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Terrorist attacks against Pakistan from Afghan soil matter of concern: Rubio

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

The US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, has voiced support for Pakistan in fight against terrorism, saying terrorist attacks from the territory of Afghanistan is a matter of concern.
Pakistan's position is that the Afghan Taliban have not taken effective measures to prevent terrorist attacks from their territory. Pakistan has taken action due to insufficient measures by the Taliban, Rubio said.
The US secretary of state said United States does not want Pakistan to be a target of terrorism.Regarding the war in Ukraine, he has said that he cannot say for sure whether peace in Ukraine will be possible through negotiations or not.

Gilani pays tribute to historic struggle, patriotism of Gilgit-Baltistan

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Sunday extended heartfelt felicitations to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan on their 79th Independence Day, paying rich tribute to their historic struggle, sacrifices and unwavering commitment to Pakistan.
He said that the region's liberation from Dogra rule and its decision to join Pakistan remain a proud chapter in the country's history.



Senior PML-N leader Malik Sultan Mahmood Hunjra called on Prime Minister(PM),Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday.During the meeting, Malik Sultan Mahmood Hunjra appreciated the government's initiatives for national development and public welfare.

Balochistan: 200 Health Employees Dismissed Over Absenteeism, AI-Based Attendance System Announced

■ CM Sarfraz Bugti says Rs410 million deducted from employees' salaries; 11,000 issued notices, while 800 face departmental proceedings

CITY REPORTER

QUETTA



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced the introduction of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based attendance system in the provincial Health Department for the first time to ensure punctuality, discipline and accountability among government employees.
He said 72 more doctors had been dismissed from service for remaining absent from duty for prolonged periods, taking the total number of Health Department employees terminated over absenteeism to 200.
In a statement posted on social media platform X, the chief minister said Rs410 million had so far been deducted from government employees' salaries for violations of attendance rules and disciplinary regulations. He added that 11,000 employees had been issued notices seeking explanations for their absence from duty and negligence in performing official responsibilities. Departmental proceedings were also under way against another 800 government employees, he said.Bugti emphasised that government employees were public servants and must discharge their responsibilities with honesty, punctuality and a strong sense of accountability. He made it clear that no employee would be allowed to draw a salary without performing duty.He said negligence, absenteeism and failure to provide public services would not be tolerated, adding that measures to improve attendance, discipline and institutional performance would continue across government departments.
In a separate development, the chief minister has taken personal responsibility for the welfare., education and upbringing of five orphaned siblings, including Munir Ahmed, a young boy who came into the public spotlight.

Pakistan assumes G24 chairmanship, vows to champion developing countries' interests



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has assumed the chairmanship of the Group of 24 (G24), with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb appointed as the group's new chairman, in a move aimed at strengthening the voice of developing countries in the global financial system.
Speaking on the occasion, Aurangzeb said Pakistan would advocate for fair representation of developing countries in the international financial system and work towards a more equitable financial order.
He stressed the need to place development at the centre of global economic policies, saying the benefits of economic stability should translate into investment, employment opportunities and public prosperity.
The finance minister called for greater representation of developing countries in international financial institutions and a fair share for all countries in decision-making processes.
He also emphasised the need to provide developing nations with affordable and timely financial assistance, find sustainable solutions to debt-related challenges and take effective measures to address climate change.

India biggest sponsor of terrorism in Pakistan, says DG ISPR

■ Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif said several intelligence agencies and proxy groups had established their roots in Afghanistan following the Russian intervention there.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Afghan Taliban do not have the capability to absorb the "punishment" Pakistan can inflict in response to threats emanating from Afghanistan, the military's spokesperson has warned.
Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told Reuters Pakistan possessed the capability to counter threats from the Afghan Taliban, including those involving drones, and was prepared for attempts to test its operational readiness.
"Whatever they want to send, they can; they may try. We have the capability to take them on," the ISPR DG said in an interview.
"They don't have, I think, the capability to then absorb the punishment that we can put on them," he added.The military spokesperson was responding to a question about the potential threat posed by drones in the hands of the Afghan Taliban and whether Pakistan could face a situation similar to drone threats elsewhere in the region.Lt Gen Chaudhry said that whatever drone capability the Afghan Taliban possessed was not indigenous, saying that such technology was being supplied by their sponsors.
The ISPR DG said that India is the "biggest terror sponsor" in the context of threats facing Pakistan and added that the Afghan Taliban and terrorist groups operating against Pakistan were acting as Indian proxies.
Referring to Pakistan's previous conflict with India, he said New Delhi had sent "dozens and dozens" of sophisticated drones, which Pakistan successfully countered.
"We turned them into dust everywhere," he said, adding that Pakistan had since moved further ahead in terms of its operational readiness.
The ISPR DG also said that the Afghan Taliban regime is harbouring terrorist leaders and allowing armed groups to operate from Afghan soil against Pakistan.
He said Islamabad was not seeking Afghanistan's isolation and remained engaged with Kabul, but expected the Afghan Taliban to "act like a state" and prevent terrorism from its territory.

Pakistan assumes G24 chairmanship, vows to champion developing countries' interests

■ Pakistan assumes the G24 chairmanship, with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb pledging to advocate fair representation, financial support and sustainable development for developing countries.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan has assumed the chairmanship of the Group of 24 (G24), with Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb appointed as the group's new chairman, in a move aimed at strengthening the voice of developing countries in the global financial system.
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affordable and timely financial assistance, find sustainable solutions to debt-related challenges and take effective measures to address climate change.
Aurangzeb said Pakistan would work with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank during its G24 chairmanship. Increasing public and private investment in developing countries.



Lahore's air quality deteriorates as smog level reaches hazardous levels

- Lahore ranked second among Pakistan's most polluted cities as air pollution levels continued to rise



SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

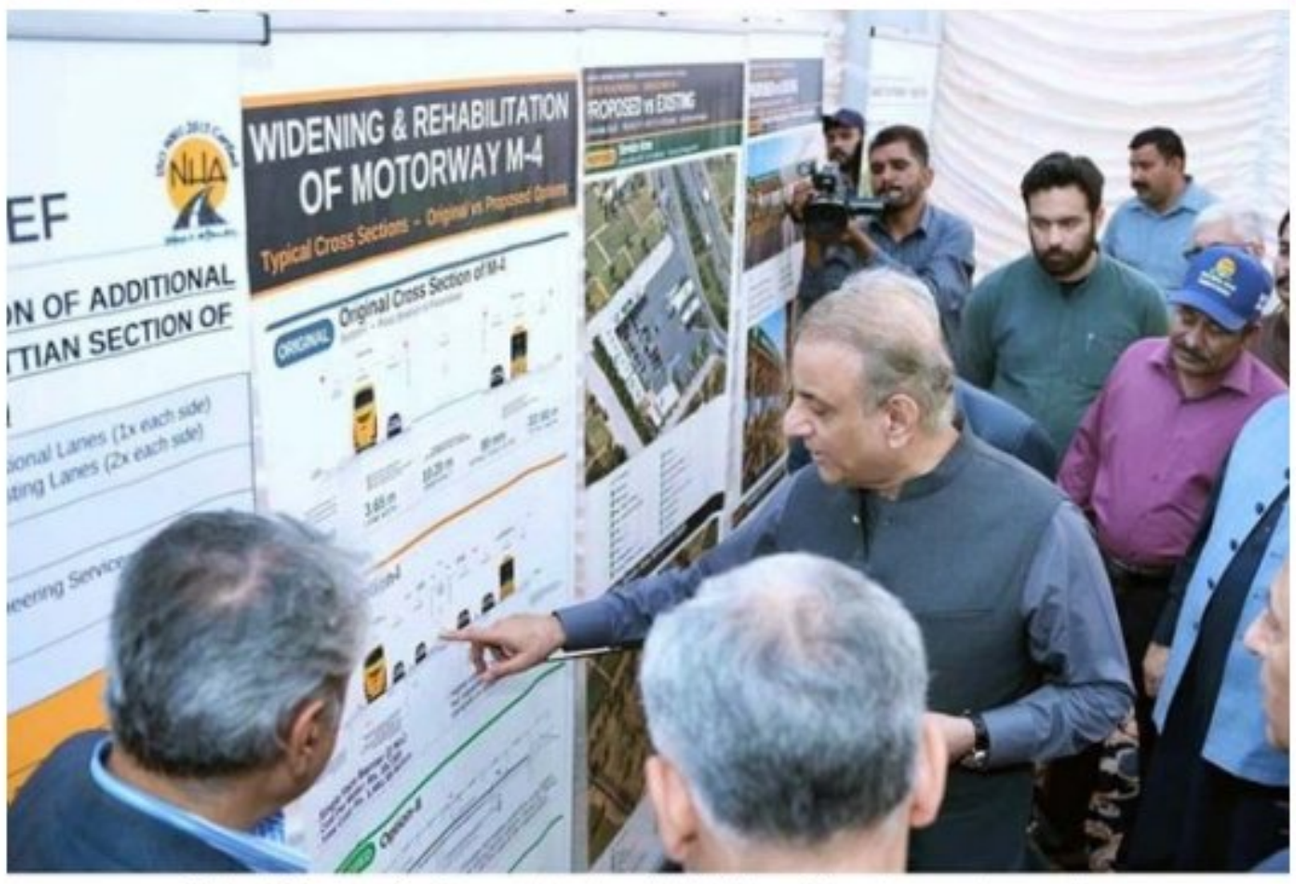
Air pollution levels in Lahore have increased, with the city's average smog reading reaching 475, putting its air quality in the hazardous category, while dry weather is expected to prevail on Sunday.

According to the Meteorological Department, the minimum temperature in the city was recorded at 17 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is expected to reach 30 degrees Celsius. The current temperature stood at 21 degrees Celsius, with wind speed recorded at 2 kilometres per hour and humidity at 69 per cent.

