



UN officials raise alarm over intensification in fighting in northwest Syria

INT. DESK

UNITED NATIONS—A sharp escalation in fighting in Syria's Aleppo Governorate has displaced thousands and caused heavy civilian casualties, prompting urgent warnings from senior UN

officials about the growing humanitarian crisis and threat to regional stability.

The alarm comes as the fighting spreads to parts of Idlib and Hama governorates and leaving the situation volatile and unpredictable. Meanwhile, according to

the UK-based monitoring group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR),

claims that 'rebel forces' have taken control of the 'majority' of the war-shattered country's second-largest city, Aleppo.

Russia launched air strikes in response across parts of

Aleppo overnight for the first time since 2016, the observers added.

SOHR said more than 300 people – including more than 20 civilians – have been killed since the offensive started on Wednesday.

In a statement on Sunday,

UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen expressed grave concerns over the dramatic shift in frontlines, including advances by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a UN Security Council-designated terrorist group, and intensified government airstrikes.

DPM/FM Dar expresses sympathies with Malaysian FM on loss of lives

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday held a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of Malaysia Haji Mohamad Bin Haji Hassan to express his deepest sympathies on the tragic loss of lives and properties in the recent floods and torrential rains.

"He conveyed Pakistan's full solidarity with the people of Malaysia and



the readiness to extend immediate humanitarian assistance to Malaysia in this difficult time," Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on Xhandle.

The two ministers also

agreed to encourage the disaster relief authorities of the two countries to continue discussions on humanitarian support from Pakistan, it was further added.

Dynamic lighting brings new life to Burj Khalifa's visual identity

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Dubai's Emaar Properties has announced the completion of a revolutionary facade lighting upgrade for Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

This dynamic Red, Green, Blue, White (RGBW) lighting system, integrating cutting-edge technology with the building's architectural

reinforcing Dubai's status as a global leader in innovation and design excellence.

The process was carefully coordinated, with a six-month mock-up testing to ensure seamless integration.

The upgraded system features dynamic RGBW technology, replacing static lights with colour-changing, addressable fixtures to create complex lighting effects. Without compromising

is a testament to Emaar's continuous pursuit of excellence and a tribute to the UAE's spirit of progress.

"As we unveil this stunning upgrade during Eid Al Etihad celebrations and approach the tower's 15th anniversary, this transformation marks a new chapter in its legacy, reaffirming Dubai as a city of boundless ambition," he added.

The lighting system not only enhances Burj Khalifa's visual presence but also strengthens its position as a global icon of architectural brilliance and a symbol of modern design innovation. By perfectly blending technology with artistry, this project sets a new benchmark for architectural lighting and promises to inspire future projects worldwide.

It is worth mentioning that Emaar Properties PJSC, listed on the Dubai Financial Market, is a global property developer and provider of premium lifestyles, with a significant presence in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. One of the world's largest real estate companies, Emaar has a land bank of over 17 billion sq. ft. in the UAE and key international markets.

With a proven track record in delivery, Emaar has delivered approx. 17,000 residential units in Dubai and other global markets since 2002. Emaar has strong recurring revenue-generating assets with approx. 14 million sq. mtr. of leasing revenue-generating assets and 38 hotels and resorts with around 9,200 keys (includes owned as well as managed hotels).

Burj Khalifa's sleek design, the system can create dynamic lighting scenes, from festive displays to everyday illuminations, complementing the tower's media screen and adapting to various occasions and celebrations.

In his comments, Executive Director, Emaar Properties, Ahmad Al Matrooshi said Burj Khalifa has always stood as a beacon of what is possible when vision meets innovation. He said this lighting overhaul



artistry, will debut during the UAE's Eid Al Etihad celebrations on Sunday (December 1, 2024), and set the stage for the 15th anniversary of the world's tallest building on January 4, 2025, said a press release received here. The upgrade transforms the iconic facade into a stunning visual spectacle, offering a wide spectrum of vibrant colours and effects, enhancing the guest experience while

Nepalese PM KP Sharma Oli to visit China

BT NEWS

BEIJING—Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli will pay an official visit to China from December 2 to 5, Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Friday.

