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Top Headlines

Chosun Ilbo

Asian Leadership Conference:
"Let's Make a 'Good Growth' Model that Embraces
the Vulnerable and Boosts Employment"

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North Korea Threatens "Combat Ready Posture No. 1"
on Third Anniversary of *Cheonan* Ship Sinking

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Another Spy Agency Official Involved in Suspected Manipulation of Public Opinion
in Presidential Election

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Could Tax-evading Officials Solve "Tax Evasion Problems"?

Domestic Developments

During a March 26 memorial for the third anniversary of the sinking of the *Cheonan* warship, President Park Geun-hye strongly urged North Korea to change. She also said that the North must promptly break away from the belief that nuclear arms will protect its regime. (All)

Timed to coincide with the third anniversary of the *Cheonan* sinking, Web sites of anti-North Korea organizations and media outlets in Seoul were shut down simultaneously yesterday, raising suspicions that North Korea was behind the attacks. The networks of local governments and news TV channel YTN were also disrupted. The shutdown came six days after a massive cyber attack on major ROK broadcasters and banks. (All)

Seoul yesterday strongly protested Japan's approval of more high school textbooks that lay claim to the ROK's easternmost islets of Dokdo (the Liancourt Rocks). (All)

International News

According to a senior USG official and ROKG officials, the Obama

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Administration has conveyed to the Park Geun-hye Administration through diplomatic channels that it will draw up its policy on the Korean Peninsula focused on the ROK's policy on North Korea. (Dong-a)

According to North Korea's state media, the North Korean military yesterday put all its artillery units, including strategic rocket and long-range artillery units, into "combat ready posture No. 1" to strike the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam, and the ROK. (All)

In a related development, China urged restraint from North Korea yesterday. During a regular briefing, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that Beijing hopes all sides on the Korean Peninsula can exercise restraint. (JoongAng, Dong-a, Kyunghyang, Seoul)

According to the North's official Korean Central News Agency, on March 25, North Korea carried out a large-scale hovercraft-landing drill off the East Sea, with leader Kim Jong-un in attendance. (Chosun, JoongAng)

Features

U.S. to Reject Talks with North Korea that Exclude South Korea in Major Policy Shift (Dong-a Ilbo, March 27, 2013, Front Page)

By Reporters Yoon Wan-joon and Bu Hyung-kwon

Through diplomatic channels, the White House has conveyed to South Korea's Park Geun-hye Administration that Washington will set policy toward the Korean Peninsula focused on South Korea from now on, news reports Monday said. The U.S. government also reportedly said it will not hold talks with North Korea that exclude South Korea. This is noteworthy in that the move is a fundamental shift in U.S. policy toward the peninsula.

In a recent meeting with a senior South Korean official, a ranking U.S. official is known to have said, "In the past, U.S. policy toward the Korean Peninsula was the foundation of South Korea's policy toward North Korea, but from now on, South Korea's policy toward the North will be reflected by being absorbed as part of U.S. policy toward the Korean Peninsula."

Ranking South Korean officials also said, "As the North Korea-U.S. agreement on February 29 last year, which was forged by excluding South Korea, has ended in miserable failure due to the North's nuclear test and missile launches, the Obama Administration expressed fundamental doubt over its approach toward the peninsula." The key element of the mutual agreement was that if Pyongyang halted its uranium enrichment program and stopped its nuclear tests and missile launches, Washington would provide 240,000 tons of food aid in return. The agreement has turned into a blank promise, however, in the wake of a string of provocations by North Korea.

Ranking government officials in Seoul said, "To a certain extent, the U.S. considered North Korea as 'substance' that should be addressed and South Korea as a 'means' to tackle the problem. But the failure of the agreement has led politicians in Washington to deeply reflect upon such a view.

Key U.S. officials reportedly told the Seoul policy coordination delegation which visited the U.S. in January that whatever policy South Korea opts for toward North Korea, the U.S. will fully endorse and support it.

According to South Korean officials, the new U.S. policy direction will likely be discussed through high-level consultative meetings, as Foreign Minister Yoon Byung-se will visit Washington on April 2-4 and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to Seoul in mid-April. It is unusual for the top diplomats of Seoul and Washington to hold successive meetings in either country within an interval of just 10 days. When visiting the U.S., Yoon will be accompanied by Korea's chief

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nuclear envoy Lim Sung-nam, the Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs.

Park Asserts That Nukes Won't Make Regime Safe

(JoongAng Daily, March 27, 2013, Page 1,2)

By Ser Myo-ja

North Korea must immediately end its vicious attacks and give up the belief that nuclear weapons are needed to protect its ruling regime, South Korea's President Park Geun-hye said yesterday at a commemoration of the third anniversary of the sinking of a South Korean warship.

The government yesterday held a memorial for the sinking of the warship *Cheonan* at the National Cemetery in Daejeon. The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs hosted the event and about 5,000 people including Park, senior government officials, top military brass and families of the fallen sailors attended the ceremony.

"After conducting nuclear tests and missile launches, North Korea now imperils our security and peace by threatening to scrap the armistice agreement," Park said. "Marking the third anniversary of the *Cheonan*'s sinking, I strongly urge the North to change. It must break away from the belief as soon as possible that a nuclear arsenal will protect its regime."

