

## US to deploy newest weapons to Asia-Pacific

AFP, Washington

The United States plans to deploy some of its newest warships and other high-tech weapons to the Asia-Pacific as part of a strategic shift to the region, a US defense official said Wednesday.

The Pentagon will send P-8 submarine-hunting aircraft, cruise missiles, Virginia-class submarines, coastal combat ships and F-35 fighter jets to Asian ports and bases in coming years, the senior official told reporters.

The Pentagon has promoted a tilt to Asia after a decade of ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, reflecting concern over China's growing military power and its assertive stance in territorial disputes with its neighbors.

The United States already plans to deploy more than half of its fleet to the Asia-Pacific and to station four littoral combat ships -- speedy new vessels designed to operate near coastlines -- for rotational deployments in Singapore.

## Govt wants

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The law ministry and the information ministry would hold a joint press conference at 11:00am on December 26, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said, to dispel the confusion created by opposition leaders over the trial.

Amid controversy after leaks of alleged Skype conversation between Justice Nizamul and an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert, Ahmed Ziauddin, Nizamul stepped down as chairman of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on December 11.

Following his resignation, pro-opposition lawyers demanded that all the four trials being held at the tribunal-1 be held afresh. Defence counsels for former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam on

Wednesday filed a petition seeking retrial of the case filed against their client on charges of crimes against humanity.

Different stakeholders, mainly leaders of the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami, have been making "confusing statements" over the war crimes trial, Shafique Ahmed said.

"We decided to arrange the press conference to assure people that the trial is being held maintaining transparency and fairness."

The decision was taken after a meeting of the law and information ministers at the former's office yesterday.

Bangla daily Amar Desh had published a series of reports on the Skype conversation.

On December 11, Shafique Ahmed said the resignation of Justice

Nizamul would not hamper the court's proceedings and that as per the law, the other judges of the tribunal-1 would continue the war crimes trial.

Section 6 (6) of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, reads, "A tribunal shall not merely by reason of any change in its membership or the absence of any member thereof from any sitting, be bound to recall and re-hear any witness who has already given any evidence and may act on the evidence already given or produced before it."

On Wednesday, Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for war crimes accused Jamaat leaders, told the tribunal-1 that they would file two more retrial petitions on behalf of Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee and Motiur Rahman Nizami.

## Arguments continue

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Crimes Tribunal-2 for the fourth day.

Mohammad Ali, the conducting prosecutor of the case, placed his argument on the third, fourth and fifth charges citing testimonies of the first, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth prosecution witnesses.

Earlier, the prosecution completed argument on charge number one and two.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded the argument before adjourning the proceeding until December 26.

As per the third charge, Quader Mollah and his accomplices killed journalist Khondaker Abu Taleb during the Liberation War in 1971.

During his three-hour and 20-minute argu-

ment, the prosecutor said he had learned from Nizam that Abdul Halim handed Taleb over to the Biharis. At this stage, Ali argued that Biharis were in the team of Mollah and they shared same ideology.

Ahsan said he had heard from one advocate Khalilur Rahamn that Abdul Halim, a non-Bangalee chief accountant of the daily Ittefaq, handed his father over to Mollah at Mirpur. Taleb was stabbed to death at Jalladkhana in Mirpur-10, Ali added.

Ali said Ahsan had testified that he also heard about the incident from their non-Bangalee driver Nizam.

Citing from Kauim's testimony, Ali said the witness testified that he had heard about the killing from his colleague Faruk Ahmed Khan and Nizam.

The tribunal pointed out that Kauim had said

charge, the Pakistani army and around 50 non-Bangalees led by Quader Mollah attacked unarmed people at Alubdi village of Mirpur and killed at least 344 people on April 24.

Ali added eyewitnesses Shafiuiddin Mollah and Amir Hossain Mollah testified in favour of the charge.

Citing from the testimony of Shafiuiddin, Ali said Mollah and his accomplices and non-Bangalee Biharis were driving away people towards that spot from the east where the Pakistani army also gathered people at Alubdi.

