktails during chase and counter-chase. Police charged batons on the rioting groups to bring the situation under control.

The injured are undergoing treatment at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and Shahjadpur health complex.

Meanwhile, local administration yesterday imposed Section 144 in and around Kazipur upazila headquarters to avert clash between the BNP and Awami League as the two rival political parties called meetings at the same

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Call for removal of politically recruited doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (SCP) yesterday demanded immediate removal of all physicians politically recruited or promoted during the tenure of the four-party alliance government, including the director general and directors of health directorate, divisional directors, civil surgeons and upazila health and family planning officers.

A large number of physicians were recruited and promoted ignoring competence and seniority in gross violation of rules during the alliance rule. If they are not removed and punished immediately, the process would continue creating a dark phase in the health sector, said Prof Iqbal Arslan, secretary general of the pro-Awami League SCP.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the SCP leaders demanded fresh appoint-

ment of competent persons after removal of the political appointees and promotion of the deserving ones according to their seniority. Those transferred and made OSDs (officer on special duty) to just harass them must be reinstated properly, they demanded.

Physicians belonging to the BNP-backed Doctors Association of Bangladesh (Dab) and pro-Jamaat ones were involved in corruption regarding admission to different medical colleges and institutions for post-graduate studies in medicine, the SCP leaders alleged.

They also demanded immediate steps to ensure transparency in the upcoming MBBS admission test in 14 government medical colleges on November 10 and that for post-graduate courses at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



A power transformer placed inside a cage on a cart at Posta intersection of Laibagh in the capital. The transformer was installed there months ago obstructing movement of Old Dhaka residents on the narrow lane.

Amnesty concerned at political violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amnesty International (AI) strongly condemned recent wave of political violence and asked leaders of all political parties for immediate and effective measures to ensure that no further violence is committed by their party men in the run up to the next general elections.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
November 3		
	Azan	
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation