

# Pak army steps up Taliban offensive

## Civilians flee; US drone strike kills 5

REUTERS, Peshawar

Twenty-nine people were killed and thousands of civilians forced to flee Pakistan's northwestern region of Khyber, the military said yesterday, as it stepped up a two-week-old offensive against Taliban militants in the area.

Meanwhile, a suspected US drone strike killed at least five militants in a Pakistani tribal region bordering Afghanistan yesterday, with local villagers saying the dead included of a senior Arab commander.

U.S. drone strikes have escalated this month, hitting targets in tribal areas several times a week, but the latest strike comes just days after US and British combat troops in neighboring Afghanistan officially ended their operations.

Twenty-one suspected militants and eight soldiers were killed on Wednesday, the military said in a statement, but gave no figure for civilian casualties.

National disaster officials say the fighting has forced more than 18,000 people to abandon their homes.

Residents of the area say many people are caught between the two opposing forces, as the military orders them to leave and the militants urge them to stay.

The military said it had killed dozens of militants in airstrikes and fighting since the fighting began in Khyber. The Khyber offensive began two weeks ago in the area around the Tirah Valley, a key smuggling route into neighbouring Afghanistan.

At the same time, the military is pressing on with a campaign against the Taliban it launched in nearby North Waziristan in June.



Sri Lankan residents watch search and rescue operations at the site of a landslide caused by heavy monsoon rains in Koslanda village in central Sri Lanka, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# Sri Lanka steps up search for landslide victims

AFP, KOSLANDA

Sri Lankan soldiers yesterday stepped up their search for 100 people feared buried alive in a landslide at a tea plantation, but there was little hope of finding any survivors.

Hundreds of troops using heavy diggers clawed through tonnes of mud that buried scores of tin-roofed homes at the picturesque plantation in the island's centre on Wednesday.

"Rains are slowing down our work," the region's top military officer, Major General Mano Perera, told reporters as he directed search operations.

"The area is flooded with muddy water, so we don't hold out much hope of finding survivors," Perera said, explaining that "there were no concrete structures which could have acted as air traps for victims to survive".

A government minister voiced fears that

100 people may have been buried, although officials said that so far only a handful of bodies have been found.

There had been fears of an even higher toll when officials initially said that up to 300 people were unaccounted for, but the minister said most of those who were classified as missing were later found at work.

President Mahinda Rajapakse visited the disaster area in Koslanda yesterday, speaking with survivors now sheltering at two schools. He later inspected the Meeriyabedda tea plantation which bore the full brunt of the mudslide.

At least 1,200 people from nearby tea plantations have also been evacuated from their homes amid fears that ongoing rains could lead to more mudslides, officials said.

Sri Lanka's picturesque hill region is famed for producing Ceylon tea and has become a major tourist attraction with visitors able to stay on the plantations.

# Curb anti-nat'l forces

## BJP tells Mamata govt

THE HINDU ONLINE

With the violence hit area in Birbhum made out of bounds, BJP yesterday stepped up its attack on Trinamool Congress government saying instead of stopping Opposition, it should use its energy for "curbing anti-national forces" working in West Bengal.

BJP national vice-president Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, who was leading a three-member party team to Makra in Birbhum district where TMC and BJP supporters clashed leading to death of 3 persons last Monday, said the state Home department has asked them not to proceed as prohibitory orders were in force there but they would not change their plan.

"After we were informed of this communication, we decided we will carry on with our programme and we are not afraid if we are arrested there," Naqvi said.

BJP, Congress and CPI (M) teams were stopped from entering the village on Wednesday citing prohibitory orders in force in the area since Monday.

Asking the state government to deal firmly with anti-national activities, Naqvi alleged that, "The Trinamool Congress government is synonymous with terrorists and mafia and they are letting the anti-national forces to use the land of Bengal for terrorist activities."

# Gandhi dynasty flounders 30 yrs after Indira killing

AFP, New Delhi

When Indira Gandhi was gunned down by her bodyguards on October 31, 1984, the instant elevation of her son Rajiv to the post of prime minister appeared to confirm her family's status as India's natural-born rulers.

But three decades on from the assassination of India's 'Iron Lady', even members of her Congress party are beginning to question whether they may now have to look beyond the Nehru-Gandhi clan for survival.

After a crushing defeat in May's general election, things hit a new low this month when Congress trailed in third place in two state polls with Rahul Gandhi -- the dynasty's latest scion -- having all but disappeared from view.

"Indira Gandhi was the real architect of the Congress party's expansion. She had the ability to directly speak to the masses across India and get votes," said Rasheed Kidwai, who has written several books on Congress.

"For the first time, instead of the party depending on the family, the family depends on it for its survival," he told AFP.

The centre-left Congress has ruled India for more than 50 of the 67 years since independence, while a member of the family has been at the helm of the party for all but a handful of those years.

Indira's father Jawaharlal Nehru was India's first prime minister from 1947 to 1964. Two years after his death, Indira became the premier from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 before a grieving Rajiv then took up the mantle.

