Palin, US State dept in

INTERNATIONAL

ASEAN SUMMIT

Hillary faces Japan-China wrangle

BBC ONLINE

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has joined the Asean regional summit, amid a continuing war of words between China and Japan over disputed

An apparently friendly China-Japan meeting ahead of the Hanoi summit on Friday was followed by BeijingaccusingTokyoofdamagingbilateralrelations.

The US has urged dialogue but China has already expressed dissatisfaction with Hillary over the issue. Hillary's agenda will also include human rights

The 16-nation East Asia Summit has now formally opened in the Vietnamese capital.

The China-Japan row is over islands known in Japan as Senkaku and in China as Diaoyu. They are controlled by Japan but claimed by China.

Ahead of her arrival, Washington called on the nations to "have a thoughtful, considered dialogue and resolve these issues".

State department spokesman PJ Crowley said: "We recognise that there is an open question of sovereignty, and we expect that to be resolved

between Japan and China through dialogue." But China has already said it is "strongly dissatisfied" with Hillary for speaking out on the dispute after meeting her Japanese counterpart Seiji Maehara in Hawaii on Thursday.

She said the islands fell within the scope of Japan's security alliance with the US.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue said on Friday: "The Japanese side should take responsibility for ruining the atmosphere for leaders of the two countries."



US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton (L) talks with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on the sidelines of the 17th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Hanoi yesterday.

receded.

an official tally.

The number of missing was

almost halved from 298 to 163

following Saturday's discovery,

while the death count

remained at 413, according to

ing some of the isolated coastal

Rescue workers were reach-

Scores found alive in Indonesia tsunami zone

AFP, South Pagai

Scores of people feared dead in Indonesia's tsunami disaster zone were found alive as rescue workers spread out to remote island communities five days after the killer wave.

The discovery came as have claimed at least 36 lives. Indonesia struggled with disasanother powerful eruption of the archipelago's most active volcano, which spread chaos and ash over a vast area of central Java.

village a day after a massive tusunami.

ash over a wide area.

Police, soldiers and locals took to the roads in panic as the lages. volcano erupted violently, sparking fears of a repeat of the found many of the missing deadly explosions earlier this week that are now known to very hard to find them," disas-

No one was killed in the Joskamatirsaid. ter on two fronts following eruption on Saturday, but hospital staff reported two

Indonesia's Mount Merapi coast of Sumatra, rescue work-rubble. burst into life again as a loud ers battling rough seas and explosion sent frightened locals monsoon rain found 135 peo- believed to have been sucked

Three-week-old tsunami survivor Indonesian baby is attended by a nurse at a hospital in Sikakap in

North Pagai island, one of the Mentawai islands yesterday. The unidentified baby boy was found by

rescuers bruised and covered with sand in a water drainage on October 26, 2010 in Munte Barubaru

scurrying to safety and sprayed ple hiding on high ground, too out to sea as the killer wave scared of another wave to return to their shattered vil-

> "We're so grateful that we've people -- we'd been working ter management official

Officials had held little hope of finding many of the missing people had died in the chaotic after flights over the area earlier in the week revealed dozens of On the tsunami-hit unclaimed bodies strewn Mentawai island chain off the across beaches and wedged in

Many of the dead were also



PHOTO: AFP

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"We're in dire need of more food, tents and blankets. I feel really cold at night as it rains all the time."

In central Java, 1,300 kilometres (810 miles) to the southeast, terrified residents fled in panic when Mount Merapi erupted again just after midnight, fearing a repeat of explosions on Tuesday that claimed at least 36 lives.

No one was killed in the latest eruption, but hospital staff reported that two people had died in the chaotic rush to

"I was sleeping on the veranda when loud booms like thunder woke me up," local resident Kris Budianto, 51, told AFP. He suffered a broken arm and facial wounds when he crashed his motorbike in the melee.

Iran ready for N-talks after Nov 10

Iran is ready to hold its first talks with world powers in more than a year about its disputed nuclear program any time after November 10, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said Friday.

The meeting with a group of six world powers would be the first in the long-running dispute since October 2009 and also the first since the United Nations, the United States and European Union imposed tougher sanctions on Iran this year.

Western officials say the punitive measures are increasingly damaging the economy of the world No. 5 oil producer and that this may persuade it to agree to curb sensitive atomic activity.

Twitter duel different relationship with the world," read another tweet.

A tongue-in-cheek US birthday message to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad over

Twitter may not have reached the intended conservatives, was not amused. recipient, but triggered a rebuke from someone State Department spokesman Philip Crowley, learning from reporters that Ahmadinejad celebrated turned 54 on

Palin highlighted Ahmadinejad's past calls

"My tweet was simply to suggest that a reasonable celebration of President Ahmadinejad's birthday would be to release Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal," Crowley told reporters.

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AFP, Washington

else -- Sarah Palin.

Crowley tweeted.

Thursday, took to the micro-blogging service to

ask him to release two US hikers detained in Iran

"Happy birthday President Ahmadinejad. Celebrate by sending Josh Fattal and Shane

Bauer home. What a gift that would be,"

"Your 54th year was full of lost opportunities. Hope in your 55th year you will open Iran to a

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Palin, the Republican Party's 2008 candidate

for vice president who enjoys a following among

"Happy B'day Ahmadinejad wish sent by US Govt. Mind boggling foreign policy: kowtow (and) coddle enemies; snub allies. Obama Doctrine is nonsense," she wrote in her own message on Twitter.

for the destruction of Israel.

Crowley defended himself on Friday.

REUTERS, Brussels

Iran has dismissed the

impact of sanctions and shown no sign of backing down over a uranium enrichment drive. It says it has a sovereign right to pursue peaceful nuclear power, but the West suspects it aims to build unlawful atomic bombs.

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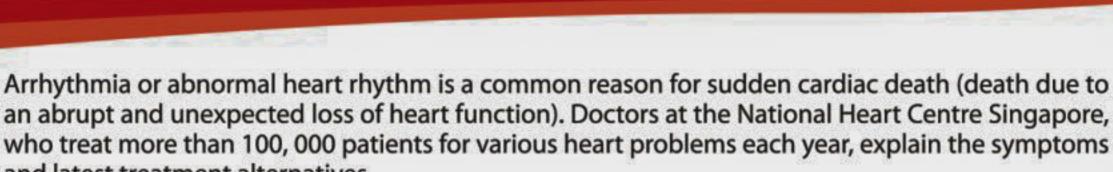
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