

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

coastsite, 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 May 25, 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 Sylhet 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.

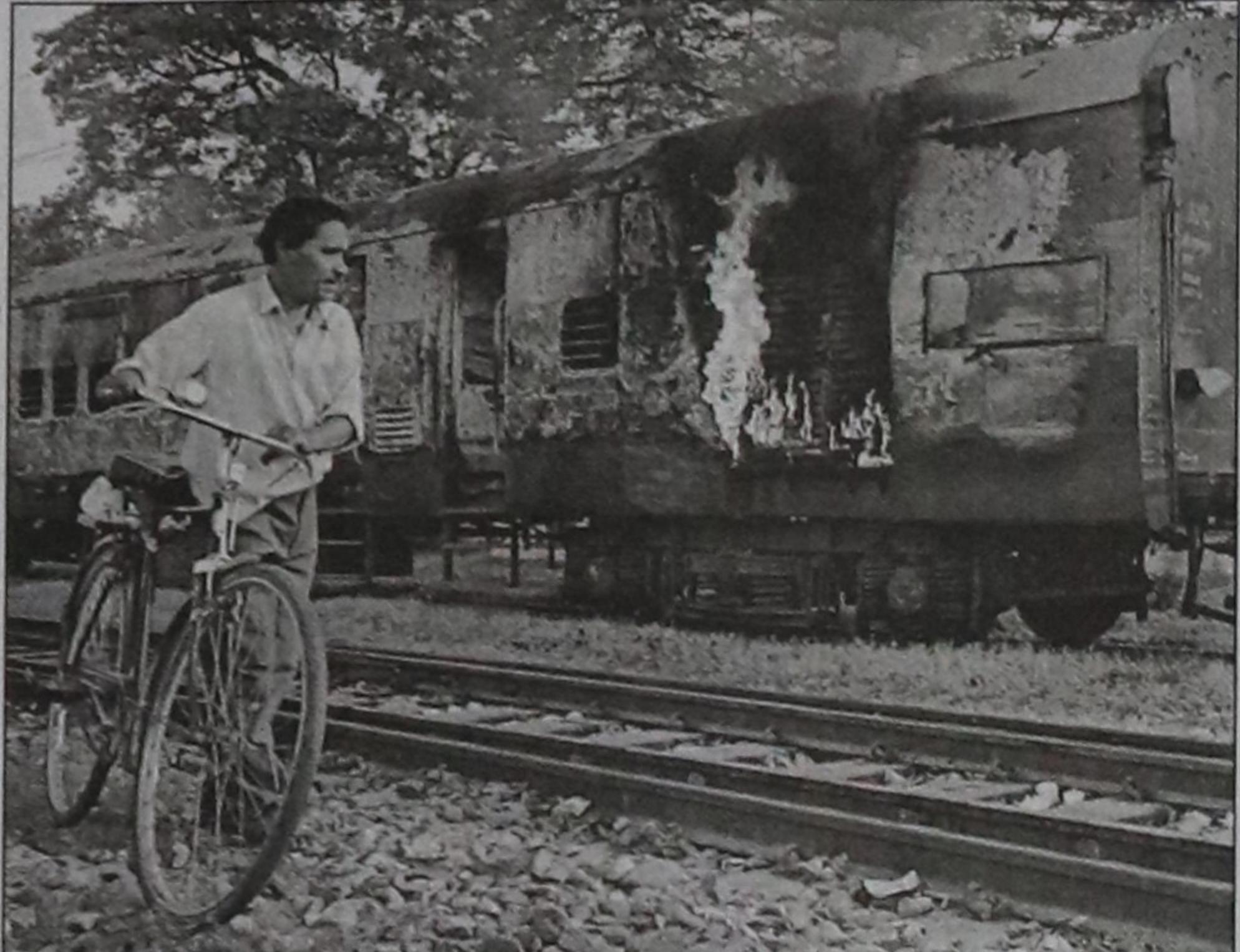


PHOTO: AFP
An Indian pedestrian walks past a burning train coach yesterday, set on fire by a rampaging mob on Monday in Jalandhar, in northern India's Punjab state. Towns and cities across the northern Indian state of Punjab were under strict curfew Tuesday after riots sparked by the shooting of a guru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

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.

97 Afghans likely killed in US airstrikes Says rights group

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 southwestern 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.



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.

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 Sacha Khand sect, who are followers of Guru Ravidass and belong to the Dalit Sikh community, were attacked with knives and firearms.

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

One protester died in police firing in Jalandhar, another protester was killed in Phialla 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.

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.

	SIZE	HANOVER
UTTARA	1530-1550 sft.	December-09
Organza	990-1900 sft.	August-10
Cressida	990-1900 sft.	December-10
Casselia	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		
VISION	H-12, R-10, Sector-4, Uttara, Dhaka1230 8922263, 8911252, 01937 265525, 01925 750718 email: admin@visionbd.com	MEMBER REHAB

macomm presents FUZON & HABIB live in D H A K A

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



Ticket Price : Tk. 800 only

Tickets available at:
Hotels Sheraton Lobby | Western Grill (Banani, Dhanmondi) | Hot Hut (Sobhanbag) |
BFC (Bashundhara City Level-8, Uttara, Gulshan 2, Klear Plaza, Meher Plaza) |
Sagar Publishers (New Bally Road) | Cafe C (Plaza A.R, Sobhanbag)

in association with PIA Come Fly With Us airline partner event associates TV partner radio partner outdoor partner