North Korea welcomes 2023 with missiles

AFP, *Seoul*

North Korea fired three short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, Seoul's military said, adding a final salvo to Pyongyang's record-breaking blitz of launches this year.

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula have risen sharply in 2022 as the North has conducted sanctions-busting weapons tests nearly every month.

Yesterday's launch comes a day after South Korea successfully tested a solid-fuel space launch vehicle, and follows the incursion of five North Korean drones into the South's airspace earlier in the week.

South Korea's military said it had detected "three short-range ballistic missiles launched by North Korea into the East Sea from the area of Chunghwa County, North Hwanghae Province, at around 08:00 (2300 GMT)", referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

New Year's Eve fireworks light up the sky over the Sydney Opera House (L) and Harbour Bridge during the fireworks display in Sydney, Australia, today. The world's eight billion people have begun ushering in 2023 and bidding farewell to a turbulent 12 months marked by war in Europe, stinging price rises, Lionel Messi's World Cup glory and the deaths of Queen Elizabeth, Pele and former pope Benedict. PHOTO: AFP

UNGA refers Israeli occupation to UN court

AFP, *United Nations*

The UN General Assembly on Friday asked the International Court of Justice to consider consequences for Israel over its occupation of Palestinian territories, a day after the Jewish state's most right-wing government ever took over.

The General Assembly voted 87-26 with 53 abstentions on the resolution, with Western nations split but virtually unanimous support in the Islamic world -- including Arab states that have normalized relations with Israel -- and backing from Russia and China.

The resolution calls on the UN court in The Hague to determine the "legal consequences arising from the ongoing violation by Israel of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination" as well as of its measures "aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status" of the holy city of Jerusalem.

The Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations, Riyad Mansour, said the vote sent a signal to the new government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over its efforts to "accelerate colonial and racist policies" and hailed nations that were "undeterred by threats and pressure."

"We trust that regardless of your vote today, if you believe in international law and peace, you will uphold the opinion of the International Court of Justice when delivered," Mansour said.

The resolution also demands that Israel cease settlements but General Assembly votes have no legal force -- unlike those in the Security Council, where US ally Israel wields veto power.

Shadow cast on celebrations

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July that year. Since then, the rift between the pro-Raushan and pro-Quader groups has frequently been on the headlines.

In September 2019 the party got split. Although the party got united later with Quader as its chief and Raushan as the chief patron, the feud persisted.

Raushan's political secretary Golam Moshi, also leader of the opposition in parliament, yesterday told The Daily Star that the division between the groups barely existed now and both Raushan and Quader would be on the same stage to mark the party's anniversary.

Raushan will be the chief guest at the programme at JP's central office at the capital's Kakrail. Usually, the party chief gets to be the chief guest at such programmes.

But Quader will not be able to speak at the event this year because of a court restriction on him performing his tasks as the JP chairman, said JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu who will preside over the event today.

Golam Moshi said the presence of Raushan and Quader will be a message to the party's grassroots that most of the differences will be gone soon.

Chunnu claimed there are no rifts in the JP.

"Those who talk about the groups and divisions, either do not belong to the party or have got expelled from the organisation," he said.

Currently, the JP's challenge is to find 300 suitable candidates to participate in the next general election.

In a meeting on December 13, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged Raushan and Quader to resolve their conflicts and strengthen the party to be able to participate in the next election independently.

The latest conflict started brewing when Raushan on August 31 convened the party's 10th council for November 26.

Due to alleged government pressure, Raushan postponed the council later.

Insiders said pro-Raushan groups planned to oust Quader from the party helm at the council.

On September 1, the pro-Quader group at a meeting decided to remove Raushan from the post of the opposition leader.

In recent days, Quader has been fiercely criticising the government.

Aggrieved by his criticism, the ruling Awami League high-ups allegedly started backing the pro-Raushan groups, sources said.

Ershad seized state power through a coup in March 1982 and formed the JP on January 1, 1986.

Space for civil liberty shrinks

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was abused regularly, it said.

But the data on this law is hard to get from police and court these days, Nur Khan said.

At least 2,249 cases have been recorded under this act in 2022 in Rajshahi, Chattogram and Dhaka divisions, he said, adding that ASK could not access the data from the rest of the country.

The government tightened the control on digital media by formulating new laws and rules, it said.

Last June, the NGO Affairs Bureau rejected the application to renew the registration of rights organisation Odhikar, ASK said.

Five people were victims of enforced disappearance in 2022. Of them, four were shown arrested later while one returned.

People were detained by individuals claiming to be law enforcers, but the law enforcers didn't provide any information about the detention. Some of those individuals were recorded as arrested at a later time. "This is a clear violation of the law," the ASK stated.

