

S Korea to hold live-fire drill near disputed islets

AFP, Seoul

South Korean military said yesterday it would hold a rare live-fire drill near islets also claimed by Japan in a move likely to further raise diplomatic tensions with Tokyo.

The navy plans to hold the exercise near the Seoul-controlled chain of islets, called Dokdo by the South and Takeshima by Japan, today, the defence ministry said.

"The navy plans to hold live-fire exercises near Dokdo tomorrow as part of its regular training," the ministry said in a statement.

Seoul's navy and coastguard have for years staged joint exercises near Dokdo but those do not involve live-fire drills.

Today's naval drill is not part of the biannual exercises.

In Tokyo, the top government spokesman said that Japan had lodged an immediate protest.

"It is extremely regrettable," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters. "Our country is strongly urging the South Korean government to cancel the exercise."

The rocky outcrops have been the subject of a bitter and decades-old territorial dispute between the two neighbours.

The row escalated in 2012 following a surprise visit by then South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak.

Tension escalated earlier this year after Japan moved to revise school textbooks to strengthen its historical claim to the islets.

Relations between the South and Japan are currently at their lowest ebb for years, mired in emotive disputes linked to Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, including the islet dispute.

Many South Koreans believe Japan failed to properly atone for abuses carried out during the Japanese occupation.

The latest move by Seoul also came as Japan began a controversial review of its landmark 1993 apology over the use of many South Korean and Chinese women as wartime sex slaves for Tokyo troops.

Unicycle

FROM PAGE 16

way of travelling short distances.

Sceptics may scratch their head and wonder what is wrong with the humble bicycle but retired physicist Alvarez-Icaza insists his design is better.

On Wednesday, he said: "It's a bit like a unicycle but it is more efficient. It's simplicity itself and you build up momentum very quickly."

"You just lean to change direction and to stop you lean back on the seat and the brakes come on."

"It uses the natural movements of the body to propel it. Its top speed is about a jogging pace, although I'm sure with practice you may be able to go faster."

"So, it's a jogging speed with the effort of walking. I can see it being ideal for use in cities and towns."

"We'll have a sports version as well and you could use it for games like basketball or even football. It's more efficient than a unicycle or a bicycle and easier to use."

He also said: "The Velofoot is a very exciting project and I will develop it further. It's a real step forward."

The 61-year-old was born in Mexico but has spent the past 18 years living in the Highlands.

Alvarez's original aim was to develop something more practical than a bike for travelling in city centres.

Assam govt

FROM PAGE 2

our neighbours, including Bangladesh. But we have to look into the security aspects also," Gogoi said.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is scheduled to fly to Dhaka on June 25 on a three-day visit when she is likely to meet Bangladesh's top leaders and discuss vital issues, including relaxation of visa norms.

Her Dhaka visit is considered part of Modi government's outreach to the neighbouring countries as was evident in the invitations to top Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) leaders to the swearing-in ceremony of the prime minister on May 26.

Modi, however, during his campaigns ahead of the general polls this year, said that if Bharatiya Janata Party came to power, all illegal Bangladeshi immigrants living in India would be deported.

A regular preacher on Peace TV, Bilal

Superb Suarez sinks

FROM PAGE 1

stronger but they suffered a scare when Phil Jagielka lost the ball in defence and Cristian Rodriguez couldn't keep his rising shot on target.

After a scrappy period, Uruguay again went close when Suarez's low corner from the right was struck first time by Cavani but whistled over the bar.

On the half-hour, Rooney came within inches of scoring when, from about a yard away, he headed a Steven Gerrard free-kick against the angle between the post and crossbar.

England were in the ascendancy but six minutes from the break, it was Uruguay who scored on the counter via the hitherto quiet Suarez, after England lost the ball on the halfway line.

Nicolas Lodeiro passed left to Cavani, who wrong-footed the entire defence with a sumptuous diagonal chip to the Liverpool forward, who got away from Jagielka and looped his header over Hart.

Almost straight away, Sturridge drew a sharp stop from Fernando Muslera as England sought in vain for a response before half-time.

After the break, Suarez very nearly doubled Uruguay's lead first when his corner was parried by Hart off the line, and then when he shot well wide with the goal at his mercy.

England, now defending in front of the Uruguay support, were looking ragged and Cavani also should have put his team 2-0 up when he burst into the penalty area but fired wide.

However, Rooney almost got the equaliser when he latched on to a cross from the left and hammered a shot at the diving Muslera.

An accidental Raheem Sterling knee to the head knocked out Alvaro Pereira but he refused to be substituted.

Sturridge burst into the box and should have done better with a weak shot which rolled to the goalkeeper.

England boss Roy Hodgson threw on Ross Barkley and Adam Lallana for Sterling and Danny Welbeck but it was Glen Johnson who created England's breakthrough when he beat his man on the right of the box.

The right-back's rolled ball fell perfectly for Rooney and the grateful Manchester United striker had the simplest of tap-ins as he finally scored his debut goal at a World Cup finals.

Sturridge then worked Muslera as England, buoyed by Rooney's goal, came alive and looked an increasing threat.

But again it was Uruguay who struck through Suarez, who gambled to latch onto a long ball from defence and lashed his shot past Hart, before celebrating wildly in front of his adoring fans.

