

US TROOPS IN AUSTRALIA  
China urges peace in Asia-Pacific

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday called for "peace and stability" in the strategically vital Asia-Pacific, after the first batch of US Marines to be deployed in Australia began work.

The 200 American troops are part of an enhanced defence cooperation outlined during a visit by US President Barack Obama in November and their deployment is seen as a bid to counterbalance China's growing might in the Asia-Pacific.

The American troops will be stationed in Australia on a six-month rotational basis, building to some 2,500 by 2016-17.

The announcement raised hackles in China, with the defence ministry criticising it as proof of a "Cold War mentality" and state media accusing Obama of using his diplomatic ambitions in Asia to distract from US economic woes.

But at a media briefing yesterday, foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei held back from criticising the deployment.

"Regional policies and interactions between different countries in this region should be conducive to the peace, stability and development of the Asia-Pacific," he said.

The US views with increasing concern China's growing assertiveness in Asia-Pacific on territorial disputes.

## India agrees to Maoist's prisoner swap deal

AFP, Bhubaneswar

Indian authorities have agreed to release 27 prisoners in exchange for an Italian tourist and a local lawmaker held hostage by armed Maoist rebels in the eastern state of Orissa.

The state's chief minister, Naveen Patnaik, announced the exchange late on Wednesday and called for the two hostages to be released "immediately, unharmed and in good health."

Paolo Bosusco, who runs a tour company in Orissa, was captured by the rebels on March 14 along with another Italian man, Claudio Colangelo, who was released 11 days later.

Their kidnapping was the first time the rebels, who say they are fighting for the rights of India's tribal people and landless farmers, have targeted foreigners.

Orissa state assembly member Jhina Hikaka, who was picked up by the Maoists in a separate incident on March 24, is also due to be released in the exchange.

The Maoist rebels, who have in the past killed



Paolo Bosusco

Jhina Hikaka

some kidnapped local officials and villagers, have been fighting a low-intensity war against state and national authorities for decades.

They issued a series of demands over the latest hostage-taking, including the release of prisoners, a ban on tourists visiting tribal areas and the end of the government's anti-rebel operations.

## Why Rab actions

FROM PAGE 1  
deaths of six people in Narsingdi in which Rab was involved.

National Human Rights Commission, Association for Land Reform and Development and IMSE-India jointly organised the two-day South Asian regional workshop on Human Rights and People's Right to Land and Food at the Brac Centre Inn auditorium in Dhaka.

The commission boss said it would extend cooperation if Rab sought help regarding training on human rights issues.

It seemed at the beginning of this year that such incidents were decreasing but the incidents in Narsingdi and Dhaka raise

concern once again, he added.

On the commission probing the Narsingdi incident, he said it would not be able to probe the incident thoroughly due to the commission's lack of manpower and expertise.

Regarding eviction of Karail slum dwellers in Dhaka, he claimed that eviction without arranging for alternative housing is in violation of the law and citizen's rights, according to a High Court order.

On Indian Border Security Force's (BSF) firing on Bangladeshis, he said the commission sent letters to Indian National Human Rights Commission, and Samsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development spoke on the occasion.

Indian commission chairman so that they mount pressure on the Indian central government to do something about the issue.

During the programme, Mizanur said ensuing people's right to land and food is not an easy job rather it is a daunting task. If the stakeholders work together, progress can be made, he said.

Justice Narayan Chandra Sil, acting chairperson of West Bengal Human Rights Commission, Kazi Reazul Hoque, member of National Human Rights Commission, and Samsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development spoke on the occasion.

general elections would be free, fair and credible.

She also praised the prime minister for her efforts towards overall progress of Bangladesh.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena, Ambassador at Large M Ziauddin, PM's Principal Secretary Sheikh Md Wahid Uz Zaman and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap were present.

Earlier, outgoing High Commissioner of the Maldives Ahmed Sareer called on the prime minister.

## Air Force investigator

FROM PAGE 1  
Commanding Officer Major Ziaul Ahsan Sarwar.

Even though the robbery happened in November last year, the case against the Rab personnel, two of their informants and 15 unnamed people was filed last month with Anwara Police Station.

"Mamun was familiar as Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) of Khagrachhari Salahuddin had introduced him to me two years ago," said Silver Inn owner Md Asaduzzaman.

"Salahuddin urged me to get a room for Mamun in my hotel," Asad said, adding that Mamun checked into non-air conditioned room-208 around 8:10pm on Wednesday.

They had tea at the hotel and two of Asad's friends - Mahmud Ali Khan and Mohammad Shahed - joined them a few minutes later, Asad said.

adding that they left after midnight.

Mamun was then in room-213 which was air-conditioned and was closest to the staircase, Mahmud said.

Hotel supervisor Jamal said they got no response from the room in the morning despite repeated knockings at the door. They informed Asad of the matter.

"I tried to contact Mamun over his mobile phone several times but none received the calls which made me suspicious," Asad said. He then contacted Mamun's younger brother Russel who works for a bank in Chittagong.

The hotel owner told police of the matter and the door was opened in police presence with a spare key around 1:30pm.

Officer-in-Charge Rafikul Islam of Kotwali Police Station said they found no mark of injury on the body during primary investigation.

"We came to know from the family members of the deceased that he was suffering from cardiac diseases and high blood pressure," said the OC, adding that the reason for his death could be known after the autopsy and forensic tests.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue around 6:30pm.

An unnatural death case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Teams from Bangladesh Air Force, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) visited the spot.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue around 6:30pm.

This irregularity causes huge traffic jam on both sides of the ferry ghat and the buses take double or triple the time than usual to cross the river using ferries, he said adding that this leads to increased bus operating costs including fuel cost and causes heavy

bus operators

According to the rule, passenger buses and trucks have to park in separate rows to board the ferries. Violating the rules and parking serials, the syndicate helps trucks to park in front of the bus rows and to board ferries quickly in return for payments, he said.

The association also placed a seven-point demand to end the irregularities and passengers' sufferings including ending of extortion business, increasing the number of ferries and giving priority for ferrying the buses over trucks.

Romesh Chandra Ghosh, vice president of the association, Mohammad Ershadullah, assistant general secretary, executive members Humayun Kabir and Tahmid Sahed Chayan were present at the press conference.

## Hasina seeks US assistance from MCA

FROM PAGE 1

Political Affairs Wendy Sherman called on her at Gono Bhaban in the afternoon.

About terrorism, the prime minister said there was deep-rooted terrorism in Bangladesh in the past, but after assuming the office, her government has almost suppressed terrorism.

She stressed the need for assistance from all the friendly nations including the USA to fight out terrorism.

Hasina said Bangladesh believes in regional cooperation and maintaining good relations with the neighbours.

The prime minister also sought duty-free and quota-free access of Bangladeshi products including RMG to the US market.

PM's Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting.

Referring to Awami League's struggle for democracy, Hasina expressed her strong optimism that the next general elections would be fair and credible.

She claimed that her government has strengthened the Election Commission (EC) that has updated the voter list and is introducing the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in some elections.

The prime minister said so far more than 5,000 elections have been held at different levels during the tenure of the present government and all elections were held in free and fair manner.

"There was no allegation against these polls," she added.

Sherman said the Obama administration wants to see the US-Bangladesh partnership and cooperation further strengthened. "The US gives utmost importance to its partnership with Bangladesh," she added.

The envoy said the US wants to work closely with Bangladesh in counter-terrorism as well as in the regional security.

Expressing her hope that the democratic process in Bangladesh would continue to grow, Sherman said the US wants that the next general elections would be free, fair and credible.

She also praised the prime minister for her efforts towards overall progress of Bangladesh.

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## Bus operators

FROM PAGE 20

He made the remark at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity held under the banner of the association, a platform of around 600 bus companies and 500 trucks.

A syndicate comprised of ruling party men, police and officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) charges each goods-laden truck Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500, alleged Chan, also the owner of Drift Paribahan Pvt Ltd.

The communication ministry has already been informed about the nuisance but it is yet to take any step, they said.

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ডাচ-বাংলা রাজাক লিমিটেড  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

## গাড়ী বিক্রয়

অত্য ব্যাংকের ব্যবহৃত নিম্নরূপ ৪টি গাড়ী যথেষ্ট বেভাবে আছে সেভাবে বিক্রয় হবে:

গাড়ীর ধরন	জেডি. নং	মডেল	সি. পি.	গাড়ীর অবস্থা
মিসুরিসি মাইক্রোবাস	ঢাকা মেট্রো-চ-৫৪-০৮৬৪	২০০১	২০০০	ডিবিএল, উত্তরা শাখা, প্লট # ৭, রোড # ৭, সেক্টর # ৪, উত্তরা আ/এ, ঢাকা
মিসুরিসি মাইক্রোবাস	ঢাকা মেট্রো-চ-৫৪-০৮৬৫	২০০১	২০০০	ডিবিএল, উত্তরা শাখা, প্লট # ৭, রোড # ৭, সেক্টর # ৪, উত্তরা আ/এ, ঢাকা
চট্টগ্রাম স্প্রিংটার এসই	ঢাকা মেট্রো-গ-১০-৫৮৭৯	১৯৯৬	১৫০০	ডিবিএল, উত্তরা শাখা, প্লট # ৭, রোড # ৭, সেক্টর # ৪, উত্তরা আ/এ, ঢাকা
চট্টগ্রাম সেলসিওর	ঢাকা মেট্রো-ভ-১৪-০০৬৪	১৯৯৮	৩৯৬৮	৪৭, মতিবাল বা/এ, ঢাকা

ব্যাংকের উপরোক্ত স্বতন্ত্রে বা যে কোন সংখ্যক গাড়ী দ্বারা আগ্রহী হওয়ার পরে এপ্রিল ১৬, ২০১২ ইং মে ৩০.০০ ঘটকার মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় দরপত্র দাখিল করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে যা এ দিন ৩.০৫ মিলিটে খোলা হবে। এ সময় দরপত্র দাতাগণ ইচ্ছে করলে উপস্থিতি থাকতে পারেন। দরপত্রের সাথে উত্তৃত মূল্যের শতকরা ১০ ভাগ টাকা ফেরয়েগ্য জামানত হিসাবে "ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড" এর অনুকূল ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্ট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে জমা দিতে হবে।

অনুরোধ দরপত্র দাতাগণের জামা দরপত্র খোলা হবে। সফল দরপত্র দাতাগণের জামা দরপত্র খোলা হবে। সফল দরপত্র দাতাগণের জামা দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

অন্যথায় জামানতের টাকা বাজেরাঙ্গ বলে গণ্য হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনে ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র আঁশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করতে পারেন।

বিত্তীর প্রধান  
জেনাল সার্ভিস ডিভিশন  
ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
৪৭, মতিবাল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০,  
ফোন: ৯১১০০১৫, ৯১১৭৭৭

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from the bonafide, well experienced & Technically sound Architectural/Engineering Firms for Internal Decoration & Furnishing Works of Uttara Bank Limited, 14th floor (South side) and 15th floor (South side) of Head Office Building, 90, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.