

S Korea says North wants rocket for nuclear weapon

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea yesterday condemned rival North Korea's planned rocket launch as a "grave provocation", saying it was a disguised attempt to develop a long-range ballistic missile capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Seoul also extended a security alert in the capital, and said it was concerned the North might follow the ballistic missile launch with another nuclear test.

The North announced on Friday it would put a satellite into orbit next month barely two weeks after reaching an agreement with Washington to suspend long-range missile launches as part of a deal to restart food aid.

"Our government defines North Korea's so-called working satellite launch plan as a grave provocation to develop a long-distance delivery means for nuclear weapons by using ballistic missile technology," presidential spokesman Park Jung-ha said in a statement.

Washington says the North's long-range ballistic missile program is progressing

quickly, and last year said the American mainland could come under threat within five years.

The secretive North has twice tested a nuclear device, but experts doubt whether it yet has the ability to miniaturize an atomic bomb to place atop a warhead.

Pyeongyang is believed to have enough fissile material to make up to a dozen nuclear bombs, and in 2010 unveiled a uranium enrichment facility to go with its plutonium program which opened a second route to making an atomic weapon.

Yesterday, President Lee Myung-bak met the foreign and security-related ministers to discuss the North's surprise announcement, which also flies in the face of a U.N. Security Council resolution banning long-range missile launches.

Park said in a statement that Seoul would work closely with the United States, Japan, China and Russia - all members of the six-party forum which deals with the North's nuclear program - during next week's Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul.



PHOTO: AFP

Protestors hold banners during an anti-nuclear rally denouncing upcoming Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul yesterday. The campaigners for the "nuclear-free world" accused the summit for trying to expand nuclear power plants.

Pakistan clashes leave eight dead

AFP, Miranshah

At least eight people were killed and 15 others wounded in clashes between Pakistani troops and militants in the restive northwestern tribal belt, officials said yesterday.

Four militants and one soldier were killed when militants stormed a security forces check point late Sunday in Miranshah, the main town of lawless North Waziristan tribal district bordering Afghanistan.

The military retaliated with an assault early yesterday on suspected militant hide outs outside the town, but the attack left three civilians dead and 15 wounded, security officials said.

Somali rebels kill 5 near presidential palace

REUTERS, Mogadishu

At least five people were killed when a salvo of mortars targeting Somalia's presidential palace missed and landed on a nearby refugee camp overnight, residents and the African Union's peacekeeping force said yesterday.

Somalia's al Qaeda-aligned al Shabaab rebel group said they fired more than a dozen mortars at the heavily fortified presidential compound, their second attempt to strike at the heart of the embattled government in less than a week.

Bahrain opposition says ready for dialogue

AFP, Dubai

Bahrain's Shiite-led opposition expressed yesterday readiness for dialogue with authorities to end the political deadlock in the Sunni-ruled kingdom, but demanded a referendum on the outcome.

The five main opposition associations, led by the major Shiite formation, Al-Wefaq, said in a statement that the two sides of the dialogue should agree beforehand on its "agenda, mechanism, and time frame, in order to help create initial confidence."

The groups also demanded that the dialogue include opposition leaders jailed in the wake of a brutal crackdown last year on a month-long protest demanding democratic change.

The opposition acknowledged that they have not received any invitation for talks, but said they were preparing in case negotiations were initiated and had agreed to form a "joint delegation" to any future talks.

The statement was released following a meeting of the groups, including the National Democratic Action Association, or Waed in Arabic, the Nationalist Democratic Rally Association, Alekha National Society, and National Democratic Assembly.

Political parties are banned in Bahrain, and licensed associations act as de facto parties.

The five groups said the results of the dialogue should be agreed by the public, and insisted that the outcome should be "revealed to the people so that an agreement can win popular and legal legitimacy."

They reiterated that the dialogue should be based on the offer tabled by Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa days before the clampdown in March last year.

Salman had said he supported vesting the parliament with full powers, and pledged to tackle naturalisation, administrative and financial corruption, and sectarian tensions.

Dhaka rejects border curfew

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solution. It will not solve the border problem permanently".

"We don't believe in curfew. Every citizen of our country has equal right to move within the boundary. We don't believe in imposing restrictions on movement of our people," BGB chief said at a joint media interaction after the meeting.

"However, we have to sensitise our people not to cross the border without proper documents," he added.

The two forces agreed to implement a three-pronged initiative to reduce incidents of border firing to the minimum possible level.

"Both sides agreed for additional vigilance particularly in the areas earmarked sensitive border outposts and examine other possible measures that could be taken to restrict movement of smugglers and drug traffickers in bordering areas during hours of darkness," read a joint press statement issued after the meeting.

Addressing the joint media briefing with his counterpart BSF DG UK Bansal said, "We have decided to take further measures to minimise the use of lethal weapons, and we shall avoid the use of lethal force against unarmed people and those

inadvertently crossing the border."

Detailing the three-pronged initiative, Hussain said additional security forces would be deployed by the two sides at several "vulnerable patches" along the porous border, people residing in border areas will be sensitised against illegal cross-border movement, and information would be shared real-time by BGB and BSF on movement of smugglers and other criminals during "hours of darkness".

"We made it very clear in this meeting that we don't expect any killing of unarmed civilian and both sides have taken measures towards ensuring this."

Bansal said the policy decision to bring down the incidence of border firing along the border was taken by the two governments and the home ministers of the two countries when they had met in New Delhi in February and to implement that decision "is our shared concern".

Regarding border violence, the meeting also agreed to introduce an effective working system of communication particularly at operational level to swiftly inform the counterpart of important incidents.

The meeting reached an understanding on practical modalities for implementing the decisions taken

during the meeting of Bangladesh Home Minister Shahara Khatun and her counterpart P Chidambaram in New Delhi recently.

"We have common enemies to fight. We reached a consensus. We agreed to go beyond the limits of our jurisdiction to solve issues by implementing certain decisions on the ground instead of allowing the issues to linger on," Hussain said.

Asked if BGB would, as a confidence-building measure, consider using non-lethal weapons to reciprocate BSF's use of the same, the BGB chief ruled it out saying, "We don't have any plan to introduce non-lethal weapons because we don't believe in killing unarmed people."

On Bangladesh's concern over smuggling of phensedyl from India, Bansal said, "We have taken some extraordinary measures to stop the danger by seizing 33 lakh bottles in the last five years".

"There are reports to indicate that people wanted in India escape to Bangladesh and are sheltered in that country. We have given a list of 21 such people and 51 insurgent camps in Bangladesh," he said, adding that the Bangladesh side had agreed to check the lists.

Replying to a query, Hussain said Bangladesh

territory will never be allowed to be used against any other country, particularly a friendly country like India.

"We're fully satisfied with the level of cooperation we got from Bangladesh to apprehend the insurgents", BSF chief said.

Smuggling of phensedyl into Bangladesh and smuggling of fake currencies into India "is of equal concern", Bansal said, adding, "Both sides are talking in terms of exchanging photos of smugglers and exchanging interrogation reports of the wanted people."

Regarding fencing within 150 yards of the international border in 185 patches, both sides agreed to start joint survey in first week of April, the joint statement said.

"Realising the growing threat posed by the criminals and pirates in the Sunderbans area, both sides agreed to intensify patrolling," it added.

On the debatable issue of undertaking developmental works within 150 yards of international border, the two sides agreed to inform each other well in advance before starting any such work.

Hussain led a 22-member delegation at the talks with the BSF.

Navy goes to patrol

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"We cruised up to 175 nautical miles into the Bay. We usually do not patrol this deep. But the sea was quiet and we had our orders.

"We did not see any Myanmar ship in our territory. The only Myanmar ship we saw was well within their territory," said the officer.

On March 14, Bangladesh won the verdict at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which sustained its claim to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal, rejecting the claims of Myanmar. With this, Bangladesh got its right in a sea area of 1.11 lakh square miles.

Following this, Bangladesh for the first time patrolled the area without any hitch last week. "We could not go to this line before. But now we know our limit and they know theirs,"

quips the officer.

The navy would continue the patrol round the year, although from April, the sea turns too rough.

Previously, Bangladeshi fishermen used to be detained or harassed by the Myanmar navy personnel if they were found to be cruising in the disputed waters.

However, presently, US oil company ConocoPhillips is conducting a 2,200 kilometre seismic survey to explore oil or gas in a sea area, part of which were previously claimed by Myanmar. The survey is expected to be complete next month.

Upon interpretation of the seismic data, if the company finds any prospect and decides to drill any exploratory well there next year, the navy would have to ensure necessary security.

Back in November 2008, naval forces of Bangladesh

and Myanmar were locked in a tense standoff for nearly a week when the latter brought in an oil and gas exploration ship in the disputed waters. The hotspot was located 55 kilometres southwest at 227 degrees from the Saint Martin's Island.

The Myanmar authorities were escorting a Korean ship to start exploration activities there ignoring warnings put by the Bangladesh Navy. All diplomatic bids to end this face-off seemed to be failing until the South Korean company itself withdrew from the operation.

