

Iran denies seizing US troops at border

AFP, Tehran

Iranian officials denied yesterday reports that its security forces seized seven US troops near the Islamic republic's border with Pakistan, Tehran-based Al-Alam television and Press TV reported.

"No American troops have been arrested. We deny it," Ali Mohammad Azad, the governor general of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, told the Arabic language Al-Alam network.

The channel said a source with the provincial border patrol services had also denied the arrest reported earlier by headline news website Javanonline.ir, which is close to the elite Revolutionary Guards.

Iran's English-language Press TV said the guards rejected the reports that US troops have been arrested as "unfounded" as Javanonline also denied its report as "incorrect" and "apologised" to its readers.

In the United States, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell told AFP: "We are aware of the story and are looking into it, but have no information that would confirm it to be true."

"It has been heard that seven US forces along with two Iranians who intended to enter Iranian territory at the Kuhak border area near Saravan were identified and arrested by border patrols," Javanonline had said earlier yesterday.



People watch as Pope Benedict XVI holds a Prayer Vigil on the Eve of the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman, in Hyde Park, London on Saturday.

BOAT DISPUTE

China halts top-level exchanges with Japan

REUTERS, Beijing/tokyo

China suspended high-level exchanges with Japan yesterday and promised tough countermeasures after a Japanese court extended the detention of a Chinese trawler captain who collided with two Japanese coastguard ships.

The spat between Asia's two largest economies has flared since Japan arrested the captain, accusing him of deliberately striking a patrol ship and obstructing public officers near uninhabited islets in the East China Sea claimed by both sides.

"China demands that Japan immediately release the captain without any preconditions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said in a statement on the ministry's website (www.mfa.gov.cn), repeating that China viewed the detention as illegal and invalid.

"If Japan acts wilfully despite advice to the contrary and insists on making one mistake after another, the Chinese side will take strong countermeasures, and all the consequences should be born by the Japanese side," Ma said.

Japan's decision has "seriously damaged Sino-Japan bilateral exchanges," state television added, reading out a separate response from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

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China has suspended ministerial and provincial-level bilateral exchanges with Japan, halted talks on increasing flights between the two countries and postponed a meeting about coal with Japan, the report said.

Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that the trawler captain's detention had been extended until September 29. The Japanese court could not be reached for comment.

Sino-Japanese ties have long been plagued by feuds over wartime history and rivalry over territory, resources and military intentions, although they had improved after a chill in 2001-

2006, as deep economic ties raise the risk from rows.

GAS FIELD FEUD

Japan urged calm and said the Chinese ship captain's case would be dealt with appropriately according to its domestic laws.

"Regarding individual issues, what is needed is to respond calmly without becoming emotional," said Noriyuki Shikata, a spokesman for the Japanese prime minister's office.

"Japan's basic stance is that we should seek to create cooperative Sino-Japanese ties based on strategic, mutually beneficial relations," he told Reuters by telephone.

The Chinese captain, Zhan Qixiong, has remained in custody after a Japanese court approved for the first time on September 10 an extension of his detention. Prosecutors can hold him for up to a total of 20 days while deciding whether to take legal action.

The latest feud over the uninhabited isles -- called the Diaoyu islands in China and the Senkaku islands in Japan -- has stirred mutual distrust over sovereignty and control of potentially valuable oil and gas reserves.

China has repeatedly demanded Japan free the captain and has shown its anger by cancelling planned talks with Japan over natural gas reserves.

On Saturday, about a hundred Chinese protesters in several Chinese cities demanded Japan free the boat captain. Police presence was still heavy at the Japanese embassy in Beijing on Sunday but there were no signs of protests.

The Nikkei business daily reported earlier on Sunday that Japan may start drilling near a gas field in disputed waters of the East China Sea if China does the same.

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan and his foreign minister said Tokyo will take "countervailing steps" if China starts drilling recently sent equipment, Nikkei said, adding that Tokyo had looked into possibly taking the case to the international maritime court.

Obama, Asean to call for happy end to sea spats

AP, Manila

President Barack Obama and Southeast Asian leaders will call for the peaceful settlement of South China Sea territorial disputes and urge claimants not to resort to force, according to a draft communiqué.

Washington upped the ante in July, when US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told a regional security forum in Vietnam that the peaceful resolution of the disputes over the Spratly and Paracel groups of islands was an American national interest.

The United States was concerned the conflicts could hamper access to one of the world's busiest commercial sea lanes.

Beijing angrily reacted by saying Washington was interfering in an Asian regional issue.

Obama will meet leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Friday to discuss ways to bolster their alliance and discuss economic cooperation and security issues, including the South China Sea disputes.

