

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION US 'dismayed' with Israeli move Dubs UN vote 'unhelpful'

REUTERS, Washington

The United States voiced deep dismay at Israel's decision to expand Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian territory but on Thursday also described as "unhelpful" a push for the UN Security Council to denounce the move.

In a rebuke of Israel - suggesting President Joe Biden was prepared to take a harder line in dealing with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - the White House said settlement activity "creates facts on the ground" that undermine hopes for peace between Israel and a future Palestinian state.

"The United States strongly opposes these unilateral measures which exacerbate tensions, harm trust between the parties and undermine the geographic viability of the two-state solution," said White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

Netanyahu's government on Sunday authorized nine Jewish settler outposts in the occupied West Bank and announced mass construction of new homes in established settlements.

The United Nations Security Council is considering a draft resolution, seen by Reuters on Wednesday, that would demand Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory."

The 15-member council is likely to vote on Monday on the text, drafted by the United Arab Emirates in coordination with the Palestinians, diplomats said.



It's 'obvious' Ukraine won't be Putin's last stop Zelensky tells Munich conference, calls for faster weapons delivery as Russia intensifies attacks in eastern front

AGENCIES

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday it was "obvious" Ukraine would not be the last stop of Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion, and that it was vital the West does not delay deliveries of weapons to help repel Russian forces.

The Ukrainian leader told the Munich Security Conference by video link that while the West was negotiating supplies of tanks to Kyiv, the Kremlin was thinking of ways to "strangle" the former Soviet republic of Moldova which lies west of Ukraine.

"It's obvious that Ukraine is not going to be his last stop. He's going to continue his movement all the way...including all the other states that at some point in time were part of the Soviet bloc," Zelensky said.

He urged the West to maintain speedy weapons deliveries. "Delay has always been and still is a mistake," Zelensky said.

He made his opening remarks in English as he addressed the security conference, an annual gathering of leading politicians, military officers and diplomats, days before Ukraine



marks the first anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

Despite his warnings, Zelensky said he did not think Russia could win.

He likened Ukraine to David and Russia to Goliath in the Biblical tale in which the underdog David wins, armed with a sling. He said David had defeated Goliath by action rather than conversation and that Goliath "has no chances".

"We need the speed, speed of our agreements, speed of our delivery, to strengthen our sling -

speed of decisions to limit Russian potential," he said.

In the battleground, Russian forces intensified attacks along front lines in eastern Ukraine yesterday. Bolstered by tens of thousands of reservists, Russia has intensified ground assaults, reports Reuters.

A major new Russian offensive appears to be taking shape and the governor of the Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine reported a significant increase in Russian attacks along front lines there.

IS leader killed, 4 US troops hurt in Syria raid

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The US military has said it killed a "senior" IS (Islamic State) leader in a raid in northeastern Syria as Washington continues its targeting of the group.

The Middle East-based US Central Command (CENTCOM) of the American military announced the operation on Friday, saying that four soldiers were injured during the raid, which was carried out in coordination with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

The military said "an explosion on target resulted in four US servicemembers and one working dog wounded" during a helicopter raid in northeastern Syria on Thursday.

"The targeted IS senior leader, Hamza al-Homsi, was killed," CENTCOM said in a statement without providing further details about al-Homsi.

The four soldiers and the dog are receiving treatment at a US medical facility in Iraq, it added.

The raid came less than a month after US forces killed Bilal al-Sudani, an IS leader in Somalia, whom Washington described as a "key facilitator for IS's global network".

US forces killed IS's first top leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a raid in northern Syria in 2019. His successor Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi was also killed in Syria in a similar US operation last year.

IS controlled large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria from 2014 until its territorial defeat late in 2017. During that time, the group, which had declared a "caliphate" and inspired attacks on civilian targets across the world, attracted thousands of foreign fighters, including from Europe and the US.

The remaining IS cells have continued to carry out occasional attacks against SDF and Syrian government targets. At the same time, the US, which has maintained a military presence in Syria, regularly conducts deadly raids against alleged IS officials.

Scrap it if necessary Broiler chicken goes

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power from Adani Power at this high price, it said.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said this agreement is considered inequitable and unclear and unprecedentedly discriminatory for Bangladesh by international reliable analysis.

"It seems that the agreement has ignored the interests of Bangladesh and favoured the interests of Adani Group in such a way that the electricity sector of Bangladesh can become a hostage in the hands of this company. This burden will have to be borne by the people of this country," he said.

