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New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets H.H. Prince Rahim Aga Khan-V, on 25 September,

PTI decides to 'postpone' Islamabad long march till Oct 5

■ Formal announcement to be made after taking Achakzai and Allama Nasir Abbas into confidence, say sources

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to postpone its planned Islamabad long march until October 5, the party sources said on Friday.

The decision to put off the march — initially scheduled for September 27 — was taken during a meeting of the PTI political committee in Peshawar, the sources said.

The PTI is preparing for a major protest and march on Islamabad, with the party demanding the release of its incarcerated founder Imran Khan and what it describes as the restoration of constitutional supremacy.

The sources said the decision will be formally announced after Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) chief Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) chief and Senate Opposition Leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas are taken into confidence.

Achakzai, PTI 'at odds' over Sept 27 Islamabad march



Later, KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi held a telephonic conversation with Achakzai, head of the opposition alliance, TTAP, and sought his guidance regarding the long march, the sources said. Afridi told the TTAP chief that PTI leaders were of the view that the long march should be postponed. Achakzai, however, told CM Afridi that the September 27 long march call should remain in place, the sources added. Achakzai said a decision on the September 27 action plan would be made after further consultations. PTI leader dismisses report Reacting to the development, PTI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai denied the reports that the party had called off its long march towards Islamabad.

Kundi says consultations held over possible governor's rule in KP

■ Kundi says there is a possibility of governor's rule in province and Constitution allows for such a measure

Staff Reporter
PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday said consultations had been held on the possibility of imposing governor's rule in the province, while pointing out that the Constitution provides for such a measure.

Speaking to reporters in Peshawar, Kundi said the possibility of governor's rule could not be ruled out. His remarks came as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prepared for a nationwide protest and a planned march towards Islamabad on September 27.



"Consultations have taken place for governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," the governor said, adding that the Constitution allows for its imposition.

Kundi's comments came shortly after Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar had said the federal government had no plans to impose governor's rule in KP. Tarar had said the province needed "people's rule" and good governance instead.

The PTI has announced a protest and long march towards Islamabad for September 27, with the party demanding the release of its founder Imran Khan and the restoration of constitutional supremacy.

In preparation for the planned demonstration, access on several highways and motorways leading to Islamabad has been restricted or closed. The federal government has also authorised the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad and several districts of Punjab to maintain public order during the scheduled political activities.

Commenting on the PTI's preparations, Kundi claimed that some party workers were now seeking ways to avoid confrontation and arrest. He also said the PTI had not made adequate preparations for the planned march.

The governor further accused the KP government of attempting to bring the provincial police under its control, alleging that efforts were being made to turn the force into a "tiger force".



FMs commend Pakistan's constructive role for peace

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday met with the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, including preparations for the forthcoming 3rd Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission, and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

Foreign Minister Al Zayani appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and maintaining close coordination at bilateral and multilateral fora.



Climate commitments must translate into tangible results for communities: Aurangzeb

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has stressed that climate commitments must translate into tangible results for communities.

Addressing a high-level event on the Climate Implementation Bridge (BRIDGE) in New York, the finance minister outlined three key requirements for effective climate implementation: a sound policy framework, access to financing and the capacity to deliver projects at the national level.

Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's progress in developing its climate policy and said the country was working to mobilise financing through domestic resources, international financial institutions, capital markets and climate funds.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that climate-related commitments move beyond policy discussions and result in practical outcomes for communities.



Afghan Taliban's incursion attempt along Chaman border repelled; several killed

■ Pakistani forces respond to firing and targeted Afghan Taliban positions with mortar and drone: India-sponsered militant killed in Kech as security forces foil attempt to flee Iran

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

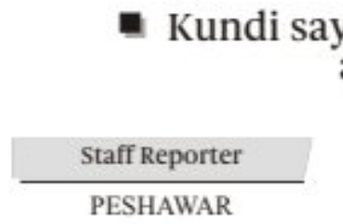
Pakistani security forces have thwarted an attempted incursion by the Afghan Taliban in the Chaman sector along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, with several Afghan Taliban killed in the ensuing response, The security sources said Pakistani troops responded promptly after Afghan Taliban fighters opened fire and attempted to enter Pakistani territory. They said the Pakistani response was effective and prevented the reported incursion from succeeding.

According to the sources, Pakistani forces also targeted posts used by the Afghan Taliban with mortar fire and quadcopter strikes. The sources claimed that several positions involved in the reported attack were destroyed during the response.

The security sources said the Pakistani military's action had prevented the reported infiltration plan from being carried out.

India-sponsered militant killed in Kech In a separate operation, security forces have also killed an Indian-sponsored militant in the Mazaband Range area of Kech district in Balochistan.

Atta Tarar challenges PTI to hold Islamabad sit-in, alleges support for militants



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar has strongly criticised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over its proposed long march and sit-in in Islamabad, challenging the party to proceed with the protest.

Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Tarar said PTI had no preparation for the planned protest and alleged that the party was backing away from both the sit-in and the long march. His remarks come as PTI has maintained that it will proceed with its September 27 march.

Tarar also criticised the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying attacks had targeted political parties in the province and alleging that the provincial government had failed to adequately condemn terrorist incidents.

Targeting KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, the federal minister alleged that the provincial government was facilitating militants. He also accused PTI of having links with militant groups, describing it as the "C-team" of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). These were Tarar's political allegations; PTI has rejected government characterisations of its planned protest as violent and has publicly instructed supporters not to carry weapons.

Pakistani, Saudi Arabian, Turkiye military chiefs to hold urgent talks

■ Makkah defence pact ministers condemn Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkiye will hold an urgent meeting of their chiefs of staff to discuss ways to support Riyadh under a joint defence agreement following attacks by Yemen's Houthis on the kingdom, the Saudi foreign ministry has said.

In New York, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan met with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Thursday as part of consultations under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

The meeting, held at the headquarters of Saudi Arabia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, reviewed progress toward establishing the agreement's general secretariat, committees and working groups, as well as preparations for them to begin their work.

The three foreign ministers strongly condemned the attacks targeting Makkah and civilian and economic facilities in Saudi Arabia. They praised the vigilance of the Saudi Armed Forces and their ability to defend the Kingdom's security, while reaffirming Saudi Arabia's right to take measures it deems appropriate to defend its security in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

The ministers also discussed ongoing arrangements for an urgent meeting of the chiefs of staff of Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Türkiye to examine ways of supporting the Kingdom under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

The agreement stipulates that an attack against any one of the parties constitutes an attack against all parties.



The ministers also discussed the current situation in the region and stressed the importance of upholding the principles of international law, good-neighbourly relations, mutual respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, as well as ensuring the security and freedom of maritime navigation.

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Arrest warrants for CDA chairman, Islamabad commissioner issued In decree case

- Case concerns implementation of decree issued in favour of Muhammad Rashid in 2000: Court orders authorities to ensure implementation of decree

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A civil court in Islamabad has issued bailable arrest warrants for the chairman of the Capital Development Authority and the Islamabad commissioner in a decree case,

Civil Judge Naseeruddin issued the warrants after the court was told that the decree in the case concerning the implementation of a decree in Muhammad Rashid versus the CDA chairman had not been fully implemented.

According to the channel report, the civil court was informed that a decree had been issued in favour of Muhammad Rashid in 2000 and was later upheld by the Supreme Court.

The petitioner maintains that he is among the people affected by the CDA's acquisition of land in Mouza Badiya Qadir Bakhsh. He told the court that although the CDA had acquired the land, he had not yet received the benefits available under the authority's rehabilitation policy.

The petitioner also argued that the decree had not been fully implemented. Barrister Hasnain Haider Thaheem appeared before the court as his lawyer and requested effective and complete implementation of the decree.

After being informed that the decree had still not been implemented, Civil Judge Naseeruddin issued bailable arrest warrants for the CDA chairman and the Islamabad commissioner.



A woman shops for lunchboxes and slippers for her children at Naulakha Bazaar

Pakistan-India Relations: Deterrence, Rivalry and the Contours of Stability

- CASS Lahore Seminar Examines Strategic Rivalry, Nuclear Deterrence, Kashmir and Crisis Management

News Desk
LAHORE



The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Pakistan-India Relations: Deterrence, Rivalry, and the Contours of Stability" on 23 September 2026. Academics, intellectuals, senior officers, and domain experts attended the event. Mr Ameer Abdullah Khan, Senior Research Associate, CASS Lahore, delivered the opening address.Ambassador Abdul Basit (Retd), former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India, traced the relationship's trajectory from the productive 2004-2008 engagement through the ruptures of the Mumbai attacks, the 2016 Uri strikes, the 2019 Pulwama crisis, and the 2025 Pahalgam confrontation. He attributed India's current disengagement to its growing economic confidence and the BJP's domestic political interests, arguing this posture helps consolidate

India's position in Kashmir after the 2019 revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. He maintained that normalisation is impossible while Kashmir stays unresolved. He asserted that only reciprocal diplomacy can help resolve the outstanding conflicts and urged for strategic clarity in dealing with India.Ambassador Zamir Akram (Retd), Advisor SPD, traced the rivalry's deeper roots to India's pursuit of regional hegemony rather than Kashmir alone, explaining New Delhi's reluctance to accept

parity with its neighbours. He traced Indian doctrine's evolution from Cold Start to the newer "dynamic response strategy," an attempt to carve space for limited conventional war beneath the nuclear threshold, paired with sub-conventional tools including proxy support and the abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty. He characterised India's use of dual-capable systems such as BrahMos in 2025 as a further lowering of the nuclear threshold, crediting Pakistan's calibrated response with restoring deterrence without inviting escalation. Dr Salma Malik, Associate Professor, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, opened with the recent collision between Indian and Pakistani naval vessels in the Arabian Sea, as evidence of how easily a routine incident can reopen a crisis under present conditions. Auditing the post-2025 "new normal," she cited India's rejection of the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling on the Indus Waters Treaty, a prospective "Operation Sindoor 2.0," Kashmir's unresolved status alongside the deteriorating treatment of India's Muslim minority, and fraying crisis-management mechanisms as converging sources of instability. She argued that nuclear deterrence can prevent only a planned war, not an accidental one.

