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2-STATE SOLUTION DEAD?

Israeli joy, Palestinian alarm at Trump's shift from long-standing US framework on Middle East peace; UN chief stresses there's no Plan B

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump's shelving of the decades-long goal of a two-state solution to the Middle East conflict has excited Israelis and alarmed Palestinians, though no one is quite sure what it means.

Trump rejected the long-established US framework at a White House visit with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday as he announced his desire to reach "the ultimate deal."

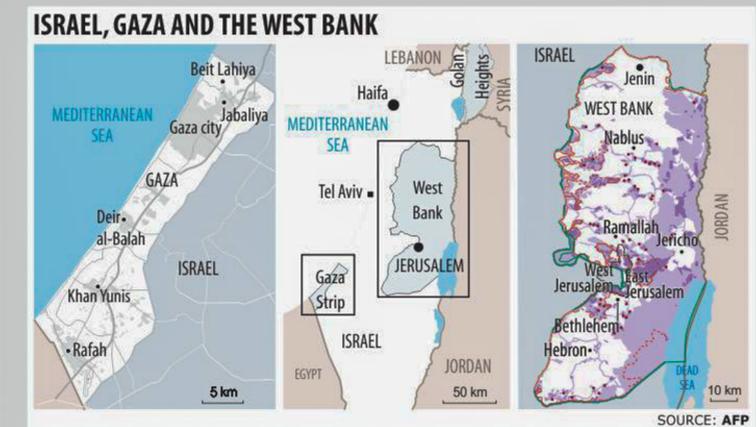
The announcement was hailed by ministers in Israel's rightwing government, a number of whom have called for the annexation of Palestinian territory in the occupied West Bank.

"The Palestinian flag has come down from the mast and the Israeli flag has taken its place," Education Minister Naftali Bennett said.

Rightwing politicians consider the West Bank, occupied since 1967 in contravention of international law, to be part of historic Israel for religious reasons.

Some Palestinians and Middle East experts reacted with alarm, saying that such a policy change would undercut the chances, already slim, of progress toward reconciliation

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The "TWO-STATE SOLUTION" would create an independent Israel and Palestine, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict. The idea is that Israelis and Palestinians want to run their countries differently; Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one. Because neither side can get what it wants in a joined state, the only possible solution that satisfies everyone involves separating Palestinians and Israelis.

The "ONE-STATE SOLUTION" would merge Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip into one big country. It comes in two versions. One, favoured by some leftists and Palestinians, would create a single democratic country. Arab Muslims would outnumber Jews, thus ending Israel as a Jewish state. The other version, favoured by some rightists and Israelis, would involve Israel annexing the West Bank and either forcing out Palestinians or denying them the right to vote. Virtually the entire world, including most Zionists, rejects this option as an unacceptable human rights violation.

QUOTES FROM TRUMP-BIBI CONFERENCE

'UNBREAKABLE BOND'
Trump: With this visit, the United States again reaffirms our unbreakable bond with our cherished ally Israel.

TWO STATES... OR ONE?
Trump: So I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like. I'm very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one.

I thought for a while the two-state looked like it may be the easier of the two, but honestly, if Bibi and if the Palestinians -- if Israel and the Palestinians are happy, I'm happy with the one they like the best.

ISRAELI COMPROMISES?
Trump: The Israelis are going to have to show some flexibility, which is hard... I think our new concept that we've been discussing

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Changes in top army positions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed a new chief of general staff (CGS) and brought changes in some other key positions in Bangladesh Army.

The Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) got a new director general as well.

Maj Gen Md Nazimuddin, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 55 Infantry Division and Jessore area commander, has been made CGS. He fills in for Lt Gen Sabbir Ahmed who has gone on Leave Preparatory to Retirement (LPR).

Maj Gen Md Saiful Abedin, commandant of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) has been appointed as the director general of DGFI to replace Maj Gen Mohammad Akbar Hossain.

Maj Gen Akbar has been given new responsibility of GOC of 9 Infantry Division

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IS suicide bombing kills 70 in Pakistan shrine

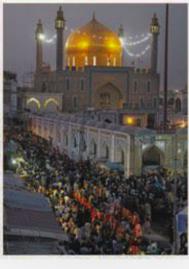
AFP, Karachi

At least 70 people died yesterday when a bomb ripped through a crowded Sufi shrine in Pakistan, police said, in the deadliest attack to hit the militancy-plagued country so far in 2017.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack in a statement carried by the Amaq propaganda agency linked to the Sunni Muslim jihadist group.