Meanwhile, Lahore ranked second among Pakistan's most polluted cities as air pollution levels continued to rise.

The average smog reading across the city was recorded at 475. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 704 in Allama Iqbal Town, while Model Town recorded an AQI of 481.

Experts have warned that the high levels of air pollution could pose serious health risks to residents.



Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan inspected extension work of Motorway M4 at Kamalpur Interchange.

Gilani calls for strengthening Pakistan-China parliamentary cooperation

- Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation, institutional exchanges and mutual learning between Pakistan and China.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasized the importance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation, institutional exchanges and mutual learning between Pakistan and China.

Gilani calls for strengthening Pakistan-China parliamentary cooperation

While addressing the inauguration of the Pakistan-China Research Center for Party and State Governance he said that China's experience in governance, institutional development, long-term planning and economic transformation offers valuable insights for strengthening Pakistan's legislative and policy institutions.

Gilani also accepted the honorary chairmanship of the research center which will contribute towards strengthening multidimensional cooperation through research and development.



The Chairman Senate warmly welcomed Leo Hye-shing, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and his distinguished delegation to Pakistan. He congratulated the Pakistan-China Economic and Cultural Council (PCECC) on establishing the Research Center and expressed gratitude for being invited to serve as its Honorary Chairman, a responsibility he accepted with humility and commitment.

Referring to the photo exhibition showcasing the history of Pakistan-China relations, Gilani said the photographs reflected much more than diplomatic milestones, depicting an enduring friendship rooted in mutual respect, trust and people-to-people connections. Recalling his family's historical association with China, he noted that his father had visited China in 1956 as a member of Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly, describing this connection as a cherished legacy that must be carried forward by future generations.

Highlighting the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the Chairman Senate said that the Senate of Pakistan had commemorated this historic milestone through a unanimous resolution, reaffirming that the friendship between the two countries transcends political affiliations and social backgrounds.

US to deport 150 Afghan immigrants back to Afghanistan via Pakistan

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

President Donald Trump's administration plans to deport more than 150 Afghan immigrants back to Afghanistan via Pakistan, US media reported, a move advocacy groups say could endanger their lives.

Trump last year issued travel bans for a number of countries, including Afghanistan, as part of a broad immigration crackdown, and sought to end deportation protections for Afghans, some of whom were granted special immigrant visas following the August 2021 takeover by Taliban authorities.

More than 150 Afghan immigrants are expected to be deported in the latest push, The New York Times reported, citing three unnamed US officials, and the first flight could leave as soon as Monday.



Among those expected to be deported are relatives of Afghans who assisted the US military in the country prior to the fall of Kabul, according to AfghanEvac, a group seeking to help former Afghan allies.

While the United States cannot arrange deportations directly to Afghanistan, the officials told the Times that Pakistan will oversee their expulsion to Afghanistan.

Pakistan's government earlier this year ordered law enforcement nationwide to arrest Afghan citizens without visas as part of a years-long repatriation policy that has pushed back millions of Afghans who fled their homes after the Taliban returned to power.

Sharjeel blames centre for delay in completion of uplift projects in Sindh

- Sharjeel Inam Memon said that payment was made five years ago to remove poles from the road in Sukkur, but the poles have not been removed till date.

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI

The Sindh government has demanded immediate relocation of utility installations that are hindering the construction and expansion of roads and urged federal government departments to fulfill their responsibilities.

Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that public development projects are being affected due to the negligence of relevant federal agencies.

Compensation has been paid to HESCO and SEPCO for the relocation of electricity poles installed on roads, yet the poles are still not being removed from roads under construction. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that payment was made five years ago to remove poles from the road in Sukkur, but the poles have not been removed till date. HESCO, SEPCO, K-Electric, Sui Southern Gas and other related utility companies will have to fulfill their responsibilities.



He said that the Sindh government is spending a huge amount of money on development projects, however, delays in transferring installations by utility companies are hindering the completion of the projects.

Sharjeel Memon said that electricity poles on the roads are obstructing traffic flow and causing accidents, while other utility installations are also affecting the construction and expansion of roads.

The provincial minister said that the failure to transfer poles and other installations despite payment of compensation is beyond comprehension, and the relevant institutions should make immediate progress in this matter.

According to Sharjeel Inam Memon, one of the main reasons for the delay in the Red Line project has been the delay in moving utility installations and poles to alternative locations.

Qatar offers Pakistani travellers free visa on arrival for up to 30 days

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Qatar is offering Pakistani citizens a free tourist visa on arrival for stays of up to 30 days, subject to specified conditions, according to the Qatari Ministry of Interior.

The visa may be issued for up to 30 days, or for a period determined by the visitor's hotel booking, the ministry's website states.

Applicants must have a passport valid for at least three months and a confirmed return ticket.

They must also book their hotel through Qatar's official tourism website, Discover Qatar. Reservations made through other websites or online booking platforms will not be accepted for this facility.



Pakistani travellers are also required to have health insurance from a company approved by Qatar's Ministry of Public Health.

The ministry said visitors must meet all four requirements to qualify for the free visa on arrival. Travellers who cannot provide the required documents or fulfil the conditions are not guaranteed entry under this facility.

The arrangement is separate from Qatar's other visa-free entry and tourist visa programmes.

اشتہار زیر آرڈر 5 رول 20 ضابطہ دیوانی پاکستان

بعدالت قاضی دشت کھڈان بمقام تربت

اجرائی درخواست نمبر 10 / 2026

انسپکٹر جنرل آف فرنٹیئر کروپس ساؤتھ تربت بذریعہ محمد زاہد شاہ ولد داؤد شاہ ..... (مدعی)

بنام

میسرز تنڈر (PVT) لمیٹڈ گروپ بذریعہ (1) احسان قادر ولد غلام قادر (2) کامران قادر ولد غلام قادر سکنہ آفس نمبر 15 فورتھ فلور 24 سیوک سنٹر، شاہ ارکیڈ نیو گارڈن ٹاؤن لاہور ہاؤس نمبر 240 بلاک (B) سیٹلائیٹ ٹاؤن سرگودہ ..... (مدعا علیہم)

دعویٰ: عمل درآمد اجرائی درخواست مصدرہ 07 اگست 2026

اشتہار بنام مدعا علیہم میسرز تنڈر (PVT) لمیٹڈ گروپ بذریعہ (1) احسان قادر ولد غلام قادر (2) کامران قادر ولد غلام قادر سکنہ، آفس نمبر 15 فورتھ فلور 24 سیوک سنٹر، شاہ ارکیڈ نیو گارڈن ٹاؤن لاہور ہاؤس نمبر 240 بلاک (B) سیٹلائیٹ ٹاؤن سرگودہ

عنوان بالا تحریر ہے کہ مدعی نے عنوان بالا اجرائی درخواست آپ مدعا علیہم کے خلاف عدالت ہذا میں داء کی ہے۔ آپ مدعا علیہم کے نام عدالت ہذا سے متعدد بار سمنات جاری ہوئے ہیں۔ لیکن حسب ضابطہ عدالتی سمنات آپ مدعا علیہم پر تعمیل نہیں ہو رہے ہیں یا کہ آپ مدعا علیہم عدالتی سمنات کی تعمیل سے گریزاں یا روپوش ہو۔

اس لئے اشتہار ہذا کے ذریعے آپ مدعا علیہم کو حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ آئندہ تاریخ پیشی مورخہ 12-11-2026 جو کہ آپ مدعا علیہم کی حاضری کیلئے مقرر ہے اصالتاً یا وکالتاً حاضر عدالت آ کر جواب دہی کرو۔ بصورت دیگر آپ مدعا علیہم کے خلاف یکطرفہ کاروائی عمل میں لا کر حسب ضابطہ مقدمہ کا فیصلہ صادر کیا جائیگا۔

آج بتاریخ 27-10-2026 کو میرے دستخط و مہر عدالت سے جاری ہوا

قاضی دشت کھڈان بمقام تربت

PID (Q) 148 / 26

AJK PM calls for strict action against banned JAAC, facilitators

- Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said that the five months of terrorism, threats and violent acts by the banned organisation Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have caused great suffering to the people

SPECIAL REPORTER
AJK

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Iftikhar Gilani has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives in Bagh and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani said that the five months of terrorism, threats and violent acts by the banned organisation Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) have caused great suffering to the people.

He said that the outlawed JAAC and its facilitators should be held strictly accountable for targeting civilians and destroying peace.



The AJK PM said that the people deserve peace, security and a normal life, and the government of Azad Kashmir stands firmly with its citizens.

CamScanner

When Invoking History Becomes a Crime



Nissar Ahmed Thakur

The Indian judiciary's controversial decision to sentence Asiya Andrabi and her two close associates to life imprisonment under the widely debated Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has sparked intense debate across political and legal circles. Known as the 'Iron Lady of Kashmir', Ms. Andrabi was sentenced to life imprisonment by a special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the UAPAand Sections 120B and 121A of the Indian Penal Code. Her associates, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, were each sentenced to 30 years, marking the first time Kashmiri women faced such harsh penalties for 'waging war against the State [sic]'.

What sets Andrabi's case apart from other Kashmiris previously handed life sentences is the nature of the charges. For the first time, the court appears to have imposed such a severe penalty primarily on the basis of social media posts and public speeches, raising serious questions about freedom of expression and the thresholds of criminal liability.

To many, the ruling came as a shock. But for Kashmir-watchers, who closely monitor developments since the revocation of Article 370, it reflects an unfolding reality—where laws such as the UAPA are no longer exceptional tools, but central instruments shaping the post-2019 governance framework of intensified control over the majority population.

While Indian courts have previously sentenced numerous Kashmiri leaders on alleged terrorism charges involving "killing of civilians", however, this is the first case in which life imprisonment has been imposed solely for speeches and social media posts. It underscores the deepening crisis in the region, where a significant portion of the population aligns with the political ideology championed by the Dukhtaran-e-Millat chairperson. However, it remains to be seen how this judgment will affect those who have been involved in this kind of social activism for years.