She also condemned the North for focusing its energy and resources on nuclear weapons while its people are starving. "The only path for the North's survival is giving up nuclear arms, missiles, provocations and threats and becoming a responsible member of the international community. North Korea must immediately stop provocations which invite the vicious cycle of reprisals and our youngsters' sacrifices and choose the path of peace and prosperity for the Korean Peninsula."

On the night of March 26, 2010, the South Korean warship *Cheonan* sank off Baengnyeong Island near the western maritime border, killing 46 sailors on board. The South Korean government, in cooperation with an international team of investigators, later concluded that the warship was torpedoed by the North. Pyongyang denies the charge.

Promising that the sailors' sacrifices would never be in vain, Park said it is the government's most important duty to create a safe and peaceful homeland for the young. She also promised to create a country where the people who sacrificed their lives to protect the nation would receive fair treatment and respect.

"The strongest power that protects a country is the people's firm sense of national security and unity," Park said, stressing that the ruling and opposition parties must work together to maintain security.

Heads of the ruling Saenuri Party and the main opposition Democratic United Party attended the commemorative ceremony yesterday, but no member of the leadership of the Unified Progressive Party came. UPP Chairwoman Lee Jung-hee went to South Chungcheong to visit a unionist held in the Seosan Detention Center.

The UPP has been reluctant to agree with the government's conclusion that the North torpedoed the *Cheonan*. While the Saenuri Party and the DUP yesterday criticized the North for the attack and demanded an apology, the UPP issued a short statement saying a tragedy like the "*Cheonan* incident" must never happen again.

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Memorial events took place in 34 cities to commemorate the attack on the *Cheonan*. Ceremonies also took place at 45 alma maters of the slain sailors. Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin sent a letter to the military requesting that soldiers remain ready for any provocation by the North.

"Only our strong readiness and threat of absolute retaliation can deter the enemy from staging a provocation," Kim said. "Our military has persevered, and the people have visited the attack site, confirmed the nature of the *Cheonan*'s sinking and strengthened their will to protect this country."

Commemoration events took place at naval bases around the nation, and naval forces vowed to strike back at any provocation in South Korean waters. The second fleet also conducted drills. The Navy designated March 26 as the "Day of Retaliation" for remembrance.

Today, a memorial service will take place on Baengnyeong Island, and another memorial service will take place Saturday in Changwon, South Gyeongsang, to commemorate the sacrifice of Navy diver Han Joo-ho who died during rescue operations.

North Says Military to Adopt Combat Posture

(JoongAng Daily, March 27, 2013, Front Page)

By Kim Hee-jin

The North Korean military ordered all its artillery units, including strategic rocket and long-range artillery units, to adopt "combat readiness posture No. 1," to strike the continental U.S., its overseas bases and South Korea, in retaliation against an American nuclear bomber sortie over the Korean Peninsula, the North's state media said yesterday.

It is the first time that the North has issued such a threat, a senior Blue House official told reporters.

"We will show off the strong will of our military and people to retaliate [against the U.S.] through an effective military act, in order to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and the utmost dignity," the statement in the name of the Supreme Command of the North Korean People's Army, released by the North's official Korean Central News Agency, said yesterday.

"From this moment, the Supreme Command of Korean People's Army will put all of the field artillery groups into combat readiness posture No. 1, including the strategic rocket and long-range artillery units which will strike the U.S. continent, Hawaii, Guam and other U.S. imperialists' military units in the Pacific Ocean, as well as all of the enemy targets in South Korea and its neighboring regions."

The command said their action is in response to the U.S. military's "fuss for a nuclear war."

"On March 25, at around 8 a.m., the U.S. abruptly sent its nuclear bomber B-52 over the South Korean territory from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam," it said. "Starting from 11:50 a.m., it conducted high-level exercises simulating nuclear bombing, pretending to strike targets in the North."

A spokesman from the U.S. Forces Korea could not confirm yesterday whether B-52 bombers flew over the Korean Peninsula on Monday. B-52 bombers participated in the South Korean-U.S. joint drill on March 8 and March 19.

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"Currently, the North Korean military isn't showing any specific moves," the Blue House official said. "Still, we are cautiously analyzing the purpose of the North Korean military in the sense that today is the third anniversary of the *Cheonan's* sinking."

It is the second time that the North has issued a statement in the name of the Supreme Command, following the previous one announced by Kim Yong-chul, a military general.

"The Supreme Command is basically a temporary organization operating during a war," a high-ranking South Korean government official said. "The combat posture warning seems to be an order for utmost readiness for military combat."

In 1993, North Korea declared a quasi-state of war, which the South Korean government says was the highest warning it has ever issued.

"So far, the regime has declared 'a quasi-state of war' or issued a warning 'equivalent to a quasi-state of war,'?" Lee Ho-ryoung, an associate research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses under the Ministry of National Defense of South Korea, said. "But this warning appears to not be stronger than the 1993 one."

A day before the third anniversary of the sinking of the *Cheonan*, the North's military also carried out its own full-scale joint military drill between the Army, Navy and Air Force, the ruling party's newspaper *Rodong Si mun* reported, in the strategically important city of Wonsan off the East Sea. Leader Kim Jong-un also attended.

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