

RUSSIA-N KOREA RELATIONSHIP

Lavrov meets Kim Jong Un Slams 'dangerous' US policy

AFP, Seoul

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un yesterday, after slamming US policy towards the nuclear-armed state as "dangerous".

Lavrov hailed North Korea as a "close neighbour and long-time partner" in a meeting that lasted a little over an hour, Russia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

The veteran envoy's two-day visit is expected to lay the groundwork for a trip to the country by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was invited by Kim last month at a high-profile summit in Russia's far east.

Earlier in the day, Lavrov lashed out at what he termed a "dangerous" US policy towards North Korea while touting the "new, strategic level" of relations between Moscow and Pyongyang.

"Like our North Korean friends, we are seriously worried about the intensification of military activity of the United States, Japan and South Korea in the region and by Washington's policies," Lavrov told journalists, according to Russian news agencies.

"We oppose this unconstructive and dangerous line," he said, adding that the United States was placing "strategic infrastructure, including nuclear elements," in the region, without elaborating.

In the face of a record-breaking series of weapons tests by Pyongyang this year, Seoul has moved to strengthen its security relationship with traditional ally the United States while entering a trilateral defence arrangement that also includes Japan. But North Korea's relationship with Russia has also been tightening, Lavrov said yesterday.

"After the landmark summit... we can say confidently that relations have reached a qualitatively new, strategic level," Lavrov reportedly told North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui at a meeting.

Moscow is also keen to assist North Korea with its energy needs, he told Russian outlets.



Protesters calling for a cease fire in Gaza and an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict, occupy the rotunda of the Cannon House office building, surrounded by a ring of US Capitol police on Capitol Hill in Washington, US on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel's endgame ?

No sign of post-war plan for Gaza

REUTERS, Dubai

Israel is vowing to wipe out Hamas in a relentless onslaught on the Gaza Strip but has no obvious endgame in sight, with no clear plan for how to govern the ravaged Palestinian enclave even if it triumphs on the battlefield.

Codenamed "Operation Swords of Iron", the military campaign will be unmatched in its ferocity and unlike anything Israel has carried out in Gaza in the past, according to eight regional and Western officials with knowledge of the conflict who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Israel has called up a record 360,000 reservists and has been bombarding the tiny enclave non-stop following Hamas's assault on southern Israel on

October 7.

The immediate Israeli strategy, said three regional officials familiar with discussions between the US and Middle Eastern leaders, is to destroy Gaza's infrastructure, even at the cost of high civilian casualties, push the enclave's people towards the Egyptian border and go after Hamas by blowing up the labyrinth of underground tunnels the group has built to conduct its operations.

Israeli officials have said that they don't have a clear idea for what a post-war future might look like, though.

Some of US President Joe Biden's aides are concerned that while Israel may craft an effective plan to inflict lasting damage to Hamas, it has yet to formulate an exit strategy, a source in Washington

familiar with the matter said.

Arab officials are also alarmed that Israel hasn't set out a clear plan for the future of the enclave, ruled by Hamas since 2006 and home to 2.3 million people.

"Israel doesn't have an endgame for Gaza. Their strategy is to drop thousands of bombs, destroy everything and go in, but then what? They have no exit strategy for the day after," said one regional security source.

Biden, on a visit to Israel, told Israelis that justice needed to be served to Hamas, though he cautioned that after the 9/11 attacks on New York, the US had made mistakes. The "vast majority of Palestinians are not Hamas", he said. "Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people."

RETURN OF NAWAZ SHARIF Pak court grants bail to ex-PM

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistan court granted bail yesterday to former prime minister and graft convict Nawaz Sharif, removing the threat of arrest when he returns to the country from self-imposed exile this weekend. After nearly four years in the United Kingdom, Sharif is hoping to lead his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party through elections scheduled for January 2024. The court's decision allows him to return to his political heartland of Lahore tomorrow for a welcome home rally, while his primary opponent Imran Khan languishes in jail. "It's a new beginning," PML-N chairman Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq said. "His return is poised to be a momentous development." Sharif's lawyer Amjad Pervaiz said the Islamabad High Court granted him protective bail until October 24 meaning "he cannot be arrested on his arrival" in Pakistan. Sharif has been PM three times but was ousted in 2017 and given a lifetime disqualification from politics after being convicted of corruption. He served less than a year of a seven-year sentence before getting permission to seek medical care in the UK, ignoring subsequent court orders to return during Imran Khan's government. Sharif's return has likely been smoothed by a deal between the military establishment and his party to prevent significant legal hurdles, said analyst Zahid Hussain.

