

NEWS IN brief

Iran successfully tests naval missile

AFP, Tehran

Iran has successfully test-fired a naval missile which hit its target 250 kilometres away, local news agencies reported yesterday. The new Hormuz-2 missile has a maximum range of 300 kilometres. The test was carried out at a time of heightened tension between Iran and the United States.

Japan, US navies drill in East China Sea

AFP, Tokyo

The US and Japanese navies said yesterday they completed a four-day joint exercise in the East China Sea, as tension intensifies in the region following North Korea's missile tests. The training, characterised by Japanese media essentially as a show-of-force exercise, coincided with renewed tensions in the region after North Korea's latest ballistic missile launches earlier this week.

Axe attacker wounds 9 in German station

AFP, Düsseldorf

German police said yesterday an axe-wielding attacker who wounded nine people in a bloody rampage at a railway station overnight was psychologically disturbed, ruling out a terrorist motive. They were waiting to question the 36-year-old from Kosovo who is in hospital with multiple fractures after jumping off a bridge while trying to flee police at the crime scene, the main railway station in Düsseldorf.

Pak House adopts Hindu marriage law

IANS, Islamabad

The Pakistani parliament has adopted the landmark Hindu Marriage Law to regulate the community's marriages in the country. The Hindu Marriage Bill, unanimously passed on Thursday, will be the first personal law to regulate marriages in the Hindu community living in Pakistan, Dawn online reported. It now needs President Mamnoon Hussain's signature to become a law.

US House panels OK Obamacare proxy

AFP, Washington

Two US congressional panels on Thursday approved Republican plans to replace Obamacare, after marathon debate on the controversial health legislation that is backed by Trump but opposed by some in his party. After 18 marathon hours of debate the House Ways and Means Committee became the first panel to approve the bill that would repeal and replace Obama's landmark health reforms.



A general view shows smoke billowing from Al-Amil neighborhood in Mosul, yesterday. Inset, A displaced Iraqi girl cries before entering a refugee camp. Iraqi special forces battling the Islamic State group yesterday pushed deeper into west Mosul, where a commander said jihadist resistance is showing signs of weakening under repeated assaults.

PHOTO: REUTERS

China eyes to close military gap with US

Stealth jet enters service, navy building 'first class' fleet

REUTERS, Beijing

China has put into service its new generation J-20 stealth fighter, a warplane it hopes will narrow the military gap with the United States, as senior naval officers said the country was building a "first class" navy and developing a marine corps.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is overseeing a sweeping modernisation of the country's armed forces, the largest in the world, including anti-satellite missiles and advanced submarines, seeking to project power far from its shores.

In a report late on Thursday, state television's military channel confirmed that the J-20 had now entered service, though it gave no other details.

However questions remain whether the new Chinese fighter can match the radar-evading properties of the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor air-to-air combat jet, or the latest strike jet in the US arsenal, Lockheed's F-35.

China showed off another stealth fighter it's developing, the J-31, at the last Zhuhai airshow in 2014. China hopes the J-31 will compete with the US-made F-35 stealth aircraft.

The navy is another key focus for China. China's navy has been taking an increasingly prominent role in recent months, with a rising star admiral taking command, its first aircraft carrier sailing around self-ruled Taiwan and new Chinese warships popping up in far-flung places.

With President Donald Trump promising a US ship-building spree and unnerving Beijing with his unpredictable approach on hot button issues including Taiwan and the South and East China Seas, China is pushing to narrow the gap with the US Navy.

Wang Weiming, deputy chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army Navy, told Xinhua on the sidelines of the annual meeting of parliament that China is speeding up the development of a marine corps, adding destroyers and frigates and will step up air and sea patrols.

China's second, domestically-developed aircraft carrier is in "good shape" and now awaiting fitting, he added, in comments reported late Thursday. Experts expect it will enter service around 2020, joining China's existing, Soviet-built carrier the Liaoning.



'PAK AS TERROR STATE' Bill introduced in US Congress

TNN, New Delhi

An influential US Congressman on Thursday introduced a strongly worded bill in Congress to declare "untrustworthy ally" Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism.

