

# North Korea warns against US 'hostility' before talks

AFP, Seoul

North Korea warned yesterday that "hostile" US policy could endanger a six-nation nuclear disarmament deal, as the two countries prepared to resume talks on normalising ties as part of the process.

Rodong Simmun, newspaper of the ruling communist party, lashed out at an ongoing annual US-South Korean military exercise.

"The US is sadly mistaken if it calculates it can reap any fruit at the six-party talks without giving up its hostile policy toward the DPRK (North Korea)," Rodong said in an editorial.

"The grave military threat posed by the US to the DPRK by staging large-scale war drills in South Korea would only put the six-party talks at peril."

The United States has said the drill is purely defensive. Rodong however accused Washington of "playing down or covering up the

criminal nature of the DPRK-targeted war manoeuvres with a veil of peace."

The drill, which focuses on computer-simulated war games to counter an invasion, began on August 20 and involves some 10,000 US troops over 12 days.

On Monday the United States said it would hold its second round of talks with North Korea on September 1-2 to discuss normalising ties and other bilateral issues.

That working-group meeting in Geneva is part of a six-party agreement reached on February 13.

Under the deal North Korea agreed to dismantle its nuclear programmes in return for aid and security and diplomatic guarantees, especially normalising ties with the United States.

Normalisation would require North Korea's removal from a US list of state terrorism sponsors and the scrapping of longstanding US trade sanctions against the com-

munist regime.

The six-party talks involve the United States, China, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas.

The North shut down its key Yongbyon nuclear reactor last month under the first phase of the deal, and is negotiating to move on to the next stage of declaring and disabling all nuclear programmes.

The reactor shutdown was rewarded with 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil from South Korea. If the North declares and permanently disables all its nuclear facilities, it will receive another 950,000 tons of oil or equivalent aid as well as the diplomatic deals.

Working groups have been meeting on various aspects of the pact. As part of the process, Japan and North Korea will hold talks in Mongolia next week in a bid to ease badly strained relations.

The full six-party talks are to resume in Beijing next month.

## JMB cadre, PBCP outlaw held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadre and a Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) outlaw in different raids at Bagmara yesterday.

Police arrested JMB cadre Akkas Ali, charge sheeted in two cases of militancy, from his residence at Uddara village after villagers informed police about his presence.

PBCP cadre Shaban Ali, 40, was arrested from Roysenpara at Mondial village at about 11:00am. He is also the brother of local PBCP commander Joban Ali.

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two criminals with bullet wounds following a shootout at Amrail at Mohonpur in the district.

Rab members also seized two guns, two bullets, a chapati and a knife from their possession.

The arrestees were identified as Nasim Uddin Mondol, 45, the gang leader and his accomplice Ali Hossain, 40.

They were taken to Mohonpur Health Complex and later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

A Rab press release quoting locals said the arrestees were accused in five cases.



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury hands over a cheque amounting to one day's salary of the officials and employees of the foreign ministry to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday for the flood-affected people.



Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Matur Rahman hands over a cheque to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office on Sunday in donations for the flood-affected people.



President of Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association Muneera Nizam hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city on Monday for flood-affected people.



Opsonin Pharma Ltd donated Tk 15 lakh and medicines worth Tk 10 lakh to the chief adviser's relief fund for the flood victims. The picture shows Abdur Rouf Khan, managing director of Opsonin Pharma, handing over a cheque to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office recently. Dr Sayem Ahmed, human resources manager of the company, was also present.



Members of the National Cricket Team donated their two days' salary to the relief fund for the flood victims. Captain of the team Md Ashrafur Rahman hands over the cheque to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.



