

# Defiant North Korea conducts nuke test

## Security Council sits to take action amid world outcry

AGENCIES, Seoul

North Korea said it conducted an underground nuclear test yesterday, defying a warning from the UN Security Council and opening its crippled economy to the risk of fresh sanctions.

South Korea put its troops on heightened alert after the announcement, which came just minutes before Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe landed in Seoul for a visit. The move could heighten regional tension and deal a fresh foreign policy blow to President Bush ahead of mid-term elections.

President Bush said North Korea has "defied the will of the international community," and the UN Security Council planned a meeting this morning, where the US and Japan are expected to press for

more sanctions on the impoverished North.

Bush said the action "deserves an immediate response" by the UN Security Council.

The White House branded the act "provocative" and said it expected the UN Security Council to take immediate actions.

The United Nations Security Council began an emergency session yesterday to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapon test and the nomination of South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon as the new UN secretary general.

The talks are due to thrash out the council's response to Pyongyang's first such test, with several members openly calling for sanctions against the Stalinist regime.

Benjamin Chang, a deputy

spokesman for the US mission to the United Nations, said the council would first discuss its response to the nuclear test, which came in brazen defiance of a UN resolution passed Friday urging the Stalinist state not to carry it out.

Long Pyongyang's chief ally, China denounced the "brazen" act, urging it to avoid action that could worsen the situation, and Russian President Vladimir Putin also condemned the test.

North Korea's announcement pushed the dollar to an eight-month high against the yen and helped shove oil above \$60 a barrel. South Korea's won fell 1.5 percent to two-month lows and its main stock index tumbled as much as 3.6 percent.

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## Dhaka terms Korean N-test 'unfortunate'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has termed the nuclear test by North Korea very unfortunate, saying that this will make the whole region unstable.

"This is very unfortunate. This will make the whole region unstable and will have a detrimental affect on global peace. This should be considered as a threat to peace and stability in East Asia," Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told the news agency in his instant reaction.

He said Bangladesh would like to join the voice of peace, harmony and amity, and would like to urge the people and the government of North Korea to come forward in resolving the issues through effective dialogues for the settlement of the disputes.

The foreign minister said it should be remembered that nothing good for mankind can be achieved through war or clash. "Only way to peace, prosperity, happiness and harmony is to remain engaged with each other through effective dialogue."



PHOTO: STAR

A ward of the Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), Dhaka, crammed with diarrhoea patients. The number of such patients has doubled in the recent weeks in the capital.

## US economist awarded Nobel

AFP, Stockholm

US economist Edmund S Phelps won the 2006 Nobel Economics Prize yesterday for work on trade-offs in macroeconomic policy, the Nobel jury said, noting that his work had improved understanding of how policy affected welfare for present and future generations.

His work has "deepened our understanding of the relation

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## BSF kills 2

UNB, Naogaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead two Bangladeshis near Nitpur border under Porsha upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The dead are Nurunnabi, 45, son of Mozaffar Hossain of Sonahar village, and Abdur Rahim, 43, son of Azizul Haque Biswas of Nitpur Diapara village.

According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police sources, the Indian Border guards of

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PHOTO: STAR

A man holds a candle with a placard stuck to it at a rally of electricity-starved people in the capital's Shanir Akhra area yesterday. The rally was organised to protest frequent power cuts in the area.

## Dhaka-Ctg highway blocked for power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Electricity starved people of Sonargaon in Narayanganj blockaded the Dhaka-Chittagong highway for an hour yesterday and staged a sit-in in front of a local power office while residents of Shanir Akhra in the city held a rally demanding uninterrupted power supply.

Hundreds of vehicles were stranded on both sides of the highway when agitating people under the banner of Sonargaon Nagarik Committee blockaded it.

Police, reaching the spot, dispersed the demonstrators. After being forced to move, the agitators staged a sit-in in front of the local power distribution office. The law enforcers drove them away from there too.

Meanwhile, the residents of Shanir Akhra in the capital once again vowed to continue their movement for uninterrupted power supply, water supply and to realise their

10-point demand.

