

# Asia 'to eclipse' US, Europe by 2030

BBC ONLINE

Asia will wield more global power than the US and Europe combined by 2030, a forecast from the US intelligence community has found.

Within two decades China will overtake the US as the world's largest economy, the report adds.

It also warns of slower growth and falling living standards in advanced nations with ageing populations.

Global Trends 2030, issued to coincide with Mr Obama's second term, says it aims to promote strategic thinking.

Published every four years, the report from the National Intelligence Council (NIC) aims to draw together a wide sweep of "megatrends" driving transformation in the world.

The NIC suggests that by 2030, Asia will have more "overall power" than the US and Europe combined - taking into account population size, gross domestic product (GDP), military spending and investment in technology.

"China alone will probably have the

largest economy, surpassing that of the United States a few years before 2030," the report says.

"Meanwhile, the economies of Europe, Japan, and Russia are likely to continue their slow relative declines."

But the report says it does not anticipate that China will emerge as a superpower in the mould of the US, forging coalitions to take on international issues.

Speaking at a news briefing, Mathew Burrows, counsellor to the National Intelligence Council said: "Being the largest economic power is important... [but] it isn't necessarily the largest economic power that always is going to be the superpower."

The "megatrends" identified by the report include individual empowerment and transfer of power from the West to the global East and South.

It highlights ageing societies and a growing middle class, as well as diminishing natural resources, as key global themes.

Within the next two decades the US will achieve energy independence, and the size of urban populations around the world will rise sharply, the report says.



Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, right, receives flowers from Congress president Sonia Gandhi on his 78th Birthday at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Parliament Speaker Meira Kumar were among other dignitaries who greeted Pranab on his first birthday after assuming presidency on July 25 this year.

## Philippines typhoon toll tops 700

AFP, Manila

The death toll from the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year has climbed above 700 with hundreds more missing, many of them tuna fishermen feared lost at sea, the government said yesterday.

Typhoon Bopha, which unleashed floods and landslides across the main southern island of Mindanao on December 4, has killed at least 714 people and obliterated entire communities, the civil defence office said.

It said nearly 115,000 houses were destroyed and more than 116,000 people remain in crowded government shelters, where they face acute food crisis and months of waiting for new housing to be built.



## Slapped Nepal leader bails out his attacker

AFP, Kathmandu

The leader of Nepal's ruling Maoists put up the bail money yesterday to free a young chef who is awaiting trial for slapping him in the face, the party said.

Padam Kunwar, 25, had been behind bars since his arrest a month ago for assaulting Pushpa Kamal Dahal -- and smashing the former revolutionary's glasses -- at a tea reception in Kathmandu.

He was sent from police custody to a Kathmandu jail on Monday after failing to post his 28,000-rupee (\$515) bail, with his family saying they were too poor to stump up the cash.

"The leaders have held the country hostage. So, I slapped him to teach a lesson," a handcuffed Kunwar, apparently unmoved by Dahal's gesture, told reporters as he was being released.

## Couldn't believe

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beast. A beast killing an innocent tailor, Bishwajit Das, in the capital's Sutrapur on Sunday, the day of the opposition blockade.

"I watched on TV that my son [Shakil) was hacking Bishwajit with a sharp weapon. I couldn't believe my eyes ... that my son might kill someone so cruelly," he told The Daily Star at his Patuakhali residence yesterday.

"I want punishment of my son," Ansar, a retired employee of Patuakhali income tax office, added with all the sadness of the world. "I knew that my son was engaged in student politics but I didn't know he became such a danger man."

Following the incident, Ansar tried in vain to contact his son over the phone, but he could not get through.

Shakil, a sixth-semester student of Islamic history and culture of Jagannath University, left Patuakhali after passing class eight and has been staying at a relative's house in the capital since.

Like, Ansar Mia, Nurul Islam, father of another alleged killer Noore Alam, said his son should be

handed appropriate punishment if found guilty.

Nurul had a dream: His son would complete studies, get a job and support the family. But that dream has shattered when he heard his son was involved in the killing of Bishwajit, said Noore Alam's cousin Mir Gaffar Ali.

"For whom did I work so hard all my life? I pulled rickshaw and worked as a day labourer so he can study. But all my efforts have gone in vain. My son has gone astray," said Nurul, adding that nothing could get any sadder than this.

Gaffar Ali said they came to know about Noore Alam's involvement in the killing through the media.

Meanwhile, Zohra Khatun, mother of another alleged killer Emdadul Haque, has been crying since she saw on TV her son beating Bishwajit with an iron rod, said Emdadul's cousin Akhtaruzzaman.

"I knew my son to be good. I never thought he could be involved in any wrongdoing," Zohra was quoted as saying at her Jessore house.

According to Akhtaruzzaman, Zohra said it was only usual that

## Taliban leaders send their girls to school: UN

PTI, New Delhi

A top UN official yesterday claimed that some Taliban leaders, who issued fatwa against girls' education during their rule in Afghanistan, have themselves sent their female children to schools run with the support of the international body.

Louis-Georges Arsenault, who was Unicef representative in Afghanistan from 1998 to 2001, said top Taliban officials had "openly" told UN officials that the fatwa was issued because they needed their troops not be distracted by the movement of women and girls.

"Some of the Taliban fighters were sending their girls in schools any way," said Arsenault, who is credited with managing one of Unicef's largest humanitarian operations in Afghanistan.

## Blake calls

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returning to parliament and participate in passing the laws that need to be passed in your legislature." Asked how the gap between the two parties could be narrowed down in the wake of the arrest of BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Blake said he had not expressed concern over the arrest as it appeared in yesterday's newspapers.

BNP's claim of his expressing concern over the issue was inaccurate, he said. "This is a matter for Bangladesh judiciary to consider and obviously we hope his constitutional right is respected."

Making his point clear, the US state department official further said he was worried over the violence.

Referring to the killing of Bishwajit in old Dhaka during the roadblock on Sunday, he said he hoped that the perpetrators would be brought to swift trial as per Bangladeshi law.

Asked whether the independence of the judiciary is in question after the disclosure of Skype conversation of the chairman of an international crimes tribunal with another legal expert, he said "he cannot comment on specifics of a Bangladeshi court."

However, he reiterated US position on the war crimes trial, urging the government to ensure that the trial fully respects the due process of Bangladeshi law and that it is credible, independent and transparent in bringing the perpetrators to justice.

## Fog plays havoc

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parts of the country."

Usually around 40 launches, which start for Dhaka from different coastal areas, reach Sadarghat Launch Terminal by 8:30am everyday.

But, only two launches moored at the terminal till 12:15 pm yesterday while many others reached the terminal in the afternoon and evening, said Saiful Haque Khan, a senior official of BIWTA.

Samad Mandal, a manager of Hanif Paribahan, said the long-route buses took three hours more to reach their destinations due to the blanket of thick fog on the highways.

Dhaka Divisional Railway Manager Sardar Shahdat Ali said they had to reorganise the train schedule as many trains reached their destinations one or two hours late.

An official of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport said some morning flights took off two to three hours later than the schedule time due to inclement weather.

Huge traffic congestion in ferry and launch termi-

nals at Mawa-Kawrakandi and Daulatdia-Paturia routes kept thousands of people stranded until operations of water vessels resumed yesterday morning.

Masters of seven ferries were forced to anchor their vessels in the mid river after being unable to see through the thick fog on Monday night, reports our Munshiganj correspondent quoting Sirajul Islam, a manager of BIWTC, Mawa office.

The ferries were carrying at least 115 vehicles.

Over 700 vehicles got stranded at Paturia while 600 at Daulatdia terminal as thick fog forced the authorities to suspend ferry services for 11 hours till 10:15am yesterday, said Ashraf Ullah Khan, another manager of BIWTC, Paturia office.

Our Barisal correspondent reports, dense fog halted ferry services on Barisal-Kuakata and Barisal-Bhola routes for 11 hours till 10:00am yesterday.

The launches took around 8 to 9 hours more than usual to reach at Barisal Terminal.

## Left, Trinamool spar in West Bengal assembly

### Three members hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

West Bengal state legislature in Kolkata yesterday plunged into bedlam with ruling Trinamool Congress and Left parties' lawmakers trading blows.

Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee suspended three Left MLAs, while three injured members were taken to hospital. Gouranga Chatterjee, a CPI(M) MLA who received head injuries, was taken to hospital as also two Trinamool MLAs Mahmuda Begum who was hit in the chest and Pulok Roy who was injured in the leg.

Tempers ran high after Left members, who wanted to bring an adjournment motion on mushrooming of chit funds in the state, rushed to the Speaker podium and started shouting slogans.

Senior ministers Partha Chatterjee, Subrata Mukherjee and Firhad Hakim shielded the Speaker as Left members continued to shout slogans.

There was pandemonium as CPI(M) member Nazmul Haque snatched the microphone of the Speaker who adjourned the House till 1:30pm.

Congress members, who were asked to join in the protests by the Left, did not respond.

Trouble broke out again after the House reassembled. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Partha Chatterjee demanded action be taken against Left legislators who insulted the Speaker and snatched away his microphone.

The Speaker thereafter suspended three Left MLAs Nazmul Haque, Sushanta Besra and Amjad Hussain. One Left member, CPI(M) MLA Deblina Hembram and a Trinamool member were seen engaged in a heated exchange of words.

Subsequently, a free for all ensued in the House with members of Trinamool and Left coming to blows.

Congress members walked out protesting the violence in the House.

Left members also walked out and staged a sit-in demonstration outside the assembly chamber.

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(Central Training Institute of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation)  
P.O Sarkarkhana, Polish, Narsingdi -1611, Bangladesh.  
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Oxfam in Bangladesh office under Humanitarian Programme is planning to produce Emergency Food Security and Livelihood Assessment Tools and Checklist with Training Module followed by conduction Training jointly with Food Security Cluster to enhance country joint Assessment Process determined by HCTT. Duration of assignment will be for 4 months which will start on 26 December 2012 and will end on 15 April 2013.

We invite proposal from interested individuals/organizations to undertake this task. Please visit <http://bdjobs.com> for detailed TOR.

Please submit your letter of interest along with concept note (as per the TOR) and budget to: HR, Oxfam, House 4, Road 3, Block- I, Banani, Dhaka -1213, Bangladesh, email : [hbrd@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:hbrd@oxfam.org.uk) by December 20, 2012.

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