

CM Maryam Nawaz to Establish Pakistan's First Cancer Registry (Data Bank) in Punjab

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Oversees Emergency Measures for Rainwater Drainage in All Districts Across Punjab



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE. Availability of authentic data of cancer patients will facilitate in providing better treatment facilities," said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Chief Executive Officer and Founder Pink Ribbon Pakistan Dr. Umar Alfah. She was apprised, "In October, the Pink Ribbon campaign will be launched under her leadership." Madam Chief Minister reviewed a proposal to build a breast cancer block in Pakistan's first government Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital. She was briefed, "All staff in the breast cancer block of Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital will be female." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif took a decision in-principle to train Lady Health Visitors in Breast Cancer Diagnosis. She was briefed, "Lady health visitors designated across Punjab will be able to diagnose breast cancer." Madam Chief Minister considered making mammograph test facility mandatory for female staff in Punjab. She was briefed, "Around the world, the age of breast cancer is 55 years, while in Pakistan it is 35 years." She was also apprised, "PTIB will be tasked to develop an app to ensure availability of mammograph machines." Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman and other relevant officers were also present. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has continued overseeing process of rain water drainage in all the districts of Punjab including Lahore. Amega operation being conducted by WASA in various areas of Lahore is ongoing. On the directions of CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif, water disposal operation is ongoing in Lahore under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner. The water drainage process is ongoing in collaboration with the Lahore Development Authority and WASA. Relevant officers and staff are present at various sites and rain affected areas.

PM Shahbaz directs to complete framework on Pasco privatisation



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday instructed to complete action plan regarding privatisation of Pasco. Presiding over a meeting of Ministry of National Food Security and Research and Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO), the premier directed to prepare federal government's alternative strategy regarding the purchasing of wheat after consultations with provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant institutions. The meeting approved the restructuring of Wheat Board.

In major legal victory for PTI, Supreme Court declares party eligible for reserved seats

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announces 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying PHC verdict which upheld ECP's order

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD. In a major legal victory for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to the parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling, but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance by changing the composition of the National Assembly.



PTI could not participate in the general elections as a political party, and that the commission had misinterpreted the top court's verdict. "PTI was and is a political party, which secured general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the general elections of 2024," read the verdict. According to the verdict, the PHC's judgment dated March 25 is set aside. "The order of the ECP dated March 1 is declared to be ultra vires to the Constitution, without lawful authority, and of no legal effect," it said. The top court remarked that PTI, as a political party, has a legal and constitutional right to reserved seats. Rejecting the appeals filed by the SIC, the apex court said that the party cannot take reserved seats as per the Constitution. The ruling said that the PTI should present a list of eligible candidates for the reserved seats to the electoral body within 15 days after the verdict.

and Irfan Saadat Khan. The PTI candidates did not contest the polls on a single symbol, forcing them to join hands with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), but that could not get the party the reserved seats as the ECP ruled against them. In its decision today, the court declared that the lack of denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the Constitutional or legal rights of a political party to participate in an election, whether general or by, and to field candidates and that the commission is under a Constitutional duty to apply all statutory provisions accordingly. Some jurists, during the proceedings, had noted that the apex court had not ruled that the

It added that the ECP should then publish the list of reserved seats of the candidates on its website within seven days. "The seats allocated to the PTI after this stage will be considered as their seats. [Once the PTI gets its seats in parliament], it will be eligible for the reserved seats," said the ruling. The full bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, also comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Mazhar, Justice Minallah, Justice Syed Rizvi, Justice Malik, Justice Waheed, Justice Saadat, and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. A timeline of reserved seats saga The reserved seats issue first emerged after over 80 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backed independent candidates emerged victorious in the February 8 elections and subsequently joined the SIC in a bid to claim seats reserved for minorities.

