

US, Afghans nearing deal on night raids

AFP, Washington

The United States and Afghanistan are close to clinching an agreement that will give Kabul more authority over night-time raids, resolving an issue that threatened to derail negotiations on a long-term US military presence, US officials said Tuesday.

"An agreement is days away," a US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

The deal on night raids could be announced as soon as this week, paving the way for a strategic partnership agreement governing the future of US forces beyond 2014, when the bulk of American and Nato troops are due to withdraw, US officials said.

Night raids by special forces against insurgent hideouts have triggered popular anger and long been a source of friction with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has denounced the Nato operations as reckless.

The deal taking shape would put Afghans in the lead for night raids and call for Afghan judges to issue warrants for the operations, officials said.

Negotiators from both governments were working out a final sticking point over how long US forces would be allowed to detain suspects picked up in the raids, a US official said.

The memorandum of understanding on night raids would also allow Karzai to demonstrate he was bolstering Afghan sovereignty without forcing a halt to operations, the official said.

SOUTH CHINA SEA DISPUTES

Asean to 'intensify efforts'

AFP, Phnom Penh

Southeast Asian leaders on Wednesday pledged to step up efforts to resolve overlapping maritime disputes with China, at the end of a two-day summit which also focused on Myanmar and North Korea.

Leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) "reaffirmed the importance" of a 10-year-old declaration on the conduct of the parties (DOC) pledging to promote peace and understanding in the disputed area.

"We stressed the need to intensify efforts to ensure the effective and full implementation of the DOC based on the guidelines for the implementation of the DOC," the leaders said in a statement at the end of the two-day summit.

The same language was used in a statement issued at the end of an Asean summit in Indonesia last year, reflecting the paralysis within the bloc over

Disputed claims in the South China Sea



Source: D. Rosenberg/Middlebury College/Harvard Asia Quarterly

conflicts with China, analysts said.

China and several Asean countries have rival claims to uninhabited islands in the sea, which is believed to be rich in hydrocarbons and straddles strategic shipping lanes vital to global trade.

The United States claims a "national interest" in keeping the waterway open

and has recently stepped up military cooperation with the Philippines, one of the claimants, as part of its foreign policy "pivot" to Asia.

China has competing territorial claims in the sea with Asean members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Cambodia on the eve of the summit in what many analysts took to be a form of pressure on Phnom Penh to use its chairmanship to slow down the South China Sea negotiations.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said there was a "big disagreement" on Tuesday over whether to invite China to help draft a code of conduct, designed to prevent small incidents in the sea from escalating.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam -- a grouping of nearly 600 million people from disparate economic and political systems.

Talk to Dalai Lama Nobel laureates urge China

AFP, Beijing

Twelve Nobel laureates including South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu have written to China's president urging him to open talks with the Dalai Lama after a series of self-immolations by Tibetans.

More than 30 Tibetans -- many of them Buddhist monks and nuns -- have set themselves alight in China's Tibetan-inhabited areas since the start of March 2011 to protest Beijing's rule.

"The international community is concerned by the drastic expressions of resentment by the people of Tibet through self-immolation," read the letter, addressed to President Hu Jintao.

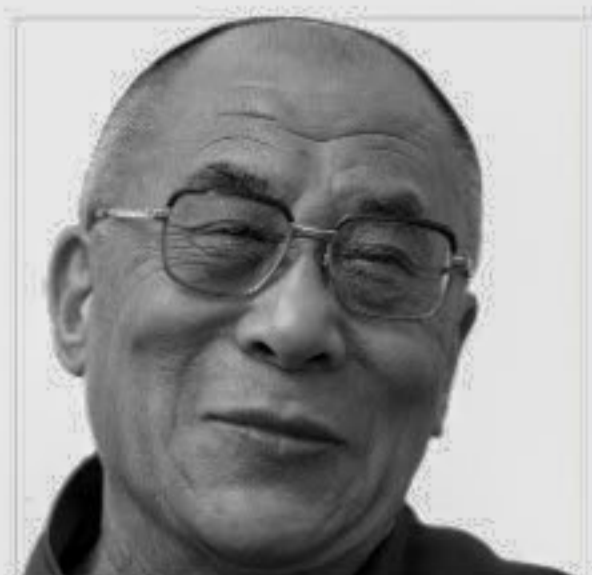
"The Chinese government should hear their voices, understand their grievances and find a non-violent solution. That solution is offered by our friend and brother His Holiness the Dalai Lama," it added.

"We strongly urge the Chinese government to seize the opportunity he provides for a meaningful dialogue. Once formed, this channel should remain open, active and productive."

Chinese authorities have repeatedly accused the Dalai Lama of inciting the protests in a bid to split the vast Himalayan region from the rest of the nation, a charge denied by the Tibetan spiritual leader.

Many Tibetans in China complain of religious repression, as well as a gradual erosion of their culture, which they blame in part on a growing influx of majority Han Chinese in areas where they live.

The letter, also signed by the East Timor President Jose Ramos Horta and Polish freedom fighter Lech Walesa, also appeals to Hu to allow religious freedom and peaceful protests in Tibetan areas and open access to foreign journalists and diplomats.



Dalai Lama



PHOTO: AFP

US Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides, left, shakes hands with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar prior to a meeting in Islamabad yesterday.

US seeks to repair ties with Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

A top US diplomat on a fence-mending visit yesterday said that Pakistan had to address US concerns about security, calling for a "balanced" relationship that works through the countries' differences.

Deputy Secretary of State Tom Nides held talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and other cabinet ministers as part of a gradual process designed to reset relations that nosedived over a series of crises in 2011.

