

The Democratic News

ENGLISH DAILY POWERED BY SADA E HUSSAINI

Pages: 04

Price : Rs 4

Vol: 28

Issue : 36

Saturday 07, Feb 2025

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SUICIDE ATTACK AT SHIA MOSQUE IN PAKISTAN CAPITAL KILLS 31

At least 31 people were killed and 169 others injured after a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a Shia mosque during Friday prayers in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, officials said on Friday. The blast occurred at the Khadijatul Kubra mosque-cum-imambargah in the Tarlai area, triggering panic among worshippers gathered for prayers. According to police and eyewitness accounts, the attacker was intercepted at the entrance gate of the imambargah. Unable to enter the premises, he detonated the explosives at the spot, causing extensive casualties. Confirming the toll, a district administration spokesperson said in a post on X that 31 people lost their lives, while 169 sustained injuries, several of them critically. No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. However, police sources indicated that the attacker was a foreign national with suspected links to Fitna al Khwarij, a term used by Pakistani authorities to refer to the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Earlier, Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon had said that over 80 injured persons and at least 15 bodies were shifted to hospitals soon after the blast. Rescue teams, including police and Rescue 1122 personnel, rushed to the site and launched



emergency evacuation operations. Army troops and Rangers were deployed to cordon off the area as security agencies began search and clearance operations in the surrounding locality. An emergency was declared at major hospitals in the capital, including the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), to accommodate the large number of injured. The attack comes less than three months after a suicide bombing outside a district and sessions court in Islamabad, which had claimed 12 lives. The blast occurred on a day when Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is on a two-day state visit to Pakistan, having arrived on Thursday. President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Senate Opposition Leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas strongly condemned the attack. "Targeting innocent civilians is a crime against humanity," President Zardari said in a statement. Allama Raja Nasir Abbas said attacks on places of worship represent a direct assault on humanity, religion and societal values, and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry visited PIMS hospital and met the injured, while Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry termed the incident a "cowardly act" and called for national unity against terrorism. "Such acts cannot weaken the resolve of the nation. We must stand united for peace, tolerance and stability," he said.

IRAN, US HOLD TALKS ON NUCLEAR PROGRAM, SANCTIONS RELIEF IN MUSCAT

Iranian and US representatives are holding talks in Muscat, Oman on Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the lifting of American sanctions on the Islamic Republic.



The Democratic News
Oman, Feb 06

The first round was held early Friday and the second round was also underway, with the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs saying that the consultations focused on creating suitable

conditions for the resumption of diplomatic and technical negotiations. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is leading the Iranian side. He is aided by Majid Takht-Ravanchi and Hamid Qanbari, as well as Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei. US special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner lead the US delegation for the talks. Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi is shuttling between the sides, with the talks being held indirectly as before. According to an Omani Foreign Ministry statement, Albusaidi held separate consultations Friday morning with the Iranian and American delegations.

'Ready for next round': Million-man rally in Yemen backs Gaza, resistance

Yemenis have staged a million-strong march in the capital Sana'a to reiterate their support for Palestinians and the axis of resistance. On Friday, Yemeni people rallied under the slogan "In response to, and in support of Palestinian people, we are steadfast and ready for the next round". The demonstrators reiterated their solidarity with Palestinians who are subjected to Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip. Amid ongoing crimes perpetrated by Israeli forces in violation of the US-backed ceasefire agreement, protesters chanted, "With Gaza, our initial stance, it will not change or waver;" "O Gaza, we stand by our principles, eager to strike the enemies." They also expressed their solidarity with Iran and Lebanon against the American and Israeli tyranny and arrogance. The demonstrators also voiced their support for any "appropriate" decision made by the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah movement, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, to confront the enemies' aggression on nations that oppose the "Zionist-American" tyranny. They chanted "Yemen of wisdom and faith... with Iran and Lebanon," and "O all Muslim peoples... rise up against the crimes," decrying Arab silence on American arrogance and Israeli crimes. A statement issued by the protest organizers stressed the Yemeni people's "complete readiness for the next round of confrontation with the Israeli enemy and its allies and partners." Similar demonstrations took place in other Yemeni provinces, including Sa'ada, Hudaydah, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahej, Bayda, Dhamar, Dhale, Ma'rib, and Raymah.

Russia, US agree nuclear arms talks need to start soon: Kremlin

Moscow: Russian and United States negotiators discussed the expiration of the last remaining nuclear arms pact between the two countries and agreed on the need to quickly launch new arms-control talks, the Kremlin said on Friday, February 6. The New START treaty terminated on Thursday, February 5, leaving no caps on the two largest atomic arsenals for the first time in more than half a century and fuelling fears of an unconstrained nuclear arms race. Russian and US negotiators discussed the issue in the United Arab Emirates, where Russian, Ukrainian and US delegations held two days of talks on a peace settlement in Ukraine, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Friday. "There is an understanding, and they talked about it in Abu Dhabi, that both parties will take responsible positions and both parties realize the need to start talks on the issue as soon as possible," Peskov said. Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared his readiness to stick to the treaty's limits for another year if Washington follows suit. US President Donald Trump has ignored the offer and argued he wants China to be a part of a new pact, which Beijing has rebuffed. "Rather than extend NEW START (A badly negotiated deal by the United States that, aside from everything else, is being grossly violated), we should have our Nuclear Experts work on a new, improved, and modernized Treaty that can last long into the future," Trump posted Thursday on his Truth Social network.



Opposition protests outside Parliament over US trade deal

The opposition MPs raised slogans such as "Dictatorship will not be tolerated," "Narendra, surrender," and "Stop murdering democracy."

New Delhi: MPs from the Congress and some other opposition parties staged a protest in the Parliament House complex on Friday, February 6, over the trade agreement with the US, the controversy surrounding former Army chief MM Naravane's unpublished memoir, and the suspension of eight MPs. After the Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 11 am on Monday, the opposition MPs gathered

near the Makar Dwar of Parliament and raised slogans such as "Dictatorship will not be tolerated," "Narendra, surrender," and "Stop murdering democracy." Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the MPs suspended for the remainder of the current Budget session of Parliament, and several other MPs participated in the protest. They also held a large banner that read "Trap Deal," refer-

ring to the India-US trade agreement. While leaving the Parliament House complex, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at PM Modi and told reporters, "jo uchit samjho woh karo". Gandhi had on Wednesday cited Naravane's unreleased memoir to claim that Prime Minister Modi shed responsibility during the India-China conflict in 2020 and passed the buck on to the general.



KALESHWARAM SCAM: Telangana CM demands BJP To arrest KCR, Harish Rao

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday, February 5, demanded the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government to arrest ex-CM K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) and ex-BRS minister Harish Rao in the Kaleshwaram irrigation project scam. The Telangana CM dared BJP Nizamabad Member of Parliament D Arvind to "convince" Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and arrest the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders in the Kaleshwaram. Revanth Reddy also warned the people of Telangana not to vote for the BJP and BRS, and added that the ruling Congress will retain power in the 2020 state elections. Addressing a public meeting in Nizamabad today, the Telangana CM demanded the ruling national BJP party leaders to make it clear whether the Union



government is ready to arrest former CM and BRS president KCR and Harish Rao in the Kaleshwaram scam.

