

**Saudi to make huge investment in Pakistan**

NDTV | Islamabad

Pakistan Minister yesterday said that an incoming investment package from Saudi Arabia promises to be "the biggest foreign investment in the country's history".

Asad Umar, while addressing an event in Islamabad, said that the package would be announced soon, reports Dawn news.

"The ball is in our court. It is going to the cabinet for approval next week, after which the announcement will be made," he said.

The Minister said that he keeps getting messages from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman "through other people to hurry up".



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister during a welcome ceremony by Governor of Riyadh, HRH Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Kingdom of Bahrain's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HE Shaikh Humood bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and a number of senior officials. Prince Salman is in Riyadh, on behalf of HM the King, following an official invitation by HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Defense to attend the 2018 Ad Diriyah E-Prix. HRH the Crown Prince is accompanied by HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, and a number of senior officials.

**Lebanon PM confident of new government**

London, United Kingdom

Lebanon's prime minister-designate, Saad Hariri, said yesterday he is "pretty sure" that a six-month-old deadlock on forming a government will be broken by the end of the year.

He was speaking at London's Chatham House think-tank, seven months after parliamentary elections were held in Lebanon.

"I am pretty sure by the end of the year we will have a government," he said.

"We are getting there. It is not a regional issue, it is an internal issue... There is still one obstacle and I am sure we will be able to resolve it," he said.

A deal between Lebanon's political leaders has seemed close on several occasions, but they have repeatedly failed to reach full agreement on a line-up.

**Calm finally returns to Yemen's Hodeida**

Ceasefire agreed, all forces to leave key Yemen port, city: UN chief

● **Withdrawal from Hodeida port 'within days'**

● **Saudi envoy to US said the deal 'will help bring back security'**

● **UAE welcomes Hodeida ceasefire**

Agencies | Sweden

Saudi Arabia and its Arab coalition partners "strongly support" an agreement reached on Yemen yesterday, which includes a ceasefire in the vital port of Hodeida, Riyadh's US ambassador Khalid bin Salman said.

"The agreement announced yesterday will help bring back security to the region including the security of the Red Sea, a vital waterway for international trade," the envoy, who is the brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, said on his Twitter account. "The agreement is a major step towards alleviating the humanitarian crisis and reaching a political solution."

"We hope that the Houthis accept a comprehensive political solution, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, that serves the interests of Yemen and its people rather than working on behalf of the Iranian regime's interests."

The tweets also warned Iran backed Houthis not to repeat their mistake of abandoning the political process, "as they did with the outcomes of Yemeni national dialogue, Geneva, and the Kuwait talks, as the brotherly Yemeni people deserve a real opportunity at peace."

Mohammed bin Salman tweeted that the legitimate government of Yemen supported the former UN envoy's proposal of UN control over the port of



Yemen's foreign minister Khaled al-Yamani (2ndL) and negotiator Mohammed Abdelsalam (R) shake hands under the eyes of Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström (L) and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres (2ndR) watch, during peace consultations taking place at Johannesburg Castle in Rimbo, north of Stockholm, Sweden

Hodiedah. "The Houthis refused, and only consistent military pressure by the Yemeni armed forces and the Arab coalition forced them to agree."

The deal was also welcomed by the United Arab Emirates.

"We welcome the (truce) accord reached in Sweden," UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said on

Twitter.

He attributed the deal to military pressure by the coalition, which intervened in 2015 after Houthis seized the capital Sanaa as well as Hodeida and its vital Red Sea port.

"The diplomatic progress was made possible by sustained military pressure against the Houthis along the Red Sea and around

Hodeida," Gargash said.

He also revealed that there were 5,000 Emirati soldiers engaged in fighting to recapture Hodeida from the rebels.

UN chief Antonio Guterres, announcing the ceasefire, said the United Nations would play a "leading role" at the port.

"In the harbour, the UN will assume a very important monitoring role and in the city, the order will be maintained by the local forces."

A new round of talks is scheduled for the end of January.

UN special envoy Martin Griffiths, who was due to brief the Security Council on Yemen on Friday, said the pullout should take place "within days".

The rivals have also reached a "mutual understanding" on Yemen's third city of Taiz to facilitate the delivery of aid.

But no deal has been reached on the future of the airport in the capital Sanaa.

**Violation of morality**

**Egypt arrests two over nude tourists on pyramid**

Cairo, Egypt

Egyptian authorities yesterday arrested a camel driver and a woman accused of having helped two Danes scale the Great Pyramid of Giza to take a video and naked photograph, sparking outrage in the country.

The interior ministry said the woman had put the pair into contact with the camel driver who took them to the site illegally

at night on November 29 for 4,000 Egyptian pounds (\$225, 200 euros).

The two had acknowledged their role in the incident and would be put on trial.

In a video called "Climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza", Danish photographer Andreas Hvid appears to scale the 4,500-year-old tomb on the outskirts of Cairo with a woman who is later seen removing her top.

Hvid says the video was shot in late November and posted on YouTube on December 8, setting in motion an investigation by Egypt's public prosecutor.

The nearly three-minute video has so far notched up 4.5 million views on YouTube, while stirring a public outcry in Egypt.

"A 7,000-year-old civilisation has turned into a bed sheet," a Twitter user in Egypt lamented.



Horse riders gallop near the Giza pyramids (file)



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