

N KOREAN NUKE COMPLEX

High level of activity spotted: think tank

AFP, Seoul

Satellite imagery has indicated a high level of activity at North Korea's main nuclear complex after leader Kim Jong Un ordered the production of weapons-grade nuclear material be ramped up, a US think tank said.

Washington-based 38 North said Saturday that images from March 3 and 17 suggested that an experimental light water reactor (ELWR) at the country's Yongbyon site was "nearing completion".

Construction had started on a new support building, while water discharges were detected from the reactor's cooling system, suggesting that the ELWR "is nearing a transition to operational status", the report said.

The images also indicated that a five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon continued to operate and new construction had started around the site's uranium enrichment plant, likely to expand its capabilities.

"These developments seem to reflect Kim Jong Un's recent directive to increase the fissile material production to expand its nuclear weapons arsenal," the report added.

On Tuesday, North Korean state media unveiled photos of Kim inspecting new, smaller nuclear warheads as he ordered an expansion in "the production of weapon-grade nuclear materials" for an "exponential" increase in the North's arsenal.

Experts said the potential tactical nuclear weapons did indeed show key signs of technical progress, and could indicate an imminent nuclear test.

Officials in Seoul and Washington have warned since early 2022 that North Korea may conduct its seventh nuclear test.



Local residents walk next to a damaged house after a Russian missile strike in the town of Kostyantynivka, in the Donetsk region, yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

Taliban holding three British men in detention

AFP, London

Britain's interior minister Suella Braverman yesterday said the UK government was "in negotiations" after three British men were detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Media reports have identified the men as charity medic Kevin Cornwell, 53, the unnamed manager of a hotel for aid workers and YouTube star Miles Routledge.

"The government is in negotiations and working hard to ensure people's safety is upheld," Braverman told Sky News.

The non-profit group the Presidium Network said on Twitter on Saturday it had been "working closely with two of the families".

"We are working hard to secure consular contact with British nationals detained in Afghanistan and we are supporting families," the UK's foreign ministry added.

One dead as clashes rock India's Bihar

AFP, New Delhi

Authorities deployed hundreds of riot police and cut mobile internet services in parts of eastern India yesterday after violent clashes erupted in at least eight states during a Hindu religious festival.

Police said one person was shot dead in the Nalanda district of Bihar state on Saturday after majority Hindus and minority Muslims clashed in the town of Biharsarif.

This came a day after mobs fought running battles and set fire to homes and shops during at times frenzied public celebrations of Ram Navami.

Hindu festivals regularly feature hundreds of people - sometimes brandishing swords - provocatively marching through Muslim neighbourhoods with religious music pulsating through powerful sound systems.

TRUMP INDICTMENT

Prosecuting ex-leaders common in democracies

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump has denounced his indictment as an abuse befitting a banana republic, but the move in fact puts the United States in line with fellow advanced democracies that have prosecuted former leaders.

France, Israel, Italy, South Korea, Romania and Croatia are among countries where courts have convicted a former president or prime minister, with charges pursued against former top leaders in a number of other democracies including Germany, Japan and Portugal.

For the United States, there is no precedent in the republic's nearly 250-year history - Trump is the first president, current or former, to be charged with a crime.

Trump, who has faced a slew of legal accusations, is expected



to turn himself in Tuesday in New York over a \$130,000 payment allegedly made to an adult film star to buy her silence during his 2016 campaign over an affair.

"There is evidence out there that democracies can be, and are, able to hold former leaders accountable," said Shelley Inglis, a former United Nations expert on democratic governance and rule of law who is now at the University of Dayton.

She pointed to France - where two former presidents, Jacques Chirac and Nicolas Sarkozy, were convicted of corruption - as an example where democratic institutions were not weakened but strengthened, despite "inevitable" accusations from partisans that charges are politically motivated.

Israel imprisoned former prime minister Ehud Olmert

over fraud and former president Moshe Katsav for rape. Israel's current and longest-serving prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, faces charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust. Recent attempts by his government to weaken the judiciary sparked massive protests.

In South Korea, two successive presidents, Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye, were jailed for bribery or corruption, although both were pardoned.

