

Israel pledges more building in east Jerusalem

AFP, Washington

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat pledged that more Jewish homes will be built in east Jerusalem, despite US calls for a freeze there in a bid to boost prospects for Middle East peace.

Barkat showed no sign of constraints on construction in Jerusalem despite a Haaretz newspaper report saying Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged to refrain from "significant" actions in the disputed holy city.

"The answer is no, a clear no," he told reporters Tuesday when asked if Israel would heed calls by President Barack Obama's administration to stop building in east Jerusalem until at least Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are launched.

The mayor said there had only been a temporary halt to construction as Israel reeled from the shock of having its US ally publicly reprimand it for announcing last month 1,600 new homes in east Jerusalem.

"When you get two slaps in your face, first of all, you stop and you think: 'Did you do anything wrong?'" he said.

"It takes some time to recover from such an attack by such a friend like the US administration. Now I think we're past that phase right now," Barkat told reporters over dinner.

"There is no freeze," he confirmed, adding there will be more announcements of further construction.

"There will be buildings going on. You cannot stop a vibrant living city, especially not Jerusalem. And by the way, if you stop it, Jews will leave and Arabs will build illegally," he added.

"You must build for both Jews and Arabs," he said.

"Giving Palestinians any grip of east Jerusalem is putting a Trojan horse for Jews in Jerusalem," the mayor said.

Saying he was just following a master plan for Jerusalem, Barkat said he aimed to keep the holy city's Jewish population at 65 percent and the Palestinian population at 35 percent.

Barkat said he showed the master plan -- which also calls for designs that help increase tourists from two million a year to 10 million a year in a decade -- to US lawmakers and government officials during his visit to Washington.

He said he planned to meet with State Department officials on Wednesday.



Israeli settlers sit inside a tent set up in Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank near the village of Tubas, south-east of Jenin yesterday. In the inset, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates (L) listens as Israeli Minister of Defence Ehud Barak (R) makes remarks at the Pentagon on Tuesday in Washington, DC.