Lahore board ends hard-copy result cards for Intermediate students

- The Lahore Board has informed all relevant educational institutions about the new decision, under which students will receive their result cards digitally.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Lahore Board has ended the issuance of hard-copy result cards, announcing that Intermediate result cards will now be provided in soft form instead of printed copies,

The Lahore Board has informed all relevant educational institutions about the new decision, under which students will receive their result cards digitally.

According to the board spokesperson, result cards of regular candidates have been sent to the portals of their respective educational institutions. Students can obtain their result cards through their colleges and other affiliated institutions.

Private candidates, meanwhile, can download soft copies of their result cards from the Lahore Board's official website.

The spokesperson further clarified that the result cards will carry a QR code through which the results can be verified online. This will allow students and other relevant authorities to check the authenticity of the result card digitally.

The Lahore Board has also ended the printing of hard-copy result cards. With the new system, the printing and physical delivery of result cards will no longer be required.

According to the board spokesperson, the decision is expected to reduce the board's printing and postal expenses, resulting in savings of millions of rupees.

FGEHA targets early possession of plots in ongoing housing schemes: DG FGEHA

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



.Director General of Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal has said that the Authority was pursuing a comprehensive development strategy to provide quality, affordable and modern residential facilities to federal government employees.

Talking to APP, the DG FGEHA said contemporary housing projects should not only provide residential units but also incorporate basic civic amenities, improved urban planning, environmental considerations and future requirements of residents.

He said FGEHA was making concerted efforts to hand over possession of plots to allottees ahead of stipulated timelines, wherever feasible, while maintaining the required development standards.

He said possession of plots in Margalla Orchard, Block-A, was targeted for July 2027, while possession in sectors F-14/F-15 would be handed over to allottees in phases.

Capt. (Retd.) Zafar Iqbal said that the possession of plots in Sky Garden, Blocks A, B and D, was targeted by December 31, 2026, adding that possession of 80 plots had already been handed over to allottees ahead of schedule.

He directed the relevant officers to maintain close and continuous monitoring of ongoing development works and ensure that the pace of construction remained aligned with the approved timelines.

IGP Sohail reviews law & order, orders faster public facilitation measures

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



:Inspector General of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry reviewed the law and order situation in the federal capital and directed senior officers to speed up practical measures aimed at improving public facilitation and police service delivery. An official told on Friday that the IGP held an important meeting with DIG Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq and other senior police officers. IGP Sohail reviews law & order, orders faster public facilitation measures

The meeting discussed the overall law and order situation, ongoing measures for public facilitation and new initiatives to make police services more effective and easily accessible to citizens.

Sohail directed officers to keep citizens' convenience as a top priority and accelerate practical steps to improve service delivery.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627091199163 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department Musakhail invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 3%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	CONSTRUCTION OF BLACKTOP ROAD FROM KOCH JAMALZAI TO ZIARAT NIKA SAHIB DISTRICT MUSAKHEL LENGTH: 1.50KM BSDI PHASE-III	30,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 21,000,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-5 and above (Upto 65 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(i) (General Civil Engineering Works) . The Bidder Must Have Completed 3 similar assignment of work Minimum Amounting to Rs 25.00 Million each In Last two Years from the date of bid opening The Bidder Must Submit Rs 1500 in Account of Executive Engineer (Roads) District Musakhail C02716 The Bidder Must Submit 3% of Bid Security in Shape of CDR or Bank Guranttee Valid PEC License /certificate **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 3 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 12 October, 2026till 09:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 10:00 AM on EPPS System **Address:** Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department MusaKhail

Phone no: 0333784511

Email: mohammadhanifkhan2244@gmail.com

Executive Engineer Road CWPP&H Department Musakhail

DPRQ/PRQ No.1558/25-9-2026

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HEADQUARTERS FRONTIER CORPS RECORD OFFICE BALOCHISTAN (NORTH) TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCURMENT OF STATIONERY STORES FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

1. Headquarters Frontier Corps Record office Balochistan (North) invites **Sealed Bids** from the Firms, Original Manufacturers as well as Contractors registered with income Tax and Sales Tax Department and who are on **active Taxpayers List of Federal Board of Revenue Pakistan** for supply of **stationery store.**
2. **Bidding documents,** containing detailed terms and condition, etc are available at Accounts Section, **Headquarters Frontier Corps Record office Balochistan (North) Quetta.** Technical specification for each items required, will be provided with the Bidding Documents.
3. Sealed bids, prepared in accordance with the Instruction in the bidding documents, must reach at accounts Section Headquarters Frontier Corps Record office Balochistan (North) Quetta by **09 October 2026 before 11:30 AM** and bids will be **opened at 12:00 PM** on same day.
4. **Tender Sample** for each items along with its specifications must also be submitted with Bid.
5. Rate should be quoted **F.O.R.** Headquarters Frontier Corps Record office Balochistan (North) Quetta.
6. Bids must accompany **Call Deposit** or **Bank Draft** or **Pay Order** in the name of **Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North)** as **Earnest Money** as per following rates, otherwise bids will be rejected:-
   a. Firms Original Manufacturers and Contractors registered with Headquarter Corps Record Office Balochistan - 5% of total value of the bid / tender
   b. Un- registered Firms, Original Manufacturers and Contractors - 8% of total value of the bid / tender
7. Bids for each items offered, will remain valid for acceptance upto **30 Jun 2027** from the date of Opening of Bids.
8. Cutting / erasing / over writing and misprints etc, of entries / rates shown in the bids will not be considered.
9. Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) is empowered to accept / reject one or all of the bids as per PPRA Rules – 2004. Conditional bids will not be accepted.
10. All bidders will be permitted to see Frontier Corps Record Office Balochistan Samples for each items during all working days except Saturday and Sunday from 09:00 AM to 16:00 PM. This permission will be restricted till a day before Tender Opening.
11. This advertisement is also available on **PPRA website** at www.ppra.org.pk. As well as **Headquarters Frontier Corps Record office Balochistan (North)** website www.fcbalochistan.gov.pk.
12. For further inquiry please contact undersigned during working hours on phone number **0819201542**, Extension 250 Quetta.

Maj
ASRO
(Menhaj Ud Din)

PID(Q)103/26

Balochistan's first mass transit train 'Jinnah Peoples Train' ready to serve public

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA



Balochistan's first mass transit train, the Jinnah Peoples Train, is ready to serve the public, Upgradation of the 32-kilometer railway track for the Jinnah Peoples Train has been completed.The project to upgrade the 32-kilometer track of the Jinnah Peoples Train was completed in just 120 days.

The Jinnah Peoples Train project cost Rs3 billion and includes seven stations along the route.Seven stations have been established along the Jinnah Peoples Train route, stretching from Kuchlak to Sariab.

Kuchlak, Baleli, Sheikh Manda, GOR, Quetta, Lor Karez, and Sariab Station are part of the route.The Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has announced that the Jinnah Peoples Train project will soon be opened to the public.

He said the Jinnah Peoples Train will provide a safe, comfortable, and affordable travel option for the residents of Quetta and its surrounding areas. Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the Jinnah Peoples Train service will facilitate the daily commutes of students, employees, businesspeople, and the general public.The Jinnah Peoples Train represents a significant step towards providing modern and dignified travel facilities to the public, Balochistan CM said.

He said public amenity projects are being completed on schedule, and the benefits are already reaching the people.

Modern travel facilities will save citizens time and reduce travel expenses, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said. He said the Jinnah Peoples Train will bring about a marked improvement in travel facilities for the people of Quetta and its vicinity.

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A Thesis on TRUMPOLOGY: Power, Instinct, and the Global Political Arena



OPINION by TA'ZEEM HEJAZI

Morning does not always arrive with light. At times, it arrives with a question so vast that it unsettles the architecture of thought itself. What is this phenomenon that refuses to fit within the neat compartments of political science, that bends the language of leadership, that disrupts the grammar of governance? This inquiry is not casual, nor rhetorical. It is an attempt to define, examine, and interpret a living case study in contemporary power. This is Trumpology — the study of a political method where instinct overtakes ideology, perception rivals reality, and disruption transforms into a governing principle.There exists a Divine echo older than empires and more enduring than theories: "And they plan, and Allah plans.And Allah is the best of planners." (Qur'an 8:30). Between the visible strategies of human actors and the unseen orchestration of destiny unfolds a theatre where power performs its most revealing acts. Trumpology must be situated within this theatre — not as praise, not as condemnation — but as observation of a phenomenon that belongs unmistakably to our age. It is not merely about one figure; it is about a profound shift in the very mechanics of influence.Traditional political frameworks, whether articulated in the lecture halls of Europe or the analytical traditions of South Asia, rely on ideological consistency. Leaders are expected to stand upon defined principles — liberalism, conservatism, nationalism — each offering continuity and predictability. Yet Trumpology disrupts this expectation. The method does not operate from rigid ideological anchors. Instead, it reflects fluid instinct, adaptive positioning, and situational recalibration. Decisions emerge from opportunity rather than doctrine. Contradictions are not liabilities; they are absorbed into a broader narrative of immediacy. The guiding question shifts from what is philosophically correct to what is strategically effective in the moment. This reorientation challenges the foundational assumptions of political theory and demands a new lens of analysis — one that treats leadership as behavioral strategy rather than ideological commitment.In this framework, attention becomes the central currency. Trumpology recognizes that in the modern media environment, visibility is power. Norm-breaking statements are not accidental; they are instruments designed to fracture routine discourse and command focus. Language is simplified, repeated, and reinforced until it embeds itself within collective consciousness. Opponents are not merely debated; they are transformed into characters within an ongoing narrative, a continuous theatre where conflict sustains engagement. The media, often positioned as an adversary, becomes simultaneously an amplifier, its outrage feeding the very visibility it seeks to critique. In this dynamic, the boundaries between communication, performance, and strategy dissolve, giving rise to a new form of political engagement.A Western reflection holds that falsehood travels swiftly while truth struggles to keep pace. Trumpology extends this observation into a more complex terrain. It is not merely the speed of information that matters; it is the persistence of repetition. A claim, reiterated with confidence and frequency, acquires psychological legitimacy. It occupies space in public consciousness, not because it is universally accepted, but because it is continuously encountered. In this sense, perception does not replace reality; it competes with it, challenging the traditional hierarchy where facts alone define truth.The habits underlying this method reveal a structured pattern. Communication bypasses conventional institutional filters, speaking directly to audiences in a manner that feels immediate and unmediated. Emotional resonance takes precedence over empirical detail, shaping responses that are felt before they are analyzed. The world is framed in binaries — loyalty and betrayal, strength and weakness, victory and defeat. Such framing simplifies complexity, making political engagement accessible while simultaneously intensifying polarization. This is not accidental; it is a deliberate construction of an ecosystem where belief is reinforced through emotional alignment.Critics often describe this approach as shamelessness, yet Trumpology invites a more nuanced interpretation.



