

## China stops prominent artist leaving country

REUTERS, Beijing



Chinese police have prevented artist Ai Weiwei from traveling to South Korea, he said on Friday, linking it to a crackdown on dissidents ahead of the formal awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to a prominent rights activist.

Ai had been due to board a flight from Beijing to South Korea Thursday evening, when police presented him with a piece of paper saying he was not allowed to leave China on grounds of endangering security.

"They said my leaving the country would threaten national security. They were very polite, and said that in accordance with the law, I could not leave... It's really silly," Ai told Reuters by telephone.

"I think there's a direct connection with next week's Nobel Peace Prize award," he added. "The Chinese government is very upset about this."

Chinese police could not immediately be reached for comment.

This year's prize to jailed Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo is due to be formally awarded next Friday in Norway's capital Oslo.

China, furious that the award has gone to a man it labels a criminal and a subversive, has detained a number of dissidents and prevented many others from leaving the country, apparently fearful some will try and make their way to Norway.

China stopped Liu's lawyer Mo Shaoping last month from boarding a plane to London for a conference.

"Police and border control officials are increasing their efforts to bar prominent members of Chinese civil society from traveling internationally as the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony approaches," activist group Chinese Human Rights Defenders said.

# US, Japan begin war drills; S Korea raises rhetoric against the North

AP, Tokyo

In an ongoing show of force following a deadly North Korean attack on a front-line island, the US and Japan began one of their biggest-ever military exercises yesterday, mobilizing more than 44,000 troops, hundreds of aircraft and a US super carrier.

The drills come just after the U.S. and South Korea concluded maneuvers in the Yellow Sea. The exercises brought immediate criticism from China, which is wary of having foreign navies off its shores and has been increasingly assertive over large swaths of waters in the south and east China seas, where some of the drills would take place.

"At present, there are already enough of these kinds of military exercises. Under the present conditions, all relevant parties ought to do more to benefit the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region, and not the opposite,"

said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu.

The Nov 23 North Korean attack killed two South Korean marines and two civilians on Yeonpyeong Island, a tiny enclave of civilians and military bases located near a disputed maritime border.

The attack has heightened tensions in the region and renewed fears of a bigger clash breaking out that could draw in neighbouring countries, including Japan, where about 50,000 US troops are based under a security pact.

The drills in and around Japan are part of the annual "Keen Sword" maneuvers and involve tens of thousands of troops from both sides, including the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and its battle group. For the first time, the exercises also have observers from South Korea.

According to Japan's Defense Ministry, 34,100 Japanese personnel, 40 vessels and 250 aircraft from Japan's ground, maritime and air self-defense forces

will take part, along with 10,400 troops, 20 ships and 150 aircraft from the U.S. military.

The maneuvers, which were scheduled well before the North Korean incident, are to continue through Dec. 10.

"By conducting exercises such as Keen Sword, we are ensuring that our forces will continue to be effective in meeting the challenges of the 21st century," said Lt. Gen. Hawk Carlisle, commander of the U.S. 13th Air Force.

Officials said South Korea was included for the first time since the exercises were started in 1986 in an effort to bolster cooperation between the two neighbors.

"Japan-U.S. cooperation, as well as our three-way cooperation that includes South Korea, is extremely important for peace and stability in east Asia," Japan's Chief of Staff Gen. Ryoichi Oriki said.

Japan has reacted with alarm to the developments on the Korean peninsula. Prime Minister Naoto Kan even ordered his Cabinet ministers to stay near the capital in case of an emergency.

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korea yesterday threatened to bomb North Korea if it tries a repeat of last week's attack, raising its rhetoric after the United States warned of an "immediate threat" from Pyongyang.

Kim Kwans-jin, a retired general, was speaking at a parliamentary meeting confirming him as new defense minister, a day after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said North Korea threatened the region and the world.

"If there are further provocations, we will definitely use aircraft to bomb North Korea," Kim said when asked how he would respond to another attack after last week's North Korean bombardment of an island near their disputed border, killing two South Korean marines and two civilians.

The North alone has more than 5,000 multiple-launch rockets pointed at the capital Seoul which, with its satellite cities, is home to some 25 million people. South Korea has about 490 combat aircraft.

For nearly 60 years, the two Koreas have faced each other across one of the world's most heavily armed borders. They have never signed a peace treaty to end the 1950-53 Korean War.

## Arsenic-loving bacteria may help in hunt for alien life

BBC ONLINE

The first organism able to substitute one of the six chemical elements crucial to life has been found.

The bacterium, found in a California lake, uses the usually poisonous element arsenic in place of phosphorus.

The find, described in Science, gives weight to the long-standing idea that life on other planets may have a radically different chemical makeup.

