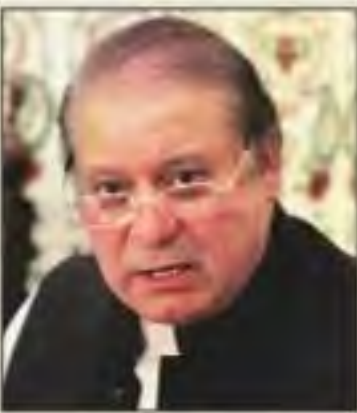


# 14 The World

## TOP OF THE WORLD



### BRITAIN

#### Pakistan govt writes to UK, seeks to ensure Sharif's return

**Islamabad:** Pakistan government has written to the British authorities, seeking the return of ailing former prime minister Nawaz Sharif after his medical treatment in the UK, according to a media report. Sharif, 69, left for London on November 19 in an air ambulance for medical treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks. The ARY News on Tuesday reported that Islamabad has written a letter to the British government seeking handing over of Sharif to Pakistan after his medical treatment is completed in Britain.

## HOUSE JUDICIARY PANEL BEGINS IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

# Trump's actions are impeachable, constitutional scholars testify

House Intelligence Committee releases report saying President abused his power for political gain

DAVID MORGAN & PATRICIA ZENGERLE  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

THREE CONSTITUTIONAL law experts called by Democrats testified on Wednesday that President Donald Trump's actions concerning Ukraine represented impeachable offences as the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee began proceedings expected to end in charges against Trump.

A fourth law professor, chosen by Republican lawmakers, said in prepared testimony that the impeachment inquiry lacked testimony from people with direct knowledge of the events and that current evidence did not show that Trump had committed "a clear criminal act," according to written opening remarks prepared for the committee.

An impeachment inquiry launched by the Democratic-led House in September focuses on the Republican President's request



(From left) Witnesses Noah Feldman, Pamela Karlan, Michael Gerhardt, and Jonathan Turley at the impeachment inquiry hearing at Capitol Hill on Wednesday. *NYT*

that Ukraine announce investigations that could harm Democratic political rival Joe Biden.

"The President's conduct described by the testimony embodies the (Constitution's) framers' concern that a sitting president would corruptly abuse the powers of office to distort the outcome

of a presidential election in his favor," Harvard University law professor Noah Feldman said in his prepared testimony.

The committee held its first hearing a day after the three Democratic-led committees leading the inquiry issued a report accusing Trump of abusing

his office in a bid to help secure his re-election in 2020.

Democrats concluded in a 300-page report by the House Intelligence Committee on Tuesday that Trump solicited Ukraine to undertake investigations that would benefit him politically. **REUTERS**

### CASE FOR IMPEACHMENT

**President Trump has committed impeachable high crimes and misdemeanors by corruptly abusing the office of the presidency.**

— NOAH FELDMAN  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

**If left unchecked, the President will likely continue his pattern of soliciting foreign interference..**

— MICHAEL GERHARDT, PROF  
AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**Put simply, a candidate for president should resist foreign interference in our elections, not demand it.**

— PAMELA KARLAN, PROF  
AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

## US Congress passes Uyghur Bill, China issues warning

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 4

THE US Congress overwhelmingly passed a Bill seeking a tough response from the Trump Administration over reports of mass detention centres in China's Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, prompting Beijing to threaten possible retaliation.

The US House of Representatives on Tuesday passed the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act, which among other things, proposes that America redirects resources to address the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities in China.

The Act, which calls for an end to the detaining, torture and harassment of the Uyghur communities in China, was passed by the Senate earlier. By passing this Bill, Congress is showing that the US would not turn a blind eye to the suffering of the oppressed, House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy said. **PTI**

### NATO SUMMIT

## Trump calls Trudeau two-faced, leaves early after video shows leaders 'venting' about him

ANNIE KARNI & KATIE ROGERS  
LONDON, DECEMBER 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday called Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada "two-faced", after a video surfaced that showed him venting to other world leaders about Trump's behaviour at a NATO anniversary celebration designed specifically to avoid unwanted disruptions.

"Well, he's two-faced," the President said when asked about the video. After a long pause, he added, "He's a nice guy. I find him to be a very nice guy."

Trump attributed Trudeau's frustration to the US leader's pressure campaign to increase Canada's military spending to 2% of its economic output.