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

From Hormuz to Kashmir: The Case for Courageous Diplomacy

The world breathed a collective sigh of relief when a potentially catastrophic confrontation in the Gulf was paused at the eleventh hour. Hundreds of millions across Iran and neighboring states were spared the horrors of imminent conflict, and billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and human livelihood were saved—at least for now—by a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran.



Announced just minutes before the deadline on April 7, President Donald J. Trump's decision to suspend military action—following consultations with Pakistan's leadership and conditional upon the safe reopening of the Strait of Hormuz—demonstrated a critical truth: even at the brink of war, diplomacy can prevail over destruction. President Trump mentioned on Truth Social "Based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, of Pakistan, and wherein they requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran, and subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks."

This moment offers a lesson that extends far beyond the Gulf. It underscores a principle too often ignored in global conflicts—that enduring solutions are not forged through military might, but through meaningful negotiation. Nowhere is this lesson more urgently needed than in Kashmir.

For nearly eight decades, the

Kashmir dispute has remained one of the most dangerous unresolved conflicts in the world. It is not merely a territorial disagreement; it is a persistent flashpoint between two nuclear-armed states—India and Pakistan—whose tensions have repeatedly brought South Asia to the edge of catastrophe.

Despite its gravity, Kashmir has largely been relegated to the margins of international diplomacy. This neglect stands in stark contrast to earlier periods when global leaders recognized its urgency. In 1996, Senator Jesse Helms, then Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, advocated for American mediation on Kashmir with the same determination that had been applied to peace efforts in the Middle East. That sense of urgency appears to have faded, even as the risks have grown.

President Trump himself acknowledged the explosive potential of the Kashmir conflict. As early as 2016, he offered to mediate between India and Pakistan—a proposal he reiterated multiple times. Following heightened tensions in 2025 that brought both countries dangerously close to nuclear confrontation, the diplomatic engagement of President Trump helped secure a ceasefire on May 10, 2025. That moment could have been a turning point. Calls were made for structured dialogue, including a proposal by Marco Rubio, Secretary of State for the National Security Advisors of both countries to meet at a neutral venue to discuss all issues. Yet, in the months that followed, no meaningful progress materialized. The opportunity for sustained engagement slipped away, leaving the underlying conflict unresolved.

the underlying conflict unresolved.

The international community once spoke with clarity on Kashmir. United Nations Security Council Resolution 47, adopted on April 21, 1948, established that the future of the territory should be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. This was not a symbolic gesture. The resolution was negotiated with the explicit consent of both India and Pakistan, embedding it with legal and moral weight. It laid out a framework grounded in demilitarization, neutrality, and the unimpeded expression of the will of the Kashmiri people.

Even India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, publicly affirmed this principle, stating that India would accept the outcome of such a plebiscite—even if it went against its own interests. Over time, however, this commitment has faded into diplomatic obscurity.

Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani, an eminent jurist and President, Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) has said that UN Security Council Resolution 47 remains a cornerstone in the international legal framework governing the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The resolution is significant for formalizing the plebiscite machinery under international auspices. It mandated the appointment of a Plebiscite Administrator, nominated by the United Nations, who would oversee the process to ensure that the expression of the popular will was free, impartial, and unencumbered.

Dr. Gilani added that this provision transformed the Kashmir issue from a bilateral or internal matter into a question of international responsibility, embedding safeguards against manipulation. The insistence on demilitarization, neutrality of administration, and freedom from fear or pressure created a legal and procedural architecture designed to guarantee that the vote would reflect genuine consent.

The persistence of the Kashmir dispute has exacted a heavy toll—not only on the people of Kashmir but also on India and Pakistan themselves. It has fueled militarization, strained economic development, and entrenched hostility between two nations that share deep historical, cultural, and geographical ties.

For India, aspirations of global leadership are undermined by the existence of a long-standing unresolved dispute. For Pakistan, the conflict continues to remain source of uncertainty. For both, it represents a continuing source of instability and missed opportunity. History offers warnings that remain relevant today. During the UN Security Council debates in 1948, British representative Philip Noel-Baker described Kashmir as "the greatest and the gravest single issue in international affairs." Decades later, that assessment still resonates.

Trump may visit Pakistan for Iran peace dealThe question is no longer whether Kashmir requires resolution—it clearly does—but whether the international community has the will to act.

The recent de-escalation in the Gulf shows that even the most volatile crises can be managed when leaders choose restraint over escalation. It demonstrates that diplomacy, when pursued with urgency and sincerity, can avert disaster. Why should Kashmir be any different?

The path forward requires courage—political, moral, and diplomatic. It demands that global powers, including the United States, re-engage with the issue not as distant observers but as facilitators of dialogue. It calls for India and Pakistan to move beyond entrenched positions and for Kashmiri voices to be meaningfully included in any process. Peace in Kashmir is not an unattainable ideal. It is a deferred responsibility.



(By Fatima Tayyab Singhanvi)

War or Peace Global Leadership Face to Face

On the horizon of global politics, there emerge moments that transcend ordinary diplomatic disagreements and instead evolve into profound collisions of civilizational narratives, ethical principles, and the mechanics of power politics. The recent Iran-related crisis has unfolded as precisely such an extraordinary episode, wherein the President of the world's most powerful nation, Donald Trump, appears firmly positioned with his characteristic assertive and confrontational strategic posture, while on the other side stands Pope Leo XIV of the Vatican, embodying a moral discourse that insists upon peace, reconciliation, and dialogue over the logic of war. This confrontation is not merely an exchange between two influential figures; rather, it reflects a deeper tension between power and morality, state interests and universal values, as well as militaristic strategy and religious ethics.

The escalating tensions surrounding Iran must be understood within a broader geo-political framework, one in which the intricate dynamics of the Middle East intersect with global power interests and ideological divisions. The United States, long accustomed to sustaining its global hegemony through both military and diplomatic instruments, continues to perceive the projection of force as an effective means of securing strategic objectives. President Trump's rhetoric is emblematic of this worldview, wherein national security, strategic dominance, and immediate results are prioritized even at the potential cost of military confrontation.

In stark contrast, Pope Leo XIV presents a fundamentally different moral architecture. For him, war is not merely a source of human tragedy; it is also a manifestation of ethical decay. Drawing upon the teachings of the Gospel, he articulates a vision in which the essence of religion lies in the upliftment of humanity and



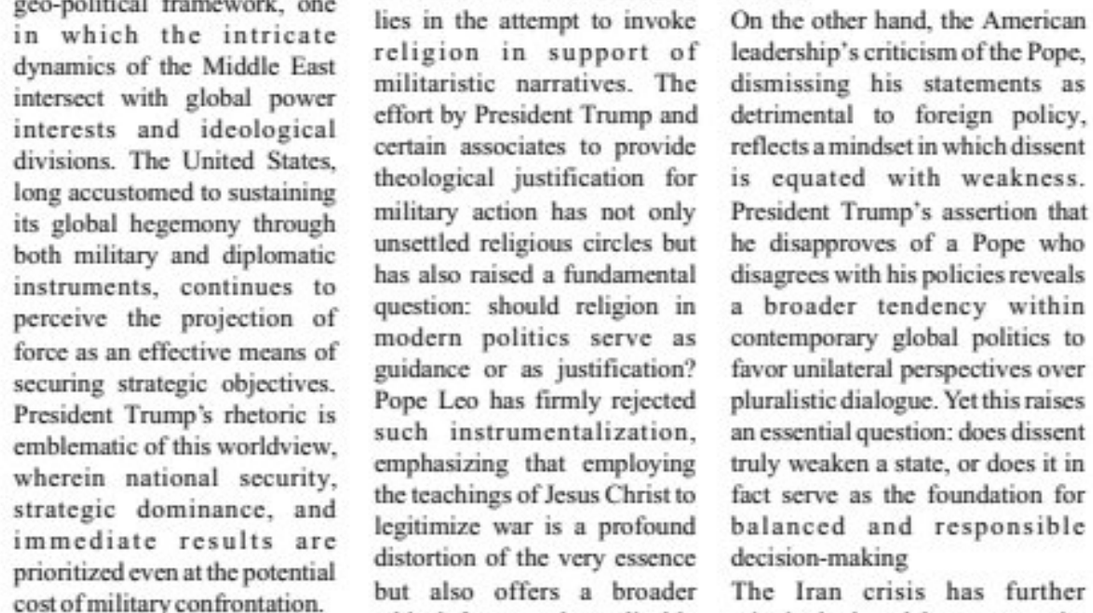
the cultivation of mutual harmony, rather than its instrumentalization as a tool for power. His assertion that "we are not politicians, but messengers of peace" underscores the Vatican's self-perception as not merely a religious institution, but a moral authority capable of awakening the global conscience.

