

# Japan eyes defence budget increase

AFP, Tokyo

Tokyo and Beijing have repeatedly butted heads over the ownership of the Tokyo-controlled islands called the Senkakus, which Beijing claims as the Diaoyus, with official Chinese ships and aircraft regularly testing Japanese forces.

Abe has long voiced worries over defence at a time when China is increasing its naval activities in waters around Japan, and as unpredictable North Korea continues its missile and nuclear programmes.

He has also called for a stronger military alliance with the United States, which is in the process of a re-balancing of its forces under President Barack Obama's so-called "pivot" to Asia.

China and South Korea -- victims of Japan's military misadventures in the first half of the 20th century -- have expressed unease in recent months about noises in Tokyo towards bolstering its military.

The budget request for fiscal 2014, which will begin April, represents a three-percent spending increase, making a second-straight annual increase after a 0.8-percent rise in the initial budget for the current fiscal year to March 2014.

# 73 Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Police arrested 73 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir from Comilla city last night.

Mahiuddin Mahmud, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station, said a team of law enforcers acting on a tip off had picked up 130 people raiding a community centre in Barapara area around 8:30pm, while they were holding a "secret meeting".

Of them, 73 people had been detained while the rest were released, said the OC, adding that most of the detainees were students and interns of Comilla Medical College Hospital.

One of the detainees has been identified as Mahbubur Rahman, Shibir president of Comilla Medical College unit.

The OC said Mahbubur was presiding over the "secret meeting" where they had been "planning to carry out subversive activities".

Information about the other detainees could not be known immediately.

A few Islamic leaflets, posters and three crests of Shibir have also been seized from the community centre.

As of filing this report around 12:00am, Kotwali police was preparing to lodge a case against the 73 in connection with planning subversive activities.

# Wal-Mart ready to lend \$50m

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The alliance is separate from a European-led group including a larger number of retailers and union groups known as the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh.

The North American plan was criticised by groups that think the European-led plan including binding arbitration is stronger.

Wal-Mart is speaking with the central bank of Bangladesh.

It is trying to figure out the best way to fund factory safety improvements, whether through loans, earlier payments for shipments or other methods, global Chief Compliance Officer Jay Jorgensen told analysts and investors on a call on Thursday.

The call, run by Wal-Mart's investor relations staff, was not made publicly available.

Wal-Mart confirmed details of the call that were presented to the company by Reuters. A transcript of the call was expected to be posted by yesterday.

Wal-Mart has become more vocal about its activities in Bangladesh over the past several months, for example posting a list of banned factories online in May.

Some investors have pressed the company for more details, and a few of those on Thursday's call thanked it for its more transparent approach.

"It's still somewhat unclear what is the right way to best take care of the workers in Bangladesh," said Citi Managing Director Deborah Weinswig, who rates Wal-Mart a "buy."

Wal-Mart is considering several options including paying factories for orders more promptly; paying for orders even before products are delivered, either through a loan or through payment; or having a bank issue a loan with the retailer standing behind it as kind of a credit guarantee in order to keep the interest rate lower, Jorgensen said.

The North American alliance said in July that some companies have offered more than \$100 million in loans and access to capital, in order to help the owners of factories they do business with make necessary safety improvements.

Gap is part of that group and said in October it would loan vendors up to \$20 million for safety improvements. It was not immediately clear how much other companies are set to offer.

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a group of faith-based and socially responsible investors, wants Wal-Mart and other retailers to join the European accord.

That initiative could have the biggest impact, especially if more companies work together, said Reverend David Schilling, ICCR's senior program director.

He said he was not on Thursday's call but spoke with Wal-Mart about Bangladesh last week.

"There's a greater likelihood of success if there's a multi-stakeholder collaborative process," said Schilling, adding that having funds for loans is a good step in the overall efforts.

The Bangladesh factory that burned in November was making Wal-Mart's Faded Glory clothing without the retailer's consent. Since then, Wal-Mart's efforts have included a no-tolerance policy for unauthorised sourcing.

Wal-Mart has also started thorough inspections of the roughly 280 Bangladesh factories it gets goods from.

Engineers often find dozens of things to fix, both small and large, and factories are given a set time for remediation, Jorgensen said.

# WB may divert fund

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The official said at the present rate of progress, the department would hardly be able to utilise half the fund by the time the project duration expired.

The project got stalled early last year after the replacement of its first director Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of forest (wildlife), on the allegation of fund misappropriation. After that Aparup Chowdhury, a joint secretary of the environment ministry, was given the responsibility as his extra duty.

But the WB believes a full-time director should be in place to give the project life.

Meanwhile, an India-Bangladesh joint tiger survey using camera trapping method is in progress in the Sundarbans.

A wildlife crime control unit has also been set up at the forest department involving dedicated officials of five government agencies -- wildlife circle, police, customs, border guards and Rapid Action Battalion.

Besides, some small projects like identifying elephant corridors in Chittagong Hill Tracts by IUCN, conservation of langur in Keshabpur, Jessore, developing national biodiversity action plan, introducing patrolling in the Sundarbans and encouraging eco-tourism have been okayed.

Some fund will also be used in updating the red data book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

As per the last updated data of IUCN, until 2006, a total of 558 out of 1,597 resident wildlife species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals are either on the brink of extinction, or endangered or vulnerable.

# Re-elect AL

FROM PAGE 1

committed to establishing people's democratic rights and that she was ready to die for this.

Hasina reiterated that the verdicts in war crimes cases would be executed like that in the Bangabandhu killing case.

Dhaka city AL organised the rally to mark the National Mourning Day.

MA Aziz, acting president of the party unit, presided over the rally, also addressed by AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Shahara Khatun and Mahbubul Alam Hanif, among others.

Thousands of AL leaders, workers and supporters swarmed Suhrawardy Udyan from different constituencies in the capital, chanting party slogans and carrying banners and festoons.

Due to the gathering, the city suffered huge tailbacks even on the weekend. Vehicles remained stuck for hours on the major thoroughfares.

The AL chief blasted opposition leader Khaleda Zia for celebrating birthday on August 15. On this day in 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were killed by a group of disgruntled army officers.

"Since 1996, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been celebrating birthday on this day... the day I lost my father, mother, brothers and other family members. I want to ask why she does that. Is it to give me more pain?"

On the BNP's demand for the restoration of caretaker government provision, scrapped through a constitutional amendment, Hasina said it had been declared void by the High Court.

She alleged the BNP chief unleashed violence using Hefajat men at Motijheel after issuing a 48-hour ultimatum to the government on May 4 to bring back the caretaker system.

"On her instructions, BNP-Jamaat-Hefajat men burnt hundreds of holy Quran," Hasina said, asking the audience whether any Muslim can burn the Quran. In response, the mass said, "No."

The AL president criticised the BNP for its earlier claim that 2,500 people were killed when the law enforcers flushed Hefajat men out of Motijheel Shapla Chattar in the early hours of May 6.

# Seven hurt as Jamaat men attack cops

UNB, Magura

Seven policemen were injured in an attack by Jamaat-Shibir men at Sandra in Shalikhapuzila of Magura on Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sub-inspector Iqbal Hossain raided Sandra Mosque where Jamaat-Shibir men were holding a secret meeting around 11:00pm.

Sensing their presence, the activists had attacked the law enforcers with sharp weapons and hurled bombs at them, leaving seven policemen injured.

Police fired 10 bullets to bring the situation under control. Jamaat-Shibir men, however, managed to escape from the spot.

Jihadul Kabir, superintendent of police of Magura, said police launched a drive to track down the attackers.

A case was filed.

# 'Robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

An alleged robber was killed and seven people, including five police personnel, were injured in a "gunfight" with police in Kalam Char area in Hatiya upazila here early yesterday.

The dead is Yunus, 38, ringleader of the notorious "Yunus Bahini."

The injured policemen include Tanvir, sub-inspector of Hatiya Police Station, Manjur, assistant sub-inspector, and Jamal, a constable of the same police station.

Khorshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Hatiya Police Station, said acting on a tip-off, police had raided a remote area of Kalam Char around midnight.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, members of the robber gang had opened fire on them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, Khorshed added.

Police found Yunus dead and arrested Yunus's wife Asma Akter and Ismail Hossain, one of the accomplices of Yunus, from the spot with bullet wounds. The rest of the gang escaped.

Police recovered a locally-made gun and 12 live cartridges from the spot.

The injured policemen and the two arrestees were admitted to Hatiya Upazila Health Complex. The policemen were given first aid at the health complex.

Yunus was accused in several cases, including murder, robbery, extortion, and kidnapping, with the police station.

The body was sent to Noakhali Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

In another incident, Altaf Hossain, 35, a member of the infamous "Emran Bahini", was killed in a mass beating at Sluice Bazar in the same upazila in the evening.

Noakhali Police Superintendent Anisur Rahman said acting on secret information, Hatiya police raided a house near the Bazar, and locals caught Altaf while he was trying to flee from the house, sensing trouble.

The locals then gave Altaf a mass beating, killing him on the spot.

Police arrested seven, including four women, of the gang.

The law enforcers also recovered several guns including three light gun and two revolvers, from their possession.

# Probe on to identify killers

FROM PAGE 16

connection with the murder till 10:00pm yesterday. Detectives took the victim's driver to their office for interrogation, said Rampura police.

A veteran police official, Fazlul had probed some sensational criminal cases, said Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

"Many convicts in those cases are still behind bars. We are looking into whether any of the convicts has ordered his accomplices to commit the crime," he added.

The deceased had a long-standing dispute with his cousins over village properties, victim's daughter Farzana Karim Badhon told newsmen.

Police, noted Delwar, were investigating possible motives, previous enmity, feud over land and pre-planned robbery, in the murder.

Tawhid Kasem Khan said his brother-in-law Fazlul had arrested notorious robber Mukim Gazi, a Jatiya Party leader, with a huge number of firearms in the capital's Hatirpool and recovered Tk50 lakh which was robbed from a private bank at Motijheel.

"But so far I know, he didn't receive any threat from anybody," he added.

Fazlul had a licensed firearm, but the miscreants entered his room and killed him as the door was open, mentioned Tawhid.

Family sources said the former cop led a religious life after he had performed Hajj in 1993.

Following his retirement from service in 2007, he set up school, mosque, madrasa and orphanage at his village home at Ramkrishnadi in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj.

He was buried beside a mosque at the village at 10:30pm on Thursday.

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# Firefighters tame wild blaze in Spain

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**পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ**  
**POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.**  
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
 Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, Ramna, Dhaka-1000  
 Web : www.pgcb.org.bd

Memo No.: PGCB/DGM(Project-4)/11.11/13/491 Date:27/08/2013

**TENDER NOTICE**

1	Brief Description of Goods or Works	More or less 26 acres Land Development for proposed Bibiyana 400/230kV sub-station & 230kV Switching Station at Tazabad Mouza, Nabiganj, Habiganj.
2	Tender Security	Taka 39,00,000/- only in the form of Pay order or Bank Draft in favour of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh.
3	Price of Tender Document	Taka 5,000/- only in the form of Pay order or Bank Draft in favor of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh.
4	Place of Selling Tender Document	i) Office of the Project Director, Bibiyana-Kaliakair 400 kV and Fenchugonj-Bibiyana 230 kV Transmission Line Project Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited. Red Crescent Concord Tower (6 <sup>th</sup> floor), 17, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212. ii) Company Secretary, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, IEB Bhaban (4 <sup>th</sup> floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000. iii) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka.
5	Eligibility of Tenderers	Enlisted contractor of Government/Semi-Government organization having the following: i) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 10 years. ii) The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 contract(s) of similar nature, complexity and methods/ construction technology successfully completed within the last 10 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 9 crore. iii) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk 40 crore over the last 05 years.
6	Tender Last selling Date & Time	26 September 2013, up to 03:00 pm.
7	Place of Receiving Tender Document, Date & time	i) Company Secretary, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, IEB Bhaban (4 <sup>th</sup> floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000. ii) Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. <b>Date &amp; time:</b> 29 September 2013, within 12:00 pm (BST).
8	Place of Tender opening, Date & time	Company Secretary, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, IEB Bhaban (4 <sup>th</sup> floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000. (In presence of the bidder or their authorized agents who would wish to be present). <b>Date &amp; time:</b> 29 September 2013, at 03:00 pm (BST).
9	Completion time of the work	8 acres of land (designated by PGCB) shall be filled and developed within 60 days from signing the contract. Remaining 18 acres of land shall be filled and developed within 180 days from signing the contract.
10	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject the tender.	

