

# Hu urges mutual China-US respect

By CHENG GUANGJIN  
Chengguangjin@chinadaily.com.cn

President Hu Jintao has called on the United States to properly handle sensitive issues between the two countries to ensure bilateral relations move forward in a healthy and stable way.

He made the remarks during a meeting in Beijing on Tuesday with Thomas Donilon, US President Barack Obama's top security aide, the first US national security adviser to visit China in eight years.

Analysts viewed the visit as a chance for the two countries to discuss differences on issues

such as security and the economy, which would help secure stable bilateral relationships, during what is a US presidential election year.

Donilon comes at a time when China and the US are at loggerheads over a series of international issues, including Syria, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and international trade.

Hu said the two sides should respect each other's major interests and concerns and handle sensitive issues in a stable, careful and proper manner, so as to advance China-US relations.

Hu said relations have maintained a momentum of stable

growth in recent years due to the efforts of both sides.

He added that he and Obama had reached an important consensus on building a cooperative partnership of mutual respect and mutual benefit, and on exploring ways of developing a new type of relationship between their countries.

Calling the China-US relationship one of the most important in the world, Donilon said the US is ready to work with China to implement agreements reached by the heads of both countries.

He said the US is ready to deepen cooperation with China on all bilateral areas and on regional and world issues.



**Communication can reduce the negative effect on the general bilateral relationship caused by their differences."**

JIA XIUDONG  
SENIOR RESEARCHER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT THE CHINA INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Donilon also held talks with State Councilor Dai Bingguo, China's top diplomat, during

which they exchanged views "frankly and deeply" on international and regional issues of common concern, according to a news release from the Foreign Ministry, without elaborating.

Donilon arrived in Beijing on Monday evening. He will also on Wednesday meet Vice-President Xi Jinping, Vice-Premier Wang Qishan, Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission Xu Caihou and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, before continuing his trip to Tokyo.

Considering Donilon's important influence on US policy-making in defense and security, his visit will play a positive role in stabilizing China-

US relations at a special time when the two countries are at loggerheads on some international and regional issues," said Jia Xiudong, a senior researcher on international affairs at the China Institute of International Studies.

Jia noted that the two sides both emphasized the building of a new type of relationship, which shows their goodwill to develop bilateral ties despite a lack of strategic mutual trust and unavoidable differences on certain issues.

He added: "Communication can reduce the negative effect on the general bilateral relationship caused by their differences."

## Syria rebels say Assad moved chemical weapons to border

By AGENCIES in Damascus

The Syrian government has moved chemical weapons to airports on its borders, the rebel Free Syrian Army said on Tuesday, a day after the government warned it could use them if attacked by an outside force.

"We in the joint command of the Free Syrian Army inside the country know very well the locations and positions of these weapons," a statement from the FSA said.

"We also have revealed that (President Bashar al-)Assad has transferred some of these weapons and equipment for mixing chemical components to airports on the border."

The statement said the weapons had been moved in a bid to pressure the international community amid the 16-month uprising against his rule.

"According to our information, the regime began moving its stocks of weapons of mass destruction several months ago ... with the goal of putting pressure on the region and the international community," the FSA said.

But the group said it was impossible to believe that Assad's government would use its weapons against neighboring Israel, which has publicly expressed concerns about the fate of Syria's massive chemical weapons stocks.

"The regime that has not fired a single bullet against Israel during the course of three decades is certainly not going to use chemical weapons against that country," the statement said.

The Syrian government made a public reference to its chemical weapons stocks for the first time on Monday, with Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi warning they could be used if outside forces attacked.

"Syria will not use any chemical or other unconventional weapons against its civilians, and will only use them in case of external aggression," Makdissi told reporters.

"Any stocks of chemical weapons that may exist will never, ever be used against the Syrian people," he said, adding that in the event of foreign attack, "the



BULENT KILIC / AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
Syrian rebels hunt for snipers after attacking the municipality building in the city center of Selehattin, near Aleppo, on Monday, during fights between rebels and Syrian troops. Syrian rebels claimed they have "liberated" several districts of the northern city of Aleppo, said a Free Syrian Army spokesman in the country's commercial hub.

### RESPONSES

#### UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday he was concerned about the possibility of Syria using chemical weapons, calling such an action "reprehensible".

"It would be reprehensible if anyone in Syria would use weapons of mass destruction," Ban told reporters in Belgrade.

generals will be deciding when and how we use them."

Syrian authorities have arrested a person said to have carried out a bomb attack last week that killed three senior security officials, an Iranian news agency reported on Tuesday.

The suspect worked at the security headquarters in Damascus where the bombing took place, Fars News Agency quoted Syrian parliament member Mohammad Zahir Gha-

#### UNITED STATES

"Given the regime's stockpiles of chemical weapons, we will continue to make it clear to Assad and those around him that the world is watching and that they will be held accountable by the international community and the United States should they make the tragic mistake of using those weapons," US President Barack Obama said in a speech to veterans in Reno, Nevada.

noun as saying.

The attack killed the defense minister, a general and the brother-in-law of Assad, the most significant strike against the country's leadership.

"The agent who committed the explosion against the Syria Supreme National Security Council building was arrested," Ghanoum said.

"The arrested individual is a staff member of that same building but I cannot give fur-

#### FRANCE

Any use of chemical weapons by Syrian government forces would be unacceptable, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Tuesday.

"Any use of chemical arms is completely unacceptable. President Obama made statements to this effect and so have others ... These weapons are under strict surveillance by the international community," Fabius told France 2 television.

ther details. Probably in the near future this person's confession will be broadcast."

A security source told Reuters last week the bomber was a bodyguard entrusted with protecting the closest members of Assad's circle. Syrian state television said a suicide bomber was responsible.