A particularly critical dimension of this discourse lies in the attempt to invoke religion in support of militaristic narratives. The effort by President Trump and certain associates to provide theological justification for military action has not only unsettled religious circles but has also raised a fundamental question: should religion in modern politics serve as guidance or as justification? Pope Leo has firmly rejected such instrumentalization, emphasizing that employing the teachings of Jesus Christ to legitimize war is a profound distortion of the very essence of faith. This stance resonates not only within the Christian world but also offers a broader ethical framework applicable across religious traditions.

Another significant aspect of this confrontation concerns the evolving role of global religious leadership. Historically, the Vatican has played a mediating role in several international conflicts; however, in an increasingly polarized and interest-driven global order, the effectiveness of moral voices has become a complex and contested question. Nevertheless, Pope Leo's consistent and unequivocal positioning demonstrates that ethical principles continue to retain relevance in global discourse, even if their immediate political acceptance remains limited.

On the other hand, the American leadership's criticism of the Pope, dismissing his statements as detrimental to foreign policy, reflects a mindset in which dissent is equated with weakness. President Trump's assertion that he disapproves of a Pope who disagrees with his policies reveals a broader tendency within contemporary global politics to favor unilateral perspectives over pluralistic dialogue. Yet this raises an essential question: does dissent truly weaken a state, or does it in fact serve as the foundation for balanced and responsible decision-making

The Iran crisis has further reignited the debate over the ethical boundaries of war. According to international law and the United Nations Charter.



Traffic police personnel issue challans to motorcyclists for violating traffic rules at Manan Chowk

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SIFC launches digital one-window facilitation system for investors

■ SIFC has launched a Digital Ticketing Hub where investors and members of the business community can submit online requests concerning their problems



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has introduced a new digital one-window facilitation system aimed at making it easier and faster for local and foreign investors and businesspeople to address their issues and communicate with relevant government authorities.

Under the new system, SIFC has launched a Digital Ticketing Hub where investors and members of the business community can submit online requests concerning their problems, applications, suggestions and other business-related matters.

The digital platform will provide a single channel for information, guidance and coordination with government departments. Once a request is submitted, applicants will also be able to track its progress and receive updates online.

According to the new system, investor requests relating to different sectors and regions will be processed through the digital platform, with responses to be provided within 48 hours.

Once an application or request has been resolved, the corresponding ticket will be formally closed, allowing for more systematic follow-up and monitoring.



Laborers work in grueling conditions at a local brick kiln, mixing clay and shaping raw bricks to earn their daily livelihood

IMF seeks 174 legislative amendments from Pakistan

■ The IMF has sought 174 legal amendments from Pakistan under its programme, including governance reforms and changes to subsidy mechanisms, with proposals to be presented to

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has sought 174 amendments to various laws from Pakistan, including measures related to governance improvements and the mechanism for subsidies.

Finance Secretary Imdad Ullah Bosal briefed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance on the conditions and targets of the IMF programme. He said three reviews of the programme had been completed and Pakistan had so far received $4.1 billion.

He said tax concessions had been withdrawn and restrictions had been imposed on the issuance of supplementary grants in line



with IMF conditions. However, significant progress had not been made in meeting targets related to circular debt in the energy sector. The IMF's targets concerning education spending had also not been achieved.

The declaration of assets by government officials was also discussed during the committee meeting. According to the Finance Secretary, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) would provide some details of officials' assets to the Establishment Division. In cases involving unusual assets, the Establishment Division would take disciplinary action.

Hina Rabbani Khar and Naveed Qamar expressed concerns over the partial declaration of officials' assets. They said parliamentarians were required to declare all their assets and questioned why some assets of government officials would be disclosed while others would remain undisclosed. They also sought details of the security concerns cited in this regard.

The Finance Secretary said an amendment to the Sovereign Wealth Fund law proposes allowing joint investments. He said the fund had been brought in line with the SECP law, and the matter was also part of discussions with the IMF.

He further said subsidies being provided in various sectors were being phased out. Overall, the IMF was seeking 174 amendments, and the government would place all the proposed amendments before Parliament.

Dollar set for weekly gains as yields surge, Fed bets build

■ The dollar headed for back-to-back weekly gains as rising Treasury yields and stronger bets on further Fed rate hikes lifted the greenback, while

Web Desk

HONG KONG



The dollar was set for its first back-to-back weekly ?gains in more than three months on Friday, as surging Treasury yields and mounting bets on further Federal ?Reserve rate hikes kept the greenback near multi-month peaks.

Dollar strength pushed the euro to a two-month low of $1.1370 and put it on track for a third weekly decline, its worst losing streak since the end of 2025. Sterling languished near a three-month low of $1.3220 and was on track for its worst weekly performance in four months.

Markets have aggressively repriced the interest rate trajectory after the Fed tightened policy last ?week, while robust economic data and fresh energy supply concerns have further strengthened that conviction.

A bond selloff, which ?sent long-dated US Treasury yields to their highest in more than 20 years, also gave the greenback a leg up.

The dollar ?index , which measures the US currency against a basket of peers, has climbed more than 1% this week to a two-month high, ?marking its first back-to-back weekly gains since June. However, the rally was losing some momentum, last edging a touch lower at 101.2."Whilst the dollar should get a bid from higher yields, there are still ongoing lingering concerns around the US fiscal position, the unpredictability of US policy making," said ?Khoon Goh, head of Asia research at ANZ.

"I think that's why the dollar has really struggled to continue to rally, even ?though yields continue to increase."Oil prices jumped more than 3% on Thursday to a one-week high after a Houthi missile attack on Saudi Arabia revived ?fears ?of supply disruptions, adding to inflation risks.

A chorus of hawkish Fed speakers strengthened expectations for further tightening, with Philadelphia Fed President Anna Paulson saying "some modest further tightening may be warranted", while New York Fed President John Williams said "another rate hike may be appropriate by the end of the year."

At 158.8 per dollar, the Japanese yen continued to hover near a three-week low after ?markets judged the Bank of ?Japan's rate hike to a ?31-year high and policy guidance last week as not hawkish enough .

However, moves were tempered as traders remained wary of official intervention risk after Tokyo issued fresh verbal warning, while a former BOJ board member said the central bank now could ?raise rates every quarter.

"Faster rate hikes have reduced the inflationary impact of expansionary fiscal policy, taking ?pressure off the ?currency," Goldman Sachs said in a report. The bank revised down its 12-month USD/JPY forecast to 150 from 165.The Australian dollar inched higher to $0.7015 while the kiwi traded flat at $0.5663 . The Reserve Bank of Australia is expected to raise interest rates by 25 basis points to ?a near ?15-year high of 4.60% next week, in what would be the final rate ?increase in the tightening cycle.Elsewhere, the offshore yuan traded flat at 6.715 per dollar , as a Trump-Xi summit in Washington showed no signs of breakthroughs at a ?closed-door meeting on thorny issues such as AI.

Gold heads for weekly loss as stronger dollar, Fed rate outlook weighs

● Gold edged up 0.2% but faced a 2% weekly loss as a stronger dollar and higher US rate expectations pressured prices. Other precious metals also fell weekly.

Web Desk

KARACHI

Gold prices ticked up on ?Friday but were set to post a weekly loss, pressured by a stronger dollar and growing expectations that the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates elevated to contain inflation.

Spot gold ?rose 0.2% to $4,288.36 per ounce by 0200 GMT, but was down 2% ?so far this week. US gold futures edged 0.6% higher to $4,323.10.

The ?dollar was headed for a weekly gain, making greenback-priced metals more expensive ?for holders of other currencies, while US Treasury yields



extended gains.

"Focus will definitely continue ?to be on the interest rate situation. When we start to see markets pricing in a much more hawkish Fed, it strengthens the dollar and is negative for gold," said ?Kelvin Wong, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Expectations of higher-for-longer US interest rates firmed ?after two Fed policymakers said additional hikes may be needed to curb unacceptably high inflation, following ?last ?week's quarter-point increase in the benchmark rate.

"Returning inflation to 2% is a top priority, and I will support the policy path that gets us there while carefully weighing risks to the labour market along the way," Philadelphia Fed President Anna ?Paulson said. New ?York Fed President ?John Williams also suggested tighter monetary policy is coming.

Although gold is traditionally seen as a hedge against inflation, higher rates ?can curb its demand by increasing the appeal of yield-bearing ?assets.

"I remain ?very positive on gold for the rest of the year. Ongoing geopolitical friction and mounting sovereign debt are driving constant demand for safe-haven assets," said Joshua Rotbart, ?founder of ?J. Rotbart & Co.

Spot silver slipped 0.1% to $63.81 per ?ounce, platinum climbed 0.5% to $1,756.90 and palladium fell 1.3% to $1,257.56. All three metals were poised for ?weekly losses.

PM Shehbaz invites US firms to invest in Pakistan's emerging sectors

■ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited US businesses to invest in Pakistan, highlighting opportunities in agriculture, mining, IT, energy, ports, shipping and privatization.

Web Desk

New York

Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, on Friday invited the American businesses to tap into Pakistan's vast economic potential, highlighting the country's investor-friendly policy framework and massive reforms undertaken by his government to safeguard foreign investments and foster high-growth business climate.

The prime minister met with joint delegation of the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and the US-Pakistan Business Council (USPBC), on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, where he said Pakistan was making efforts to support peace initiatives in the region, stressing that long-term regional peace was important for promoting business and investment.

He invited the US firms to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan, highlighting agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, energy security, ports and shipping, and privatization as key areas of potential cooperation.

The Council, he said served as an important bridge between Islamabad and Washington and emphasized the need to translate improved bilateral relations into greater trade and investment.

