



**SUPERMODEL IRINA SHAYK SAYS SHE'S NOT IN FAVOUR OF SHARING HER PERSONAL LIFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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ONLY DO WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU — PRINCESS DIANA



**DRAKE BAGS BEST RAP SONG GRAMMY FOR 'GOD'S PLAN', SLAMS MUSIC BODY OVER DIVERSITY BUT SPEECH IS CUT OFF MIDWAY**

## 5 women in the running for Dem top ticket

**They'll Now Have To Duke It Out Among Themselves And More Than Half A Dozen Men In A Long Primary Season**

Chidanand.Rajhatta @timesgroup.com



**FEMME FETTER:** Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Kamala Harris, Tulsi Gabbard and Amy Klobuchar (left to right) are all vying for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination

### I work more hours than any president before me: Trump

Donald Trump pushed back on Sunday at the suggestion he spends much of his work day taking it easy, as the White House kept up the hunt for the person behind an embarrassing leak of the president's schedule. According to details published last week by Axios, 60% of Trump's work life is categorised as "executive time", meaning unstructured time to make phone calls, read newspapers, tweet and watch television. Seeking to set the record straight, Trump said such free time should be viewed as "positive, not negative". "When the term executive time is used, I am generally working, not relaxing. In fact, I probably work more hours than almost any past president. ... I took over as president, our country was a mess. I had no choice but to work very long hours!" he tweeted. Acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney too pushed back, saying: "That executive time is on there to allow the president to prep for the next meeting, to debrief from the previous meeting." AFP

The women will have to duke it out among themselves and more than half dozen men in a long primary season before one of them clinches the party ticket to challenge President Trump, who as of now is a shoo-in for the Republican nomination), although not everyone is writing in him. "By the time we get to 2020, Donald Trump may not even be President," Warren told voters in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Saturday before hinting at jail-time for the maverick occupant of the White House. "In fact, he may not even be a free person." Trump, as is his wont, is utterly dismissive of his challengers, particularly the women. "Today Elizabeth Warren, sometimes referred to by me as Pocahontas, joined the race for President. Will she run as our first Native American presidential candidate, or has she decided that after 32 years, this is not playing so well anymore? See you on the campaign TRAIL, Liz!" he sneered on Twitter, referring to

### President confuses climate change with weather

Donald Trump attacked Senator Amy Klobuchar on Sunday in a tweet that appeared to demonstrate a lack of understanding about climate change. "Amy Klobuchar announced that she is running for President, talking proudly of fighting global warming while standing in a virtual blizzard of snow, ice and freezing temperatures. Bad timing. By the end of her speech she looked like a Snowman (woman)!" the president tweeted. Klobuchar responded by tweeting: "Science is on my side. Looking forward to debating you about climate change (and many other issues). And I wonder how your hair would fare in a blizzard?" THE INDEPENDENT

Warren's misplaced claim of Native American heritage.

Klobuchar also came under fire after she announced her campaign in heavy snowfall that coated her with snow. "Well, it happened again," Amy Klobuchar announced that she is running for president, talking proudly of fighting global warming while

standing in a virtual blizzard of snow, ice and freezing temperatures. Bad timing. By the end of her speech she looked like a Snowman (woman)!" a president who is seen as being clueless about science scoffed on Twitter.

Trump has also derided Gillibrand, calling her a "lightweight" and claiming she came to his office "begging for campaign contributions", while largely ignoring Tulsi Gabbard. Only Kamala Harris has earned grudging acknowledgment. "I would say the best opening so far would be Kamala Harris," Trump said last week when asked who might be his toughest opponent in 2020, mispronouncing her name. "I would say, in terms of the opening act, I would say, would be her."

The US president, who has made gratuitous allusions to women's menstrual cycle, indulged in "locker-room" talk about grabbing female genitalia, and is accused of consorting with porn stars and playboy bunnies, has a long record of lurid sexist remarks that only his hardcore supporters have no problem accepting. But many analysts are warning that he may find his comeuppance with his baiting of

female candidates.

"The president's style, rhetoric and policies have generated a backlash among women that has turned the traditional gender gap between the parties into a chasm, and that dynamic is already beginning to colour every aspect of the upcoming presidential campaign," the journal Politico said in a report, noting that even in the 2016 elections, Trump's deeply personal attacks on Hillary Clinton fueled the largest gender gap in the history of exit polls. Trump lost women by 13 percentage points — 54% to 41%.

But Trump falsely claims that he won more women's vote than Clinton. He did — if one counted only white women's votes: 52% voted for him. Four of the five female Democratic aspirants for the 2020 ticket are white women.

