

## North Korea engaged in 'attention seeking' Says Biden

AFP, Washington

US Vice President Joseph Biden yesterday dismissed North Korea's latest series of missile launches, saying the communist regime was engaged in "attention seeking" as it faced increasing isolation.

"Look, this has almost become predictable behaviour," Biden told ABC television. "Some of it seems like almost attention-seeking behaviour."

The comments came after North Korea test-fired seven missiles off its east coast Saturday, according to South Korean officials.

The ballistic missiles -- which the North is banned from firing under UN resolutions -- were launched between into the Sea of Japan.

It was the biggest salvo of ballistic weaponry since the North fired a long-range Taepodong-2 and six smaller missiles on US Independence Day in 2006.

But Biden said he did not want to give these tests undue attention, but rather focus on moving forward with the policy of further isolating Pyongyang.

"I think our policy has been absolutely correct so far," the vice president stated. "We have succeeded in uniting the most important and critical countries to North Korea on a common path of further isolating North Korea."

Last month, the UN Security Council imposed new sanctions against North Korea, banning all weapons exports from the country and the import of all but small arms.

Reacting to North Korea's second underground nuclear test in May, the council also called on all members of the international community to stop and search North Korean ships for weapons.

In a departure from previous practice, the resolution was supported by China and Russia, which are increasingly concerned by Pyongyang's belligerent stance.

The vice president noted that the position taken by these two countries represented "a significant turning of the pressure."

"Our policy is to continue to put undue pressure from the very countries that North Korea was able to look to before with impunity," Biden said.

He predicted that "there are going to be some very difficult decisions that that regime's going to have to make" in the future.

A US delegation met this week with Chinese officials for talks on implementing UN sanctions imposed on North Korea.

Delegation head Philip Goldberg -- the State Department's point man on coordinating implementation of the sanctions -- told reporters last Thursday he had "very good discussions" in Beijing.

"We intend to implement these resolutions with the overall goal of returning to a

path of denuclearisation and nonproliferation on the Korean peninsula," he said.

China has been criticised by the United States in the past for lacking enthusiasm for implementing UN sanctions against North Korea, its neighbour and ally.

Meanwhile, a US State Department official urged North Korea on Saturday not to "aggravate tensions" and described Pyongyang's latest missile tests, apparently timed for the US Independence Day holiday, as "nothelpful."

"North Korea should refrain from actions that aggravate tensions and focus on denuclearisation talks and the implementation of its commitments from the September 19, 2005 joint statement," State Department spokesman Karl Duckworth told AFP.

Under the 2005 agreement, North Korea promised to give up its nuclear program in exchange for a US pledge not to attack or invade it and to work toward normalized relations.

The authorities have banned the foreign media from covering events organised by opposition groups in the Islamic republic.

Iran has also detained Iranian-Canadian journalist Maziar Bahari working for US magazine Newsweek, and expelled the BBC's Tehran correspondent Jon Leyne.

Officer in-Charge of

Woman kills

FROM PAGE 16

around 2:30 pm over loan money.

At one stage, Mollika hit her husband with a broken glass at his abdomen, leaving him critically injured, police said.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead around 4:00 pm.

Police arrested Mollika from their house. She told police that she gave her husband Tk 30,000 after taking it loan from an NGO a few months ago but he did not return the money despite repeated urge from the organisation.

In another incident, Badda police recovered the body of an unidentified man from Janata Pharmacy area at Kuril around 2:00 pm yesterday.

The body bore some injury marks, was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Brac employee

FROM PAGE 16

Md Mohsin Ali, 32, a field worker of Gogorhat Brac office had been missing since Wednesday night.

Sources said, acting on a tip-off, UNO Ershadul Haque along with upazila upazila Chairman Shahidul Haque went to the Brac office at Gogorhat and rescued Mohsin locked in a room.

Family members claimed that the area manager of Brac Shahangir Ali summoned Mohsin to the office on July 1 last and have kept him locked inside since.

