

# Global court takes up arbitration process

AFP, The Hague

In a blow to Australia, an international arbitration court yesterday agreed to take up a decade-long maritime border dispute between East Timor and Canberra which cuts through lucrative oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) "held that it was competent to continue with the conciliation process" initiated by East Timor against Australia in April, the court based in The Hague said.

East Timor last month urged the body -- the world's oldest arbitration tribunal -- to help end the dispute that has soured relations between the two countries, saying negotiations had so far failed.

Australia in return had argued the PCA had no jurisdiction in the battle as Canberra had already signed a treaty with Dili ruling out any recourse to the court.

Dili yesterday welcomed the PCA's decision.

"Just as we fought so hard and suffered so much for our independence, Timor-Leste will not rest until we have our sovereign rights over both land and sea," the country's independence resistance hero and former

prime minister Xanana Gusmao said.

Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop said Canberra "accepts the commission's decision and will continue to engage in good faith as we move to the next phase of the conciliation process."

"We are committed to working together to strengthen our relationship and overcome our differences in the Timor sea," she added.

Canberra's lawyers had also sought to argue that it had initiated talks with Dili through an exchange of letters in 2003 to try to solve the dispute.

But the panel said the exchange of letters between Canberra and Dili "did not constitute an agreement... because the exchange was not... legally binding."

And the PCA's five-member Conciliation Commission ruled the dispute should be settled under the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, rather than the 2006 treaty -- called Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea (CMATS) -- which covers the vast Greater Sunrise gas field lying between the two nations.

East Timor has also called for CMATS to be torn up after accusing Australia of spying to gain commercial advantage during the 2004 negotiations.

## TIMOR, AUSTRALIA SEA BOUNDARY ROW



Relatives and activists hold pictures of the Jordanian writer Nahed Hattar, who was shot dead on Sunday for sharing an anti-Islam cartoon on Facebook, and shout slogans during a sit-in in front of the prime minister's building in Amman, Jordan yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Portugal ex-PM still leads in UN chief race

AFP, United Nations

Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres maintained his lead in the race to become the next UN secretary-general following a fifth straw poll by the Security Council yesterday, diplomats said.

Guterres, who served as UN refugee chief for 10 years and was prime minister from 1995 to 2002, picked up 12 votes of encouragement, two "discourage" votes and one "no opinion", the same result as the previous informal vote.

It was the fifth time that the 67-year-old has taken the number-one spot in the contest to succeed Ban Ki-moon, the former South Korean foreign minister who steps down on December 31 after 10 years as the world's top diplomat. Serbia's ex-foreign minister Vuk Jeremic came in second with eight positive votes, six negative and one "no opinion", followed by Slovakia's foreign minister Miroslav Lajcak, who took the second place in the last round.

The 15 ambassadors, including those from the powerful five permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- met behind closed doors to rate the candidates.

Diplomats were watching Bulgarian candidate Irina Bokova's showing after the government in Sofia said it may consider switching candidates if she failed to get a top spot.

The government is considering putting forward European Commission vice president Kristalina Georgieva instead.

Bokova, who heads the UN's culture and education agency Unesco, picked up six votes of encouragement, seven "discourage" votes and two "no opinion".

That put her behind Slovenia's ex-president Danilo Turk and Argentina's FM Susana Malcorra, who each got seven positive votes, seven negative votes and one "no opinion."

## Indian minister shames Pakistan at UNGA

TNN, New York

External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday gave a stinging response to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's "tirade" on Kashmir at the UN General Assembly and asked him to look at what is happening in Balochistan.

Calling for global isolation of Pakistan, Sushma Swaraj said that "countries that nurture, peddle and export terror should have no place in the comity of nations."

"In our midst, there are nations that still speak the language of terrorism, that nurture it, peddle it, and export it. To shelter terrorists has become their calling card. We must identify these nations and hold them to account," Swaraj asserted in her nearly 20-minute speech.

"These nations, in which UN designated terrorists roam freely, lead processions and deliver their poisonous sermons of hate with impunity, are as culpable as the very terrorists they harbour. Such countries should have no place in the comity of nations," Swaraj said, in essence making a call to the international community to isolate such nations. "The terror apparatus that was behind 26/11 and Uri is also



behind a number of terror attacks all over the world," she said.

