

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 Sinmun, 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, charged in two cases of militancy, from his residence at Uddpara village after villagers informed police about his presence.

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

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

Rab members also seized two guns, two bullets, a chappati 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.



PHOTO: PID
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 Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office yesterday for the flood-affected people.



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



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

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



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

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



PHOTO: PID
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 Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office recently. Dr Sayem Ahmed, human resources manager of the company, was also present.

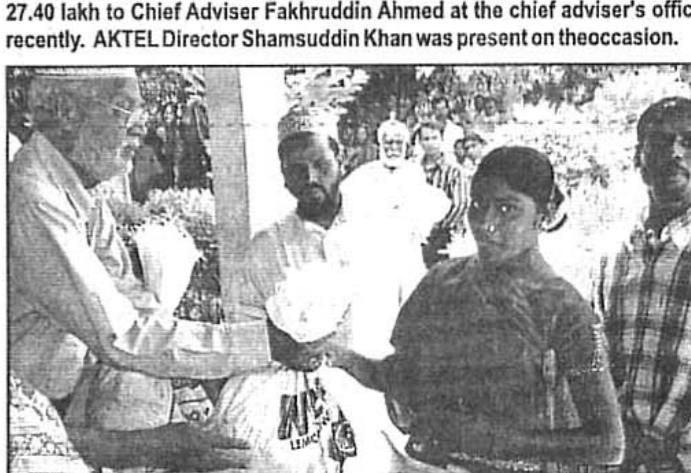


PHOTO: PID
Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association Chairman Dr Golam Rahman distributes relief among the physically challenged people in Manikganj.

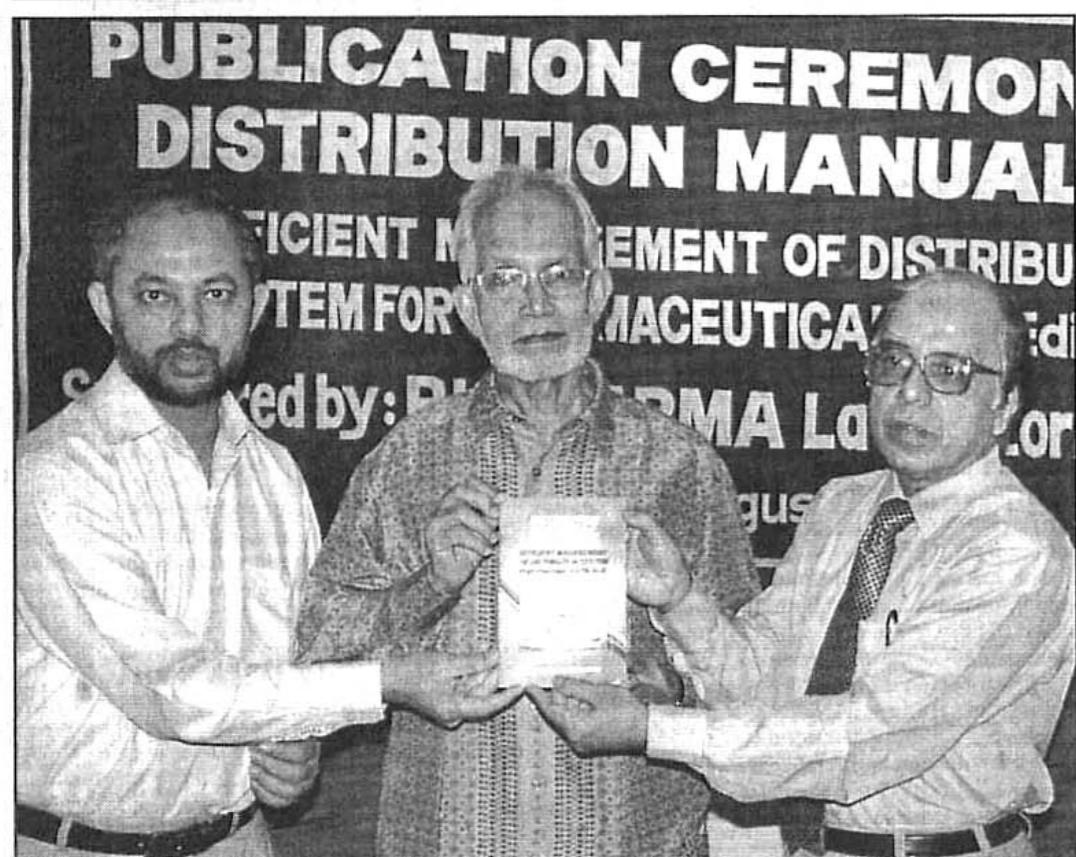


PHOTO: STAR
Sawat Ahmed Chowdhury, MK Chowdhury and Anwarul Azim hold a copy of 'Efficient Management of Distribution System for Pharmaceuticals' at a publication ceremony of the book at National Press Club in the city yesterday. The book is authored by Sawat Ahmed Chowdhury.

Japan's new cabinet sees poll boost but opposition fire

AFP, Tokyo

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 the main opposition in support.

"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.

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.

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Book on pharmaceuticals distribution launched

The second edition of 'Efficient Management of Distribution System for Pharmaceuticals' by Sawat 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 Pharmaceuticals 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.

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