

# NEWS IN brief

## Ten wounded in Istanbul blast

At least 10 people were wounded yesterday when a bomb concealed in a motorbike exploded near a police station on the European side of Istanbul, in the latest attack to strike Turkey's increasingly tense largest city over the last year. Turkish media reported that police had launched a manhunt for one suspect, wearing a black coat, who fled the scene after the attack.

## Polish parliament scraps abortion ban

Poland's parliament yesterday rejected an abortion ban after women staged massive nationwide protests, in a devoutly Catholic nation where the law is already among the most restrictive in Europe. Right-wing and liberal parliamentarians in the 450-member lower house joined forces to vote 352 against 58 to reject the controversial bill, with 18 abstentions.

## Activists held for trying to break Gaza blockade

A group of women activists who tried to break Israel's decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip were being held yesterday pending deportation after the Israeli navy intercepted their boat. Thirteen women, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Maguire, were detained on Wednesday evening after their sailboat was stopped around 35 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza.



Indian army soldiers display arms and ammunition recovered from suspected militants at an army camp in Langate in Kupwara district, about 66 kms from Srinagar, yesterday. Indian soldiers killed three suspected militants who tried to attack an army base in Indian Kashmir, officers said, the latest incident to have hiked tensions with archrival Pakistan.

# US no longer a world power

### Claim Pak PM's envoys in Washington, say Islamabad would move towards China, Russia if views on Kashmir ignored

PTI, Washington

America is "no longer a world power" and Pakistan would move towards China and Russia if its views on Kashmir and India are not considered, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's envoys have said here.

The remarks of Syed were not recorded on camera, but was heard prominently by those inside the room. Thereafter, he was quick to point out China and newly perceived relationship with Russia, which he had mentioned during his interaction at the Atlantic Council.

"(The) US is no longer a world power. It is a declining power. Forget about it," special Kashmir envoy of Sharif, Mushahid Hussain Syed was heard as saying on Wednesday after the conclusion of an interaction at the Atlantic Council, one of the top American think-tanks.

Syed submitted a dossier of alleged human rights violation in Kashmir to special US representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Olson.

## INDO-PAK TENSIONS

Syed and Shazra Mansab, another Kashmir envoy, are in the US as part of the Pakistani effort to apprise the global community of the current situation in Kashmir and allegations of human rights violations in the valley.

With no takers for Pakistan's Kashmir policy, Syed said China is now an important factor in South Asia and described Beijing as part of what he termed as Greater South Asia.

Syed has gone to the extent to warn US that Pakistan would move towards China and Russia if its views on Kashmir and India are not considered.

"There has been slow and steady building of relationship between Moscow and Islamabad," he said, referring to the joint military exercise between Pakistan and Russia.

He was apparently responding to a question from a member in the audience after the conclusion of the 90-minute interaction during which he expressed his frustration over the lack of response to his point of view on Kashmir and India.

Syed said the Putin government has for the first time agreed to sell arms to Pakistan and the US should take note of this changing regional alignment. "Unfortunately under the Obama administration, there was a drift in American foreign policy towards our region, towards Afghanistan. There was confusion and there was a lot of flip-flops. I think, the Obama administration could not figure out this region Afghanistan and Pakistan and as a consequence this region suffered," he said.



Police escort men who they said were arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of tricking American citizens into sending them money by posing as US tax officials, at a court in Thane, on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, yesterday.

## Pak passes anti-honour killing bill

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's National Assembly yesterday passed legislation closing a loophole that allowed people who killed in the name of "honour" to go free, mandating life imprisonment even if the victim's relatives forgive the murder.

Honour killings "claim the lives of hundreds of victims every year", the bill stated, adding that the legislation was "essential in order to prevent these crimes from being repeatedly committed".

Rights groups and politicians have for years called for tougher laws to tackle perpetrators of violence against women in Pakistan and the move follows a slew of high-profile killings in the country.

The perpetrators of so-called honour killings -- in which the victim, normally a woman, is killed by a relative -- often walk free because they can seek forgiveness for the crime from another family member.