He said Pakistan's economy had achieved stability and was moving towards growth, while acknowledging that the ongoing Gulf crisis had created challenges.

He highlighted the structural reforms being undertaken by the government, including digitization of the economy, reforms in the Board of Revenue and expansion of e-governance.

Discussing investment opportunities in agriculture, Prime Minister Shehbaz said



Pakistan offered significant potential through the use of modern technology and machinery, including harvesters and other equipment, to increase per-acre yields, improve efficiency and reduce production costs. He also identified mining and minerals as another major area of investment, saying Pakistan was endowed with substantial natural resources.

The prime minister said the country's young population was another major asset, particularly in the fields of information technology and artificial intelligence. He said the government was working to empower young people through vocational and skills training and create opportunities for productive employment.

He also highlighted Pakistan's potential in energy security, including oil, petroleum and gas, as well as investment opportunities in ports and shipping.

Prime Minister Shehbaz further invited the US business community to participate in Pakistan's privatization programme.

He said Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had been privatized and expressed confidence that its new Pakistani owners would improve its performance. He added that a bank had also been privatized, while the government was expediting the process of privatizing power distribution companies in various provinces.

Scanned with CamScanner

US and Iran discuss phased deal to reopen Hormuz, end blockade

■ A senior Iranian official said the most plausible way to end the impasse would be a phased arrangement, with Iran allowing navigation through Hormuz in return for the US lifting its economic blockade.



Web Desk

NEW YORK

US and Iranian negotiators in New York are exploring a phased path out of war that would involve Tehran reopening the Strait of Hormuz and Washington lifting its economic blockade of Iran, sources close to the talks said.

The strait has become the central bargaining chip in efforts to end the nearly seven-month US-Iran conflict, with Iran seeking relief from the US blockade that is choking its economy and Washington seeking free passage for ships on the global oil supply route now ?blocked by Tehran.

The talks face a big obstacle as neither side wants to be the first to surrender its leverage, according to comments to Reuters by two Iranian sources, two regional officials and two Western diplomatic sources, but behind Iran's stance is a recognition of the economic cost of prolonged confrontation.

A senior Iranian official said the most plausible way to end the impasse would be a phased arrangement, with Iran allowing navigation through Hormuz in return for the US lifting its economic blockade and Tehran potentially gaining access to frozen assets.

"One way forward would be to solve the crisis in stages. The first would be to end the blockade and reopen Hormuz," he said on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

That would involve US ?President Donald Trump accepting another temporary fix, after an earlier understanding collapsed in July. So a central challenge facing the negotiators is not just to sketch out a deal but also to ensure any concessions are durable enough for both sides to trust, the sources said.

Trump has said ?he thinks the US and Iran could reach a deal after midterm elections to Congress on November 3. A senior European official said the Iranians "have a very long list of demands."

A White House official said that while "Iran is desperate ?for a deal, President Trump holds all the cards and will make whatever decision is best for the United States."

Nepal seeks grants, not loans, for flood recovery after deadly glacier disaster

Shah said in New York that Nepal's recovery and reconstruction needs were estimated at about 10% of gross domestic product following the flood that struck mountain communities



WEB DESK

News York

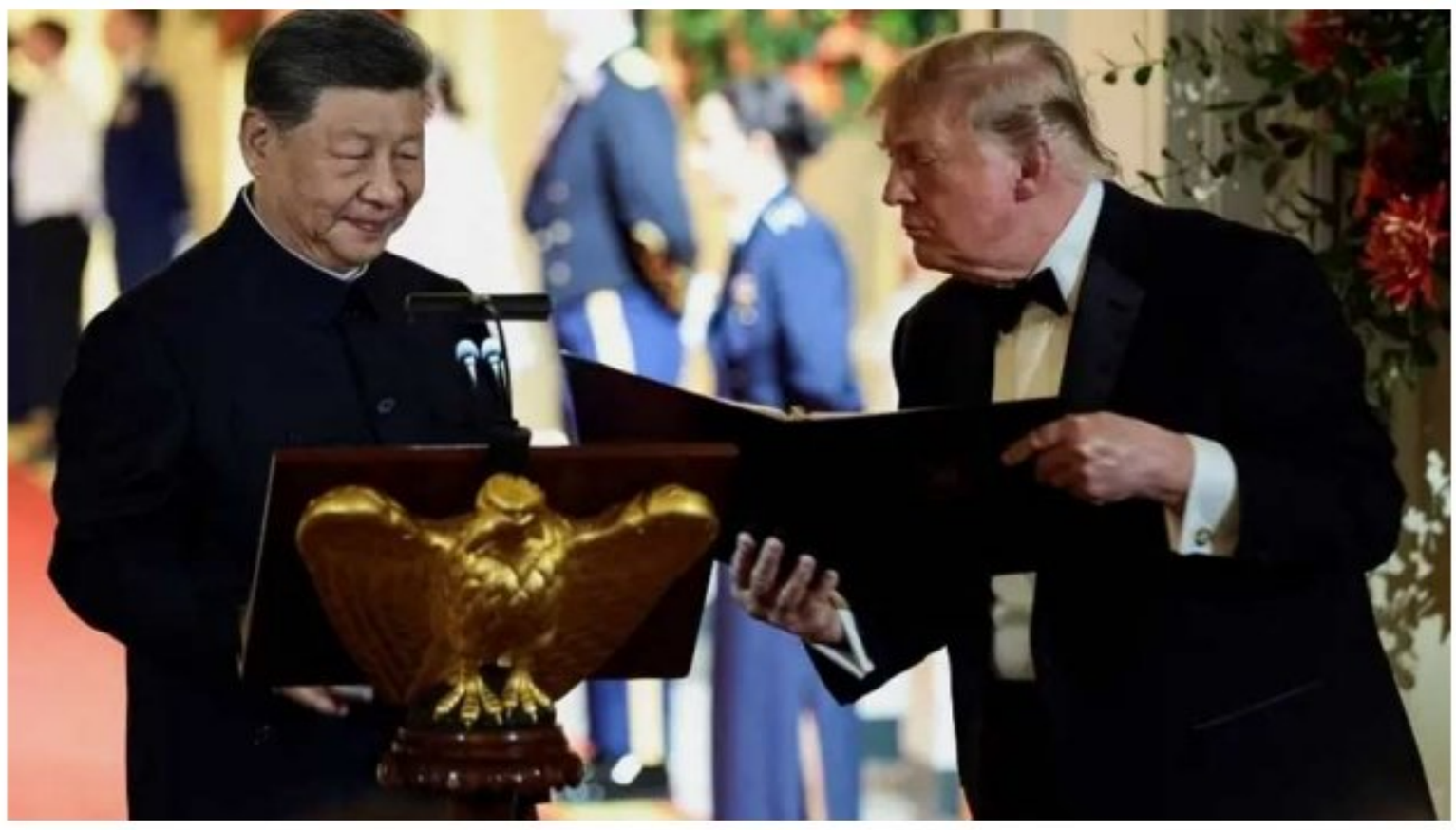
Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah called for grant-based international support at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday to help the Himalayan nation recover from the glacier flood that killed at least 1,450 people.

Shah said in New York that Nepal's recovery and reconstruction needs were estimated at about 10% of gross domestic product following the flood that struck mountain communities four weeks ago, and argued that vulnerable countries should not be forced to take ?on additional debt to rebuild from catastrophic climate events.

"When a climate-driven disaster destroys infrastructure of a poor country, the answer cannot simply be another mega loan or a patchwork of small grants," Shah said. "We need adequate grant-based support from the world."

He urged closer cooperation between Nepal, India and China on climate resilience, calling for an urgent Himalayan mechanism to share satellite data, monitor glacial lakes, strengthen early-warning systems and coordinate disaster responses across ?borders.

The Nepalese leader said the flood, which he described as a warning of the growing risks posed by climate change, had swept away roads, bridges, schools, homes and livelihoods, interrupting Nepal's development progress.



Trump to wrap up Xi summit with a tour of US archives

Web DESK

New York

US President Donald Trump will follow up his summit with Xi Jinping by taking the Chinese leader on Friday to the US National Archives, where they are expected to stress views about the history and direction of ties between their countries.Thursday's lavish state summit at the White House appeared heavy on symbolism but light on substance, with no sign of major breakthroughs between the world's biggest economies.

Still, Trump highlighted progress under a bilateral trade mechanism, citing what he described as increased market access for US farmers and ranchers, while both leaders identified artificial intelligence as an area for cooperation.Trump said in remarks welcoming Xi that they would see some of the greatest treasures of US history at the National Archives, including the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights. They would also see "artifacts testifying to the long and cherished relationship" between China and the United States and their "cultural exchanges", he said."Just as our ancestors reached across the ocean centuries ago to trade, to learn, and to build a better world, our two countries do really the same thing, and we're very proud of it and the relationship," Trump said.

China has not commented on the visit to the archives, but analysts say Xi may be keen to see records relating to the US switch of recognition to communist China from Taiwan in 1979.

Xi has long sought to persuade Trump to state publicly that the United States opposes Taiwan's independence, rather than saying only that it does not support independence, which has been Washington's formulation for decades. He is also keen to get the US to halt arms sales to the island.

As expected, Xi pressed Trump on Taiwan on Thursday, saying he hoped the United States would "handle the Taiwan question with prudence." China's state news agency also reported that Xi "hopes the US side will adhere to the correct position of opposing 'Taiwan independence'."

North Korea rejects call to halt nuclear tests

WEB DESK

PYONGYANG



North Korea's foreign ministry rejected an international statement urging it to halt nuclear tests, with a spokesperson calling it "a grave political provocation against our state" by "hostile forces".

A meeting of ministers from the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty — a grouping of Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands — said any new nuclear test ?by North Korea would be irresponsible and unacceptable.