"If he responds in usual Trump fashion, with his no-holds-barred attacks, he could drive away more female voters than he did in the 2018 midterms. That could potentially not only be devastating for Trump, but for many Republicans on the 2020 ballot," noted CNN analyst Dean Obedillah in a comment titled "Strong Democratic women are Trump's kryptonite."

## '90 poll rigging: Pak SC orders action against army officers

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: The Supreme Court of Pakistan directed the ministry of defence on Monday to complete an inquiry in a case about the involvement of army officers, including former army and ISI chiefs, in financial scams aimed at keeping slain Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto out of power.

In 1996, a petition was filed by late air chief marshal Asghar Khan that former army chief General Aslam Beg, ex-ISI chief Lt Gen (retired) Asad Durrani and former president Ghulam Ishaq Khan had hatched a conspiracy to ensure Bhutto's defeat in the 1990 polls.

According to the petition, the two senior army officers and then-president had doled out Rs140 million among several politicians, including former PM Nawaz Sharif, to rig the 1990 polls against Bhutto. A political alliance consisting of nine parties, including the Pakistan Muslim League and Jamaat-e-Islami, had won the 1990 polls, with Nawaz Sharif elected as prime minister. The alliance, known as the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad (JI), was allegedly formed and funded by the accused in the case.

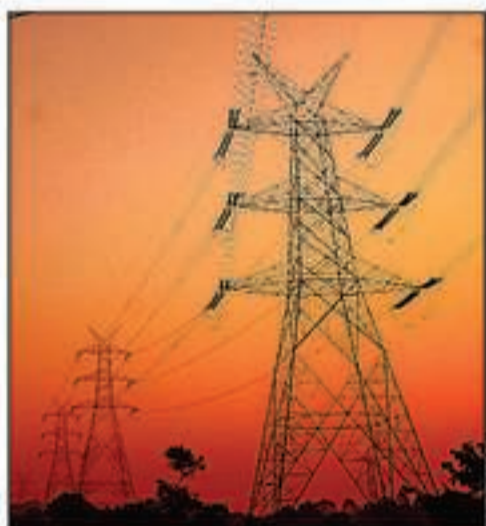
In October 2012, the Supreme Court had issued a 141-page verdict, ordering legal proceedings against Beg and Asad Durrani, directing the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to initiate a transparent investigation and subsequent trial if sufficient evidence was found against the former army officers. In December 2018, the FIA had recommended to the apex court to close the files, citing lack of evidence. Following FIA's suggestion, the court had notified Asghar Khan's heirs about their reaction but the family opposed the closure of the case. On January 11, ex-chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar, after accepting the plea of the family of the late Khan, resumed hearing of the case.

During Monday's hearing, a reconstituted three-member SC bench headed by Justice Gulzar Ahmed, issued directives to the ministry of defence to submit a reply regarding implementation of its 2012 verdict in the case within four weeks. "Why did the ministry of defence not initiate action for the court martial of the Pakistan army officers involved?" Justice Gulzar asked. In response, the attorney general said the matter will move forward after the completion of inquiry. The court declared that the FIA report will be reviewed along with the reply of defence ministry and adjourned the hearing for four weeks.

## Iraq rebuffs US demands to stop buying energy from Iran

Edward Wong

Washington: The Trump administration is pressuring Iraq to stop buying energy from its neighbour and sole foreign supplier, Iran, in what has become a major point of conflict between Washington and Baghdad. Iraqi leaders, fearing that a further shortfall in power would lead to mass protests and political instability in their electricity-starved country, are pushing back on the demand, which is rooted in President Trump's sanctions against Iran.



Iraq's energy production and grid capabilities have lagged since the American-led invasion of 2003, and blackouts in cities are common

The dispute has frayed US diplomacy with Baghdad as Iraq tries to steady itself after the US military withdrawal in 2011 and the campaign against the Islamic State. Iraq's defiance further jeopardises Trump's goal of getting all nations to comply with sanctions after withdrawing from the deal to limit Tehran's nuclear program last year. Already, European nations have set up a legal financial mechanism to do business with Iran, and China

and India are resisting American efforts at prodding them to cut off oil purchases.

Tensions rose after Trump said on February 3 that he planned to have American troops who have returned to Iraq "watch Iran", despite Baghdad's need to maintain cordial ties with its fellow Shia neighbour. "The people of Iraq have suffered from the blockade and are aware of the harm done to the people by their actions," PM Adel Abdul Mahdi

of Iraq said last week. He was referring to 13 years of crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq by the US when Saddam Hussein was in power. "Iraq will not be part of the sanctions regime against Iran and any other people," he said.