"I called him out on that, and I'm sure he wasn't happy about it, but that's the way it is," Trump said.

The brief video showed grinning world leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception Tuesday night, apparently com-



A brief video showed world leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception apparently talking about Trump. *Reuters*

miserating about the President.

In the video Trudeau seems to be discussing Trump's behaviour during the first day of the two-day NATO meeting. Trump spoke to reporters for more than two hours in total Tuesday, which appeared to astonish Trudeau.

"He was late because he takes a 40-minute press conference at the top," Trudeau says to

President Emmanuel Macron of France, PM Boris Johnson of

Britain, PM Mark Rutte of the Netherlands and Princess Anne.

"You just watch his team's jaws drop to the floor," Trudeau said at another point. Macron is also seen participating animatedly in the conversation, but his comments cannot be heard.

Trump was also expected to hold a news conference before his departure, but on Wednesday he appeared to abruptly cancel those plans. "We'll go directly back," he said. **NYT**

### LIST MADE BY INVESTIGATORS GIVES CONCRETE NUMBER OF THOSE CAUGHT UP IN TRAFFICKING SCHEME

## '629 Pakistani girls sold as brides to Chinese men'

KATHY GANNON  
LAHORE, DECEMBER 4

PAGE AFTER page, the names stack up: 629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China. The list, obtained by *The Associated Press*, was compiled by Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable.

The list gives the most concrete figure yet for the number of women caught up in the trafficking schemes since 2018.



Men arrested in the trafficking scheme being taken to a court in Lahore in May. *AP*

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt.

Officials with knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing.

The biggest case against traffickers has fallen apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking. Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police investigator familiar with the case. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they

feared retribution for speaking out.

At the same time, the government has sought to curtail investigations, putting "immense pressure" on officials from the Federal Investigation Agency pursuing trafficking networks, said Saleem Iqbal, an activist who has helped parents rescue several young girls from China and prevented others from being sent there.

"Some (FIA officials) were even transferred," Iqbal said in an interview. "When we talk to Pakistani rulers, they don't pay any attention." Asked about the complaints, Pakistan's interior and foreign

ministries refused to comment.

Several senior officials familiar with the events said investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals.

"No one is doing anything to help these girls," one of the officials said. "The whole racket is continuing, and it is growing. Why? Because they know they can get away with it. The authorities won't follow through, everyone is being pressured to not investigate." **AP**

## 18 Indians feared dead in blast at factory in Sudan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

AT LEAST 18 Indians were feared to have been among the 23 people killed in an LPG tanker blast at a ceramic factory in Sudan, the Indian mission in Khartoum said on Wednesday. More than 130 people were injured. Sources in Delhi said that there were 68 Indian workers at the factory.

External Affairs minister S Jaishankar said a representative from the Indian embassy in Khartoum had rushed to the spot.

Sixteen Indians were missing after the incident that took place at Seela Ceramic Factory in the Bahri area of Khartoum, Sudan's capital, on Tuesday.

"As per latest reports, but so far not confirmed officially, 18 are dead," the Indian embassy said in a release.

"Some of the missing may be in the list of dead which we are still to receive as identification is not possible because of the bodies being burnt," it added.

The embassy on Wednesday issued a detailed list of Indians who were hospitalised, went missing or survived the tragedy. As per its data, seven people were hospitalised, with four in critical condition.

Thirty four Indians who survived were accommodated at the Saloomi Ceramics Factory residence.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident. "Anguished by the blast in a ceramic factory in Sudan, where some Indian workers have lost their lives and some are injured.



The blast took place at Seela Ceramic Factory in Bahri area of Khartoum. *Reuters*

My thoughts are with the bereaved families and prayers with the injured. Our embassy is providing all possible assistance to those affected," he tweeted.

Jaishankar tweeted, "Have just received the tragic news of a major blast in a ceramic factory... in the Bahri area of the capital Khartoum in Sudan. Deeply grieved to learn that some Indian workers have lost their lives while some others have been seriously injured. The embassy representative has rushed to the site. A 24-hour emergency hotline +249-921917471 has been set up by the Indian embassy in Khartoum. Our prayers are with the workers and their families."

An AFP report quoted the Sudanese government saying that 23 people were killed and more than 130 injured in the incident, which, according to preliminary reports, indicate that necessary safety equipment was missing at the site.

