



Hillary seeks clean start in Mideast peace talks

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Friday sought a clean start in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks by urging both sides to tackle "without delay" the core issues of their decades-old conflict.

Hillary made the appeal in a speech days after the Obama administration admitted it had failed to persuade Israel to renew a freeze on settlements in the West Bank, effectively ending direct peace talks launched three months ago.

She urged both sides to get to the heart of the issues dividing them even if they cannot agree to meet face-to-face because the Palestinians first demand a halt to settlements, both in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

"It is time to grapple with the core issues of this conflict: on borders and security, settlements, water and refugees, and on Jerusalem itself," Hillary told an audience that included key US, Israeli and Palestinian players.

"In the days ahead, our discussions with both sides will be substantive, two-way conversations, with an eye toward making real progress in the next few months on the key questions of an eventual framework agreement," she said.

US officials still insist such an agreement settling the core issues can be reached by the original deadline of August next year.

"The United States will not be a passive participant," Hillary said in her speech sponsored by the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

Petraeus 'most fascinating person' of 2010

REUTERS, Los Angeles

General David Petraeus, the top US military commander in Afghanistan, has been named the "most fascinating person of 2010", beating the cast of MTV reality show "The Jersey Shore" and teen singer Justin Bieber.

Veteran journalist Barbara Walters called Petraeus a "true American hero" and placed him top of her annual list of the 10 most fascinating people of 2010 in a TV broadcast on Thursday.

Network ABC said on Friday that 12.2 million Americans watched the show.

Petraeus, 58, was named in June to head US and Nato forces in Afghanistan after serving as head of the US Central Command overseeing Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and Yemen.

He is also credited with having pulled Iraq back from the brink of an all-out sectarian war in 2007.

"In 2007, it seems, there are people who break things and people who fix them. This man is a fixer," Walters said. "A lot depends on General Petraeus and his combination of humanity and strength."

Others on Walter's annual list included 16-year-old Canadian singer Justin Bieber, future British princess Kate Middleton who is engaged to marry Prince William, veteran comedy actress Betty White and conservative politician Sarah Palin.

Walters has chosen her most fascinating people for 18 years. Last year's winner was US first lady Michelle Obama, and in 2008 Walters put then president-elect Barack Obama top of her list.



A young supporter of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) takes part in a rally celebrating the 43rd anniversary of its establishment in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Bomb, drone kill 22 Afghan civilians

REUTERS, Kandahar

Fifteen Afghan civilians died when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan and seven road construction company employees were killed in an air strike in an eastern province, authorities said yesterday.

The deaths were the latest in an upsurge of violence that has made this year the deadliest for both Afghans and foreign troops since the 2001 overthrow of the Taliban.

There was also a suicide bomb attack on Saturday in northern Kunduz province, one of several areas that were relatively peaceful for many years but where the insurgency is now spreading fast. It is also used as a springboard to launch other attacks.

The attacker was driving a police vehicle and targeted an Afghan National Army convoy, wounding five soldiers and three women who were in the area, said Char Dara District Chief Abdul Wahid Omakheil.

US concerned at frisking of India envoy

BBC ONLINE

The United States has expressed regret over India's ambassador Meera Shankar being pulled out of an airport security line and frisked by a security agent.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she was concerned about the incident and vowed to prevent a recurrence.

The hands-on search took place last week even after Meera Shankar's diplomatic status was revealed.

Some reports said Meera, who was on her way from a conference, was singled out as she was wearing a sari.

The search took place on 4 December at the Jackson-Evers International Airport.

Meera was about to board a flight to Baltimore after attending an event at Mississippi State University.

The Indian embassy in Washington strongly protested about the incident and External Affairs Minister SM Krishna called it "unacceptable".

"We obviously are concerned about it," Hillary told reporters. "We will be looking into it and trying to determine both what happened and what we could do to prevent such incidents in the future."

US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, however, said officials had handled the matter "by the book".

"It was a pat-down that followed our procedures, and I think it was appropriate under the circumstances," she told reporters.

Mrs Clinton's expression of concern has done little to pacify many Indians who perceive the incident to be an insult.

2G TELECOM SCAM Raja pledges cooperation

AFP, New Delhi

A former Indian minister at the heart of a telecom scandal promised Saturday to "cooperate fully" with authorities investigating what could be the country's biggest corruption case.