Obama and the Asean leaders will issue a joint statement where Washington has proposed text to reaffirm the importance of freedom of navigation, regional stability and unimpeded commerce in the South China Sea, according to a draft of the statement seen Sunday by The Associated Press.

Pope recalls Nazi terror in WW2

REUTERS, Birmingham

Pope Benedict told a Mass in England yesterday the world felt "shame and horror" at suffering inflicted by his German homeland in World War Two and recalled a key air battle that saved Britain from invasion.

At the same mass in a park in the British Midlands where the pope spoke of the war, he beatified Cardinal John Henry Newman, one of the most prominent English converts from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism.

But in his sermon, on the last day of a four-day visit, before a crowd of more than 50,000 people attending the open-air mass under an intermittent drizzle, he spoke first of the war.

On Sunday Britain commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the summer and autumn air conflict which

prevented Hitler's planned invasion of Britain.

"For me as one who lived and suffered through the dark days of the Nazi regime in Germany, it is deeply moving to be here with you on this occasion, and to recall how many of your fellow citizens sacrificed their lives, courageously resisting the forces of that evil ideology," he said.

"Seventy years later, we recall with shame and horror the dreadful toll of death and destruction that war brings in its wake, and we renew our resolve to work for peace and reconciliation wherever the threat of conflict looms," he said.

During the early 1940s, the former Joseph Ratzinger was briefly a member of the Hitler Youth when membership was compulsory. During the war, he was assigned to an anti-aircraft battery in Bavaria and then sent to Austria.

After returning to Bavaria, he deserted.

At the end of World War Two, he was a U.S. prisoner of war. The pope has said that as devout Catholics, his parents rejected Nazi ideology.

Sunday was the occasion for the religious centerpiece of the trip -- putting Newman, who is venerated in both the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, one step closer to sainthood.

PROMINANT CONVERT Newman, who lived from 1801 to 1890 and became a Catholic in 1845, was a central figure in the Oxford Movement, which tried to move the Church of England closer to Rome.

In his homily, the pope praised Newman, a towering theologian and prolific writer whose work was very influential in 20th century Church history, for defending "the vital place of revealed religion in civil society."

Anti-polybag

FROM PAGE 16

This drive is part of a continuing effort from the DoE to enforce the ban on polythene bags, he said.

The department has conducted over 100 drives against polythene and sealed 20 polythene factories over the past years, DoE officials said.

A zero tolerance approach will be taken and no polythene traders will be overlooked during the drive, they added.

"We have already sealed many [polythene] factories in July, and will visit more factories in Tongi and on the outskirts of the capital, where polythene bags are being produced, to seal those," said Sukumar.

"Fresh drives will be carried out routinely to stop the sale and use of banned polybags. But the drive would not be successful unless we refrain from using them," he added.

The government slapped a ban on the production, marketing and use of polythene (below 100 micron) in Dhaka city on January 2002. A nationwide ban followed in April the same year as polythene being non-biodegradable causes environmental hazard.

The only exception was made for the packaging of 14 items, which include biscuit, chana-chur, bread, salt, vermicelli, medicine, flour, naphthalene, fertiliser, chocolate, milk powder etc. However, polybag produced for these items must be above 100 micron thick.

There are around 300 factories manufacturing polythene bags in Dhaka, most located in the old town, said retailers and insiders of the manufacturing factories.

The major polythene bag wholesale markets are in Chawkbazar, Begumbazar and Moulvibazar in Dhaka. These markets also supply polythene bags to other districts, they said.

Bhairab Bazar in Kishoreganj is the largest polythene bag market. It is also being manufactured illegally in other districts such as Chittagong, Munshiganj, Bogra and Shariatpur, they said.

Maximum penalty under the Environment Conservation Act 1995 for manufacturing and marketing polythene shopping bag is 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, or a maximum fine of Tk 10 lakh, or both. Only environment court has the authority to sentence anyone for the offences.

The fine for using poly bags for purposes other than export is Tk 500.

However, production, marketing and use of polybags continue due to the absence of cost effective environment friendly alternatives, experts said.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.
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15 September, 2010
 Ref: DACPR/02/INFLT-MAG/10/

Tender for publication of In-flight Magazine of Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national carrier of Bangladesh, now in its 39 years of business, has been publishing an in-flight magazine since 1984. The magazine, a world-class publication, printed bilingually is available to passengers on board Biman for in-flight reading. In 2009, the airline carried 1.5 million passengers. Bangladesh has more than 6 million work-force scattered all over the globe.

Presently the airline has a fleet of 13 aircraft and flies to some 20 major cities of the world. Substantial growth in fleet size, passenger and cargo uplift and destinations is expected having placed the single largest order in its history of 10 new Boeing aircraft equipped with state-of-the-art Thales In-flight Entertainment System. These aircraft will be delivered phase-wise within the next couple of years, by then the fleet size will stand at 23 aircraft.

