



PHOTO: AFP

A young Afghan girl plays on swings near the Kart-e-sakhi shrine in Kabul on Wednesday. The position of women in Afghanistan has improved dramatically since the fall of the Taliban, with the number of girls in education soaring. But as the Americans and the Afghan government have pursued peace efforts with the Taliban, women are increasingly concerned that gains in their rights may be compromised in a bid to end the costly and deadly war.

# No 'new Cold War' in Asia

## Hillary says US not seeking conflict with China

AFP, Annapolis

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Tuesday the United States was not seeking conflict with a rising China but urged emerging powers to act more "constructively" in the world.

As academics in China and elsewhere increasingly speak of US decline, Hillary offered a robust defense of the United States and said it still had the military power, innovative companies and core values to make it "exceptional."

But addressing aspiring military leaders at the US Naval Academy, Clinton said bluntly that 2012 "is not 1912, when friction between a declining Britain and a rising Germany set the stage for global conflict."

"We are not seeking new enemies. Today's China is not the Soviet Union. We are not on the brink of a new Cold War in Asia," Hillary told the academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

"A thriving China is good for America, and a thriving America is good for China -- so long as we both thrive in a way that contributes to the regional and global good," she said.



She acknowledged concerns overseas about US intentions but denied that the United States was bent on "denying rising powers their fair share" or on bringing them into "a rigged system" designed to preserve US power.

But Hillary said that rising Asian powers -- naming China, India and Indonesia -- have been able to prosper thanks to an international system supported by the United States.

"Some of today's emerging powers in Asia and elsewhere act as selective stakeholders, picking and choosing when to participate constructively and

when to stand apart from the international system," she said.

"While that may suit their interests in the short term, it will ultimately render the system that has helped them get to where they are today unworkable. And that would end up impoverishing everyone," she said.

The United States has frequently voiced concern that China, despite its rising wealth and ambitions, has not taken the role of a leading power on tough issues such as North Korea, Iraq and climate change.

Hillary conceded that many Americans faced "difficult" economic times but said that there was "simply no substitute" for the United States in Asia and around the world.

"Only the United States has the global reach, the resources and the resolve to deter aggression, rally coalitions and project stability into diverse and dynamic regions of danger, threat and opportunity," she said.

"There is no real precedent in history for the role we play or the responsibility we have shouldered. And there is also no alternative," she said.

## Nepal army takes charge of Maoist camps

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's army has taken over camps where Maoist fighters have been stationed since the end of the civil war, an official said yesterday, in a major step towards completing a troubled peace process.

The move follows a breakthrough deal signed in November last year by the Maoists and the three other major political parties, paving the way for the reintegration of 19,000 combatants, five years after the conflict ended.

More than 7,000 former fighters who have chosen retirement payoffs of 500,000 to 800,000 rupees (\$6,300-\$10,200) have already left the cantonments and have begun life as civilians.

The parties had agreed to integrate 6,500 fighters into the Nepalese Army but the peace plan has faltered, with almost 10,000 choosing to join the soldiers they fought in a bloody, ten-year war.

The remaining former fighters will have to accept retirement payoffs because the army has said it will not take more than agreed in the peace deal.

## Newly elected Suu Kyi meets Myanmar president

AFP, Naypyidaw

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday held talks with President Thein Sein for the first time since her landmark election to parliament earlier this month.

"I am satisfied," the Nobel Peace Prize laureate told AFP when asked about the meeting with the former general, which took place at his official residence in the capital Naypyidaw.

But she declined to reveal what was discussed during the one and a half hours of one-to-one talks and made no further comments.

After the meeting Suu Kyi had lunch with Thein Sein and his wife.

It was the veteran dissident's second meeting with the former junta prime minister since he took office last year, marking the end of nearly half a century of outright military rule.

Suu Kyi has rejected suggestions that she could take a cabinet position in his military-backed government after her by-election victory.

But she has not ruled out taking on an advisory role, particularly on the subject of the ethnic minority conflicts that have gripped parts of the country since independence in 1948.

The pair held talks in August 2011 as the once-reclusive country embarked on a surprising series of reforms, including welcoming Suu Kyi's party into the political mainstream and freeing scores of political prisoners.

That meeting paved the way for the oppo-



sition leader to rejoin the official political arena and stand for election for public office for the first time.

Suu Kyi has said she believes Thein Sein genuinely wants to pursue democratic reforms although it is unclear whether he has the total support of the military.

