

Industries vow to fight

OBAMA TAKES A BIG STEP TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS

Washington

US President Barack Obama challenged America and the world to step up efforts to fight global warming yesterday at the formal unveiling of his administration's controversial, ramped-up plan to cut carbon emissions from US power plants.

Declaring climate change the greatest threat facing the world, Obama said the power plant owners must cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Electric power plants account for some 40pc of US emissions of carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas that

contributes to climate change. Obama described the move as "the single most important step America has ever taken in the fight against global climate change."

The announcement fires the starting gun on a months-long environmental drive that will shape his legacy.

Later this August, Obama will become the first president to visit the Alaskan Arctic.

"Our fellow Americans have already seen their communities devastated by melting ice and rising oceans," Obama said.

In September, when Obama hosts Pope Francis at the White House, they are expected to

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make an impassioned collective call for action. And in December, representatives from around the world will

gather in Paris to hash out rules designed to limit global temperature increases to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

Meanwhile, the EU hailed Obama's clean power plan as "a positive step" to cut carbon emissions ahead of a global climate summit in Paris.

"The clean power plan is a positive step forward in the genuine efforts of the United States to cut its emissions," Miguel Arias Canete, the EU commissioner for climate action and energy, wrote on *Twitter*.

However, opponents in the energy industry have vowed to fight the plan.



Obama delivers remarks on the Clean Power Plan at the White House

Jewish extremist head arrested

Jerusalem

A Jewish extremist group's leader was arrested yesterday after a Palestinian baby died in a West Bank firebombing, as police investigated online threats against Israel's president for condemning "Jewish terrorism".

The domestic intelligence service named him as Meir Ettinger, a grandson of Meir Kahane, a rabbi who founded the racist anti-Arab movement Kach and was assassinated in 1990 in New York.

He was arrested in Safed in northern Israel "because of his activities in a Jewish extremist organisation", a Shin Bet

spokesman said. Police said Ettinger, who is aged around 20, was suspected of "nationalist crimes" but did not accuse him of direct involvement in Friday's firebombing.

According to Israeli media, he was the brains behind a June 18 arson attack on a shrine in northern Israel where Christians believe Jesus performed the miracle of loaves and fishes.

Ettinger was due to appear in court tomorrow for a custody hearing, police said.

Media reports said Ettinger could face a year of "administrative detention" under the government's harder line against "Jewish terrorists".



Relatives carry the body of 18-month-old Palestinian toddler

UK announces new steps against illegal immigrants

London

Britain's government promised new measures yesterday to crack down on illegal immigrants by making landlords evict them, as the Calais migrants crisis continued to dominate the headlines.

Landlords in England who do not remove people with no right to remain in Britain, or do not check their immigration status before renting them a property, could be jailed for up to five years.

The move, announced by Communities Secretary Greg Clark, is set to be included in a new Immigration Bill that parliament will debate in the

coming months. Immigration is one of the most sensitive issues in British politics and Prime Minister David Cameron's centre-right government has been battling to bring the numbers down for years.

Images of migrants trying illegally to cross the Channel Tunnel from France to Britain have fuelled calls from political opponents for ministers to do more and Cameron has warned that the situation could last all summer.

Migrants in Calais made around 1,700 attempts overnight Sunday to cross, according to French police sources.

Record Rate

Glaciers melt to lowest level on record: study

Paris

Glaciers worldwide have shrunk to levels not seen in 120 years of record keeping, with melt-off accelerating in the first decade of the 21st century, according to a study released yesterday.

On average, glaciers currently lose between 50 to 150 centimetres (20 to 60 inches) of thickness every year, reported the study, published in the *Journal of Glaciology*.

"This is two to three times more than the corresponding average of the 20th century,"

said Michael Zemp, director of the World Glacier Monitoring Service and the study's lead author.

More than a billion people, especially in Asia and South America, get more than half of their drinking water from the seasonal melting of snow melt and glacier ice, previous research has shown.

The current rate of global glacier melt is without precedent for the 120 years covered by scientific observation, and probably for much longer, Zemp added.

Moreover, accelerated ice

loss has created a dynamic whereby glaciers in many regions will continue to diminish even if global warming did not continue to boost global temperatures.

Preliminary data from the last five years, not covered in the study, suggest that rapid decline of ice mass is continuing apace.

The 20th-century record ice loss observed in 1998 "has been exceeded in 2003, 2006, 2011, 2013, and probably again in 2014," Kemp said.

The long-term trend of glacier retreat takes into account shorter periods

where, in some locations, glaciers have regained some of their lost ice mass.

Many so-called "ice tongues" formed by glacier runoff in Norway, for example, regained a couple hundred metres in length during the 1990s.

Overall, though, they have retreated by several kilometres compared to the areas covered in the late 19th century.

The World Glacier Monitoring Service compiles the results of worldwide glacier observations submitted annually from a global network of scientists & observers.



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For the study, these data gathered on the observations were ground, in the air and via compared to all available satellite.