?Anyhow, the ruling has set forth a chilling precedent, punishing individuals not for acts of violence, but for the words they spoke and the history they invoked. Beneath the veneer of legalese, a more unsettling question emerges: can the mere act of invoking history itself be criminalized? Could a social media post reflecting one's political beliefs—or even chanting a slogan at a public gathering—trigger repercussions of unimaginable magnitude? It is, in effect, a judicial coup against



Kashmiri voices that have refused to accept Indian diktats and its claims over the Kashmir dispute.

Kashmir has long been recognized as a disputed region, its origins tied to the turbulent events of the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. For decades, it has often been described—politically and historically—as an "unfinished agenda" of the partition. This is not merely rhetoric; it is rooted in international agreements, including multiple United Nations resolutions that acknowledged the contested nature of the region and called for its final settlement in line with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.One may agree or disagree with these interpretations. One may reject them entirely. But can their mere articulation be equated with terrorism It is also important to situate the case within the ideological position of Dukhtaran-e-Millat, the organization with which Andrabi has long been heading. The group has historically advocated for a political resolution of the Kashmir dispute, framing its stance in alignment with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. While its position is often viewed through a particular geopolitical lens, it exists within a broader spectrum of political opinion in the region.

Kashmir is a multilingual, multicultural, and multi-religious region, where people hold diverse political beliefs: some support accession to Pakistan, others advocate full integration with India, and still others envision an independent Kashmir. In any democratic framework, individuals must have the right to hold and peacefully advocate for these ideologies without fear of criminalization.

Notably, one of the principal charges against Ms. Andrabi and her colleagues is that they promoted a pro-Pakistan ideology and advocated for accession to Pakistan. This raises critical questions about the veracity of the judgment.

If certain ideological positions—such as open support for Hindutva ideology or the call for Kashmir's full integration with India—can be freely expressed, why are other ideological frameworks treated as inherently criminal? If expressing loyalty to India is deemed acceptable for a Kashmiri Pandit or a Hindu, why does a Muslim face criminal charges for invoking the Two-Nation Theory This selective policing exposes a fundamental imbalance in the notion of political freedom.



By: Aleeza Maqbool

Border Despite between Pakistan and Afghanistan

Pakistan Afghanistan border crisis is a complex and long-standing issue rooted in history, politics, security concerns, and regional power struggles. The border between the two countries known as the Durand Line. Since the creation of Pakistan in 1947, Afghanistan has disputed the legitimacy of this border, arguing that it was imposed during colonial rule and unfairly divided Pashtun tribal areas. Pakistan, however, considers the Durand Line an internationally recognized border. This disagreement forms the foundation of the border crisis that continues to affect relations between the two neighboring countries.Historically, Afghanistan was the only country to vote against Pakistan's admission to the United Nations in 1947, largely because of the border dispute. Afghan governments have periodically supported the idea of "Pashtunistan," a separate homeland for Pashtuns living in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Pakistan has always rejected this idea, viewing it as a threat to its territorial integrity. Over time, tensions over the border have led to military skirmishes, diplomatic disputes, and mutual accusations of interference in each other's internal affairs.The situation worsened during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and the subsequent Afghan war. Millions of Afghan refugees crossed into Pakistan, particularly into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Pakistan became a frontline state supporting Afghan mujahideen groups against Soviet forces. After the Soviet withdrawal, Afghanistan descended into civil war, and later the Taliban emerged in the mid-1990s, taking control of most of the country. Pakistan was one of the few countries to recognize the Taliban government during its first rule from 1996 to 2001. During this time, the border remained largely porous, allowing militants, refugees, traders, and tribal families to cross freely.Following the 9/11 attacks in the United States and the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the regional

security situation changed dramatically. The Afghan Taliban leadership reportedly took refuge in Pakistan's tribal areas, which led to accusations from Kabul and Washington that Pakistan was supporting insurgent groups. Pakistan denied these allegations, stating that it was itself a victim of terrorism. The rise of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a militant group targeting the Pakistani state, further complicated the crisis. Pakistan claimed that TTP fighters were operating from Afghan territory and launching attacks across the border.To improve border security, Pakistan began fencing the Durand Line in 2017. The fencing project aimed to control illegal crossings, smuggling, and militant infiltration. However, Afghan authorities, including both the previous Afghan government and later the Taliban government after 2021, objected to the construction of the fence. They argued that fencing would formalize a border that Afghanistan does not officially recognize. There have been several incidents where Afghan forces reportedly removed sections of the fence, leading to clashes between Pakistani and Afghan troops.The return of the Taliban to power in Kabul in August 2021, after the withdrawal of US and NATO forces, initially raised hopes in Pakistan that relations would improve. Pakistan had long advocated for a negotiated settlement in Afghanistan. However, tensions soon resurfaced. Pakistan accused the Afghan Taliban of failing to control TTP militants using Afghan soil to attack Pakistan. Cross-border attacks increased in frequency, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. In response, Pakistan conducted airstrikes inside Afghan territory in some instances, targeting suspected militant hideouts. These strikes were strongly condemned by Afghan authorities and led to further diplomatic strain.Another major factor in the border crisis is the issue of Afghan refugees. Pakistan has hosted millions of Afghan refugees for over four decades, making it one of the largest refugee hosting countries in the world. While many refugees have lived peacefully and contributed to the local economy, Pakistan has expressed concerns about security risks and economic pressure. In recent years, especially after 2023, Pakistan initiated measures to repatriate undocumented Afghan nationals. This move created humanitarian concerns and criticism from

international organizations, while also affecting relations with Kabul.Economic and trade factors are also important in understanding the border crisis. The border crossings at Torkham and Chaman are vital for trade between the two countries. These crossings are frequently closed due to security incidents or political disputes, disrupting commerce and harming local communities dependent on cross-border trade. Smuggling of goods, weapons, and narcotics has been a persistent issue. Both countries have accused each other of failing to curb illegal activities along the border.Regional and international politics further complicate the crisis. India's involvement in Afghanistan has historically been viewed with suspicion by Pakistan. Pakistan has accused India of using Afghan territory to destabilize Pakistan, while Afghanistan has denied allowing such activities. Similarly, the roles of China, the United States, and Iran influence border dynamics. China, for example, has economic interests in regional stability, especially concerning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).Despite ongoing tensions, there have been repeated efforts at dialogue and cooperation. Military officials from both sides have held meetings to reduce misunderstandings and prevent escalation. Confidence building measures, intelligence sharing, and coordinated border management have been proposed at different times. However, deep mistrust and unresolved historical grievances continue to undermine lasting solutions.In conclusion, the Pakistan Afghanistan border crisis is not merely a territorial dispute but a multifaceted issue involving history, identity, security, refugees, trade, and regional geopolitics. The contested status of the Durand Line, the activities of militant groups, cross-border attacks and the challenge of managing refugees all contribute to persistent instability. While both countries share cultural, religious, and ethnic ties, political disagreements and security concerns have prevented the development.

of stable and friendly relations. A sustainable resolution will require mutual recognition of sovereignty, effective border management, counterterrorism cooperation, and sincere diplomatic engagement. Only through dialogue and trust-building can Pakistan and Afghanistan move toward a peaceful and cooperative future, benefiting not only their own populations but also the broader South Asian region.



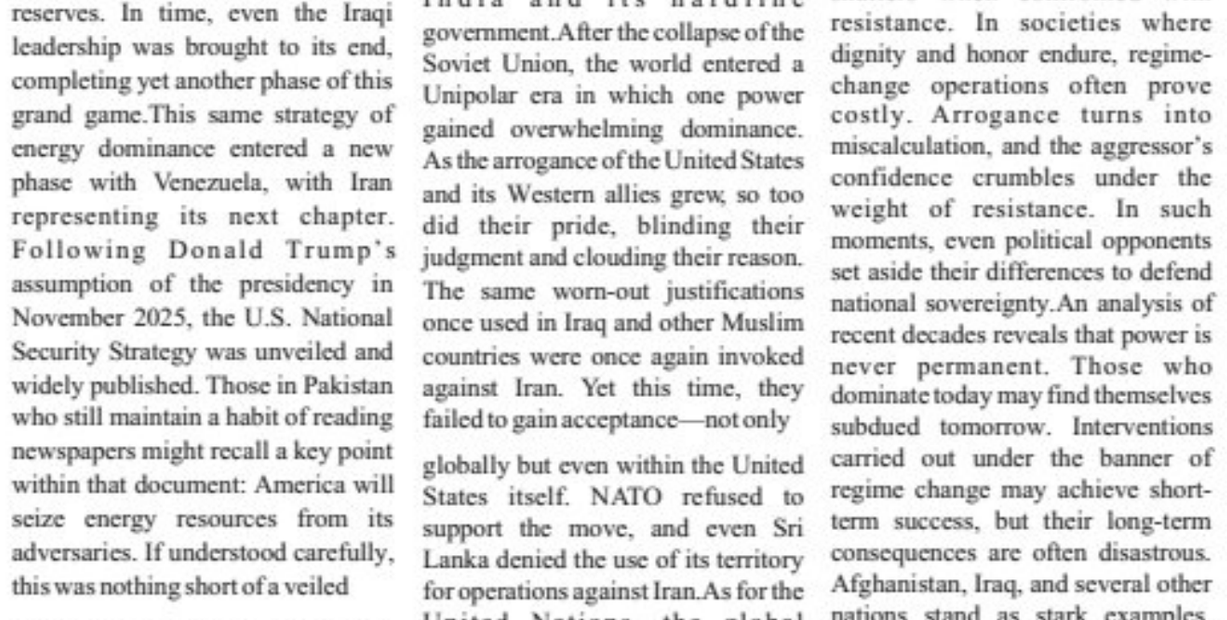
By: Abid Rasheed

The Truth Hidden in Oil, Power, and Conflict

There is a truth that is yours… a truth that is mine… and then there is that one truth: the ultimate truth. This ultimate truth is rooted in facts; it does not drown in the river of reality but rises like a wave upon its surface. It may be obscured for a time beneath the dust of narratives, powerful media, and political rhetoric, but it can never be erased.International politics is a chessboard upon which nations are arranged like pieces, yet it is always the powerful who make the moves. Behind every move lies a story, and behind every story, interests shift and stir. It would not be incorrect to say that control over energy resources has long been a central strategy of global powers. The deserts of the Middle East are not merely seas of sand; they are reservoirs of black gold, holding a pivotal place in the global economy. As history has already recorded, the Iran-Iraq war and the Iraq-Kuwait conflict were, in essence, part of a broader American design; one that ultimately ensured access not only to Kuwaiti oil but also to Saudi reserves. In time, even the Iraqi leadership was brought to its end, completing yet another phase of this grand game.This same strategy of energy dominance entered a new phase with Venezuela, with Iran representing its next chapter. Following Donald Trump's assumption of the presidency in November 2025, the U.S. National Security Strategy was unveiled and widely published. Those in Pakistan who still maintain a habit of reading newspapers might recall a key point within that document: America will seize energy resources from its adversaries. If understood carefully, this was nothing short of a veiled