The 66-year-old, who spent 15 of the past 22 years locked up by the junta, will take her seat in the lower house of parliament for the first time on April 23 after a decisive victory in April 1 by-elections.

Her National League for Democracy (NLD) party secured 43 of the 44 seats it contested, becoming the main opposition force in a national parliament that remains dominated by the military and its political allies.

## India slams short ammo report

IANS, New Delhi

India is well prepared to defend itself in the face of a war, Defence Minister AK Antony said yesterday, dismissing as "rumours" reports about shortage of ammunition for the armed forces.

"These are all rumours that ammunition only for four days is left in the stock. India is well prepared," Antony told reporters on the sidelines of an Indian Air Force (IAF) function here.

He was asked about reports that a parliamentary panel was informed by senior IAF and army officers that stocks of certain types of tank munitions were down to four days of reserves.

This follows the leaked letter army chief Gen VK Singh wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, referring to serious gaps in India's defence preparedness.

But the defence minister denied any gaps in the preparedness of the armed forces. "I can assure that India is fully prepared. On the whole, the Indian armed forces are better prepared to face challenges," he said.

## India taking tough line against China: Analyst

IANS, Beijing

India is an example of countries which take an aggressive line vis-a-vis China thanks to encouragement from the West, a Chinese commentary said yesterday.

"The so-called 'China Threat' theory chanted by the West has blinded some neighbouring countries into taking a hard-line approach against China," the commentary in the Global Times newspaper said.

"India is an example of this," it added. The commentary quoted the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute as saying that India had become the largest buyer of arms in the region.

This, it said, had triggered "concerns from analysts that it (India) is engaging in an arms race with its northern neighbour (China).

"Now if China's policymakers were to hire a policy advisor from the West, it would most

likely receive the suggestion to counter India's hostility by encouraging or even supporting Pakistan to harass India, distracting it from focusing its military on China."

The commentary said the US was no doubt a master of this "art" -- "as it has been turning countries around the world against each other."

"This way, the US has ensured its geopolitical supremacy and benefit from arms sales in the meantime."

In contrast, it said that China had been working hard to help better the relationship between India and Pakistan, "a move that has even been lambasted by some of its own nationals."

China has hailed improving relations between New Delhi and Islamabad following the visit of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to India.

## PEOPLE'S LEASING

And Financial Services Ltd.

### PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE - 2011

This is to inform our valued Shareholders that the Board of Directors of People's Leasing And Financial Services Limited in its **243<sup>rd</sup>** Meeting held on **Wednesday April 11, 2012 at 3:30 P.M.** in the Company's Registered/ Corporate Head Office at Paramount Heights, Level - 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 65/2/1, Box Culvert Road, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000 and while considering / adopting Audited Financial Statements for the year ended **December 31, 2011** took the following Price Sensitive decisions regarding the **16th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company:**

Particulars	Decisions
Recommendation of Dividend	<b>10% Cash Dividend</b> and <b>5% Stock Dividend</b> for the year ended <b>December 31, 2011</b> subject to approval of the shareholders in the forthcoming <b>16<sup>th</sup> AGM</b> of the Company.
Day, Date & Time of 16th AGM	<b>Tuesday, 26th June 2012 at 11:00 A.M.</b>
Venue of 16th AGM	<b>Officer's Club, Baily Road, Dhaka-1000.</b>
Record Date for 16th AGM	<b>Record date will be May 2, 2012.</b>
Net Asset Value (NAV)	Net Asset Value (NAV) per share for the year ended <b>December 31, 2011</b> is <b>Tk. 20.44</b>
Earning Per Share (EPS)	Earning Per Share (EPS) for the year ended <b>December 31, 2011</b> is <b>Tk. 2.76</b>
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) for the year ended <b>December 31, 2011</b> is <b>(Tk.1.35)</b>

By Order of the Board

**A. K. M. Abdus Sobhan**  
 Company Secretary  
 Dated: Dhaka  
**April 11, 2012.**

## Beijing-Manila standoff intensifies

AFP, Beijing

Beijing yesterday said it had protested to Manila over a tense standoff between the Philippines' biggest warship and two Chinese ships in a disputed part of the South China Sea.

The Philippine government said the two Chinese vessels were blocking efforts by its navy flagship vessel to arrest Chinese fishermen that were found on the weekend to have illegally entered its territory.