The selected publisher of the magazine will make available to Biman Bangladesh Airlines 15000 (Fifteen thousand) copies of the magazine free of cost per quarter for the first year of the contract, with a provision for an annual increase of 5% for each successive year. The publisher will recover all costs associated with the production of the magazine through advertising revenue. The broad features of the magazine, based on which tenders are invited are as under:

Frequency- Quarterly, Size: 8 1/4 x 11 1/4 or 9 x 10 3/4 inches, Pages-96 pages (excluding cover). Paper- 90 gsm art paper throughout, Colour - All pages, Language- Bilingual (English and Bangla), Editorial-Advertising Ratio- 65:35, Place of printing- anywhere, place of delivery- Biman Flight Catering Centre, Dhaka or any online station of Biman. Standard of Production- International class, Quantity- 15,000 copies, Tenure of contract- 03 (three) years.

Publishing companies of global standing both Bangladeshi and International, with adequate editorial/publishing set-up at Dhaka and having extensive experience in the field with minimum BDT 2.5 million revenue turnover per month may submit their tenders in two separate envelopes specifying the following:

First Envelop: Technical Bid

- Company details including editorial set-up, worldwide advertising offices, financial strength etc.
- Particulars about publication being currently published with specific reference to experience in publishing in-flight magazine, tourism magazines etc. with sample copies of the same.

Second Envelop: Commercial Bid

- The airline welcomes any offer that is agreeable to both parties and may help win both, like sharing of revenues, offering air passage for travel writers and so forth.

Bidders should send their tenders along with a copy of the magazine, in two sealed envelopes (duly superscribed) to the office of the undersigned at **Public Relations Department, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, Balaka, Head Office, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh** in a sealed cover not later than 21 October, 2010. Any query with respect to the tender may be addressed to the undersigned at +02-8917482 or by Fax: +02-8913005.

Dy. General Manager, Public Relations

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FALL 2010
POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

As part of regular curricular programs, the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka is offering a 3-month **Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations**. The purpose of the program is to equip the different segments of the society to face the challenges of the time as well as provide an in-depth understanding of the issues and events having implications at national, regional and global levels. Individuals planning to sit for competitive examinations will also benefit from this program.

Eligibility: Graduates from any discipline with at least 2nd division/class in all examinations.
Beginning of Classes: 08 October 2010
Class Time: Late afternoon/Weekends.
Course Fees: Tk. 20,000 (Twenty Thousand)
Application Procedure: Prescribed application forms to be collected from and submitted to the Department's office on working days at the cost of TK. 250 (two hundred fifty). Eligible candidates will be considered for admission on 'first come first serve' basis.
Deadline for Admission: 30 September 2010
Contact Address: Department of International Relations, Room No. 2089, First Floor, Arts Building, University of Dhaka.
 Tel: PABX: 9661900-73, Ext.: 6541/6542.
 Cell: 01743605453; E-Mail: pgdirdu@gmail.com

BTCL Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited
 Telejogajog Bhaban, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) invites application from bonafide citizens of Bangladesh with core competence to fill up the following position on urgent basis for its Head Office at Dhaka.

01. Position: Chief General Manager (Budget & Accounts)
 Major Responsibilities: Lead the team of Budget and Accounts Department of the company and supervise finance and accounts functions of the company and report to the Chief Finance Officer and other related duties.
Qualification and Experience: Chartered Accountant or its equivalent from a recognized institution. Minimum 15 years experience of which 10 years post qualification experience of managing finance & accounts function in management position in telecommunications/public enterprise/large local or multinational companies.

02. Position: Chief General Manager (Revenue Assurance)
 Major Responsibilities: Lead the team of Revenue Assurance Department of the company and supervise revenue collection functions of all the revenue offices of the company and report to the Chief Finance Officer and other related duties.
Qualification and Experience: MBA/M.Com (major in Finance or Accounting)/Masters in Computer Science with at least two 1st class without any 3rd class. Minimum 20 years experience of managing revenue management/assurance functions of which at least 5 years in management position in telecommunications/public utilities/large local or multinational companies.
Age Limit: 45 to 50 years.
Salary & Allowances: As per pay structure of the company.
Selection process: Only the short-listed candidates will be called for interviews. Application should be addressed to the Company Secretary, BTCL and reach him at following address on or before 14 October, 2010 within the office hour.
 N.B: For detail information please visit www.btcl.gov.bd

Company Secretary, BTCL
 Telejogajog Bhaban, Room No. 208
 37/E, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000
 Ph: 8314242