

NEWS IN brief

Turkey court blocks park project

AFP, Istanbul
A court in Turkey has scrapped a controversial plan to redevelop Istanbul's Gezi Park that sparked protests which snowballed into deadly nationwide unrest, media reported yesterday.

The administrative court justified its ruling, made last month but only revealed by Turkish media on Wednesday, by saying that the "local population" had not been sufficiently consulted about the redevelopment project.

Mumbai building collapse kills one

AFP, Mumbai
A two-storey building housing apartments and garment makers has collapsed near Mumbai, killing one person, police said yesterday-- the fifth deadly collapse around the Indian financial capital in the past few months.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene late Wednesday in Bhiwandi city in western Maharashtra state. At least 20 people have already been rescued, officials said.

Pakistan ends moratorium on executions

AFP, Islamabad
Pakistan's new government has ended a moratorium on executions, an official said yesterday as Amnesty International raised concerns about a "shocking and retrograde step".

Under the previous government led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), no one except a soldier convicted by court martial was put to death since 2008.

Female Afghan police officer shot dead

AFP, Kandahar
Gunmen yesterday shot dead one of the most high-profile female police officers in Afghanistan, underlining the threat to women who take on public roles in the country.

Bibi, aged 37 and a mother of three, was seen as an example of how opportunities for women have improved in Afghanistan.

Doctors advised to unplug Mandela's life support: Report

AFP, Johannesburg
Doctors treating Nelson Mandela said he was in a "permanent vegetative state" and advised his family to turn off his life support machine a week ago, according to court documents obtained by AFP yesterday.

"He is in a permanent vegetative state and is assisted in breathing by a life support machine," said the court filing dated June 26.

"The Mandela family have been advised by the medical practitioners that his life support machine should be switched off.

"Rather than prolonging his suffering, the Mandela family is exploring this option as a very real probability," read a filing from the family's lawyer, relating to a dispute over the final resting place of Mandela's three children.



Since the document was written, the government, family members and people visiting Mandela have reported his condition has improved.

Presidency spokesman Mac Maharaj refused to comment on the documents.

"We have indicated from our point of view that based on the doctors' report the condition of the former president is critical but stable at this stage," he said.

On the day the court document was written President Jacob Zuma reported that Mandela's health had faltered and he cancelled a trip to Mozambique.

The next day the president reported that Mandela's condition had "improved during the course of the night".

Lawyers for Mandela's relatives and family members themselves were not immediately available for comment.

Mandela's wife earlier Thursday said that while occasionally Mandela has been uncomfortable during his nearly one month hospital stay, he has seldom been in pain.

The former president, who turns 95 later this month, was rushed to hospital on June 8 with a recurring lung infection.

India launches massive food scheme for poor

Analysts fret over 'game-changer' plan that aims to feed 810m

AFP, New Delhi
India's ruling party said yesterday a vast new food scheme for the poor was a "game-changer" to fight endemic malnutrition, but analysts expressed concern about the programme's implementation and cost.

The cabinet issued an executive order late Wednesday introducing the National Food Security Bill, which was expected to be approved by the president later today and be a vote-winning measure ahead of elections next year.

The populist programme -- which the government says will add 230 billion rupees (\$3.8 billion) per year to the country's existing 900-billion-rupee food subsidy bill -- will offer subsidised grains to an estimated 810 million people.

It has been pushed strongly by the head of the ruling Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, who has insisted on honouring a 2009 election pledge despite concerns about the impact on government finances and food prices.

"It is going to be a game-changer in terms of poverty eradication," senior Congress leader Tom Vadukkan told AFP. "If basic needs like hunger are not met, you can't talk about (economic) development."

Despite two decades of strong economic growth, India still struggles to feed its population adequately, with a major survey last year showing that 42 percent of children under five were underweight.

The food measure, which will offer five kilograms (11 pounds) per person per month for as little as one rupee per kilo, is considered key to the Congress-



In this photograph taken on October 3, 2011, Indian children eat food at their temporary shelter on the side of the road in Hyderabad.

led coalition's fortunes in the national elections due in 2014.

