

RUSSIA-N KOREA MILITARY TIES US, S Korea, Japan concerned

REUTERS, Seoul

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and South Korean, Japanese counterparts expressed "serious concern" over the discussion of military cooperation between Russia and North Korea, including possible arms trade, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said today.

Blinken, South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin and Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa agreed to respond firmly to any acts that threaten regional security in violation of UN Security Council resolution in a brief meeting on Friday, the ministry said in a statement.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un made a weeklong visit to Russia last week and discussed military cooperation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

US and South Korean officials have expressed concern that the summit was aimed at allowing Russia to acquire ammunition from the North to supplement its dwindling stocks for its war in Ukraine.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Wednesday that if Russia helped North Korea enhance its weapons programs in return for assistance for its war in Ukraine, it would be "a direct provocation" and Seoul and its allies would not stand idly by.



A sheep stands on cracked earth in the Bahia (Bay) Cohana area of Lake Titicaca, shared by Bolivia and Peru, in the Bolivian Altiplano on Friday. Lake Titicaca's water levels are at historic lows due to climate change and a severe drought.

PHOTO: AFP

How India's new reservation bill will impact women

INDEPENDENT ONLINE

Indian lawmakers approved a landmark bill on Thursday to ensure one-third reservation for women in lower house of the parliament and in state legislatures, in a step forward to attain gender parity among lawmakers.

But the legislation won't be implemented before India completes the next population census and the delimitation process - a mammoth task to redraw the boundaries of constituencies. The bill is likely to be enacted in the 2029 national elections.

"This is a historic moment, this is a moment of pride for us," prime minister Narendra Modi said as he tabled the bill - known in Hindi as "Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam" - in the lower house of parliament.

All opposition parties that supported the bill said the delay in its implementation was an injustice to women.

"Any delay in implementing the women's reservation bill will be a gross injustice to Indian women," said Sonia Gandhi, former chief of the opposition Indian National Congress.

Critics have accused Modi of

bringing the bill to parliament just months before the upcoming 2024 general elections to amass female votes.

India's vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar said the approval of the long-pending bill was a "historic achievement".

"I am happy that the women's reservation bill was introduced, but I am feeling somewhat dejected because it has come without reservation for OBC [Other Backward Classes] women," said Uma Bharti, a former minister from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Suicide bomber kills 13 in Somalia

AFP, Mogadishu

Thirteen people were killed and 20 others wounded in central Somalia yesterday after a suicide bomber drove a truck packed with explosives towards a security checkpoint in the town of Beledweyne, police said.

"We have recovered the dead bodies of 13 people, most of them civilians who stayed nearby," Ahmed Yare Adan, a local police officer, told AFP by phone.

"Around 20 wounded people were already taken to hospitals, and we believe the number of the casualties could rise," he said.

The attack, which damaged nearby buildings, trapping people under the debris, came after Somalia's beleaguered government admitted to suffering "several significant setbacks" in its fight against Al-Shabaab militants.

The Islamist militants have waged an insurgency for over 15 years to overthrow the fragile internationally-backed government in Mogadishu.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for yesterday's bombing.

Police officer Abdukadir Yasin, who rushed to the scene after the blast, said rescuers were pulling injured victims to safety from under the rubble.

"The destruction caused is immense, more than ten dead bodies were confirmed already," he said.

Gunmen kidnap dozens of Nigerian university students

AFP, Kano

Gunmen have kidnapped more than 30 people, including at least 24 female students, in a raid in and around a university in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, residents said yesterday. Dozens of gunmen from criminal gangs called bandits stormed Sabon Gida village on the edge of a Federal University outside the state capital Gusau in a predawn attack on Friday breaking into three female hostels and taking away the occupants, residents told AFP. The attack was the first mass kidnapping at a college since President Bola Ahmed Tinubu came to power, promising to tackle the country's security challenges. The bandits rode into the village on motorcycles and broke into the hostels and gained access into rooms by bringing down the windows, Sabon Gida resident Sahabi Musa said. "They took away at least 24 female students from the hostels along with two male neighbours, one of whom is a staff (member) of the university," said Musa, who lives close to the hostels. The attackers went into the university and seized nine welders working on a new building while they were sleeping, said another resident.

