

Forbes Names Sonia Gandhi 7th Most Powerful Woman, Merkel On Top
Bernama
August 25, 2011

WASHINGTON, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- India's Congress party president Sonia Gandhi is the seventh most powerful woman in the world in the Forbes list which is topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, reports Press Trust of India.

The 64-year-old Gandhi, who is recovering from unspecified surgery in a US hospital, is ranked seventh just ahead of US First Lady Michell Obama in a list of the world's 100 most powerful women released by Forbes magazine.

Indian-American Indra Nooyi, the head of soft drinks giant PepsiCo, is ranked fourth, followed by Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook and Melinda Gates co-chair and co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Two Indian corporate executives, Chandra Kochhar of the ICICI (43rd) and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon (99th) figure in the list in which third place is occupied by Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman President.

"Lauded for overseeing heavy economic growth, she is also criticised for tolerating political corruption and failing to forge connections with India's fastest-growing demographic -- younger voters," said Forbes about Gandhi.

"Sonia Gandhi is an avid scholar of the arts, and holds a degree in oil painting conservation. She recently underwent surgery in the US," it added.

"The managing director and CEO of India's second-largest bank, Chanda Kochhar, rules over assets of US\$118 billion and profits of US\$1.35 million," Forbes said.

"India's first biotech entrepreneur, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founded Biocon in 1978 at just 25. Since then Biocon has become only the second Indian firm to list a US\$1 billion IPO on its first day of trading," it added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsworld.php?id=610447>