Pak Muslim minority seek refuge in China

AFP, Sanhe

Fleeing discrimination and violence, members of a Muslim sect have abandoned their homes in Pakistan to find an unlikely refuge in China.

"Every day I heard the sound of guns," said a 37-year-old surnamed Saeed of his former home Lahore, Pakistan's second city.

"We prayed every day, because we felt something could happen to us at any time."

He is one of hundreds of people who have sought asylum in China in recent years, often from conflict and violence-stricken countries including Iraq and Somalia.

The government tolerates their presence but provides almost no support, while human rights groups have for years condemned Beijing for deporting tens of thousands of asylum seekers who enter it to escape oppression in North Korea and Myanmar.

Around 35 of the almost 500 UN-registered asylum seekers and refugees currently in China are Ahmadi Muslims -- a sect which believes their 19th century founder Ghulam Ahmad to be a prophet, and that Jesus Christ died aged 120 in Srinagar, in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

They are among the most persecuted minorities in Pakistan -- a constitutional Islamic republic which bans them from calling themselves Muslims or going on the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

In 2010 militants stormed two Ahmadi prayer halls, killing 82 worshippers in gun and grenade attacks, before targeting a hospital where victims were being treated. Ahmadi mosques and graveyards are regularly desecrated.

Even high-achieving Ahmadis have been shunned, including physics professor Abdus Salam, Pakistan's only Nobel laureate.

China is regularly condemned by the US State Department for its restrictions on religious freedom, which analysts say are key elements of the tensions it faces in Buddhist-majority Tibet and mainly Muslim Xinjiang.

But Saeed, who arrived four years ago, said: "From a security point of

view, China is good.

"There is almost no terrorism compared to Pakistan, where there is killing and persecution of minorities every day," he told AFP in a rented apartment in Sanhe, a city outside Beijing where clumps of high-rise apartment blocks overshadow restaurants offering donkey meat burgers.

Two of his cousins were killed in the 2010 attack, he added.

The Ahmadi refugees in Sanhe said they paid middle-men up to \$3,000 each for Chinese visas -- more than twice the average yearly income in Pakistan.

Once in China, Saeed said, "You have to do everything for yourself."

He lives off overseas family donations and added: "I don't expect anything from the Chinese."

New arrivals receive no benefits unless the UN grants them refugee status after a gruelling 18-month series of tests and even then China refuses to integrate them, denying them the right to work while they wait for acceptance from a third country, often for years.

"In this kind of a situation, you can't enjoy life much," said Saeed.

But teenager Laiba Ahmad, who arrived around two years ago with her mother and several siblings, had no doubts, even though she does not have enough Chinese to attend school.

"I am happy here compared with Pakistan," she said. "Pakistan was dangerous. We could not go outside without our brothers and fathers, if you are a woman especially."

On a recent afternoon around 10 refugees gathered in Saeed's flat for an English lesson. Practising the present tense, they called out descriptions of their jobless lives.

"We play football daily," offered Ahsan Ahmad, 22, who fled Pakistan after mullahs attacked two of his uncles.

"We offer prayer daily," said another student.

China signed up to the UN's refugee protocol in 1982, but does not have any mechanism to assess their claims, leaving it to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Bilal Philips sent back

FROM PAGE 1

official who works with immigration.

On Tuesday evening, government officials told him at a Dhaka hotel, where he had checked in, that he had to leave the country.

It was not clear on what grounds the 68-year-old Jamaica-born preacher, who had been in the country twice earlier to deliver lectures, was deported. However, online media reports suggest that he was suspected to be a terrorist and co-conspirator in many western countries.

Bilal Philips, who studied in Saudi Arabia and is currently living in Qatar, was invited to Bangladesh by Sean Academy, a sister concern of Islamic Online University, a global institution founded by him.

Sharif Abu Hayat, manager at Sean Academy, said he had arrived in the country to deliver five lectures on education-related matters in Dhaka and Chittagong. "He came to the country using on-arrival visa..." said Hayat.

He is imam and khateeb at Abu Hurairah Centre, where he teaches five free university-level classes and counsels Muslim families.

Asked about the deportation, State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan said some foreigners were deported but he was not aware whether Philips was among them.

A regular preacher on Peace TV, Bilal

Philips was deported from Kenya on security concerns in 2012.

Philips was supposed to give two lectures on "The Purification of the Wealth" and "The Nation United" at the capital's Institute of Diploma Engineers on June 21.

Another lecture was supposed to be delivered at Kisholoy Community Centre in Chittagong on "Roots of Civilisation" on June 23.

The next day, a lecture on "The One" at the United International University (UIU) and the fifth lecture were to be held at Emmanuel's Banquet Hall in Jigatola on June 25.

He was supposed to leave for Malaysia to join a conference there, said Hayat.

Bilal Philips' official website suggests he was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in Toronto, Canada, where he converted to Islam in 1972.

He is imam and khateeb at Abu

Hurairah Centre, where he teaches five free university-level classes and counsels Muslim families.

Asked about the deportation, State Minister for Home Affairs Asaduzzaman Khan said some foreigners were deported but he was not aware whether Philips was among them.

A regular preacher on Peace TV, Bilal

Philips was among the 100 foreigners who were deported on June 21.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim community.

Philips was born in 1950 in the US and has been living in the UK since 1972.

He is a member of the Ahmadiyya