

TACKLING AIR POLLUTION

# Odd-even scheme back in New Delhi

AFP, New Delhi

New Delhi banned all construction, barred lorries from entering the city and announced stringent restrictions on private car use yesterday, seeking to combat a massive spike in pollution across large swathes of India and Pakistan.

Tens of thousands of schools in Delhi and surrounding states remained closed as a hazardous fog of toxic pollution cloaked the region for a third day, bringing growing calls for urgent government action to tackle what doctors are calling a public health emergency.

"The situation in Delhi is so bad and if the pollution can be brought down in any way, we will do it," the city's transport minister Kailash Gahlot told reporters as he announced plans to limit private car use to alternate days from next Monday.

Authorities in the city had earlier ordered a ban on all construction work and barred lorries from entering the city as public pressure on the government mounted.

Around 50,000 mostly diesel-fuelled lorries pass through India's capital every night and they are a major contributor to the pollution plaguing the city.

Air quality typically worsens before the onset of winter as cooler air traps pollutants near the ground and prevents them from dispersing into the atmosphere, a phenomenon known as inversion.

Low winds and the annual post-harvest burning of crop stubble in the northern farming states of Punjab and Haryana have caused the levels of dangerous pollutants in the air to spike to many times the levels considered safe.



An Indian man sells facemasks at the roadside amid heavy smog in New Delhi yesterday. Rickshaw driver Sanjay can only afford a handkerchief to shield his face from the smog-filled streets of Delhi, even as many residents rush to buy protective masks to combat the toxic menace.

## NEWS IN brief

### Sisi urges caution in Iran-Saudi crisis

AFP, Sharm El Sheikh

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said on Wednesday his country does not support a military escalation in regional tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran, adding the region already faces enough crises. Sisi spoke at a wide-ranging press conference in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh where he addresses regional disputes and his country's efforts to tackle jihadist attacks and economic reforms.

### Bomb kills three cops in Pakistan

AFP, Quetta

A suspected suicide bomber killed a senior police official and two of his colleagues in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta yesterday, officials said, in the latest attack targeting security forces in the restive province. Officials said the attack hit the vehicle of Quetta's Deputy Inspector General of Police Hamid Shakil during his morning commute in the provincial capital.

### S'pore housewife held for planning to join IS

AFP, Singapore

A Singaporean housewife who planned to join the Islamic State (IS) group in the Middle East has been detained without trial under the city-state's tough security laws, authorities said yesterday. It was the latest arrest of a Singaporean for allegedly supporting the jihadists or planning to fight with them, with the city-state's leaders warning it is a prime target for an attack due to its status as a financial centre.

### Duterte laments SE Asia brain drain

AFP, Davao

Globalisation has pressed the brightest workers from poor Southeast Asian countries to move overseas in a brain drain that must be reversed if real development is to be achieved, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday. More than 10 million Filipinos work overseas, around 10 percent of the population, remitting billions of dollars back to the country each year.

# Nato still short of troops

## Says Stoltenberg during defence ministers' meet in Brussels

AFP, Brussels

Nato countries have still not agreed how many extra troops they will send to Afghanistan to boost local forces in their fight against the resurgent Taliban, the alliance's chief admitted yesterday.

Nato this week announced it wanted to send around 3,000 extra troops to Afghanistan, bringing the Western military footprint up to about 16,000 soldiers to help the Afghans break the stalemate in the 16-year fight against the Taliban.

But after talks with the alliance's 29 defence ministers in Brussels, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged there were still 'gaps' in the roster that needed to be filled.

"We are now in the process of increasing the troop level," Stoltenberg said.

"We haven't finalised that so it's not possible to provide any final figures when it comes to how much different countries are going to contribute."

The additional troops, most of them American, will help the train and advise local Afghan forces who have struggled to hold Taliban and Islamic State extremists at bay while suffering heavy casualties.

Washington has asked Nato allies to contribute 1,000 extra

troops for Afghanistan to add to 2,800 US forces, but diplomatic sources say they may have to be content with just 700.

Stoltenberg said Nato had made progress but was still in the process of gathering troop commitments.

"We got some new announcements from some nations during the meeting today but we still have some gaps that we will continue to work on," he said.

Nato leaders agreed Wednesday to increase the use of cyber weaponry and tactics during military operations, with the alliance also upgrading other capabilities to combat a resurgent Russia.

They are optimistic that 2018 could see Afghan forces start to gain momentum against the Taliban, thanks to renewed training efforts, a growing air force and thousands of extra Afghan commandos.

The changes are part of Nato's biggest shakeup since the Cold War, with defence ministers backing the creation of two new command centres to help protect Europe.

Plus US President Donald Trump has given American forces greater leeway in how and when they can hit the Taliban, and Afghan forces are increasingly going on the offensive.

But the Taliban poured scorn on Nato claims of success.

### WAR ON AFGHAN TALIBAN

Washington asked allies to contribute 1,000 extra troops

Allies agreed to increase use of cyber weaponry during operation



Indian voter Shyam Saran Negi (C) arrives to vote in the northern Himachal Pradesh state elections in Kalpa, around 145 miles from the state capital Shimla, yesterday. 100-year-old Shyam Saran Negi walked the red carpet to polling booth in a remote Himalayan village to retain his record of voting in every Indian election since independence in 1947.