A 2005 amendment to the law pertaining to honour killings prevented men who kill female relatives pardoning themselves as an "heir" of the victim.

But punishment was left to a judge's discretion when other relatives of the victim forgive the killer -- a loophole which critics say is exploited.

The amendments passed yesterday and published on the National Assembly website mandate judges to sentence someone who kills in the name of "honour" to life imprisonment, even if they have been forgiven, said senior opposition lawmaker Farhatullah Babar.

The assembly also passed a bill boosting the punishments for some rape offences.

Rape conviction rates are close to zero percent, largely due to the law's reliance on circumstantial evidence and a lack of forensic testing.

## TALIBAN INCURSION Battle forcing Afghans to flee Kunduz

AP, Kabul

Afghan civilians were increasingly leaving the northern city of Kunduz yesterday to escape fighting between government forces and the Taliban, a battle now in its fourth day, officials said.

The United Nations warned of a rapid deterioration of conditions for those "trapped in the city," as food and fresh water become difficult to find.

The fighting in Kunduz, located on a key national crossroads, has raised concerns of a repeat of last year's scenario, when it briefly fell to the Taliban. Insurgents at the time held Kunduz for three days, then resisted Afghan and US forces for almost three weeks before the city was brought fully back under government control.

This time, the insurgents, who launched a multi-pronged attack early on Monday, have been pushed back from the city's south, said Gen Qasim Jungalbagh, the police chief for Kunduz province.

# Duterte's popularity soars with crime war

AFP, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told all his critics to "go to hell" yesterday as he renewed his threats to kill, after a poll showed Filipinos overwhelmingly endorsed his deadly war on crime.

Duterte's unprecedented crime crackdown has raised fears of mass extrajudicial killings with more than 3,000 people killed since he took office on June 30, prompting global condemnation led by the United States, the United Nations and the European Union.

However 76 percent of Filipinos are "satisfied" with Duterte's performance, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations released yesterday. Just 11 percent of people surveyed said they were "dissatisfied" and the rest were undecided.

"I would like to just give an advice to all the human rights (critics) shouting now, local or international, I said you can all go to hell for it is never wrong for a president and the police and the military to protect its citizens," Duterte said.

Duterte was speaking at a ceremony where he announced rewards of up to \$5,100 each for "best performing" police officers in

his crime crackdown, which is officially called "Double Barrel".

The Social Weather Stations survey signalled a huge jump in support from the May elections, which Duterte won in what was considered a landslide but still with just 37.6 percent of the votes.

Duterte has rejected international criticism by calling US President Barack Obama a "son of a whore" and telling him to "go to hell", sticking his finger up while saying "fuck you" to the European Union and branding UN chief Ban Ki-moon a "fool".

Duterte has also threatened to break the Philippines' decades-old alliance with the United States, its former colonial ruler, because of Washington's criticism over the crime war.

Obama has urged Duterte to respect the rule of law and fight crime "the right way".

While abusing Obama, he has complained about a lack of respect from his US counterpart and said he now wants to forge much closer ties with China and Russia.

His foreign secretary, Perfecto Yasay, maintained the rage yesterday with the release of a lengthy statement headlined:

## OPINION POLL



## AIRING INDIAN CONTENT Pakistan cracks down on cable operators

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's media regulator has launched a crackdown on companies airing Indian television channels and content, officials said yesterday, after an escalation of violence in the disputed Kashmir region between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

"Given the recent tensions between India and Pakistan, the public is demanding that Indian channels and sitcoms be completely banned," a spokesman for Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) said.

Pakistani law only allows 86 minutes of Indian content to be aired by a channel daily, but entertainment channels and cable operators routinely flout the rules as Indian films and soap operas are so popular.

The sale of Indian direct-to-home service is also forbidden but common in Pakistan.

The authority said in a statement dated on Tuesday, it had given its chairman the authority to revoke or suspend the license of any company that aired illegal Indian channels or Indian content "without providing show cause notice and without giving the opportunity to respond".

"After Oct 15, action will be taken against all violators without discrimination," it said.