"Not only is Pakistan an untrustworthy ally, Islamabad has also aided and abetted enemies of the United States for years," said Congressman Ted Poe, who is Chair of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism.

"From harboring Osama bin Laden to its cozy relationship with the Haqqani network, there is more than enough evidence to determine whose side Pakistan is on in the War on Terror. And it's not America's. It is time we stop paying Pakistan for its betrayal and designate it for what it is: a State Sponsor of Terrorism," Poe said while introducing the bill, the Pakistan State Sponsor of Terrorism Act of 2015, in Congress.

The bill requires the US president to issue a report within 90 days, answering whether Pakistan has provided support for international terrorism. Thirty days after that, the Secretary of State is required to submit a follow-up report, which says that Pakistan is a state sponsor of terrorism, or a detailed justification as to why it does not meet the legal criteria for such a designation.

It's time for a "radical reset" with Pakistan, said Congressman Poe and James Clad, a former US deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asia, in an article in Nationalinterest.org dated March 8. They say the US is in "a toxic relationship" with Pakistan and needs to "to finally set limits on its

UN proposes steps to curb sex abuse by peacekeepers

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

The United Nations has unveiled a new strategy aimed at stamping out sex abuse by its peacekeepers with measures that include withholding the salaries of the soldiers who are under investigation for such crimes and directing them to a victims' trust fund.

Antonio Guterres, UN secretary-general, said on Thursday in an annual report that there had been a total of 145 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving troops and civilians across all UN peace missions in 2016 - up from 99 in 2015.

Guterres, who took the UN helm in January, said the new strategy was aimed at putting "the rights and the dignity of victims first" and then "to focus on ending the impunity of those guilty of crimes and abuses".

Under UN rules, it is up to soldier-contributing countries to take action against their nationals who face credible allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation while serving under the UN flag.

In his report, Guterres proposed that

salary payments to countries that fail to investigate allegations involving their troops should be withheld, and that those amounts could be instead directed to a victims' trust fund. UN officials said that this measure had already begun to be implemented, with about \$49,000 in withheld funds ready to be transferred to



the fund.

Guterres also called for appointing a special human rights expert who would report directly to the UN chief to be a victims' rights advocate.

Human rights groups have complained about the lack of accountability for peacekeepers serving in UN missions.

Humans aren't causing global warming: Pruitt

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scott Pruitt, the climate science-denying head of the US Environmental Protection Agency, has claimed that human activity is not a "primary contributor" to global warming.

Appearing on the CNBC TV show Squawk Box, Pruitt, a lawyer, was asked if he thought it had been proven that carbon dioxide was the "primary control knob for climate".

While the biggest input to the Earth's temperature is obviously the sun, rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases have been increasing the atmosphere's ability to trap its heat and this is the main reason why temperatures have risen by about

one degree Celsius since the late 19th century.

Nasa, the UK Met Office and ever single major scientific body worldwide agrees this is true.

However Pruitt, chosen by Donald Trump to run an agency he made a career out of repeatedly suing as the attorney-general of Oklahoma, told CNBC: "I think that measuring with precision human activity on the climate is something very challenging to do and there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact, so no, I would not agree that it's a primary contributor to the global warming that we see."

"But we don't know that yet as far as ... we need to continue the debate and continue the review and the analysis."

BORDER SHOOTING People in Nepal wage anti-India protest

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Indian border guards killed a Nepali citizen over a local dispute in a rare shooting at the border, Nepal's government said, prompting anti-India protests in the area and in the national capital yesterday.

India and Nepal share a 1,751-km (1,094 miles) long and open border and thousands of people cross over each day to work and trade, but Nepali politicians have often accused India of meddling in its affairs.

Dozens of people were protesting over a damaged culvert in Nepal's Anandabazaar near the border with India on Thursday when Indian border guards opened fire, killing a 25-year-old man.

WAR ON ISLAMIC STATE

US to host 68-nation meeting

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will host a 68-nation meeting in Washington this month to discuss the next moves by a coalition fighting Islamic State, the State Department said on Thursday.

The March 22-23 meeting of coalition foreign ministers aimed "to accelerate international efforts to defeat ISIS in the remaining areas it holds in Iraq and Syria and maximize pressure on its branches, affiliates, and networks," the State Department said in a statement.