Several hundred residents of Shanir Akhra and its adjacent areas joined the Demra-Shyampur Pani O Bidyut Sangram Parishad organised protest rally in Dania area with candles in their hands.

The leaders of the Parishad said the government did not implement the promises it made when they barricaded Dhaka-Chittagong highway on May 5.

"Rather, the government filed six cases against 19 activists and leaders of the Parishad and has been harassing them ever since," said its convener Moshleh Uddin Masud.

The locals had barricaded the highway for 19 hours and later removed the road-blocks for the commuters, but government did not pay heed, he added.

The Parishad's 20 local units will demonstrate in the evenings until October 20. They will also lay siege to one of the power distribution offices in the area.

## Verdicts on 3 cases against Col Faruk Nov 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed November 1 for delivery of verdict of three cases filed ten years ago against the condemned prisoner in the Bangabandhu murder case, Lt Colonel (dismissed) Syed Farukur Rahman.

The cases -- one under the Arms

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## UNSC endorses S Korean FM as next UN chief

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council yesterday nominated South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon as its choice to succeed Kofi Annan as UN secretary general, its president for the month announced.

The announcement by Japan's

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## Oli gives govt ultimatum to act against corrupts

### Threatens to quit party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP standing committee member Colonel (rtd) Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram yesterday gave an ultimatum to the government to take measures against the corrupt people in the party by October 27 or face tough movement.

The BNP stalwart also threatened to quit the party to continue his 'movement against corruption and terrorism' in the country.

Oli Ahmed was addressing as the chief guest at an Iftar party and view exchange meeting at the auditorium of Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong, in the afternoon.

Those who were once against late president Ziaur Rahman, the founding president of BNP, have now appeared as leaders and become minister or MP only to loot public property, he said, adding that the

corrupt ministers have raised the price of essential commodities by forming syndicates.

The corrupt people are bringing up terrorists to use them to loot properties worth thousands of crore taka, he said.

Around two-thirds of the ministers of the ruling government are 'inefficient and not well educated', he said, adding, "Some ministers from Chittagong have failed to bring about any development here."

He called upon the people to remain vigilant about such leaders and vote for honest, efficient, eligible and patriotic persons in the election.

BNP Chittagong city unit founding president M Saimullah presided over the function where former minister Prof Arif Moinuddin, Chittagong city unit leader Ekramul Karim and Shahadat Hossain Salim, among others, spoke.

# Bangladesh at grave risk of rising seas

## Climate change report says millions could be homeless in Asia by 2070

REUTERS, Sydney

Millions of people could become homeless in the Asia-Pacific region by 2070 due to rising sea levels, with Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, China and Pacific islands most at risk, says Australia's top scientific body.

A climate change report by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(CSIRO) found global warming in the Asia Pacific region could cause sea levels to rise by up to 16 cm (six inches) by 2030 and up to 50 cm (19 inches) by 2070.

Rising temperatures will also result in increased rainfall during the summer monsoon season in Asia and could cause more intense tropical storms, inundating low-lying coastal villages.

"The coastlines of Asia-Pacific nations are generally highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly sea-level rise caused by rising global temperatures," said the CSIRO report released on Monday.

"Vast areas of the Asia-Pacific are low lying, particularly the

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**Mahindra SCORPIO Reborn**



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## Ex-MP's house robbed in city

### Goods worth Tk 33 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted around Tk 33.25 lakh in diamond and gold ornaments and cash from the house of a former lawmaker at Uttara in the capital in the early hours yesterday.

The gang also took away a licensed pistol and 77 cartridges of a shotgun, the duty officer of the

Turag Police Station said quoting the First Information Report (FIR) filed yesterday by Nilofar Khandaker, daughter of former lawmaker Marium Begum.

However, Shumona Hasan, another daughter of the former MP, told The Daily Star yesterday

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**Sehri, Iftar timing**

Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
16	10		5-41
17	11	4-35	5-40
18	12	4-35	5-39

**Prayer Timing**

October 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-34	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-41	6-00
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation