

No to longer settlement slowdown

Says Israeli FM

AP, AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's foreign minister says it's unacceptable to extend the country's West Bank settlement slowdown even as Mideast peace talks get under way.

Avigdor Lieberman says continued restrictions on construction would "punish" Israelis living in the settlements.

Lieberman suggested yesterday on Israel Radio that Israel resume construction in major settlement blocs expected to remain in Israeli hands under a future peace deal, while limiting building elsewhere.

Israeli settlers warned yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will face his "day of judgment" if he caves in to pressure to further limit settlement construction in the West Bank.

"This is not a time to mince words as this is literally a day of judgment for our prime minister and government," said Naftali Bennett, head of Yesha, the main association of settlers in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territory.

Yesha warned in a letter to Netanyahu of "serious diplomatic and political implications" if he reneges on his promise to resume issuing building permits for settler homes when a partial, 10-month moratorium ends on September 26.

A 10-month moratorium on most West Bank construction expires Sept 26. Israel is under pressure from the US to extend the slowdown.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not said what he will do. If he resumes construction, the Palestinians say they will walk away from peace talks slated to start next week.



Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas (R) meets with Quartet Middle East envoy Tony Blair in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Jimmy Carter in N Korea on rescue mission

AFP, Seoul

Carter, on a rare trip by a Western dignitary, was greeted at an official ceremony at Pyongyang airport by North Korean vice foreign minister and nuclear envoy Kim Kye-Gwan, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said yesterday.

The Nobel peace laureate may leave Pyongyang on Thursday with Aijalon Mahli Gomes, an African-American who was jailed in April for illegally crossing into the North from China, the South's Munhwa Ilbo newspaper reported.

He may attend a dinner hosted by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il on Wednesday night, the South's Yonhap news agency said.

Washington has neither confirmed nor denied reports of Carter's mission, which comes at a time of high tensions on the peninsula following the sinking of a South Korean warship in March with the loss of 46 lives.

Carter, now 86, made a landmark visit to Pyongyang in 1994 when the United States came close to war with North Korea over its nuclear programme.

NY Mayor backs building of 9/11 mosque

ANI, New York

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has backed plans to building a Muslim community centre and mosque near Ground Zero, saying, opposing the project would "compromise our commitment to fighting terror with freedom."

"If we say that a mosque and community centre should not be built near the perimeter of the World Trade Center site, we would undercut the values and principles that so many heroes died protecting and hand a valuable propaganda tool to terrorist recruiters who spread the fallacy that America is at war with Islam."

"Let me declare that we in New York are Jews and Christians and Muslims, and we always have been. And above all of that, we are Americans, each with an equal right to worship and pray where we choose," he added.

Car bombs kill 46 in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

A series of apparently coordinated car bombs targeting police across Iraq yesterday killed 46 people, including women and children, one day after the US military confirmed a major troop reduction.

The trail of bloodshed started in the capital Baghdad before stretching to the north and south of the country, hitting a total of seven cities and towns in quick succession in tactics that bore the hallmark of al-Qaeda.

In the worst attack, a car bomb at a passport office in Kut, 160 kilometres (100 miles) southeast of Baghdad, killed 20 people, including 15 police, and wounded 90 people, most of them police, Lieutenant Ali Hussein told AFP.

In Baghdad, a suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle at a police station in the northeastern suburb of Qahira, killing 15 people and wounding dozens of others, security and medical officials said.

The attack in the mixed Sunni-Shia neighbourhood took place at around 8 am (0500 GMT), according to an interior ministry official who gave the toll. "The victims include policemen and civilians," he said.

A doctor at Medical City Hospital said they had received the bodies of two women, two children and two police officers, and that 44 other people were receiving treatment.

A series of car bomb attacks in five other towns and cities raised the nationwide toll to 46, and almost 250 wounded.

A spike in unrest over the past two months has triggered concern that Iraqi forces are not yet ready to handle security on their own, and with no new government formed in Baghdad since a March 7 general election.

CHINA PLANE CRASH

Flight recorder found

BBC ONLINE

The flight recorder from a plane that crashed in China has been found, the state news agency Xinhua said.

At least 42 people were killed after the passenger plane crash-landed in the northern province of Heilongjiang.

Rescuers searched through the wreckage of the plane, which had broken in two, as Chinese state television began broadcasting the stories of survivors.

These described the panic and terror as the plane tried, but failed, to land safely near the city of Yichun.

"The plane really started to jolt in a scary way - the plane jolted five or six times very strongly," one male survivor told China Central Television from his hospital bed.

