

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# US says dispute a global problem

AFP, Nusa Dua

The United States yesterday condemned acts of "intimidation" in the South China Sea and called for greater international attention to resolve maritime disputes that threaten trade.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said a deal between China and Southeast Asian nations on guidelines for future negotiations over the South China Sea was just a "first step" towards a binding code of conduct.

"We think it was an important first step but only a first step in adopting the declaration of conduct," Clinton told reporters in Indonesia after attending Asia's main security forum.

More detailed negotiations are needed to untangle a tangle of maritime stakes in the South China Sea, which China claims in its entirety despite rival assertions by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam, Clinton said.

"There needs to be a lot of dialogue

between (Southeast Asian nations) and China... and the rest of the world needs to weigh in because all of us have a stake in ensuring that these disputes don't get out of control," she said.

Clinton noted the South China Sea carried about half of global trade and said the international community should be more involved in settling disputes, an idea China has repeatedly rejected while "guaranteeing" free navigation.

She said all territorial claims should be clearly defined and resolved according to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a position shared by most of the claimants except China, which bases its stake on historical maps.

At a meeting with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Wednesday in Bali, China agreed to a set of guidelines setting a framework for an eventual code of conduct for the sea.



PHOTO: AFP

**Vietnamese anti-China protesters shout anti-China slogans while marching in downtown Hanoi during an anti-China rally yesterday. Police in Vietnam allowed up to 300 peaceful anti-Chinese protesters to march in central Hanoi yesterday after their suppression of earlier rallies sparked anger on the Internet.**

## N Korea envoy to visit US for nuke talks

AFP, nusa dua

The United States said yesterday it has invited a top North Korean envoy to New York for "exploratory talks" on the possible resumption of the six-party negotiations on denuclearisation.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the North's vice foreign minister and former nuclear negotiator, Kim Gye Gwan, would visit the US at the "end of next week".

The invitation was announced after envoys from North and South Korea held unexpected talks in Indonesia on Friday, on the sidelines of an Asian security forum which Clinton attended alongside ministers from China and South Korea.

Their discussions would focus on the "next steps necessary to resume denuclearisation negotiations through the six-party talks", she said.

## India, Pakistan meet in Bhutan

AFP, New Delhi

India's Home Minister P. Chidambaram met on Saturday for talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Rehman Malik, warning terrorism posed the most significant "challenge" to security in South Asia.

Chidambaram and Malik met on the sidelines of a South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting in Bhutanese capital Thimphu, their second one-to-one interaction since an encounter in Islamabad last year, the Press Trust of India said.

# Why India still reluctant to lead Asia

## NEWS ANALYSIS

AFP, New Delhi

A US challenge to India to take a

more assertive role on the global stage runs counter to a decades-old foreign policy that has nearly always valued diplomatic caution over strategic ambition.

Since independence in 1947, India has sporadically flexed its diplomatic, economic and military muscles, but such instances have been largely restricted to its immediate neighbours.

During her visit here last week, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said it was time for India to wield its growing economic and political clout further outside its borders and help "shape the future" of the Asia region and beyond.

"This is not a time when any of us can afford to look inward at the expense of looking outward," Clinton said. "This is a time to lead."

While there is suspicion of what is widely seen as a US strategic imperative for India to become a

counter-weight to China, many experts agree the time has come for the world's largest democracy to make its voice heard more forcefully.

This is especially true, they argue, if India wants to prove its credentials for securing a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

In a recent issue of Foreign Policy magazine, C Raja Mohan, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi, argued that while India was keen to "increase its weight in global governance" it would only do so on its own terms and at its own pace.

"India is prepared to engage on these issues and participate more fully in global decision-making bodies on the basis of its own self-interest, but is not prepared to take tests from anyone," he added.

Senior Indian civil servants remain fiercely protective of India's long-held policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, insisting that it is a better guarantor of influence in the long term.

"A passive approach is not necessarily a weak approach," said one senior official.

But the "self-interest" cited by Mohan is inevitably pushing India towards a more proactive stance, driven by the need to source raw materials for its energy-hungry economy and tap new consumers for its manufactured goods.

In both areas, it increasingly finds itself in competition with regional heavyweight China -- already a permanent UN Security Council member and an intimidating military and economic power.

China is mineral-rich Africa's top trading partner, with bilateral trade totalling \$126.9 billion last year, and has extended its influence into India's immediate neighbourhood, notably in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

As for Clinton's appeal, which was for a more general leadership on issues like human rights and the environment, Chaulia voiced frustration with India's traditional wait-and-watch mindset.

"We need to contest the orthodoxy that says, 'do as little as possible'".

## PHONE HACKING SCANDAL British police face new allegations

AFP, London

British police faced new allegations yesterday that officers leaked details about terror attack victims and a murdered schoolgirl to journalists at Rupert Murdoch's felled News of the World tabloid.

The claims deepen the scandal surrounding phone-hacking at the paper, which has shaken Murdoch's global media empire, claimed the jobs of two of Britain's top police officers and dragged in Prime Minister David Cameron.

The Observer newspaper reported that survivors of the July 7, 2005 London bombings had asked lawyers to probe their belief that the capital's Metropolitan Police had sold or passed on a confidential contact list of victims.

Beverly Rhodes, chair of the Survivors Foundation Coalition, said journalists from the paper approached survivors with false stories about how they got their details.

"Scotland Yard had the full list of survivor contact details. I am pretty sure that is how the News of the World got my home address," she told the Observer.

Four suicide bombers blew themselves up on three underground trains and a bus in the worst terror attacks on British soil, killing 52 people.

