

## TERRITORIAL ROWS

## US warns Asia-Pacific leaders

AFP, Vladivostok

Increasingly tense territorial rows in the Asia-Pacific threaten the global economy, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday warned at the end of a leaders' summit plagued by divisions.

The annual gathering of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) heads was meant to build goodwill in long-term efforts to tear down trade barriers within their bloc, which accounts for more than half of the world's economic output.

While progress was made to cut tariffs on environmentally friendly goods, and commitments renewed to fight protectionism, bitter territorial disputes disrupted the two-day event in Russia's port city of Vladivostok.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Chinese President Hu Jintao did not hold customary talks on the summit sidelines because of a row. Similarly Noda and South Korea's Lee Myung-Bak -- both allies of Washington -- shunned each other.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino also failed to meet with Hu,

after declaring it his top priority beforehand.

The Philippines and China have endured months of bruising diplomacy over competing claims to the South China Sea -- of which Beijing claims almost all -- including a

maritime standoff.

"Now is the time for everyone to make efforts to reduce the tension and strengthen the diplomatic involvement," Hillary, who was filling in for US President Barack Obama, told reporters as she prepared to leave Vladivostok.

"This region of the world is the economic engine in what is still a fragile global economy.

"It's not in the interest of the Asian countries, it's certainly not in the interest of the United States or the rest of the world, to raise doubts and uncertainties about the stability and peace in the region."

Hillary urged Seoul and Tokyo to "lower the

temperature" over sparsely populated islands known by Koreans as Dokdo and by Japanese as Takeshima, but controlled by South Korea and where Lee made an unprecedented visit last month.

Japan's relations have also deteriorated anew with China over competing claims to islands in the East China Sea.

APEC spans the Pacific Rim, from China to Chile, and includes the world's three biggest national economies -- the United States, China and Japan -- with its 21 members accounting for 44 percent of the world's trade.

In their final summit statement, the leaders pledged to help boost the sluggish global economy by strengthening demand in their own countries, cutting public debt and committing to no new trade barriers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose government spent \$20 billion upgrading Vladivostok ahead of APEC to showcase the country's growing ambitions for the Far East and expand trade with Asia, described the event as a big success.



## Tory plots to oust UK PM revealed



Boris Johnson, left, is seen by some within the Conservative party as an alternative to David Cameron, right, as prime minister.

PHOTO: AFP

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A backbench MP has revealed a Tory plot to oust David Cameron, confirming he was asked to consider a "stalking horse" leadership challenge to the prime minister.

Colonel Bob Stewart said he was approached by two party colleagues before the summer recess with the proposal but that he told them to "get lost" and rejected the idea as "silly".

He declined to name the plotters and said he had not been told on whose behalf the pair were operating.

Details of the scheming was exposed by the Mail yesterday, which also reported that Tory MP Zac Goldsmith had offered his safe Tory seat to Boris Johnson.

Goldsmith has vowed to resign as the MP for Richmond in south-west London if the government revives controversial plans for a third runway at Heathrow airport which the mayor of London also fiercely opposes.

The newspaper said that the idea of Johnson fighting the subsequent byelection to secure a return to the Commons and the chance to challenge for the leadership was made in talks to discuss how best to oppose the airport expansion.

The idea was said to have been dismissed "out of hand" by the mayor, whose position as a potential challenger to Cameron has been reinforced by the success of the London Olympics.

The mayor's official spokesman said: "It's no surprise that the mayor has met and will continue to meet those who share his concerns over the lack of aviation capacity in London and the south-east.

"But the story in question is without doubt fanciful."

Johnson, who has dismissed suggestions he could cut short his mayoral term to launch a leadership bid, has led the outcry over the reconsideration of Heathrow expansion.

## UN resolution on Syria needs 'teeth': Hillary

Dozens killed as war plane batters Aleppo

AFP, Vladivostok

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday said a new UN resolution on Syria would be pointless if it had "no teeth", as President Bashar al-Assad would ignore it.

On a visit to Russia, Hillary Clinton said she was willing to work with Moscow on a new UN resolution on Syria but warned that the United States would step up support to end Assad's regime if the measure did not carry consequences.

"There is no point to passing a resolution with no teeth because we've seen time and time again that Assad will ignore it and keep attacking his own people," Hillary told reporters at the end of an Asia-Pacific summit.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Saturday after talks with Hillary that he hoped to seek UN Security Council approval for a peace plan agreed in June in Geneva that called for a ceasefire and political transition.

Hillary said she hoped for progress but was "realistic" that the United States and Russia had differences on Syria.