Such was the sympathy towards Rajiv that Congress recorded its best-ever showing in elections soon after he took office, reinforcing the notion that the family was destined to rule the world's largest democracy.

After Rajiv was assassinated in a Tamil suicide attack in 1991, Congress turned to his Italian-born widow Sonia who led the party back to power in a shock 2004 election victory.

She declined to become premier, installing the mild-mannered Manmohan Singh instead, but was seen as the power behind the throne until May's defeat after a lacklustre campaign led by her son Rahul.

While few within Congress speak out against the family, analysts say there can be no illusions about the scale of its troubles.

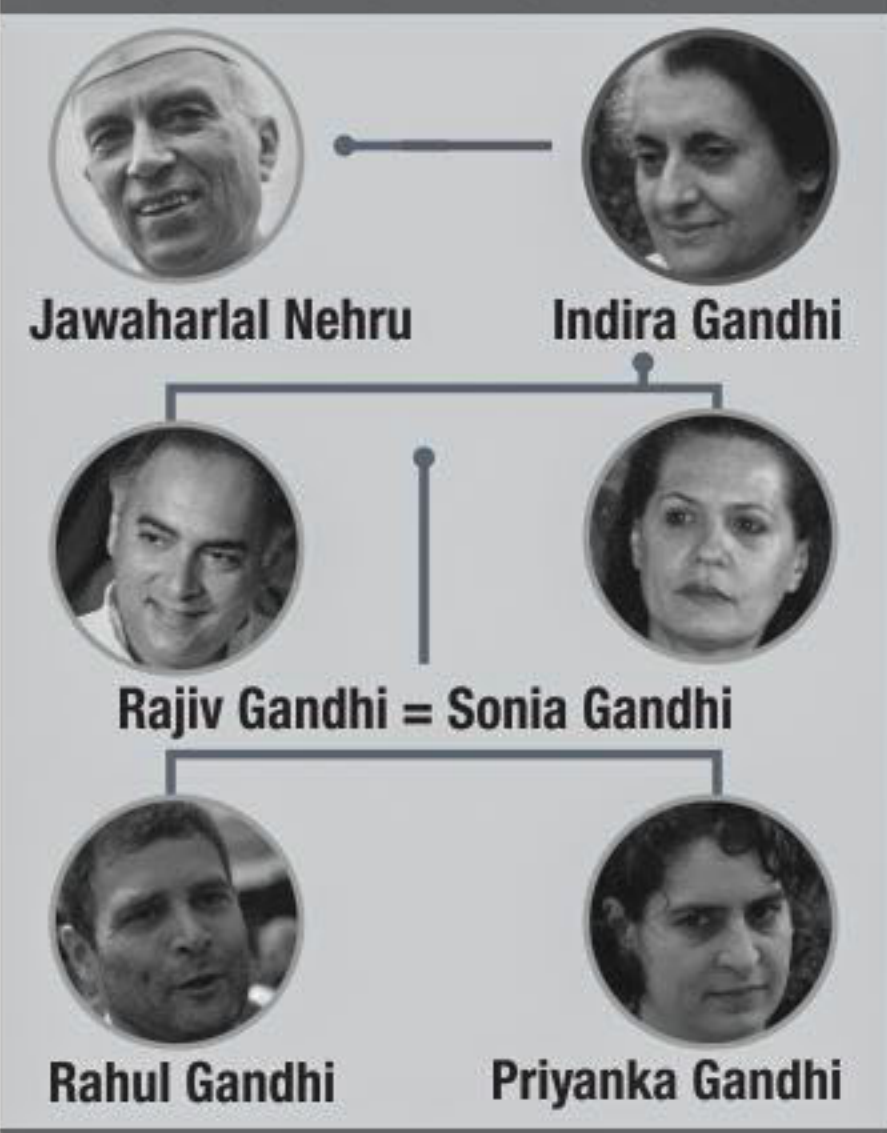
"It is defeated and directionless with a serious leadership crisis," Zoya Hasan, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, told AFP.

Rahul -- once described in a US diplomatic cable as "an empty suit" -- has shown no such appetite and likened power to "poison" before being persuaded to become Congress's election frontman.

For years, it seemed almost unthinkable that anyone but a Gandhi could lead Congress.

But asked recently if someone from outside the family could lead the party, former finance minister P Chidambaram told NDTV: "I think so... some day, yes."

## THE GANDHI DYNASTY OF INDIA



# Amelia Earhart's plane debris found!



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An aluminium patch found on a remote Pacific atoll in 1991 has been identified by researchers as a piece of Amelia Earhart's lost aircraft, and could help solve the mystery of what happened to the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

Researchers at The International Group of Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) believe the patch was fitted onto Earhart's plane during her eight-day stay in Miami, 1937, her fourth stop during her attempt to circumnavigate the Earth at the equator.

"We don't understand how the patch got busted out of [the plane] and ended up on the island where we found it, but we have the patch, we have a piece of

Earhart's aircraft," Ric Gillespie, executive director of TIGHAR, said.

TIGHAR has spent millions of dollars searching for Earhart's missing Lockheed Electra in a project that has involved hundreds of people, and next year it will begin a fresh search for the aviator's plane based the patch.