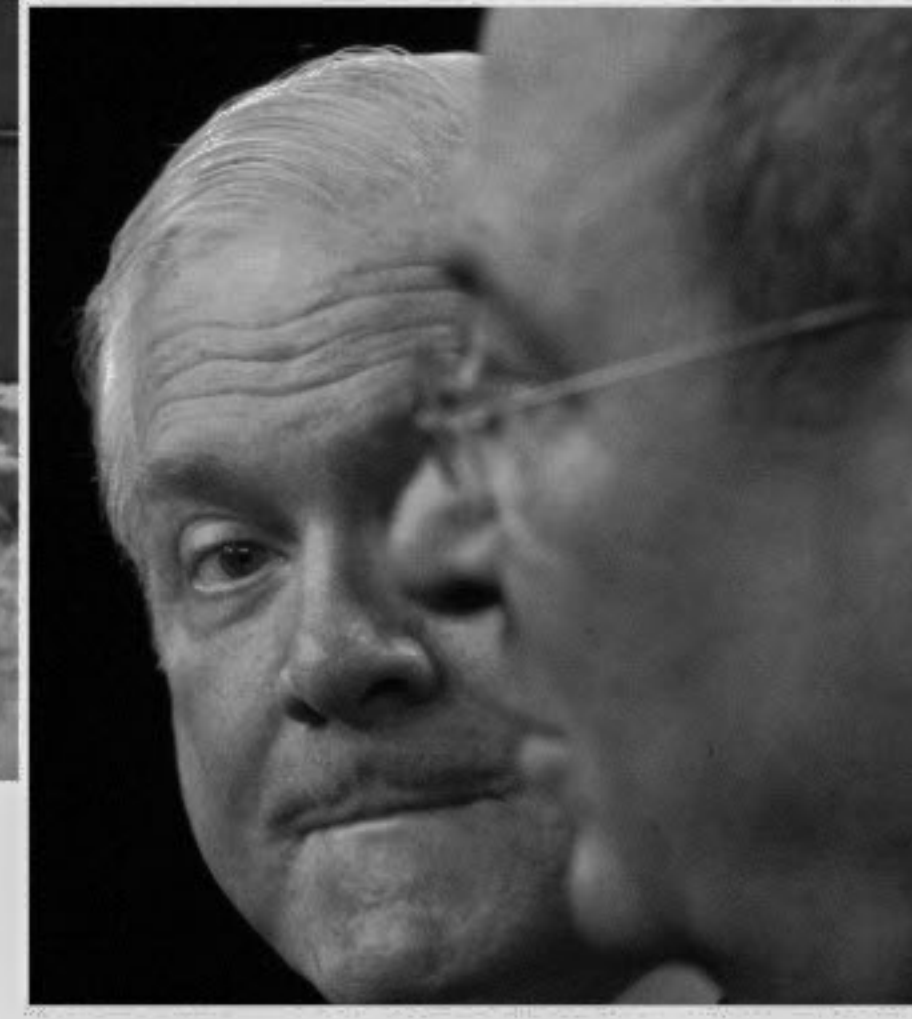


PHOTO: AFP

Russia opens secret Katyn massacre docs

BBC ONLINE

Russia has published online once-secret files on the 1940 Katyn massacre, in which some 22,000 members of the Polish elite were killed by Soviet forces.

The state archive said the "Packet No. 1" original files had until now only been available to researchers.

The Soviet Union denied its role in the massacre for decades.

But relations between Russia and Poland have warmed since the Polish president and others were killed in a plane crash on their way to a Katyn commemoration.

The six documents that were published on the state archive website were declassified in 1992 on the order of the then-Russian president, Boris Yeltsin.

Current President Dmitry Medvedev had now ordered their publication online, the state archive said.

One of the documents is a 5 March, 1940 letter from the then-head of the Soviet secret police or NKVD, Lavrenty Beria, to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, recommending the execution of Polish prisoners of war.

Steadfast, incorrigible enemies of Soviet power".



West uses UN for illegal purpose

Says Ahmadinejad's wife

AFP, Tehran

The wife of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has accused Western countries of using the United Nations to promote illicit affairs, the official IRNA news agency reported yesterday.

"Westerners exploit the United Nations structure to promote illicit affairs," Azam-ol-Sadat Farahi told a conference of Muslim women thinkers on Tuesday without elaborating.

"The family, which is the main pillar of every society, has collapsed in the West and they are seeking to extend their problem to the Islamic world by spreading decadent schemes," she said.

"Westerners pursue their improper schemes under the name of development and (alleviating) social discrimination," she added.

Iran hardliners are fierce critics of Western culture and feminism, and since Ahmadinejad came to power in 2005 his government has sought to encourage women to stick to the traditional roles as mothers and wives.

Iran has refused to join the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, despite attempts by a reformist parliament during its 2000 to 2004 mandate.

Thai troops' clash with Reds kills one

AFP, Bangkok

Thai troops opened fire on "Red Shirt" protesters yesterday during a tense confrontation on a highway in Bangkok's northern suburbs that left one soldier dead and 18 people injured.

The demonstrators hurled rocks at soldiers and police who had blocked their convoy on a major road heading out of the city centre, where they have been holding rallies for weeks in a bid to overthrow the government.

Troops responded by firing into the air and also directly at the Red Shirts as the standoff between the two sides spilled over from the protesters' fortified rally base in the capital's commercial heart.

It was the latest bout of bloodshed in the Thai capital, where 27 people have died and almost 1,000 have been injured this month in the country's worst political violence in almost two decades.

It was unclear whether troops were using live ammunition but the army has warned protesters they could face real bullets in any clashes. Officials said earlier that police and soldiers had fired warning shots.

One soldier died instantly from a gunshot wound to the head during the clashes, emergency services said.

The Reds -- who want immediate elections to replace Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government -- accused troops of using "war weapons" against the protesters, and said the soldier was a victim of friendly fire.

"He was shot by people on the same side as him," protest leader Jatuporn Prompan told AFP.