The United States has said it is providing non-lethal assistance to the opposition in Syria, which has been a Moscow ally since the Cold War.

Meanwhile, Syrian warplanes bombed a residential district of Aleppo yesterday, killing and wounding dozens of people, a day after rebels overran army barracks in the neighbourhood, opposition activists in Syria's largest city said.

They said the air raid destroyed a residential building in the Hananu neighbourhood, one of several in eastern Aleppo under insurgent control. The death toll was not immediately clear but bodies and wounded people were being dug out from the rubble.

The aerial bombardment has burst a main water pipeline, causing serious short-

## Ministers richer than Manmohan

Indian PM's assets Rs 10.73 crore

PTI, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has assets worth around Rs 10.73 crore, double that of last year, but a number of his cabinet colleagues are much richer than him.

Among the richer cabinet ministers are Praful Patel with assets of approximately Rs 52 crore and Sharad Pawar with property worth around Rs 22 crore, according to the updated list of assets of the ministers posted on the PMO website.

Defence minister AK Antony has assets worth Rs 55 lakh, the lowest in the list of the cabinet ministers.

Manmohan has shown residential properties, bank deposits and a Maruti 800 car as his assets.

While the total worth of his two flats -- in Chandigarh and Delhi -- is Rs 7.27 crore, Singh has bank deposits and investments worth Rs 3.46 crore approximately in various State Bank of India accounts.

He has declared assets of worth Rs 10,73,88,730.81.

Last year, the prime minister had declared total assets worth Rs 5.11 crore approximately. The flats owned by him in Chandigarh and Vasant Kunj here were then valued at a total of Rs 1.78 crore and he owned 150.80g of gold jewellery worth Rs 2.75 lakh.

## PALESTINIAN UN BID

Abbas to seek non-member status

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas on Saturday said he will make a bid on September 27 to obtain non-member status at the United Nations.

"We will go to the UN General Assembly for consultations with our friends on the draft resolution calling for the upgrade of Palestine (to non-member status)" in the United Nations, Abbas said in a televised address.

"We are going to the UN to say that we are a state which applies the fourth Geneva convention (on the protection of civilians in time of war). There are 133 countries that recognise us as a state with east Jerusalem as its capital and where we have embassies hoisting the Palestinian flag."

Palestinians now have observer status at the UN. Palestinians are assured that the resolution will pass with a large majority. Such a resolution needs the support of more than half of the 194 UN member states.

## Loves runs blind

Wife loses five stone to save her husband's life

THE DAILYMAIL ONLINE

A devoted wife shed five stone to give her husband one of her kidneys and save his life.

Pat Moule, 69, slimmed down from 16 stone nine pounds after surgeons told her she was 'too fat' to have a transplant operation for David, 72.

The retired couple, who have been married for nearly 50 years, were devastated when doctors told them Moule's failing kidneys were functioning at just 12 per cent.

When they broke the news a year ago, Mrs Moule couldn't walk up the stairs without getting out of breath and was told she was too overweight to undergo the vital op.

Determined to help her husband, Pat managed to shed the extra pounds and passed stringent tests marking her out as a compatible donor.

Mrs Moule, from Southampton, Hampshire, said: 'When you love someone as much as I love David it really isn't a big decision to make.'

'I am just so grateful that I am compatible enough with him to do it.'

The thought of losing her 'best friend', spurred Mrs Moule to join Slimming World and buy an exercise bike.

This new diet and fitness regime helped the five foot eight inch tall retired personnel manager shrink from a size 26 to a size 14.

The couple are still waiting for a date for surgery.



Mr and Mrs Moule

## NEWS IN brief

## Two tornadoes hit NY

AFP, New York

Two small tornadoes touched down in New York City yesterday, stunning residents who associate twisters more with the US Midwest, the National Weather Service said.

A tornado watch was in effect for Long Island, New York, and the neighboring state of Connecticut all day long and into the evening.

One funnel cloud struck the Canarsie neighborhood, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, and another hit in Queens borough, at Breezy Point, the service said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries but trees were downed and some store windows were

## Japan PM to visit Russia

AFP, Vladivostok, Russia

Japan's prime minister is to visit Russia, President Vladimir Putin yesterday said after a meeting on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Vladivostok, adding "historical" issues will be on the agenda.

Russia and Japan have a longstanding dispute over the Kuril islands, which Soviet forces seized in the last days of World War II and Tokyo refers to as the Northern Territories.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev provoked fury in Japan when he visited the islands earlier this year, adding to a hugely controversial

## Tests clear fears over Sonia

THE HINDU ONLINE

Fears that Congress President Sonia Gandhi could be battling cancer have been put to rest by tests conducted at a hospital in New York, a source close to her family has told The Hindu.

