

Saudi won't recognise Israel till it gives up Arab land

AFP, Riyadh

Regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia will not recognise Israel until it withdraws from occupied Arab land and makes committed steps toward a lasting two-state solution, a senior official said yesterday.

Foreign ministry spokesman Osama Nugali also called Israeli policy "schizophrenic" and said it was jeopardising attempts to revive Middle East peace talks aimed at creating an independent Palestinian state.

"Our position is well known. It is Israel that has to move seriously towards the peace process," Nugali said.

"As we all know, Israel is continuing to take unilateral measures by changing the geographic and demographic facts on the ground, by building settlements and expanding the existing ones," he told AFP.

"The Arab peace initiative is very clear," he said, referring to a 2002 Saudi-

inspired Middle East peace blueprint.

"That Israel should withdraw from the Arab lands and put an end to its occupation and resolve the major issues of the conflict," he said, citing the future of Palestinian refugees, water-sharing issues, and the future status of Jerusalem as a capital for both states.

Such issues must be resolved "in order to achieve a permanent, just and lasting peace which is based on the establishment of an independent contiguous and viable Palestinian state," Nugali said.

"In the Arab peace process normalisation comes after achieving these goals, not before it. So we should not put the cart before the horse."

US Middle East peace envoy George Mitchell on Tuesday called on Arab states to take "meaningful steps" towards Israel to help open talks on a comprehensive regional peace settlement, saying that eventually they should fully normalise relations with the Jewish state.

In addition, several US legislators have

drafted a letter to Saudi King Abdullah calling on him to make a "dramatic gesture" towards Israel similar to ground-breaking overtures that ultimately led to peace with Egypt and Jordan.

But the Saudis maintain that those overtures have not brought progress toward creating a Palestinian state.

Nugali said Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank continues to prevent any progress, and the Palestinians have refused to restart negotiations until Israel freezes construction.

Israel has rejected calls by the US administration to halt settlement activity, leading to the worst public rift between the two close allies in years.

"We have been seeing a schizophrenic Israeli policy. On one hand you talk about peace and their interest to achieve peace," he said.

"On the other hand they take actions against the peace process that complicate it and put it in jeopardy."

Kurd-Arab friction top problem in Iraq: Gates

AP, Irbil

Friction between Arabs and Kurds in northern Iraq is the greatest threat to security in Iraq, American military commanders said, overtaking the old Sunni-Shiite divide that threatened to push Iraq into civil war three years ago.

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates is visiting the semi-autonomous Kurdish region Wednesday during a brief trip to Iraq that has included meetings with political leaders who are feuding with Kurdish leaders over the borders of the oil-rich Kurdish lands.

He met Kurdish President Massoud Barzani in Irbil, seat of the regional government. Barzani claimed victory in a re-election vote last weekend that also saw large gains by an opposition slate.

Gates made a point Tuesday of saying the United States is "ready to help resolve disputes over boundaries and hydrocarbons," and said all sides should work out differences without violence.

Gen Ray Odierno, the top US general in the country, identified the tension in northern Iraq as the "No. 1 driver of instability."

"Many insurgent groups are trying to exploit

the tensions," Odierno told reporters Tuesday. "We're watching very carefully to see that this doesn't escalate."

So far, American intermediaries are helping keep a lid on things, Odierno said. His deputy, Lt Gen Charles Jacoby, also pointed to friction between northern Iraq and southern Iraq as a main concern as the United States prepares to withdraw combat forces from Iraq by August of next year. All U.S. forces are to be out by 2012.

The Kurds have been locked in a dispute with Baghdad over control of oil resources and a fault line of contested territory in northern Iraq, particularly the flash-point city of Kirkuk. The disagreements have stalled a national oil law considered vital to encouraging foreign investment. U.S. officials have warned that Arab-Kurdish tensions could erupt into a new front in the Iraq conflict and jeopardize security gains elsewhere.

Separatist sentiment is high in Kurdistan, which gained autonomy after rising up against former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in 1991. The region was protected from his forces by a U.S.-British no-fly zone until Saddam's fall in 2003.

Iran to put 20 election 'rioters' on trial

AFP, Tehran

Iran will put on trial from Saturday about 20 "rioters" involved in the post-election unrest in Tehran, the official IRNA news agency reported yesterday.

IRNA said they faced charges including bombings, carrying firearms and grenades, attacking Basij militiamen and security forces and having contacts with exiled opposition group the People's Mujahadeen.