The UNO protested the unauthorised detention of the man.

Haque later told The Daily Star that the Brac area manager said that he was detaining the man for an alleged misappropriation of Tk 55,000.

Mohsin's family, however, claimed that he is innocent.

Govt to rid history

FROM PAGE 1

BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

"We will set the history of Liberation War right as there was an attempt to draw a parallel between Bangabandhu and Zia," Kabir Chowdhury added.

The museum will have no Bangabandhu corner but a large portion of it will portray the true history of Liberation War and Bangabandhu, he said.

The gallery 39 titled "Language Movement Memorial Corner (Basha Andolon Smriti Corner)" and the entrance to the gallery 40 have portraits of Bangabandhu and Zia.

Medals of Independence Day Award given to Bangabandhu and Zia are also on display at the entrance.

Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University Prof Rafiqun Nabi, also the trustee board member of the museum, said, "The attempt to draw a parallel between Bangabandhu and Zia is aimed at undermining Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

He also expressed his doubt whether the artefacts, brought back home after exhibiting in Giyme Museum in France, are original or duplicate.

AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice

## Iran frees Washington Times journalist

AFP, Tehran

Iran on Sunday released a British-Greek journalist working for The Washington Times who was arrested in connection with "recent street riots," foreign ministry spokesman Hassan Ghashghavi said.

Iason Athanasiadis-Fowden "who worked for an American media company and who was arrested for activities that were contradictory to journalism and in connection with the recent street riots was freed today," Ghashghavi was quoted as saying by the ISNA news agency.

Ghashghavi said that the authorities have now cancelled the journalist's press credentials for Iran.

His release was the result of "goodwill efforts" exerted by Tehran's ambassador to Athens, he added.

Athanasiadis-Fowden's arrest came during a crackdown launched by Iran in the aftermath of the disputed June 12 presidential election.

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## SC lawyer

FROM PAGE 1

The HC disposed of a contempt of court petition against Nazmul Huda and Kamaruzzaman with some observations, the notice said.

Advocate Tajul Islam, who served the legal notice on behalf of Kamaruzzaman, yesterday told The Daily Star that Manzill's statement was 'untrue' and it has seriously tarnished the honour and social dignity of his client.

He also said Manzill wrongly made the comment misquoting the HC order and it is similar to contempt of court.

Earlier on July 4, Nazmul Huda also told the media that the HC did not pass any word like 'wrong-headed' and 'worthless'. He also asked Manzill to apologise for his statement through the media.

Manzill Murshid moved the contempt of court petition against the two political leaders.

The HC bench had disposed of the petition saying, "We shall not issue any rule against the persons who are not aware of the dignity and authority of the High Court judges."

## Dhaka seeks

FROM PAGE 16

Both national and international media disclosed that politicians and ministers of the last BNP-Jamaat-led government siphoned off money during their rule.

Since then the ruling alliance lawmakers have been demanding that the government take necessary steps to bring back the siphoned off money.

Replying to a query of AL lawmaker Meher Afroz, the finance minister said the government has planned to introduce all currency notes with inscription of the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Currencies of all denominations--from Tk 5 to Tk 1,000 and coins Tk 1 and Tk 2--will have the image of Bangabandhu," Muhith said.

## Sircar

FROM PAGE 1

milestone in the parliamentary history of our country and the sub-continent. In future, no-one will dare to indulge in corruption by abusing the high office of the speaker."

The committee also recommends getting back the money spent on salaries of 42 employees for eight months.

It asks parliament to recover the money from Sircar as "he was the one responsible for the waste by appointing those staff when the eighth parliament had already ceased to exist".

The probe body summoned the BNP leaders to appear before it to defend themselves against the charges.

The three refuted all allegations and opted not to show up.

## Forest Dept

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Later on Saturday, thousands of nearby villagers were seen collecting the chopped logs to use those as firewood or for other household work.

