



SPORTS

▶ P10
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INTERNATIONAL

▶ P11
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Foreign Ministry website targeted by Indian hackers

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Indian hackers on Saturday were continuously attacking the website of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office spokesman Dr Muhammad Faisal told media. "Half of our website was down in several countries following which we started to take action. We had anticipated this action, we know they [India] were panicking and would do something like this. The website has started being restored and would be completely restored soon," he said, adding that India's policy had no clarity. Dr Faisal further said a hacking attempt was also made on his phone through his Twitter account two weeks back which was repelled. The Foreign Office spokesman says the attacks by Indian hackers were an attempt to stop the right to information. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website is a major source of official information including authentic news on Mohammad bin Salman's visit and news on Kashmir. Journalists and analysts anywhere in the world can access this news from the MoFA website and the attempt is to stop this access."

Pakistan submits reply before ICJ in Jadhav case

The Business Report

LAHORE: Pakistan on Saturday submitted its written reply in the ongoing Kulbhushan Jadhav case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The confession of Jadhav has also been made part of the reply. The Indian spy had admitted that he was sent to Pakistan to destroy and spy over CPEC. Jadhav revealed that he was tasked with spreading terrorism in Balochistan and Karachi. "He also confessed to be involved in SSP Chaudhry Aslam's murder," added the reply. It also maintained that Indian government issued passport to Jadhav in the name of Hussain Mubarak Patel. "Kulbhushan is a spy and cannot be given consular access as per Vienna convention," clarifies Pakistan. The reply went on to question that how Jadhav was able to travel to Mumbai and Delhi 17 times if the passport was fake. The ICJ will formally commence public hearing on the conviction of Indian spy commander Kulbhushan Jadhav from February 18 for which a Pakistani delegation reached The Hague on Friday for oral arguments.

Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam inquire after Nawaz

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz on Saturday met former premier Nawaz Sharif at the Jinnah hospital in Lahore after his health rehabilitated and his backache healed. Shehbaz Sharif prayed for healing of his elder brother and said he had already pledged to quit politics if any corruption was proved against him. Maryam Nawaz expressed hope for regaining strength in politics by saying "soon oppression will be allayed by justice and situation will improve." However, a professor is being awaited to conduct his echocardiography and a six-member medical board is expected to prescribe medications for his further treatment after examining his medical reports. AIMC principal Arif Tajamul told the media that the government has issued directives.

Indian blame of Pak role in Pulwama attack rejected

Foreign Secretary meets EU Ambassadors

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua on Saturday met with Ambassadors from the European Union and underscored Pakistan's position on the Pulwama attack in Indian occupied Kashmir. During the meeting, Janjua categorically rejected Indian government remarks of Pakistan's involvement in the attack. The foreign secretary also raised the issue of gross human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir. Earlier, Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua shared Pakistan's perspective with Ambassadors from non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the unfounded

allegations by the Indian government following the Pulwama attack. In her briefing, the foreign secretary pointed towards known tactics of India to divert global attention from gross human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir. She emphasized continued importance of implementing the UNSC resolution on Kashmir. In a tweet, Foreign Office spokesman Dr Muhammad Faisal said Pakistan strongly condemns the continuing attacks on Kashmiris in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack in Indian occupied Kashmir. The spokesman further said India must not use the Pulwama attack as a carte blanche to intensify its atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in Indian occupied Kashmir. At least 44 Indian paramilitary sol-

diers were killed on Thursday in Srinagar-Jammu Highway in Awantipora area of Pulwama district. The soldiers were killed when an IED went off as a convoy of military vehicles drove by, some 20 kilometres from the main city of Srinagar. Following the Pulwama attack, Kashmiris have been targeted in IoK with reports of Indian security forces making several arrests and violent backlash from Hindu extremists. **Indian drama over Pulwama attack exposed** Adil Ahmad Dar, who killed 44 paramilitary personnel in Pulwama district of Indian-occupied Kashmir (IoK), had been under the custody of the Indian Army, sources familiar with the matter revealed on Saturday. Indian Police's deputy inspector general (DIG) had revealed his link with Hizbul Mujahideen. According to details, on September 10, 2017, the Indian

forces had killed two freedom fighters in Shopian district of IoK, and Adil Dar was detained in the same clash. The attack is being called 'gift' by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to the Modi-led government while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had to face defeat in the state elections. In this regard, the attack is being considered vital for the BJP for securing victory in the upcoming general elections in India. On the other hand, thousands of Muslims, particularly Kashmiri people living in India, have been facing backlash. Rioters stormed into several shops owned by Kashmiri people and threatened them to leave India. Yesterday, dozens of vehicles owned by Muslims were set ablaze during Friday prayers. Kashmiris also held a demonstration against the backlash being faced by them. Moreover, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) had claimed re-