"They are also charged with attacking military units and universities, sending pictures to enemy media, organising thugs and rioters, vandalising public and state property including destroying banks and houses," it said.

Water pollution sickens many in north China

AP, Beijing

Contaminated drinking water has sickened more than 2,600 people in northern China, including 59 who were hospitalized with fevers, diarrhea, stomach aches and vomiting, state media reported yesterday.

Heavy rains caused contaminants to seep into a water supply in Chifeng city in Inner Mongolia, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, without saying what the contaminants were.

Residents began reporting diarrhea and vomiting over the weekend and were treated at the local hospital, Xinhua reported. The contaminated well provided water for 58,000 of the city's 4.5 million residents, it said.



PHOTO: AFP

Investigators collect evidence in front of civil guard barracks after a car bomb exploded earlier in the day in the northern Spanish city of Burgos yesterday. The bomb injured around 50 people slightly in an attack authorities blamed on the Basque separatist group ETA. Police said 46 people, including 22 women and six children living in the barracks, were slightly injured, most suffering cuts and bruises.

Bomb blast in Spain injures dozens

AP, Burgos

A powerful car bomb exploded early yesterday outside a barracks housing police officers and their families in this northern Spanish city, slightly injuring 46 people and causing major damage in the area. The attack was blamed on Basque separatist group ETA.

Most of the injuries from the blast were from flying glass, and 38 of the wounded were treated in hospitals, regional ministry representative Miguel Alejo said. Many of the injured were Civil Guard police officers and family members.

The bomb detonated around 4:00 a.m. (0200 GMT, 10 p.m. EDT Tuesday) and left a crater that had filled with water from broken underground pipes, Alejo said.

"The car used to cause the explosion has been displaced some 70 meters (230 feet) so that gives you an idea of the power of the blast," he said.

Police and emergency services did not receive any

warning that a bomb had been planted, but the explosion had the hallmarks of an ETA attack, Alejo said. It was not immediately clear how many people were in the building at the time.

Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba was rushing to the scene, his office said.

ETA, which has killed more than 825 people since it launched a campaign in 1968 for an independent homeland in Basque region of northern Spain, typically phones in warnings that a bomb is about to explode giving time to authorities to evacuate the area.

The last attack blamed on the group was July 10 when a bomb exploded outside an office of the Spanish prime minister's party in the Basque town of Durango, causing significant damage but no injuries.

The group's last fatal attack took place June 19, when a bomb attached to the underside of a car killed a Spanish police detective whose job was to investigate ETA.

DCs inform ministers

FROM PAGE 1

about different projects and programmes of his ministry, and sought their cooperation in implementing those.

Responding to a suggestion of the DCs for importing more essential commodities through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Commerce Minister Faruk Khan urged them to pay more attention to curbing price hikes of essentials during the Muslim's holy month of Ramadan.

"Two dealers in each upazila will be appointed for selling TCB imported commodities for fair prices," the DC of Bogra told The Daily Star quoting Faruk Khan.

When the DCs drew Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury's attention to adulterated fertilizers being sold on the market, she directed them to seize and destroy those.

She also asked the DCs to help Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation in implementing various agricultural development projects to boost production, and to promote marketing of agro products in their districts.

She said the agricultural sector must be modernised and a database of all farmers across the country must be prepared in a bid to build a digital Bangladesh.

"We raised the issues because we want an end to the tension between elected local government representatives and the central government administration following the revival of upazila parishad system," said a deputy commissioner.

The DCs are scheduled to meet more ministers today.

Razzaque also briefed the DCs about different projects and programmes of his ministry, and sought their cooperation in implementing those.

Responding to a suggestion of the DCs for importing more essential commodities through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Commerce Minister Faruk Khan urged them to pay more attention to curbing price hikes of essentials during the Muslim's holy month of Ramadan.

"Two dealers in each upazila will be appointed for selling TCB imported commodities for fair prices," the DC of Bogra told The Daily Star quoting Faruk Khan.

When the DCs drew Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury's attention to adulterated fertilizers being sold on the market, she directed them to seize and destroy those.

She also asked the DCs to help Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation in implementing various agricultural development projects to boost production, and to promote marketing of agro products in their districts.

She said the agricultural sector must be modernised and a database of all farmers across the country must be prepared in a bid to build a digital Bangladesh.

"We raised the issues because we want an end to the tension between elected local government representatives and the central government administration following the revival of upazila parishad system," said a deputy commissioner.

The DCs are scheduled to meet more ministers today.