The meeting in New York on Tuesday urged Pyongyang to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The spokesperson for North Korea's foreign ministry described the country as a responsible nuclear-armed state, in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

In another statement carried by KCNA earlier in the ?day, North Korea's foreign minister Choe Son Hui said Pyongyang's nuclear weapons status is irreversible.

Choe was responding to a separate meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly this week between the United States.

At UN, Netanyahu defends Israel as delegates walk out

■ Netanyahu spoke for about 40 minutes in what amounted to a campaign-style speech, broadcast live in evening prime time on all four of the main Israeli television channels

WEB DESK

UNITED NATIONS



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mounted a forceful defense of Israel's actions in the region at the UN on Thursday, seeking to counter growing international isolation ahead of elections he could lose, as dozens of delegates streamed out.

The walkout underscored the competing pressures facing Netanyahu, who is battling mounting criticism abroad over the Gaza war while campaigning for reelection at home ahead of an October 27 vote.

The divisions over Israel's conduct were on display as Netanyahu began speaking, with dozens of delegates walking out in protest. He called them "moral cowards," while supporters in the gallery chanted in Hebrew: "The people of Israel live."

Netanyahu used his address to berate New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani for calling him a war criminal, Western European leaders for what he called succumbing to "antisemitic mobs," and to accuse both Qatar and Turkey of spreading lies about Israel.

"You tried to stop me from coming here. You tried. You tried to silence me. Well, you can't silence me. You can't silence the truth," Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, said of Mamdani.

Mamdani campaigned for office on a promise to have Netanyahu arrested for alleged war crimes should he visit the largest US city but later said he determined he lacked the legal authority to do so.

Russian strikes kill 8 in Ukraine as the UN debates how to end the war

■ Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov repeated Moscow's demand for a comprehensive peace deal, not a temporary break in hostilities, following Ukraine's call for a complete and unconditional ceasefire.

WEB DESK

KYIV, Ukraine



Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine overnight killed at least eight civilians, Russian drone and missile attacks on Ukraine overnight killed at least eight civilians, officials said Thursday, as Moscow's 4½-year-long invasion of its neighbor grinds on despite renewed appeals for a settlement at this week's U.N. General Assembly.

A strike on Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region killed six agricultural workers and wounded 12 others, Interior Minister Ihor Vyhivskyi said. An attack on the capital Kyiv killed a man and a woman, he said, while officials in the southern port of Odesa also reported a major bombardment.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed in a speech at the United Nations late Wednesday for countries to starve Russia of revenue through sanctions and trade bans, denying Moscow the money it needs to prolong the war. He and other leaders at previous U.N. general assemblies have sought to pressure Moscow into giving up its ambitions in Ukraine.

But despite years of diplomatic efforts there is no sign of a breakthrough in ending a war that has had repercussions for the global food and energy supply, as well as severely straining relations between Russia and Western countries.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov repeated Moscow's demand for a comprehensive peace deal, not a temporary break in hostilities, following Ukraine's call for a complete and unconditional ceasefire.

"We believe it's necessary to seek peace, not a temporary truce," Peskov told reporters Thursday. Russia's demands for Ukraine to surrender its territory, among other things, are unacceptable for Kyiv.

The aerial war has intensified in recent months. Russia keeps hammering Ukraine with cruise and ballistic missiles, powerful glide bombs and jet-powered drones, while Ukraine's long-range drones target oil refineries and businesses that are a vital part of the Russian economy.

There have been few significant changes since last year along the roughly 1,250-kilometer (800-mile) front line in eastern and southern Ukraine, where a huge number of drones on both sides limit movement.

Russian strikes are an ordeal for Ukrainian civilians

The attack on Kyiv damaged more than 50 civilian sites, including apartment blocks, post offices, a maternity hospital and a textile plant, Vyhivskyi, the interior minister, said.

Russia has repeatedly hit Ukrainian trains, shopping malls, supermarkets and gas stations, among other sites, keeping civilians on edge.

Valentyna Kolosenko, a 49-year-old Kyiv resident, said a solid oak door she was standing behind saved her when three blasts occurred around her home. She said she would endure the hardship, even though she was scared. "Everything is paralyzed. Nothing works," she told The Associated Press. "Getting to work is incredibly difficult and frightening."

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Dolly Parton's Final Wish About Her Death Revealed

Country Icon Dolly Parton Had One Exception At Deathbed



News Desk

New York

Country music icon Dolly Parton reportedly had a specific request about how she wanted to be remembered in her final days, according to a report by TMZ. Sources cited by the outlet said Parton did not want friends and family to see her in her fragile condition before her death.

According to the report, Parton made one exception for her longtime wig and makeup artist, Cheryl Riddle. Riddle was reportedly allowed to be with the singer so she could prepare her after her death.

Parton's funeral included an open-casket viewing, making Riddle's role particularly significant in ensuring the singer appeared as she had wished to be remembered.

Her nephew Bryan Seaver was also reportedly among the last people to see Parton. TMZ reported that Seaver visited his aunt the day before her death and that she asked him to announce her passing publicly. He later recorded the announcement at Parton's studio, which was posted on her social media accounts on the day she died.

The report further stated that some of Parton's siblings were unable to see her during her final hours. Parton died on August 25, 2026, at the age of 80 following a private battle with cancer. Her representatives said she was surrounded by loved ones at Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center in Nashville.

Parton was later laid to rest at Woodlawn Memorial Park and Mausoleum in Nashville, beside her husband, Carl Dean, who died in March 2025.

Hayden Panettiere Spent Weeks In Malibu Rehab

New Details Emerge About Hayden Panettiere's Final Weeks Before Death

Web desk

NEW YORK



Actress Hayden Panettiere had reportedly spent several weeks at a rehabilitation facility in Malibu shortly before her death, according to a report by Page Six.

Panettiere died on August 16 in Greenville, South Carolina. The Greenville County Coroner's Office classified her death as accidental and determined that it resulted from the toxic effects of fentanyl, 4-ANPP, alprazolam, methocarbamol and quetiapine. The autopsy found no injuries that contributed to her death.

According to information cited in the report, Panettiere's former partner Brian Hickerson or his brother, Zach, told authorities that the actress had been receiving treatment at a drug rehabilitation facility in Malibu until several weeks before her death.

Her father, Alan "Skip" Panettiere, also reportedly told investigators that his daughter had recently completed a two- or three-week rehabilitation program.

The report further shed light on Panettiere's previous struggles with substance use. Her father reportedly said she had battled addiction since her early 20s and had undergone treatment at multiple rehabilitation facilities over the years.

Authorities have continued examining the circumstances surrounding the substances involved in her death. Her representative had previously urged the public to rely on verified information while the investigation was underway.

The coroner's findings confirmed that fentanyl, along with several other substances, contributed to Panettiere's death, which was officially classified as accidental.

Panettiere was widely known for her roles as Claire Bennet in Heroes and Juliette Barnes in Nashville. She also appeared in the Scream film franchise.

Nadia Khan Reveals Regret Over Rejecting Shoaib Mansoor's Bol

Nadia Khan Opens Up About Regret Over Rejecting Bol Role

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Actress and television host Nadia Khan has opened up about a career opportunity she still regrets missing, revealing that she once turned down a role in Shoaib Mansoor's acclaimed film Bol.

Speaking on the television show Kya Drama Hai, Nadia recalled that Shoaib Mansoor personally approached her and made efforts to persuade her to join the project.

Nadia said she genuinely wanted to work in Bol, but circumstances within her family made it difficult for her to accept the offer. She revealed that a dispute arose at home after she received the role and that her former husband ultimately did not allow her to appear in the film.

"I regret refusing Bol to Shoaib Mansoor," Nadia said, acknowledging that she felt she had let the filmmaker down after he had made significant efforts to bring her on board.

Looking back, Nadia said she had wanted the opportunity and now believes she should have accepted the role.



The character was eventually played by Humaima Malick, who portrayed Zainab in the 2011 film. Nadia had previously spoken about being approached for the part, explaining that opposition from her husband and family prevented her from taking it.

During the recent discussion, Nadia said she was not in a position at the time to make the decision independently. She specifically identified her former husband as the person who stopped her from accepting the project.

Fellow panelist Atiqa Odho responded to Nadia's revelation by suggesting that she should have stood up for her own career at that point in her life.

Mukarram Kaleem also highlighted the irony of the situation, pointing out that the film was titled Bol, meaning "speak up," and suggesting that Nadia should have spoken up for her professional ambitions.

Nadia's comments have once again revived discussion about the role she could have played in Bol. Written and directed by Shoaib Mansoor, the 2011 film became a prominent title in Pakistani cinema, while Humaima Malick gained significant recognition for her portrayal of Zainab.



Artists perform the Sindhi drama "Pani Khe Bhakur," jointly presented by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Larkana during the Sindh Theatre Festival 2026 at the Z.A. Bhutto Open-Air Theatre



Halle Berry Opens Up About Daughter Starting College

WEB DESK

LOS ANGELES

Hollywood actress Halle Berry has opened up about the mix of pride and concern she feels as her 18-year-old daughter, Nahla Ariela Aubry, begins college away from home.

Berry, who shares Nahla with her former partner Gabriel Aubry, also has a 12-year-old son, Maceo Robert Martinez, with her ex-husband Olivier Martinez.

Speaking at the Create & Cultivate Festival, Berry told People that watching her daughter start college has been an emotional experience and admitted that the transition is "a little worrisome."

Berry said Nahla is the first of her children to leave home for college, making the milestone particularly emotional for her as a mother.

The actress said she feels proud of her daughter but also has some fears now that Nahla is living independently in another state. She added that she and Nahla's father hope they have raised her well and that she will make good decisions while making the most of her college experience.

Meanwhile, Berry revealed that her younger son has been experiencing mixed feelings about his sister's absence. Although Maceo now feels somewhat like an only child, he has also been enjoying some of the perks of having Nahla away.

