

Hillary issues new Iran warning

Terms Tehran talks proposals useless

AFP, Jerusalem



Iran's proposals in nuclear talks with world powers are unworkable, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Monday, warning the US would use "all elements of its power" to prevent Tehran going nuclear.

Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem following a day of talks with top Israeli officials, Hillary said Iran had yet to make the decision to turn back from its nuclear ambitions, which much of the West believes masks a drive for atomic weapons.

"I made very clear that the proposals we have seen thus far from Iran within the P5+1 negotiations are non-starters," she said of the latest round of talks, which took place in Istanbul earlier this month.

"Despite three rounds of talks it appears that Iran has yet to make the strategic decision to address the international community's concerns and fulfill its obligations."

"We will use all elements of American power

to prevent Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon," she said in remarks, which carried an implied threat of military action-- a course of action never ruled out by Washington.

She made her remarks just days after the United States imposed a wave of fresh sanctions on Iran, targeting companies tied to Tehran's procurement, petroleum, and shipping networks.

Israel believes a nuclear Iran would pose an existential threat to the Jewish state and has refused to rule out a military strike on its nuclear facilities. It has warned that the current level of diplomatic pressure and sanctions is not putting enough pressure on the Islamic Republic.

But Hillary said the Obama administration was "in close consultation" with Israel over ways to increase the pressure on Tehran.

"We talked about concrete steps that we can take to continue to build the pressure," she said. "We are pressing forward in close consultation with Israel."



PHOTO: AFP
Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks with UN-Arab League special envoy and peace mediator Kofi Annan during their meeting in central Moscow yesterday. Annan's first meeting with Putin since his May return to the Kremlin came one day before Western powers plan to hold a vote on a UN Security Council resolution that threatens sanctions against the Damascus regime.

Suu Kyi's first US visit since release

AFP, Washington

Myanmar's Nobel Prize-winning opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will travel to the United States in September on her first visit since spending years under house arrest, a think-tank yesterday said.

Suu Kyi, who was elected to parliament this year in a dramatic sign of Myanmar's reforms, has indicated that she will attend a dinner in New York on September 21 to accept an award from the Atlantic Council, said Taleen Ananian, a spokeswoman for the think-tank.

It would be the 67-year-old Suu Kyi's first visit to the United States since the 1980s. She spent most of the past two decades under house arrest after a military junta refused to accept her party's victory in 1990 elections.

NEWS IN brief

N Korea names new army chief

AFP, Seoul

North Korea has named a new army vice marshal, state media said yesterday, a day after it announced the communist country's army chief had been relieved of all his posts.

"Hyon Yong-Chol was awarded the title of vice marshal of the Korean People's Army," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday.

The decision was taken on Monday by the ruling party's Central Military Commission and the country's National Defence Commission, KCNA said in a

Tibetan 'self-immolates' in China

AFP, Beijing

A teenage Tibetan Buddhist monk set himself on fire in southwest China yesterday, the exiled Tibetan government said, the latest in a series of self-immolation protests against Chinese rule.

The 18-year old monk, identified as Lobsang Lozin, set himself alight in Bharkham county in Sichuan province as he marched towards a government office, the India-based Central Tibetan Administration said in a statement.

At least 42 people have set themselves on fire in Tibetan-inhabited areas of China in recent months, in protest at repressive government policies.

US suffers worst drought in 56 yrs

AFP, Washington

The United States is experiencing its widest-spread drought in 56 years, according to a release by the nation's meteorological agency Monday.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that some 55 percent of the contiguous United States, particularly in the Midwest, suffered from drought last month, according to the Palmer Drought Index, a formula that determines dryness based on temperature and rainfall data.

The percentage is the largest since 1956, when

Japan warily eyes typhoon

AFP, Ukiha, Japan

Flood-battered southwestern Japan yesterday braced for a typhoon amid fears it could heap further misery on an area where at least 32 people are dead or missing after record rainfall.

Typhoon Khanun was lashing the Amami island chain, south of Kyushu, where four days of torrential rain sparked landslides and flooding, forcing hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

Khanun -- "jack fruit" in Thai -- packing winds of up to 126 kilometres (78 miles) per hour, was moving northwest and expected to graze Kyushu island through Wednesday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Nepal bus accident kills 16

AFP, Kathmandu

A bus swerved off a road in central Nepal before dawn on Monday and plunged into a river, killing 16 people, police said -- the latest in a string of deadly accidents on the country's highways.

The incident came less than 24 hours after at least 39 pilgrims were killed when an overcrowded bus taking them from India to a Hindu festival in southern Nepal fell into a canal.

Police said Monday's deaths occurred when the night-bus fell 200 metres (650 feet) down a cliff after the driver was thought to have fallen asleep.

"The death toll from this morning's bus accident in Krishnabhir has reached 16," police sub-inspector Deep Kaffle said, adding that the driver was among the dead.

Egypt court set to decide Morsi power

AGENCIES

Brawls broke out in an Egyptian courtroom as judges tried to debate rulings yesterday that could either bolster the country's new Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, or undermine him in his power struggle with the military.