The patch, measuring about 19 inches by 23 inches, was discovered by researchers in a 1991 voyage to the island of Nikumaroro, in the Republic of Kiribati, situated between Fiji and Hawaii.

It has been described as being "as unique to [Earhart's] particular aircraft as a fingerprint is to an individual," by TIGHAR, due to the size and the pattern of rivets that directly relate to a window on the Lockheed Electra that the patch replaced during Earhart's stay in Miami.

# Secularists win Tunisia vote

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia's secular Nidaa Tounes won landmark parliamentary elections, results showed yesterday, beating Islamists in a vote that raised hopes of a peaceful transition in the birthplace of the Arab Spring.

Sunday's election has been hailed as a victory for democracy in the North African nation, which touched off the so-called Arab Spring when protests drove longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from power in 2011.

Tunisians hope the election, and a presidential vote on November 23, will provide much-coveted stability, nearly four years after the revolution.

Nidaa Tounes -- an eclectic coalition of left and centre-right politicians, opposition figures and senior people from the ousted Ben Ali regime -- won 85 of 217 seats, the ISIE election body told a press conference.

The moderate Islamist movement Ennahda, which had run Tunisia in coalition with other parties for much of the time since Ben Ali's downfall, took 69 seats.

With an outright majority of 109 seats virtually out of the question once final results are issued, political horse-trading has already begun on forming a coalition.

Under Tunisia's electoral system, a party that gains the largest number of votes but falls short of a majority is given a mandate to form a coalition government.

But there is no natural alliance among the various parties, and media reports have suggested a grand coalition between the two top vote-getters may be possible.

Ennahda, which won Tunisia's first free elections three years ago after Ben Ali's departure, had been accused of working to steer society away from its traditional secularism, and the country is troubled by a low-level jihadist insurgency.

At the same time, the economy has been in the doldrums during Ennahda's tenure, with unemployment among the young, themselves widely unaffected, a major concern.

But the Tunisian central bank expressed confidence Thursday that the results of the election would contribute to putting the economy back on track.

The UPL (Free Patriotic Union), led by entrepreneur Slim Riahi, came third with 16 seats, one more than the leftist coalition Popular Front.

Another 15 parties will divide up the remaining 32 seats.



## BUSINESS FACULTY SEARCH

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh is an institution devoted to developing young minds to their fullest potential through the free and creative pursuit of knowledge. ULAB provides excellent working environment, flexible workload, attractive remuneration, festival bonus, provident fund, gratuity, tax benefits and research grants for faculty members.

ULAB School of Business (USB) invites applications from the qualified candidates to join the following full-time positions:

Position	Requirements	Area
Associate Professor	Ph.D. from a reputed university with eight years teaching experience and minimum eight publications in high quality peer reviewed journals.	Accounting, Finance, HRM, Marketing, Economics
Assistant Professor	Ph.D. or Masters degree from a reputed university with six years teaching experience and minimum five publications in high quality peer reviewed journals.	Accounting, Finance, HRM, Marketing, Economics
Senior Lecturer	Masters degree from a reputed university with three years teaching experience and minimum three publications in peer reviewed journals.	MIS/Management, Economics/ Entrepreneurship
Lecturer	Masters degree from a reputed university with two years experience and/or minimum two publications in peer reviewed journals	MIS/Management, Economics/ Entrepreneurship

The ideal candidates must have degrees in the relevant discipline with excellent academic achievements, outstanding communication and IT skills. Preference will be given to applicants having degrees from foreign institutions with teaching and/or corporate experiences. Required criteria will be relaxed for candidate having Ph.D. from recognized institution.

### Application Instructions:

- 1) Send application and attachments by email to [hr.faculty@ulab.edu.bd](mailto:hr.faculty@ulab.edu.bd)
- 2) Email subject field should be "USB Recruitment Fall 2014"
- 3) Email attachments should include:
  - (a) Cover Letter (MS Word) addressed to Vice Chancellor, ULAB
  - (b) Recent CV [must include (1) a scanned recent photograph and (2) names and contact details of two referees, one of whom should be an immediate past employer (if applicable)
  - (c) Completed CV Summary [downloadable from [www.ulab.edu.bd/jobs/cv\\_summary.doc](http://www.ulab.edu.bd/jobs/cv_summary.doc)]

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview

Application deadline: November 13, 2014



## Faculty Search

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Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)	Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer	Programming
Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering	Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer	Microprocessors, Microcontrollers/Wireless and Cellular Communications/Control Engineering/ Electronics Materials & Nanoelectronics.

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- Associate Professor : Ph.D. from a reputed university with eight years teaching experience and minimum eight publications in high quality peer reviewed journals.
- Assistant Professor : Ph.D. or Masters degree from a reputed university with six years teaching experience and minimum five publications in high quality peer reviewed journals.
- Senior Lecturer : Masters degree from a reputed university with three years teaching experience and minimum three publications in peer reviewed journals.
- Lecturer : Masters degree from a reputed university with two years experience and/or minimum two publications in peer reviewed journals.

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