# Act against terrorist, or face isolation

### Pak PM orders army in an unusual move

AGENCIES

Faced with growing global isolation and pressure to act against terror originating from Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has bluntly asked the military leadership, including the ISI, to act against terrorist groups and conclude soon the probes into the 2008 Mumbai and 2016 Pathankot attacks.

Pakistan's influential Dawn newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said the civilian government, in a "blunt, orchestrated and unprecedented warning", asked military-led intelligence agencies "not to interfere if law enforcement acts against militant groups that are banned or until now considered off-limits for civilian action".

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has directed that fresh attempts be made to conclude the Pathankot investigation and restart the stalled Mumbai attacks-related trials in Rawalpindi anti-terrorism court," the newspaper said.

It said the government had informed the military leadership of "a growing international isolation of Pakistan and sought consensus on several key actions by the state".

The government asked spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Gen Rizwan Akhtar and National Security Adviser Nasser Janjua to travel to each of the four Pakistani provinces with a message for ISI's sector commanders.

The decisions were taken after an extraordinary verbal confrontation between Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the spy agency chief, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif yesterday accused India of spreading a "litany of falsehoods" and warned that any aggression or a "strategic miscalculation" against his country will not go unpunished, reports PTI.

"We have recently witnessed an unfortunate display of utter desperation" playing out inside Kashmir and along the Line of Control through a "litany of falsehoods and distortion of facts by India", Gen Sharif said at the passing out ceremony of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) cadets in Risalpur, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

"We expect international community to condemn Indian insinuations and fabrications about a nation that has made unparalleled contributions in the global fight against terrorism," he said.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer (Project) & Project Director**  
**Procurement of Locomotives, Relief Cranes and Locomotive Simulator Project**  
 Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban, Dhaka

## Invitation for Bids

Date : 06 October, 2016.  
 Loan No. and Title : 3301-BAN: Railway Rolling Stock Project. Procurement of Locomotives, Relief Cranes and Locomotive Simulator for Bangladesh Railway.

Contract No. and Title : BR/ADB/Locomotive Simulator. Procurement of Locomotive Simulator, Related Services, including Installation & Commissioning, Trial run and Training of BR Engineers.

Deadline for submission of bids : 06 December, 2016, 12:00 noon (Bangladesh Standard Time).

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh (the Borrower) has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of 'Procurement of Locomotive Simulator, Related Services, including Installation & Commissioning, Trial run and Training of BR Engineers and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contract named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- The Bangladesh Railway (the 'Purchaser') under Ministry of Railways, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for "Procurement of Locomotive Simulator, Related Services, including Installation & Commissioning, Trial run and Training of BR Engineers.
- International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage, Two-Envelope procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Director and inspect the bidding document at the address given below from 10:00am to 04:30pm on all working days up to 05 December, 2016.

Mohammad Hassan Mansur  
 Chief Mechanical Engineer (Project) & Project Director  
 Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban (Room No. 613)  
 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000  
 Mobile No. + 8801711691150  
 e-mail: [cmeplcs@railway.gov.bd](mailto:cmeplcs@railway.gov.bd)

- The bidding document, in the English language, may be purchased directly by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 15,000.00 (Taka fifteen thousand) upon submission of a written application to the address above for 'Contract No. BR/ADB/Locomotive Simulator; Procurement of Locomotive Simulator, Related Services, including Installation & Commissioning, Trial run and Training of BR Engineers' only during office hours (10:00am to 4:30pm) on all working days till 5 December, 2016. The method of payment will be in the form of Pay-Order or Bank Draft in favour of "Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 12:00 noon (Bangladesh Local Time) of 06 December, 2016. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as described in the bidding document. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address below at 12:30pm (Bangladesh Local Time) on 06 December, 2016.  
 For Bid Submission  
 Room No. 411, Rail Bhaban  
 Bangladesh Railway  
 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000  
 Bangladesh
- The Bangladesh Railway will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Mohammad Hassan Mansur  
 Chief Mechanical Engineer (Project) & Project Director  
 Bangladesh Railway, Rail Bhaban  
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