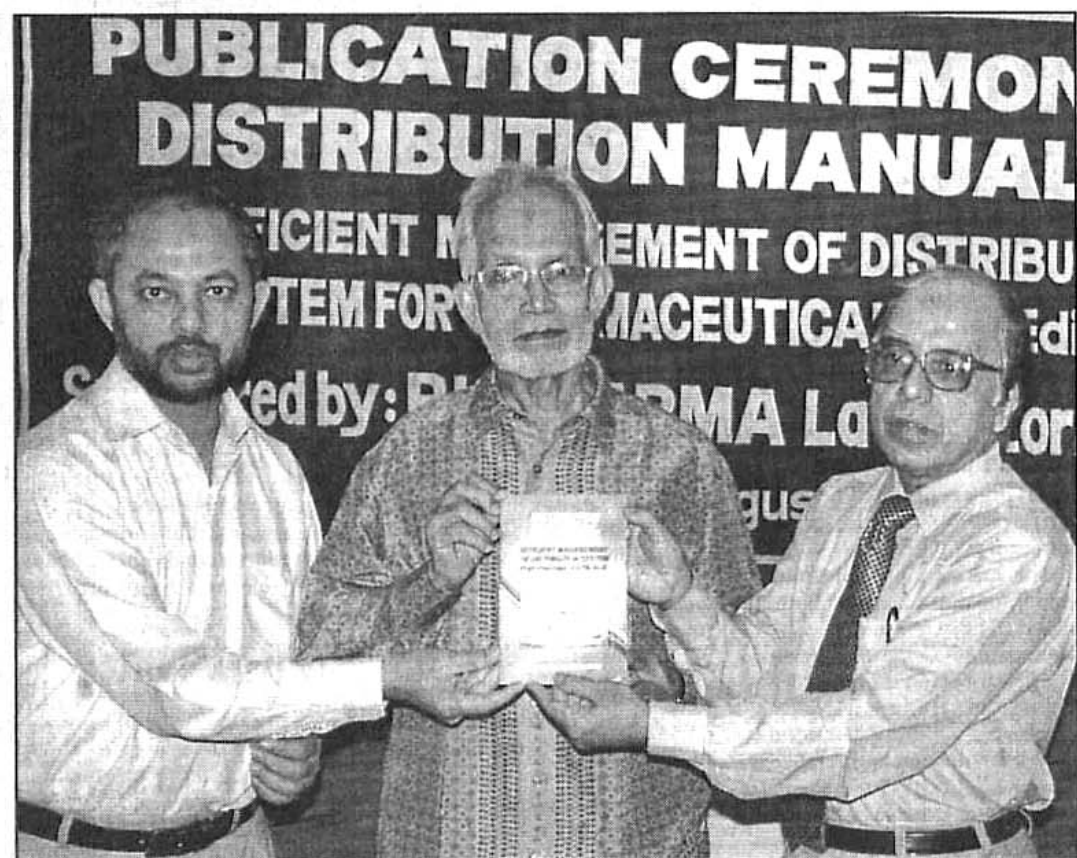
A representative of an organisation hands over a cheque to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday in donations for the flood victims.



AKTEL Managing Director Kamshul Kasim hands over three cheques for Tk 27.40 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the chief adviser's office recently. AKTEL Director Shamsuddin Khan was present on the occasion.



Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association Chairman Dr Golam Rahman distributes relief among the physically challenged people in Manikganj.



Sawkat Ahmed Chowdhury, MK Chowdhury and Anwarul Azim hold a copy of 'Efficient Management of Distribution System for Pharmaceuticals' at a publication ceremony of the book at National Press Club in the city yesterday. The book is authored by Sawkat Ahmed Chowdhury.

## Japan's new cabinet sees poll boost but opposition fire

AFP, Tokyo

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet enjoyed a rebound in public support yesterday after a major reshuffle, a poll showed, but his new line-up was quickly rebuffed by an emboldened opposition. The new cabinet, made up of a string of veteran lawmakers brought back by Abe to shore up his government, got to work on one of its first challenges -- trying to keep a Japanese mission helping US-led forces in Afghanistan.

Abe's sweeping reshuffle -- appointing new ministers to the key portfolios of defence, finance and foreign affairs, as well as a top party post -- came after his Liberal Democratic Party last month lost control of the upper house of parliament in the wake of a raft of scandals.

In the first telephone poll taken since the reshuffle, Kyodo News said that support for Abe's cabinet

rose to 40.5 percent -- still less than half the country but up 11.5 points from a month earlier.

"I believe that the respondents made the judgment after seeing the new cabinet lineup and our stance," Abe was quoted by Kyodo as saying of its poll, which also showed his party overtaking the main opposition in support.

The centre-left opposition now controls the upper house. It campaigned on core issues such as pensions and the economy, claiming Abe was out of touch with ordinary voters.

Abe, Japan's first premier born after World War II, is most identified with his calls to erase the legacies of defeat, including his push to create a more active military and rewrite the US-imposed pacifist constitution.

