

## Headlines:

- **IMF Visits Pakistan**
- **US Threatened Russia**
- **Handshake Politics**

## Details:

### IMF Visits Pakistan

In the same week as an IMF delegation travelled to Islamabad for a weeklong visit. The government in Islamabad increased the nation's interest rate from 7.5% to 8.5% in anticipation of the visit. The first months of Prime Minister Imran Khan has been a difficult one, after raising the nation's expectations With the mantra of change and a new way of running the country, he has been forced to make numerous U-turns as the reality of ruling the nation begins to bite. With government finances in a precarious situation crowdfunding and taking a begging bowl to the Arab rulers. It seems Imran Khan is really just pursuing the very same policies as his predecessors.

### US Threatened Russia

The US envoy to NATO said Tuesday 2 Oct that it might move to destroy Russian nuclear-capable missiles with military force if they don't stop building the new weapons accused of violating a 1987 treaty. "At that point, we would be looking at the capability to take out a (Russian) missile that could hit any of our countries," Kay Hutchinson the US envoy to NATO told a news conference, according to Reuters. Whilst the US is the only military in the world that has a global presence, Russia has long worked on specific military platforms to leverage its weaker position. In certain areas, Russia has more capabilities than the US and this affects America's global presence. America's aggressive response comes after it placed sanctions on Russia for selling military equipment to China. In the early 2000, US threats would have been enough for nations to change course but today, after nearly two decades of war the US position is not the same and the US is having to issue aggressive statements in order to maintain its global position.

### Handshake Politics

A Swedish Muslim woman has won compensation after her job interview was ended when she refused a handshake. Farah Alhajeh, 24, was applying for a job as an interpreter when she declined to shake the hand of a male interviewer for religious reasons. She placed her hand over her heart in greeting instead. The Swedish labour court ruled the company had discriminated against her and ordered it to pay 40,000 kronor (\$4,350) in compensation. The interpreting company in Ms Alhajeh's home town of Uppsala had argued that its staff were required to treat men and women equally and could not allow a staff member to refuse a handshake based on gender. But the discrimination ombudsman said she had tried to avoid upsetting anyone by placing her hand over her heart when greeting both men and women. Sweden's labour court found the company was justified in demanding equal treatment for both sexes - but not in demanding that it be in the form of a handshake only. After the judgement Ms Alhajeh told the BBC she believed it was important to "never give in" when convinced that one is in the right, even as a member of a minority group.

"I believe in God, which is very rare in Sweden... and I should be able to do that and be accepted as long as I'm not hurting anyone," she said.