Police raided the homes and offices of ex-telecom minister A. Raja this week, along with those of senior aides, as part of its probe into the 2008 sale of mobile phone licences, which resulted in massive losses for the government.

"I will fully cooperate with the (Central Investigation Bureau) agency. Whatever the procedure is, I have to comply with it," Raja said in the southern city of Chennai in televised remarks.

"I will prove my innocence." A spokesman for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) declined to say when the politician, who has denied all wrongdoing, might be questioned, but another official said it would be soon.

Raja was forced to quit last month following accusations by the national auditor that his ministry's handling of the sale of the mobile licences at knock-down prices cost the nation up to 40 billion dollars in lost revenue.

The scandal has cast a cloud over India's "telecom revolution" that has made the country the world's fastest-growing mobile market with 700 million users.

It has also raised doubts about Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's political judgement in not acting faster against Raja after surfaced.

Trade imbalance to cast shadow on China-India talks

REUTERS, Beijing/new Delhi

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao faces a tough task when he arrives in India next week to allay New Delhi's fears over China's rise as a global power, and to smooth tensions in an often-fractious relationship.

Wen plans to spend Dec 15-16 in New Delhi, after which he will travel to Pakistan, India's closest rival, for another two nights.

Despite a boom in bilateral commerce in the past decade and cooperation on global issues such as climate change, India and China remain suspicious of each other's growing international clout and influence.

"The relationship is a mixture of third-world solidarity and strategic rivalry. Those two elements are here to stay," said Jean Pierre Cabestan, an international relations professor at Hong Kong Baptist University.

"But India will need to balance China's growing power even more tomorrow than today."

The growing economic interdependence between China and India is likely to head Wen's agenda for the trip.

Analysts say he could announce more Chinese investments in India or lower trade barriers to assuage the worries of Indian politicians, peeved that the Sino-Indian trade balance is heavily in China's favour.

India's deficit with China could reach \$24-25 billion this year, said Srikanth Kondapalli, head of East Asian studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The deficit rose to \$16 billion in 2007-08, from \$1 billion in 2001-02, according to Indian customs data.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is likely to press Wen for reassurances that China will open its market wider, especially in value-added sectors such as financial services and information technology.

China is India's biggest trading partner, with bilateral trade expected to pass \$60 billion this year.

But even with greater market access, it is likely to be a long time before India can close the trade gap.

"I don't see the deficit narrowing rapidly," said Dibyesh Anand, an international relations professor at London's University of Westminster. "Even if tariffs are lowered

on manufactured products, India can't compete with China on manufactured products."

TRADE IMBALANCE India has sought to diversify its trade basket, but raw materials and other low-end commodities such as iron ore still make up about 60 percent of its exports to China.

In contrast, manufactured goods -- from trinkets to turbines -- form the bulk of China's exports.

In an illustration of India's dependence on Chinese manufacturing, Shanghai Electric Group Co agreed in October to sell power equipment and related services worth \$8.3 billion to India's Reliance Power.

Even if India and China are the world's two largest emerging economies, the development gap between them remains large, due in part to a decade's head start for Chinese economic reforms. "India's at a phase of capital expenditure that is 15 years behind China. That's just the way it is," said Chetan Ahya, a Morgan Stanley economist in Singapore.

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No: 2120-EGCB/2010 Date: 08 December 2010

NOTICE

Sub: Extension of bid submission date for proposed "Siddhirganj 450 MW CAPP Project"

Ref: IFB No. 1780-EGCB/2010 Date: 13-10-2010

Submission date of bid invited vide memo under reference is hereby extended from 15th December 2010 to 23rd December 2010. All other conditions described in the aforesaid IFB shall remain unchanged. Prospective bidders may submit bids on or before 11:00 hours Bangladesh Standard Time of 23rd December 2010.

Kazi Nazrul Islam
Company Secretary

Raja was forced to quit last month following accusations by the national auditor that his ministry's handling of the sale of the mobile licences at knock-down prices cost the nation up to 40 billion dollars in lost revenue.

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L I M I T E D

Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited, an emerging Islamic Shariah Based Bank, as part of its growth & concurrent consolidation program, is searching for self-motivated professionals having initiative, drive, creativity and ability to work under pressure. The eligibility for the available posts & positions are as follows:

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Requirements

- 7-10 years experience in the relevant field and minimum 3 years experience as Database Administrator in a reputed local/multinational organization, preferably in Bank /Financial Institution;
- Sound track record in educational career having Graduation on Computer science /Computer Science & Engineering;
- Hands on Experience on Linux/Unix, Oracle 10g/11g Servers and must have ability to manage Oracle RAC and 24x7 Production Database.

