

TOP OF THE WORLD



Ivanka Trump

MOROCCO

Whistleblower identity not relevant: Ivanka

Rabat: Ivanka Trump on Friday echoed her father's view that the House impeachment investigation is an attempt to overturn the 2016 election. But, in an interview with AP, she parted ways with President Donald Trump by calling the identity of the impeachment whistleblower "not particularly relevant." The Republican president and some allies lately have been pressing the media to publicise the whistleblower's name. "The whistleblower shouldn't be a substantive part of the conversation," she said.

US

Govt increases H1B application fee by \$10

Washington: As part of its revised selection process, the US has hiked by \$10 the application fee of the H-1B visa, the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals. The programme allows companies in the US to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require application of a body of highly specialised knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent. This non-refundable fee will support the new electronic registration system, said the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Thursday.

PAKISTAN

Ailing Sharif to fly to UK for treatment

Lahore: Pakistan's ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has heeded doctors' advice and given in to his family's request to fly to London for the treatment of his diseases, a report said Friday. The development comes a day after it was reported that the PML(N)supremo may travel to London for further treatment along with his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif. "Nawaz Sharif has finally agreed to go to London after the doctors told him categorically that they had already exhausted all medical treatment [options] available in Pakistan..." a family member told Dawn newspaper.

AZADI MARCH: DAY 8 OF SIT-IN

Come to negotiating table, resolve differences: Pak govt to protesters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 8

THE PAKISTAN government on Friday told the opposition leaders, led by firebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman, to end their agitation, even as the protesters demanding resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan refused to call off their massive sit-in that has entered the eighth day.

Dubbed as 'Azadi March', the massive protest led by right-wing Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader is held to topple the Khan-led government. The opposition leaders accuse Khan of "rigging" the 2018 general elections.

Addressing thousands of protesters on Thursday night, Rehman said the government negotiators should not come for talks if the prime minister's resignation was off the table.

Defence Minister Pervez Khattak, during a National Assembly session Friday, told opposition parties to "come to the table" to resolve all differences.

"Keep sitting [on protest], but do not harm the country," Khattak, who is leading the government's negotiation committee, was quoted as saying by the



Azadi March protesters in Islamabad. File

Dawn newspaper.

Khattak has alleged that Rehman considered negotiations with the government committee as "time pass".

"They [opposition] are not even ready to listen. Maulana sahib says that this jirga is a time pass. Fine, then we are also passing time with you," Khattak said.

Members of the Opposition, however, threatened that the JUI-F sit-in will continue. The opposition parties are protesting in the assembly against government's move of passing 11 ordinances on Thursday without holding a debate.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif said passing of laws through

ordinances was not a "good omen" and warned if the government continued with the practice, it would "ruin democracy".

Addressing Khattak's remarks during the session, he said: "[Your party] sowed these seeds. You were the one who danced on top of a container."

The opposition leaders on Thursday gave Prime Minister Khan a 48-hour ultimatum to resign, saying the anti-government protest will take a new direction after two days.

"The Azadi March will take a new direction after two days," said senior JUI-F leader Akram Khan Durani. Rehman on Wednesday warned chaos will ensue if their demands were not met.

Pakistan may stay on FATF Grey List beyond Feb 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, NOVEMBER 8

PAKISTAN MAY remain on the Financial Action Task Force's Grey List beyond February 2020 for money laundering and terror financing due to its "risk profile", according to media reports.

Pakistan was placed on the Grey List by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June last year and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019, or face the risk of being placed on the Black List with Iran and North Korea.

The FATF retained Pakistan on the Grey List and warned the country of action for its failure in combating money laundering and terror financing.

Hammad Azhar, the minister responsible for economic affairs division, said some countries had been removed from the Grey List

Pakistan faces greater challenges than many other countries because of its risk profile

— HAMMAD AZHAR FEDERAL MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, PAKISTAN

after just 80 per cent compliance while Pakistan was being pressured to ensure 100 per cent compliance with the action plan. "Pakistan is being viewed from a very high threshold; there is a political element to this," he said.

The Asia Pacific Group of the FATF had found serious deficiencies in Pakistan's anti-money laundering measures and combating terror financing frameworks in its mutual evaluation report released a few weeks ago.

New Zealand passes 'zero carbon' law, PM hails move

REUTERS WELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 8

NEW ZEALAND has placed itself on the right side of history in the battle against climate change, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Thursday, after lawmakers adopted a measure to cut carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. Thursday's framework enshrines in law the new 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target and makes it a legally binding objective to keep global warming below a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius forecast by the United Nations.

"Today, we have made a choice that I am proud of," Ardern told parliament. "I hope it means the next generation will see that we...were on the right side of history."

The bill accords different treatment to methane emissions from animals versus other greenhouse gases, but still targets a cut of 10% in biological methane by 2030, and up to 47% by 2050. "This...is the centerpiece for meaningful climate change action in New Zealand," said Minister for Climate Change James Shaw, the leader of the Green party, which is in coalition with Ardern's Labour.



Jacinda Ardern

NATO is currently experiencing brain death because of Trump: Macron

STEVEN ERLANGER BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 8

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron shocked allies in an interview published on Thursday, saying that he did not know whether NATO's commitment to collective defense was still valid and that the alliance was experiencing "brain death" because of a lack of strategic coordination and leadership from the United States.

"What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO," Macron told *The Economist*. He said the US President Trump appeared to be "turning its back on us," notably by pulling troops out of north-eastern Syria without notice, and he called on Europeans, as he has often done, to do more in their own defense with the aim of "strategic autonomy."