The clashes erupted in the north of the capital near Bangkok's number two airport Don Mueang International, which is about 25 kilometres (16 miles) from the main rally site and mostly handles charter and domestic flights.

US considers burning off oil leak

BBC ONLINE

Officials are considering setting fire to an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as efforts to stem a leak from a rig that exploded and sank are failing.

The coast guard is concerned that, unless controlled, the leak could cause one of the worst spills in US history.

The "controlled burn" could start later far from shore, said Coast Guard Rear Adm Mary Landry, who is in charge of the US clean-up effort.

She said work on sealing leaks using robotic submersibles could take months.

About 1,000 barrels (42,000 gallons) of oil a day have been gushing into the sea since an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon platform last week caused the rig to sink.

Iraq postpones election ruling till next week

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq has delayed until next week a ruling on whether nine parliamentary election winning candidates will be disqualified, an official said, in another hold-up for the country's political process.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday urged Iraqi leaders to resolve rows over the March 7 elections and form a new government quickly, amid a stalemate in Baghdad about who will take power in the wake of the vote.

Iyad Kenani, an official with Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), told AFP late Tuesday that a decision on the nine winning candidates would take place next week, instead of Wednesday as originally planned.

On Monday, a judicial panel eliminated one winning candidate and around 50 others who failed to secure parliamentary seats, drawing anger from former premier Iyad Allawi whose

secular coalition narrowly won last month's election.

The disqualified winning candidate came from Allawi's Iraqiya bloc, which has alleged that it is being targeted by officials and religious parties who do not want him to obtain power.

Allawi, a Shia, whose strong backing in Sunni Arab areas led him to defeat incumbent Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, also Shia, 91 seats to 89, according to unofficial results, said Iraqiya would challenge the disqualifications.

The lack of a government almost seven weeks after the election has alarmed Washington, which plans to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq by August, ahead of a complete US military pullout at the end of 2011.

"The United States calls upon Iraq's leaders to set aside their differences, respect the courageous ballots of the Iraqi people, and to form quickly a government, that is inclusive and represents the will of all Iraqis," Hillary said in a statement.



Liberal party presidential candidate Benigno Aquino distributes yellow balers during a campaign rally in the town of Calumpit, Bulacan province, north of Manila yesterday. Aquino in the latest surveys is the frontrunner to become the next Philippine president.

PHOTO: AFP

PM seeks US help to fight

FROM PAGE 16

She underscored the need of united efforts of the Saarc member countries to free this region from terrorism and extremism.

"The Saarc member countries could take united efforts on regional basis to combat and eradicate terrorism from this region as this is not possible alone," she said.

Referring to the adverse impacts of worldwide climate change, Hasina said the Maldives and Bangladesh would be the worst victims of the climate change.

In this regard, she mentioned that people of the southern part of Bangladesh started to feel the pinch of climate change.

"This part at present goes under water and this is happening due to the climate change. The sufferings of people in this area are just unspeakable," she said.

The premier also mentioned that her government

has taken steps to have capital dredging in all major rivers of the country to minimise sufferings of the people due to the climate change and global warming.

Stressing importance of food security, she informed the US assistant secretary that her government has taken various steps to ensure food security for the people.

In this connection, her government has already reduced the price of fertiliser thrice after assuming the office, Hasina mentioned.

She also said that her government has ensured power supply in the rural areas for smooth irrigation.

The US assistant secretary praised the leadership of Hasina during the Copenhagen climate conference and said that the world leaders have praised her important role.

The US assistant secretary lauded Bangladesh's role in the UN peacekeeping mis-

sions and said that the Bangladeshi peacekeepers are working very well and have increased the image of the country abroad.


He also praised the role of the PM for women empowerment in Bangladesh.

Hasina said that her government has given utmost importance to women empowerment and has been doing its level best in this regard.

The premier said that her party gave nomination to the highest number of women candidates in the last parliamentary elections and she included five women in her cabinet. The deputy leader in Parliament is also a woman, she added.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the reporters.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Ambassador-at-large M Ziauddin and Principal Secretary to the PMMA Karim, among others, were present during the meeting.