Govinda spotted with co-star Komal Rani at Mumbai Puja amid relationship rumours

Web Desk

KARACHI



Bollywood actor Govinda once again attracted attention over his personal life after he was spotted attending a puja in Mumbai with his co-star Komal Rani Swarnkar.

According to Indian media reports, Govinda and Komal Rani attended the religious ceremony together and were later seen posing for photographers. Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, had also visited the same venue separately earlier that day. The appearance of Govinda and Komal Rani together has once again drawn attention amid ongoing rumours surrounding their relationship. However, neither Govinda nor Komal has officially confirmed the reports about their alleged relationship.

The following day, Sunita Ahuja spoke to the media without directly naming anyone and said that people should love animals because, unlike humans, they do not betray them. Her remarks were widely linked by social media users to the ongoing speculation surrounding Govinda and Komal Rani.

Mahira Khan gets emotional ahead of 'Mitti De Baway' premiere

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Actor Mahira Khan has penned an emotional note to director Wajahat Hussain ahead of the premiere of 'Mitti De Baway', thanking him for his work on the drama and for shaping her character Billo.

The show, written by Faiza Iftikhar and directed by Hussain, marks Mahira and Wahaj Ali's first on-screen pairing.

Sharing a behind-the-scenes photo from the set, taken alongside Hussain and Ali, Mahira addressed her director directly, writing, "You believed in Billo and knew her more than I ever could." The actor signed off with a personal note reading, "Love alwayssss, your Billo."

The director reshared Mahira's note to his own Instagram story, replying that it had "truly touched" his heart. Hussain also described the duo's collaboration as "a memorable journey I'll always cherish."

Actor Yumna Zaidi wished the best of luck to the Mitti De Baway team, sharing the drama's premiere poster and writing that "beautiful things come from hard work and perseverance." Mitti De Baway is set in rural Punjab in 1999.

The story follows Billo and Baala through a romance that unravels into separation: Baala is imprisoned on an undisclosed charge, while Billo, by the time the story resumes in 2002, has transformed into a pir, or spiritual guide, with a following of her own.

Scanned with CamScanner

Beyond the silence: Pakistan's Sana finds expression in squash

- Deaf and non-verbal since birth, Sana struggled to communicate until squash gave her a powerful medium of self-expression

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Inside the glass walls of a squash court, Sana Bahadar lets her racquet do the talking. Outside, the 20-year-old Pakistani communicates through a combination of sign language and lip reading. Deaf and non-verbal since birth, as are her two younger brothers, Sana struggled to communicate until squash gave her a powerful medium of self-expression.

A round-of-32 defeat at the hands of Iran's Najmeh Boushehrizadeh cut short her Asian Games debut, but simply competing at the Aichi-Nagoya Games marks a monumental achievement.

"She's a role model not just for kids who can't hear or speak," her father Sher Bahadar, who runs a printing business in Peshawar, told Reuters as Sana scrolled on her phone beside him at the Kinjo Futo Arena.

"In our family circles, she's seen as an example of where talent and commitment can take you."

That journey has demanded heavy sacrifices.



Bahadar sold two of his printing machines this year to fund Sana's overseas trips. With the demands of accompanying her abroad, his business has dropped by 60% — a reality he acknowledged with a wry smile.

"I have no regrets, though. Because of her, I get to travel and meet so many great athletes. We are absolutely proud of her," he said.

Wellalage and Mendis star as Sri Lanka level England series in thriller

- "I'm so happy winning and getting the hundred," said player-of-the-match Kusal. "

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Dunith Wellalage took three wickets after captain Kusal Mendis hit a fine century as Sri Lanka beat England by 16 runs at Headingley on Thursday in a last-over thriller to level a three-match one-day international series.

"I'm so happy winning and getting the hundred," said player-of-the-match Kusal. "The overall performance was very good."

England were cruising to a target of 322 while Tom Banton (73) and Ben Duckett (67) shared a first-wicket stand of 143.

Sri Lanka had been hammered 3-0 in a preceding T20 campaign but Wellalage dragged them back into this match. He removed both openers and



home captain Harry Brook to reduce England to 157-3. The left-arm spinner finished with figures of 3-49.

"Wellalage bowled really well, the whole team, after the powerplay," said Mendis

Jos Buttler then threatened to win the game with a barrage of boundaries. But on 64 he pulled up with what a team spokesman said was a "left hamstring twinge" and retired hurt, with England still requiring 68 off 75 balls for victory.

Rehan Ahmed immediately fell for a duck, caught down the legside by wicketkeeper Mendis off Dilshan Madushanka.

The runs dried up as Sri Lanka's previously wayward quicks gained reverse swing with the old ball and a target of 19 off the last over proved beyond England.

When Jamie Overton fell, a hobbling Buttler resumed his innings with England 295-7. Will Jacks drove Asitha Fernando for six to complete a fifty following his unbeaten 46 during England's 89-run win in Tuesday's series opener at Chester-le-Street. But Jacks then skyed Eshan Malinga to long-on.

Buttler, on strike at the start of the last over, connected well off Madushanka but the ball flew straight to deep midwicket and the 36-year-old, one of the outstanding white-ball batsmen of his generation, was gone for good on 69.

Kamindu Mendis saved what seemed a certain six by Jofra Archer to leave England needing an improbable 17 off three balls.

The teams now head to London for a series-decider at the Oval on Sunday.

- 'Outstanding game' -

An upbeat Brook said: "It was an outstanding game...To restrict them to 320 (321) and have the chance to chase that down was a hell of an effort. The lads got the chase off to a flyer. You couldn't really ask for much more.

Brook insisted a series decider was just what England needed ahead of next year's 50-over World Cup in southern Africa."We've got a great opportunity now to try and win this series, and a great opportunity for 12 months' time," he said. "In pressure situations.

PTV's Shahzad strikes 49-ball century on opening day of round three

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

The opening day of the third round of Al Batal Presents ABS Developers President's Trophy Grade-I saw a blazing century from Pakistan Television's Muhammad Shahzad, while Markhor IT Solutions' Atiq-ur-Rehman shone with an unbeaten century as action unfolded across Islamabad, Peshawar and Abbottabad.

Pakistan Test captain Babar Azam returned to first-class cricket for Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and spent 60 overs in the field as Khan Research Laboratories had opted to bat first at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

At Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad, PTV were asked to bat first by Kingsmen Academy and they closed the day with 285-7 in 58 overs after bad light forced early stumps. None of the PTV batters crossed 43-run mark except Shahzad who was at his belligerent best striking 114 off 62 balls including 12 fours and eight sixes.

Shahzad, who scored his sixth first-class century, walked in at 34-3 in 15.1 overs and fought back against Kingsmen bowlers especially Muhammad Ilyas and Muhammad Umar who had accounted for the first three wickets. Shahzad went berserk as he shared a 143-run stand with Mohammad Taha (43, 72b, 6x4s).

Left-arm pacer Zia-ul-Haq provided the breakthrough to his team removing Shahzad in the 32nd over as PTV lost four for 108. No.6 batter Sharoon Siraj didn't let Kingsmen to attack from both ends as he held one with a 85-ball 53 not out hitting eight fours and two sixes.

For Kingsmen, Muhammad Ilyas picked up three for 95, while Shoaib Afridi accounted for two wickets.

At Imran Khan Stadium, Peshawar, MIT Solutions managed 258-3 in 79 overs against Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and were led by no.5 batter Atiq-ur-Rehman.



Breetzke and Maharaj sink Australia in first one-day international

- Breetzke's 112 and a hard-hit 75 by Marco Jansen took South Africa to 297 for eight after they were sent in.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Matthew Breetzke hit a century and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj took four wickets as South Africa beat Australia by 67 runs in the first one-day international at Kingsmead.

Breetzke's 112 and a hard-hit 75 by Marco Jansen took South Africa to 297 for eight after they were sent in.

But Australia became favourites when Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head thrashed 90 for the first wicket inside the 10-over powerplay.

The match swung dramatically when Maharaj had Marsh caught for 60, made off 36 balls. A combination of excellent spin bowling by Maharaj and fellow left-armer Bjorn Fortuin, some poor shots and good catching put South Africa in charge.

Maharaj took four for 20 and Fortuin two for 34 as Australia were bowled out for 230.

"We're pretty disappointed," said Marsh, who was captaining Australia in the absence of Pat Cummins, who sat out the opening match of the three-game series after a late arrival in South Africa.

"We pushed to get those last few wickets but they hammered us in the last 10 overs," Marsh said at the post-match presentation. "I thought Marco Jansen batted very well." Marsh said Australia failed to build on his stand with Head.

"We got the (required) run rate down. We had opportunities with the bat but we weren't able to form partnerships."

Breetzke came in with South Africa struggling at 29 for two on a pitch which offered early assistance to Australian seam bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Ellis.

"It was tricky early on. With a bowling attack like that I really had to dig deep," he said.

He had partnerships of 54 with captain Temba Bavuma (30) and 42 with Ryan Rickelton (27) before he was joined by Jansen in a sixth wicket stand of 107 off 83 balls.The tall Jansen struck four sixes and seven fours in an innings of 75 off 59 deliveries.

Marsh launched an extraordinary assault at the start of the Australian innings.



Swim sensation Yu, 13, set for Olympic take-off after golden Asian Games

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

China's 13-year-old swimming prodigy Yu Zidi has stamped her mark all over the Asian Games and she could cause a sensation at the Los Angeles Olympics in two years' time.

The schoolgirl won all three individual races she swam this week in Tokyo with Asian Games records – a series of performances that belied her tender age.

Out of the pool she proved herself to be a typical teenager, joking around with team-mates and freezing when asked about herself in interviews.

She will be 15 when the LA Olympics come round in 2028, and is likely to be a major medal threat with the world watching.

"She hasn't become that fast for no reason," said team-mate Ke Wenxi, who Yu beat in the 400m individual medley final to complete her golden hat-trick.

"I've seen how hard she works in training. During this national team training camp, I saw her working really hard every day." Yu also won the 200m butterfly and 200m individual medley races this week in Tokyo.



Sri Lanka captain Mendis hits century in 321-6 against

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis led from the front with a superb century in the second one-day international against England at Headingley Mendis's 121 was the cornerstone of Sri Lanka's 321-6 as they looked to level this three-match series at 1-1. Sri Lanka were dismissed for just 176 during an 89-run defeat in Tuesday's opener at Chester-le-Street.

Mendis opted to bat first after winning the toss in Leeds, with Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga ruled out of the remainder of the series because of a back problem.

Sri Lanka's skipper was rewarded with a much-improved batting display as his side sought a first win this tour after being whitewashed 3-0 in the T20 series.



Pakistan's shuttlers stumble at Asian Games

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan had a disappointing start to their badminton campaign of the 20th Asian Games being held in Nagoya. On Friday Pakistan's Muhammad Ali Larosh was knocked out of the men's singles badminton competition after Kazakhstan's Makhsut Tajibullayev edged him 2-1 in a 49-minute first-round thriller.

Tajibullayev took the opening game 21-11, but Larosh fought back to win the second 24-22 and force a decider at the Ichinomiya City Municipal Gymnasium.

The third game went down to the wire, with Tajibullayev eventually prevailing 24-22 to seal the match.Earlier Olympian Mahoor Shahzad and Mohammad Ali Larosh were eliminated when they were undone by South Korea's Kim Jaeh Yun and Jang Hajeong in the mixed doubles,

Korea's duo did not take more pain and wrapped-up straight set victory with the score being 21-1, 21-10.

Scanned with CamScanner



Gohar urges govt to listen before Sept 27 showdown

STAFF Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Centre on Thursday moved swiftly to deploy paramilitary Pakistan Rangers in several Punjab districts and the federal capital to assist police in maintaining law and order and responding to potential security threats, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Interior.

The move came as PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan urged the government to open negotiations over the party's planned September 27 long march, warning that political workers should not be confronted with force.

He said his party did not want the public and law-enforcement personnel to come face to face.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament, Gohar said dialogue was essential given the seriousness of the situation and the fact that a major political party was preparing for a long march.

CM Maryam orders turning 300 rural health centers into full hospitals

● A smart ultrasound device that can be linked to a mobile phone will also be introduced to improve access to diagnostic services.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered the conversion of 300 rural health centers across the province into full-fledged hospitals as part of new healthcare measures,

The decision was announced during a meeting chaired by Maryam Nawaz, where officials gave a detailed briefing on healthcare reforms, digital facilities, hospital performance and monitoring systems across Punjab.

Under the plan, 300 Rural Health Centers will be converted into full hospitals to provide patients with improved treatment and diagnostic facilities.

The chief minister was also briefed about the introduction of Punjab's first digital medical box. The device can be connected to a camera to facilitate teleconferencing and remote medical consultations. It will also allow tests including ultrasound, blood sugar, CBC and ECG.

A smart ultrasound device that can be linked to a mobile phone will also be introduced to improve access to diagnostic services.



The meeting also discussed the establishment of telemedicine centers for seasonal and common illnesses. Patients will be able to consult doctors through video calls, while those requiring further treatment will be referred to the relevant hospital or ward. The telemedicine centers will also help patients schedule appointments and laboratory tests at the relevant facility.

Maryam Nawaz directed officials to introduce a "Hospital of the Month" award for the best-performing hospitals across Punjab. She also ordered the immediate replacement of four hospital medical superintendents over poor performance and negligence, according to the briefing.

The meeting was informed that more than 40,000 doctors and allied health staff had been recruited in Punjab. This includes 2,524 doctors, 2,482 women medical officers, 408 consultants and 32 cardiologists. A total of 7,572 Lady Health Visitors and 5,048 support staff have also been deployed.

The chief minister directed officials to establish an emergency pool of doctors and medical superintendents to deal with emergency situations. She also ordered the provision of new CT scan machines in every district to strengthen diagnostic facilities.

Maryam Nawaz further directed the establishment of telemedicine centers for common and seasonal diseases and ordered the appointment of clinic quality control officers to analyses the standard of treatment being provided to patients.

A Directorate of Monitoring and Surveillance has also been established in primary healthcare to ensure 24-hour digital monitoring of public health facilities.

The monitoring system will cover District Headquarters Hospitals, Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals, Maryam Nawaz Hospitals, Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics, field hospitals and Clinics on Wheels. The chief minister also directed officials to improve cleanliness and parking arrangements at district and tehsil hospitals.

PM Shehbaz updates UN chief on growing terrorism threats from Afghan soil

● Prime Minister also meets his Lebanese counterpart Nawaf Salam

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

Prime Minister Shehbaz held detailed talks with outgoing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly session in New York on Thursday night,

In a post uploaded on X platform on Friday, PM Shehbaz Sharif said "As always, it was a pleasure to meet UN Secretary-General António Guterres, whose steadfast commitment to the UN Charter and the cause of peace I deeply value."

He said "We had a wide-ranging exchange on the serious challenges confronting our region



and the world. I reiterated Pakistan's firm belief that dialogue and diplomacy must remain our path to resolving conflicts and restoring peace, particularly in the Middle East."

"I also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood, and shared our concerns over rising Islamophobia, as well as the growing threat of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil," he said and added "I thanked the Secretary-General for his appreciation of Pakistan's contributions to international peace and security, our sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, and our ongoing efforts to promote dialogue and durable peace in the region." PM, Lebanon counterpart review ties

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with Prime Minister Nawaf Salam of the Lebanese Republic on sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Thursday and they reviewed bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding and fraternal relations between Pakistan and Lebanon.



Iran awaiting response from Trump on proposal to reopen Hormuz in six days

■ Move comes in the wake of heightened tensions following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam

SPECIAL REPORTER

TEHRAN

Iran said it has told Donald Trump it is willing to open the Strait of Hormuz in six days, and to start talks on its nuclear programme the day after, so long as the US lifts sanctions on Iran's oil exports in return, ends the war on all fronts – including in Lebanon – and releases some of Iran's frozen assets.

The proposal is designed to accelerate the steps first laid down in the memorandum of understanding signed by the US and Iran in June, particularly by helping the talks on Iran's nuclear program start much more quickly than previously agreed.

Iran says a deal on the temporary route through the Strait of Hormuz has been agreed with Oman, describing it as a done deal, and is ready to register the details with the International Maritime Organisation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said he was waiting to hear a response from the Americans to the proposal. He added that he had consulted on the plan with China, which fully supported the proposal.

Saudi Arabia had been expected to endorse the Oman-Iran route through the strait last week, but pulled back partly due to anger that Iranian-backed Houthis had started attacking Saudi Arabia as part of their dispute over the future of Yemen.

Iran claims it has urged the Houthis to cease the attacks on Saudi Arabia but that it does not have control over Houthi decision-making.

Araghchi, speaking to reporters in New York, said: "We have introduced a plan to the US through the mediators that if certain conditions are met, the strait will be open within seven days and talks will start."

He said the Iranian preconditions were not new, and were contained in the Islamabad memorandum of understanding that was signed by Trump.The advantage of the proposal, apart from opening the strait and lifting the chokehold on the world economy, would be bringing the US to the talks on Iran's nuclear program much more quickly. Talks on the nuclear programme under the MoU would not have started for 60 days.

ATC Islamabad orders Imaan Mazari, Hadi to appear through video link

■ A case against Mazari and Chattha has been registered at the Secretariat police station in Islamabad.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad has ordered human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, to appear through video link at tomorrow's hearing in a case involving allegations of violating protocol and assaulting police officers.

Anti-Terrorism Court judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the case on Friday. The court had directed the Adiala Jail authorities to produce Mazari and Chattha before it on Friday, but the two were not brought to the hearing.

The judge expressed displeasure over their absence and ordered that the hearing be



adjourned until tomorrow. He directed the jail authorities to produce both accused through video link at the next hearing. A case against Mazari and Chattha has been registered at the Secretariat police station in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, a report submitted by Adiala Jail officials to the anti-terrorism court on Thursday stated that, according to the jail's registered and digital records, the authorities had not yet received the powers of attorney for Mazari and Chattha.

The report from the jail officials was submitted during the hearing of a petition challenging the non-provision of the powers of attorney in the case.

During the proceedings, Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra observed that Chattha's power of attorney had been presented before the court. However, the deputy superintendent of Adiala Jail told the court that the document did not bear his signatures.

SECP cleared over million claims of insurance companies worth Rs542b in 2025

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmad Sidhu on Friday said that insurance companies had paid over one million claims in 2025,

The SECP released data on claims paid by the insurance industry for the first time.

The life insurance sector paid total claims worth Rs410 billion, while non-life insurance companies paid claims worth Rs132 billion.

Life insurance companies paid over 33,000 death-related claims, while non-life companies settled more than 720,000 health and accident claims.

More than 282,000 motor insurance claims were paid, while around 11,000 fire and property-related claims were settled.

Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said that disclosure of insurance companies' claims data will enhance accountability. He said claims settlement is important for policyholders' confidence in the insurance industry.

The overall insurance industry premium increased by 15% to Rs778 billion, while insurance industry assets reached Rs4.1 trillion, up over 9% from Rs3,738 billion in 2024.

Insurance penetration stood at 0.7% and insurance density at Rs3,361. Of the total premium, 84% came from conventional insurers and 16% from the takaful sector, whose contribution rose 27% to Rs123 billion from Rs97 billion in 2024.

Premium generated through digital distribution channels increased 71%, rising from Rs4bn in 2024 to Rs6.8bn in 2025, representing 0.85% of total industry premium.



Commuters ride past shipping containers stacked in front of Serena Hotel as authorities beef up security ahead of PTI's expected long march

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