Pakistan's leaders vowed revenge for the attack on the shrine in the town of Sehwan in Sindh province, some 200km northeast of the provincial capital Karachi, which came after a bloody week of extremist assaults shook the country's growing sense of security.

A police source said a suicide bomber had



entered the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, a 13th century Muslim saint, and blown himself up among the devotees.

The shrine had been crowded on a Thursday, considered a sacred day for prayers.

"So far 70 people have been killed and more than 150 wounded," Inspector General of Police for Sindh province AD Khawaja told AFP.

"Many wounded people are in critical condition and they will be shifted to Karachi as soon as Navy helicopters and C-130 plane reach nearest airport."

Emergency services are basic in Sehwan, with the nearest main hospital some 130 kilometres away. Provincial health minister

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ELECTIONS EC to ensure participation of all parties

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The new Election Commission yesterday discussed how to create an atmosphere conducive to all-party participation in polls -- both at local and national levels.

In that effort, it directed senior election officials to take all measures for holding the upcoming polls to local bodies in a fair manner.

The directive came when newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda and four

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Charge pressing stalled as Nitor 'loses' medical reports

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The medical reports on teenage twin sisters, who were verbally abused and beaten up severely in the capital's Mirpur in October last year, have gone missing from a city hospital, casting doubt whether the victims will get justice.

Due to the mysterious disappearance of the reports, police could not submit charge sheet in the last four months.

Anuj Kumar Sarkar, sub-inspector of Shah Ali Police Station and also investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that the charge sheet was ready but he could not submit it as he did not get the reports from the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor).

The sisters -- Ashwad Habib Geen and Fariha Habib Meen -- suffered severe injuries in their legs and back as the accused beat them up with a bamboo stick. One of the sisters had her leg fractured. They received treatment at Nitor in phases.

"We need the report to prove in the charge sheet that the victims were assaulted," the IO said, adding that the hospital authorities were making delays in handing over the reports, saying they were looking for those.

He said he had written thrice to the director of Nitor asking for the report. The first letter was sent on October 30 last year. The second one was sent on November 17 and the third one on January 19 this year.

They got receipts of all the letters from

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TOP QUOTE

"Are we prepared to tackle a situation of this magnitude given that it took us months to manage one Rana Plaza collapse?"

DNCC MAYOR ANNISUL HUO TALKING ABOUT AFTERMATH OF AN EARTHQUAKE OF 7.5 TO 8.0 MAGNITUDE



Built by Khulna University student Kazi Mahmud Hasan, this drone can spray pesticides on farmland, preventing the use of hands and the subsequent health hazards of farmers. The photo was taken on the university campus recently.

Drone for fighting pests

The device built by Khulna University student awaits clearance for commercial use

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Imagine a farmer in a remote village spraying pesticides on his farmland using a drone.

This might sound like a reality far away but it isn't.

At a time when agricultural drones have been changing the face of farming in some parts of the world, a Khulna University student has surprised many by building the device in Bangladesh.

Awaiting clearance for commercial production and use, the drone can spray a proper dose of pesticide onto the plant-eating critters below, preventing the use of hands and the subsequent health hazards of the farmers, and making sure that the farm has a maximum yield.



Mahmud Hasan

Equipped with cameras, the radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicle also can save time.

For example, a farmer needs two to three hours to spray pesticides over a big of farmland. The drone can do that in just half an hour, said its maker Kazi Mahmud Hasan, a masters student of the Khulna University's electronics and communication engineering department.

The farmer-friendly device, which weighs just five kgs, has already completed successful test runs, Mahmud said, adding that he worked under the supervision of Shamim Ahsan, an associate professor of his department.

The Tk 4 lakh project is financed by the

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SAMSON H CHOWDHURY MEMORIAL CONFERENCE 2017

Samson H Chowdhury, icon of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry, played the pioneering role in propelling Bangladesh to self sufficiency in local manufacturing of medicine. His contributions changed the Pharmaceutical Industry and the lives of millions of people of the country. In memory of this great son of the soil, Square organizes

3rd Samson H Chowdhury Memorial Conference 2017

on

Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session 01
Common Technical Documents (CTD) and expectations of Regulatory Authorities
- Session 02
Growing challenges on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)- Bangladesh perspective
- Session 03
Preparedness of Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industry for the future potentials and challenges
- Session 04
Samson H Chowdhury Awards for Young Scientists

9:00 AM, 18th February 2017, Saturday*
Samson H Chowdhury Centre, Dhaka Club, Dhaka.

* by invitation only

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