

NEWS IN brief

Turkish forces kill 25 Kurdish militants

AFP, Diyarbakir
 Turkish security forces have killed 25 Kurdish militants this week as they battle suspected members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) inside two flashpoint towns, security sources said yesterday. The operations conducted inside the towns of Cizre and Silopi in the southeastern Sirnak province.

US sanctions banks financing Hezbollah

AFP, Washington
 The US House of Representatives voted unanimously Wednesday to impose tough new sanctions on banks that knowingly do business with the Lebanon-based Shiite movement Hezbollah. The bill targeting the Iran-backed Hezbollah, which is considered a terrorist organization by Washington, passed the Senate last month.

Palestinian 'attacker killed in West Bank'

AFP, Nablus
 A Palestinian tried to attack Israeli soldiers with a knife in the West Bank yesterday and was shot dead, the army said, the latest incident in more than two-months of violence. Members of his family identified him as 15-year-old Abdullah Nassara. He had been to school that morning for an exam, which he attended, but never returned, his family said. Violence since the start of October has killed 120 on the Palestinian side, 17 Israelis, an American and an Eritrean.

Pentagon chief used personal email for work

AFP, Washington
 Defense Secretary Ashton Carter used his personal email for government business in the early part of his tenure, a spokesman said, triggering concerns that hackers would access sensitive information. The revelation comes in the wake of the uproar over Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account while serving as secretary of

India to buy Russian air defence systems

AGENCIES
 India's Defence Acquisition Council has cleared the purchase of five S-400 air defence systems from Russia, two defence ministry sources said yesterday.
 One of the sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the deal is expected to cost around 300 billion rupees (\$4.52 billion) but that the final price tag would be negotiated during the procurement process, reports Reuters.
 India's air defences are old and outdated and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who heads to Moscow later this month to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, is keen to modernise the country's defences against airborne attacks.
 Sources said the acquisition of the S-400 system, which has a range from 40 to 400 km, depending on the missile fired, could be through the Request for Proposals (RFP) or government-to-government route.
 The acquisition will be discussed between Modi and Putin and may figure in the joint statement.
 Although the military had earlier projected a requirement of a dozen S-400 systems, the defence ministry is clear that only five systems are sufficient to take care of the future airborne threat from across India's borders, reports Hindustan Times.
 The S-400 is a proven anti-aircraft system, and is widely considered the most advanced of its kind in the world, with the capability of engaging missiles as well as aircraft. It comes with a mobile launcher and a threat detection radar-command centre. The deal includes purchase of some 6,000 missiles from Russia.



Indian Gorkha activists shout slogans to voice their demands for a separate Gorkha state in northern West Bengal during a protest in New Delhi, yesterday. The Gorkha people are demanding a separate state in the Darjeeling area of the state of West Bengal, which would be named Gorkhaland. PHOTO: AFP

\$1.8 BILLION ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN China summons US envoy, slams deal

AFP, Beijing
 China has summoned the US envoy to protest Washington's sale of warships to Taiwan, as part of a massive \$1.8 billion arms package, Beijing said yesterday.
 Taipei will get an array of missiles, amphibious assault vehicles and two frigates in the latest deal, which comes as the United States looks to shore up its Asian friends and allies in the face of growing Chinese assertiveness.
 "China staunchly opposes America's sale of arms to Taiwan," a statement from the country's foreign affairs ministry said, as US charge d'affaires Kaye Lee was called in for a dressing down.
 It said Beijing would impose sanctions on any companies involved in the sale, and warned Washington to cancel the deal to "avoid causing further damage to Sino-US relations".
 Although it has been governed separately since the end of a civil war in 1949, China considers Taiwan a renegade province awaiting reunification.
 It regularly lashes out at Washington and other powers for their dealings with Taipei, which it labels "interference" in Chinese domestic affairs.

The US weapons sale -- the first to Taiwan in four years -- comes at an increasingly febrile time in East Asia, where China's aggressive position on territorial disputes with its neighbours has raised anxiety levels in the US and among allies from Japan to the Philippines.
 Beijing is building islands with military-grade airstrips in the South China Sea, part of what observers say is an attempt to assert control over almost the whole of the body of water.
 Several countries -- along with Taiwan -- also claim parts of the sea.
 The US and its allies have carried out high-profile overflights of the sea, nearing the artificial islands, in what they say are routine "freedom of navigation" exercises in international waters.
 Beijing says they are provocations and infringements of Chinese sovereignty.
 In their meeting on Wednesday, Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zuguang told Lee the weapons deal "severely goes against international law and the basic norms of international relations", adding that it "severely harms China's sovereignty and security interests".
 Washington, which is bound by domestic laws to supply defence materials to



In this undated photo, a missile is being launched from a Taiwanese frigate during a wargame. PHOTO: AFP

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'Al-Qaeda cell' busted in New Delhi

Three arrested
 AFP, New Delhi
 Delhi police have busted a suspected al-Qaeda cell and arrested a founder member of the jihadist group's India wing, officials said yesterday.
 Police said they had arrested "radical extremist" Mohammed Asif, 41, who allegedly led the group's recruitment and training wing in India and was a founder member of al-Qaeda on the subcontinent.
 Two others were also arrested in the case, one for allegedly attempting to radicalise students at a madrasa in Uttar Pradesh state and another for financing the group's activities, Press Trust of India reported.
 In September 2014 al-Qaeda announced it had set up a new branch on the Indian subcontinent seeking to invigorate its waning Islamist extremist movement.
 India placed several states on high alert after the group launched the new branch to "wage jihad" in South Asia.
 Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri said at the time the new operation would take the fight to Myanmar, Bangladesh and India, which has a large but traditionally moderate Muslim population.

Libyan rivals sign unity govt deal

AFP, Skhirat
 Libyan politicians yesterday signed a deal on a unity government despite opposition on both sides, in what the United Nations described as a "first step" towards ending the crisis.
 World powers have urged the warring factions to break a political deadlock that has allowed jihadists and people-smugglers to flourish since the fall of dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.
 A group of lawmakers from Libya's rival parliaments, as well as other political figures, inked the UN-sponsored accord in the Moroccan resort of Skhirat, an AFP journalist said.
 But even within the two legislatures the deal has caused deep divisions.
 The heads of both parliaments have warned that the agreement has no legitimacy and the politicians signing the agreement represented only themselves.
 UN envoy Martin Kobler acknowledged that much remained to be done to end the turmoil.
 "This is just the beginning of a long journey for Libya. Signing is only the first step on the road to putting Libya back on the right track," he said at the ceremony.
 "The door is always open to those who are not here today. The new government must move urgently to address the concerns of those who feel marginalised."
 The signing follows a gathering in Rome of a US- and Italian-led group of world powers and regional players that called on the two sides Sunday to lay down their arms and back a new unity government.

Learn first what you will be doing in parliament

Suu Kyi sends new MPs to legislative school

AFP, Yangon
 Aung San Suu Kyi is sending her newly-elected MPs on a crash course on Myanmar's parliament as they prepare to take their seats for the first time early next year, her party said yesterday.
 "The new MPs do know about politics but they need to learn more about the parliament," party spokesman Win Htein told AFP.
 He said a series of classes would teach the budding politicians about the operations of the legislature as well other key topics like the country's controversial army-drafted constitution to help "improve their performance" as MPs.
 The tutorials will be held in batches in Naypyidaw and later in Yangon in the coming weeks as the NLD prepares for its historic new role after a quarter century of opposition to military rule.
 "She has not got time to teach the class," Win Htein said, adding that the Nobel laureate was tied up with her duties in the



current parliament, which resumed after the elections for a lame duck session that ends in January.
 Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a thunderous majority in landmark November polls that are set to tip the balance of power away from the military for the first time in decades.
 Some 390 NLD MPs will flood into parliament in February, mostly political newcomers with no experience of the Naypyidaw legislature, which itself has only been in operation since a quasi-civilian regime replaced military rule in 2011.