Morsi's allies in the Muslim Brotherhood hailed a "decisive" day in the country's democratic transition and hundreds of supporters came to protest at the courthouse, accusing the generals of using the judiciary to undermine his authority.

Despite his election victory in June, Morsi has yet to form a cabinet and there is no fully functioning government, parliament or constitution for Egypt, deepening the sense of turmoil that has pushed the economy to the brink of a balance of payments and budget crisis.

Legal opinion is split on whether the Cairo administrative court will strike down Egypt's constituent assembly, formed by an Islamist-dominated parliament with the task of re-writing Egypt's constitution.

The divisions were reflected at the court, where members of the public pushed and elbowed lawyers and one other, angrily shouting demands and counter demands.

"Down, down with military rule," cried supporters of the Brotherhood who want the constituent assembly to continue its work.

That drew an angry response from their opponents. "Down, down with the rule of the (Brotherhood's) Supreme Guide," shouted a woman as the courtroom descended into mayhem.

MUMBAI CARNAGE, 2008 Pak court rejects probe result

PTI, Islamabad

In a setback to the prosecution of seven suspects charged with involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, a Pakistani court yesterday ruled that all findings of a judicial commission that visited India were illegal and could not be made part of the evidence against the accused.

Chaudhry Habib-ur-Rehman, the judge of the Rawalpindi-based anti-terrorism court no. 1, said in an order that all the proceedings and the report of the Pakistani judicial commission that visited Mumbai in March were "illegal."

"The judge ruled that the commission's report is illegal and could not be made part of the records for the case," said Khwaja Haris Ahmed, the counsel for Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, one of the seven accused.

"The court has the right to examine whether the working and report of a commission was duly executed and in this case it ruled that the report was not duly executed. The report will not be read in evidence," Ahmed said.

The lawyers defending the accused had opposed the report of the Pakistani commission, saying it had "no legal value" as the panel was not allowed to cross-examine witnesses during the visit to Mumbai.

The eight-member commission, which included prosecutors and defence lawyers, visited Mumbai and interviewed a judge, a senior police officer and two doctors who conducted the autopsies of the terrorists and victims.

Taliban shoot UN doctor in Karachi

AFP, Karachi

Gunmen opened fire on a UN vehicle in Pakistan's volatile city of Karachi yesterday, wounding a foreign doctor working on a polio immunisation campaign and a local driver, officials said.

The shooting, which happened in the low-income eastern neighbourhood of Sohrah Goth, highlighted resistance to a widely publicised three-day vaccination campaign, which began Monday.

The Taliban have banned immunisations in the northwest, condemning the campaign as a cover for espionage since a Pakistani doctor was jailed after helping the CIA find Osama bin Laden using a hepatitis vaccination programme.

US Navy kills Indian fisherman

Washington regrets killing

THE HINDU ONLINE

The US Government has officially confirmed that shots fired by a US Navy vessel had killed an Indian and injured three more off a Dubai port on Monday afternoon, said official sources in New Delhi.

The US Ambassador to India Nancy Powell telephoned Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai this morning to convey her regret for the loss of life and assured that the US Government would conduct full investigation.

A US Embassy news release said the crew of a small motor vessel, which came under fire from the USNS Rappahannock on July 16, after the vessel had disregarded non-lethal warnings and rapidly approached the US ship.

"We will stay in regular touch with US and UAE authorities to ascertain full facts and take appropriate further action in the matter," said the sources in the Ministry of External Affairs.

According to UAE officials, one Indian fisherman was killed in the firing incident and three other Indians were injured.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of life of the Indian fisherman and the injuries sustained by the others."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Nelson Mandela

First black president of South Africa

- 2010 Participates in World Cup closing ceremony
- 1918 Born July 18 in Transkei
- 1943 Joins African National Congress (ANC)
- 1952 Opens first black law practice in Johannesburg with Oliver Tambo
- Leads campaign of civil disobedience against apartheid, institutionalised since 1948
- 1956 With 155 other militants, he is accused of high treason
- 1961 Acquitted of high treason, Mandela forms the armed branch of the ANC, which he leads
- 1962 Sentenced to 5 years for incitement to strike and leaving the country illegally
- 1964 Sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage and high treason. Sent to maximum-security jail on Robben Island
- 1990 Freed on February 11
- 1993 Wins Nobel Peace Prize with Frederik de Klerk, the last apartheid president
- 1994 Elected president after the ANC wins South Africa's first multi-racial elections
- 1999 Retires from the presidency
- 2004 Announces his retirement from public life



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http://www.katalyst.com.bd/abtus_procurement.php

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Katalyst, a pro-poor market development project implemented under the Ministry of Commerce by Swisscontact and GIZ International Services, requests proposals from interested organisations for developing and publishing Photo Book. The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the assignment can be downloaded from the following web-link:
http://www.katalyst.com.bd/abtus_procurement.php

Interested organisations bidding for the assignment are requested to submit their technical and financial proposals separately by 5:00pm, 29 July 2012 at the Katalyst office.