"The tests are clear," the source said, adding that Gandhi now expects to return to work on Monday after returning from New York.

Sonia had travelled to the United States earlier this month, for the latest in a series of check-ups following

## Suu Kyi sets date for US visit

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi will travel to the United States next Sunday, a spokesman for her party told AFP, in a trip that will see her awarded Washington's highest honour.

It will be her first visit to the US since she was put under house arrest in 1990.

As part of her visit Suu Kyi, who was elected to



## India launches satellites on 100th space mission

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian national space organisation yesterday marked its 100th mission by launching two satellites.

After successfully launching, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chief Dr K Radhakrishnan said, "we never raced with anybody. In space, science drives technological development and that will subsequently result in developing an application".

His remarks were made in reply to a question from a reporter on whether India is locked in a space war with China.

In a copybook launch, witnessed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, ISRO's rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle placed in orbit France's SPOT 6 satellite and Japanese spacecraft PROITERES, some 18 minutes after a perfect lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Congratulating ISRO scientists, the prime minister said, "today's launch is a milestone in our nation's space capabilities and is testimony to the commercial competitiveness of the Indian space industry and is a tribute to Indian innovation and ingenuity".

## Lanka's ruling party sweeps local polls

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's ruling party secured victory in three provincial council elections including one area ravaged by the island's ethnic war that ended in 2009, according to results released yesterday.

President Mahinda Rajapakse's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) swept the council polls in the north-central and central regions with near two thirds majorities in Saturday's vote.

In the eastern province, where Sri Lanka's two main minorities -- Tamils and Muslims -- live in almost equal number, the UPFA emerged the largest single party with 14 seats, five short of an absolute majority.

The eastern province covers an area that was dominated by Tamil Tiger rebels until they were driven out of the region by 2007.

The rebels were crushed in their final bastion in the island's north in May 2009 after decades of fighting that claimed up to 100,000 lives.

Tiger fighters waged war against the government in an attempt to found an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority population.

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), a party that was once a proxy of the rebels, secured 11 seats in the eastern province.

Rajapakse's party has won all key elections since defeating the rebels, who at the height of their power in the mid-1990s controlled nearly a third of the island.

## Hong Kong votes in key elections

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong yesterday voted in legislative elections seen as a test for the pro-Beijing government, after it was forced to scrap mandatory Chinese patriotism classes in the face of escalating protests.

The government has been besieged by protests since it took office in July with support from Beijing, and a strong vote for democratic parties will be seen as a rejection of the mainland's growing influence in the former British colony.

Tens of thousands of student-led demonstrators surrounded the executive building for a second straight night on Saturday, calling for the withdrawal of the unpopular plan to introduce Chinese patriotism classes into schools.

Sessions	Topics	Facilitators
Day-1, Session-1 (9:30 am to 1:00 pm)	Introduction to ASCM, issues and challenges related to production and marketing of agricultural products	Md. Mamunur Rahman M.Com (Marketing) DU, Dip. in Computer MBA (Malaysia), MSIM (Singapore), MPT (USA) CEO, EXPOPRO
Day-1, Session-2 (2:30 pm to 6:00 pm)	Post harvest handling, packaging and minimal processing of agricultural products	Md. Mahub Alam M.Sc., MBA (Australia), SCM (P) Consultant The World Bank, Dhaka
Day-2, Session-1 (10:00 am to 1:30 pm)	Inventory management, logistics and transportation of agricultural products	Shankar Kumar Roy M. Com. DU, CEM (NREP, USA) Int. Dip. in SCM, ITC (Switzerland) GM-Business Development Holcim Cement (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Day-2, Session-2 (2:30 pm to 6:00 pm)	Role and application of Information Technology (IT) to manage ASCM	Md. Shahid Uddin Akbar M. Com. DU Chief Executive Officer Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIIID)

**Target group :** Senior Executives of various agro-based organizations involved in managing operations of the company and Government officials in relevant ministries and departments focusing on the value addition in agriculture sector.

**Fees :** Tk. 4,000/- per person (This includes cost of lunch, tea, snacks, closing refreshments & course materials).

**Registration Deadline :** 2 working days before starting day.

**Seats are limited. First come First served. Certificates are awarded.**

For Details & Registration, Please Contact :  
**DCCI Business Institute (DBI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI)**  
 Tel: 9552562 (Hunting) Ext. 124, 137 & 123, Mobile: 01913756587, 01718972656, 01913745062  
 E-mail: dbi@dhakachamber.com, website: www.dhakachamber.com