"We have launched solemn representations with the Philippine side over the Philippine vessels and patrol boats harassing Chinese fishing boats and fishermen," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Weimin.

The incident is one of the most high-profile flare-ups in recent years between the two countries over their competing territorial claims to parts of the South China Sea, which is believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits.

Earlier yesterday, the Philippines summoned the Chinese ambassador in Manila and lodged a formal protest, but China insisted it had sovereign rights over the area and ordered the Philippine warship to leave.

China insists it has sovereign rights to all of the South China Sea, even waters close to the coast of other countries and hundreds of kilometres from its own land-mass.

**বাংলা একাডেমী**  
ঢাকা ১০০০

তারিখ: ০৯.০৪.২০১২

স্মারক নং: প্রাপ্ত/প্রতি-সা-৩৪৪/২০১১/৩০২/৩/বাএ

### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	: বাংলা একাডেমী।					
২	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	: মহাপরিচালক, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা ১০০০					
৩	কোন ধরনের সংগ্রহের জন্য দরপত্র	: মুদ্রণের জন্য বিভিন্ন ধরনের অফসেট/আর্ট কাগজ।					
৪	দরপত্র আবেদনের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	: প্রাপ্ত/প্রতি-সা-৩৪৪/২০১১/৩০২/৩/বাএ তারিখ: ০৯.০৪.২০১২					
৫	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)					
৬	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	: নিজস্ব উৎস/ শ্রী ও বি					
৭	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২২.০৪.২০১২ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন।					
৮	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৩.০৪.২০১২ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০টা।					
৯	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ২৩.০৪.২০১২ তারিখ বেলা ১:০০ টায় বাংলা একাডেমীর সভাকক্ষে। দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাজ্ঞা হলে।					
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	: ক. কোষাধ্যক্ষ, হিসাবরক্ষণ ও বাজেট উপবিভাগ, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা ১০০০					
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	: ক. বাংলা একাডেমীর সভাকক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ					
১২	দরপত্রদাতাদের যোগ্যতা	: ক. উপদানকারী/প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/ সরবরাহকারী। খ. সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/ স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে বিভিন্ন ধরনের কাগজ সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা।					
১৩	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	: ক. দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ। খ. দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালতক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, জাট নিবন্ধনপত্র, তফসিলী ব্যাংক থেকে আর্থিক সচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র, টিআইএনসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র ও কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি। গ. বিভিন্ন প্রকার অফসেট কাগজ এবং ক্রোমোগ্রাফ বোর্ড ১(এক)শিট করে নমুনা হিসেবে সিডিউলের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। ঘ. দরপত্রের জামানত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার। এছাড়া দরপত্রে বর্ণিত অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র ও শর্তাবলি।					
১৪	দরপত্র আবেদনকারীর নাম	: এ. কে. এম. মাহবুবুল আলম					
১৫	দরপত্র আবেদনকারীর পদবী	: উপপরিচালক					
১৬	দরপত্র আবেদনকারীর অফিসের ঠিকানা ও টেলিফোন নম্বর	: প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক উপবিভাগ, বাংলা একাডেমী, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ৮৬১৯৩৫৪					
১৭	ক্রমিক	বিবরণ	অবস্থান	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	দরপত্র (ফেরতযোগ্য) টাকা	কার্যসম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	
১	ক. বিদেশি ডবল ডিমাই ২৩"×৩৬"- ১৪০ গ্রাম ম্যাট পেপার	খ. বিদেশি ডবল ডিমাই ২৩"×৩৬"- ১০০ গ্রাম অফসেট পেপার	গ. বিদেশি ডবল ডিমাই ২৩"×৩৬"- ১৫০ গ্রাম আর্ট পেপার	ঢাকা	৫০০.০০ (মাত্র পাঁচ শত) টাকা	৮,০০০.০০ (আট হাজার) টাকা	০৭ (সাত)দিন
১৮	অন্যান্য তথ্য	: দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্য নিম্নাঙ্ককারীর কার্যালয়ে থেকে জানা যাবে। পিপিআর ২০০৮-এর বিধিবিধান মনেতে বাধ্য থাকবে। অনিবার্য কারণবশত: দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কার্যালয় বন্ধ হলে তৎপরবর্তী কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত সময় ও স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখে।					

(এ. কে. এম. মাহবুবুল আলম)  
উপপরিচালক  
প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক উপবিভাগ  
ফোন: ৮৬১৯৩৫৪