declaration of war. In this light, the underlying motives behind U.S. and Israeli actions against Iran cease to be a mystery. These measures are not merely ideological or political disagreements but part of a broader geopolitical and economic design. History teaches us that whenever a nation has been targeted, a larger interest has always been at play; more often than not, tied to energy.Those with discerning insight should have taken note when President Trump carefully selected individuals for his cabinet whose past and present reflected deep-seated hostility toward Muslims, and who were known for their extreme ideological positions. One such example is Tulsi Gabbard, often associated with India's extremist organization RSS, and reportedly dubbed the "Queen of RSS" by American journalist Peter Friedrich due to her ideological leanings. Appointed Director of National Intelligence in February 2025, her inclusion speaks volumes. While Trump may appear to mock Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on occasion, such gestures are often part of political theatre. In reality, his sympathies and strategic alignment appear closely tied to India and its hardline government.After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world entered a Unipolar era in which one power gained overwhelming dominance. As the arrogance of the United States and its Western allies grew, so too did their pride, blinding their judgment and clouding their reason. The same worn-out justifications once used in Iraq and other Muslim countries were once again invoked against Iran. Yet this time, they failed to gain acceptance—not only

globally but even within the United States itself. NATO refused to support the move, and even Sri Lanka denied the use of its territory for operations against Iran.As for the United Nations, the global community has long watched; calmly yet helplessly; as its charter and the golden principles of collective security have been repeatedly violated. The death of peaceful coexistence is now witnessed in silence, for in global affairs, law and morality often remain the weakest arguments.In the Middle East, many Arab states find themselves vulnerable, lacking the means to ensure their own security and thus remaining dependent on external powers. In such a world, power becomes the only accepted currency. When the balance of power is disrupted, moral values are easily cast aside. Wars and interventions against weaker nations can be justified through fabricated pretexts, while governments are overthrown in the name of social progress and economic reform. New idols are carved, and populations are compelled to worship them. History is filled with such attempts; many of which end in failure.However, when a nation awakens to a sense of collective consciousness, internal divisions fade into the background, and unity emerges around a shared purpose. This unity becomes the strongest shield against external aggression. The illusion of power shatters when confronted with resistance. In societies where dignity and honor endure, regime-change operations often prove costly. Arrogance turns into miscalculation, and the aggressor's confidence crumbles under the weight of resistance. In such moments, even political opponents set aside their differences to defend national sovereignty.An analysis of recent decades reveals that power is never permanent. Those who dominate today may find themselves subdued tomorrow. Interventions carried out under the banner of regime change may achieve short-term success, but their long-term consequences are often disastrous. Afghanistan, Iraq, and several other nations stand as stark examples, where instability replaced the promise of order.In today's world, flooded with information.



Tailors alter and repair used clothes at a roadside shop.

CamScanner

Weekly inflation falls 0.35pc as 15 essential items become costlier

■ Pakistan's weekly inflation declined 0.35pc, while 15 essential commodities became more expensive and 12 recorded price reductions during the week.



News DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan recorded a 0.35 per cent decline in weekly inflation, while prices of 15 essential commodities increased and 12 decreased during the week, according to the latest report issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

The report showed that weekly inflation increased by 11.32 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

During the week, tomato prices surged by 34.91 per cent, followed by potatoes at 3.27 per cent, diesel at 2.53 per cent, gram pulse at 2.11 per cent and plain bread at 1.29 per cent.

According to the PBS, quarterly electricity tariffs declined by 3.92 per cent during the week. Chicken prices fell by 2.95 per cent, eggs by 2.81 per cent, flour by 0.83 per cent and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by 0.73 per cent.Petrol prices decreased by 0.39 per cent, sugar by 0.35 per cent and powdered milk by 0.33 per cent.On a year-on-year basis, LPG recorded the highest increase at 106.86 per cent. Quarterly electricity tariffs rose by 52.38 per cent, diesel by 45.13 per cent, petrol by 43.61 per cent, flour by 34.87 per cent and chicken by 31.72 per cent.

The report also showed that potato prices fell by 38.67 per cent year-on-year, tomatoes by 27.99 per cent and eggs by 26.70 per cent, while sugar became 25.21 per cent cheaper.



A street vendor is selling fresh vegetable salad to his customers.

World Bank approves 150 million dollar loan to boost property tax revenue in Sindh

■ The programme will focus on improving drainage, sewerage systems, roads and street lighting in Karachi

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The World Bank has approved $150 million in financing for the Sindh Property Revenue Enhancement Programme, aimed at improving urban property tax collection, strengthening the financial autonomy of local governments and enhancing municipal services across the province.

According to a World Bank statement, the programme seeks to increase Karachi's property tax payment rate from 20 per cent to 50 per cent and raise annual property tax revenue from $8.5 million to $85 million.

The initiative is expected to benefit 25 municipal authorities in Karachi, providing



improved municipal services to around 3.58 million residents. Under the programme, 70 per cent of the revenue generated through property taxes will be allocated to municipal infrastructure and urban services.

The programme will focus on improving drainage, sewerage systems, roads and street lighting in Karachi. Rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, including schools, fire stations, roads and drainage networks, will also be undertaken.

The World Bank said a modern digital management information system would be introduced to improve property tax collection in Karachi. The system will digitise tax billing, payments and complaint resolution processes.

The programme will also introduce property surveys and tax collection systems in 20 other urban local bodies across Sindh, indirectly benefiting around 4.5 million people. It also includes a $40 million investment project for other urban centres in the province.

According to the statement, more than 95 per cent of the revenue of Sindh's local governments currently comes from financial transfers by the provincial government.

FBR misses October tax target by Rs128b

Web Desk

KARACHI

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has failed to meet its tax collection target for October 2026, facing a shortfall of Rs128 billion,

According to the latest figures, the tax authority collected Rs1,003 billion in October against its target of Rs1,131 billion.

The shortfall has also affected overall tax collection during the first four months of the current fiscal year.

From July to October, the FBR



collected Rs4,090 billion against a target of Rs4,185 billion, leaving a shortfall of Rs95 billion.

The figures show that the tax authority is struggling to meet its revenue targets.

Jam Kamal, Saudi envoy discuss expanding trade, investment and agricultural cooperation

● Pakistan and Saudi Arabia discuss expanding bilateral trade, investment and agricultural cooperation, with both sides stressing stronger economic ties.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The newly appointed Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Dr. Rajeh Albugamy, called on Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan to discuss strengthening bilateral trade, economic cooperation and investment opportunities between the two brotherly countries.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Jam Kamal Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's deep-rooted and historic relations with Saudi Arabia, highlighting the Kingdom's special significance as the custodian of the Haram. He said the Government of Pakistan had made sustained efforts over the past three years to further



strengthen bilateral relations through enhanced government-to-government, business-to-business and people-to-people engagement.

The commerce minister emphasized that the longstanding brotherly relationship offered considerable opportunities for greater economic integration, particularly in view of Saudi Arabia's economic diversification under Vision 2030 and Pakistan's production and industrial capabilities.

He highlighted the potential for cooperation in scaling up production, improving product quality, adopting modern technologies and strengthening industrial competitiveness. He noted that collaboration in these areas could enable Pakistani businesses to better meet the requirements of the Saudi market while creating mutually beneficial economic opportunities.

The minister also underscored the importance of expanding Pakistan's export base and strengthening private-sector partnerships to translate the growing economic engagement into tangible trade outcomes.

During the meeting, the Saudi Ambassador reaffirmed the enduring bonds of brotherhood between the two countries and assured continued support for strengthening bilateral economic relations. He highlighted opportunities for enhanced regional connectivity and cooperation, particularly in the agriculture sector.

Ogra hikes LPG price by Rs14.73 per kg for November



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has increased the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by Rs14.73 per kilogram for November, issuing an official notification announcing the revised rates,

According to the notification issued on Saturday, the price of LPG has been fixed at Rs294 per kilogram, with the new rates coming into effect from November 1, though the LPG was being sold between Rs520 and 600 per kg across Pakistan.

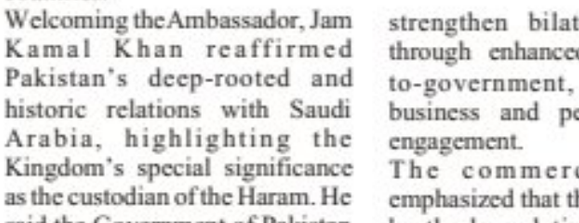
The increase has also raised the price of a standard 11.8kg domestic LPG cylinder by Rs173.86.