A second male survivor told CCTV that he felt a "big jolt" as the plane was coming in to land and heard "big crashes - bam bam bam".

"After we stopped, the people in the back were panicking and rushed to the front," another man told CCTV.

"We were trying to open the (emergency exits) but they wouldn't open. Then the smoke came in... within two or three minutes or even a minute, we couldn't breathe. I knew something bad was going to happen," he said.

The vice mayor of Yichun, Wang Xuemei, told CCTV that of the 54 injured, three were in critical condition.

The pilot was one of the survivors of the crash but has not been able to talk yet due to heavy facial injuries.

Xinhua reported that families of the victims waited anxiously at Yichun's Lindu airport. Five of those on board were children but their fate remains unclear.

The Henan Airlines aircraft, with 91 passengers on board and five crew, burst into flames after overshooting the runway at Yichun City's airport.

Someone threw me out, says the boy who survived the crash

IANS, Beijing

'Someone dragged me to the emergency exit door and threw me out,' said an eight-year-old survivor of the horrific crash in China's Heilongjiang Province that killed 42 people.

The passenger aircraft overshot the runway and burst into flame while landing at Yichun city's Lindu airport Tuesday night, killing 42 and injuring 54 people. The Embraer E-190 jet crashed at 9.36 p.m.


Said eight-year-old Ji Yifan: 'Someone dragged me to the emergency exit door and threw me out before I realized what was going on.'

The evacuation slide, which was also on fire, broke just as Ji was sliding down.

'I fell to the ground. Again someone dragged me aside,' Xinhua quoted the boy as saying.

A man who was slightly injured in the head remembered strong turbulence after the crew announced the aircraft was about to land. The plane had taken off from Harbin city.

'There were four or five bad turbulence and luggage in the overhead bin were raining down,' he said.



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o. Pur-133/CZPDP/Package-9/Re/Lot-3(B)/2010/398 Dated: 18/08/2010

Invitation for Re-Bids

Loan No: BD P 59

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an ODA Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as the JICA), in the amount of 9,715 million Japanese yen toward the cost of Central Zone Power Distribution Project, Mymensingh, DB, Loan Agreement No. BD-P 59 signed on March 01, 2009, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for Procurement of Maintenance Tools & Holes [Lot-3(B)] (the "Goods"). Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JICA will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JICA ODA Loans". No party other than the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh take appropriate measures for finance.

CA requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, under contracts funded with JICA ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of its policy, JICA;

- will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
- will recognise a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JICA, to be awarded a contract funded with JICA ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contract has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JICA ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board, hereinafter "the Employer," now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the goods for the purpose of the project.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Director, Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, APDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 5000.00 (BD Taka five thousand) or US\$ 75.00 (US dollar seventy five) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of the Director, Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board. The estimated date of award is 11/12/2010.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Taka 5,11,000.00 (Taka five lakh eleven thousand) or US\$ 7,300.00 (US dollar seven thousand three hundred), and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to bidders on or before 11.00 on 11/10/2010 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Abu Reza Md. Salahuddin
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

ana-96(4)/23/8/10

Train hits van in S Africa; kills 9 kids

AP, Johannesburg

A driver taking children to school went around a closed railroad crossing gate Wednesday, then collided with an oncoming train that killed at least nine pupils and injured five others, police and witnesses said.

Parents sobbed at the scene as grieving families stood near the completely smashed van that had been transporting at least 13 children at the time of the collision in the Blackheath area of Cape Town.

Cape Town police spokesman Col. Billy Jones said police are investigating a case of homicide against the van driver.

The van driver was seriously injured and rushed to the hospital, police said.

An initial investigation into the crash showed that all protection measures were in place at the crossing, railway officials told the South African Press Association.

"The crossing is protected by road signs, flashing lights and booms, which were confirmed to be in working order," railway officials said in a statement.

Marines find 72 bodies in Mexico

AP, Mexico city

Mexican marines found the dumped bodies of 72 people at a rural location in northern Mexico following a shootout with suspected drug cartel gunmen that left one marine and three suspects dead, the Navy reported late Tuesday.

The cadavers of 58 men and 14 women were found at a spot near the Gulf coast south of the border city of Matamoros. It appears to be the largest drug-cartel body dumping ground found in Mexico since President Felipe Calderon launched an offensive against drug trafficking in late 2006.

"The federal government categorically condemns the barbarous acts committed by criminal organizations," The Navy said in a statement. "Society as a whole should condemn these type of acts, which illustrate the absolute necessity to continue fighting crime with all rigor."



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