Letter sent in 1916

FROM PAGE 12

Under the Postal Services Act 2000, it is a crime to open mail not addressed to you. But Glen said he can "only apologize" if he's committed a crime.

After realizing that the letter may be of historical interest, he gave it to the *Norwood Review*, a local quarterly magazine.

"As a local historian I was amazed and delighted to have the details of the letter passed to me," said Stephen Oxford, editor of the magazine, in a release.

The letter was addressed to "my dear Katie," who, according to Oxford, was the wife of local stamp magnate Oswald Marsh.

It was written by Christabel Mennel, the daughter of tea merchant Henry Tuke Mennel, while her family was on holiday in Bath, in western England. In the letter, Mennel writes: "I've been most miserable here with a very heavy cold."

The neighborhood of south London was a hub of business activity at the time. "Lots of wealthy, middle class people moved into the area in the late 1800s," Oxford told CNN.

Oswald Marsh, the former resident of the Hamlet Road property, "was a highly regarded stamp dealer who was often called as an expert witness in cases of stamp fraud," according to Oxford.

Aid focus turns

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where her two daughters had lived.

About 650 people are believed to have died when the Renaissance Residence collapsed.

Some 200 km (125 miles) away, about 100 people gathered at a small cemetery in the town of Pazarcik to bury a family of four - Ismail and Selin Yavuzatmaca and their two young daughters - who all died in the Renaissance building.

Turkey has promised to investigate anyone suspected of responsibility for the collapse of buildings and has ordered the detention of more than 100 suspects, including developers.

Across the border in Syria, the earthquake slammed a region divided and devastated by 12 years of civil war.

The Syrian government says the death toll in territory it controls is 1,414. More than 4,000 fatalities have been reported in the rebel-held northwest, but rescuers say nobody has been found alive there since February 9.

The aid effort has been hampered by the conflict. Many people in the northwest feel abandoned as supplies almost invariably head to other parts of the sprawling disaster zone.

Broiler chicken goes

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Chicken, egg and fish are some of the main sources of protein.

A number of consumers at the kitchen markets in Karwan Bazar and Farmgate areas said the hike in price of essentials left them in deep trouble as they were struggling to purchase necessary items.

They said they were experiencing the soaring prices of daily essentials, especially different types of meat over the past one week.

Rawshan Ara Begum, 70, of East Rajabazar area, said she never saw in her entire life that broiler chicken was sold at Tk 240 a kg. "If this is the situation, then how low-income families like ours will

Bulgaria finds 18 migrants dead

FROM PAGE 2

It was believed to be the deadliest incident involving migrants in Bulgaria.

EU member Bulgaria, which serves as a gateway into the bloc, has been trying to tighten security to stop a rising number of people seeking to cross the border.

In a bid to stem the flow, Bulgaria has stepped up controls along the 234-kilometre (145-mile) barbed wire fence covering almost the entire border with Turkey.

Austria and the Netherlands have blocked Sofia's bid to join the Schengen border free zone.

Bulgaria has faced mounting accusations it is abusing people

Will continue to report

FROM PAGE 1

Director of BBC World Service Lilliane Landor earlier asked all its staff to stay off all social media platforms.

Meanwhile, the Indian authorities said the "survey" revealed that despite substantial consumption of content in various Indian languages (apart from English), the income/profits shown by various entities of the British broadcaster are "not commensurate" with the scale of operations in India, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

During the survey, the Income Tax Department gathered evidence which indicates that tax has not been paid on certain remittances which have not been disclosed as income in India by the foreign entities of the group, said the Indian finance ministry in a statement.

"Further, the survey has also thrown up several discrepancies and inconsistencies with regard to transfer pricing documentation..." it read.

"Even though the Department exercised due care to record statements of only key personnel, it was observed that dilatory tactics were employed including in the context of producing documents/agreements sought," said the ministry statement.

The survey operation was conducted after the BBC aired a documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riot in the United Kingdom, criticising the role of the then chief minister of the state Narendra Modi.

Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) says the two issues - Modi's role in the 2002 riots and tax inspectors' survey on the broadcaster's offices - are not connected, but rights groups say the BBC raids this week show the parlous

survive."

Nur Nabi, a wholesale chicken trader in Karwan Bazar, said he has been involved in the trade for over four decades in the capital. "This is the highest ever price of broiler chicken as far as I can recall."

The broiler chicken has seen an increase in price at the farmer level over the past one week while there is also a shortage in market against the demand, he said.

As a result, traders were selling it at an increased price, Nabi added.