In a strong rebuttal of the "baseless allegations" made by Sharif from the podium of the General Assembly about human rights violations by India in Kashmir, Swaraj said, "I can only say that those accusing others of human rights violations would do well to introspect and see what egregious abuses they are perpetrating in their own country, including in Balochistan. The brutality against the Baloch people represents the worst form of state oppression."

Swaraj, speaking in Hindi, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan by inviting his counterpart Nawaz Sharif to his swearing-in ceremony in May 2014, and also visiting Lahore last December in a goodwill gesture.

"But what did we get in return? Pathankot, Uri, Bahadur Ali," she said, referring to the January 2 terror attack on an air force base in Pathankot that left seven soldiers dead, and the Uri attack of September 18 in which 18 soldiers died, and the capture of Pakistani terrorist Bahadur Ali.

"Bahadur Ali, who was captured in Jammu and Kashmir, is a living example of Pakistan's cross-border terrorism," she said.



A supporter of Awami Ittihad Party, a pro-India party, is detained by Indian police during a protest demanding to hold a plebiscite, in Srinagar yesterday. Indian PM Modi lashed out at Pakistan last week accusing it of "exporting terrorists" after a deadly attack on an army base that New Delhi has blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

## Calais camp to be dismantled

Says Hollande, calls on British authorities to help in assisting refugees

AFP, Calais

French President Francois Hollande said yesterday the sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp in Calais would be dismantled by the end of this year under a plan to spread asylum seekers around the country.

"I have come to Calais to confirm the decision that I took with the government... to dismantle (the camp) definitively, entirely and rapidly, that means by the end of the year," Hollande said on his first visit to Calais as president.

Hollande called on British authorities to help in assisting the migrants, most of whom are desperate to reach Britain. "I am determined to see the British authorities play their part in the humanitarian effort that France is undertaking" in Calais, Hollande said, flanked by security forces.

Between 7,000 and 10,000 migrants are currently living in the "Jungle", the launchpad for their attempts to stow away on lorries heading across the Channel to England.

Hollande met police, local politicians, NGOs and business leaders in the northern port city but was not expected to visit the camp itself.

The Socialist president has been under pressure from right-wing rivals to close down the "Jungle".

A flurry of preparations in Calais suggest the operation to raze the collection of makeshift shelters may begin shortly.

The government has said the migrants, who are mostly from Sudan and Afghanistan, will be moved to 164 reception centres around the country "before winter".

Hollande said Britain's vote to exit the European Union did not diminish its responsibility for the migrants camped across the Channel.



"Just because the United Kingdom has taken a sovereign decision, it does not mean it is freed from its obligations towards France," he said.

Hollande said the vote also had no effect on the bilateral Le Touquet agreement which effectively means that the British border extends to Calais's ferry ports, where British immigration officials check passports and inspect vehicles.

Hollande's visit comes just days after his conservative predecessor Nicolas Sarkozy -- who is hoping to return as president in next year's election -- visited Calais to promote his tough line on migration.

Migration has been a low-key issue of Hollande's four-year presidency.

But he has been forced to take a stronger stance on the issue, under pressure from Sarkozy and far-right leader Marine Le Pen.

## Shoe hurled at Rahul Gandhi

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi yesterday came under a shoe attack during his road show in Sitapur district but the shoe missed him narrowly. The Nehru-Gandhi scion saw the hand of the BJP-RSS behind the shoe attack.

Travelling atop an open-air vehicle as part of his Deoria to Delhi kisan mahayatra, Gandhi was busy folding the sleeves of his kurta when a shoe came hurtling towards him. The shoe missed him narrowly but hit another Congressman, who could not be identified. Former Union minister Jitin Prasada and SPG guards were near Gandhi at the time of the incident.

As his cavalcade progressed from the spot, Gandhi hinted at a political hand behind the attack. "I want to tell the BJP-RSS people, throw as many shoes on me as you want. I am not going to step back," the Amethi MP said. "Your anger is your weakness. Even if you offer it to me I am not going to take it. I have forgotten about the shoe. You stick to your hate. I will continue believing in love and bhaichara (brotherhood)," he said.

The young man accused of hurling the shoe was whisked away by police and taken into custody.