American officials are seeking to cut off Iraqi purchases of natural gas and electricity, even though the country relies on those for a good portion of its energy needs. Iraq's energy production and grid capabilities have lagged since the American-led invasion of 2003, and blackouts in cities are common. Iranian natural gas is the single most critical energy import in Iraq, but American officials say purchases must end now because gas falls under the American sanctions. Under the Trump administration has told Iraq's leaders that they have until late March to end electricity purchases. Officials in Baghdad say there is no easy substitute for either one because it would take three years or more to adequately build up Iraq's energy infrastructure. NYT

## Poll: Climate change top global threat

Berlin: Climate change is the top security concern in a poll conducted by the Washington-based Pew Research Center, followed by Islamist terrorism and cyber attacks while respondents in a growing number of countries worried about the power and influence of the US. In 13 of 26 countries, people listed climate change as the top global threat, with the Islamic State militant group topping the list in eight and cyber attacks in four; the non-profit, non-partisan research centre said in its report.

Worries about climate change have increased sharply since 2013, with double-digit percentage point increases seen in countries like US, Mexico, France, Britain, South Africa and Kenya, according to the poll of 27,612 people conducted between May and August, 2018. North Korea's nuclear programme and the global economy were also significant concerns, while respondents in Poland named Russian power and influence as the top threat. REUTERS

## IMF to Pak: Adopt 'decisive policies' for bailout package

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: As a prerequisite for the bailout package, the International Monetary Fund has asked Pakistan to take "decisive actions", signifying that the international lender body remains inflexible in its demands. The demand for implementation of drastic measures was made during a meeting between IMF managing director Christine Lagarde and PM Imran Khan on Sunday in Dubai on the sidelines of the World Government Summit, hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

"I also highlighted that decisive policies and a strong package of economic reforms would enable Pakistan to restore the resilience of its economy and lay the foundations for stronger and more inclusive growth," a brief IMF handout quoted Lagarde as saying. The IMF described meeting with the PM as "constructive" but the tone of its handout suggested that the IMF top management en-

dorsed the stance of its staff negotiating with Pakistan.

In September, Pakistan had decided to seek a bailout package to avoid default on its international debt obligations. But things could not move in the desired direction as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government was unwilling to



PM Imran Khan

take politically unpopular decisions demanded by IMF. The IMF, according to sources, was asking Pakistan for further increase in electricity and gas prices, upward adjustments in tariff besides demanding a complete and meaningful free float exchange rate regime. Due to fear of political backlash, the government at that time was not ready to concede. It, however, has agreed to implement most of these measures now but only differs with the timing and pace suggested by the IMF.

Following the Lagarde-Khan meeting, Pakistan's fi-

nance ministry issued a handout but it did not shed much light on the discussions. "PM Imran Khan reiterated the government's commitment for undertaking structural and governance reforms and strengthening social protection in the country," it said.

On Monday finance minister Asad Umar said Islamabad was close to striking a deal to secure financial support from the IMF. "There has been a decrease in the difference we had with the IMF. The IMF has changed its position...

... It seems we have come closer to an agreement with the IMF. God willing this will be the last agreement." He, however, stressed that Pakistan's economy would be lifted by its people, not by anyone from the outside. "If we take the right decisions, the economy would rise. It is the responsibility of the trading community to put Pakistan on the path towards progress."

## MJ statue removed from Danish mall

Copenhagen: Denmark's oldest shopping mall has removed a wax statue of Michael Jackson out of fears it could offend customers and may be vandalised because of accusations that the late pop star molested boys.



Denmark's oldest mall feared MJ's wax statue could offend customers and may be vandalised because of accusations that the late pop star molested boys

Charlotte Andersen, marketing manager for the Roedovre Centrum mall in suburban Copenhagen, told Denmark's TV2 broadcaster that they had received about 15 complaints about the Jackson statue, mostly from families with children.

The mall had announced an exhibition with wax statues of major stars, including Marilyn Monroe and Julia Roberts, to coincide with Danish schools' week-long winter holiday that started on Monday. Jackson's statue was replaced

with one of Brad Pitt. Jackson, who died in 2009, was acquitted at a 2005 criminal trial in California on charges of molesting a 13-year-old boy at his Neverland ranch. AP

## Thai princess disqualified as PM candidate

Bangkok: Thailand's election panel on Monday disqualified the sister of the king from running for PM, putting an end to a stunning, short-lived candidacy by echoing King Maha Vajiralongkorn's words that royalty should be "above politics".

The Election Commission released the official list of parties' candidates for PM without the name of Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Barnavadi, 67, the king's elder sister. The list excluded Ubolratana "because every member of the royal family comes within the application of the same rule requiring the monarch to be above politics and to be politically neutral", the panel said. The princess had accepted the nomination of the Thai Raksa Chart party. REUTERS

## I don't want to live hidden away: Rushdie

Paris: After decades spent in the shadow of a death sentence pronounced by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Salman Rushdie is quietly defiant. "I don't want to live hidden away," he said.



The novelist's life changed forever on February 14, 1989, when Iran's spiritual leader ordered Rushdie's execution after branding his novel "The Satanic Verses" blasphemous. Tehran renewed the fatwa year after year.

Rushdie, who some say is the greatest writer India has produced since Tagore, spent 13 years living under a false name and constant police protection.

"I was 41 back then, now I am 71. Things are fine now," he said in September.

"We live in a world where the subject changes... fast. And this is a very old subject. There are now many other things to be frightened about — and other people to kill," he added. He stopped using an assumed name after September 11, 2001, three years after Tehran said the threat against him was "over".

The years of riots, bomb plots and the murder of one of the book's translators now "feels like a very long time ago", he said. "One of the things that has happened is that people in the West are more informed than they used to be," he said. Even so, the book was misunderstood, he insisted. "Really it's a novel about South Asian immigrants in London." AFP

## Brother of Bezos's GF may've leaked racy texts to tabloid

Washington: The National Enquirer committed neither extortion nor blackmail by threatening to publish intimate photos of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, an attorney for the head of the tabloid's parent company has said.

Elkan Abramowitz, an attorney for American Media Inc (AMI) chief executive David Pecker, said on Sunday that a "reliable source" well-known to Bezos and his "mistress" provided the story about the billionaire's extramarital

affair. Bezos has said AMI threatened to publish the explicit photos of him unless he stopped investigating how the Enquirer obtained his private exchanges with former TV anchor Lauren Sanchez.

Bezos' personal investigators, led by his security consultant Gavin de Becker, have focused on Sanchez's brother, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Michael Sanchez is his sister's mana-



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' personal investigators suspect Lauren Sanchez's Trump-supporting brother, Michael, was behind the leak, a source said



ger, a Trump supporter and an acquaintance of Trump allies Roger Stone and Carter Page. Abramowitz would not comment when asked whether Michael Sanchez was the Enquirer's source but said that "Bezos and Ms. Sanchez knew who the source was". Michael Sanchez has declined to speak on the record. But in a January 31 tweet, he said without evidence that de Becker "spreads fake, unhinged conservative conspiracy theories". AP

## AROUND THE WORLD



**STRIKING THE PERFECT CHORD:** Flanked by two pianos, singer-songwriter Alicia Keys performs during the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday. She was the first female host of the show in 14 years

### Japanese women say won't be forced to give chocs to males

Japanese women have ditched a workplace tradition that dictates they must give chocolates to male colleagues on Valentine's Day, with growing anger at the practice of "forced giving", the media reported on Monday. The tradition is called "giri choco" which literally means "obligation chocolates", the Guardian reported. Some companies were now banning the practice, which is seen by many workers as a form of abuse of power and harassment. A survey found that more than 60% of women will instead buy chocolates as a personal treat on February 14. More than 56% said they would give chocolates to family members, while 36% would make the same

gesture towards their partners. Only 35% said they planned to hand out chocolates to men at their workplace, according to the survey conducted by a Tokyo-based department store. Giving chocolate as Valentine's Day gifts took off commercially in Japan in the mid-1950s, growing into a multimillion-dollar market.

**Teen arrested for taking control of Alaska flight**  
Authorities say a 16-year-old boy was arrested after he briefly gained control of a small aircraft during a short commercial flight over western Alaska. KYUK-AM reports the teen was seated in the front passenger seat of the Piper Cherokee Six on a recent Yute Commuter Service flight from Napakiak to Bethel, Alaska State Troopers say the teen grabbed the aircraft controls shortly after takeoff, causing the "plane to

enter a steep climb and then a dive toward the ground."

**Cop wraps snake around suspect to force confession**  
Indonesian authorities on Monday launched an investigation after a police force chief admitted an officer wrapped a live snake around a terrified suspect in a bid to force a confession. The footage of the incident emerged online showing an alleged pickpocket — handcuffed and sitting on the floor barefoot — screaming as another officer shouts abuse at a police station in Papua province. "How many times have you stolen a mobile phone?" he yells at the suspect. "Only two times," the suspect replies. At one stage, the officer appears to try to shove the snake into the man's mouth. "An officer is now being questioned by Papua police internal affairs division," a Papua police spokesman said on Monday.