

'ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT' CRITICISM Israeli PM slams White House

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit back at the White House after Washington criticised Israeli plans to build thousands more settler homes in east Jerusalem, Israeli media reported yesterday.

Public radio quoted Netanyahu as telling US President Barack Obama in talks in Washington Wednesday to "study the facts and details before making statements" about the settlement plan.

The approval of 2,610 new housing units in Israeli-annexed Arab east Jerusalem drew condemnation from Washington, with White House spokesman Josh Earnest warning that the move would "distance Israel from even its closest allies".

Netanyahu told Israeli journalists after the meeting that the plans had been in the pipeline for two years. Housing Minister Uri Ariel told Israeli army radio that 1,000 of the units would "go to Arabs," but did not elaborate.

Peace Now, an Israeli group that monitors the building of settlements, said it was extremely unlikely that any Palestinians would be allowed to live in the new settler homes in the neighbourhood of Givat Hamatos.

"Out of approximately 55,000 units built by the government in east Jerusalem neighbourhoods... virtually none were sold to Palestinians," it added.

Israel's settlement building in the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, which is illegal under international law, has caused the breakdown of several rounds of peace talks.

The settlements are built on land the Palestinians want for their future state, whose capital would be in east Jerusalem.

Modi launches 'Clean India' campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday used a broom to sweep a pavement at a locality in New Delhi, which houses low-caste sanitation workers, in a symbolic launch of his pet "Clean India" campaign.

Modi, who himself hails from a backward community, kick-started the five-year "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" (Clean India campaign) on Mahatma Gandhi's 145th birth anniversary.

He swept the pavement at Valimiki Colony before administering cleanliness pledge to 5,000 government employees and school children at India Gate.

The drive, Modi said, was the best tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who "gave us the message 'Quit India, Clean India'." He rued that Gandhi's dream was still unfulfilled and exhorted the people to clean every corner of the country.

Modi also invited nine eminent persons, including former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, actor Kamal Hassan, Bollywood superstars Salman Khan and Priyanka Chopra, to join the cleanliness drive and requested each of them to draw nine more into the initiative to take it viral. He then flagged off a walkathon and walked some distance with the participants.

"This is not about Modi... Modi is only one of its 1.2 billion people... This is a people's task," he said.

The Prime Minister also made a surprise visit to a police station very close to the colony of sanitation workers to see for himself the cleanli-

ness there. Modi collected the garbage and put them in a bin there and interacted with some children.

Mahatma Gandhi's birthday is a public holiday every year but this year the Prime Minister has ordered a full working day for government employees. He has instructed bureaucrats and ministers to lead their departments in cleaning offices, including toilets, yesterday.

"We reached Mars. No PM or Minister went. It was the people who did it, our scientists who

did it. So can't we create a Clean India?" Modi said.

But cleaning up the country cannot be the sole responsibility of sanitation workers. "Do citizens have no role in this? We have to change this mindset," the PM said.

In several of his speeches since being elected as PM in May this year, Modi has repeatedly emphasised the need for sanitation vowing to make India clean by 2019, to coincide with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sweeps a street in a residential colony in New Delhi yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

Polio cases surge in Pakistan

Health officials in Pakistan yesterday said the country was set to break its record for the highest number of polio cases in a year, as Islamist militants continue to prevent vaccination efforts. The number of polio cases have reached 187 and expected to pass 200 by the end of the year. The previous highest was 199 in year 2000, said

Five Swiss killed in French chopper crash

Five Swiss died and two more were injured yesterday when their helicopter "fell like a stone" and crashed in France, only a few metres away from a house, French officials said. The EC130 helicopter came down in the garden of a suburban house near the city of Montbéliard, some 13 kilometres from the Swiss border, French police said. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Aussie parliament 'bans burqa'

The Australian parliament will force visitors wearing facial coverings to sit in a separate area of the public gallery shielded by glass panels. The security rules stop short of a full ban on the wearing of the burqa, but "persons with facial coverings entering the galleries of the House of Representatives and Senate will be seated in the enclosed galleries" behind glass panels. These elevated, shielded areas are where school