Locals say Md Nurun Nabi Bhuiyan, Md Adnan and Md Salahuddin alias Salahuddin Haji hired the workers to raise five new ship-breaking yards there.

Environmentalists and locals expressed their resentment over inaction of the law-enforcement agencies and the forest department.

Police, however, defended their move saying they were helpless because of a High Court order given on July 1 following a writ filed by Md Nurun Nabi Bhuiyan and AKM Aminul Islam on behalf of the intending yard builders.

The sources say the court in the order asked the police and forest department not to obstruct the petitioners in "using" the aforesaid land to set up ship-breaking yards there.

Forest officials claim they submitted a written complaint to Sitakunda Police Station immediately after the workers started felling trees and requested the law enforcers to take action.

Hasan Miah, a forest officer, who filed two complaints with the police station, alleged the police did not act.

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Sitakunda police Nazrul Islam told reporters the yard builders had shown him the court order on Friday morning before felling the trees.

Sharif Chauhan, coordinator of environmentalist group Save Chittagong, said the act of the few influential people was nothing but simply a "large-scale loot" of government property in broad daylight.

Earlier, another group of influential people with a strong political link felled trees in another forest belt on the coastal embankment between December 2008 and February this year to set up seven ship-breaking yards.

Speaking anonymously, a Sonaichhari schoolteacher said the felled trees were irreplaceable as they were barriers against natural disasters.

Referring to the protection the Sundarbans provided during the cyclone Sidr, he said the villagers are surely going to face troubles during any cyclonic storms later.

During a visit yesterday it was seen that a huge part of the embankment was badly damaged during the last cyclone Aila.

## Federer rewrites

FROM PAGE 1

hitting an errant forehead.

Federer jumped high in celebration, punched the air and whacked the net with his racket. Roddick tossed his racket to the side and the two men shared a hug at the net.

Federer held up the trophy, kissed it and brought it close to his chest.

Watching from the front row of the Royal Box was Sampras, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who flew in from California, his first appearance at the All England Club since playing on this court for the last time in 2002. Also on hand were Bjorn Borg and Rod Laver.

"It's not really one of those goals you set as a little boy, but man, it's been quite a career and quite a month," Federer said. "It feels amazing, but this is not why I'm playing tennis to break all sort of different records. But it's definitely one of the greatest ones to have."

Turning to Sampras, Federer said: "Thanks very much for coming. I know it's a long way, but you're a member, man, we like to see you here. It's such a pleasure to play in front of such great legends."

Roddick said: "Sorry, Pete, I tried to hold him off."

Federer also reclaimed the No. 1 ranking he lost last year to Rafael Nadal, the man who beat him in the epic 2008 final but missed this year's tournament because of knee problems.

Federer is the third player to win six Wimbledon championships -- Sampras and William Renshaw each won seven.

This was the longest men's Grand Slam final in history at 77 games -- breaking the previous record of 71 from 1927 in Australia. It was also the longest fifth set in a men's Grand Slam final in history, surpassing the 20 games from 1927 in France.

"It was a crazy match with an unbelievable end and my head's still spinning," Federer said. "But it's an unbelievable moment in my career."

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## Govt to buy

FROM PAGE 16

under Vulnerable Group Feeding, 4 lakh tonnes under Test Relief, 3.75 lakh tonnes under Food for Work, 2.65 lakh tonnes under Vulnerable Group Development, 64,000 tonnes under Gratuitous Relief and 75,000 tonnes for Chittagong Hill Tracts and other programmes.

The government's food procurement drive in the ongoing Boro season has so far yielded 7.19 lakh tonnes of food grains.

Razzaque, however, said that one of the problems in procurement is low storage capacity of the existing food stocks.

Presently, the government godowns have the capacity for 15 lakh tonnes of food grains, which is not enough for a disaster-prone country.