Engr. Md. Quamrul Hassan)  
 Project Director  
 B-K 400kV & F-B 230kV T/L Project, PGCB  
 Red Crescent Concord Tower (6<sup>th</sup> floor)  
 17, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka.

# Life on earth

FROM PAGE 16

organic molecules will not create life. Instead, left to themselves, organic molecules become something more like tar or asphalt, said Prof Benner.

He added: "Analysis of a Martian meteorite recently showed that there was boron on Mars; we now believe that the oxidised form of molybdenum was there too."

Another reason why life would have struggled to start on early Earth was that it was likely to have been covered by water, said Benner.

Water would have prevented sufficient concentrations of boron forming and is also corrosive to RNA, a DNA cousin believed to be the first genetic molecule to have appeared.

"The evidence seems to be building that we are actually all Martians; that life started on Mars and came to Earth on a rock," said Benner, speaking at the Goldschmidt 2013 conference in Florence, Italy.

As evidence, he points to the oxidised mineral form of the element molybdenum, thought to be a catalyst that helped organic molecules develop into the first living structures.

"It's only when molybdenum becomes highly oxidised that it is able to influence how early life formed," said Benner, of the Westheimer Institute for Science and Technology in the US.

"This form of molybdenum couldn't have been available on Earth at the time life first began, because three billion years ago, the surface of the Earth had very little oxygen, but Mars did.

"It's yet another piece of evidence which makes it more likely that life came to Earth on a Martian meteorite, rather than starting on this planet."

All living things are made from organic matter, but simply adding energy to

# unicef

**Vacancy Announcement**

Position: Nutrition Consultants  
 Number of positions: 11

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Bangladesh is seeking applications from Bangladeshi nationals for eleven consultancy positions to support their work at the following districts in Bangladesh: Netrakona, Cox's Bazaar, Bandarban, Kurigram, Rangpur, Sunamganj, Patuakhali, Barguna, Bagerhat, Dhaka City Corporation, Kishoreganj.

The positions represent an exciting opportunity to work with experienced professionals in support of the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to Scale Up Nutrition throughout the country. The main areas of work include (i) Analysis and Planning, (ii) Coordination, (iii) Monitoring and Information Management, (iv) Technical Support. For detailed Terms of Reference, please visit our website: [www.unicef.org.bd](http://www.unicef.org.bd)

The required qualifications are as follows:

- University degree in Nutrition, Public Health or Food Sciences
- Demonstrated strong competencies in drive for results and communication
- 2-4 years' work experience in nutrition
- Knowledge of local health system an asset
- Fluent in Bangla and English (oral and written)
- National of Bangladesh
- Willingness to locate to district of assignment and to travel frequently within district.

Additional training and mentoring will be available to candidates after recruitment.

**How to apply:**  
 Applications with bio-data and completed P-11 (UN Personal History Form available at UNICEF website ([www.unicef.org.bd](http://www.unicef.org.bd))) should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources, UNICEF, 1, Minto Road, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The name of the position with preferred district(s) should be mentioned on the top of envelope. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.  
 Closing date: 10 September, 2013

UNICEF IS COMMITTED TO GENDER EQUALITY IN ITS MANDATE. WELL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY FEMALES, ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.