Public Management Officer

The ADB-Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs, in project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

Description of Responsibilities

Support Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM)/South Asia Department in addressing ADB's strategic objectives and programs related to governance, public management, public financial management (PFM) and Audit, and capacity building.

Reporting Arrangement

- Country Director, BRM and/or Deputy Country Director, Designated International Staff

Selection Criteria

- Specific criteria include
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
- Bachelor's Degree in the field of public administration, governance, development studies, economics, political science, business administration, legal studies or social sciences, preferably with advanced training
- At least 8 years' experience in Governance and Public Sector Management related work.
- Good understanding of governance and public management topics such as anticorruption, public administration, public

financial management (PFM), law and justice, decentralization, local governance, and e-governance;

- Demonstrated ability to network and prepare governance related knowledge management products.
- Able to guide Administrative Staff (AS) to facilitate work planning, delivery and quality review
- Able to liaise and work effectively with the government officials;
- Able to work collaboratively with teams as a constructive team member
- Excellent written and oral communication skill in English

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 67 members. The advertised position is a local staff position with a local remuneration package. It is open only to persons who are nationals and residents of Bangladesh. The position is for a 3-year fixed term appointment. ADB offers a competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for the Bangladesh Resident Mission, ADB staff may be required to serve in any location outside the Resident Mission at the discretion of Management.

To apply, visit: <https://adb.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ft?job=170253>

Deadline for applications is on 25 March 2017.

We encourage diversity in our workplace and support an inclusive environment.

Vacancy Reference Number: 170253

Procurement Officer

The ADB-Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) was established to assist its Headquarters in the implementation of projects and programs, in project processing, country programming, and economic and sector work. It also coordinates ADB's activities with other resident diplomatic and donor missions, NGOs, academic institutions, local think tanks, private sector and other members of the civil society.

Description of Responsibilities

To support Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM) in handling the matters relating to procurement of goods, works and consulting services for the BRM-administered projects; portfolio management and contract administration; procurement issues for loan/grant/technical assistance (TA) processing; capacity building training and seminars; and other general project administration activities

Reporting Arrangement

- Deputy Country Director or Designated International Staff

Selection Criteria

- Specific criteria include
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level
- Bachelor's degree in Engineering preferably with advanced training
- At least 8 years relevant work experience in project preparation and administration with substantial experience in procurement of goods works and consulting services and in contract management
- Sound knowledge of ADB and/or other multilateral finance institution's procurement policies, guidelines, and procedures, and anticorruption policies
- Sound knowledge of government administrative systems and procedures, particularly public procurement systems
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English language

HACKING MATERIALS LEAK

Trump slams CIA

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump's administration levelled fresh criticism at the CIA Thursday after WikiLeaks published a trove of documents describing the US spy agency's cyber espionage operations.

Hours after WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange accused the Central Intelligence Agency of "devastating incompetence" for failing to protect its hacking secrets, Trump's spokesman echoed that, branding its systems "outdated."

Trump has "grave concern... about the release of national security and classified information that threatens and undermines our nation's security," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said. "He believes that the systems at the CIA are outdated and need to be updated."

The White House terminology was milder than earlier this year when the president blasted US intelligence agencies over media leaks, and accused them of playing politics with their findings on Russian interference in last year's election.

But it added new pressure on the CIA and its incoming chief, Mike Pompeo, as US intelligence agencies continue to suffer losses of top secret materials -- most famously with Edward Snowden's 2013 exposure of NSA spying.

On Tuesday, WikiLeaks published nearly 9,000 documents it said were only part of a huge trove leaked from the CIA.

WikiLeaks said the leaked archive represented the CIA's entire arsenal of cyber-attack plans, guides and malware programs -- though it held back the programs themselves from release.

On Thursday Assange gave a press conference on the leak.

Speaking via streaming video from Ecuador's embassy in London, where he has been living as a fugitive from justice since 2012, he waved off criticism of WikiLeaks while blasting the CIA for its poor controls.

"This is a historic act of devastating incompetence, to have created such an arsenal and then stored it all in one place," Assange said.