The government will construct a concrete silo of 50,000 tonnes capacity in Mongla and godowns of 1.10 lakh tonnes in the northern region, he said.

Referring to media reports that a good amount of rice stored in the government silos will be rotten soon, the minister said the government has checked the stock, but found nothing to substantiate such allegation.

There is no possibility of the food grains rotting until September-October, Razzaque said.

## RMG makers

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any involvement of the people of the administration in the incident, we would take stern action against them," Khan warned.

He said the government would not spare anybody involved in the heinous arson attack on the garment factories at Ashulia.

He reiterated that the government would form a temporary labour court at Ashulia, Savar and a part of Gazipur industrial area to settle the disputes between factory owners and workers.

BGMEA gave the cheque of Tk 1 lakh each to 37 deceased garment workers' families under group insurance programme.

The commerce minister also asked the mid-level managers of the factories to be more responsible so that they can avert any unrest.

BGMEA also distributed Tk 1,000 along with education materials to each of 50 school-going children of the garment workers.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, BGMEA president, moderated the function.

## Tk 100cr

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welfare fund was deposited with Oriental Bank when the bank was facing severe liquidity crisis due to its internal mismanagement.

Mahmud said only Tk 6 crore out of Tk 22 crore was recovered, as shares and the rest of the money have been lost.

Four other members of the subcommittee are Ishak Hossain Talukder, Shahabuddin, Col Maruf Saklan and Zafur Islam Chowdhury.

The parliamentary committee also alleged that a kidney transplant hospital and an IT centre were supposed to be set up at Vatara in the city's Gulshan. But the entire work has been abandoned.

The committee asked the government to run the proposed expatriate welfare bank commercially so that the bank could be profitable. It also asked all the foreign missions of Bangladesh to enquire whether any Bangladesh worker dies of unusual reasons.

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## Iraqis sceptical about significance of US pullback

Ap, Baghdad

Iraqis are sceptical that much will change after last week's pullback of US combat troops from Baghdad and other cities, a sentiment not shared by their government.

The government declared the June 30 pullback National Sovereignty Day and celebrated it with a military parade and noisy street celebrations by Iraqi soldiers and police. But there was no spontaneous outpouring of joy by Iraqis since many of them did not see the move as significant, with some 130,000 US troops remaining in the country.

"The celebrations were contrived, almost like a farce," said Salman Hassan, who runs an electrical supplies store in eastern Baghdad. "The Americans did not go anywhere far, they are on the outskirts of our cities."

Like many others in Baghdad, Hassan says he will not remember the Americans kindly. But, ironically, he says he finds comfort in the fact that the Americans remain close.

"Our forces are not ready yet to take sole responsibility. They need two more years to be ready to defend us."

The withdrawal from the cities, which was completed Tuesday, is part of a US-Iraqi security pact that lays the ground for a full US withdrawal by the end of 2011.

Most troops pulled back to bases outside urban areas, but the US military left an undisclosed number behind to train and advise the Iraqis. The US military has refused to reveal their number, fearful of feeding any criticism that the Americans aren't honouring the pact or casting doubt on the ability of the Iraqis to handle security alone.

The ambivalence felt by most Iraqis over the 2003 US-led invasion appears to have been duplicated over the departure of the Americans from the cities. Many are happy to see them go, yet they are not convinced their army and police are ready to protect them as well as maintain the security gains made over the

JS body

FROM PAGE 16

the area.

"Recent attacks on garment factories at Ashulia was not an isolated incident, it was rather a sabotage. We therefore asked officials of the home ministry to prepare recommendations on how to control such incidents," Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdus Salam, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters at the Jatia Sangsad media centre after the meeting.

A correspondent from Gazipur reports: The forces have been taken from Gazipur Police Lines, Armed Police Battalion and from neighbouring districts.

Gazipur district Superintendent of Police SM Mahfuzul Huq said the measure has been taken upon concerns expressed by garment factory owners following the recent unrest.

The three-day