Bangladesh Power Development Board

Office of the Executive Engineer
Zonal Civil Construction Division
BPDB, Chittagong

বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রয়ী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন

Ref: No.ZCCD/Ac's-20/W-13/10/1725 Dated: 19-04-2010

Invitation for Re-Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
1 Ministry/Division	Power Division.				
2 Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.				
3 Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Zonal Civil Construction Division, Chittagong.				
4 Procuring entity code	Not used at present.				
5 Procuring entity district	Chittagong.				
6 Invitation for:	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of solar photovoltaic system (2.40 KW) for the office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, BPDB, Chittagong.				
7 Invitation Ref No.	ZCCD/Ac's-20/2010.				
8 Date	Dated: 19-04-2010.				
KEY INFORMATION					
9 Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.				
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10 Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget.				
11 Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12 Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A.				
13 Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A.				
14 Tender package No.	W-13 (thirteen).				
15 Tender package name	N/A.				
	Date				
16 Tender publication date	19-04-2010.				
17 Tender last selling date	12-05-2010.				
	Date				
18 Tender closing date and time	13-05-2010	12.00 noon.			
19 Tender opening date and time	13-05-2010	12.30 pm.			
20 Name & address of the office(s)	Address				
- Selling tender document (principal)	1. Executive Engineer, Zonal Civil Construction Division, PDB, Chittagong.				
- Selling tender document (others)	1. Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong. 2. Chief Engineer, Civil Works, PDB, 1 No. Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. 3. Director, Civil Works, PDB, 1 No. Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.				
- Receiving tender document	Executive Engineer, Zonal Civil Construction Division, PDB, Chittagong.				
- Opening tender document	Executive Engineer, Zonal Civil Construction Division, PDB, Chittagong.				
21 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Date	Time			
	(Not applicable)	(Not applicable)			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
22 Eligibility of tenderer	1. Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of minimum 1.5 (one point five) KWp solar power solution in a single contract at least 1 (one) last 5 years.				
23 Brief description of goods or works	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of solar photovoltaic system (2.40 KW) for the office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, BPDB, Chittagong.				
24 Brief description of related services.	N/A.				
25 Price of tender documents (Tk)	A Pay-Order/Bank Draft amounting to Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) only from any schedule bank of Bangladesh to be given in favour of Deputy Engineer, RAO, P & D, PDB, Chittagong.				
	Lot No	Identification of lot			
		Location			
		Tender security amount (Tk.)			
		In favour of DD, RAO, P & D, PDB, Ctg			
		Completion in weeks/months			
W-11	CD-1	Installation, testing and commissioning of solar photovoltaic system (2.40 KW) for the office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, BPDB, Chittagong	Agrabad, Biddiut Bhaban, Chittagong	Tk. 69,000/- (sixty nine thousand)	2 months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
30 Name of official inviting tender	Md Mizanur Rahman				
31 Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, ZCCD, PDB, Chittagong.				
32 Address of official inviting tender	Agrabad, Biddiut Bhaban, Ground Floor, PDB, Ctg.				
33 Contact details of official inviting tender	031-716403	N/A	N/A		
34 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all tenders.					
35 The tender will be evaluated as per Bangladesh gazette on the date: 12 November 2009.					
36 The procurement will follow the PPR 2008.					

Md Mizanur Rahman
ID No. 01-0820, Executive Engineer
Zonal Civil Construction Division
BPDB, Chittagong



WIDEX

high definition hearing

কানে শুনতে সমস্যা?

GET YOUR HEARING CHECK-UP DONE FROM TOP AUDIOLOGISTS OF INDIA

7th-8th MAY, 10

If you face any kind of hearing problem, then don't miss this golden opportunity to get your hearing check-up done from India's top audiologists.

World's Best
WIDEX DIGITAL HEARING AIDS
24 month Worldwide Warranty

Book your appointment today.

SENSO HEARING CENTRE
152/2 A-2 Rawshan Tower(2nd Floor), Green Road, Pantha Path, Dhaka.
Ph: 01731008075, 01735271681