



This undated handout photo released by the South Korea Navy yesterday in Seoul shows high-speed patrol boats armed with canons and machine guns. A North Korean patrol boat was set ablaze after exchanging fire with South Korea's navy, Seoul officials said, as tensions rose a week before a scheduled US presidential visit.

Navies of two Koreas exchange fire

N Korea boat "in flames" after clash: Seoul officials

AP, Seoul

The two Koreas briefly exchanged naval fire yesterday along their disputed western sea border, with a North Korean ship suffering heavy damage before retreating, South Korean military officials said, as cross-border tensions rose a week before a scheduled US presidential visit.

There were no South Korean casualties, the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement, and it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties on the North Korean side. Each side blamed the other for violating the sea border.

The clash, the first of its kind in seven years, occurred as US officials said President Barack Obama has decided to send a special envoy to Pyongyang for rare direct talks on the communist country's nuclear weapons program. No sea border has been set but it would be the first one-on-one talks since Obama took office in January. Obama is due in Seoul next week.

"It's a regrettable incident," South Korean Commodore Lee Ki-sik told reporters in Seoul. "We are

sternly protesting to North Korea and urging it to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents."

North Korea's military issued a statement blaming South Korea for the "grave armed provocation," saying its ships crossed into North Korean territory.

The North claimed that a group of South Korean warships opened fire but fled after the North's patrol boat dealt "a prompt retaliatory blow." The statement, carried on the official Korean Central News Agency, said the South should apologize.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who convened an emergency security meeting, ordered his defence minister to strengthen military readiness.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that a North Korean patrol boat crossed the disputed western sea border around 11.27 am (0227 GMT), drawing warning shots from a South Korean navy vessel. The North Korean boat then opened fire and the South's ship returned fire before the North's vessel sailed back toward its waters, the statement said.

Obama, Netanyahu meet close door on ME crisis

Israeli PM leaves without press meet

AFP, Washington

US efforts to revive the Middle East process floundered yesterday after President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held closed-door talks amid signs of friction.

The two went into talks with the United States having renewed its opposition to Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Netanyahu left the White House after spending an hour and 40 minutes, without making the

customary public appearance with the US president.

"The president reaffirmed our strong commitment to Israel's security, and discussed security cooperation on a range of issues," the White House said in a brief statement.

"The president and prime minister also discussed Iran and how to move forward on Middle East peace."

Ahead of the meeting, Netanyahu said he was ready to immediately start peace negotiations with the Palestinians, but

prospects appeared dim.

"The policy of the United States government for many decades has been, no more settlements, that's not something that is new (with this administration)," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

Aides to Mahmud Abbas warned yesterday that if US efforts to re-launch Middle East peace talks stay deadlocked, the president could resign in a move that would probably lead to the collapse of the Palestinian Authority.

Technology holds answer

FROM PAGE 16

had slapped on large scale field trials of genetically modified rice, Apichart said. Biotechnology holds the key to the future growth potentials for crops including rice, and his country is now allowing breeders to experiment on biotech-derived crops under controlled greenhouse environment.

Identifying diversion of crops for fuel production as one of the key factors behind food prices hitting all time high in 2008, Apichart informed the audience about the Thai government's policy of not expanding the acreage of cassava and sugarcane for fuel generation purposes, while increasing only the acreage of oil palm for it, using only otherwise fallow lands.

A presentation made by Thai Rice Department's Deputy Director General Chairit Damrongkiat showed, India was the third largest exporter of rice last year behind Thailand and Vietnam, and exported 11.2 percent of the rice traded globally. Of the total global rice output of 445.6 million MT in 2008, India produced 99.1 million MT, second only to China that produced 134.3 million MT.

But within a year, India is now depending on other rice growing Asian countries to offset its shortfall, resulted from a delayed monsoon, a problem that Bangladesh also

suffered this year. But thanks to the timely policy decision of providing farmers with free power to pump water to the aman fields, which saved Bangladesh from any substantial crop loss.

The workshop took note of the Bangladesh situation, as the country is well poised with over a million metric ton of rice in stock. But participants pointed out, with an increasing population and dwindling land resources, maintaining food security in Bangladesh as well as in other parts of Asia-Pacific is very crucial.

IRRI Media Relations Manager Sophie Clayton told the workshop, if rice producing countries want to keep pace with the rising number of rice consumers, the global rice output has to grow by 8 to 10 million MT per year.

Noting that the world population is increasing by an astounding rate of 2.2,000 a day, Martin Gibson, stewardship director of CropLife Asia, showed data elucidating how per capita share of arable land is shrinking.

Gibson said the world population was three billion in 1960 with each person having a share of 4.3 hectares of arable land, but as the population doubled by 2000 the per capita arable land share nosedived to 2.2 hectares, and by the most conservative projection it is likely to drop further to settle at only 1.8 hectares per person

in 2020 when 7.5 billion people will inhabit the earth. CropLife Asia is the Asian chapter of CropLife International, the global federation of plant science industries operating in 90 countries.

Syngenta's head of seed business for the Asia-Pacific region, Peter Pickering, and its country chief in Thailand, Parveen Kathuria, joined Gibson in the argument that the next big leap in rice output has to come from technology rather than from land resources. They laid emphasis on safe applications of agricultural biotechnology to ensure food security for an ever increasing global population.

Andrew Guthrie, who looks after Syngenta's crop protection business in the Asia-Pacific region, talked to The Daily Star sharing some of his thoughts. Guthrie said the technology is available, but farmers must be able to access it. He gave a recent example of how simple technologies help farmers enormously.

"In Bangladesh we supplied farmers with 'pani pipes', a plastic pipe with holes, that they tuck half into paddy fields. This eventually helps them understand water needs of the crop at various stages, for example: plantation, vegetation, and flowering, helping to cut irrigation cost," he said.

484 more hospitalised

FROM PAGE 16

a mobile or temporary camp to provide immediate treatment to the affected people of Badda. People of Nayanagar at Badda and Jagannathpur -- near Bashundhara residential area -- are the worst sufferers of the disease that broke out early in the month, said Dr M Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of ICDDR,B long stay unit.

Immediately, the ICDDR,B collected stool, rectal swab and water samples from the area and the laboratory investigation found 60 percent patients suffering from cholera. The report on the water samples would be available today, said another scientist of the centre.

Sixty percent of diarrhoea patients come from Badda, 11 from Gulshan, seven from Mirpur and six percent from Labagh area, according to the ICDDR,B record.

The immense pressure on water and sanitation due to over population, climate change and contamination of water are the major causes for spread of diarrhoea even in this

period -- during the month of November, said Dr Shahadat.

Sumona, mother of a seven-year old boy, busy yesterday to find an auto rickshaw at the Norda crossing to take her son to ICDDR,B said "We live in a slum at Badda. Last week, diarrhoea inflicted all of my family members."

"We did not find any smell from the tube well water, but there were some very small substances and we thought it would not be harmful," she added.

In another incident, the director of disease control and line director of DGHS requested the ICDDR,B to conduct an investigation in Pabna district as a large number of people were suffering from diarrhoea in the first week of October.

According to an investigation report, due to contaminated water a total of 1580 people suffered from diarrhoea in October and 1467 in September this year while the number was only 618 and 668 respectively in the previous year.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible Contractor / Interior Decorator for the under mentioned works as per the terms and conditions set forth in the Tender Documents.

1. Ministry	Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
2. Agency	High Commission of India Dhaka
3. Procuring entity name	High Commission of India, Dhaka
4. Invitation Ref. No & Date	No. DU/02/2009-2010 Dated 01-11-2009
5. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
6. Source of Fund	Government of India
7. Project Name	Extension of Kalabhaban for Department of Theatre & Music University of Dhaka (Furniture including acoustics work, False ceiling & Wooden Floor)
8. Tender Package No	DU/02/2009-2010
9. Tender Name	Extension of Kalabhaban for Department of Theatre & Music University of Dhaka (Furniture including acoustics work, False ceiling & Wooden Floor)
10. Time for Completion of the works	90 (Ninety Days) days from the date of Notification for Award.
11. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 2,000/- (Taka two thousand only) per set of Tender Documents.
12. Tender Security Amount	Tk. 80,000.00 (Taka Eighty Thousand only) in the form of P.O or D.D or Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh. (Note that Fixed Deposit receipts will not be considered as security money).
13. Tender Last Selling Date & Time	07-12-2009 during office hours.
14. Tender Submission Date & Time	08-12-2009 at 12.00 Noon.
15. Tender Opening date and Time	Tenders will be publicly opened on 08-12-2009 at 3.00 P.M. in the Office of First Secretary (PI&C), High Commission of India, House # 2, Road # 142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. Intending tenderers or their authorized representatives may attend the opening of tenders
16. Eligibility/Qualification of Tenderers	This invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible Tenderers as mentioned below: i. The Tenderer shall be a legal entity. ii. Tenderer must have experience in furniture including acoustic work & interior decoration work iii. Tenderer must have upto date Income tax clearance certificate from the Concerned Department. iv. Tenderer must have valid VAT Registration certificate from the Concerned Department. v. Tenderer must have upto date Trade License. vi. The tender documents must have been purchased from the stated source.
17. Liquidity Damage	The liquidated damages for the whole of the Works are 0.5% (zero point five percent) of the final Contract Price per day. The maximum amount of liquidated damages for the whole of the Works is 10% (ten percent) of the final Contract Price.
18. Defect Liability	The Defects Liability Period is 365 (Three hundred sixty five) days after completion of the project
19. Performance Guarantee	The Performance guarantee shall of an amount equal to 10% of the Contract Price stated in the Letter of acceptance & shall be valid until a date 60 days from the date of expiry of Defect Liability Period.
20. Retention Money	The proportion of payments retained is Ten (10) percent from each interim payment certificate subject to a maximum of Five (5) percent of the total Contract Price.
21. Name and address of the Office Receiving Tenders:	Office of the First Secretary (PI&C) High Commission of India. House # 2, Road # 142 Gulshan - 1, Dhaka, Bangladesh
22. Name and address of the Office for Opening Tenders	Office of the First Secretary (PI&C) High Commission of India. House # 2, Road # 142 Gulshan 1, Dhaka, Bangladesh
23. Name and address of the (Office/s) Selling Tender Documents:	Consulting Engineering Services (India) Pvt. Ltd House # 413 (1st Floor), Road # 30 New DOHS, Mohakhali Dhaka, Bangladesh Tel: +88 02 9886142 Note: No tender will be sold on the receiving date.
24. Special Instructions	i. The tenderers shall duly fill in the form W-1 as per format given in tender Submission Sheet (TSS) and form W-2 as per format given in Tender information Sheet (TIS). ii. Rates must be quoted both in figures & in words for each item of works where the Provision for quoting rates by the Tenderers has been kept in the Tender Schedule of items attached herewith. iii. The authority reserves the right to ask for analysis for all or any items of work. iv. The Agency/procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. v. If the Tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificates, its tender will be rejected and the tender security may be forfeited
25. Brief Description of Works and Related Services.	Furniture including acoustic work, false ceiling & wooden floor work

High Commission of India
House # 2, Road # 142, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Govt told to suspend all

FROM PAGE 1

the cabinet secretary, prime minister's secretary, Economic Relations Division secretary, finance division secretary and ministries concerned.

The WB says the amendment to the PPA will affect financing agreements of 24 active projects along with two project preparation facilities, and one trust fund administered by the WB.

It has provided a list of the projects that include the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project. The WB earlier objected to a few amendments to the PPA: lottery for works contracts, no-qualification or no-experience requirement and/or enlistment procedures for works contracts, rejection of bids above or below 5 percent of the estimate for works contracts, and single stage two-envelope process for procurement of goods and works.

The WB letter says procurements that take place on the basis of these amendments, which are not consistent with its procurement guidelines, will not be eligible for WB financing.

Finance ministry sources say the PPA was amended on November 4 despite the World Bank's objections communicated to the government in two letters since the government initiated the amendment process.

The government wanted to make public procurement quite strict, but it failed as various ministries ruled out the WB objections.

The projects to be affected are Clean Air and Sustainable

Environment Project, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project, Dhaka Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Siddhirganj Peaking Power Project, Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project, Additional Financing for Social Investment Programme Project, Disability and Children-At-Risk Project, Additional Financing for Rural Transport Improvement Project, Additional Financing for Municipal Services Project, Additional Financing for Social Investment Programme Project, National Agricultural Technology Project, Water Management Improvement Project, Public Procurement Reform Project II, Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response Project, Local Governance Support Project, Investment Promotion and Financing Facility Project, Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme, Economic Management Technical Assistance Project, Reaching Out-of-School Children Project, Water Supply Programme Project, Enterprise Growth and Bank Modernisation Project, Power Sector Development Technical Assistance Project, and Second Primary Education Development Programme.

Project Preparation Facilities in two proposed projects -- Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project and Railway Modernisation Project -- would also remain suspended.

Hand killers just punishment

FROM PAGE 16

submission as special counsels before the apex court during the 27th day's hearing on the appeals yesterday.

The five member-bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam adjourned the hearing till this morning.

Ajmalul Hossain told the court the nation was hijacked through the killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

He said the top to bottom of the state failed to discharge their duties to protect the president and even to bring the killers to book.

The army, navy, air force, the chief justice, the Supreme Court and the High Court, the attorney general and the home secretary were present in the country, but they neither could protect the president nor took any step against the killers, he said, adding they had violated their oaths.

The chiefs of the army, navy and air force take oath during joining their offices for protecting the country and the president on the peril of their own lives, but they could not save the president and his family members, he added.

He prayed to the court to pass observations in the judgment of the case with some observations so that the legal system of the country cannot be damaged in future.

A serious abuse of power and a catastrophe took place in the country due to the failure of justice delivery system of the state after the incidents of August 15, he observed.

He said the rule of law was damaged through the rehabilitation of the dismissed and retired army officials, who were involved in the incidents of August 15, he added.

The special counsel also said the killers were rather given indemnity of the trial. Nobody challenged the acts of the unconstitutional and illegal governments after the killing.

Tawfique Nawaz said the characteristics of the republic, its constitution and structure were altered through the killing of Bangabandhu and there was no scope to commute the sentences of the convicts.

Abdul Matin Khasru said the killers of the Father of the Nation were given immunity of trial through promulgation of the Indemnity Ordinance on September 26, 1975, which was against the constitution, rule of law and humanity.

AFM Mesbahuddin said the history, culture, norm, value, heritage and image of the Bengali nation have been damaged through the killing of Bangabandhu and the lawyers of the country like its 15 crore people want trial and punishment of the killers.



RE-TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF INDUSTRIAL PLOT OF MILLS UNDER BTMC

Sealed tenders are hereby again invited by the Chief Engineer, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), BTMC Bhaban (2nd floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, from the interested Organization / Bangladeshi investor staying abroad / foreign investor for selling of excess land with a view to setting up Backward / Forward linkage industries in Textile Sector on Excess land of (1) Sylhet Textile Mills, Islampur, Sylhet (5th time), (2) Quaderia Textile Mills Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur (8th time), (3) Valika Woolen Mills Ltd., Nasirabad, Chittagong (5th time), (4) Noakhali Textile Mills, Rakhalia Bazar, Luxmipur (5th time), (5) Rajshahi Textile Mills, Sapura, Rajshahi (4th time) & (6) Chittaranjan Cotton Mills, Godnyle, Narayanganj (3rd time) including the existing trees & structures on the excess land / plot "as it is where it is" basis.

Tender documents can be purchased @ Tk. 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) only per set (non-refundable) for the above 6 (six) mills from the offices of (1) respective section of the Ministry of Textile & Jute, Building No. 6 (11th floor), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka (2) Chief Accountant, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban (3rd level), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, (3) BTMC Liaison Office, Moddham Halishar, Paribahan Godown, Port Colony, Chittagong, (4) Deputy Commissioner Dhaka, Chittagong, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Rajshahi, Sylhet & Feni upto 7-12-2009 on all working days during the office hours. Tender documents for individual mills will also be available on the same date and time in the office of the concerned mills (Except Noakhali Textile Mills). Tender document of Noakhali Textile Mills may purchase from Dost Textile Mills at Feni.

Tender will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the (1) Sr. Asstt. Secretary (Disinvestment), Ministry of Textile & Jute, Room No. 1117, Building No. 6 (11th floor), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka (2) Deputy Commissioner, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Feni, Sylhet & Rajshahi, (3) Chief Engineer, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka (4) BTMC Liaison Office, Moddham Halishar, Paribahan Godown, Port Colony, Chittagong, on 8-12-2009 upto 12-30 PM & Tender box will be opened on the same day in each and every places as mentioned above at 1-00 PM in presence of the bidder (if any). The Sealed Tenders will be opened on 9-12-2009 at 12-30 noon in the Board Room of BTMC at BTMC Bhaban in presence of the bidder (if any).

2.50% Security money of the quoted value must be submitted with the tender in the form of Bank Draft / P.O in favour of BTMC from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh. In case of the expatriate Bangladeshi investors / foreign investors the 2.50% of quoted amount as earnest money can be deposited through Bank Draft in foreign currency. But the original receipt of depositing foreign currency must be submitted with the tender. Expatriate Bangladeshi investors or their authorised representative can submit the tender. Details terms & condition of tender will be available with the Tender documents. Tender submitted without earnest money will be treated as cancelled.

BTMC authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Chief Engineer
BTMC, Dhaka.