Blast hits bus in Pakistan; 7 killed

AFP, Peshawar

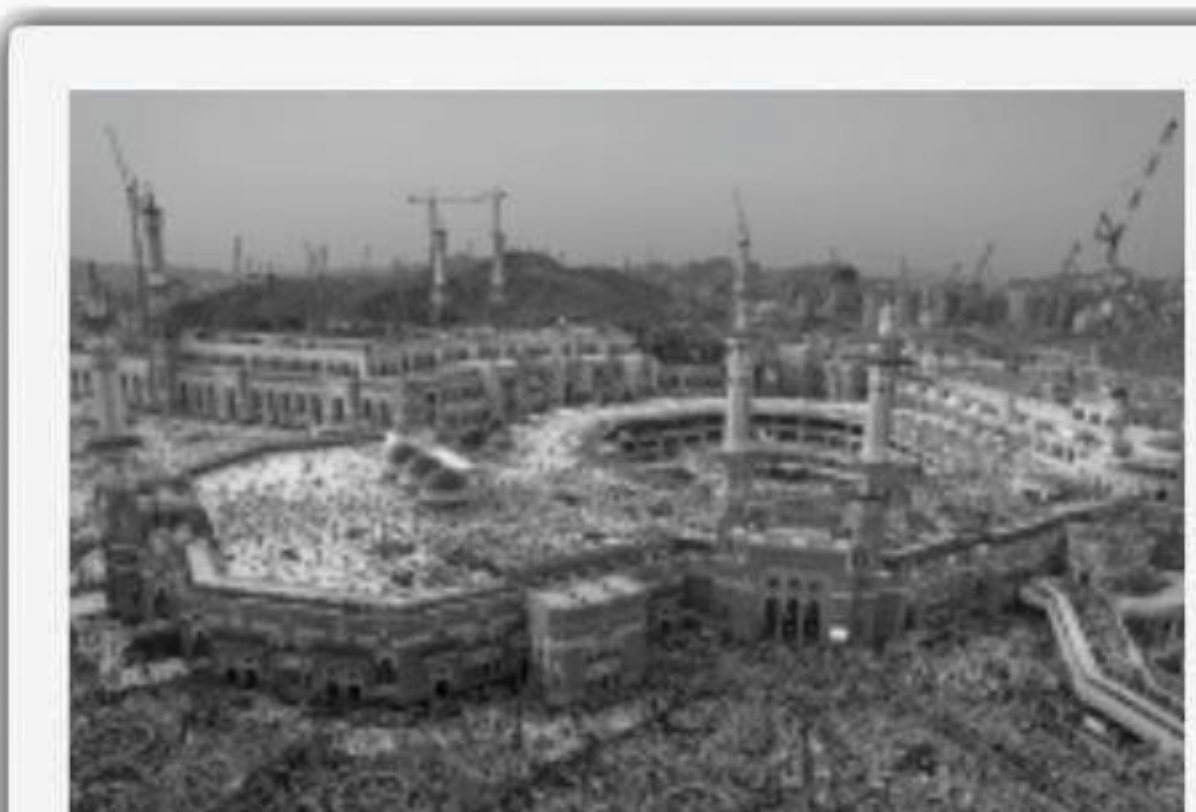
A bomb blast on a passenger coach in northwest Pakistan yesterday killed at least seven people and wounded another six, police said.

The bomb was planted beneath a passenger seat and exploded in the outskirts of Peshawar, the region's main city, while the bus was en route to the town of Hangu.

The motive of the attack was yet not clear but police said they suspected a sectarian motive in a region known for Sunni-Shia violence.

Shahid-ur-Rehman, the injured driver of the bus said the bomb was planted by a young man.

"A young man, carrying a travel bag boarded the bus... and reserved two more seats telling us two women will join him at the next stop. At next stop he disembarked from the bus and there was a blast a few minutes later," Rehman told AFP.



AFP, Mecca

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims began a mass movement yesterday out of the holy city of Makkah towards nearby Mina in western Saudi Arabia, at the launch of the annual hajj pilgrimage.

A pillar of the Islamic faith, this year's hajj comes with Saudi authorities striving to protect pilgrims from two deadly viruses, Ebola and the MERS coronavirus.

While Ebola has hit Africa, most MERS cases worldwide have been in Saudi Arabia itself, home to Islam's holiest sites.

Authorities say close to 1.4 million believers have come from abroad to follow the 1,400-year-old tradition of Prophet Mohammed, alongside pilgrims from Saudi Arabia.