#### Iraq on alert

Iraqi military authorities moved an army brigade from

#### TURKEY

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is "closer than ever to victory" and warned that Turkey will respond firmly to any hostility from Syria.

Turkey has called for Assad to quit after he failed to heed calls for reform and the country has harbored Syrian rebels and tens of thousands of refugees along its border with Syria.

southern Iraq to border areas with Syria in Iraq's western province of Anbar, an official television reported on Tuesday.

"An Iraqi army brigade has been ordered to move from its base in Dhi-Qar province to Iraqi-Syrian border to enhance security measures," the state-run channel of Iraqia quoted a source in Dhi-Qar province as saying.

The brigade, which will arrive successively in western

#### ARAB LEAGUE

The head of the Arab League has said the Syrian government of Assad cannot last for long, saying its days were numbered on Tuesday.

AL Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby also said the time for talking about political reform was over. "There is now no talk about political reform, but a transfer of power," he said.

Iraq, is tasked with scrutinizing the identities of all Iraqis who return from Syria to detain those who are wanted according to arrest warrants issued earlier by the Iraqi judiciary, the source said.

Last week, the Iraqi government urged its citizens living in Syria to return home after an increase in deadly attacks against Iraqis.

### briefly

#### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Coulson, Brooks to face charges

Prime Minister David Cameron's ex-media chief and Rupert Murdoch's former UK newspaper boss are to be charged with phone-hacking offenses in the most significant development in a scandal that has rocked Britain's establishment.

Prosecutors said on Tuesday Andy Coulson, who was Cameron's communications chief from 2007 until January 2011, and Rebekah Brooks, who was courted by a succession of prime ministers including Cameron in her role as Murdoch's UK newspaper chief, would be charged with offenses linked to the hacking.

The alleged offenses were committed when both were editor of the News of the World newspaper, the Sunday tabloid which Murdoch was forced to close last July amid public revulsion at the phone-hacking revelations.

#### IRAQ

#### Death toll from attacks at 116

Two bombs killed nine people in Iraq late on Monday, police and hospital sources said, taking to 116 the death toll in a string of coordinated bomb and gun attacks against mostly Shiite Muslim targets.

A car bomb exploded near a cafe in the Shiite Ameen district in southeastern Baghdad, killing six men and wounding 24 others as they sat smoking shisha water pipes and drinking tea.

Three other people died when a roadside bomb went off near their mini-bus about 20 km west of Baquba, a city northeast of Baghdad. Seven others were wounded in the blast, police said.

#### UNITED STATES

#### First US woman in space dies

Sally Ride, the first American woman to journey into space, died on Monday after a 17-month battle with pancreatic cancer, her foundation announced. She was 61.

Ride first launched into space in 1983 aboard Challenger on the seventh mission of US space shuttle program.

US President Barack Obama called her a "national hero and a powerful role model" who "inspired generations of young girls to reach for the stars".

"Sally's life showed us that there are no limits to what we can achieve, and I have no doubt that her legacy will endure for years to come," he added, in a statement offering condolences to Ride's family and friends.

#### PAKISTAN

#### Drone strike kills 10 militants

A US drone attack on Monday killed at least 10 militants in a restive northwestern Pakistani tribal area, security officials said.

The missiles struck a militant compound in the Shawal area of the troubled North Waziristan tribal district on the Afghan border.

"US drones fired up to six missiles into a militant compound. The death toll in the drone attack has risen to 10 and two others were wounded," a security official told AFP.

REUTERS—AFP

## S. Korea's Lee apologizes for graft scandal

By AGENCIES in Seoul

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak issued a public apology on Tuesday for what he said was "unsavory" conduct by people close to him, two weeks after his brother was arrested in a graft scandal that also sent some of his closest aides to jail.

Lee's apology on live national TV, where he bowed deeply and said he had nobody to blame but himself, marked the latest blow to the political credibility of a leader who had vowed to clean up the corruption-prone image of South Korea's leadership.

"I bow my head in apology to the people for causing concern

over these matter," Lee said.

"Who could I blame at this point? It is all my fault. I will willingly accept any rebuke."

Lee's older brother, Lee Sang-deuk, a long-time member of parliament, was taken into custody on July 11, one week after he appeared before prosecutors to answer questions about allegations that he took money from a failed savings bank in return for favors.

The scandal was part of a string of failed junior lenders, due to mismanagement, that caused thousands of mostly working class customers to lose their savings that exceeded a 50 million won (\$43,600) state deposit insurance.

The public mea culpa was Lee's fourth since he took office in February 2008.

The imprisonment of the elder Lee, who is suspected of taking some 600 million won (\$529,200) from local savings banks, was the last straw for the president as he trudges toward the end of his five-year term.

Some of his key confidants, including former top communications regulator Choi Se-joung and former vice-minister of Knowledge Economy Park Young-joon, have also been arrested.

Other high-profile Lee associates in trouble include former presidential secretary Kim Hee-jung, former parliamen-

tary speaker Park Hee-tae and former vice-minister of culture Shin Jae-min.

Before he was elected to lead South Korea, Lee was mired in a financial scam that implicated a former colleague at an investment company called BBK.

Critics say the scandals are an ironic juxtaposition to Lee's national drive for a "fair society" and claims that he is leading a "morally perfect" administration, now a subject of much derision, according to Xinhua.

Opposition lawmakers believe the apology was a red herring.

REUTERS—XINHUA



KIM BYONG-MAN / YONHAP VIA REUTERS

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak bows to make an apology to the nation at the presidential Blue House in Seoul on Tuesday. Lee apologized on Tuesday over a string of bribery scandals involving his former aides and his elder brother, local media reported.