China building up nuke capacity faster than expected

Says US

AFP, Washington

China is developing its nuclear arsenal faster than US projections had previously anticipated, according to a Pentagon report released yesterday. China possessed "more than 500 operational nuclear warheads as of May 2023 - on track to exceed previous expectations" the Department of Defense said in its annual China Military Power Report, issued annually and mandated by Congress. "We're not trying to suggest a very large departure from where they looked to be headed... but we are suggesting that they're on track to exceed those previous projections," a senior defense official told journalists. Nevertheless, the uptick "raises a lot of concerns for us," the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

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North South University (NSU), the first private university in Bangladesh, seeks applications from candidates with required qualifications and experiences for the following position:

Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview:

Director, Department of Finance & Accounts: 1 (One) position

Essential Qualifications:

- A fully qualified Chartered Accountant or equivalent.
- A master's degree with honours in Finance/Accounting from a reputable university.

Job Experience:

- Minimum of 15 years work experience with at least 10 years in a senior management position in Finance/Accounts department in any large organizations.

Age: Preferably between 45 to 55 years.

Pay Scale:

- TK. 95,274 - 9,527 - 2,38,186 (as per NSU Policy)

Other Benefits:

- Provident fund, gratuity, festival bonuses, group Insurance, in-house free medical consultation etc.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Ensuring effective financial management and stewardship of the institution.
- Analyzing short and long-term business strategies, investments, and hedging.
- Maintaining and further developing a culture of service and support.
- Developing financial planning and strategy.
- Analyzing complex financial data and reporting on financial performance.
- Overseeing audit and tax functions.
- Developing and implementing accounting policies as per Private University Act 2010.
- Preparing annual forecasts and comprehensive budgets.
- Conducting macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis.
- Reviewing departmental budgets.
- Managing internal controls, assessing & minimizing risk.
- Meeting deadlines in a fast-paced work environment.
- Any other tasks assigned by the NSU Authority.

Other Requirements:

- Good command over English and high-level computer skills.
- Ability to solve complex problems.
- Willingness to work after hours and on holidays, if required.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.

NSU reserves the right not to appoint anyone if suitable candidates are not found.

Any prior communication or persuasion to the position will be considered as a disqualification. Interested candidates are requested to apply through jobs.northsouth.edu by November 18, 2023.

Department of Administration
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka - 1229
NSU Job Portal: jobs.northsouth.edu

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Please read the full job description carefully to see if you have the skills, knowledge and experience that we are looking for. Only eligible candidates will be contacted by NSU for interview:

Deputy Director, Public Relations Office: 1 (One) position

Job Description:

- Provide essential support to the Director in the formulation and execution of strategic plans.
- Oversee and manage the department's day-to-day operations to ensure smooth functioning.
- Facilitate coordination among various schools, departments, institutes, and centers to promote collaboration and synergy.
- Assist the Director in budgetary planning and efficient resource management.
- Cultivate and maintain strong relationships with the media industry to foster partnerships and opportunities for the university.
- Establish and maintain active social media platforms on behalf of North South University (NSU) to engage with the community and disseminate relevant information.
- Take the lead in leveraging social media platforms for branding NSU, enhancing its online presence, and effectively engaging with the target audience.
- Coordinate the production of NSU branding materials, including but not limited to video content, graphics, and other relevant materials, to ensure a consistent and compelling brand image.
- Utilize data analytics tools to assess the effectiveness of PR and communication strategies.
- Collaborate with other departments, including marketing, admissions, and academic units, to ensure consistent messaging and communication efforts.
- Stay updated on industry trends, best practices, and emerging public relations and communications technologies.
- Any other duties assigned by the Management and higher authorities.

Academic Qualification:

- Excellent academic credentials with a master's degree in Arts or Social Sciences, preferably in Mass Communication and Journalism.

Job Experience:

- 10 years' experience as a legacy /online media journalist.

Age: Not exceeding 50 years.

Pay Scale: Tk. 64,708-6,471-1,61,769 (as per NSU policy).

Other Benefits:

- Provident fund, Gratuity, Festival Bonuses, Group Insurance, in-house free medical Consultation, etc.

Other Terms and Conditions:

- She/he must be well conversant in Office 365, Google, Adobe, and various online apps
- Strong oral and written communication skills in both Bengali and English.
- Third division/ class/ equivalent GPA of the candidates in any educational level will not be accepted.
- Willingness to work after hours, weekends, and on public holidays.

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