Sayed Tajamul Haq, 64, an Indian pilgrim walking with his wife, voiced hope that "God will accept our prayers for for-

Hajj begins

Muslims gather in Makkah

giveness and mercy", during an experience he described with a smile as "fantastic."

Pilgrims were moving a few kilometres from Mecca to nearby Mina by bus or on foot yesterday. In Mina, they will pray and rest before moving on to Mount Arafat for the climax of the pilgrimage rituals today.

Mount Arafat is where Prophet Mohammed gave his final sermon.

Officials say they have intensified efforts to stop people attending hajj without authorisation, as part of safety measures for such a large gathering with massive logistical challenges.

The official Saudi Press Agency said more than 145,000 unauthorised pilgrims have been turned away.

Supplementing the 85,000 security and civil defence officers who are reportedly deployed for hajj are thousands of health workers.

Taliban attack on Afghan army kills 3

AFP, Kabul

A Taliban suicide attacker killed three people on an Afghan army bus in Kabul yesterday, the latest deadly strike against such vehicles since the new government signed a deal for US troops to stay in the country.

Scores of shuttle buses take government and military personnel to work every morning in the capital, and they have often been targeted by insurgents despite efforts by security forces to provide better protection.

On Wednesday, Taliban suicide bombers killed at least seven people in twin attacks on two buses.

The militant group, which claimed responsibility for all three blasts, strongly oppose the US troop agreement.

Afghanistan and the United States on Tuesday signed the security agreement to allow about 10,000 US troops to stay in the country next year.

Pakistan again terms Kashmir a 'legal issue'

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday asserted that Kashmir is a "legal issue" and must be resolved through plebiscite as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

At the weekly briefing in Islamabad, Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam also made it clear that India-Pakistan talks were not a substitute to the UN resolutions on Kashmir which envisage plebiscite in the region.

"Kashmir is a legal issue also and its legal position demands that the dispute must be resolved as per the aspirations of Kashmiri people through plebiscite," she said.

Aslam said that Simla Agreement between the two countries does not make UN resolutions ineffective.

Her remarks come within days of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif raking up the Kashmir issue at the UN Assembly where he said the UN had passed resolutions to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir more than six decades ago.

India had strongly rejected the "untenable comments" made by Sharif, asserting that the people of the State have peacefully chosen their destiny in accordance with universally accepted democratic principles.

Speaking at the UNGA, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had offered to engage in a serious bilateral dialogue "without the shadow of terrorism".

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following post. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org/bd

Programme Specialist(Khulna), NOC;

Last date of receiving applications: **17 October 2014**

Application should be submitted with an updated CV, a completed UN Personal History Form (P-11 Form) and copies of the latest two Performance Evaluation Reports (PERs) on or before the closing date to the Chief, Human Resources Section, via email to: hrbangladesh@unicef.org. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation.

UNICEF is a non-smoking working environment

www.unicef.org/bd

Will Afghanistan become Iraq?

Experts urge US to back Afghans to avoid Iraq-style chaos

AFP, Washington

Washington will have to stand by Afghanistan for years, training and funding its army until Kabul can sign a peace deal with the Taliban, or it will follow Iraq in sliding into chaos, experts warn.

"Iraq shows the big security and political price you can pay down the road for over-reliance on a local ally to maintain security without a US presence," warned Stephen Biddle, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

The biggest challenge for the United States will be the complex and painstaking task of building and institutionalizing a national Afghan army in a country that is plagued by competing warlords and has known decades of foreign occupation and civil strife.

On Tuesday, the day-old Afghan government put an end to months of delay by its predecessor and signed a bilateral



Afghan National Security Adviser Hanif Atmar (2R) and Nato's Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan Mauritius Jochems (R) hold their documents after signing the Status of Forces Agreement documents at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

security deal (BSA) with the United States governing the presence of American forces beyond the end of this year.

A similar deal was inked with Nato, allowing 12,500 foreign troops, including 9,800 Americans, to stay behind in 2015 after the alliance's combat mission ends.

By January 2017 there will be no American forces left, more than a decade after the US jumped into the ongoing Afghanistan conflict in 2001 to oust Taliban militants, blamed for sheltering the al-Qaeda militants who masterminded the 9/11 attacks.

But experts warn that pulling out all US troops will only leave another vacuum, as it did in Iraq, where US-trained and funded forces crumbled this year in face of a lightning onslaught by Islamic State militants.