Separately the BBC reported that police had removed an officer from the inquiry into the murder of 13-year-old Milly Dowler in 2002 after information was allegedly leaked to the News of the World (NotW).

The tabloid has already been accused of hacking Dowler's voicemails and those of families of 7/7 victims, but this is the first time police have directly been linked to the paper's activities on the two events.

In a further blow British Business Secretary Vince Cable said yesterday there were "big questions" over whether the mogul was fit to control a British broadcaster.

"We have learned from the past that having media moguls dominating the British media is deeply unhelpful, not simply in terms of plurality but because of the wider impact on the political world," he said.

### Attention

This is to inform all valued Grameenphone subscribers of Narsingdi (Raipura, Belabo, Sadar, Shibpur), Jhenaidah (Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Sadar), Jessore (Sadar, Bagharpara, Chougacha), Magura (Sreepur, Sadar, Shalikhah), Barguna (Pathorghata, Amtoli, Taltoli, Sadar) that due to system upgradation, subscribers may experience difficulty in availing our network for a short period of time on 26 July 2011.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

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## Syrian president sacks Homs governor

AFP, Damascus

The Syrian army consolidated its grip on the hotbed city of Homs yesterday, activists said, as embattled President Bashar al-Assad sacked the governor of a flashpoint province 48 hours after massive anti-regime protests.

Security forces also rounded up hundreds of civilians in Damascus and made a spate of arrests in the town of Sarakeb in the northwestern province of Idlib near the Turkish border, activists said.

In Homs, troops backed by tanks "deployed heavily in Duar al-Fakhura and around the neighbourhood of Al-Nazihin," said Abdel Karim Rihawi, who heads the Syrian League for the Defence of Human Rights.

More than 50 people have been killed in the past week in Homs, 160 kilometres north of Damascus, either by army gunfire or in clashes between rival demonstrators, rights activists have said.

They have accused the regime of sowing sectarian strife among the city's Christians, Sunni Muslims and Assad's Alawite minority community.

## SRI LANKA LOCAL POLLS Tamil party wins in ex-war zone

BBC ONLINE

Sri Lanka's biggest Tamil party has won local elections in the island's former war zone in the north and east.

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) took 18 out of 26 councils in what is being seen as a rare electoral setback for the government of President Rajapaksa.

His Sinhalese-dominated coalition won in all other areas being contested.

The TNA was in effect a proxy of the Tamil Tigers, who troops defeated in May 2009, but it now seeks greater devolution for Sri Lanka's provinces.

The BBC's Charles Haviland in Colombo says the results indicate that ethnic polarisation is still an issue in the country.

Elections were held in a patchwork of councils around Sri Lanka, including the mainly Tamil north and the more ethnically mixed east.

The TNA - which projects itself as the main representative of the northern and eastern Tamils - has become more moderate since the end of the war and now accepts that Sri Lanka will remain united with no place for separatism.

But it wants more powers devolved than President Rajapaksa will agree to and the party's talks with him on political reforms have so far yielded nothing.

Outside the north and east every contested council was taken by the governing coalition.

The government lavished the north with ministers, money and posters during the campaign - it wanted to do well there to ward off international pressure on human rights, our correspondent says.

Civil society groups and Tamil politicians accused the government of using scare tactics and threats during the campaign.

### Notice of Winding up

Publication of Notice of Winding up Coca-Cola Beverages Bangladesh Ltd, a Private Limited Company under Registration No.C-56781(3464)/05 dated 20 April 2005 with Registrar of Joint Stock Companies of Bangladesh.

Coca-Cola Beverages Bangladesh Ltd has been wound up effective from and commencing on 24 July 2011 as members voluntary winding up. Mr. Bhudhar Chakraborty, FCA of House 25, Road 13A, Block D, Banani, Dhaka 1213 has been appointed as the Liquidator of the Company for the purpose of winding up and distributing the net assets of the Company and completing all proceedings required under Companies Act 1994.

(Chanchal Kumar Das)  
Director

### Invitation To Bid (ITB)

#### Procurement of Photocopier & Fax Machine

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed quotations from interested bidders for procurement of 100 units Photocopier and 100 units Fax Machine which will be delivered to 100 Upazillas.

**Submission of Quotation:** The envelopes should state "Procurement of Photocopier & Fax Machine" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (ITB) from the below e-mail address: [parvin.akther@undp.org](mailto:parvin.akther@undp.org). Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 16 August 2011.

### Invitation To Bid (ITB)

#### Procurement of supply & installation of Partition (Thai)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh hereby invites sealed quotations from interested bidders for supply & installation of Partition in 100 Upazillas.

**Submission of Quotation:** The envelopes should state "Procurement of Supply & Installation of Partition" and marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations.

All interested firms may collect the bidding Documents (ITB) from the below e-mail address: [parvin.akther@undp.org](mailto:parvin.akther@undp.org). Bid must be dropped to the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka before 12.30 hrs on 17 August 2011.

## VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following positions for the Aid Effectiveness Project.

1) **Administrative Associate** (1 position, SB-2 level)

2) **Project Manager** (1 position, SB-5 level)

3) **Coordination Specialist** (1 position, SB-4 level)

4) **Monitoring Analyst** (1 position, SB-4 level)

5) **Policy Advisor** (1 position, SB-5 level)

6) **Policy Analyst** (1 position, SB-4 level)

7) **Aid Analyst** (1 position, SB-4 level)

8) **ICT Specialist** (1 position, SB-4 level)

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than **Monday, 8th August, 2011**.

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.**