"If it wins us votes, then that is an afterthought," Vadukkan, also a party spokesman, claimed. "Naturally anything good that you do gains you popularity."

India's opposition parties have rounded on the government for ramming through a controversial programme without a parliamentary debate, but the executive order is only temporary and must be converted into law.

"It is just a political gimmick in a hurry," the leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Rajnath Singh, told reporters yesterday.

Critics of the food programme say that

India can ill-afford such a costly subsidy burden at a time of slowing economic growth and when credit ratings agencies are eyeing the country's large deficit.

Economic growth is at a decade-low of 5.0 percent, the government is running large fiscal and current account deficits, and the rupee has slumped to a historic low against the dollar.

Indians classed as below the poverty line already receive subsidised kerosene, cooking gas, fertilisers and wheat through what is the world's biggest public distribution system.

But the chaotic welfare programmes are notoriously inefficient and riddled with corruption.

India's defence minister in China amid border row

AFP, New Delhi
India's defence minister will lead a high-level delegation to China yesterday, the first such trip in seven years, as the two sides ramp up efforts to rebuild trust after a recent flare-up over a border dispute.

A K Antony will meet his Chinese counterpart General Chang Wanquan during the three-day visit, with talks to include peace on their shared border as well as regional security issues, the defence ministry said.

"Both ministers are expected to discuss a number of issues, including those related to maintenance of peace and tranquility on the border... and matters relating to regional and global security," India's ministry said in a statement.

Antony's trip is the first by an Indian defence minister since 2006 and comes after a spat between the two nuclear-armed neighbours in May over troop movements in a disputed Himalayan border region.

The Line of Actual Control has never been formally demarcated, although the sides have signed accords to maintain peace in the region that was the site of a brief Indo-Chinese war in 1962.



Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Diaoyutai State guest house in Beijing yesterday. Sharif started his first foreign visit since his May election in China yesterday looking to secure infrastructure projects to tackle a chronic energy crisis and economic malaise.

Koreas agree to hold talks on joint zone

AFP, Seoul
North and South Korea yesterday agreed to hold talks about reopening a jointly-run industrial estate which had shut down amid high military tensions.

The agreement -- described by one analyst as a good sign -- follows months of friction and threats of war by Pyongyang, after its February nuclear test attracted tougher UN sanctions.

The announcement came a day after the North restored a cross-border hotline and said it would let the South's businessmen visit the Kaesong estate just north of the border to check on their closed factories.

The South's unification ministry had responded by suggesting a working-level meeting at the border truce village of Panmunjom tomorrow. After some dispute about the venue, the North accepted the South's proposal, a ministry spokesman told AFP.

The Kaesong estate is the last remaining symbol of cross-border reconciliation and a valuable source of hard currency for the impoverished North.

It was the most high-profile casualty of the months of elevated tensions that followed the North's third nuclear test, the subsequent tightened UN sanctions and US-South Korean military exercises.

Japan gears up for decisive election

AFP, Tokyo
Campaigning began yesterday in an election expected to strengthen Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's control over parliament, ushering in the stability he needs to fix Japan's floundering economy.

Voters nationwide will go to the polls on July 21 to elect half of the 242 seats in the upper house of the legislature.

With approval ratings as high as 70 percent, Abe is expected to romp home, bagging control of both chambers and not having to face a public vote for three years.

Supporters say he will use that political clout to force changes on cosseted and inefficient industries, like agriculture, and to cut a swathe through labour laws that businesses claim make it too difficult to hire and fire workers.

Banri Kaieda, leader of the largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), began the day in Iwate, one of the prefectures hardest hit by the 2011 tsunami.