# Night-time injuries heal more slowly

AFP, Miami

People who are injured at night heal far more slowly because the body's internal clock regulates the pace of healing and performs better during the day, researchers said Wednesday.

The report found that cuts and burns healed about 60 percent faster if the injury happened during the day compared to at night.

Researchers say the body's clock is the reason for the difference, because it regulates crucial body processes including sleeping, metabolism and hormone secretion.

That the circadian clock within individual skin cells has been shown to determine how effectively they respond to injuries," said author John O'Neill at the Medical Research Council Laboratory in Cambridge.

# One lakh Indian people book tickets for Mars

TNN, Mumbai

Around 1,38,899 people from India are Mars-bound. They have 'booked' a flight to the Red Planet via NASA's Insight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport) mission slated for launch on May 5, 2018. NASA states that those who submitted their names were provided online 'boarding passes' for the mission.

The names are being etched on a silicon wafer microchip using an electron beam to form letters with lines one one-thousandth the diameter of a human hair. This chip will then be attached to the top hull of the lander.

Several Indians responded to NASA's call for names for the Mars mission. The total number of names received by NASA from all over the world is 2,429,807.

According to NASA on Wednesday, India ranks third in the global list with regard to the number of names submitted for the Mars mission.

The first is the US with 6,76,773 names

followed by China with 2,62,752 names. India stands at number three.

Space experts point out that US leading the list is not surprising since it is, after all, a NASA mission. However, they do say that the fact that India is next to China is a matter of significance. They attribute India being ranked among the first three nations to two factors: the excitement and interest in Mars flights triggered by India's ground-breaking Mangalyaan mission, and the overall strengthening of India-US space ties.

Andrew Good of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) told TOI that the deadline to submit names was last week and "we are no longer accepting submissions".

Slated for landing near the Mars equator on November 26, it is a 720-day mission, which will gather data on the Martian interior by monitoring Marsquakes.

Nasa states that Insight's role is not only to study Mars, but also to gain broader insight into the formation of rocky planets in the entire solar system.

# Pope stubs out cigarette sales in Vatican

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Francis has outlawed the sale of cigarettes at the Vatican in a bid to lead by example on healthy living.

"The Holy Father has decided that the Vatican will cease to sell cigarettes to employees as of 2018," the Vatican said in a statement yesterday.

"The reason is very simple: the Holy See cannot contribute to an activity that clearly damages the health of people," it said, adding that smoking claims more than seven million lives every year, according to the World Health Organization.

"Although the cigarettes sold to employees and pensioners in the Vatican at a reduced price are a source of revenue for the Holy See, no profit can be legitimate if it puts lives at risk," it added.

Francis, who has only one lung, does not smoke. He has let the locals keep their other guilty pleasure, tax-free alcohol.

The cigarettes and booze are sold in a luxury duty-free shop, opened in 2003 in what was once the Vatican's magnificent railway station but is now home to everything from designer handbags and shoes to flat-screen televisions.

# Pak court rejects Sharif's plea to merge graft cases

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan's anti-graft court on Wednesday rejected ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif's plea for clubbing together three corruption cases filed against him by the country's anti-corruption watchdog in the Panama Papers scandal.

After the announcement of the judgement, Sharif was indicted separately in each of the three graft cases stemming from the Panama Papers leaks.

Now, 67-year-old Sharif will have to face three separate trials with hearings stretching out for months.

The former prime minister pleaded not guilty to all the charges and contended that he was being deprived of the fair trial as the court was moving in a hurry to decide the case in six months as per direction of the Supreme Court.

Rejecting the plea, Accountability Court Judge Muhammad Bashir said that Sharif would be given fair trial under the law and then postponed the hearing till November 15.

Heavy security arrangements were made and hundreds of security personnel deployed around the court premises to deal with any untoward situation.

Following the judgement, Sharif told media that "today's verdict would be written in black words" in Pakistan's history.

"I knew that review petition will not be decided in my favour because the judges (who issued the verdict in review petition) are full of vengeance and the decision reflects vengeance and anger. This will become part of black pages of history."

"There are several black pages in the last 70 years of Pakistan history when there were dictators. This judgement (of review petition) will also be written in black words," he said.



## ADMISSION NOTICE

Spring 2018 Semester  
Master of Business Administration

Faculty of Business Studies  
Jahangirnagar University



\* Master of Business Administration (MBA) under EMBA Program

\* Major: • Finance & Banking • Marketing  
• Accounting & Information Systems  
• Human Resource Management

\* Written Examination Date: 08 December 2017 (Friday)  
Time: 10:00 A.M. Centre/Venue: Jahangirnagar University.

\* Successful candidates will be asked to appear for the viva-voce

\* Application fee is Tk. 1200/- (including service charge).

\* The application must be submitted through online from 11 November 2017 (12.01 A.M.) to 04 December 2017 (11:59 P.M.)

\* For detailed application procedure, visit the website at [www.fbsju.edu.bd/admission](http://www.fbsju.edu.bd/admission)

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- \* Minimum Bachelor's (Hons.) Degree (any discipline) or Degree (pass) with Master Degree.
- \* For all private university degrees/certificates, equivalence will be determined by Jahangirnagar University.
- \* No 3rd Division/Class or CGPA below 2.5 (or equivalent) at Secondary/Higher secondary/Bachelor's level(s) of education.

### Consideration for Selection:

- \* Score of written test & viva Performance
- \* Full time managerial or executive level work experience
- \* Academic achievements

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