During his upcoming visit, President Xi Jinping will meet with him, and Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji will have talks and meet with him respectively, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Mao Ning said during her regular briefing.

The two countries leaders will have in-depth exchanges of views on deepening our traditional friendship, expanding Belt and Road cooperation and exchanges and cooperation in various fields, as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest, she added.

Mao Ning said that China and Nepal are neighbours with enduring friendship connected by mountains and rivers.

She said that over the past 69 years since China and

Nepal established diplomatic relations, despite the changing international and regional landscape, bilateral ties have maintained sound and steady growth, setting a fine example of equality and win-win cooperation between countries of different sizes.

In 2019, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Nepal and the bilateral relationship has been elevated to the strategic partnership of cooperation featuring ever-lasting friendship for development and prosperity, she added.

In recent years, the two sides have been earnestly delivering on the important common understandings between leaders of the two countries and achieved fruitful outcomes in our bilateral ties.

China stands ready to work with Nepal through Prime Minister Oli visit to enhance strategic mutual trust, expand practical cooperation, deepen high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and strive for new progress in China-Nepal strategic partnership of cooperation, she added.

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A Day of Reflection and Tribute: Bangladesh Celebrates the Legacy of National Poet Allama-Iqbal Birth Anniversary with Pride

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ



On November 9th the day of pride, Bangladesh celebrates the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the esteemed philosopher, poet and great politician who played a role in shaping the ideology of Pakistan.

Bangladesh admired the influence of Iqbal's poetry on Bengali people and culture. Allama Iqbal poetry transcends time and border, reason with people across the subcontinent. Allama Iqbal, a prominent philosopher and poet of the early 20th century, significantly influenced the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His philosophical ideas, rooted in Islamic thought and modernity, resonated deeply with the Bengali intelligentsia. Iqbal's emphasis on self-discovery and empowerment inspired many to seek a renewed sense of identity amidst colonial subjugation.

This serves as a day of reflection and tribute, allowing Bengali citizens to honor and celebrates the legacy the national poet with pride and respect. Allama Iqbal also the poet of East, the vision of Nationalism in his poetry inspired the independence movement in the Indo-Pak subcontinent. His poetry a sense of profound patriotism, advocating for rights and empowerment of the Muslim community. His poetry not only advocated for political but also called for a deeper introspection into spiritual and moral of individual.

In Bangladesh, Allama Iqbal's birth is marked with various events and activities that homage to his rich literary contributions. Mostly in schools, colleges and universities host seminars and events to introduced Iqbal's poetry and the legacy. These events encourage younger generation introduced to the profound wisdom and ideology present Allama Iqbal's poetry fostering a sense of national pride and belonging. Furthermore, Allama Iqbal philosophy creating lasting impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. His concept of Khudi promotes the importance of self-realization with excellence and shaped the struggle of Muslims.

Allama-Iqbal philosophy had a profound impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of Bangladesh. This impact seen in various places and different aspects of Bangladesh's vision, including literature, politics and education. They examining Iqbal's philosophy has permeated Bangladeshi culture, and people of Pakistan also appreciate the lasting legacy he has left on this nation. Allama Iqbal known as the poet of Pakistan but a significant influence on the entire South Asian

region, was a visionary philosopher of all time. His poetry and ideas continue to shape the worldviews. Bangladeshi poets and writers have drawn inspiration from Iqbal's work such as his famous Persian and Urdu poetry collections. The philosophy of self-realization and spiritual awaking the similar themes of self-respect delves into the Bengali culture. His famous Persian and Urdu poetry collection such as 'Asrar-e-Khudi' (Secrets of the Self) and 'Bang-e-Dra' (The call of the Marching Bell) have become iconic works that continue to resonate with readers worldwide.

His poetry articulated themes of nationalism and spiritual awakening, encouraging the Bengali populace to embrace their cultural heritage while also engaging with contemporary global ideas. This duality fostered a unique intellectual environment that blended traditional Islamic values with modernist thought, paving the way for new literary movements in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, Iqbal's vision of a united Muslim identity played a crucial role in shaping political consciousness among Bengalis during the struggle for autonomy. His works continue to be studied not only for their literary merit but also for their profound socio-political implications, solidifying his legacy as an architect of cultural revival in Bangladesh. Iqbal's poetry serves as a profound exploration of nationalism and spiritual awakening, specifically tailored for the Bengali populace. Through his verses, he articulates a compelling call to embrace cultural heritage while simultaneously engaging with contemporary global ideas. This duality is crucial in understanding Iqbal's vision, as it fosters an intellectual environment that harmonizes traditional Islamic values with modernist thought. The interplay between these elements not only revitalizes a sense of identity among Bengalis but also encourages critical engagement with the broader currents of

global discourse. Iqbal's work reflects a nuanced understanding of the complexities inherent in cultural identity, advocating for a synthesis that honors historical roots while embracing progressive ideals. This approach has paved the way for new literary movements in Bangladesh, inspiring writers to explore and articulate their unique experiences through innovative forms.

Ultimately, Iqbal's vision resonates deeply within the context of Bangladesh's evolving literary landscape, marking him as a pivotal figure whose contributions continue to influence contemporary thought and artistic expression. Moreover, Iqbal's influence is evident in the thematic richness and stylistic diversity of current literary works. Writers such as Humayun Ahmed and Taslima Nasrin draw inspiration from Iqbal's exploration of existential questions and his advocacy for intellectual awakening. This intertextuality dialogue illustrates how Iqbal's ideas continue to shape narratives that challenge societal norms while fostering a sense of unity among diverse voices in Bangladesh. Iqbal stands as a pivotal figure whose contributions not only enriched early 20th-century literature but also provide a critical framework for understanding contemporary artistic expression in Bangladesh. His vision serves as both a source of inspiration and a catalyst for ongoing dialogues about identity, culture, and the role of literature in societal transformation. In contemporary discourse, the vision articulated by influential literary figures serves as a profound source of inspiration, catalyzing critical dialogues surrounding identity, culture, and the transformative potential of literature within society. These thinkers challenge conventional narratives, prompting individuals to reflect on their own identities while considering the broader implications of cultural representation. By foregrounding marginalized voices and experiences, they illuminate the complexities inherent in identity formation and cultural exchange.

Uzbek envoy, PCMEA discuss bilateral trade

BT NEWS



LAHORE—Uzbekistan's Ambassador in Pakistan Alisher Tukhtaev discussed with Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) ways to enhance bilateral trade, particularly in the carpet industry, and emphasized increasing mutual trade between the two countries.

During his visit to PCMEA head office here, he also highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships in all fields, including trade, and expressed his

commitment to facilitating visa processes for trade delegations.

He was accompanied by Trade Consul Bakhtrom Yusupov and other officials. The meeting was also attended by PCMEA Patron-in-Chief Abdul Latif Malik, Chairman Mian Atiqur Rehman, Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed and Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairperson Ejazur Rehman.

Tukhtaev's visit underscores Uzbekistan's efforts to bolster economic ties with Pakistan, and the carpet industry is a significant sector with vast potential for

growth and cooperation.

Alisher Tukhtaev hailed the launch of direct flights from Tashkent to Lahore as a "historic development" in Pak-Uzbek relations. This move is expected to significantly boost trade and cultural ties between the two nations.

With Uzbekistan's population of 40 million and a GDP growth rate of 6-7 per cent per annum, the ambassador emphasized the vast potential for cooperation in various sectors, including energy, logistics, agriculture, and culture.