Talking to The Daily Star, both experts and small farmers recently blamed the big shots of the poultry industry and intermediaries for the abnormal price hike.

Will continue to report

trying to cross over from Turkey, with asylum seekers saying they have been pushed back, locked up, stripped and beaten.

Earlier, European Union leaders said they would tighten their borders to keep away unwanted immigrants, with some seeking more fences and walls while others would rather spend the money on improving living conditions in worse-off parts of the world.

Immigration has been a highly politically sensitive topic in the EU since 2015 when more than a million people - mostly fleeing the war in Syria - crossed the Mediterranean into Europe, and member states fought bitterly over how to provide for them.

state of press freedom in the world's biggest democracy.

News outlets that publish unfavourable reporting find themselves targeted with legal action, while journalists critical of the government are harassed and even imprisoned, reports AFP.

The three-day lockdown of the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai is the latest of several similar "search and survey" operations against media houses.

"Unfortunately, this is becoming a trend, there is no shying away from that," Kunal Majumdar of the Committee to Protect Journalists told AFP.

At least four Indian outlets that had critically reported on the government were raided by tax officers or financial crimes investigators in the past two years, he said.

India has fallen 10 spots to 150th on the World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, since Modi took office in 2014.

Afghan Taliban bans contraception

AGENCIES

Taliban fighters have stopped the sale of contraceptives in two of Afghanistan's main cities, claiming their use by women is a western conspiracy to control the Muslim population, according to a media report.

The Taliban has been going door to door, threatening midwives and ordering pharmacies to clear their shelves of all birth control medicines and devices, The Guardian reported.

Shab-e-Meraj

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Mukarram National Mosque at 1:30pm today highlighting the significance of Shab-e-Meraj, said a press release.

Mohammad Bashirul Alam, director general of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation, will preside over the meeting where Md Abdul Quadir, chairman of Arabic department at Dhaka University, will be a discussant.

IU suspends

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directives of the university administration verbally.

"No one in the dormitory is a resident student of the hall, they are allowed to live there as non-residents," he said.

Sanjida is a student of statistics and Tabassum is a student of the finance and banking department at IU.

Won't accept names

FROM PAGE 12

through an "unfavourable" contract.

The allegation came a day after IOC took to the Twitter to clarify its initial pact for hiring the Adani Group port for LPG imports in addition to existing pacts with nearby ports, saying there is no take-or-pay agreement.

The IOC's statement, which came in response to TMC lawmaker Mahua Moitra raising a stink of a scam in hiring of the port facility without a tender, contradicted Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited's earning call presentation that said "MoU signed with IOCL for a take-or-pay contract at Gangavaram Port for building LPG handling facilities".

Meanwhile, BJP tore into billionaire investor George Soros's statement made at a conference in Munich that he believes that the turmoil engulfing Gautam Adani's business empire may open the door to a democratic revival

in the country.

"This war is being mounted against India and what stands between the war and India's interests is Narendra Modi," BJP leader and federal minister Smriti Irani told reporters in New Delhi. "Everyone should condemn Soros' remarks in one voice".

She alleged Soros wants to "destroy" Indian democracy and wanted some "hand-picked" people to run the government here. He has created a fund of over USD one billion to intervene in democratic systems, including in India, she claimed.

Smriti Irani, minister of Women and Child Development, pointed out it was Soros who "broke" the Bank of England and is "designated as an economic war criminal".

She said, "George Soros, who hedges bets against many countries, has now made known his ill intentions in the democratic processes of India."

Hiring

Medical Information Officer (MIO)

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Walk-in Interview

19th, 20th & 22nd February 2023

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Interested candidates are encouraged to attend a Walk-in Interview as per the given schedule. Please call for address & attend at any of the following places for interview from 10:00 AM to 02:00 PM. Final interview will be held on **27th February 2023** & training will start from **28th February 2023**. Both final interview & training will be held at Radiant Centre for Professionals-RCP, Uttara (Contact: 018333102648).

Dhaka (01810101429, 01811409763), **Mymensingh** (01811448464), **Sylhet** (01811448423), **Bogura** (01810101428), **Rangpur** (01833323699), **Cumilla** (01810101397, 01811409863), **Jashore** (01811448332), **Rajshahi** (01811409839, 01810101432), **Barishal** (01833102646), **Chattogram** (01810101424).

For further assistances, please call: **01810101459**

Candidates are requested to bring with them an own **hand-written application** along with **complete resume, a passport size photograph, original academic certificates & photocopy of national ID card.**

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