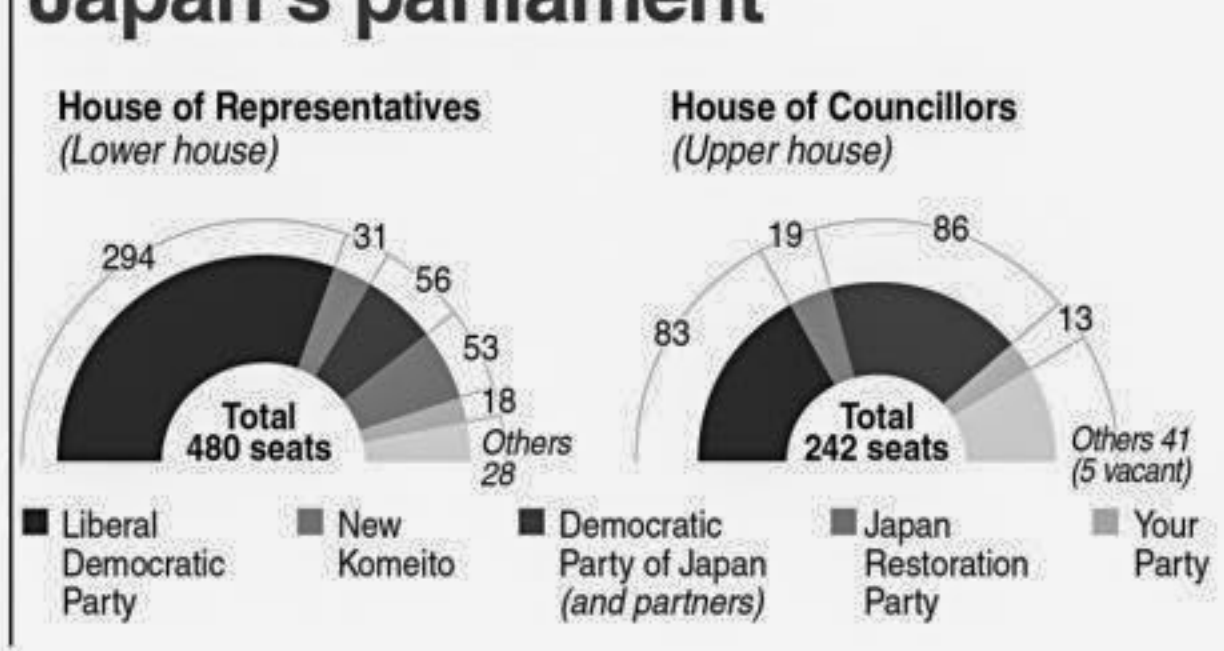
As of 2:30pm, 433 candidates were registered at the board of elections. The number of candidates will be confirmed after the 5:00pm deadline.

For the first time in Japanese politics, Internet election campaigns are allowed in the upper house vote, with candidates and parties permitted to post updates to their followers on Facebook and Twitter.

The opening months of the Abe administration have seen a blizzard of economic policies, starting with vast government spending programmes and a flood of easy money from the printing presses of the central bank.

The drive -- dubbed "Abenomics" -- is intended to be completed with reforms that the prime minister hopes will make it easier to do business in Japan.

Details are scant at present, but Abe's wish list includes lowered corporate taxes, special business zones in some big



Landslides, floods in Nepal kill 50

AFP, Kathmandu
Landslides and floods triggered by several weeks of monsoon rains have killed at least 50 people in mainly remote parts of Nepal, a government official said yesterday.

"So far, 50 people from across the country have been killed by landslides and floods," said Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal, chief of National Emergency Operation Centre, which monitors natural disasters in Nepal.

The death toll is likely to rise, with some 19 people still missing after floods hit mostly farming communities in the country's southern plains and remote western hills, Dhakal said.

"We are forming a committee headed by the minister for physical planning, which will present a report on how to rebuild the infrastructure damaged by the landslides and floods," said Dhakal.

A total of 7,000 people have also been displaced, while 800 houses have been completely destroyed and 1500 partly damaged, after heavy monsoon rains began in mid-June and eased two weeks later, he said.