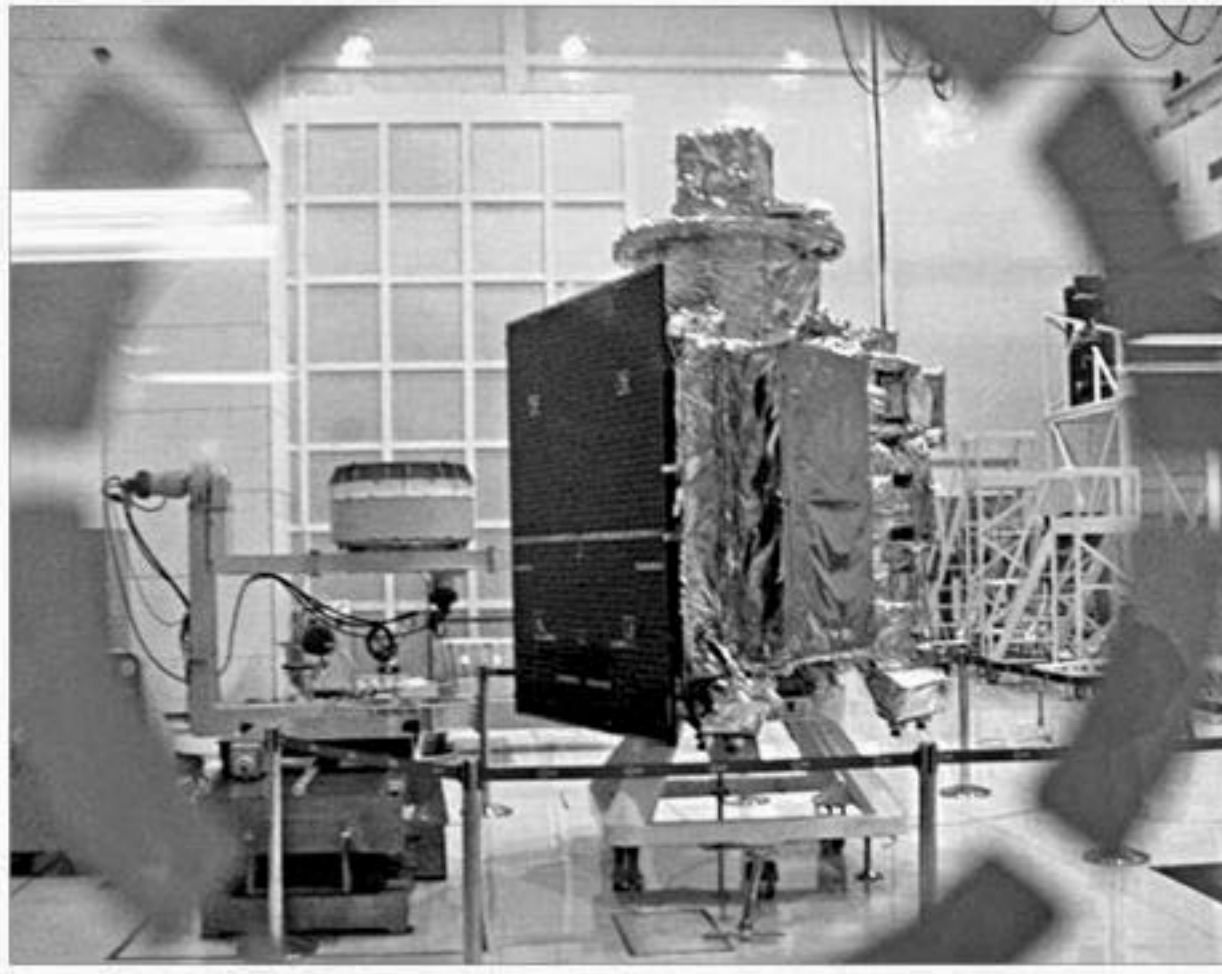
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Director, Stores & Supplies
 Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka

Tender for Goods (Single Lot)