The most frequent international comparison to Trump has been Italian tycoon and three-time prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who has faced dozens of trials, including over alleged bribery and sex with an underage girl.

The 86-year-old Berlusconi has never spent time behind bars, perhaps giving Trump a bit of hope.

Trump and his Republican allies have raged against the charges led by Alvin Bragg, Manhattan's elected district attorney.

DEADLY STORMS

Death toll rises to 26 in US

AFP, Washington

The death toll from a major storm system that has lashed the south-central and eastern United States with devastating winds and powerful tornadoes rose to at least 26 by yesterday, officials said.

Tennessee, one of the hardest-hit states since the storms began Friday, initially had seven weather-related fatalities, but it later rose to nine, according to Memphis-based news channel WREG.

Scenes of devastation were left in the path of the Tennessee tornado, which twisted trees, flattened homes into piles of wooden boards, and ripped walls from structures. "The whole house, you can feel it shaking," said Janice Pieterick, whose house doors and glass windows were blown out.

Israeli strikes hurt 5 Syrian soldiers

AFP, Damascus

Five Syrian soldiers were wounded in the latest Israeli air strike on Syria, state news agency SANA reported yesterday, with Iran saying two Revolutionary Guards officers died in earlier attacks. During more than a decade of civil war in Syria, Israel has launched hundreds of air strikes on Syrian territory, primarily targeting Iran-backed forces and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, as well as Syrian army positions. The strike early yesterday near the western Syrian city of Homs was Israel's third in recent days after the capital Damascus was targeted on the nights of March 30 and 31, according to the agency. "The Israeli enemy carried out an air assault... targeting positions in the city of Homs and its province," SANA reported, citing a military source. Syria's air defence intercepted several missiles, but five soldiers were wounded and some material damage was reported, SANA said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said the strikes targeted several military positions of Syrian government forces and pro-Iran groups. The monitor said explosions rocked the city and a fire broke out in a research centre, with ambulances heading to the scene of the attack.



Women collect free bags of flour from a government distribution point in Lahore, Pakistan yesterday. At least 11 people were killed in a crowd crush in Pakistan's southern city of Karachi on March 31 as a Ramadan alms donation sparked a stampede in the inflation-hit nation, police said.

PHOTO: AFP

ARAB LEADERS' SUMMIT

KSA to invite Syria's Assad: sources

REUTERS, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia is planning to invite Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to an Arab League summit that Riyadh is hosting in May, three sources familiar with the plans said, a move that would formally end Syria's regional isolation.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan will travel to Damascus in coming weeks to hand Assad a formal invitation to attend the summit scheduled for May 19, two of the sources said.

The Saudi government's communication office and the

foreign ministries of both countries did not respond to requests for comments.

Gamal Roshdy, spokesperson for the Arab League secretary general, said the organisation is not privy to every move on the bilateral level between Arab countries.

"We are not supposed to be informed in advance about the assumed visit," he added.

Assad's attendance at an Arab League summit would mark the most significant development in his rehabilitation within the Arab world since 2011, when Syria was suspended from the organisation. Assad had

been boycotted by many Western and Arab states over his brutal crackdown on protests - violence that led to a protracted civil war.

Syria's return to the 22-member body would be mostly symbolic but it reflects a change in the regional approach towards the Syrian conflict. Hundreds of thousands of people have died in the war, which drew in numerous foreign powers, and splintered the country.

Last month sources told Reuters Riyadh and Damascus had reached an agreement to reopen their embassies after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Ref No. UHC/Bishwa/MSR/tender/notice/2022-2023/262

Date: 02-04-2023

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain, UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Biswanath, Sylhet for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of goods	Tender/proposal last selling date & time	Tender/proposal closing/opening date & time
808563	Procurement of Medicine for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00
809504	Procurement of Medical Equipment for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00
809505	Procurement of Gauge, Bandgae, Cotton etc for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00
808609	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00
809506	Procurement of Chemical Reagents for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00
809507	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y 2022-2023 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	15-April-2023 16:00	17-April-2023 13:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain

Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer

Biswanath, Sylhet

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