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Largest date center opened in Pakistan says PM Shehbaz

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Pakistan values relations with SCO: DPM Dar

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Terrorism in KP

15, including 14 security personnel martyred in Tank

Last week, security forces killed 24 terrorists in KP's Bannu district and its adjoining areas in the last 24 hours, the military's media affairs wing said in a statement

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: A terrorist attack on a joint police checkpoint in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district martyred 15 people, including 14 security personnel, the military's media wing said on Friday. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement that the attack took place early on Friday and was carried out by Fitna-al-Khawarij – a term used to designate members of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Elaborating on the incident, the military's media wing said the attackers attempted to breach the checkpoint's perimeter, but their attempts were "swiftly and decisively foiled by the vigilant and resolute response of security forces."

The security personnel deployed at the checkpoint displayed "unwavering courage and professional excellence" and engaged and eliminated 15 terrorists, the ISPR added. The statement added that the attackers then rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall.

"Due to [the] blast impact, infrastructure at [the] checkpoint was seriously damaged; resultantly, 15 brave sons of [the] soil, including 12 military, two policemen and a government official ex forest department, rendered the ultimate sacrifice and embraced shahadat (martyrdom)," the statement read. ISPR added that a sanitisation operation was ongoing to track down any other terrorists in the area, vowing that under the "relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision 'Azmi-Istehkam' (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out

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4 terrorists neutralized in Mastung

DNA

QUETTA: Security forces have killed four more terrorists during an operation in the Khad Kocha area of Balochistan's Mastung district, state broadcaster Radio Pakistan reported on Friday, citing security sources. The report said the terrorists belonged to Fitna-al-Hindustan, a term that the state uses for Balochistan-based groups to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan. Radio Pakistan quoted security sources as saying that large quantities of weapons and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists while several others, suspected of involvement in facilitating terrorism, were apprehended. The sources further said that search and clearance operations are ongoing in the area while security forces continue to maintain comprehensive surveillance,

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Gen Aamer promoted as 4 star gen.

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has announced the promotion of Lieutenant General Aamer Raza, HI(M), SBT, Chief of the General Staff of the Pakistan Army, to the rank of Four-Star General and his appointment as Commander National Strategic Command. The decision marks a significant development in Pakistan's military leadership structure, coming after the latest constitutional amendment that had delayed several high-level promotions. The Prime Minister extended his congratulations to General Aamer Raza, wishing him success in undertaking this critical responsibility. According to the new law, the appointment of a Vice Chief of

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Asad Gillani new Pakistan envoy to China

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan picked seasoned diplomat Ambassador Syed Ali Asad Gillani for critical foreign postings, appointing him as the new ambassador to China at a time when Islamabad and Beijing are seeking to deepen strategic cooperation across diplomacy, defence, trade and regional connectivity. Gillani will replace Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, who is expected to return to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after completing his three-year tenure in Beijing. The appointment comes as Pakistan and China continue to expand collaboration under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),

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Bangladesh president steps down

DNA

DHAKA: Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin has resigned, local media reported on Friday. Shahabuddin, who has been the president of the South Asian nation since April 2023, oversaw the country during a volatile period after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in August 2024 by youth protesters and until a caretaker government was formed days later. Bangladesh's president is the head of state, but the role is largely ceremonial, with executive power resting with the prime minister and cabinet.



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Dar speaks at SCO

Peace, stability only possible by eliminating terrorism

He said that this support was "well-documented", adding that Pakistan was at the forefront of this threat. He added that this year alone, more than 560 Pakistanis have been killed in over 2,000 terrorist attacks

DNA

BISHKEK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday that durable peace and stability in the region can only be achieved by eliminating the threat of terrorism emanating from neighbouring Afghanistan. "Durable peace, stability and economic development can only be achieved with the eradication of the menace of terrorism emanating from Afghan soil," he said while speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting. He said that Pakistan desired to see a "peaceful, stable, regionally integrated and prosperous Afghanistan which is at peace with itself and its neighbours", adding that this would be in the best interest of all SCO member states and beyond.