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Requirements

- 3-5 years experience as Network Administrator in a reputed local/multinational organization, preferably in Bank / Financial Institution;
- Sound track record in educational career having Graduation on Computer science /Computer Science & Engineering. Certification on CCNA/RHCE/MCSE will be treated as an added qualification;
- Hands on Experience on CISCO Router, CISCO Switch & Linux configuration and must have sound knowledge in Network Security, Protocol & routing.

IT IN-CHARGE

Requirements

- 7-10 years experience in the relevant field and minimum 3 years experience as IT In-charge in a reputed local/multinational organization, preferably in Bank /Financial Institution/Merchant Bank;
- Sound track record in educational career having Graduation on Computer science /Computer Science & Engineering. Certification on CCNA/RHCE/MCSE will be treated as an added qualification;
- Must have sound knowledge on Network Administration, System Administration & Database Administration.

ARCHITECT

Requirements

- 8-10 years experience in the relevant field;
- Sound track record in educational career having Bachelor of Architecture from any reputed University preferably BUET;
- Hands on Experience on Planning, Designing and Drawing of Bank offices/ branches/centers along with interior decorations;
- Must be capable of drawing , expenditure estimate, inviting tender, work order issuance, supervise the progress of construction and decoration of bank building/premises/branches etc;
- Must have creative mind and sound knowledge in architectural/designing;
- Knowledge on Auto CAD, Photo Shop, Corel Draw preferred.

MURAOUIB & ASSISTANT MURAOUIB

Requirements

- 05-10 years Banking experience. At least 3 years experience as Muraquib & 2 years experience as Assistant Muraquib in Shariah based Bank.
- Sound Track record in educational career having Post Graduation/Kamil Degree in Fiqah. Good operational knowledge in computer will be treated as an added qualification.
- Sound knowledge about Islamic Banking Operation and Islamic Shariah Principles.

Interested candidate(s) may apply addressing to the Head of HRD, Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited, Uday Sanz, Plot no: SE(A), 2/B, Gulshan South Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka with a complete curriculum vitae (stating clearly the academic & professional qualification, employment records, present salary drawn and expected designation & Salary in Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited etc.) and a recent scanned photograph only through E-mail: career@shahjalalislami.com by December 30, 2010. Applicants are advised to mention the name of the position in the application applied for.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any application without mentioning any reason, whatsoever.

www.shahjalalbank.com.bd

SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY

2nd Re-Tender Notice for Procurement of Pharmaceutical Machinery

Sealed quotations containing "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" in 2 (two) separate envelopes are hereby invited for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of **Automatic Pouch Filling & Sealing Machine with Auto Cartoning Machine** for SMC factory at Bhaluka, Mymensingh, only from reputed manufacturers or their authorized agents/ distributors and contractors who have experience in satisfactory completion of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Pharmaceutical equipments / machineries in Bangladesh.

Earnest money 1% of the total quoted amount must be submitted along with the offer in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled Bank in favor of Social Marketing Company without which the tender shall be rejected outright. Any Bank Guarantee from foreign Bank must be endorsed or authorized by a local Bank in Bangladesh in favor of "Social Marketing Company".

Interested bidders may apply to the undersigned in their letterhead for Tender Documents. Tender Documents will be issued on cash payment of Tk.500.00 (five hundred) only (non-refundable) on all working days (Sunday through Thursday) during office hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) with a break from 1: 15 p.m. to 2 p.m.) from **December 12, 2010 to December 30, 2010**. No Tender Document will be issued after **December 30, 2010**.

Tender Document along with Earnest money is to be dropped on **January 02, 2011** in the tender box kept at 1st floor of SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 3.15 p.m. in presence of the bidder if any. No Tender shall be received after the above mentioned date and time.

For any clarification regarding preparation and submission of Tender, the bidders may contact Factory In - Charge or Head of Production, SMC and must make factory visit.

Social Marketing Company (SMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Luthfur Rahman

Manager, Procurement

Social Marketing Company

SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A Dhaka-1213

Phone-8811423-29



SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY