

# North Korea denounces US sanctions

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

North Korea has denounced a new set of sanctions imposed by the United States in an attempt to stem Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Ri Tong Il, a North Korean official, said yesterday that the sanctions, announced a day earlier by Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, represented a "clear expression of intensified hostility".

"If the US is truly interested in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, it must take the lead in creating an atmosphere [for dialogue] rather than hurting such an atmosphere by... imposing sanctions," Ri said on the sidelines of a regional security forum in Hanoi.

Ri, a member of the North Korean delegation at the Asean forum, made the comments as Clinton arrived in

the Vietnamese capital to attend the regional conference.

Clinton was expected to discuss the North Korean issue further during talks with ministers at the forum. She was due to meet Yang Jiechi, her Chinese counterpart, yesterday to urge Beijing to put more pressure on the North over its nuclear programme.

**NUCLEAR WEAPONS AMBITIONS**  
Clinton had announced the new measures against Pyongyang during a visit to South Korea on Wednesday.

She said the sanctions were designed to stamp out illegal money-making ventures used to fund North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

The sanctions would be aimed at the sale or procurement of arms and related goods as well as the procurement of luxury items.

Clinton also used her visit to urge North Korea to accept responsibility for

the sinking of a South Korean warship in March, which left 46 sailors dead.

The US has announced a series of joint military exercises aimed at deterring the North from any future attack.

Robert Gates, the US defence secretary, and his South Korean counterpart Kim Tae-Young said the drills off the Korean peninsula's western coast were designed "to send a clear message to North Korea that its aggressive behaviour must stop".

However, Ri yesterday criticised the planned naval drills, saying the military exercises pose a major threat to global peace.

"The decision to hold military drills is a major danger for the security of the region," he said.

"Such movements pose a great threat not only to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula but also to global peace and security."

## Watchdogs sound alarm over TB/HIV deaths

AFP, Vienna

Two global health agencies joined forces here yesterday in a campaign aimed at averting 200,000 deaths each year by co-infection from TB and the AIDS virus.

"Every three minutes a person living with HIV has his or her life cut off prematurely by TB," said Jorge Sampaio, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's special envoy on stopping tuberculosis.

"This is completely unacceptable. TB is a preventable and curable disease."

Sampaio presided over a signing of a memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of the 18th International AIDS Conference, gathering the UN agency UNAIDS and Stop TB, a public-private health partnership.

They pledged to work towards halving the mortality from TB/HIV in 2015 compared to a base line of 2004, a year in which 400,000 people died.

"We are talking about a massive human tragedy," the executive secretary of Stop TB, Marcos Espinal, told AFP. "African countries in particular have been devastated by co-infection."

Espinal estimated that several billion dollars each year would be needed to reach the 2015 objective, but said much of this could come from smarter use of existing resources.

"There is a package of activities that if properly implemented by countries will work," he said.

Several dozen activists demonstrated before the event, pounding drums and holding up a black coffin symbolising the death toll from co-infection by the two microbes.

In the middle of the past decade, researchers uncovered the dismaying consequence from these two overlapping pandemics: people who were co-infected were often placed on the fast track to deaths.

TB is a lung disease that is caused by a germ, Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Around two billion people around the world are infected by the bacteria, but the vast majority never fall sick. A far smaller number -- nine million a year -- develop symptoms of the disease.

However, the risk doubles when an individual is infected by HIV, which weakens the immune system, allowing the germ to run riot.

## JS special committee

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They said it might consider inserting a clause specifically blocking the way for capturing state power through martial law.

Rabbi said it is true that the constitution does not allow anybody to grab state power illegally, but there is no specific clause in it on the matter.

"Therefore, a specific clause should be inserted in the constitution to that end. I will continuously pursue inclusion of that specific clause," Rabbi said.

Suranjit, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law justice and parliamentary affairs ministry, said the special committee

will review articles 70, and 67 of the constitution as well.

Article 70 prohibits members of the parliament from dissenting with their party lines in the House.

Ruling AL in its electoral manifesto pledged, "Except for some specific subjects related to the security of the state, parliament members will be allowed to express differing opinions."

Article 67 allows a lawmaker to remain absent from House proceedings for 90 consecutive sittings.

In a bid to discourage the culture of boycotting parliamentary sessions, the committee might consider recommending reducing the number of consecutive sittings a

lawmaker would be allowed to stay absent from.

AL's electoral manifesto also promises increasing the number of reserved seats for women in parliament to 100 from the current 45, and direct elections to those. Keeping that promise will also require amending the constitution.

"We will discuss all issues including the caretaker government system, and will recommend changes," Suranjit said.

Rabbi also said changes might be brought to the caretaker government system.

At the briefing, committee chief Sajeda said everything will be done with public consent, and by informing the media.

## 2 'outlaws' held

FROM PAGE 1

people involved in Tuesday's fatal incident at Dhalarchar of Beraupazila.

"We've already detected the identities of some attackers," Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Rajshahi Range Mokhesur Rahman said The Daily Star yesterday.

A band of 10 to 12 outlaws directly took part in the killings. Police is almost certain that it was a planned assault, added the DIG.

Police suspects a number of reasons behind the incident. Mokhesur said the criminals might have attacked

the policemen sensing trouble due to the lawmen's presence.

Police officer Kafil Uddin served the Special Branch in the region for a long period and the outlaws might have personal enmity with him.

There is a plan to build a large embankment at Dhalarchar involving huge amount of money. The criminals might have thought that if there were no police, it would be easy for them to extort the contractors, added Mokhesur.

Sub-Inspector Mojaffar Hossain of Pabna Police Station, who was in charge of

Dhalarchar camp few months ago, said it is very difficult to distinguish the outlaws from the innocents here.

Criminals from different districts use to take shelter here, as it is a remote place surrounded by rivers, added the SI.

Chairman of Masumdia Union Parishad Samsur Rahman Shomei said outlaws often disturb local people, but they never dare to protest. Despite being an elected representative, Samsur even does not live at his village home.



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