

North Korea test-fires 2 more missiles

UN condemns nuclear test

AP, AFP, Seoul/ United Nations

North Korea launched tests yesterday of two more short-range missiles a day after detonating a nuclear bomb underground, a news report said, pushing the regime's confrontation with world powers further despite the threat of UN Security Council action.

Two missiles - one ground-to-air, the other ground-to-ship - with a range of about 80 miles (130 kilometres) were test-fired from an east coast launch pad, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unnamed government official.

South Korean spy chief Won Sei-hoon had informed lawmakers earlier Tuesday that a missile test was likely, according to the office of Park Young-sun, a legislator who attended the closed-door briefing.

Yonhap reported that North Korea was preparing to launch a third missile from a west

coast site, again citing an unnamed official.

North Korea appeared to be displaying its might a day after conducting an underground atomic test in the northeast that the UN Security Council condemned as a "clear violation" of a 2006 resolution banning the regime from developing its nuclear programme. After Monday's emergency meeting at UN headquarters in New York, member states decided to "immediately" begin working on a Security Council resolution to address the latest test, council president Vitaly Churkin of Russia said.

"The members of the Security Council voiced their strong opposition and condemnation of the nuclear test conducted on 25 May 2009 by North Korea," Churkin told reporters.

France called for new sanctions, while the US and Japan pushed for strong

action against North Korea for testing a bomb that Russian officials said was comparable in power to those that obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

South Korea, meanwhile, announced it would join a maritime web of more than 90 nations that intercept ships suspected of spreading weapons of mass destruction - a move North Korea warned would constitute an act of war.

North Korea had threatened in recent weeks to carry out a nuclear test and fire long-range missiles unless the Security Council apologized for condemning Pyongyang's April 5 launch of a rocket the US, Japan and other nations called a test of its long-range missile technology. The North has said it put a satellite into orbit as part of its peaceful space development programme.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian villagers carry their belongings through floodwaters in the Tinbatti area on the outskirts of Siliguri yesterday. Bangladesh and India launched major relief operations on Tuesday after a cyclone tore into the northern coast of the Bay of Bengal, killing over 100 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.



PHOTO: AFP

An Indian pedestrian walks past a burning train coach yesterday, set on fire by a rampaging mob on Monday in Jalandhar, in northern India's Punjab state. Towns and cities across the northern Indian state of Punjab were under strict curfew Tuesday after riots sparked by the shooting of a guru in a clash between rival Sikh communities in Austria.

Tension, curfew continue in parts of Punjab

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Jalandhar

Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur and Phagwara towns of Punjab continued to be under curfew yesterday, a day after two people were killed in police firing to control the violence triggered in the state by the slaying of a Sikh religious leader in Vienna.

Officials said additional army, police and paramilitary personnel were deployed Tuesday since tension prevailed in many parts of the state, especially the central region.

However, barring an incident of a sugar mill godown being set on fire in Phagwara, about 20 km from here, Punjab did not witness any major violence Monday night.

Jarnail Singh, owner of the sugar mill, said bio-fuel was stored in the godown for a captive power plant and the loss due to the fire could run into several millions of rupees.

At least two people were killed and over 10 others injured in violence that erupted in Punjab following a bloody clash in a gurdwara in the Austrian capital Sunday. The top two leaders of the Dera Sachh Khand sect, who are followers of Guru Ravidass and belong to the Dalit Sikh community, were attacked with knives and firearms.

While sect head Niranjana Dass was recovering in a hospital for emergency surgery, his second in command, Sant Rama Nand Dass, died from gunshot wounds.

While one protester died in police firing in Jalandhar, another protester was killed in Phillaur town, 40 km from here.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal has called an all-party meeting Tuesday in Chandigarh, 150 km from here, to discuss the volatile situation.

Myanmar ends Suu Kyi's house arrest, keeps her in prison

Democracy icon denies charges at trial

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar officially ended Aung San Suu Kyi's six-year house arrest yesterday -- but she remains in jail facing charges over an incident in which a US man swam to her house, her party said.

On the other hand Suu Kyi told her trial Tuesday that she did not violate the terms of her house arrest by offering "temporary shelter" to a US man who swam to her lakeside home.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner was testifying for the first time at the maximum security Insein Prison in Yangon, in a case which has drawn widespread international condemnation of the country's iron-fisted military junta.

"I didn't," the 63-year-old replied when a judge asked her whether she had breached the restriction order keeping her at her residence, according to reporters and diplomats present at the hearing.

The long-standing figurehead of Myanmar's opposition movement, Aung San Suu Kyi faces

up to five years in jail if convicted. She has been under house arrest or in jail for 13 of the last 19 years, including the last six.

She said the first she knew of the bizarre visit by American army veteran John Yettaw was when her assistant woke her up at around dawn on May 4 to tell her that a man had arrived at the house.

Nyan Win, a spokesman for the National League for Democracy (NLD), said a senior policeman gave Aung San Suu Kyi papers notifying her that the restriction orders keeping her at her lakeside home had been lifted.

But he said her supporters "don't know whether we should be happy or sad" since she is currently held at Yangon's notorious Insein prison facing a five-year jail term on charges of breaching the terms of her house arrest.

"Police Brigadier General Myint Thein came to the prison and read out an order cancelling the continued restriction order, released and dated today. They gave one copy to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," Nyan Win told reporters.

Netanyahu to give up outposts for US backing on Iran

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is willing to tear down settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank in return for US backing on its stance on arch-foe Iran, local media reported yesterday.