After the maritime boundary issue is settled, it now appears that the 2008 exploration area by Myanmar falls within their territory. A naval officer said that Bangladesh enjoys its rights up to 215 degrees southwest from the Saint Martin's Island.

PLOT TO UNSEAT MUGABE Zimbabwe convicts 6


REUTERS, Harare

A Zimbabwe court convicted a group of six activists yesterday of plotting to unseat President Robert Mugabe's government using public protests similar to ones that pushed out long-standing autocratic rulers in North Africa last year.

The group, led by Munyaradzi Gwisai, a former opposition lawmaker in Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party, was arrested in February last year after police raided a meeting they were conducting.

They were charged with attempting to incite public violence to overthrow Mugabe, who has ruled the southern African state since its independence from Britain in 1980. All defendants denied the charges.

The activists face up to 10 years in jail. Sentencing was scheduled today.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

Invitation for Bids for Procurement of Structure for Goat and Poultry sheds

Credit No. 4507 – BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.2G25.L and 4G14.L

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of goods against two Livestock packages. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Structure for Goat and Poultry sheds. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items/similar items are only encouraged to participate. The delivery period is between 16 (sixteen) weeks to 36 (thirty six) weeks from the date of the Notification of the Award.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRRP office of FAO Representation in Bangladesh (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9/A, Apt. # A -1, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka – 1209, Telephone 8130758/104) during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 Hrs. A complete set of bidding documents for each package in English may be purchased by the interested bidders from the ECRRP office of FAO on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned below. The method of payment for the tender documents will be in cash against a written receipt. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount mentioned below.


Package No.	Item	Quantity/Nos.	Bid Security (Tk.)	Price of Bid Document (Tk.)
4G14.L	Structure for Poultry Sheds	8400 Nos.	800,000.00	3,000
2G25.L	Structure for Goat Sheds	4750 Nos.	800,000.00	3,000

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on 16 April 2012. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
House # 37, Road # 8
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 880-2-8118015
Fax: 8802-2-811 3446

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.

Job Opportunity



Plan is an international humanitarian, child-centered development organization with no religious, political or government affiliations working in 70 countries across the globe with its headquarters in the UK. Plan works with over one million children, their families and communities in 50 developing countries around the world, implementing projects at the grass root and national level in health, education, water and sanitation, income generation and cross cultural communication. Plan is registered with the United Nations following recognition in 1989 and has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and UNICEF.

Chief of Party

Plan Bangladesh is recruiting Chief of Party (COP) for its USAID-funded project on Protecting Human Rights (PHR).

Position Summary

The COP is a full-time position to oversee the implementation of all PHR activities and will be responsible for the following:

- Provide overall technical and managerial leadership, including technical oversight, financial management and administration, and grants management.
- Liaise with USAID/Bangladesh, implementing partners, GoB and other donors and stakeholders.
- Lead advocacy efforts with key government and non-government stakeholders.
- Oversee and coordinate implementation of all project components, ensuring that project milestones are met.
- Oversee internal management of the project, including the budget and performance monitoring through donor approved monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Document project achievements for communications materials.

Required Skills and Qualifications

- Masters in Political Science, Sociology, Development Studies, Public Administration, International Affairs, Law or other relevant field.
- A minimum of ten years of field experience, in management of human rights promotion and protection.
- Demonstrated expertise in the management and implementation of human rights promotion and protection programs through formal and non-formal approaches, including advocacy and capacity building programming.
- Comprehension of Bangladesh's existing human rights and rule of law systems, including relevant governing rules, regulations, laws, and oversight Ministries.
- Recognized technical expertise on domestic violence and human rights issues.
- Sensitive to gender issues and respectful of cultural, educational and religious values.
- Knowledge of and experience with USAID project management and administration policies, procedures and reporting requirements, and demonstrated ability to meet rigorous timelines and track project results.
- Excellent communication skills in English.

Employment Condition:

Contract employment up to February 2016 which is yearly renewable.

To Apply

Please send your updated CV, a covering letter with salary requirements and completed Plan's Job Application Form to planbd.hr@plan-international.org by mentioning 'Chief of Party' in the subject line. The last date for receiving application is **29th March 2012**. The Job Application Form can be downloaded from www.bdjobs.com. Only short listed applicants will be called for interview. Any form of persuasion in the selection process will automatically disqualify the candidacy.

Plan is an equal opportunities employer
 As an international child-centered development organization, committed to the wellbeing of children and to supporting the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Plan does not tolerate child abuse.
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