

ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN PACT Iran threatens Trump-backed transit corridor

REUTERS, Dubai Iran threatened on Saturday to block a corridor planned in the Caucasus under a regional deal sponsored by US President Donald Trump...



A top Azerbaijani diplomat said earlier that the plan, announced by Trump on Friday, was just one step from a final peace deal between his country and Armenia...

The proposed Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) would run across southern Armenia, giving Azerbaijan a direct route to its exclave of Nakhchivan and in turn to Turkey.

The US would have exclusive development rights to the corridor, which the White House said would facilitate greater exports of energy and other resources. It was not immediately clear how Iran, which borders the area, would block it...

He said military exercises carried out in northwest Iran demonstrated the Islamic Republic's readiness and determination to prevent any geopolitical changes.

"This corridor will not become a passage owned by Trump, but rather a graveyard for Trump's mercenaries," Velayati said. Iran's foreign ministry earlier welcomed the agreement...

Analysts and insiders say that Iran, under mounting US pressure over its disputed nuclear programme, lacks the military power to block the corridor.



Palestinians mourn over the shrouded bodies of loved ones killed the previous day while seeking aid near Zikim, at Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

'Self-amusement' Chinese expert spurns India's claims of downing Pakistani jets during May conflict

DAWN ONLINE

China's former defence attache in South Asia Cheng Xizhong yesterday spurned India's much-delayed claim that it had shot down six Pakistani aircraft during the May conflict...

Having faced international coverage of its own craft being downed by Pakistan and scathing criticism from the opposition, India's Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh — three months after the conflict — claimed on Saturday that his country had shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and one other military aircraft during those clashes.

While Pakistan had already denied that India downed any of its aircraft, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif swiftly rubbished Singh's "belated assertions" on Saturday.

Commenting on the matter

yesterday, Cheng said India's allegations lacked strong evidence and have been "widely questioned by the international community, being considered groundless", the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Singh's remarks were "comical, implausible and unconvincing". "We may call it self-amusement," he said in a statement.

Pakistan said it downed six Indian planes during the conflict. India's highest-ranking general has also acknowledged that its forces suffered losses in the air, but denied losing six aircraft.

"The Indian side has not presented any evidence, such as photos of the wreckage of the fighter jets, radar monitoring data, etc, while the Pakistani side had previously presented a large amount of relevant evidence of shooting down the Indian fighter jets," Cheng noted.

Regularise undocumented migrants

FROM PAGE 12 but why not regularising the irregular ones. Therefore, we are raising this issue with an urgent basis," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Malaysia froze the recruitment of foreign workers on May 31 last year following massive irregularities and malpractices in the labour hiring process under a syndicate of 101 recruiting agents.

Each worker had to pay between Tk 4-5 lakh for jobs, but thousands of them ended up jobless or under-employed thanks to their agents' malpractices. Eventually, many of them were forced to become undocumented.

Currently, there are frequent raids and detention of irregular workers, Abu Hayat, an independent researcher from Kuala Lumpur, told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, Dhaka may sign five memorandums of understanding (MoU) during the Chief Adviser's visit of Malaysia.

The MoUs pertain to defence cooperation, energy cooperation, formation of Business Councils (FBCCI and NCCIM), Cooperation between BMCCI and Malaysian institution MIMOS and Cooperation between Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Malaysian Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS).

In addition, three 'exchanges of notes' may also be signed between the two countries on cooperation in the halal ecosystem, higher education and diplomatic training academy, said Shah Asif Rahman, Director General (Public Diplomacy) at the ministry of foreign affairs, at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

Bangladesh's application to become a 'Sectoral Dialogue Partner' of ASEAN and to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be strongly highlighted during

the visit. In addition, the ASEAN member states, including Malaysia, will be called upon to play a more active and effective role in the repatriation of Rohingya, he added.

The visit will be an action-packed one, said Shafiqul Alam, the chief adviser's Press Secretary.

"We will hold deeper and broader discussions on all issues," Alam said.

Malaysia remains a key destination for Bangladeshi workers, he said, adding that recruitment and visa-related matters will be addressed during the visit.

Bangladesh will also seek Malaysian cooperation in deep-sea fishing and electric vehicle manufacturing through joint ventures, he said.

Yunus is scheduled to leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for Kuala Lumpur today on the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who made an official visit to Bangladesh in October last year.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Asif Nazrul, Energy Adviser Fozul Kabir Khan, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, Chief Adviser's Special Envoy on International Affairs Lutley Siddiqi, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Executive Chairman Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun and foreign secretary Asad Alam Siam are likely to accompany Yunus during the visit.

Yunus and Anwar Ibrahim will lead the delegation-level meeting on Tuesday.

He will later attend a Business Forum jointly to be organised by the Bangladesh High Commission, BIDA and Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), where the formation of the Bangladesh-Malaysia Joint Business Council will be announced.

Yunus will attend a series of courtesy meetings before joining dinner to be hosted by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia.

Advertisement for Chittagong City Corporation (চট্টগ্রাম সিটি কর্পোরেশন) regarding a recruitment process for various positions. It includes details about the exam, application process, and contact information.

Jamaat wants

FROM PAGE 12 certain demands and conditions, and we are pursuing them. We will continue to pursue them, and we hope we will achieve our goal."

The Jamaat leader said the government is committed to reforms, justice, and the election. "Therefore, before the polls, two more things must be done: making justice visible and implementation of reforms."

He added that they have no objections either to the EC's role so far, but this is just the first round. "We will see how they [the EC] handle the second round, semi-final, and the final."

Taher said the most important aspect of an election is that it must be credible, free, fair, and participatory. "This is the demand of democracy, and the demand of the people of this country."

The people could not vote in three consecutive polls, and a situation was created where a single party conducted the elections and won all. The people still has doubt whether the polls will be fair, he said.

Advertisement for the Election Commission (দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন) regarding recruitment for various positions. It includes details about the exam, application process, and contact information.

Advertisement for Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড) regarding an e-Tender Notice for the construction of a security post with an attached toilet. It includes details about the tender process and contact information.