Hamas bars Fatah rivals from leaving Gaza for congress

AFP, Gaza City

The Hamas movement ruling the Gaza Strip said yesterday it will bar members of the rival Fatah party from leaving the territory to attend their first congress in 20 years.

The Islamist group "has decided not to allow members of Fatah in the Gaza Strip to go to the West Bank to participate in their sixth congress," Mahmud Zahar, a senior leader of Hamas in Gaza, said in a statement.

The travel ban would be lifted if Fatah freed all Hamas prisoners in the occupied West Bank.

"If they want their members to go to the congress, they must free all our prisoners," Zahar said.

The ban affects the more than 400 Fatah members who currently live in Gaza and are eligible to attend the congress, according to officials in Gaza and the West Bank.

Fatah is due to hold a congress on August 4 in Bethlehem, its first such meeting in 20 years, with some 2,000 delegates expected to attend from around the world.

Tensions between the two main Palestinian factions boiled over in June 2007 when Hamas seized control in Gaza after a week of deadly street clashes, confining the writ of Palestinian president and Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Since then, each group has accused the other of persecuting its rivals in its respective area of control.

Sudan adjourns 'lashes' case for journalist

AFP, Khartoum

A Sudanese court yesterday adjourned the case of a woman journalist facing 40 lashes for wearing "indecent" trousers, with 10 women already whipped for similar offences against Islamic law.

The judge deferred the case to Tuesday after Lubna Ahmed al-Hussein, who works for the left-wing Al-Sahafa newspaper and for the media department of the United Nations Mission in Sudan, waived the immunity given to UN workers.

"The court gave Lubna the choice either to accept immunity from the UN or to waive

that and go on with the trial," her lawyer Nabil Adeb told AFP.

"I wish to resign from the UN, I wish this court case to continue," Hussein told a packed courtroom after which the judge adjourned the case to August 4.

Hussein, who wears a hijab or Islamic headscarf, faces 40 lashes and a fine of 250 Sudanese pounds (100 dollars) if found guilty.

Hussein said she was at a restaurant on July 3 when police came in and ordered 13 women wearing trousers to follow them to the police station.



PHOTO: AFP

French President Nicolas Sarkozy delivers a speech following the cabinet meeting yesterday on the steps of Elysee Palace in Paris. Sarkozy declared he was in good health as he went back to work at the Elysee after collapsing while jogging.



PHOTO: AFP

A Moldovan woman waits for a ballot at a polling station in Chisinau yesterday as Moldovans voted in their second parliamentary elections in less than four months, after the previous polls led to violent anti-Communist riots and a bitter political standoff.

UTTARA BANK LIMITED

Engineering Department (4th Floor)
Head Office: 47, Bir Uttam Shahid Asfakusamad Sarak
(Former- 90, Motijheel C/A), Dhaka-1000

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from the bonafide, well experienced & Technically sound Architectural/Engineering/Consulting Firms for Internal Decoration Works of Uttara Bank Limited, Shajadpur Branch at Shajadpur, Sirajgonj.

Intending Tenderers having prerequisite qualification & experience may apply on their letter head pad along with the attested copies of requisite work completion certificate, upto date IT clearance certificate, VAT Registration Certificate and Academic Certificate of the Architects under their regular service for purchasing Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk. 1,000/- (Non refundable) per set on or before 19-08-2009 during office hours.

Firms having no working experience for the same nature of Internal Decoration Works valued not less than 10.00 Lac in a single work order in any Govt./Semi Govt. Organization or Corporation or Autonomous body or Bank or in any Organization of same nature within the last 3 years and not having at least 1 (one) Diploma Architect with minimum 2 years' practical experience in the regular service need not submit any application.

The Bank will supply necessary Plan and Drawings for the work. The successful Tenderer will have to prepare detailed working drawings and will have to make necessary changes/alterations in the Plan and Drawings as per practical requirement in consultation with the Bank Management.

Tenders will be received upto 1-30 P.M. on 20-08-2009 in the Tender Box placed at the office of the undersigned. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 02-00 P.M. in presence of the tenderers or their representatives, if any. Other details will be available in the Tender Document. For any further details, anybody may contact the undersigned during office hours.

The Uttara Bank Limited reserves the right not to accept the lowest Tender and to reject any Tender or part thereof or all Tenders without assigning any reason what so ever.

Engr. M.A. Awal
GENERAL MANAGER

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/distributors & Suppliers for supply the following item of Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The detail Specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

Sl.No.	Name of the item	Quantity
01.	Swimming Pool Water Heating System	01 Lot.