Following the revision, the price of an 11.8kg domestic cylinder has been set at Rs3,470.09 for November.

The latest increase is likely to add to the financial burden on households that rely on LPG for cooking and other domestic needs.

Meanwhile, the LGP is being sold in the market at nearly twice the price fixed by OGRA, raising concerns about overcharging and the implementation of officially notified rates.

Gold prices drop by Rs10,800 per tola in country following global trend



NEWS REPORER

ISLAMABAD

Gold and silver prices in Pakistan fell sharply on Saturday, offering some relief to people planning to buy jewellery, According to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of 24-karat gold fell by Rs10,800 per tola to Rs409,736.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also dropped by Rs9,259 to Rs351,282.

Meanwhile, 10 grams of 22-karat gold fell by Rs8,487 to Rs322,020.

The decline was also seen in the international market, where gold prices fell by $108 to $3,872 per ounce.

French ambassador calls on CM Punjab, discusses trade and investment cooperation

■ Maryam Nawaz meets French Ambassador Jean-Noël Poirier to discuss expanding trade, investment and industrial cooperation, inviting French firms to invest in key sectors.

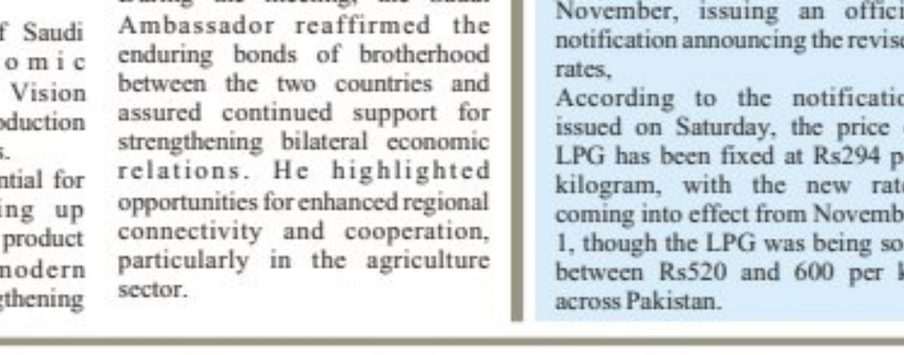
NEWS DESK

LAHORE

Newly appointed French Ambassador to Pakistan Jean-Noël Poirier called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif here on Saturday and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and industrial development.

The CM warmly welcomed the French ambassador on his visit to Lahore and congratulated him on assuming his new diplomatic responsibilities. She also thanked him for inviting her to visit France to promote bilateral trade relations.During the meeting, both sides discussed exploring new opportunities for trade, investment and industrial partnerships between Punjab and France.

CM Maryam Nawaz invited French investors to invest in Punjab's agriculture, industry and livestock sectors under the PIVOT (Punjab Innovation for Value, Opportunity and Transformation) development plan.



She also invited French companies to participate in urban wastewater governance projects in major cities of the province. The CM said French companies in dairy, food processing and cold-chain sectors could help increase agricultural value addition, while French utility firms could collaborate in water supply, wastewater treatment and solid waste management projects under the public-private partnership model.

She also highlighted opportunities for French energy companies in solar, grid and energy-efficiency projects in industrial estates.

The meeting also discussed Pakistan's GSP+ status and its importance for exports to European markets.

The chief minister said France's support was important for protecting Pakistan's trade interests in the European Union.

She said Pakistan's exports to the EU reached approximately $8.96 billion in 2025-26, adding that preferential access to European markets was vital for the country's textile, garments, sports goods and leather industries.

CM Maryam Nawaz thanked France for providing a 180-million-euro loan for NTDC transmission lines and grid stations in Punjab.

She also appreciated France's recognition of Palestine and its principled position on justice and equal rights.She said Pakistan and France enjoyed decades-old friendly relations, adding that the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted in 1789, had set out enduring principles of freedom, equality and human dignity.

Both sides expressed their commitment to strengthening long-term institutional relations and expanding trade, investment and industrial cooperation.

CamScanner



Russian strikes cut power to thousands in Ukraine as drones damage Russian facility

Russian strikes cut power to thousands in Ukraine as drones damage Russian facility

■ Russia says 235 Ukrainian drones downed overnight, Kyiv says 371 of 433 Russian long-range drones shot down

WEB DESK

MASCOW

Russian strikes left hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians without power on Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, while Russian authorities reported major damage to an industrial site following Ukrainian drone attacks on Nizhny Novgorod region.

Even as a six-day local ceasefire held on its final day around the Russian-controlled Ukrainian town of Oleshky, there was no letup in fighting elsewhere along the front line and both sides kept up long-range air attacks.

Zelenskiy said Russia had hit power infrastructure in four Ukrainian regions overnight, cutting electricity to hundreds of thousands of households. "The intensity of the strikes is very high, and the Russians are seeking to maximally exploit the deficit of ballistic missile interceptors," he said on Telegram.

He said Ukraine, meanwhile, had hit the Kamensky plant in Russia's Rostov region, which he said was involved in the manufacture of Russian missiles. Moscow did not comment on the reported attack in Rostov. In Nizhny Novgorod region, however, Governor Gleb Nikitin said a large-scale overnight Ukrainian drone attack caused "significant damage" to an industrial facility. He did not identify the site that was hit. The region is home to the NORSI oil refinery, one of Russia's largest.

Overall, Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces had downed 235 Ukrainian drones over Russian regions overnight. Ukraine's air force said it had shot down 371 of 433 long-range drones launched by Russia since Saturday evening.

Indian authorities tighten security ahead of big opposition march in Delhi

■ Authorities warned of traffic diversions ahead of the protest march and rally that will be led by Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI



Indian security personnel carrying batons and shields and accompanied by riot control vehicles surrounded the site of a planned opposition protest in Delhi on Sunday that is set to demand the resignation of the country's election chief over a controversial revision of voter lists.

Authorities warned of traffic diversions ahead of the protest march and rally that will be led by Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi. The opposition says it expects hundreds of thousands of people to participate in what it says will be a major challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Opposition parties, student organisations and the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party have held near-daily demonstrations since last month demanding that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar ?step down over the voter list revision that critics say favour the BJP.

The Election Commission has denied favouring any party and said wrongly deleted voters can re-enrol, while the BJP has accused rivals of trying to undermine democracy by wrongly questioning legitimate electoral processes.

Analysts say the youth protests, and growing support for the opposition, form the worst crisis for Modi since he came to power in 2014. But his government remains stable and the next general election is not due until 2029.

The opposition parties have announced they will hold a nearly 1.5 km (1 mile) march on Sunday from Central Delhi to the Ramlila Maidan, a ground that is the designated site for their protest rally.

Visuals from news agency ?ANI showed riot control vehicles and dozens of security personnel armed with batons and shields outside the rally venue, where announcements were being made urging people to ensure smooth traffic movement and cooperate with police officials.

Delhi Traffic Police said "a large gathering" was expected at the venue, and traffic regulations and diversions would be implemented "as required".

"People have started coming to participate in this rally...we ?have ensured proper arrangements at the venue, and arrangements are also planned on the route of the march that will happen in a few hours from now," senior police officer Rohit Rajbir told ANI.

China denies spying on Nvidia's Jensen Huang

■ Beijing said Friday that claims that Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang was the target of a Chinese spy plot were "groundless speculation".



Staff Reporter

BEIJING

Beijing said Friday that claims that Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang was the target of a Chinese spy plot were "groundless speculation".

"The report in question is based on groundless speculation and is nothing more than an attempt to smear China," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a regular briefing, referring to an article in The New York Times.

The report said that US intelligence officials concluded that a Chinese executive linked to Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed acted as a Chinese intelligence asset funnelling information to Beijing.

The firm was under scrutiny for possibly steering advanced Nvidia AI chips to China, the report said, citing unnamed sources briefed on the investigation.

But the executive Alice Huang -- also known as Huang Le and no relation to Jensen Huang -- developed a close relationship with the Nvidia boss, the New York Times said.

Nvidia said that Megaspeed was like any other regional customer and that it had previously investigated and debunked claims the Singaporean company was smuggling chips to China, the report added.

"Jensen's interactions with Ms. Huang are not unusual or unexpected. Meetings with customers are part of a C.E.O.'s job; Jensen talks with thousands of customer executives every year," Nvidia spokesman John Rizzo told the newspaper.

"



Four killed, 11 injured in Italian military helicopter crash in Bosnia, Herzegovina

WEB DESK

Bosnia

Four Italian military personnel were killed and 11 others injured when an Italian army helicopter crashed in Bosnia and Herzegovina , Italian news agency ANSA reported, citing Italy's Defence Ministry.

The Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter, carrying 15 people as part of the European Union's EUFOR Althea mission, went down near the village of Gorice in the Brcko district.

The victims included Italian army Sergeants Simone Ruggia and Claudio Marchesi, as well as Lieutenant Franco Adriano Zecchillo and Sergeant Laura Procacci of the Italian Red Cross Volunteer Military Corps.

None of the injured personnel was in life-threatening condition, the ministry said, adding that a medical team had been dispatched from Italy to assist them.

Qatari mediators return to Tehran in renewed push for US-Iran deal

■ IRGC stops two tankers south of Hormuz; one tanker temporarily disabled due to limpet mine explosion

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on Friday in an effort to negotiate an agreement to end the US-Iran conflict, with the diplomatic initiative coordinated with Washington,Al Jazeera reported.The latest push follows a report Wednesday by The Wall Street Journal that US Vice President JD Vance had sent a letter to Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei in an attempt to revive stalled negotiations.Tehran received the message but had yet to respond, a senior Iranian official told the semi-official Fars News Agency on Thursday.

US blockade, war of aggression cause of maritime insecurity in Strait of Hormuz: Iran at UNSC

Iran's representative to the United Nations Security Council Gholamhossein Darzi condemned the US and Israel for their ongoing military aggression and what he termed an illegal naval blockade, saying that Washington's actions are the root cause of maritime insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, according to Press TV on Friday. He rejected attempts by Western states to blame Tehran for disruptions in the vital waterway, adding that Iran had upheld freedom of navigation as a responsible coastal state for decades.

Regrettably, at today's meeting, some speakers have once again ignored the root causes of the current situation," the envoy said. "The responsibility for any disruption, obstruction, or other interference with maritime navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz lies directly with the aggressors and those who facilitate or assist their act of aggression against Iran."

"Attempts to shift this responsibility onto Iran are unfounded and lack credibility," he said.The Iranian diplomat said that the Strait of Hormuz remained entirely open and secure until February 28, 2026. Since then, the US and Israel launched a "brutal war of aggression" against Iran, deliberately targeting the country's civilian and maritime infrastructure, ports, and vessels, according to Press TV.

Yemen's Houthis deny launching drone after coalition reports interception in Makkah region

■ Saudi-led Coalition spokesperson says Houthi drone was intercepted and destroyed as military escalation continues

WEB DESK

Yemen

Yemen's Houthis Makkah launching an attack towards Saudi Arabia on Friday, after the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by the group over the Makkah region.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree dismissed the coalition's account as false in a post on X, saying the group had not carried out any operation towards Saudi territory. He said its operations target Saudi oil facilities and military bases.

"A drone launched by the Houthi terrorist militia was intercepted and destroyed in the Makkah region," Saudi-led Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki wrote on X.Earlier on Friday, al-Maliki said the coalition's air defences intercepted and destroyed a Houthi cruise missile that targeted western Saudi Arabia.

The incident comes amid escalating hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, with both sides reporting military operations and attacks in recent days.

The Houthis also announced Thursday that they carried out six attacks against targets in Saudi Arabia, including oil facilities and airports. The Saudi-led coalition has been involved in Yemen's conflict since March 2015, supporting the internationally recognised government against the Houthis, who seized the capital Sanaa in September 2014.



Yemeni army investigating reports of Houthi use of toxic gases in Taiz

Yemen's armed forces said Thursday that they were investigating reports that Houthi forces had used projectiles suspected of containing toxic substances in the southwestern province of Taiz, resulting in suspected cases of poisoning and suffocation among civilians and resistance fighters.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said it was taking field reports seriously from the Taiz fronts concerning the alleged use of toxic materials.

The ministry called for an urgent investigation to determine the nature of the substances, document their effects and identify those responsible for supplying them.

The military said the reports came amid continued Houthi attacks on Taiz, including sniper fire, indiscriminate shelling of residential neighbourhoods and the blockade of roads, preventing access to water, food, medicine and other essential supplies.

It warned the Houthis against targeting civilians or using prohibited means of warfare.

The armed forces said protecting civilians and breaking the siege of Taiz remained a responsibility of the state and its military, adding that they would take necessary measures in accordance with their constitutional obligations and international humanitarian law.

CamScanner

Deedar accuses Resham of 'destroying homes'

■ Deedar said her remarks stem from years of personal experience.

SHOWBIZ DESK
ISLAMABAD

Punjabi actress Deedar has sparked controversy after making strong allegations against fellow star Resham during her appearance on an Eid special show.

Speaking on a private TV channel's show, Deedar accused Resham of negatively impacting people's lives. She remarked that while Resham is a talented actress, she has "destroyed many homes and lives."

When questioned about the basis of her claims, Deedar said her remarks stem from years of personal experience, adding that despite everything, they still share a connection. She cautioned others to be careful, suggesting d by firsthand interactions.





her views were shaped by firsthand interactions.

Deedar also made indirect remarks about Resham's public image, including her cooking content and charitable work, implying that appearances could be misleading.

A prominent figure in Punjabi cinema and theatre, Deedar entered the entertainment industry following in the footsteps of her elder sister, Nargis. The sisters were recently in the news over a fraud case involving Deedar's husband.

Meanwhile, Resham, also known as Saima Shah, is a well-known film and television actress, recognized for her work in the 1990s and early 2000s. In recent years, she has stepped back from acting and focused more on charitable activities.

Film Awards 16 cancelled in Dubai amid regional tensions

● The organisers went on to say "the safety and well-being of our guests, partners and community remain our utmost concern".

SHOWBIZ DESK
ISLAMABAD

Film Awards 16 has been postponed in Dubai following US, Israel and Iran war. Scheduled to be held at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena on May 9, the event has now been cancelled and is expected to take place at another date.

In a post shared by the organisers of the ceremony on Instagram, it was announced that the awards meant to be held in Dubai would now be postponed "due to the current situation in the region".

The organisers went on to say "the safety and well-being of our guests, partners and community remain our utmost concern". They have yet to announce the new date or location of the postponed event. Iran's retaliatory strikes on US bases in the region have resulted in deaths due to debris by interception, as well as damage to properties.

With Dubai and Abu Dhabi both affected by the war, the safety of tourists and citizens in the region still needs to be put under control. At the moment, it is unclear when the conflict will de-escalate.





Mahira Khan's nostalgic 90s wireless phone in Mitti De Baway

■ Social media users also shared memories of similar phones from the 1990s. One viewer recalled that their father owned the same type of phone

WEB DESK
LAHORE

Mahira Khan's latest scene in Mitti De Baway has caught fans' attention, but it is not just her performance making headlines. Viewers have spotted a nostalgic 1990s wireless phone featuring the Mobilink name and praised the drama for its attention to period details.

Set across different periods in Punjab, Mitti De Baway has received appreciation for its production design and use of era-specific details. From costumes and accessories to currency notes and household settings, the drama reflects the lifestyle of the time in which its story is set.In the latest episode, Billo's wireless phone became a talking point among viewers. As her character's financial position changes, the phone also reflects her growing status. Fans particularly noticed the Mobilink name displayed alongside the number, reminding them of a time when mobile communication was still considered a luxury for many people in Pakistan.

Another detail that caught viewers' attention was the incomplete phone number displayed on screen. Fans pointed out that one digit appeared to be missing, possibly to prevent viewers from contacting an actual phone number.

Social media users also shared memories of similar phones from the 1990s. One viewer recalled that their father owned the same type of phone, while another pointed out that the number had been shown one digit short. A fan also explained that the device was commonly known as a wireless phone and was mostly owned by wealthy people at the time.

The latest scene has given fans another reason to appreciate the drama's production details. Viewers are enjoying how even small props, such as Billo's wireless phone, reflect the lifestyle and technology of the 1990s.

Ali Zafar Meesha Shafi case nears verdict in Lahore court



SHOWBIZ DESK
ISLAMABAD

Proceedings in the defamation case filed by singer Ali Zafar against fellow singer Meesha Shafi have been completed in a sessions court.

During the hearing, lawyers from both sides concluded their arguments regarding the defamation claims brought forward by Ali Zafar. The court noted that if any clarification is required on specific points, legal counsel may assist on March 30.

Additional Sessions Judge Asif Hayat stated that the court will announce a date for the verdict after March 30. Both parties have also submitted written arguments to support their positions.

The case, being heard by Judge Asif Hayat, dates back to 2018 when Ali Zafar filed a defamation suit against Meesha Shafi. The claim seeks damages amounting to one billion rupees."

Experts warn low potassium intake threatens heart health

● Experts say adequate potassium intake can reduce stroke risk by 20%

HEATH DESK
LAHORE

A growing body of research highlights the critical role of potassium in heart health, with experts warning that millions worldwide remain unknowingly deficient.

The findings suggest that improving dietary habits could significantly cut the risk of major cardiovascular diseases.

Health experts have found that a potassium-rich diet can play a major role in reducing the risk of serious conditions such as heart disease and stroke. According to recent findings, adequate potassium intake may lower the risk of stroke by 20% and heart disease by 24%.

This makes potassium an essential nutrient in maintaining overall cardiovascular health, especially in populations with high salt consumption.

Widespread deficiency a growing concern

Experts warn that millions of people around the world are unaware that they are deficient in potassium. This hidden deficiency increases the likelihood of heart attacks and strokes, while also contributing to several lesser-known health issues.

The lack of awareness, combined with poor dietary habits, continues to make potassium deficiency a global concern.

Professor John Young of Teesside University pointed out that modern eating patterns are a key reason behind declining potassium levels. Diets high in ultra-processed foods and excessive salt intake are major contributors to this imbalance.

Such dietary trends not only reduce potassium intake but also amplify the harmful effects of sodium on the body.

Why potassium is essential for body

Potassium plays a vital role in several bodily functions. It helps regulate nerve signals, supports muscle contraction, maintains heart rhythm, and controls blood pressure by counteracting sodium.

Even a slight deficiency can lead to symptoms like muscle cramps, constipation, and headaches. In more severe cases, it may cause mental confusion, depression, irregular heartbeat, digestive issues, and respiratory problems.