sponsibility of the attack whereas Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) has rejected any link with the organization. 20-year-old Adil Ahmad Dar, hailing from the village of Lethipora, rammed a car full of explosives into the convoy. A video released by the militant group after the attack showed his son, dressed in military fatigues and carrying an automatic rifle, detailing his plan to carry out the bombing. His mother, Fahmeeda, corroborated her husband's account. "He was beaten by Indian troops a few years back when he was returning from school," she said. "This led to anger in him against Indian troops." Both parents said they were unaware of their son's plan to attack the convoy. Dar did not return home from his work as a laborer on March 19 last year, Fahmeeda added. "We searched for him for three months," she said.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua meets with the Ambassadors from the European Union.

Pak-Saudi ties to be changed into strategic partnership

People of Pakistan support the vision of Saudi Crown Prince, says Fawad Chaudhry

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Saturday the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government wanted to transform the relations with Saudi Arabia into a strategic partnership. The minister, in an interview with a Saudi TV channel, said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were enjoying historical relations, which were based on the principals of Islamic solidarity and economic coordination. He said the Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, which was constructed by Saudi Arabia, showed the depth of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. He said the people of Pakistan supported the vision of Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. Saudi philosophy based on Islamic principles of brotherhood and social justice was fast emerging as a leading force of the Islamic world, he said. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were joining hands to devise a joint strategy for future, he added. The minister said Prime Minister

Imran Khan had a vision to transform Pakistan on the pattern of State of Madina. The Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had laid the foundation of that society based on tolerance, brotherhood and justice. The Saudi Crown Prince also had the vision based on such values, he added. Fawad said the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Saudi Arabia had helped strengthened the bilateral relations between the two countries further. He said full cooperation was being extended to the Saudi Ministry of Information for promoting Islamic brotherhood. The minister said Pakistan had many picturesque areas and after visiting those many people even forgot the Swiss tourist resorts. The world's highest snow-capped mountain peaks, oceans and places with natural scenic beauty were located in the country. The government wanted the Arab nationals to visit Pakistan's tourist resorts instead of going to Europe, that was why it had eased visa regulations for them. A joint committee had already been constituted for the purpose while a comprehensive memorandum of un-

derstanding would be signed during the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince in that regard, he added. He said the media only reflected the true picture of society. It would portray a positive image if the situation was same. Since relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were positive so the media was also portraying a positive picture, he added. **Warm, historic welcome awaits Crown Prince in Islamabad today** Foreign Office spokesperson Dr Muhammad Faisal on Saturday said a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the establishment of a petrochemical refinery will be signed during Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman's visit to Pakistan. "During the visit of HRH the Saudi crown prince a MoU on establishment of an integrated complex, petrochemical refinery to be signed," the FO spokesperson tweeted. Islamabad is hoping to sign a raft of investment deals and other agreements during Mohammad bin Salman's two-day visit, which begins today (Sunday) and will include talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan and Army chief

General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Saudi Arabia is reportedly preparing to sign a record investment package with Pakistan, including a \$10-billion refinery and oil complex for the strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. Earlier, the Foreign Office spokesperson said Islamabad is seeking to sign a number of other deals, including one "combating organised crime". The crown prince, also referred to as MbS, had originally been due to arrive on Saturday but the Pakistan foreign ministry released a statement late Friday saying the visit had been delayed by one day, with the programme unchanged. **1,000 cops to be deployed on arrival of Saudi Prince** Rawalpindi police have finalised the security plan in connection with the arrival of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud to Pakistan. As many as 1,000 armed policemen would be deployed to provide security on the arrival of Saudi Crown Prince, informed police spokesman here on Saturday. The police personnel, including lady police, personnel of law enforcement would perform.

Public holiday in Islamabad tomorrow

By Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Federal govt on Saturday has announced a public holiday in Islamabad tomorrow (Sunday) due to Saudi Prince Mohammad bin Salman visit. According to details, educational institutions and all federal government offices situated on Constitution Avenue in the capital will remain closed on Monday. The authorities said that the holiday was announced so that the Saudi prince visit will not create problems for the locals. It is to be mentioned here that Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Muhammad bin Salman will visit Pakistan on 17 and 18 February. The Crown will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation including members of the Saudi Royal family, key ministers and leading businessmen. This will be the first state-level visit of the dignitary to Pakistan since his elevation to the position of the Crown Prince in April 2017. During his visit, Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman will call on the President Dr. Arif Alvi. He will also meet PM Imran and the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. A Senate delegation will also call on the Crown Prince to discuss ways to enhance parliamentary cooperation between the two countries. The Saudi Ministers accompanying the Crown Prince will meet their counterparts to discuss bilateral cooperation in their respective fields. During his stay, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will be signing a number of agreements and MoUs in diverse sectors. The two countries will also discuss ways and means to develop a robust follow-up mechanism to ensure effective implementation and quick progress on tangible areas of cooperation.