It also has implications for the way life arose on Earth - and how many times it may have done so.

The "extremophile" bacteria were found in a briny lake in eastern California in the US.

While bacteria have been found in inhospitable environments and can consume what other life finds poisonous, this bacterial strain has actually taken arsenic on board in its cellular machinery.

Until now, the idea has been that life on Earth must be composed of at least the six elements carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus - no example had ever been found that violates this golden rule of biochemistry.

The bacteria were found as part of a hunt for life forms radically different from those we know.

"At the moment we have no idea if life is just a freak, bizarre accident which is confined to Earth or whether it is a natural part of a fundamentally biofriendly universe in which life pops up wherever there are Earth-like conditions," explained Paul Davies, the Arizona State University and Nasa Astrobiology Institute researcher who co-authored the research.



Jordanian Muslims take part in a special mass prayer for rain in Amman Thursday. The special prayer -- a ritual practiced since the time of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) -- is frequently held across the Middle East, where water is a precious resource.

## Ivorian military says it sealed borders

BBC ONLINE

The Ivorian military has sealed the country's borders and blocked foreign media as tensions rise over the outcome of the presidential election run-off.

It comes after the Constitutional Council rejected a declaration by the electoral commission that opposition candidate Alassane Ouattara had won.

Supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo had tried to block the long-delayed result, alleging fraud in the north.

The UN Security Council asked both sides to show restraint.

"The air, land and sea border of the country are closed to all movement of people and goods," Ivorian military spokesman Babri Gohourou said.

The border would remain closed until further notice, Mr Gohourou added.

## UPDATES ON WIKILEAKS, DAY 6

### Hillary and Zardari play down US cables

AFP, Islamabad

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Asif Ali Zardari played down leaked confidential US embassy cables exposing tensions between their nations as "out of context" in a telephone conversation Thursday, a Pakistani official said.

The cables, obtained by whistleblower site WikiLeaks and reported by The New York Times and The Guardian laid bare divisions between the US and Pakistan on nuclear arms safety.

They also revealed that the Pakistani army considered forcing out Zardari, who was cast as an unpopular president who dreads his own assassination.

Moving quickly to patch-up any suggestion of a diplomatic fallout from the leaks Clinton and Zardari spoke about the "so-called memos and official correspondence by the Wikileaks," presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar said in a statement.

### Karzai seen as weak by US, own cabinet

REUTERS, Kabul/washington

Afghan President Hamid Karzai's own inner circle considers him weak and sometimes unscrupulous, leaked US diplomatic cables show, a domestic vote of no confidence that may be more damaging than foreign criticisms.

Karzai, known to be sensitive about his team's loyalty, is likely to be infuriated by the idea of his cabinet discussing his flaws, making deals behind his back and sharing concerns with a US embassy considered highly critical of his rule.

Dispatches from US ambassador Karl Eikenberry were even less flattering, but Karzai's rocky relationship with Washington is well known, and criticisms are often voiced face to face.

Finance Minister Omar Zakhilwal described Karzai as an "extremely weak man" who did not listen to facts, one cable dated February this year said, and former Interior Minister Hanif Atmar claimed Karzai did not understand US policy in the region.

Zakhilwal said Karzai's inner circle had agreed to "collaborate to influence Karzai when they see him going astray," and support each other if they faced the president's anger for raising sensitive issues.

The cables contain allegations Karzai colluded in the intimidation of a senior official, and "ashamed" his Chief of Staff Umar Daudzai by pardoning narcotraffickers for political reasons, according to Britain's Guardian newspaper.

### Assange boosts security after death threats

AFP, London

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said yesterday in a question and answer session on The Guardian newspaper's website that his team was taking security precautions due to "threats against our lives".

"The threats against our lives are a matter of public record. However, we are taking the appropriate precautions to the degree that we are able when dealing with a super power," Assange wrote in response to a reader's question.

### WikiLeaks forced to change domain

AP, Stockholm

WikiLeaks was forced yesterday to switch over to a Swiss domain name, wikileaks.ch, after a new round of hacker attacks on its system prompted its American domain name provider to withdraw service.

WikiLeaks' US domain name system provider, EveryDNS, withdrew service to the wikileaks.org name late Thursday, saying it took the action because the new hacker attacks threatened the rest of its network.

"Wikileaks.org has become the target of multiple distributed denial of service attacks. These attacks have, and future attacks would, threaten the stability of the EveryDNS.net infrastructure," EveryDNS, headquartered in Manchester, New Hampshire, said.

EveryDNS.net provides access to some 500,000 websites. In a tweet on Friday, the owner of EveryDNS, Dynamic Network Services Inc, wrote that "trust is paramount: Our users and customers are our most important asset."



PHOTO: AFP

Women play in the snow in Cherbourg, western France, on Thursday. Much of France has been covered in a blanket of snow this week.

## Climate deals

FROM PAGE 16

At least two accords were expected to be reached during the November 29 to December 10 summit in Cancun, Elvirasaid.

"Basically, what we're expecting are two (accords): one for adaptation to climate change and the protection of woods and tropical forests, and the other for a financing fund," he said.

The meeting aims to advance efforts towards a post-2012 climate treaty after the near-disaster of the December 2009 Copenhagen summit.

**INDIAN ATTEMPT**  
An Indian proposal could break a deadlock between rich and poor countries over how to share the burdens of tackling global warming, India's environment minister has said before heading to the talks.

Environment minister Jairam Ramesh said a proposal that would require countries to report what actions they are taking to fight global warming could win critical support from the United States and increase chances that representatives at the UN climate talks could reach a broader agreement.

"It is basically meant to break the logjam and it is basically meant to bring the US in because without some progress in (transparency) the US is not going to come on board," Ramesh said before travelling to the summit.

Ramesh's hopeful assessment came on a day that the UN released more pessimistic climate news. It said 2010 would be one of the top three hottest years on record.

India recently released a plan that countries -- rich or rapidly developing -- that contribute more than 1 percent of global greenhouse gases should report their actions and their emissions to the United Nations every three years.

deputy US climate negotiator, was not immediately available to comment on Ramesh's assessment.

But on Wednesday he told reporters there was hope the United States and India could move forward on the issue of measuring, reporting and verifying emissions.

"Coming in, it was quite clear that we were converging," Pershing said. "But we've not yet reached agreement."

The Indian proposal would not penalize poor countries if they did not meet pledges on emissions reductions.

**HOT SEAT**  
Analysts said the Indian proposal provided a good foundation.

"India is clearly trying to be constructive," Michael Levi, a fellow on climate at the Council on Foreign Relations.

For the United States, an agreement with India could put pressure on China to come on board or risk looking like it is not doing enough to fight global warming.

India's Ramesh said an agreement on so-called transparency could lead to bigger agreements on climate, like protecting forests and financing.

But there was also risk for the United States. If it agrees on one of the key aspects of the talks in Cancun, it could put pressure on Washington to work out another one: long-term financing for poor countries to help them mitigate climate change and adapt to more storms, floods and heatwaves.

"It also puts the US on the hot seat for the money," Levi said. The United States, Norway and other rich countries agreed at last year's climate talks in Copenhagen to financing of \$100 billion per year by 2020.

## INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

### Undergraduate Programme

#### Admission Spring 2011

**Admission Eligibility:**  
HSC & SSC pass Certificate with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in both 5 O' Levels with a GPA 2.50 & 2 A' levels with a GPA of 2.00  
International Baccalaureate/other equivalent degrees

**Admission Test Exemption:**  
Minimum score of 1550 in SAT 1 & minimum 550 (paper based) or 213 (computer based) or 80 (internet based) in TOEFL  
or 5.5 in IELTS Grade 'A' in English and Math in 'A' level exam

**100% IUB Merit Scholarship:**  
GPA of 4.8 (without 4th subject) at HSC  
Two 'A' grades in minimum 2 'A' level

**Full Admission Fee Waiver:**  
For top ten students in admission test

**Tuition Fee Waiver:**  
100% tuition fee waiver for the top 3 students in IUB Admission Test  
30% tuition fee waiver for students having GPA 5.0 in both SSC & HSC (with 4th subject)  
50% financial waiver for siblings

**Financial Aid:**  
Tuition discount on the basis of IUB semester result and financial need  
On campus job facilities

Admission forms are available on the IUB website. Submit the form duly filled in via postal mail with a bank draft of Tk. 500/- in the name of Independent University, Bangladesh

**BBA in:**  
Accounting • Finance • Marketing • Management  
Management Information System (MIS)  
Human Resource Management (HRM)  
International Business (IB)

**B.Sc in:** Economics

**BSS in:** Media & Communication  
Anthropology

**B.A. in:** English Literature  
English Language Teaching (ELT)

**B.Sc in Environmental Science & Management**  
Environmental Management  
Environmental Science

**B.Sc in:**  
Computer Science  
Computer Engineering  
Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering

**We Are Now At Our Permanent Campus**

**Last date of Application: Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**Admission Test: Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

Plot 16, Block B, Atabuddin Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1229  
Phone : 880-2-840 1645-52, 840 1790, 840 1991  
Fax: 880-2-840 1653 Email: admission@iub.edu.bd

[www.iub.edu.bd](http://www.iub.edu.bd)