Interested bidders may obtain tender schedule from the Purchasing Department, PPSD and Assistant Manager Liaison, HIL on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to August 17, 2009 during office hours on payment of Tk. 700 (non-refundable). The bids will be received in both the places up to 02:30 p.m. on August 18, 2009 and will be opened on the same day at 03:00 p.m. in Purchasing Department, PPSD in presence of the bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to 5% of quoted price in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any schedule Bank in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. Any tender, which is not accompanied by the required Earnest Money, shall not be considered. Pan Pacific Sonargaon/HIL authority reserves the right to accept/reject any tender in part or in full or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel. (880) 2 8111005, (Extn : 4164)

PAN PACIFIC SONARGAON
Dhaka

উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্রধান কার্যালয়
৪৭, বীর উত্তম শহীদ আশফা কুসুম সারক সড়ক
সাবেক ৯০, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর নিম্ন বর্ণিত শাখাসমূহের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এর আদেশক্রমে 'অটোমেটেড ক্রিয়ারিং হাউজ' এর মাধ্যমে অতীত দ্রুত ও দক্ষতার সাথে চেকের মূল্য পরিশোধের উদ্দেশ্যে MICR কোডযুক্ত (MICR encoded) চেক এর প্রচলন শুরু হয়েছে। অবিলম্বে বর্ণিত শাখা সমূহের সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে যাহারা ইতিপূর্বে নতুন চেক বই সংগ্রহ করেননি তাদেরকে অবিলম্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা সমূহ থেকে পুরাতন চেক বই এর পরিবর্তে নতুন চেক বই গ্রহণ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে, যারা ইতিপূর্বে গ্রাহকগণকে চিঠির মাধ্যমে অবহিত করা হয়েছে।

- (১) আজিমপুর শাখা (২) বাবুবাজার শাখা (৩) বাংলা বাজার শাখা (৪) চকবাজার শাখা (৫) ধোলাহাট শাখা (৬) ইংলিশ রোড শাখা (৭) ইমামগঞ্জ শাখা (৮) জনন রোড শাখা (৯) ইসলামপুর শাখা (১০) সদরহাট শাখা (১১) মিটফোর্ড রোড শাখা (১২) মৌলভী বাজার শাখা (১৩) পিলখানা শাখা (১৪) পোতা শাখা (১৫) টিপু সুলতান রোড শাখা (১৬) নয়া বাজার শাখা (১৭) বি.বি.এডিনিউ শাখা (১৮) বাণিজ্য শাখা (১৯) ঢাকা শেরাটন হোটেল শাখা (২০) দিলকুশা শাখা (২১) ফকিরাপুল শাখা (২২) হাটখোলা শাখা (২৩) হোটেল ইশাখা ইন্টাঃ শাখা (২৪) যাত্রাবাড়ী শাখা (২৫) মহিলা শাখা (২৬) মালিবাগ চৌধুরীপাড়া শাখা (২৭) মুগদাপাড়া শাখা (২৮) মণিবাজার শাখা (২৯) ফুলবাড়িয়া শাখা (৩০) নবাবপুর শাখা (৩১) নিউ মার্কেট শাখা (৩২) নর্থ শাহজাহানপুর শাখা (৩৩) রমনা শাখা (৩৪) শান্তিনগর শাখা (৩৫) সিন্ধুখোলা শাখা (৩৬) আমিন বাজার শাখা (৩৭) আওলাদ হোসেন মার্কেট শাখা (৩৮) শ্যামলী শাখা (৩৯) দারুস সালাম রোড শাখা (৪০) ইষ্টার্ন প্রাজা শাখা (৪১) এ্যালাফান্ট রোড শাখা (৪২) গ্রীন রোড শাখা (৪৩) গুলশান শাখা (৪৪) জোয়ারসাহারা শাখা (৪৫) কলারবাগান শাখা (৪৬) কাওরান বাজার শাখা (৪৭) মিরপুর শাখা (৪৮) পল্লবী শাখা (৪৯) সাত মসজিদ রোড শাখা (৫০) পেঞ্চগোলা শাখা (৫১) উত্তরা শাখা (৫২) রোকেরা সরনী শাখা (৫৩) রূপরেট শাখা (৫৪) ফরেন এক্সচেঞ্জ শাখা (৫৫) লোকাল অফিস (৫৬) মহাখালী শাখা (৫৭) পাছপথ শাখা।

উপরে উল্লেখিত বিষয়ে কোন কিছু জানার প্রয়োজন হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা ব্যবস্থাপকের সহিত যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

কর্তৃপক্ষ

উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড