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Trump Warns of Possible Attack on Iran

Washington/Tehran (AFP): US President Donald Trump said he considers a limited military strike on Iran, if Iran failed to reach an agreement within 15 days.

The statement came after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said negotiations in Geneva had progressed and that a draft proposal would likely be ready within two to three days. He said the draft would be submitted to US envoy Steve Witkoff after final approval in Tehran.



US in Active Talks with India on Venezuelan Oil Sales



Washington/New Delhi (Reuters): The United States is in active negotiations with India over the possible sale of Venezuelan oil, aiming to help India diversify its crude supply, US envoy Sergio Gor said on Friday. Speaking in New Delhi, Gor said the US Department of Energy is in discussions with India's Ministry of Energy and that progress is expected soon. The move comes as Washington links tariff reductions on Indian goods to India's efforts to reduce dependence on Russian oil.

Under an interim trade agreement, the United States has agreed to lower tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent after India committed to cutting back on Russian crude imports. Gor said a final trade deal between the two countries is likely to be signed soon, with only minor adjustments remaining.

The United States has encouraged India to purchase more oil from alternative sources, including the US and Venezuela. Washington has issued licences to trading firms such as Vitol and Trafigura to market and sell Venezuelan crude.

UN Probe Says Sudan Violence Bears Hallmarks of Genocide



Geneva (AFP): A United Nations fact-finding mission has said the Rapid Support Forces' (RSF) siege and capture of El-Fasher in Sudan's Darfur region showed the hallmarks of genocide.

The investigation found that the October takeover, following an 18-month siege, involved large-scale killings, ethnic targeting, sexual violence and enforced disappearances, particularly against the Zaghawa community. Mission chairman Mohamad Chande Othman said the scale and coordination of the assault indicated it was a planned operation.

The mission urged urgent protection for civilians as fighting spreads to neighbouring areas. The conflict between Sudan's army and the RSF, ongoing since April 2023, has killed tens of thousands and displaced around 11 million people, triggering a severe humanitarian crisis.

Trump Imposes New 10% Tariff After Supreme Court Blocks Global Import taxes



Washington (BBC): US President Donald Trump has introduced a new 10 per cent global tariff after the Supreme Court of the United States struck down most of his previous worldwide import taxes in a 6-3 ruling.

The court ruled that Trump had exceeded his authority by using the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose sweeping tariffs on goods from nearly every country. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that Congress had not granted the president broad powers to set tariffs without clear limits.

The decision marked a major victory for US states and businesses that had challenged the policy and could lead to billions of dollars in potential refunds. However, Trump signalled that any refunds would face lengthy legal battles.

Within hours of the ruling, Trump invoked Section 122 of US trade law to impose a new 10 per cent tariff for up to 150 days.

The administration said countries that had negotiated trade arrangements with Washington, including the UK, India and the European Union, would now be subject to the new 10 per cent tariff under the revised measure

Shehbaz Holds Key Talks with Rubio, Global Leaders at Washington Peace Summit

Washington: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other world leaders during the inaugural Board of Peace summit in Washington.

Discussions focused on global and regional issues, counterterrorism cooperation, and expanding US investment in Pakistan's minerals and energy sectors. Rubio appreciated Pakistan's support for President Donald Trump's Gaza peace initiative.

Shehbaz also held meetings with leaders from Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Indonesia, reaffirming Pakistan's support for peace efforts and stronger bilateral ties.

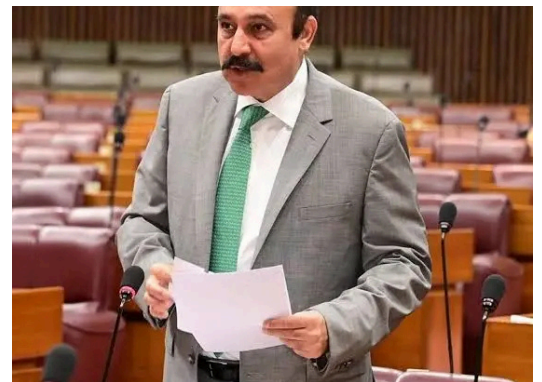


Imran to be Shifted to Hospital on Feb 25 for Second Eye Injection

Islamabad: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said PTI founder Imran Khan will be taken to a hospital on February 25 to receive his second eye injection. Speaking to the media, Chaudhry said the former prime minister had received his first injection on January 25, while two more remain pending. He clarified that the hospital visit would be limited to administering the injection at a tertiary care facility in Rawalpindi or Islamabad.

Imran, 73, has been in jail since August 2023 and was earlier diagnosed with right central retinal vein occlusion after reporting vision problems. The Supreme Court had directed authorities to ensure access to specialist treatment.

The government maintains that proper medical care is being provided, while PTI has expressed concerns over his treatment and demanded independent supervision.



PPP Demands Removal of Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori

Karachi : The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has once again called for the removal of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, alleging that the Governor House is being used for political activities that could harm both Sindh and the federation.

Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani said that certain federal ministers had used the Governor House platform to influence public opinion and warned against the revival of ethnic politics in the province. He urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to fulfill his earlier commitment by appointing a new governor, either from his party or in consultation with the PPP.

Meanwhile, Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that constitutional institutions, including the Governor House, should not be used for biased or divisive speeches. He said Karachi has already witnessed the consequences of ethnic polarization in the past and cannot afford a repeat of such tensions.

Sharjeel Memon further criticized what he described as hate-driven politics, pointing to internal differences within the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), where a party member reportedly expressed concerns about threats from within his own ranks. He maintained that Sindh's unity must be preserved and warned against any attempt to disturb the province's harmony.



Sindh Assembly Speaker Suspends MQM Lawmaker Membership

Karachi: Sindh Assembly Speaker Owais Qadir Shah has suspended MQM MPA Engineer Syed Usman for creating disorder during the session.

The move came after tensions flared in the House over allegations by MQM lawmaker Rana Shaukat that he had received death threats from fellow party members. Following the speaker's ruling, the SSP South and the SHO concerned appeared in the Assembly.

Speaker Owais Qadir Shah said due legal procedure would be followed and announced that Engineer Syed Usman's membership would remain suspended until he offers an apology. Earlier in the session, Rana Shaukat, a member of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), had accused colleague Shariq Jamal of issuing death threats, escalating tensions within the House.



Mahira Khan Eager to See Humayun Saeed in Villainous Role



Lahore: Pakistani superstar Mahira Khan has expressed her wish to see senior actor Humayun Saeed in a negative role on screen, adding a fresh twist to his celebrated career.

Mahira and Fahad Mustafa are currently promoting their upcoming film “Aag Lagi Basti Mein” and appeared on a private TV channel for a special programme to interact with fans and share insights about the movie.

During the show, the host asked Mahira what advice she would give to Humayun Saeed. She responded enthusiastically, saying she would love to see him take on a villainous character, similar to the iconic role of Noori Nath, and added that Humayun has always shown interest in experimenting with new genres, including action. “Humayun has the potential to surprise audiences in roles completely different from what we usually see him in,” she said, hinting at a bold new phase in his acting career.

The conversation then shifted to action sequences, with the host asking Fahad Mustafa about his experience. Fahad revealed that while he enjoys action films, Pakistan lacks the necessary facilities to execute complex stunts. “Even during the shooting of this film, I fractured a finger,” he said, highlighting the physical challenges actors face while performing action scenes locally.

The film “Aag Lagi Basti Mein” is shaping up to be a mix of drama, action, and thrilling moments, with Mahira, Fahad, and Humayun at the forefront. Fans are now speculating whether Humayun Saeed will soon embrace a villainous or action-oriented role, adding an exciting twist to Pakistan’s film industry.

Mahira’s comments have sparked excitement on social media, with many viewers expressing eagerness to see Humayun step out of his usual roles and explore darker, more intense characters. This could mark a bold and refreshing turn in Pakistani cinema, blending star power with unconventional storytelling.

Nina Gupta Recalls Love Affair with Viv Richards



Mumbai: Senior Bollywood actress Nina Gupta has revealed intimate details about her past relationship with legendary West Indies cricketer Vivian Richards and the birth of their daughter, sparking discussion about love, career, and personal choices.

In a recent podcast, Nina said, “I think we were in love at that time, even though we spent very little time together, but the moments we shared were beautiful.” She explained that marriage was practically impossible because it would have required either leaving her career in India or Viv giving up his career in the West Indies — an option neither could accept.

Nina candidly admitted, “I was blind in love at that time. Who listens to anyone else then? Who sits and considers parents’ advice or thinks rationally?” She added that the decision to have her daughter, Misbah, was entirely hers. “I asked Vivian if he was okay with my choice, and he agreed,” she said.

The actress also revealed that Viv Richards has never publicly acknowledged Misbah as his daughter. Reflecting on single parenthood, Nina said, “Raising a child alone is not easy, and it’s not always the best situation for the child. She gave birth to Misbah in November 1989 without marrying, making her story a notable example of pursuing independence and personal choice in the public eye.

Pakistan to Tour Bangladesh for ODI Series



Lahore: Following the T20 World Cup, the Pakistan men's cricket team will tour Bangladesh in March for a three-match ODI series, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced.

Pakistan will arrive in Bangladesh on March 9, with a practice session scheduled for March 10. The ODI matches are set for March 11, 13, and 16, all to be played at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka.

This will be Pakistan's second tour of Bangladesh since July 2025. Last year, Bangladesh had won the T20 series between the two teams. Earlier, in May-June 2025, Bangladesh toured Pakistan, where Pakistan, led by Salman Ali Agha, won the three-match series 3-0.

Michael Vaughan Urges Probe as Pakistani Players reportedly Sidelined in The Hundred



London: Former England captain Michael Vaughan has urged the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to investigate reports that Indian-owned franchises in The Hundred may deliberately exclude Pakistani players.

Political tensions between Pakistan and India have already limited bilateral cricket encounters, keeping Pakistani players out of the IPL. A BBC report said four Indian-owned franchises in next month's player auction may overlook over 50 Pakistani cricketers who expressed interest.

While the ECB has not commented yet, it stated that The Hundred welcomes players from all countries and expects teams to maintain diversity. Last year, only Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim represented Pakistan in the league.

Australia Finishes T20 World Cup with Big Win over Oman

Kandy: Australia ended a disappointing ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaign with a nine-wicket win over Oman in Kandy on Friday. Captain Mitchell Marsh smashed 64 off 33 balls, reaching his fifty inside the powerplay, as Australia chased 105 in just 9.2 overs. Fellow opener Travis Head scored 32, while Josh Inglis remained 12 not out. After bowling out Oman for 104, Adam Zampa starred with 4-21, and Xavier Bartlett took 2-27.

Governor Sindh under Fire

The recent demand by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for the removal of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori underscores a continuing tension in the province's political landscape, raising questions about constitutional roles, political etiquette and the perception of institutions.

Governor Tessori, who holds the post since October 2022, was appointed with broad consensus among political partners at the time. Traditionally, the office of a provincial governor in Pakistan is regarded as a non-political constitutional position, intended to act as a representative of the federation rather than an active political actor. Yet recent statements by PPP leaders reflect unease over how the Governor House in Karachi is being used and interpreted.

The core of the PPP's criticism, as articulated by provincial ministers Saeed Ghani and Sharjeel Inam Memon, revolves around allegations that the Governor House has been turned into a venue for political messaging rather than a neutral symbol of constitutional authority. They have warned against a resurgence of divisive politics, particularly along linguistic lines, and urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to appoint a governor who aligns with the Federation's and Sindh's interests.

Governor Tessori has responded by affirming his commitment to public service and insisting that his actions are not exclusionary. He has stated that he stands for the rights of all communities and rejects any notion that the Governor House is used to discriminate against any group.

These exchanges shed light on a broader issue that often surfaces in Pakistan's federal-provincial dynamics: the challenge of separating constitutional offices from the theatre of partisan politics. While political figures naturally advocate for their positions, institutions like the governor's office are expected to be above political fray, acting instead as custodians of the Constitution and provincial dignity.

Critics of the governor have pointed to a range of activities ranging from public diplomacy to social outreach and have questioned whether these blur the lines of neutrality. Supporters, however, argue that a more visible and engaged governor can bridge gaps between provincial needs and federal resources, particularly in a diverse province such as Sindh.

It is equally important to acknowledge that political parties in Sindh, especially the PPP, bear longstanding responsibility for governance in the province.

The way forward requires clarity in defining institutional roles, especially in a federation where symbolism and substance often intersect. Political disagreements are natural in any vibrant democracy, but they should be anchored in respect for constitutional norms. The governor's role, in particular, should be upheld as a unifying office, not one that becomes a battleground for political point-scoring.

Ultimately, the stability of Sindh's governance — and public confidence in its institutions — depends on a shared commitment by all stakeholders to democratic norms and constitutional propriety rather than temporary political advantage.