

Obama, Israeli PM to hold talks

BBC ONLINE

US President Barack Obama is due to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington.

They are expected to discuss a range of issues, including Iran's nuclear programme and efforts to start direct Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The meeting comes a day after Israel stripped it would allow more consumer goods to enter the Gaza Strip.

But it said items including weapons and materials that could have a military use would be barred or limited.

The White House, EU and Britain have welcomed the move as a "significant step" forward.

But Hamas, which has been controlling Gaza since 2007, dismissed the concessions as of no use and said the blockade should be fully lifted.

Israel says its blockade of the Palestinian territory is needed to prevent the supply of weapons to Hamas.

'BETTER ATMOSPHERE'

Last week Netanyahu said he believed that a main part of his talks in Washington would be "focused on how to start direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians right away".

The Palestinians broke off direct peace talks after Israel launched a military offensive on Gaza in late 2008.

The start of indirect negotiations in March was halted after Israeli municipal authorities approved plans for the construction of new homes in a settlement in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

When the Israeli premier last visited the White House in March, he was snubbed by President Obama, who refused even to allow a photo of their meeting to be released.

That was because of a row over an Israeli settlement plan in East Jerusalem.

Both sides want the atmosphere this time to be much better, the BBC's Middle East editor Jeremy Bowen says.



Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Kenichiro Sasae (R) India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao (2nd R), Japanese Vice Minister of Defence Kimito Nakae (L) and India's Defence Secretary Pradeep Kumar shake hands before their Japan-India two-plus-two dialogue and foreign office consultations meeting in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli settlements cover 42pc of West Bank

AP, Jerusalem

Jewish settlements control more than 42 percent of the West Bank, and much of that land was seized from Palestinian landowners in defiance of an Israeli Supreme Court ban, an Israeli human rights group said yesterday.

The group's findings echo what other anti-settlement activists have claimed in the past: That settlements have taken over lands far beyond their immediate perimeters, sometimes from private Palestinians. Israel's settlements have been a much criticized enterprise throughout the decades and a major obstacle to peacemaking with the Palestinians.

"The extensive geographic-spatial changes that Israel has made in the landscape of the West Bank undermine the negotiations that Israel has conducted for 18 years with the Palestinians and breach its international obligations," the B'Tselem group said in a summary of its report.

Settlers disputed the figures and said the report by the B'Tselem group was politically motivated. Israeli officials had no comment.

The report was based on official state documents, including military maps and a military settlement database, the B'Tselem said.

Although the actual buildings of the settlements cover just 1 percent of the West Bank's land area, their jurisdiction and regional councils extends to more than 42 percent, the group added.

Twenty-one percent of the land for these settlements was seized from Palestinian landowners, much of it after Israel's Supreme Court outlawed the practice in 1979.

Dani Dayan, chairman of the settlers council, said settlements control just 9.2 percent of the West Bank, not 42 percent.

"It's a political report by an organization that has been taken over by the most radical anti-Israeli elements," Dayan said. "The whole point is to sabotage the meeting between (Israeli Prime Minister) Benjamin Netanyahu and Barack Obama."

Police kill one more in Kashmir

BBC ONLINE

At least one civilian has been killed and another wounded in fresh violence in Indian-administered Kashmir.

They were killed in clashes with police in Srinagar area in the capital, Gandgar.

Early reports say that Fayaz Ahmed was hit by a bullet when police fired on protesters who were pelting them with stones.

At least 11 civilians died in clashes with security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir in June.

Many of the deaths have been blamed on the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Tuesday morning's protests were held over the drowning of a young man in the capital - locals allege that the police were responsible for the drowning.

The police has not commented on the allegation.

The Muslim majority Kashmir valley has been either under a curfew or shut down for the past few weeks due to protests over killings of civilians by the police and paramilitary forces.

CIA, Pakistan locked in spy battles

NEWS ANALYSIS

AP, Washington

A Pakistani man approached CIA officers in Islamabad last year, offering to give up secrets of his country's closely guarded nuclear program. To prove he was a trustworthy source, he claimed to possess spent nuclear fuel rods.

But the CIA had its doubts. Before long, the suspicious officers had concluded that Pakistan's spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, was trying to run a double agent against them.

CIA officers alerted their Pakistani counterparts. Pakistan promised to look into the matter and, with neither side acknowledging the man was a double agent, the affair came to a polite, quiet end.

The incident, recounted by former US officials, underscores the schizophrenic relationship with one of America's most crucial counter terrorism allies. Publicly, officials credit Pakistani collaboration with helping kill and capture numerous al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders. Privately, that relationship is often marked by mistrust as the two countries wage an aggressive spy battle against each other.

The CIA has repeatedly tried to penetrate the ISI and learn more about Pakistan's nuclear program. The ISI has mounted its own operations to gather intelligence on the CIA's counter terrorism activities in the tribal lands and figure out what the CIA knows about the nuclear program.

Bumping up against the ISI is a way of life for the CIA in Pakistan, the agency's command centre for recruiting spies in the country's lawless tribal regions. Officers there also coordinate Predator drone airstrikes, the CIA's most successful and lethal counter terrorism program. The armed, unmanned planes take off from a base inside Pakistani Baluchistan known as "Rhine."

