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Trump to cut funds to UN

Defends restricted entry for Muslims; Mexican president cancels trip to US over the wall

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump is preparing executive orders that will drastically cut funding to the United Nations as well as other international organisations that do not meet certain criteria, the New York Times reported on Wednesday.



The executive order plans to repeal certain multilateral treaties too, officials told the NYT, which would likely include treaties on climate change.

The report came as he defended his controversial plan to limit the entry of people from several Muslim countries as necessary in a "messy" world.

And upping the ante, the president has ordered his new administration to publish a weekly list of crimes committed by immigrants.

In an executive order titled "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements", Trump on Wednesday signed into law many of the pledges he made during his election campaign. These include building a wall along the US-Mexico border, deporting illegal immigrants, establishing new immigration detention centres and hiring 5,000 more Border Patrol agents.

The New York Times reported that the new US administration is preparing two executive orders, drafts of which were obtained by the newspaper, that could deprive the United Nations and other organisations of billions of dollars.

The first draft order calls for scrapping all funding to any UN agency or international body that gives full membership to the Palestinians, or supports programs that fund

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Holding placards, people join a rally on Wednesday at Washington Square Park in New York City in support of Muslims, immigrants and against the building of a wall along the Mexican border.

PHOTO: AFP

Protests in NY over curb on rights of immigrants



RABIYA AHMED writes from New York

After Donald Trump's recent order curtailing immigration of refugees and attacking Muslim and immigrant rights, demonstrators filled Washington Square Park in New York City on Wednesday afternoon in protest.

The crowd filled the streets of West Village with passionate chanting and cheering.

The New York Chapter of The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) organised the "emergency" rally in response to a draft of Trump's Muslim ban immigration policy to be signed on Wednesday. A copy of it has been obtained by the Huffington Post.

This would prevent people from countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen from travelling to the United States. This executive order will suspend refugee admissions from all countries for 120 days while Trump and his cabinet

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EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX-2016

Bangladesh ranked 84th

It was 86th in 2015 with the same score

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has moved two notches up in the Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Democracy Index-2016, though the country's score on the state of democracy remains static as compared to 2015.

It has ranked 84th among 167 countries with a score of 5.73 out of 10. It, however, continues to be in the "hybrid regime" category, showed the index released on the website of London-based magazine The Economist yesterday.

The country was 86th in the 2015 index. The EIU is the research and analysis division of The Economist Group, the sister company of The Economist newspaper.

Norway holds the top position with 9.93 points while North Korea falls on the bottom with 1.08 points, according to the index, which also showed a "democratic recession" across the globe.

The average global score fell to 5.52 from 5.55 in 2015. Some 72 countries experienced a decline in their total score

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US NO LONGER A 'FULL DEMOCRACY' -- PAGE 9

ISRAELI SETTLEMENT EXPANSION

UNSC meets, but takes no action

153 more East Jerusalem settler homes approved

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council met behind closed doors on Wednesday to discuss Israel's plan to build new settler homes in the Palestinian West Bank, but took no action.

Council members heard a report from UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov after the Israeli government approved a major expansion of 2,500 homes, in defiance of a UN resolution that demanded an end to settlement construction.

The United States refrained from using its veto, abstaining from the vote in late December and allowing the resolution criticising Israel to pass during the final weeks of former president Barack Obama's administration.

During the closed council meeting on Wednesday, the US representative did not take the floor to speak, diplomats said.

The settlement building "needs to be condemned," Swedish Ambassador Olof Skoog told reporters.

"We believe that any action that is taken in violation of international law or Security Council resolution 2234, regardless of who violates that resolution, needs to be condemned," he said.

The ambassador, who holds the council presidency this month, said council members received an update of the situation but that no one pushed for immediate action during the talks, requested by Bolivia.

Incoming US Ambassador Nikki Haley, confirmed in her post this week, has yet to present her credentials to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

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'MALIGNING MPS' JS adopts notice over Observer news report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rare instance, parliament last night unanimously adopted a notice on violation of Awami League lawmaker Enamul Haque's special privilege and sent it to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Privilege to look into the matter.

In the notice, the ruling party lawmaker from Rajshahi-4 said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Daily Observer, "tarnished his image" at home and abroad by running a report on January 23 under the headline "Police await PM's order to crack down on drug lords".

Enamul said the newspaper mentioned several lawmakers' names, including his, and published their photographs only to "defame them".

Following the question-answer session yesterday,

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Woman lives 6 days without lungs



CNN ONLINE

Given the choice between his wife possibly dying in her bed or on an operating table, Chris Benoit chose an experimental, first-of-its-kind surgical procedure. The surgeons would remove not just one but both of Melissa Benoit's lungs.

The Burlington, Ontario, woman was so sick, she could not speak for herself.

"I was unconscious at this point and had been for some time," Melissa Benoit said. "So (my family) made the decision based on my previous wishes -- just knowing who I am."

Chris Benoit remembers the middle-of-the-night moment of decision in April. He, his sister and Melissa's brother all spoke at once. "It didn't take very long for us to insist that Melissa would want to go right to the end and fight with experimental surgery," he said.

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ORPHANAGE GRAFT Arrest order issued for Tarique

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cancelled bail of BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and issued an arrest warrant against him in connection with Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order rejecting a petition submitted by his lawyer Sanaullah

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 27

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:35 12:30 4:15 5:46 7:15

JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RIFT OVER BREXIT

Tulip resigns as shadow minister

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Labour MP Tulip Siddiq has resigned as a shadow minister after being told to back legislation paving the way for the UK's departure from the EU.



The decision came following Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's decision to impose a three-line whip on Labour MPs to vote in favour of triggering Article 50.

In her resignation letter to the Labour leader Ms Siddiq, a shadow education minister who is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's niece, said: "I have always been clear -- I do not represent Westminster in

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The base of this Shaheed Minar at Rudaghora union in Khulna's Dumuria was vandalised yesterday over a land dispute between a youth club and a local, Gautam Sarker. The club, Kharsango Biblobi Torun Sangha, says it built the Shaheed Minar on the land donated by one Deb Mukherjee. On the other hand, Gautam says he had bought the land from Deb.

PHOTO: STAR

"Inna lillaha wa inna ilaihi rajiun"



Mrs. Afroz Ghosh (1935-2017)

With deep grief and sorrow we announce the demise of Mrs. Afroz Ghosh, w/o late Mr. Badal Ghosh, on 25th January 2017 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. Her Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on Friday 27 January 2017 at the Gulshan Azad Masjid after Juma prayers. All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in praying for the departed soul.

Her Doa-e Mehfil will be held on Sunday 29 January 2017 at her residence, Badal Heights, Road-58, House-NWE (3) A, Gulshan-2, after Maghrib prayers. --- Family