Civil judge to conduct probe into Sahiwal killings

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Senior Civil Judge Shakeel Goraya will conduct the judicial inquiry into the Sahiwal encounter that had claimed lives of four people, including a three-member family. A two-member bench headed by Lahore High Court Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim directed for a judicial inquiry into the incident after the victim families approached the court with a request for a judicial probe into the case. The judge has summoned both parties, the victims and the Counter-Terrorism Department, on February 18. Shakeel Goraya will submit the inquiry report to the high court in one month. Four people, including three members of a family, were killed in an alleged encounter in Sahiwal on January 19. The deceased were identified as Zeeshan, Khalil and his wife and their teenage daughter Areeba. CTD personnel had said they had killed a local commander of Islamic State or Daesh and three others in the operation. However, eyewitnesses and three children, whose parents were killed, disputed the claim. The incident sparked a national outcry and prompted the PM to order an investigation into the killings. Soon after the incident, the Punjab Police had formed a joint investigation team (JIT)—led by a senior police officer—to investigate the incident. However, Khalil and Zeeshan's relatives approached the court, seeking a judicial commission to probe the incident, saying they couldn't trust the "people who killed their siblings". "We are not satisfied with the JIT's investigation," the mother of Zeeshan, one of the victims, told Senate committee on Jan 29. "The police that are investigating [the incident] are the ones who committed the killings," she added, while requesting the PM to provide justice. "All we want is justice. They killed my son and then they labelled him as a terrorist," she said while criticising provincial ministers for labelling Zeeshan a terrorist on television.

PSX closes week on bearish note, sheds 400 points

■ Inflows of \$1.6m during the week depicted muted foreign interest while average daily turnover stood at 125m, down 34.7pc WoW
 ■ Investors advised to keep a close eye on the rising geopolitical tensions as any escalation could take a toll on the market

The Business Report

KARACHI: Continuing from the close of last week, the KSE 100

index started the week on a negative note and followed the trajectory right through, ending at 40,487 points, down -one percent. Even the finance minister's hint regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout could not cheer the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) investors as they preferred to book profits after the index posting an increase of 10 percent in Jan. Declining coal prices (down 11 percent since the start of Dec 2018) invigorated euphoria among the cement stocks during the early part of the week, however, some selling was witnessed in the latter half as profit taking took effect. Inflows of \$1.6 million depicted muted foreign interest while the aver-

age daily turnover stood at 125 million, down 34.7 percent WoW. Key developments that impacted the market during the week included the government reportedly deciding to take up to \$6 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia likely to ink three major memorandums of understanding (MoUs) amounting to over \$10 billion during the upcoming visit of Saudi crown prince, exports during the seven months of FY19 witnessing an increase of 2.24pc to \$13.2 billion, Moody's Investors Services changing its outlook for the banking system in Pakistan to

negative (B3 negative) from stable, and Taliban saying that their negotiators would meet US envoys for talks this month in Islamabad, and will also sit down with Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss Afghanistan. Key performers over the week included Cherat Cement Company Ltd (CHCC +5.36pc WoW), DG Khan Cement Company Limited (DGKCC +5.01pc), K-Electric Limited KEL (+2.35pc), KOT Addu Power Company Ltd (KAPCO +2.29pc) and Oil and Gas Development Company OGDC (+1.74pc). On the other hand, laggards included Pak Suzuki Motor Company

Limited (PSMC -7.02pc), Pakistan State Oil (PSO -7.02pc), Habib Bank Limited (HBL -3.29pc), Attock Petroleum Limited (APL -2.95pc) and Engro Foods Ltd (EFOODS -2.91pc). Analysts believe that the upcoming visit of the Saudi crown prince is expected to keep the investors excited for the week as major investment deals are expected to be signed. Moreover, they said the continuation of result season would also keep the activity uplifted in selected stocks, adding that some blue chips like PSO, UBL, MCB and ENRO are expected to announce their results. Nevertheless, the analysts advised the investors to keep a close eye on the rising geopolitical tensions as any escalation can take a toll on the market.