Ranveer Singh's Lahore connection draws attention

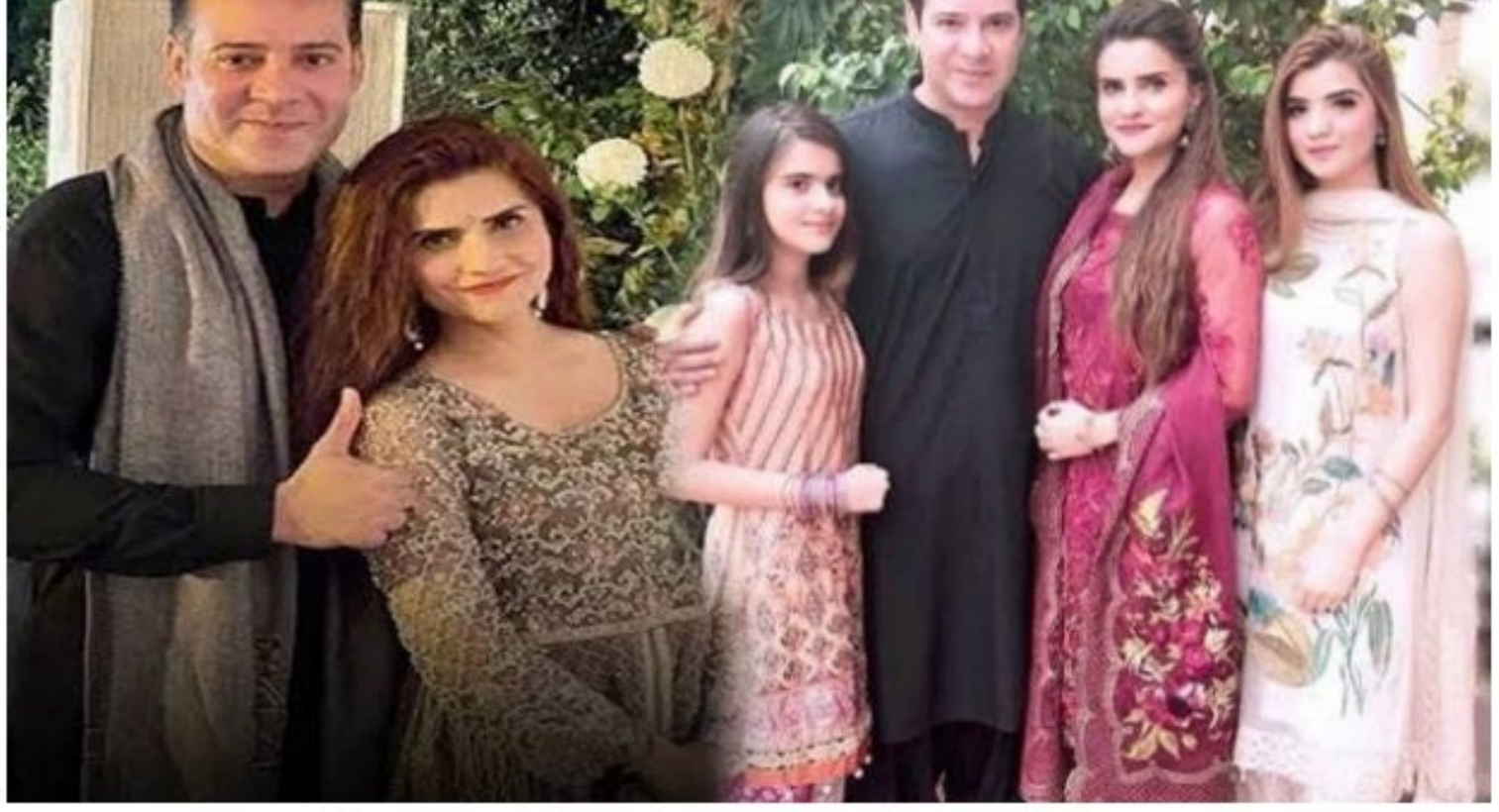
WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Several Bollywood legends, including Shah Rukh Khan and Dilip Kumar, have roots tracing back to Pakistan. Now, a similar connection linked to Dhurandhar star Ranveer Singh is drawing fresh attention.

Amid this renewed focus, fans have begun revisiting lesser-known details about his family background, especially his paternal grandmother, Chand Burke.

Chand Burke, often referred to as the "Dancing Lily of Punjab," was a celebrated actress in pre-Partition Lahore, which is now in Pakistan.

Born in 1932 in the Punjab Province of British India, she built a successful career in the 1940s Lahore film industry, starring in several Punjabi films and earning widespread popularity for her acting and dancing skills. Her life took a major turn during the Partition of India, when she moved to Mumbai. Though her career faced setbacks initially, she later made a comeback after being cast by Raj Kapoor in Boot Polish (1954). She went on to appear in multiple Hindi films before eventually stepping away from the spotlight.Chand Burke later married businessman Sundar Singh Bhavnani, and their son Jagjit Bhavnani is Ranveer Singh's father making her legacy directly connected to one of today's biggest Bollywood stars. This connection has become relevant now as Dhurandhar 2 continues its phenomenal box office run, prompting fans to explore Ranveer's roots and cinematic lineage.



Moammar Rana's wife obtains khula decree, rejects reconciliation

CamScanner

Chagai Scorpions Defeat Chaman Champions by Four Wickets in Balochistan T20 League

● Eleventh league match played at BUTEMS Stadium Quetta; teams continue their battle for the championship trophy.



Sports Desk

QUETTA

The Grand Balochistan T20 Cricket League Quetta continues with exciting and competitive matches, bringing together cricket teams from across Balochistan and providing players with an opportunity to demonstrate their sporting skills and talent.The 11th league match of the tournament was played on October 31, 2026, at BUTEMS Stadium, Quetta, between Chaman Champions and Chagai Scorpions.Both teams competed enthusiastically in an exciting encounter, with Chagai Scorpions ultimately emerging victorious by four wickets. The victory added another important result to the ongoing league competition as teams continue their efforts to advance in the tournament and secure the championship trophy.The Grand Balochistan T20 Cricket League is being organized in collaboration with FC Balochistan (North), with the participation of teams representing different areas of the province.The tournament is providing a competitive platform for cricket enthusiasts and players from across Balochistan, while promoting sporting activities, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among the youth.With the league matches continuing, cricket fans are keeping a close watch on the performances of participating teams as the competition moves forward towards the coveted championship trophy.

South Africa dethrone Australia to become world number one test team

● Throughout the three-match series, Bavuma led from the front scoring an impressive 218 runs as South Africa's leading run scorer. He also scored his 4000th career Test run throughout the series.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



- South Africa claimed top spot in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings after thrashing Pat Cummins' Australia by 176 runs on Day 5 of the pivotal third Test at Newlands in Cape Town.

After being asked to chase 288 in the fourth innings, Temba Bavuma's side bowled Australia out for just 111 in 57.1 overs to complete a sensational 2-1 series comeback in the first Test rubber to be played in South Africa since 2018.

The series win means current World Test Championship winners claim the number one spot in the ICC Test Rankings for the first time since January 2016, completing a long awaited 10-year wait for them to be back at number one in Test cricket.

Throughout the three-match series, Bavuma led from the front scoring an impressive 218 runs as South Africa's leading run scorer. He also scored his 4000th career Test run throughout the series.Australia were looking to chase down their 288 target with all of their 10 wickets intact however they were quickly dismantled by Rabada.

In the first half hour of play the fast bowling spearhead dismissed opener Matt Renshaw for just 0 runs. He then dismissed Marnus Labuschagne for 4 LBW in the very first over of the chase to reach 600 wickets in international cricket. Three overs later he dismissed dangerous left hander Travis Head for 14 to reach 350 wickets in Test cricket after bowling 13,808 deliveries, the most ever in world cricket. This brought Australia to 20/3.

After Rabada dismantled the top order as Harmer struck in spectacular fashion. The 37 year old off-spinner took 6 wickets for 16 runs in the second innings. He got rid of Alex Carey (2), Cooper Connolly (0), Mitchell Starc (0), Cameron Green (27), Pat Cummins (11) and Josh Hazlewood (0) as he claimed a 10-wicket maiden haul in Tests.

South Africa have climbed to the top of the world rankings after they suffered a heavy 214-run loss in the first Test in Durban. They overcame a strong Australian attack led by Mitchell Starc (15 wickets in the series) to come back and win the second Test in Gqeberha by an innings and 31 runs and They then completed a stunning turnaround to knock off a 100-run deficit in the first innings.

Despite the Proteas slipping to 40/4 in their second innings in Cape Town as they came back with a stunning century from Ryan Rickelton (101) and Wiaan Mulder (115).

Marco Jansen, left arm all rounder who reached 100 Test wickets during the match was awarded Player of the Series for his 198 runs and 13 wickets. Bavuma's side picked up 12 vital points in the WorldTest Championship as they proved they are the best Test side in the world.

Defending champions Pakistan miss Hong Kong Sixes semi-finals after UAE defeat



SPORTS Desk

HONG KONG

Defending champions Pakistan have been eliminated from the main Cup competition at the Hong Kong Sixes 2026 after finishing second in Group C, despite securing a convincing victory over arch-rivals India.

The Abbas Afridi-led side saw their hopes of defending the title and claiming a seventh championship come to an end following a narrow defeat against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in their opening group fixture.

Pakistan suffered a dramatic one-wicket loss to the UAE on Friday despite posting an imposing 106 for three in their allotted six overs.

Captain Abbas Afridi led from the front with a blistering 53-run innings to set up a challenging target of 107.

However, the UAE successfully chased down the target on the final delivery, handing Pakistan a defeat.

Pakistan bounced back strongly in their second group encounter against India, producing a dominant performance with both bat and ball.

Also Read: India suffer exit from Hong Kong Sixes after UAE clinch victory

Their bowlers restricted India to 88 for five before the defending champions comfortably chased down the target in just 3.5 overs, reaching 91 for two.

Khawaja Nafay top-scored with an aggressive 41, while Afridi contributed a rapid 35 to seal an emphatic eight-wicket victory.

However, Pakistan's win proved insufficient to secure qualification after the UAE defeated India in their final group match.

India managed 95 runs, but the Emirates side completed the chase without losing a wicket in just four overs.

Under the tournament's format, only group winners qualify for the main Cup semi-finals, while second-placed and third-placed teams advance to the Plate and Bowl semi-finals, respectively.

Alcaraz sees off Medvedev to reach Vienna Open final

■ Victory for the seven-time Grand Slam winner extended his unbeaten run at ATP 500-level events this season to 15 matches.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Carlos Alcaraz beat Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) in the semi-finals of the Vienna Open on Saturday, progressing to the final where he will meet either new world number one Alexander Zverev or Alex de Minaur.