Ref. No: CMSD/GD-1504(NCT)/15-16/D-6/06 Dated: 14/12/2015

KEY INFORMATION				
1	Procurement Method/Document: NCT Open.			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
2	Source of Funds: Development Budget (Government).			
3	Development Partner:			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
4	Project/Programme Code:			
5	Project/Programme Name: GOB (Dev.)			
6	Tender Package No.: GD-1504			
7	Tender Package Name: Procurement of "Plaster of Paris"			
8	Tender Publication Date: 18/12/2015			
9	Tender Last Selling Date: 03/01/2016			
10	Tender Closing Date and time: 04/01/2016 11:00am			
11	Tender Opening Date and time: 04/01/2016 11:00am			
12	Name and Address of the Office(s): -Selling Tender Document (Principal): Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208 -Selling Tender Document (Others): Do -Receiving Tender Document: Do -Opening Tender Document: Do			
13	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting: Conference Room, Room No.-115, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, 27/12/2015 11:00am			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
14	Eligibility of Tenderer: (a) The tenderer shall have the minimum supply and/or production capacities of goods is/are: Minimum supply and/or production capacity of 20,000 pcs of Plaster of Paris in maximum of two contracts. (b) The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 02 (two) numbers of supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 05 (five) years of similar size. i.e years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper.			
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works: Procurement of "Plaster of Paris"			
16	Brief Description of Related Services: Procurement of "Plaster of Paris"			
17	Tender Document Price: BDT 4,000/- (Bangladesh Taka Four Thousand) only. The method of payment will be in Pay Order from any schedule Bank in Bangladesh.			
17	Lot No., Identification, Location, Tender Security Amount in Taka, Completion Time in Weeks/ Months			
Single Lot	Procurement of "Plaster of Paris"	Central Medical Store Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208	BDT 20,000.00	To be delivered within 14 weeks of signing the contract
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender: Brigadier General Md. Parvez Kabir.			
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender: Director, Stores & Supplies and Line Director (Procurement, Logistics & Supplies Management).			
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender: CMSD, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.			
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender: Tel. No: 9129231 Fax: 88-2-9126547, Email: cmsdstore@dhaka.net			

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. GD-3896



India to launch solar mission in 2019

PTI, New Delhi
 India's second lunar probe Chandrayaan II will land on moon in 2017 and the country's first solar mission Aditya L1 is likely to be launched in 2019, Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday.
 Chandrayaan II will land on the surface of moon in 2017 and this second lunar mission will help explore the possibilities of signs of extra-terrestrial life, Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh said during Question Hour responding to supplementary.
 The Aditya L1 mission "is aimed at studying the sun from an orbit around the sun-earth lagrangian point (L-1) which is about 1.5 million km from earth. It will carry seven payloads including a coronagraph to observe the outermost layers of the sun, the corona. Aditya L1 will be launched during 2019-20 timeframe," he said in his written response.
 The "approved cost" of the solar mission is Rs 378.53 crore.
 Responding to another question, Singh said India has entered the era of "space marketing" and the launch of six Singapore satellites on Wednesday will earn India €26 million.
 So far, India has earned \$15 million and €80 million by launching satellites of other countries, he said, adding that \$ 5 million and €65 million are in the "pipeline", while apparently referring to the launches proposed in the future.
 The minister said a budget of Rs 1420 crore has been approved by the government for realisation of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite (IRNSS) programme, including satellites and associated ground segment.

Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh
 Headquarters, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

Amendment No. 1 to the Invitation for Tender and Tender Document

Name of the project : Construction of Cargo Apron in front of Cargo Terminal Building at Shah Amanat International Airport, Chittagong.

Tender package No. : 04/2015-2016 (Chittagong).

Amendment No. 1 to the above noted tender is hereby issued as follows:-

Sl No.	Item	Amendment
01.	Sl. No. 2 of 18 of Invitation for Tender: Eligibility of tenderer	The quantity of cement concrete work shall be read as "15,000 cum" instead of "35,000 cum".
02.	Tender document (Volume 1 of 4): Section 2, Tender data sheet: C, Qualification Criteria: ITT 14.1(b)	The quantity of cement concrete work shall be read as "15,000 cum" instead of "35,000 cum."
03.	Tender document (Volume 1 of 4): Section 2, Tender Data Sheet: C, Qualification criteria: ITT 18.2 Requirements for other partner(s) [ITT 14.1 (b)]	The quantity of cement concrete work shall be read as "8,000 cum" instead of "20,000 cum".

All other terms & conditions of the invitation for tender and tender document will remain unchanged.

CAAB/PR-88/2015/715
 Date: 17-12-2015
 GD-3912

Sudhendu Bikash Goswami
 Chief Engineer (C.C)
 Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh