# North Korea engaged in 'attention seeking'

Says Biden

AFP, Washington

USVice 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."

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.

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

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 pres-

sure." 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

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

peninsula," he said. China has been criticised by the United States in the past for lacking enthusiasm for implementing UN sanctions against

path of denuclearisation and

nonproliferation on the Korean

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

"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

relations.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Sheikh Hasina said, "The holy hajj.

her government is firmly committed to removing "all types of irregularities in hajj

every necessary measure to ensure safe and comfortable hajj for the devotees, she said.

HAAB delegation that during her meeting with Saudi King last April, she sought lands in Makkah and Madina to set up dormitories for the hajj pil grims from Bangladesh.

"Our policy is to continue to informed the PM that during put united pressure from the the last seven years, a vested very countries that North quarter had used the Ministry of Religious Affairs to serve its own interest, resulting in severe difficulties for the hajj pilgrims.

tarnish the image of the present government", they said.

demand before the Prime Minister.

package for maximum 35 days, refund of the hajj agents' money (TK 9,86,04,594) due from the Ministry of Religious bilateral hajj agreement, set up its office in hajj missions and giving permission to set up Hajj Bank.

# BNP's JS affairs

FROM PAGE 1

body.

None of the rest 33 holds any high post in the party.

A number of lawmakers told The Daily Star that the recent BNPPP statements had in fact been written at the chairperson's Gulshan office and then sent to Farroque to be read out at press briefings.

had been consulted on any pai, imentary affairs or for rights. the statements.

They had learned about the parliamentary party statements mostly from the media, added the lawmakers.

The last time BNPPP met was on February 22 when it decided to return to the House after an absence for 17 consecutive days in the inaugural session.

The opposition lawmakers have been absent from the current session since June 4 without any decision at the BNPPP

session, BNP said its parliamentary party would soon decide whether to join the budget session.

"We will hold our parliamentary party meeting next as its leader. week," Farroque said on June

though parliament by this the leader of the opposition.

North Korea, its neighbour and

It was the biggest salvo of 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 But Biden said he did not work toward normalized

### Pvt airlines

FROM PAGE 16 called on her at her official residence Jamuna in the eve-

government would take its best care of the pilgrims so that they do not face any difficulty in performing the The Prime Minister said

time has passed the budget.

The current session is

This practice of staying off

scheduled to be prorogued on

the legislature runs counter to

the aims and objectives laid

out in the BNP constitution.

#### management corrupted during the last BNP-Jamaat government". The government is taking

Sheikh Hasina told the

The HAAB delegation

The quarter is "still active to

They placed five-point

The demands are fixing hajj Affairs, inclusion of HAAB representative in signing any arranging space for HAAB to

# overall goal of returning to a

Of the 35 lawmakers, only Khaleda and Moudud Ahmed are members of the party's standing committee, the highest decision-making

The party constitution says the organisation shall work to create an atmosphere congenial to entrenching democracy and the rule of law. It will also be committed to strengthening the base of parliament to safeguard the They claimed a few of them democratic institutions and

> According to it, BNPPP shall elect the party's leader, deputy leader, chief whip and whips in consultation with the

chairperson. In reality though, it has yet to elect deputy leader of the

the people's fundamental

opposition. Had a party lawmaker been elected deputy leader, he could have used his office in parliament to strengthen the opposition lawmakers' role in the House in absence of the opposition leader.

A deputy leader is entitled At the beginning of the to facilities and privileges of a state minister.

The speaker recognised Khaleda Zia as the leader of the opposition following a BNPPP resolution electing her

The former prime minister enjoys the status and privi-But no meeting was held leges of a cabinet minister as

## 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

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.

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.

## SClawyer

FROM PAGE 1

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

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

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 lead

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

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 the true history of Liberation 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

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16

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 lawenforcement 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 Forest officials claim they submitted a written com-

plaint 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. Officer in-Charge of

FROM PAGE 16 around 2:30 pm over loan

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 Gagorhat 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

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.