According to ASK data, 19 people were victims of extrajudicial killings in 2022. Of them, four were killed in so-called gunfights with Rab.

"We want proper investigation of every extrajudicial killing. The investigation of every such incident stops at a point. This is why these incidents should be investigated by an independent commission," said the statement.

Khandaker Mahbbub no more

FROM PAGE 16

Abul Hasan was an educationalist. He joined the language movement as a high school student in Narayanganj.

After finishing high school, he went to Notre Dame College and then Dhaka University in 1958. He was elected the vice president of the Dhaka University Law Association in 1962. In the same year, he was arrested for violating Section 144.

He supported the freedom fighters in the Liberation War in 1971 by using his house as an armoury. He was enlisted as a lawyer of the High Court in 1967 and became the chief prosecutor to bring war criminals to justice.

Khandaker Mahbub was enlisted as a senior advocate of the Supreme Court in 1988 and became the president of the Supreme Court Lawyers' Association four times in 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2015. He became the vice chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council in 2007 and 2012.

He was trustee board president at the Vocational Training Centre for the Blind and an advisor at "KochiKacha", an organisation for children.

He received the Jasimuddin Gold Medal in 2006, Kabi Nazrul Gold Medal in 2007, and Dr Muhammad Shahidullah Gold Medal in 2008 among other accolades.

The prominent lawyer was involved in the Ataur Mridha vs State, Shajneen murder case, Chanpa murder case, Saleha Khuki murder case, Ershad Sikder vs State, and many other important cases during his career.

Paediatric wards overflowing in the North

FROM PAGE 16

He said some 45 patients were getting admitted every day with cold-related issues. The number was under 30 two weeks ago.

Shahana Akter, a new mother, said she took her 15-day-old child suffering from breathing difficulties to the hospital .

Doctors said most patients had respiratory problems, pneumonia, diarrhoea, asthma, and jaundice.

In Naogaon Sadar Hospital, some 90 patients were receiving treatment yesterday, said hospital sources.

Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital is also witnessing excessive number of patients with cold-related diseases. There were patients on the floors, in corridors and even in staircases.

"Some 148 children with pneumonia, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases have been admitted to the pediatric ward where there are only 45 beds," said Firoz Zaman, superintendent of the hospital.

Lutfa Begum, 23, of Haripur upazila, said, "My six-month-old son is suffering from diarrhoea. As we could not get a bed, we have been staying on the floor for the last three days."

Sazzad Haidar Shahin, a consultant of the pediatric department, suggested that the parents keep their children indoors during cold waves.

In Lalmonirhat, some 560 patients suffering from cold-related diseases were receiving treatment at different hospitals, said Civil Surgeon Nirmalendu Roy.

In Kurigram, the situation is similar. Some 980 children and 240 elderly people had treatment for cold-related diseases in hospitals over the last five days.

The Met office yesterday evening forecast moderate to thick fog at places between midnight and morning. Rain is unlikely. Yesterday's lowest temperature, 8.7 degrees Celsius, was recorded in Tentulia of Panchagarh.

[Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Thakurgaon and Lalmonirhat contributed to the report]

Former pope

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overwhelmed by the responsibilities of leading the Catholic Church, particularly as it battled a worldwide scandal over clerical child sex abuse.

"Pope Benedict was one of the greatest theologians of his age -- committed to the faith of the Church and stalwart in its defence," said Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, of Benedict's native Germany, hailed "a formative figure of the Catholic Church, an argumentative personality and a clever theologian".

The Vatican said Benedict's body will be displayed from Monday morning in St Peter's Basilica to allow the faithful to pay their respects, ahead of a "solemn but simple" funeral later in the week.

The German pope emeritus, whose birth name was Joseph Ratzinger, had been living a quiet life in a former convent inside the Vatican grounds since his resignation.

His health had been declining for a long time, and he had almost entirely withdrawn from public few when the Vatican revealed on Wednesday that his situation had worsened.

That same day, Francis called for Catholics worldwide to pray for him and he received the last rites, a Catholic tradition for the dying.

New curriculum rolls out

FROM PAGE 1

Neither were the teachers given any training on how to implement the curriculum nor were they given a guide, both very important steps for the implementation of a curriculum, according to Mohammad Tariq Ahsan, a member of the Curriculum Development and Revision Core Committee.

There are 4.03 lakh teachers at about 1.19 lakh schools and kindergarten teaching more than 2 crore students, according to the directorate of primary education.

"There will be a big change in the teachers' role in the new curriculum and their training should be of utmost priority," said Ahsan, who teaches at the University of Dhaka's Institute of Education and Research.

The National Curriculum and Textbook Board is now working on the final draft of the online training material for teachers, which is scheduled to take place by January 15, said AKM Reazul Hassan, NCTB member (primary curriculum).