Identified as Hariom Sharma, the youth claimed he was a journalist and so far his political affiliation was not known.

## NEWS IN brief

### Yemeni forces kill suspected Qaeda chief

AFP, Aden

Yemeni forces killed a suspected local al-Qaeda chief yesterday in a clash at his house in the southern province of Abyan, security officials said. A Yemeni soldier also died and another was wounded after troops stormed the residence of an alleged insurgent identified as Abdullah Hubaibat, on the outskirts of the town of Loder, the officials said.

### Suu Kyi unwell after trip to US, UK

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been forced to take a rest from her state duties after becoming unwell during a state trip abroad, her office said yesterday. The 71-year-old was diagnosed with gastritis after returning from a visit to Britain and the US, her first trip to her Western allies since taking office in March.

### Three Turkish soldiers killed in PKK attack

AFP, Istanbul

Three members of the Turkish security forces were killed and seven others wounded yesterday in a roadside bombing by Kurdish militants in south-eastern Turkey, media reported. The bomb planted by rebels from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) exploded on a highway in Mardin province when a vehicle carrying members of the security forces passed by, the state news agency Anadolu said.

## Saudi women push to end guardianship

AGENCIES

A petition signed by more than 14,000 Saudi women calling for an end to the male guardianship system has been handed to the Saudi government.

Women must have the consent of a male guardian to travel abroad, and often need permission to work or study.

Support for the first large-scale campaign on the issue grew online in response to a trending Twitter hashtag.

Activist Aziza Al-Yousef, who delivered the petition, said she felt "very proud" but now needed a response.

In the deeply conservative Islamic kingdom, a woman must have permission from her father, brother or other male relative -- or in the case of a widow, some-

times her son -- to obtain a passport, marry or leave the country.

Many workplaces and universities also demand a guardian's consent for female employees and students, although it is not legally required.

Renting a flat, undergoing hospital treatment or filing a legal claim often also require a male guardian's permission, and there is very little recourse for women whose guardians abuse them or severely limit their freedom.

In July, an Arabic Twitter hashtag which translates as "Saudi women want to abolish the guardianship system" went viral after a Human Rights Watch report was published on the issue. Saudi women tweeted comments, videos and artwork calling for change. Bracelets saying "I Am My Own Guardian" appeared.

## HOUSTON SHOOTING

### Nine injured, suspect killed

AFP, Washington

A gunman opened fire in Houston yesterday just before daybreak, wounding nine people before police shot and killed him, police said.

The shooter was a Houston-area lawyer, the Texas city's police chief Martha Montalvo told a news conference. She would not identify the man by name.

Police said they were investigating whether the shooting was motivated by "issues at his firm."

Of the nine people injured, six were sent to hospitals while three were treated and released near the scene of the incident. One person was in critical condition and another in serious condition, police said.

Police did not disclose what kind of gun was used.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner told local television station KTRK that it appeared the motivation for the shooting may have been the lawyer's relationship with his firm, which "went awry."

## US, South Korea show might to North Korea

CNN ONLINE

The US and South Korean navies put on a show of force in the Sea of Japan yesterday, the latest in a string of displays of military might in response to North Korea's testing of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles.

Yesterday's exercises saw the US guided missile destroyer USS Spruance join ships, submarines and planes from the South Korean navy in waters east of the Korean Peninsula.

It was the first time US and South Korean vessels have operated together in waters so close to the east coast of North Korea, a US Navy official said. The ships were armed with long-range, precision, land-attack cruise missiles, the official said.

The naval show of force followed last week's flight of US Air Force B-1 bombers along the

Demilitarized Zone, the closest the powerful, combat-tested heavy bombers have ever flown to the line separating North and South Korea, according to a US military source.

That flyover followed North Korea's announcement of what it claimed was a successful test of rocket engine.

Earlier this month, B-1s flew over Osan Air Base, south of the South Korean capital of Seoul, in response to North Korea's fifth test of a nuclear warhead, a test Pyongyang said showed it's ready to mount warheads on missiles.

"We work side-by-side with our ROK partners every day; we are by their side today at sea, and we will remain by their side to defend against North Korea's unprovoked acts of aggression," Rear Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of US Naval Forces Korea and Task Force 78, said.