Sitakunda police Nazrul Islam told reporters the yard build ers had shown him the court order on Friday morning

before felling the trees. Sharif Chauhan, coordina tor 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 day-

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

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.

barriers against natural disas-

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 forehand.

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. would not spare anybody Federer held up the trophy, involved in the heinous arson 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 greats legends.

I tried to hold him off.' Federer also reclaimed the No. 1 ranking he lost last year to Rafael Nadal, the man who

Roddick said: "Sorry, Pete,

beat him in the epic 2008 final but missed this year's tourna ment 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."

# Govt to rid history

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

War and Bangabandhu, he guage Movement Memorial Corner (Basha Andolon Smrity Corner)" and the entrance to the gallery 40 have

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

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

brought back home after exhibiting in Giyme Museum in France, are original or duplicate.

University, demanded an investigation in this regard. Talking to The Daily Star,

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said the meeting had directed the trustee board of the museum to draft a longterm policy to run the museum and to review its activities.

Cultural Affairs Secretary Naser Chowdhury, Rural Secretary Samar Chandra Pal, Prof AFM Salahuddin Ahmed, ASM Nazrul Islam, Director General of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Syed Monjurul Islam of DU English Department, Prof Ashit Baral Pal of Archaeology Islam of Anthropology

#### 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 vielded 7.19 lakh tonnes of food

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 con-

struct 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

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

checked the stock, but found

nothing to substantiate such

## RMG makers

FROM PAGE 16

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

attack on the garment factories at Ashulia. He reiterated that the government would form temporary labour court at Ashulia, Savar and a part of Gazipur industrial area to settle the disputes between

Tk 1 lakh each to 37 deceased garment workers' families under group insurance programme. The commerce minister also asked the mid-level man-

agers of the factories to be

more responsible so that they

factory owners and workers.

BGMEA gave the cheque of

can avert any unrest. BGMEA also distributed Tk 1,000 along with education materials to each of 50 schoolgoing children of the garment

workers. Abdus Salam Murshedy, BGMEA president, moderated the function.

# Tk 100cr

management.

FROM PAGE 1 welfare fund was deposited with Oriental Bank when the bank was facing severe liquidity crisis due to its internal mis-

Mahmud said only Tk6 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, Shahbuddin, Col Maruf Saklan and Zafrul 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.

he said.

mentary probe committee formed to investigate the graft allegations against former speaker (Delwar himself) deputyspeaker and chief whip. Replying to a query he said the parliamentary probe com-

Later he blasted the parlia-

Criticising Fazle Rabbi Mia, chief of the parliamentary probe committee, the former chief whip said, "Allegations are also cropping up against him. He said a lot of allegations

are rife against Fazle Rabbi and

the media is exposing what the

probe committee members

mittee has no legal basis.

have done in the past. The ruling party is trying to defame BNP leaders only to cover up its failures, he said, adding that no discussion was held in the parliament about the allegation against him. "I also received a lot of allega-

tions when I was the chairman

of house committee of the

want to defame anyone," he What the ruling party is doing now in the name of investigation is ill motivated, he added.

# 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 coun-

"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

"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 USled 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

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 (retd) Abdus Salam, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters

at the Jatiya 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 mea-

sure has been taken upon

concerns expressed by gar-

ment factory owners following the recent unrest. The three-day turbulence saw arson attacks on the Ha-Meem Group factory and damage to over 100 other factories in Savar and Ashulia.

past two years.

Conflicted feelings toward the Americans has been deepened by image-transforming changes the US military introduced to the way troops interact with Iraqis. They swapped their heavy-handed tactics of the war's early years with a culturally sensitive approach since 2007 that won over much of the population and isolated the militants.

"Not every one of us felt the same about the Americans," said Atta Zeidan, co-owner of a Baghdad book store. "There is no universal resentment or hatred for the

Americans. Love or hatred of the Americans has in large part depended on everyone's personal experience," he said. Al-Maliki appears to have none of the mixed sentiments

Iraqis have about the with-While Iraqis went about their normal daily business, al-Maliki declared the pullback a victory for the country and heaped lavish praise on Iraq's forces but made no mention of the US role in reducing violence since 2007.