Mexican police cuff crooked 'demon doll' Chucky

REUTERS, Mexico City

Handcuffed, a knife still sticking out of his overalls, the Chucky doll hunches against the wall as police hold him by his bright orange hair to take his mug shot. In a bizarre twist, Chucky and his owner were taken into lock-up in a town in northern Mexico earlier this week. The puppet master, identified only as Carlos "N" under Mexican norms, allegedly used the "demon doll" to scare people and demand money, local media reported. Both were charged with disturbing the peace and putting others' integrity at risk. One officer at the police department in Monclova, in Coahuila state, was seen laughing as she held up the long knife taken from Chucky.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Azerbaijan seizes arms from rebels

AFP, Shusha

Azerbaijan forces tightened their grip on the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday as international concern mounted over the plight of ethnic Armenian civilians trapped there.

As the first Red Cross aid convoy crossed into the disputed enclave since Azerbaijan launched this week's lightning offensive, government forces said rebel "demilitarisation" had begun.

Moscow announced on Friday that ethnic Armenian separatist fighters had begun to surrender weapons under a Russian-mediated agreement, and yesterday the Azerbaijan forces were keen to show off a captured rebel arsenal.

"We are in close cooperation with the Russian peacekeepers who are conducting the demilitarisation" and giving "support to civilians", Azerbaijani military spokesman Colonel Anar Eyyazov said in the Shusha district, outside the regional capital Stepanekert.

Azerbaijani forces now control the area and the town of Shusha appears deserted. Troops have mortar positions on high ground overlooking the approach to Stepanekert, AFP reporters saw.

Government forces displayed an

arsenal of infantry weapons, including sniper rifles, hundreds of Kalashnikov rifles, rocket propelled grenades and four tanks painted with cross insignia, that they said they had seized from the separatists.

"We have more like that in the forest, but we can't bring them all here," said Lieutenant General Mais Barkhudarov, commander of Azerbaijan's 2nd Army Corps.

To the southwest, the so-called Lachin Corridor that once connected the breakaway region to Armenia is also controlled by government forces, which have mounted a de facto blockade for the past nine months.

A humanitarian convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross was nevertheless able to cross into the area yesterday -- the first since fighting erupted earlier this week.

On the Armenian side of the border, at the Kornidzor checkpoint, local ICRC spokesman Zara Amatuni told AFP that 70 metric tonnes of food and humanitarian aid "have passed through the Lachin Corridor".

If the ceasefire holds it could mark the end of a conflict between Caucasus rivals Armenia and Azerbaijan that has raged, off and on, through the three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Magnitude 4.8 quake rattles Myanmar's Yangon

AFP, Yangon

A shallow 4.8-magnitude earthquake rattled Myanmar's commercial hub Yangon yesterday, the United States Geological Survey and AFP correspondents said, with no immediate reports of damage.

A tremor lasting at least one minute was felt in the city of around 8 million around 8.55 pm (1425 GMT), AFP correspondents said.

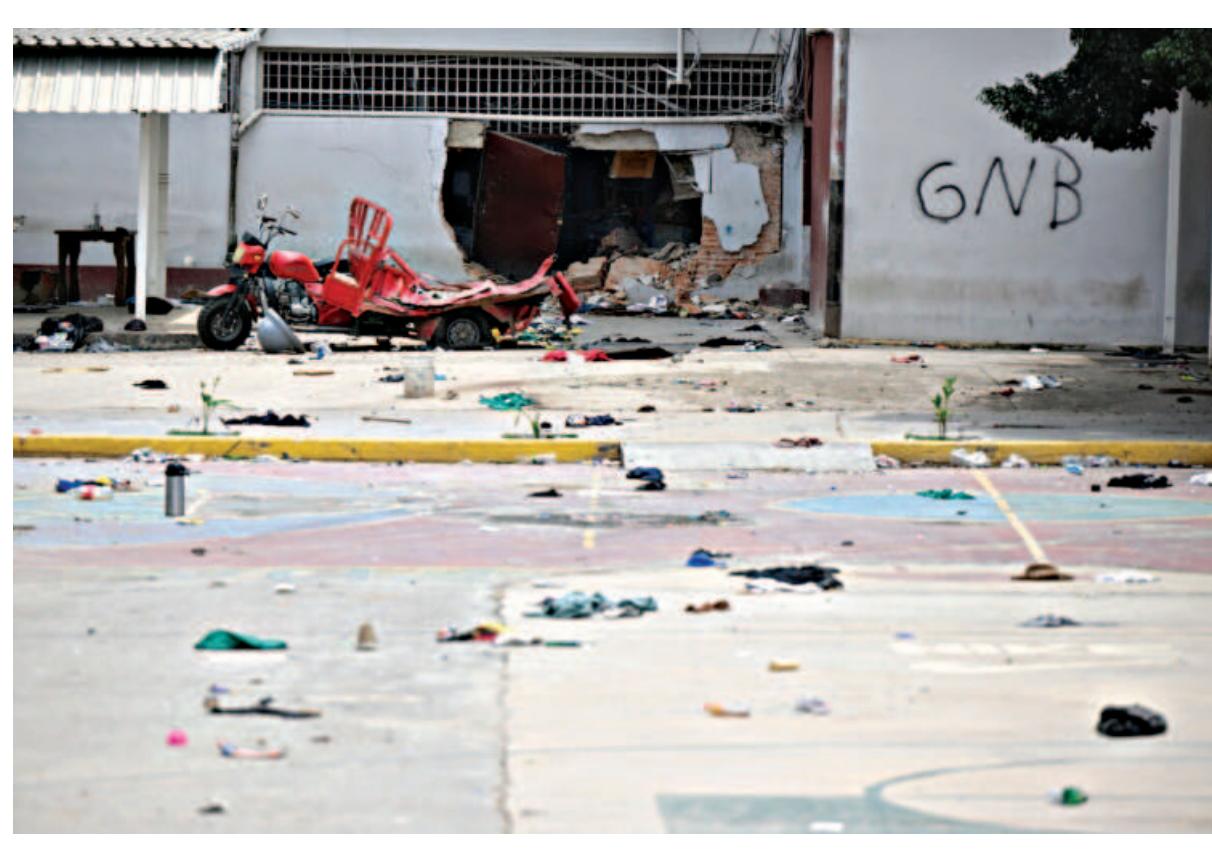
The quake struck at a depth of 10 kilometres, USGS said.

It had an epicentre of 39 kilometres (24 miles) north of Yangon.

There were no immediate reports of damage.

Earthquakes are relatively common in Myanmar.

The country which lies in a tectonically active region.



A view of a broken wall and a damaged tricycle in the Tocoron prison in Tocoron, Aragua State, Venezuela, taken on September yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

২৫০ শয়া বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল

নীলফামারী

E-mail: nilphamari@hospi.dgbs.gov.bd

তারিখঃ ২৪/০৯/২০২৩খ্রীঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (এমএসআর সামরী সরবরাহ)

২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল

নীলফামারী

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (এমএসআর সামরী সরবরাহ)

স্মার নং-সুপার/জেঞ্চাঃ/নীলফামারী/দরপত্র/এমএসআর/২০২৩-২৪/২৭২৮

২৪/০৯/২০২৩খ্রীঃ

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।

২। অধিদপ্তরের নাম

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।

৩। সংগ্রহকারী সত্ত্বার নাম ও ঠিকানা

তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নীলফামারী।

৪। দরপত্র ক্রয় ও সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।

৫। দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম

এমএসআর সামরী (লট ভিত্তিক)।

৬। বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস

রাজস্ব বরাদ্দ (জিওবি)।

৭। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিভাগের স্থান ও তারিখ

২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নীলফামারীর তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় (হিসাব শাখা) বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের পর হতে ১৬/১০/২০২৩খ্রীঃ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় দুপুর ২.৩০ পর্যন্ত)।

৮। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়

২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, নীলফামারী তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় (হিসাব শাখা) অথবা পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নীলফামারী ১৭/১০/২০২৩খ্রীঃ হতে ১২.০০ ঘটকা পর্যন্ত।

৯। দরপত্র খেলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান

হাসপাতাল, নীলফামারীর তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয় তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

১০। আহরণকৃত দরপত্রের বিবরণ, সিডিউল মূল্য এবং দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণঃ

দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (ফেরতযোগ্য)

লট ১ উন্মুক্ত সামরী (ইউডিএল বহির্ভূত)

১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র

১,০০০০/- (এক লক্ষ সত্তর হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।

লট ২ উন্মুক্ত

১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র

১,২৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ পাঁচশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।

লট ৩ কেমিক্যাল বি-এজেন্ট

১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র

৫০,০০০/- (তেক্ষণ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।

লট ৪ লিলেন সামরী

১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র

২৫,০০০/- (পাঁচশ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র।

লট ৫ আসবাবপত্র

১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র