"After some time, I saw Abdul Quader Mollah talking with Pakistani army officers in Urdu, but I could not hear anything. I also saw they had started shooting at the people after taking them aside. There was a rifle in Quader Mollah's hand and he was shooting too," Ali quoted Shafiuiddin as saying.

Terming Shafiuiddin an "impartial witness", Ali said he was involved in student politics before the war but left politics later.

Ali raised a question about the age of Shafiuiddin's younger brother Altab Uddin Mollah, who has given his testimony as the fifth defence witness in the case.

During his cross-examination Shafiuiddin, who was 19 to 20 in 1971, said his immediate younger brother Altab was 12 to 13 years younger, added Ali.

"If Shafiuiddin's age was 19 to 20, then what about Altab's age?" questioned Ali.

Ali is set to resume his argument with the testimony of Amir Hossain Mollah on December 26.

## Friends indeed

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government for their extraordinary contribution to helping the refugees during the crisis. Up to 20,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers from Libya took refuge in the Choucha refugee camps.

Melouka and Lotfi talked to The Daily Star on Tuesday about their experience.

Melouka was based in Paris when she learnt about the arrival of refugees in her native country. She soon organised and led a team on behalf of the Islamic Relief, a humanitarian aid agency, to help the increasing number of refugees arriving at Choucha.

"It was a challenge in terms of shelter, sanitation, hygiene and food for so many people of so many nationalities," said Melouka sitting at the lobby of Hotel Ruposhi Bangla in the capital.

"In the first few days, when international aid agencies were yet to arrive, I was amazed to see how Tunisians from all over the country came forward with relief that included foods, warm clothes, blankets, potable water and whatever they could afford to spare. The refugees were considered

## Thai PM due today

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Diplomatic sources said Yingluck Shinawatra will stay in Dhaka for about 24 hours, and her visit is expected to usher in a new prospect in areas of cooperation between two friendly nations.

The Thai premier will lead a 97-member high-powered delegation, which includes six ministers, high officials and a 23-member Thai business team from various industrial sectors.

Foreign ministry officials said they did groundwork for the signing of six memoranda of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in fisheries sector development, manpower export, cultural exchange and visa

exemption for official passport holders.

But finally, two MoUs on agricultural cooperation and holding of regular Foreign Office Consultation will be signed, they said.

The government had emphasised signing an agreement on visa exemption for its officials but Thailand wants visa exemption only for the diplomatic passport holders.

Thus, it is unlikely that the visa exemption agreement would be signed, they added.

During Shinawatra's visit, two countries will hold talks on the entire range of bilateral issues.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Thai counterpart will lead their respective delegations at the

talks scheduled to be held tomorrow at 10:30am.

Sources said issues related to trade, investment, economic cooperation, connectivity as well as cooperation in culture, education, medical science and military training exchanges will be discussed at the dialogue.

The Thai premier will arrive in Dhaka at 5:30pm after ending her two-day visit in India. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will call on Shinawatra at Sonargaon Hotel.

The Thai premier will attend a cultural programme at Sonargaon Hotel at 1:00pm. The programme will be followed by an official luncheon to be hosted in her honour by the Bangladesh premier.

(FBCCI).

Shinawatra will visit the National Memorial at Savar tomorrow to pay homage to the martyrs of Liberation War.

Later, she will visit Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the capital to place wreaths there.

The Thai premier will then go to the Prime Minister's Office to hold one-on-one meet with Sheikh Hasina and join the delegation-level talks.

She will attend a cultural programme at Sonargaon Hotel at 1:00pm. The programme will be followed by an official luncheon to be hosted in her honour by the Bangladesh premier.

Mozaffar said he had learned from Abdul Majid about the meeting from which the decision of killing unarmed people was taken and executed on November 25.

Abdul Majid Palowan, seventh prosecution witness, also testified that the Jamaat leader held a meeting at the house of Dr Joynal, local Muslim League leader, at Ghatachar on the night before the massacre.

When the tribunal asked how Majid learned about the meeting and its decision, Ali said Joynal lived very close to Majid's house.

According to the fifth

## Ghostly payment

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Moshred said, "The company and the law firm [Anisul's firm] do not have any official correspondence and it did not pay any money to the firm or Anisul Huq."