Netanyahu told his right-wing Likud faction on Monday that Israel would have to dismantle what it considers illegal outposts, as demanded by Washington, since the issue of Iran was more important, newspaper reports said.

"I identify the danger and that's why I am willing to take unpopular steps such as evacuating outposts. The Iranian threat is above everything," the mass-selling Yediot Aharonot quoted Netanyahu as saying.

"There are things on which you have to compromise."

Since returning to the prime minister's post on March 31, Netanyahu has repeatedly said that Iran's controversial nuclear drive posed the biggest threat to Israel since its creation in 1948.

97 Afghans likely killed in US airstrikes

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's top rights body released yesterday its findings into the disputed casualty toll from US air strikes this month, saying up to 97 civilians, most of them children, may have been killed.

An Afghan government investigation found that 140 civilians were killed in the May 4-5 strikes against insurgents in south-western Farah province, making it one of the deadliest such incidents since the US-led invasion in 2001.

But a US military investigation rejected the toll, saying 20-30 civilians may have been killed as well as 60-65 Taliban.

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) questioned the government investigation into the incident in Bala Buluk district, saying it appeared to have been conducted in haste.

Lanka to add soldiers to prevent LTTE's return

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military said it plans to enlist at least 100,000 more soldiers to head off any resurgence of the separatist Tamil Tigers, who were routed by government forces last week to end a quarter-century of civil war.

The troop buildup comes amid concern that remnants of the rebel group living abroad may try to resurrect it under new leadership, army commander Gen Sarath Fonseka said in a television interview Monday.

"There may be people abroad trying to promote a new leader and stage a comeback," Fonseka told state-run Independent Television Network. "Our strength is 200,000 and it will become 300,000 soon. It will not be easy for them to build up a terror group as they did before."

The army killed all of the rebels' front-line and second-level military leaders including rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and destroyed the Tigers' political and administrative leadership, crippling the group, Fonseka said.

Some 22,000 rebel fighters were killed in the last phase of fighting that started in 2006 and another 9,000 rebel fighters surrendered to the army, Fonseka said. Still, one prominent rebel leader remains at large - Selvarasa Pathmanathan, a smuggling mastermind sought by Interpol.

After killing the rebel leaders, soldiers are now going after a number of suicide bombers believed hiding in capital, Colombo, and other ethnic Sinhalese-majority towns. There are also smaller rebel teams in jungles, Fonseka said.

Fonseka called on more men to enlist in order to keep the rebels from rebuilding.

"We like to see young men joining us more quickly," he said. "We don't mind enlisting even 10,000 a month; we need a lot more soldiers to reach our goal."

Sri Lanka announced Monday it would hold elections for two key town councils in the war-torn north.

Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon said the government would start with elections to the Jaffna and Vavuniya town councils. Both those areas lay just outside the de facto state the rebels had controlled in the north.

Jaffna is considered the cultural centre of the ethnic Tamil minority on whose behalf the Tamil Tigers fought.

Tennakoon said these would be the first local elections in the area since 1998 and called them "the first step toward ensuring the democratic rights of the people in the north."



PHOTO: AFP

An Indian family sits on a pavement near posters of slain Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in Mumbai yesterday. Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers on May 24 admitted for the first time that their leader was killed by government forces a week ago as the UN demanded better access to displaced Tamil civilians.

Sarkozy opens 1st French military base in Gulf

AFP, Abu Dhabi

President Nicolas Sarkozy formally opened a French military base in the United Arab Emirates yesterday, its first in the oil-rich Gulf, as Paris seeks to land lucrative military contracts and strengthen its foothold in a region just across from Iran.

Sarkozy attended the inauguration ceremony alongside UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Saif bin Zayed al-Nahayan as the French and UAE flags were raised at the so-called "Peace Camp" in Abu Dhabi, the first to be opened abroad since the end of the colonial era.

VISION LIVING LTD

| | SIZE | HANDOVER |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| UTTARA | | |
| Organza | 1530-1550 sft. | December-09 |
| Cressida | 990-1900 sft. | August-10 |
| Cassella | 990-1900 sft. | December-10 |
| Cassandra | 1250 sft. | March-11 |
| BASHUNDHARA | | |
| Decidela | 1400 sft. | February-11 |
| Deacon | 1400 sft. | May-11 |
| Montrose | 1850 sft. | Upcoming |
| CANTONMENT | | |
| Azzaro | 1300-2000 sft. | Upcoming |
| Signovision | 1300-1500 sft. | Upcoming |

Corporate Office

H-12, R-10, Sector-4, Uttara, Dhaka 1230

8922263, 8911252, 01937 265525, 01925 750718

email admin@visionbd.com

the sensational **FUZON** from Pakistan

5 lucky winners will have the opportunity to have dinner with FUZON based on lucky draw during the event. Applicable for ticket holders only.

FREE Cussons Extreme Hair Gel for every ticket holder at venue gate.

on 29th May 2009, at 7.00 pm Friday at Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton

macomm presents **FUZON & HABIB live in DHAKA**

the enigmatic **HABIB** of Bangladesh

Ticket Price : Tk. 800 only

Tickets available at:

Hotel Sheraton Lobby | Western Grill (Banani, Dhanmondi) | Hot Hut (Sobhanbagh) | BFC (Bashundhara City Level -8, Uttara, Gulshan 2, Kears Plaza, Meher Plaza) | Sagar Publishers (New Baily Road) | Cafe C (Plaza A.R, Sobhanbagh)