The two-hour online training could not take place as the primary teachers were busy with scholarship exams, he said, adding that the in-person five-day training will be completed within three months.

Asked about the delay, Hassan said: "We got the money in April and then came Ramadan. So we could not start the process on time. But we don't think the teachers will face any kind of difficulty as the outgoing curriculum for the primary level was already competence-based."

Usually, the textbooks published in the first year are experimental editions and see the necessary revision in the following year's print run. So, there will be scope to revise the books if needed, Hassan added.

The situation is marginally better at the secondary level.

The curriculum, which focuses on activity-based learning, has been piloted at 62 secondary schools, and the teachers have already been provided with a guide.

"So the teachers will not face too many problems in delivering lessons in the classroom," said Moshiuzzaman, NCTB member (curriculum).

There are 2.37 lakh teachers at 18,874 secondary schools teaching 89.30 lakh pupils, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics.

In the new curriculum, there will be no public exams before class 10 and no exams of any kind for students up to class 3.

SSC exams will take place for only five subjects.

HSC exams will take place in two phases after classes XI and XII based on the curriculum of the respective classes and the final result will be determined by combining the results of both phases.

Under the existing system, students of classes 9 and 10 take the SSC exam on 10 papers after studying a syllabus for two years. They sit for the HSC exams on 12 papers after studying a two-year syllabus in classes 11 and 12.

It is also going to introduce streams -- science, humanities and business studies -- from class 11. In the existing curriculum, students had to choose the streams in class 9.

The number of subjects for students will be reduced. There will be no textbooks but study materials for the two-year pre-primary education. Students from Class 8 to Class 10 will get 10 books. Currently, these students read 12 to 14 books.

Students would be evaluated based on regular school work until class 3. From class 4 to 8, 60 percent of the evaluation for Bangla, English, mathematics, social sciences and science will be done through school work and the rest through exams.

The curriculum was last revised in 2012.

BBC Bangla

FROM PAGE 2

part of the wider £500m of annual savings and reinvestment to make the [a] BBC digital-led [platform]," the BBC announced on October 30.

The decision will lead to the closures of around 382 posts.

BBC Bangla Radio broadcast began with a 15-minute weekly programme on October 11, 1941, and launched its website in 2005.

It proposed moving seven more language services to digital-only, modelling the success of others, which are already offering purely digital services and performing well with audiences. This means that nearly half of all 41 language services will be digital only.

Musk makes

FROM PAGE 16

on December 27.

Tesla is now offering consumers in the United States a $7,500 discount for its two highest-volume models before year-end. It has also reportedly reduced production at its Shanghai plant.

Musk's fortune topped at $340 billion in November 2021. Following this, he was the world's richest person for more than a year at a stretch. He was then overtaken this month by Bernard Arnault, the French business magnate and co-founder of luxury goods powerhouse LVMH.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং: ৫৭.০৩.০০০০.০০০.১৪.০৩০.২২ - ৬০১ তারিখ: ২৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০২২

বিষয়: ডিপ্লোমা/সমপর্যায়ের প্রতিষ্ঠানের সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য Institutional Development Grant (IDG) প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে Eligibility Application Form (EAF) পূরণ ও প্রেরণ

বাংলাদেশ সরকার ও বিশ্বব্যাংকের অর্থায়নে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের কারিগরি ও মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বিভাগের অধীন কারিগরি শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরাধীন Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation (ASSET) প্রকল্পের আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত সরকারি ও বেসরকারি কারিগরি শিক্ষার ডিপ্লোমা/সমপর্যায়ের প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য Institutional Development Grant (IDG) প্রদান করা হবে। প্রাথমিকভাবে Eligibile নির্ধারণের লক্ষ্যে ইচ্ছুক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে অনলাইনে Eligibility Application Form (EAF) পূরণ করে ডাকযোগে/কুরিয়ারে/ সরাসরি ১২ সেট হার্ড কপি (অনলাইন পূরণকৃত ডাউনলোড কপি এবং অন্যান্য প্রমাণকসহ) আবদ্ধ প্যাকেটে প্রকল্প পরিচালক বরাবর প্রেরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

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প্রতিষ্ঠানের ধরণ	সংস্থার ধরণ	সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
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ইনস্টিটিউট অফ হেলথ টেকনোলজি (IHT)	সরকারি ও বেসরকারি	স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়
মেডিকেল অ্যাসিস্ট্যান্ট ট্রেনিং স্কুল (MATS)	সরকারি ও বেসরকারি	
নার্সিং কলেজ/ইনস্টিটিউট (ডিপ্লোমা-পর্যায়)	সরকারি ও বেসরকারি	

*শুধুমাত্র পলিটেকনিক ইনস্টিটিউট

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