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany responded unusually sharply to what she called Macron's "drastic words," which she does not share. "That is not my point of view," Merkel said in Berlin. "I don't think that such sweeping judgments are necessary, even if we have problems and need to pull together," Merkel said. "NATO remains vital to our security."

Asked for his own response, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised NATO in the eastern German city of Leipzig, after spending the morning touring the former border that divided East Germany from the West, where he was an officer in the United States Army.

"I think NATO remains an important, critical, perhaps historically one of the most critical strategic partnerships in all of recorded history," he said. **NYT**



Emmanuel Macron

EXPLAINED E. Cloud over NATO meet

Cloud over NATO meet

MACRON'S REMARKS come ahead of a NATO summit on December 3 and 4 to mark its 70th anniversary. They raise questions about the outcome of a meet already overshadowed by Trump's criticism of NATO allies.

The French president's remarks are seen as an attempt to assert his leadership in Europe, which, in his words, is facing "exceptional fragility" amid the US' unilateralist approach and changing equations with Russia and China.

Experts have criticised Macron's "provocative" and "deliberate" remarks, and accused him of taking a unilateral approach in Europe while criticising the US for the same.



5 DEAD, OVER 300 INJURED IN IRAN EARTHQUAKE

A damaged car under a building's ruins, after the earthquake, in Eastern Azerbaijan province on Friday. The 5.9 magnitude earthquake killed at least five people and injured more than 300 in crumbling and collapsed buildings. **Reuters**

HONG KONG

Student's death triggers fresh violence

CLARE JIM & JESSIE PANG HONG KONG, NOVEMBER 8

Candlelight Hong Kong vigils mourning a student who died on Friday after a high fall during a pro-democracy rally quickly spiralled into street fires, bursts of tear gas and cat-and-mouse clashes between pro-democracy protesters and police.

The centre of violence was on Nathan Road, in Kowloon district of Mong Kok, one of the most densely populated locations in the world, where activists built barricades and trashed an entrance to the metro station.

People attend a rally in Hong Kong on Friday. **Reuters**

Police used a robot to detonate a

suspected explosive device on a side street after at least three

blasts in the area amid a stand-off with petrol-bomb throwing protesters lasting hours.

Police fired tear gas there and in Tseung Kwan O, where the student, Chow Tsz-lok, fell from the third to the second floor of a parking lot in the early hours of Monday.

Chow, 22, who studied at the University of Science and Technology (UST), fell as protesters were dispersed by police. He died Friday — graduation day for many UST students. His death is likely to fuel anger at police, who are under pressure over accusations of excessive force. **REUTERS**

'IT'S AN EXISTENTIAL MOMENT FOR THE COUNTRY... EVERYONE IS SEARCHING FOR THEIR IDENTITY'

Germany, now unified for 30 years, continues to grapple with identity

KATRIN BENNHOLD BERLIN, NOVEMBER 8

ABENAA ADOMAKO remembers the night the Berlin Wall fell. Joyous and curious like so many of her fellow West Germans, she had gone to the city center to greet East Germans who were pouring across the border for a first taste of freedom.

"Welcome," she beamed at a disoriented-looking couple in the crowd, offering them sparkling wine.

But they would not take it. "They spat at me and called me names," recalled Adomako,

whose family has been in Germany since the 1890s. "They were the foreigners in my country. But to them, as a black woman, I was the foreigner."

Three decades later, as Germans mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on Saturday, the question of what makes a German — who belongs and who does not — is as unsettled as ever.

The integration of East and West has in many ways been an unabashed success. Germany is an economic and political powerhouse, its reunification central to its dominant place in Europe. But while unification fixed

German borders for the first time in the country's history, it did little to settle the issue of German identity. Thirty years later, it seems, it has even exacerbated it.

Ethnic hatred and violence are on the rise. A far-right party thrives in the former East. Adomako says she is still afraid to go there. But she is not the only one who feels like a stranger in her own land. In the decades since the wall fell, Germany's immigrant population has become the second largest in the world, behind the United States. But that is not the story Germans have been telling themselves.

Two decades after the coun-

Abenaa Adomako (left) whose family has been in Germany since the 1890s. **NYT**

try stopped defining citizenship exclusively by ancestral blood-

line, the far right and others have started distinguishing between

"passport Germans" and "bio-Germans." Across the former Iron Curtain, a new Eastern identity is taking root, undermining the joyful narrative that dominated the reunification story on past anniversaries.

"It's an existential moment for the country," said Yuri Kharchenko, a Berlin-based artist who defiantly identifies as a German Jew despite — and because of — the armed guards outside his son's nursery in Berlin.

Even as Germany became a major immigration country, no real path to citizenship was extended even to the children of immigrants born in the country.

As a child, Idil Baydar says she felt German. But that has changed. Baydar, the 44-year-old daughter of a Turkish guest worker who arrived in the 1970s, now describes herself as a "passport German foreigner."

"The Germans have turned me into a migrant," said Baydar, a comedian who has grown popular on YouTube by mocking Germany's uneasy relationship with its largest immigrant group.

The final straw came last year when a verdict was reached in a series of 10 murders of mostly Turkish immigrants. Other immigrants had been blamed for those crimes. In reality, they had

been carried out over seven years by an underground neo-Nazi group shielded by Germany's own intelligence service.

For many in Germany, the case became a byword for the failure of the postwar security apparatus to control far-right extremism. For Baydar, it took away the last shred of confidence that the country of her birth had her back.

Recently, she has been planning an "escape route," possibly to Canada. "My German friends tell me: 'You're overreacting,'" she said. "I tell them: 'If I had blue eyes and blond hair, I'd say the same.'" **NYT**