"We believe that we can achieve a balanced approach in a relationship that respects Pakistan's sovereignty and interests but also represents our concerns about our national security," said Nides.

"Too much is at stake for us to turn away from each other, so we must work through all of these challenges," he added.

US lawmakers voiced fury at the discovery last May of Osama bin Laden living in Pakistan, which had received \$18 billion in aid for cooperation since the September 11, 2001 attacks. He was killed in a US special forces raid.

Pakistan was then incensed when US air strikes killed 24 Pakistani soldiers last November, shutting its Afghan border to Nato supplies and evicting US personnel from an air base reportedly used as a hub by US drones.

Pakistan's parliament is debating recommendations designed to reset the relationship with the United States, which include an end to drone strikes on Islamist militants seen as a violation of Pakistani sovereignty.

Gilani said relations "must be based on mutual respect and mutual interest".

He said that "new rules of engagement" between Pakistan, the United States, Nato and its US-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan "must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan".

Violent storm kills four in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

A huge storm killed at least four people in Japan, police said yesterday, as violent wind and rain battered the nation and disrupted transport for a second day.

The storm has moved east and is now covering all of the north of Japan's main island of Honshu and much of the northernmost island of Hokkaido, buffeting the region with strong winds caused by what meteorologists say is a severe low-pressure system.

On Sado island, on Honshu's northwest, gusts of up to 156 kilometres per hour were recorded.

The dead included a 96-year-old man who fell from the roof of a three-storey house during high winds and a 28-year-old woman who was hit by a falling tree while walking a dog.

The stormy weather cut electricity supplies to 132,000 households in the northern Tohoku region as of mid-afternoon yesterday, according to the utility.

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Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the post of **Project Officer for the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission - Capacity Development Project. The Project Duration is until April 2015.**

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, 18 April 2012.

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

MJL Bangladesh Limited

Price Sensitive Information

This is for the kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors' of MJL Bangladesh Limited at its 54th Board meeting held on April 04, 2012 at its registered office at 6:00 pm has approved to purchase following lands:

1. Located land adjacent Moizaddin Bridge at Ghorashal mouza under Palash Upzilla of Dhaka District, measuring 3.05 acres at a total consideration value of Tk. 11,55,00,000.00 (Eleven Crore and Fifty Five Lacs) only for LPG Satellite Filling, Bottling Station.
2. Located land beside Dhaka-Bogra highway, Bamunia mouza under Sherpur of Bogra District, measuring 8.00 acres at a total consideration value of Tk 5,78,00,000.00 (Five Crore Seventy Eight Lacs) only for LPG Satellite Filling, Bottling Station.
3. Located at mouza:Kunia, Upazila: Gazipur Sadar, Gazipur, measuring 51.25 Katha at a consideration value of Tk.561,18,750.00 (Five Crore Sixty One Lacs Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty) only for future expansion of facilities.

Dated: April 04, 2012

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Company Secretary

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Suicide blast kills 12 in Afghanistan

AFP, Mazar-i-sharif

A suicide bomber attacked foreign military forces in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing up to 12 people, officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on foreign troops filming interviews in a park in Maymana, the capital of Faryab province, as Nato's fatalities in the decade-long conflict passed the 100 mark for 2012.

Nato's US-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said only that three service members died after an explosion in northern Afghanistan, without officially confirming that it was the same incident or giving nationalities.

Faryab, which borders Turkmenistan, is far from centres of the Taliban-led insurgency in Afghanistan's south and east, but it suffers sporadic attacks.

There were conflicting reports about the exact death toll and the identity of the victims after the suicide bomber, who police said was riding an explosives-packed motorcycle, blew himself up.

“নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

অতিরিক্ত জেলা জজ ৬ষ্ঠ আদালত, ঢাকা।

জজ কোর্ট নতুন ভবন, ৫ম তলা, ঢাকা।

মিস জারী মোঃ নং-৩০০/১৯৯৯

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ঋণ সংস্থা

বর্তমানে- বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড,

প্রধান কার্যালয়,

৮, রাজউক এডিনিটি, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা।

----- দরখাস্তকারী/ডিক্রীদার।

-বনাম-

মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড গং,

----- প্রতিপক্ষগণ/দায়িকগণ।

- ১। মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড
৫/বি, বিসিক শিল্প নগরী, টঙ্গী, গাজীপুর।
- ২। জনাব মতিউদ্দিন আহমেদ, পিতা-মরহুম মজিবুর রহমান
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, মেসার্স মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট)
লিমিটেড, ৩৮৬ গুলবাগ, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা।
- ৩। মিসেস কামরুন নেছা, স্বামী- জনাব মতিউদ্দিন আহমেদ
পরিচালক, মেসার্স মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড
৩৯৯/এ, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা।
- ৪। হুমেরা বেগম, পিতা- জনাব মতিউদ্দিন আহমেদ
পরিচালক, মেসার্স মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড
৩৮৬ গুলবাগ, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা।
- ৫। তছেরা বেগম, পিতা- জনাব মতিউদ্দিন আহমেদ
পরিচালক, মেসার্স মতিন মেটাল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ (প্রাইভেট) লিমিটেড
৩৮৬ গুলবাগ, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা।

----- প্রতিপক্ষগণ/দায়িকগণ।

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“গ তপছিল”

(পরিচালকের ব্যক্তিগত সম্পত্তি)

A. Properties and Assets of Matiuddin Ahmed.

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| (4) Bashupara, Mirpur Dhaka | Plot No. 23 (b) Mouza No. 232, Survey No.3 Covered Area-1 Bigha, 5 Katha. |

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