"Over 1000 livestock have also been killed and we are still assessing the damage in monetary terms," Dhakal said, adding that the government has distributed 7.5 million rupees in total to victims.

Hundreds of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the monsoon season in Nepal.

Advertisement for Enlistment

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| Reference No. & date | BRAC/BPD/Enlistment-13-01 Date: June 26, 2013 |
| Name of the items for enlistment | Group 01: Poultry & Feed Medicine; Poultry Vaccine (Framework Agreement may be done with the selected companies) Group 02: Office Furniture Group 03: Printing Press Group 04: Computer Continuous Paper Group 05: Computer Accessories Group 06: Crockery's Item with BRAC Logo Group 07: Generator, Group 08: Lift/Elevator, Group 09: Sub-Station, Group 10: AC, Refrigerator, TV |
| Duration of Enlistment | 2 (two) years |
| Security Money | Only selected companies will have to deposit Tk. 50,000/- (Taka Fifty Thousand only) for each group in favor of "BRAC" in the form of pay order. |
| Application dropping place, date & time | Application in sealed envelope with group name on the top of the envelope is to be dropped at Box-1 kept at BRAC Procurement Department (Ground Floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 on July 22, 2013 from 9.00am to 2.00pm |
| Conditions for Enlistment | Schedule will be available at free of cost at BRAC Procurement Department (Ground Floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 from July 07, 2013 to July 21, 2013 from 9.00am to 2.00pm (only in official day). Schedule will also be available online at http://www.brac.net/content/stay-informed-procurement-notice |
| N.B: Previously enlisted companies also have to apply in this procedure. | |
| BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 Phone: 9881265 Ext: 3085,3788,3784,3088,3796,3087 | |

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING AND NON CONSULTING SERVICES

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| Scope of work | BRAC requires the services of Consultants in preparing TOR, RFP and Evaluation of Proposals for procuring various kinds of Consulting and Non-Consulting Services of various Programmes. |
| Qualification for Consultant | Documents to be submitted for short listing: (a) CV highlighting the qualifications in the tasks mentioned in the scope. (b) A letter of Intent to work as a consultant. |
| Source of Fund | Donor/Own Fund. |
| Name and Address of the Office Receiving EOI | Head of Procurement BRAC Procurement Department, Ground Floor, BRAC Center 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. azizur.r@brac.net |
| Date & Time for Submission of EOI | 31 July, 2013 within 15:00 hrs by email to azizur.r@brac.net |

BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Phone: 9881265, 3038 & 3034.

International tender announcement

Contract title : Supply, delivery, installation, commissioning and after-sales service of ICT Equipment including Computers, UPS, Network, Servers; Audio Visual Equipment including Cameras; Office Equipment; Furniture; Air-Conditioning System; and Power Generator for Bangladesh Bank Training Academy (BBTA), Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), Ministry of Industries SME Cell, and SME Foundation, in 6 Lots

Publication reference: EuropeAid/134565/D/SUP/BD

The Ministry of Industries of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, intends to award a supply contract for equipment with financial assistance from the INSPIRED programme of the European Union. The tender dossier will be in 6 Lots:

- Lot 1 Supply of ICT Equipment and Accessories
- Lot 2 Supply of Audio Visual Equipment
- Lot 3 Supply of Office Equipment
- Lot 4 Supply of Furniture
- Lot 5 Supply of Air conditioning equipment
- Lot 6 Supply of Power Generator

All 6 Lot(s) to be delivered DDP Dhaka. [DDP (Delivered Duty Paid) - Incoterms 2010 International Chamber of Commerce - <http://www.iccwbo.org/incoterms/>]

The tender dossier is available from: the EuropeAid website: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> the Ministry of Industries: <http://www.moind.gov.bd> and the INSPIRED website: <http://www.euinspired.org.bd>.

The deadline for submission of tenders is 12.00 (midday) local time 22 September 2013.

Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the EuropeAid website: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> and the Ministry of Industries: <http://www.moind.gov.bd> and the INSPIRED website: <http://www.euinspired.org.bd>