"Pakistan would be exceptionally uncomfortable and even hostile to American efforts to muck about in their home turf," said Graham Fuller, an expert on Islamic fundamentalism who spent 25 years with the CIA, including a stint as Kabul station chief.

Security beefed up ahead of Indian Maoists' strike

IANS, New Delhi

Security has been tightened in states affected by Maoist violence in view of the 48-hour shutdown on Wednesday called by the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) to protest the killing of their spokesperson Azad.

Union home ministry officials said the government had issued an alert.

Minister of State for Railways E. Ahamed told IANS that 'the railways, as a matter of practice, always take precautionary measures whenever there is a bandh (Strike) called by any outfit or political parties'.

The Maoists have urged people to avoid trains on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Maoist strike is expected to hit normal life in their strongholds in West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh, where their senior leader Cherukuri Rajkumar alias Azad was killed in a gunfight last week.

Top Maoist leader Kishenji had said that basic amenities like milk, vegetables, medicines and emergency services like railways, ambulance and fire services had been exempted from the shutdown.

Kandahar is key to victory in Afghan war

Says McCain

AP, Kabul

The ranking Republican on the US Senate Armed Services Committee said Nato and Afghan troops will prevail in the war if they can succeed in securing and bolstering governance in the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

Sen. John McCain, who visited Afghanistan's largest city in the south on Monday with two other US lawmakers, warned of tough fighting ahead and predicted that casualties would rise in the short-term.

"The Taliban know that Kandahar is the key to success or failure," McCain told a news conference at the airport in Kabul.

Afghanistan urges Pakistan to act against terror groups

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's national security adviser has called on the Pakistani government to "take serious measures" against Islamist groups launching attacks on Afghan targets from secure havens inside Pakistan.

Rangin Dadfar Spanta spoke to AFP in an interview a week after the Al-Jazeera television network said Afghan President Hamid Karzai had met the man who runs the Al-Qaeda-linked Haqqani network in talks mediated by Pakistan.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Taliban have all denied any such meeting.

Spanta's comments signal an about-turn by the Afghan government after months of overtures to Islamabad in efforts to prompt Pakistan to deal with militant groups, including al-Qaeda and the Taliban based along the Afghan border.

Spanta told AFP on Monday that Afghanistan had "tremendous evidence" that Pakistani authorities allowed al-Qaeda and other terror organisations to operate on the country's soil and had presented it to Islamabad "many times".

Bomb blasts in front of Nepal parliament

IANS, Kathmandu

A bomb exploded in front of Nepal's interim parliament in Kathmandu yesterday, creating panic and triggering intense police search.

However, there were no casualties, police said.

Security forces found pamphlets scattered in the New Baneshwor area, claiming the blast was the handiwork of a new organisation, Dynamic Youth Force.

Though the new budget session started Monday, the house was not in session when the explosion occurred around 11.30 a.m.



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To match with the very fast growing and diversified business as well as for smooth running of the existing activities, the company is looking for sound, capable, experienced and motivated professionals for the following positions:-

1. Chief Executive Officer for Uttara Finance & Investments Ltd's Merchant Banking Subsidiary Company

As a part of its multi-dimensional business expansion program, is going to form a new subsidiary company with massive expansion. With the end in view, the company is looking for a smart, dynamic, qualified and experienced person for recruitment as CEO of the subsidiary company. The incumbent will operate the new subsidiary company independently. The incumbent is preferably expected to work in similar position or in second position but adequately capable of taking the responsibility.

Compensation package of selected candidate will depend on current position; educational background; candidate's perceived ability to work as CEO of referred business.

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The company seeks a mid-level management executive to work as In-charge of its Internal Audit Department. The incumbent is expected to be currently working in a similar position in a reputed banking or non-banking financial institution.

Rank and compensation package of selected candidate will depend on current position, education background; candidate's perceived ability to perform the desired assignment.

3. Senior Management Executive for Corporate Unit

He is expected to be currently working in a similar environment in a reputed banking or non-banking financial institution.

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Only short listed candidates will be interviewed. All candidates will be required to join at short notice. Interested potential candidates may apply in confidence to **The Managing Director, Uttara Finance & Investments Ltd., Uttara Centre (11th floor), 102, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, by July 22, 2010** with detailed resume; recent photograph; contact details with email address; present salary details; name of two references.



Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence
Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

1. Program Officer-Advocacy & Networking (PO-A) - 1 position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copies of the TOR's can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than 20 July, 2010.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"

"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"

Vacancy Announcement



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from qualified and experienced professionals for recruitment in the positions of **Access to Information (A2I) Programme:**

Sector ICT4D Experts (16 Positions)

The sectors are Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Safety Net, Judiciary, Law Enforcement, Land, Local Government, Banking, Business Productivity, Commerce, Investment, ICT Infrastructure and Telecom, Disaster Management, Transport and Civil Service. A2I has recently developed the "Strategic Priorities of Digital Bangladesh" for driving forward the related vision. This initiative sets strategic priorities based on which selective thematic projects with appropriate Government line agencies will be formulated.

Sector ICT4D Experts in each of the development sectors cited above will formulate projects for the respective sectors for a coherent and comprehensive application to take services to the doorsteps of citizens.

Interested candidates are requested to mention the Sector of expertise in the "Resume and Motivation" section of online application. Please indicate order of preference in case of more than one expertise.

For details of the Terms of Reference and online application window please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 20 July, 2010.