Victory for the seven-time Grand Slam winner extended his unbeaten run at ATP 500-level events this season to 15 matches.

For the defeated Medvedev, it was nonetheless a fruitful week as his fifth consecutive run to at least the last four of a tournament secured the former world number one his spot in the season-ending ATP Finals next month.

Alcaraz edged in front in the fourth game of the first set as he broke the Russian, but Medvedev riposted in the very next game to get the opener back on serve.

And it stayed that way until a double-fault off the 30-year-old's racquet presented Alcaraz with two set points at 5-4, the first of which he duly converted.

Alcaraz looked to be on the brink of his fifth final of the year when Medvedev dumped a volley into the net, allowing the Spaniard to get 4-2 ahead.

Again the world number five refused to let his head drop, and hit straight back on the Spaniard's next service game with a break to love.

In the tie-break, both players initially struggled behind their own serve before Alcaraz won five consecutive points to seal his berth in Sunday's showpiece match.

Zverev, who will take the injured Jannik Sinner's place at the top of the men's rankings on Monday, will meet Australian fifth seed De Minaur in the other semi-final.



UCP cricket team given Rs20m for winning Grade II Silver Trophy at

Web Desk

LAHORE

On the occasion of the final match of the tri-series, the University of Central Punjab (UCP) cricket team, the winner of the Grade Two domestic tournament, arrived at the Gaddafi Stadium where they were presented with prize money.

At the invitation of PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, the winning team of the University of Central Punjab reached Gaddafi Stadium.

Chairman Dunya Media Group Mian Amir Mahmood also attended the closing ceremony.

On this occasion, the University of Central Punjab cricket team was awarded a prize of Rs20 million for winning the Grade II Silver Trophy. UCP Pro-Rector Professor Dr. Hammad Naveed received the prize.

Read More: Mohsin Naqvi announces Rs200mn prize for school cricket champions at UCP event

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has outlined plans to expand school cricket across the country, saying Pakistan has an abundance of cricketing talent that needs a stronger system to identify and develop it.



Fakhar Zaman reaches 4,000 ODI runs

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman has crossed the 4,000-run mark in One-Day Internationals, achieving the milestone during the ODI Tri-Series final against Sri Lanka in Lahore

The left-handed batter entered the final with 3,892 ODI runs and needed 108 more to reach the landmark. He reached the milestone with a significant contribution to Pakistan's chase of Sri Lanka's 326-run target.

Zaman had accumulated 3,892 runs in 97 ODIs before the final, at an average of 43.73. He made his international ODI debut against the West Indies in March 2017 and has since become one of Pakistan's prominent limited-overs batters.

The 36-year-old is particularly remembered for his match-winning 114 against India in the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy final, which helped Pakistan secure their maiden title in the tournament. He also holds a personal best of 210 not out in ODI cricket, scored against Zimbabwe in 2018.



Hakimi hat-trick leads PSG to 5-1 win at Le Havre

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Flying fullback Achraf Hakimi grabbed a hat-trick as Paris St Germain went on the rampage to thrash bottom-placed Le Havre 5-1 and extend their Ligue 1 lead .

The European champions, who have several regulars out injured, could afford to leave more of their key players on the bench and still come away with an impressive victory as they moved to 20 points from their opening nine league fixtures.

They are two ?ahead of Lille and four above third-placed Rennes, who have 16 points. Lille ?moved above Rennes into second after a late goal from veteran Olivier ?Giroud, who came off the bench to score an 86th minute winner at home ?for a 1-0 derby victory over RC Lens.

Rennes were handed a 5-2 drubbing at Nice, ?who continued their improving form with a fourth win in five outings.Elye Wahi netted a hat-trick for Nice, who moved up to seventh after last season narrowly avoiding relegation. On top of his three goals at ?Stade Oceane, Hakimi had two assists for the goals scored by Mika Godts and Senny Mayulu after Josh Maja had given the hosts the lead.

CamScanner



Prime Minister's Special Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan is distributing green tractors and cheques among selected farmers under the Chief Minister Punjab Green Tractor Programme 2026 (Phase-IV) and the Chief Minister Punjab Apna KhetApna Rozgar Scheme at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad.

Federal Constitutional Court rejects plea to reopen Bhakkar land dispute

■ The Federal Constitutional Court dismissed heirs' request for leave to appeal in a dispute over land used for a girls' school in Bhakkar

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Constitutional Court has ruled that final court judgments cannot be repeatedly challenged and that raising the same dispute before multiple judicial forums amounts to an abuse of the judicial process.

The court dismissed a request by the heirs of Anwari Bibi for leave to appeal in a land ownership dispute concerning the construction of a girls' school in Bhakkar, upholding the Lahore High Court's decision.

In its ruling, the court said a final judgment could not be reopened unless fraud, an error or a lack of jurisdiction on the part of the relevant court was established. Repeatedly bringing the same matter before courts, it said, was contrary to the law.

The judgment noted that the land's partition and re-allotment had already been taken up to the Supreme Court, while the decision of the consolidation authorities on the partition had also become final. A matter already decided could not be challenged again through execution proceedings.

The court clarified that an executing court may enforce a decree within its jurisdiction but cannot go beyond its scope or alter rights that have already been settled.

According to the case, the heirs of Anwari Bibi maintained that the girls' school in Bhakkar had been built on their land. They had also challenged earlier court decisions concerning the land's partition and the school's construction.

The bench comprising Justice Rozi Khan Breach and Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah announced the ruling. Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah authored the detailed judgment.

Maryam Nawaz, French envoy discuss expanding investment in Punjab

● The chief minister emphasised the need for continued diplomatic engagement and effective dialogue with France to safeguard Pakistan's GSP+ status

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met newly appointed French Ambassador to Pakistan Jean-Noël Poirier to discuss ways to strengthen trade, economic, industrial and investment cooperation between Pakistan and France.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to explore new opportunities for expanding trade, investment and industrial partnerships between Punjab and France. Maryam Nawaz warmly welcomed the French ambassador, congratulated him on assuming his diplomatic responsibilities and thanked him for visiting Lahore.

The French envoy invited the chief minister to visit France to promote bilateral trade relations, an invitation she appreciated.

The chief minister invited French investors to explore investment opportunities in Punjab's agriculture, industrial and livestock sectors under the PIVOT initiative. She said direct engagement at the provincial level could open new avenues for industrial cooperation and development partnerships.

The meeting also included detailed discussions on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) and the potential for increasing Pakistani exports to European markets.

Maryam Nawaz described GSP+ as a lifeline for Pakistan's exports and Punjab's industrial economy, noting that the European Union was Pakistan's largest trading partner. She stressed that preferential access to European markets was crucial for boosting the country's exports.





Fresh claims prompt calls for NAB probe into Fazlur Rehman's assets

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Fresh allegations have emerged linking JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to undisclosed properties, alleged misuse of government employees and foreign funding, prompting calls for a National Accountability Bureau (NAB) probe.

According to sources, Fazlur Rehman has a horse stable in Islamabad's Shah Allah Ditta area, housing around two dozen expensive horses, in addition to four luxury houses reportedly held in other people's names.



Master plan for 14 cities of Sindh prepared: CM Murad

■ Referring to illegal constructions on the city's drains, he said that shops were built on the drains and handed over, which created problems.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said a master plan of Karachi and Hyderabad is being prepared, while the Sindh Master Plan Authority has also been working in this regard for a long time.

Master plan for 14 cities of Sindh have been prepared keeping in mind the needs of the people.

Addressing a ceremony here on Saturday, he said that steps will be taken to improve the deteriorated urban appearance of Karachi. All relevant parties will have to work together for the betterment of the city. Master plan is also being prepared for Karachi and Hyderabad so that the development of the cities can be carried forward in an organised manner.

The Sindh CM said that the deteriorated appearance of Karachi city will be improved, and joint efforts are needed to solve the city's problems and improve the basic urban infrastructure.

Referring to illegal constructions on the city's drains, he said that shops were built on the drains and handed over, which created problems.

Murad Ali Shah said that issues related to urban issues and development works are becoming the center of media attention, and a ring road is being constructed in Hyderabad.

In his speech, he expressed his determination that everyone would work together for the betterment of Karachi and the resolution of urban problems.

Terrorism sponsored from Afghanistan impedes better ties with Kabul: Pakistan

■ Islamabad says protecting citizens remains a non-negotiable national security priority

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has said that terrorism originating from Afghan territory remains the primary obstacle to improved relations between Islamabad and Kabul, urging the Afghan Taliban leadership to take effective action against militant groups operating from its soil.

the ministry said a recent post by the Afghan Taliban spokesperson overlooked the fundamental reasons behind tensions between the two neighbouring countries. It maintained that the Afghan Taliban leadership was ignoring the root cause of the deterioration in bilateral relations.

The ministry reiterated that Pakistan's position on terrorism was unequivocal, describing it as a red line and stressing that the safety of Pakistani citizens could not be compromised under any circumstances.

According to the statement, terrorist activities carried out against Pakistan from Afghan territory constitute a major barrier to normalising relations between the two countries.

It said the Afghan Taliban government was responsible for eliminating terrorist safe havens on its soil and preventing militant groups from using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan.

The ministry identified the Afghan Taliban government's continued reluctance to take effective measures against terrorism as one of the major reasons behind persistent tensions between the two sides.

It further argued that exchanging accusations and offering what it described as hollow assurances on an issue as serious as terrorism would not help resolve the crisis.

The Afghan Taliban leadership, it said, must acknowledge its responsibility and take concrete steps to address the security threats emanating from its territory rather than relying on statements and verbal commitments.

Pakistan's position

The ministry also made clear that Pakistan reserved the right to take all necessary measures to eliminate threats to its national security, adding that any such action would be carried out in accordance with international law.

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