## Gunmen kill head of Japan aid agency, 5 others in Afghanistan

AHMAD SULTAN & ABDUL QADIR SEDIQI  
KABUL, NANGARHAR, DECEMBER 4

GUNMEN KILLED six people, including the head of a Japanese aid agency, on Wednesday in an attack on their vehicle in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, officials said.

The ambush comes a week after a grenade attack on a United Nations vehicle in Kabul heightened fears for those doing humanitarian work amid one of the world's longest-running conflicts.

Tetsu Nakamura, head of Peace Japan Medical Services, had been involved in rebuilding Afghan irrigation and agriculture and had recently been granted honorary Afghan citizenship for decades of humanitarian work in the east of the country.

"I am shocked that he had to die in this way," Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a news conference in Tokyo.

"He risked his life in a dangerous environment to do various work, and the people of Afghanistan were very grateful to him," Abe added.

The gunmen fled the scene and police have launched a search operation to arrest them, Sohrab Qaderi, a mem-

### TRUMP LAWYER IN BID TO BLOCK AFGHAN WAR CRIMES PROBE

*The Hague:* One of US President Donald Trump's personal lawyers will speak to the International Criminal Court to block efforts by the chief prosecutor to open a war crimes investigation that would scrutinise the actions of American forces overseas.

ICC judges in April rejected the request of prosecutor Fatou Bensouda to examine atrocities alleged to have been committed in the conflict between 2003 and 2004, including by US troops, Afghan forces and the Taliban.

Bensouda will reassert her case to open a formal inquiry during three days of hearings before a panel of appeals judges in The Hague.

Trump's personal lawyer Jay Sekulow said he intends to defend the interests of US military members. **REUTERS**

ber of the governing council in the province of Nangarhar told *Reuters*, adding he believed Nakamura had been targeted for his work. **REUTERS**

### NORTH KOREAN LEADER RIDES TO THE SACRED MT PAKTU ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS

## Kim signals confrontational stance with new horse ride, rare party meeting

JOSH SMITH  
SEOUL, DECEMBER 4

KIM JONG Un mounted a white horse again as North Korea announced on Wednesday it would soon convene a rare meeting of the ruling party's leaders, steps analysts say may signal preparations for a more confrontational stance with the international community.

For the second time in two months, Kim visited North Korea's sacred Mt Paektu on horseback, this time accompanied by senior military officers, aimed at instilling a "revolution-

ary spirit" in the people, state news agency KCNA reported.

Kim has warned the United States it has until the end of the year to offer more concessions to restart stalled denuclearisation talks or North Korea will pursue an unspecified "new path". Analysts believe that may include a resumption of intercontinental ballistic missile launches or nuclear tests.

The United States has called for North Korea to give up significant portions of its nuclear arsenal before punishing international sanctions are eased, while Pyongyang has accused the United States of "gangster-like" demands for uni-



Kim Jong Un rides a horse as he visits battle sites in areas of Mt Paektu. *Reuters*

lateral disarmament.

Speaking in Washington on Tuesday, US Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun said the United States would not give up on talks with Pyongyang.

Biegun has previously downplayed the year-end deadline, calling it "artificial" and warning that it would be a "huge mistake and a missed opportunity" for North Korea to take any provocative steps.

But North Korean state media have carried a steady chorus of statements in recent weeks, saying Washington should not ignore the warning and dismissing US

calls for talks as a stalling tactic.

The announcement that a Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea would meet sometime in late December underscores how North Korea is serious about making a major decision, analysts said.

Such meetings have often been when North Korea has announced major policy shifts.

KCNA said the plenum would discuss and decide on "crucial issues" in light of the "changed situation at home and abroad".

The timing of this plenum is unusual because it comes before the year-end deadline, as well as

before Kim's expected New Year's address, said Rachel Minyoung Lee, an analyst with NK News, which monitors North Korea.

"That Pyongyang is opting to hold this meeting before the end of the year indicates its strong resolve," she said. "Taking the party plenum announcement and the Mount Paektu visit together, the 'resolve' seems to be that North Korea will not cave in to the US, and that it will keep charging on despite the difficulties."

KCNA reported Kim was joined by top military aides as he rode a white horse in a tour of historic battlefields near Mount Paektu. **REUTERS**