Iraq's security forces, which number 650,000, have spent years in the shadow of their better equipped and more disciplined US mentors, learning counterinsurgency tactics, intelligence gathering techniques and combat skills. But the Iraqis continue to

struggle with logistics and

professional conduct. It is not

uncommon to see soldiers at

checkpoints speaking on their mobile phones or dozing off while sitting aside in the shade. They also lack reliable networks for fuel distribution, equipment repairs and salary payments. Chipping away at the public's confidence in their abilities is the adoption by some of the younger soldiers of an "American look" dark, wraparound sunglasses, bandanas and knee and elbow

#### tions. Modernise police

pads accessories Iraqis see as

alien to their military tradi-

the chair yesterday.

FROM PAGE 16 The decision was taken at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry with its Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam in

The meeting elaborately discussed the recent recruitment in Bangladesh police as well as the overall law and order situation in the country. It also directed the con-

cerned authorities to submit a

proposal on how to stop extortion and drug trading in its next meeting. A report on the activities of Ansar and VDP was also sub-

Standing committee mem-

bers Whip Mirza Azam, Md

mitted in the session.

Mujibul Haque, Md Nurul Islam Sujan, Md Habibur Rahman and Md Safigul Islam attended the meeting. Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, IGP Nur

Mohammad, DG of Ansar and

VDP Maj Gen Md Rafiqul

Islam and senior officials

# concerned were present. 16 UN de-miners

FROM PAGE 16 Marine operation taking place

Britain's Ministry of Defence said both attacks took place near Gereshk in Helmand province on Saturday. Earlier the Nato-led force said the two had died in a single incident. It was not immediately clear what caused the discrepancy in the accounts.

use roadside bombs in their fight against Afghan and foreign forces in the country. Responding to the deteriorating security situation, President Barack Obama's

Taliban militants frequently

administration has ordered 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan and expects the total number of US forces there to reach 68,000 by year's end. That is double the number of troops in Afghanistan in 2008 but still half as many as are now in Iraq. In the country's east, mean-

travelled between Paktia and Khost provinces on Saturday, said Paktia's police chief Azizullah Wardak. While insurgents operate in the area, Wardak could not say who was responsible for the kidnapping. Similar incidents

while, gunmen kidnapped the

16 Afghan deminers as they

Paktia but were resolved successfully, he said. Wardak criticised the country,

demining team part of the U.N.'s effort to rid the country of decades of planted land mines for going into the area without informing the police.

in the world, and the increase in

violence amid a thriving Taliban

insurgency has slowed clear-

ance work. Some 50 people are killed and maimed by mines every month. Two-thirds of the country's

insurgents shot and killed six mine clearers in one day and two the next, according to the United Nations Mine Action Centre. Militants often use the raw

killed by militants. Last year,

legacy of decades of Soviet

### in the same province. Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries

mines have been cleared over the past two decades, with the rest expected to be removed by 2013. But experts fear Afghanistan can no longer meet that goal because of increased fighting and a drop in international funding. Trained deminers have increasingly been targeted and

materials from the mines to make roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices. Mines in Afghanistan are a

occupation and subsequent have happened twice before in civil war. Tens of thousands of mines and unexploded ordinance still pepper the rugged

The gallery 39 titled "Lanportraits of Bangabandhu and

Dean of the Faculty of Fine

AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice attended the meeting.

chancellor of Dhaka

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof

Department of Jahangirnagar University, Engineer Rabiul Hossain, Artists Quayum Chowdhury and Hashem Khan, and Director General of National Museum Shafiqul Azam, among others,

parliament but didn't take those into account as we did not doubt whether the artefacts,

Sharful Alam, Information Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Development and Cooperatives Division Department and Prof Farzana

### Complaints FROM PAGE 1