Request For Quotation Ref. No.: LRFQ-2014-9114678
Request For Quotation (RFQ) for Supply of Sports Item

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested & recognized manufacturer's appointed local dealers with a strong record and credibility of providing the above required item. For detailed scope of work and how to submit the bid offer please write to UNICEF at "supplybangladesh@unicef.org" or visit our website: http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/supply_4912.htm

The deadline to submit the RFQ is **15 October 2014 by 11:00 am.**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of solicitation process.

unite for children unicef

BANGLADESH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Academy Awards in Science and Technology

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) announces the following awards in Science and Technology for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

- BAS Gold Medal Award 2012**
Two Awards, one for Physical Sciences including Engineering & Technology and another for Biological Sciences including Agriculture & Medicine, will be awarded in each of the following two groups:
 a) Senior Group for Scientists aged 40 or above on 31 July 2014
 b) Junior Group for Scientists below 40 years on 31 July 2014
- BAS-Dr. Sultan Ahmed Choudhury Gold Medal Award 2013**
For a distinguished scientist involved in research and development in the field of Medical Sciences.
- BAS-Dr. M.O. Ghani Memorial Gold Medal Award 2013**
For a distinguished scientist in the field of Physical, Biological, Engineering and Agricultural Sciences.
- BAS-TWAS Young Scientists Prize 2014**
The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) considering the necessity to foster scientific and technological cooperation among developing countries have agreed to work together within the framework of TWAS Prizes for young scientists scheme.

The candidates working in the different fields of Natural Sciences have to fulfill following requirements:

- The candidate must be below 40 years of age on 31 July 2014
- The candidate must hold a university degree (minimum qualification is a Master's degree)
- The candidate has to work and live in Bangladesh
- The candidate should have a good record of research publications in the internationally recognized journals.

Bangladeshi scientists and technologists who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding scientific and technological work may apply for the above awards. Heads of Research Institutions/respective Deans of Universities/Fellows of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences may nominate candidates for the Awards or candidates themselves may apply through their Heads of Institutions directly. Each nominee/candidate is required to submit 10 (ten) copies of his bio-data, list of publications and patents and a reprint of each of important publications.

Note: Those who were awarded Gold Medal in any of the above categories earlier are not eligible for nomination. However, gold medal awardees in category 1 under junior group may be nominated for senior group, if eligible.

Application for the above awards must reach the Secretary of the Academy by **31 October 2014** at the latest.

Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz
Secretary

Bangladesh Power Development Board

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

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"বিদ্যুৎ সশ্রয়ী বাতি ব্যবহার করুন"

Memo No.: ZCCD/AC's-20/e-W-(1)/2014-15/409 Dated: 28/09/2014

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works
1.	11430	Yearly operation of water pump and cleaning of water reservoir at Jamalkhan officer's quarter.
2.	11501	Yearly sweeping and cleaning of yard/road/stair/apron at all buildings area, school area and Mosque area of Mansurabad residential colony.
3.	11518	Yearly emergency repairing of electrical, plumbing and sanitary, operation of water pump, cutting of jungles, cleaning of sewerage line, cleaning of water reservoir at Khushi/RTC/SCADA residential bhaban area.
4.	11542	Yearly operation of water pump of D-type/C-type/Dormitory bhaban area attached to PC pole Halishahar, cleaning of drain/sewerage line/water reservoir including cutting of jungles at D-type/C-type/Dormitory bhaban area attached to PC pole Halishahar with the Halishahar Duplex bhaban area and carpentry, electrical and plumbing works at above described area with the residential area attached to the Newmooring/Patenga sub-station.
5.	11589	Yearly emergency repairing and maintenance of electrical, carpentry, sanitary and plumbing works at different flats of Mansurabad residential colony.
6.	11571	Yearly sweeping and cleaning of road/yard/stair/apron including cleaning of Civic center at Jamalkhan officer's quarter.
7.	11607	Yearly operation of water pump at Agrabad biddiut bhaban including emergency repairing of plumbing & sanitary works at Agrabad biddiut bhaban/S&D-Agrabad/CDA residential bhaban.

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contract Number (01762625528-31).

Engr. Haradan Chandra Datta
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 Executive Engineer (In-charge)
 Zonal Civil Construction Division
 BPDB, Chittagong

Biddiut/Jana-215(3)/30/9/14
 GD-3747