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He said that currently, the threat of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan was one of the most serious security challenges for Pakistan. He said that terrorist organisations continued to recruit, train and operate from Afghan soil "under the watch and facilitation of the Afghan Taliban regime". He said that this support was "well-documented", adding that Pakistan was at the forefront of this threat. He added that this year alone, more than 560 Pakistanis have been killed in over 2,000 terrorist attacks. "It is also deeply concerning that Afghan nationals have been

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Pakistan, Iran FM's discuss regional situation

NEWS DESK

BISHKEK: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Iran, Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of the SCO CFM Meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic. The two Ministers reaffirmed the close and longstanding ties between Pakistan and Iran and reviewed the evolving regional situation. The DPM/FM expressed deep concern over recent regional tensions and underscored the importance of dialogue, restraint, de-escalation by all sides, and sustained diplomatic engagement to achieve lasting peace and stability.

He emphasized the need to build on the understandings reached under the Islamabad MoU of June 2026. Foreign Minister Araghchi appreciated Pakistan's continued diplomatic support and constructive efforts in promoting regional peace and security. He also thanked Pakistan for facilitating the safe return of Iranian fishermen and crew members, including those from vessels interdicted by the U.S., and for its close coordination with the Iranian,

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Briefs

Largest data centre in Islamabad inaugurated

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday inaugurated the country's "largest" data centre and Sky47 AI cloud in Islamabad, terming the facility "awe-inspiring". The project has a capacity of 8.5 megawatts, the PM noted in his speech. Sky47 is also developing a 5MW data centre at Karachi's Port Qasim, slated for completion in September. Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz said it was a privilege and an honour to be part of the ceremony. "The facility we have just visited is awe-inspiring," he added. He further said the data centre was built in record time, showcasing the best minds from across Pakistan in both the military and civilian sectors.

More rains from 24 to 28

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Friday issued a weather advisory for the next three to four days, forecasting rain in southern and central parts of the country due to an active monsoon system. A press release issued by the Met Office said a low-pressure area was present over south-west Rajasthan and adjoining areas, causing monsoon currents over the southern and central parts of the country. Under the influence of these currents, it said, rain and thundershowers were expected across the country, including Sindh, southern and central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and northeastern areas of Balochistan, between July 24 and 27.

Iran rejects ceasefire offer

Those helping US in war will be dealt with sternly, says Iran

Araghchi also accused the US of violating the Islamabad memorandum ceasefire, citing attacks on civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and water facilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi issued a stern warning declaring that "any participation" with the United States in military action against Iran will be met with accountability. Speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kyrgyzstan, Araghchi stressed that countries aiding Washington in its strikes against Iranian targets would bear international responsibility for aggression. He underscored Iran's right to self-defense under international law, stating that Tehran would consider the source of any attack a legitimate target. His remarks come amid 13 consecutive nights of US strikes on Iranian military positions, which Washington

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UN calls for evacuation of 6000 sailors

DNA

GENEVA: The United Nations on Friday called for the safe evacuation and repatriation of some 6,000 sailors stuck in a "dire humanitarian and human rights crisis" in the Strait of Hormuz. UN human rights chief Volker Turk called for urgent action to remedy the plight of thousands of seafarers caught up in

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Trump to impose 'forced labour' duties on 60 nations

The US imposed a 10% duty on goods of Argentina, Bangladesh, Britain, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration on Friday imposed new tariffs of 10% and 12.5% on goods from 60 trading partners, including Europe and China, over allegations of lax enforcement of forced labour bans, just as a temporary 10% global tariff expired. The move is the White House's latest effort to restore President Donald Trump's vision of a near-global tariff after the US Supreme Court in February struck down his "reciprocal" duties of 10% to 50% imposed under a national emergencies law to try to shrink the US trade deficit. New tariffs had been expected, but trade partners around the world joined in strongly disputing the justification for them. Some, however, noted they would make little difference to current levies. There was little early reaction on financial markets more focused on the Middle East conflict. The new tariffs, announced in a Federal Register notice, cover 99.4% of US imports, but include numerous product exemptions, such as oil and gas, fertiliser and certain food items. "The United States has had a forced labour import ban for

nearly a century, and rigorously enforces it. It's well past time for our trading partners to do the same," US Trade Representative Jamieens Greer said in a statement.

"Today's action will begin to correct what is both a human rights abuse and distortive trade practice to improve the welfare of workers everywhere." Imposed under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, the new duties allow the administration to maintain a tariff floor on virtually all US imports despite the Supreme Court setback. The tariffs are also likely to face less legal risk as Section 301 has survived prior court challenges. Trump's temporary 10% global tariff expired at 12:01 am EDT on Friday (0401 GMT) after 150 days. The new duties took effect at that exact same moment, with goods in transit exempted until 12:01 am EDT on July 28.

The US imposed a 10% duty on goods of Argentina, Bangladesh, Britain, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago. The European Union, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and

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