In a first test, Abe must persuade the opposition to drop its objections to government plans to con-

tinue to station Japanese ships in the Indian Ocean to refuel US and other warplanes in Afghanistan.

"I strongly hope to continue Japan's contribution in the fight against terror," Abe told reporters.

Echoing remarks by his new chief government spokesman, Kaoru Yosano, Abe said he hoped to reach a compromise with the opposition to extend the mission, which will expire on November 1 without further legislation.

"I will make all efforts possible in order to gain their understanding," Abe said.

The United States, Japan's main ally, has warned the opposition that ending the Indian Ocean mission would hurt relations between the Pacific allies.

But Yukio Hatoyama, the secretary general of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, suggested the emboldened party was in no mood to compromise.

## Fatullah PS observes Open House Day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Fatullah Police Station yesterday observed its first Open House Day. Introduced by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police recently in an effort to bridge the gap between the police and the people.

District Police Superintendent Mohammad Sibgaath Ullah attended the programme as the chief guest while Assistant Police Superintendent (K Zone) Jannatul Hasan was present as special guest.

In his speech, Sibgaath Ullah said that police has now become friends of people but people also have to come forward to make this bond stronger.

"Unless we get assistance from the common people, police wouldn't be able to discharge the kind of service everyone expects from them" said the chief guest.

Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station Bhuyian Mahbub Hasan presided over the event that was also attended by people from all walks of life.

## Book on pharmaceuticals distribution launched

The second edition of 'Efficient Management of Distribution System for Pharmaceuticals' by Sawkat Ahmed Chowdhury, Manager (distribution) of Biopharma Laboratories Ltd, was launched at National Press Club in the city yesterday, says a press release.

MK Chowdhury, former president of Bangladesh Pharmaceuticals Society and member of Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was present as the chief guest at the launching programme.

Anwarul Azim, managing director of Biopharma Laboratories Ltd, presided over the programme.

## 17th CPC congress Oct 15

AFP, Beijing

China's ruling Communist Party has fixed October 15 for the start of its pivotal five-yearly congress, which will make key leadership decisions and define policy to guide the country, state media said yesterday.

The party's powerful Politburo recommended the date for the congress, the 17th since the party's founding in 1921, during a meeting on Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported.

President Hu Jintao is widely expected to use the key gathering to cement his control over the party. But the meeting also comes amid a host of daunting problems arising from an economic boom and ahead of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Issues such as rampant corruption, environmental degradation and a widening gap between rich and poor are widely viewed as potential challenges to the party's legitimacy.

"(Tuesday's Politburo) meeting said that the 17th CPC National Congress is a very important meeting to be held at a time when China has entered a key stage of reform and development," the Xinhua report said.

"The congress is also expected to make strategic arrangements for the overall advancement of China's reform and opening up and socialist modernisation drive, as well as for the overall advancement of the grand project of Party-building."

The date for the congress has been a subject of speculation for months.

The mystery surrounding it has served to highlight the veil of secrecy behind which the party operates even as China's economy and society change rapidly.

Hu, who became president in 2002, is expected to receive a second five-year term as head of the ruling party.

Analysts have said Premier Wen

Jiabao will also get a second mandate, which will be formally rubber-stamped by parliament in 2008.

New appointments to the nine-member standing committee of the Politburo, the party's highest decision-making body, also are expected to be announced and are seen strengthening Hu's control.

Politburo changes also will likely move Hu's successor into position. Hu will step down as China's top leader in 2012.

The current leadership of the standing committee was largely selected by Hu's predecessor, Jiang Zemin, five years ago. Hu is widely believed to be pushing to clear out Jiang's residual supporters and influence.

Pre-congress political jockeying got under way in the spring with a flurry of provincial leadership changes.

## Star-struck Indian cop back on job

AFP, Mumbai

A star-struck Indian policeman suspended for hugging Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt despite his conviction for arms possession has been reinstated, a report said yesterday.

State officials in Maharashtra had ordered the suspension after pictures of constable Rajendra Kalekar embracing the all-action hero as he left the jail were flashed across television screens.

But the western state's chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh intervened and overturned the order.

"Deshmukh felt it was very harsh action," a senior official told The Times of India newspaper.

"From the footage shown on TV channels, it was clear that Dutt had taken the initiative to hug and shake hands with the policemen. The constables had no option but to extend a similar gesture," he said.

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