He also said the firm was not on BTCL's panel of lawyers either.

Anisul Huq was "employed" to move for BTCL at the Appellate Division in a case related to Telecommunication

Network Development (TND--lot B), a Japan International Cooperation Agency-funded project worth \$24 million.

Anisul told The Daily Star that he was employed in the case after receiving proper power of attorney or "vakalotnama" from the BTCL. BTCL officials had told him that they took proper permission from the company to employ him in the case, he added.

Anisul said he forgot the date on which he had received the money.

"Someone came to me with Tk 5 lakh in cash. The managing director of BTCL and a project director called me earlier to let me know that I would get cash for dealing with the case for BTCL," he claimed.

The Daily Star repeatedly tried to reach BTCL Managing Director Azizul Islam for his comments via phone, but failed. The correspondent also visited his office several times, but to no avail.

Sources, however, said the BTCL board had never approved Anisul Huq's engagement in the case; rather it suggested that the management followed relevant rules and company laws, according to the board meeting minutes of August 23.

The company cannot pay any money to anyone without having the board's approval and it almost never sends any amount to anybody in cash; it sends cheques, said an official of BTCL, wishing not to be named.

Anisul said it mattered little to him how he had received the money.

Anisul's job was to appeal against a High Court verdict that asked BTCL to accept Turkish company Netas as a qualified bidder for the telecom job.

Netas had earlier alleged that BTCL unfairly disqualified it in the tender process. Its complaint was upheld by a government review panel, a decision BTCL refused to accept.

The dispute eventually went to the High Court and then, the Appellate Division.

The High Court verdict, delivered by Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar on August 7, directed the BTCL to follow

the Review Panel's decision. The court also said it appeared that BTCL did not come clean before the court.

However, the state-owned company finally decided not to appeal in the Appellate Division.

On condition of anonymity, a high-ranking official of BTCL told The Daily Star that the money Anisul received did not come from BTCL at all, rather it came from the people who would benefit from BTCL winning the legal battle.

Last month, the Anti-Corruption Commission wrote to BTCL Managing Director Azizul Islam asking him about the status of the matter at court, as the ACC would resume its investigation after the legal battles ended.

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## Invitation for Tender

[Jeep]

Project Name	BRAC BHP-TB Program
Source of Fund	Donor Fund
Tender Package No	BRAC/BPD/BHP-TB/08-12
Tender Items	Lot-1: Jeep 3 (three) Nos.
Reference No & Date	IFT/BRAC/BPD/BHP-TB/12-27 December 17, 2012
Tender Name	Purchase of Jeep
Time for Delivery	Maximum 45 days from the date of issuing Purchase Order / Contract.
Price of the Tender Documents	Non-refundable Tk. 1000.00 (One Thousand) only.
Tender Security	3% of Total Tender Value
Tender Documents Available	Accounts Department, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, BRAC Center, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Date & Time for Selling Documents	December 23 to January 10, 2013 Between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Tender Dropping Place, Date & Time	Procurement Department, Ground Floor, BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. January 13, 2013, between 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Staff Canteen, BRAC Center January 13, 2013 at 3:00 pm.

Save the Children

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## Job Opening

Save the Children International invites applications for the following positions:

## Senior Manager - Grants &amp; Financial Analysis, MCHIP (1 position based in Dhaka)

Senior Manager-Grants & Finance will provide day-to-day high quality grants management and finance support to MaMoni and MCHIP Programs. S/he will provide budgeting support and financial monitoring for programs with particular attention to: managing budgets, sub-grants, contracts, and financial reports. This position will also be responsible for preparing detailed budget and financial reporting for the MaMoni and MCHIP programs.

## Manager - Health System (1 position based in Dhaka)

The Manager - Health System is responsible for operational support to the Government, implementing partners and Save the Children staff for effective implementation of DHSS activity. S/he is to coordinate with MOH&FW for system strengthening and capacity building activities of the project.

For detail job description and other requirements of all positions, please visit [www.resumelink.info](http://www.resumelink.info)

Interested candidates are requested to apply online

Application deadline: December 31, 2012

Only short listed candidates will be invited for interview

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