Martyred soldiers laid to rest, inspiring resolve against terrorism



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI: Two martyred soldiers of the Pakistan Army have been laid to rest in their ancestral villages. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said that Sepoy Mohammad Idris was buried in Swabi, and Sepoy Badam Gul was laid to rest in Kohat. Both soldiers were martyred in Hassan Khel, Peshawar. In addition, Tajamar Shah, a sub-inspector of the Counter Terrorism Department of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, was buried in Peshawar, while ASI Mohammad Akram's burial took place in his ancestral town of Manshera. A large number of military and police officers, families of the martyrs.

SC verdict blocked attempt to amend Constitution: PTI

He further claimed that 11 judges of the Supreme Court ruled in favour of PTI and added that the verdict blocked an attempt to amend the

'No danger' to govt, says law minister after SC verdict

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announces 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying PHC verdict which upheld ECP's order



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the Supreme Court's verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) reserved seats does not pose any threat to the incumbent coalition government. "We still have a majority of 209 members and the verdict has not been completed yet,"

said the minister after the top court ruled that the PTI was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. Tarar said that he was not sure whether the government would file a review petition challenging the verdict or not as it was the prerogative of the federal cabinet, not a minister. The development comes after the SC announced an 8-5

Larger bench recommended on plea challenging decision of phone tapping by ISI

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE The Lahore High Court (LHC) has recommended a larger bench formation on a petition challenging federal government decision mandating ISI and other agencies of intercepting phones of citizens. LHC's Justice Farooq Haider heard the petition filed by former MPA Ghulam Sarwar, remarking that key legal points were raised in the application. The court suggested formation of a larger bench for hearing on this petition. An application was sent to the LHC chief justice for the formation of a larger bench. Citizen Fahad Shabbir has filed a petition challenging the notification in the LHC through Advocate Nadeem Sarwar, making the prime minister, the federal government and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) respondents. The petition argues that the government of Pakistan has issued a notification allowing the ISI to tap citizens' phones under Section 54 of PTA Act 1996 but the rules have not been devised under which the notification has been issued. The petitioner contends that the constitution allows the privacy and freedom of speech to citizens. And phone tapping is a clear-cut violation of the constitution according to the Indian Supreme Court, he argues. The petitioner requests the court to declare the government notification of intercepting and recording calls and messages by ISI or other agencies illegal and annul the notification until final verdict on the plea.

Pakistan rules out talks with TTP, urges Afghan action against terrorist sanctuaries

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad The Foreign Ministry stated on Thursday that Pakistan has no intention of entering into any talks with the militant outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), according to Radio Pakistan. Foreign Office spokesperson Akhtar Baloch said that the terrorist group is responsible for killing Pakistani and foreign citizens inside Pakistan. She said Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. She said we expect the Afghan authorities to uphold their sovereignty and take action against terrorist groups that have found sanctuaries inside Afghanistan and are using their territory for terrorist attacks against Pakistan. Responding to a question, Nmtuzat said Pakistan is committed to implementing the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan. She added the first phase of this plan is near completion and alluded to the illegal foreigners including Afghans repatriated to their home countries. The spokesperson clarified that Pakistan has not given any understanding to the UNHCR for the suspension of the plan. She pointed out that the government has approved a one-year extension of the validity of the Proof of Registration cards for Afghan refugees. To a question, Nmtuzat responded by saying Pakistan and the United States have a multifaceted and robust partnership. She said we believe that this relationship should move forward based on mutual respect, sovereign equality, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.



Inauguration Ceremony of Training for Census Master

Trainers for Pakistan's 7th Agricultural Census

Mr. Awais Manzur Sumra, Secretary for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PD&SI), commended the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for their efforts in conducting the 7th Agricultural Census

Special Edition

Inauguration Ceremony of Training for Census Master Trainers for Pakistan's 7th Agricultural Census – "The First Digital Integrated Count" July 12, 2024. Mr. Awais Manzur Sumra, Secretary for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (PD&SI), commended the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for their efforts in conducting the 7th Agricultural Census, the country's first integrated digital count. This census is designed to provide reliable, timely, and authentic data crucial for informed decision-making, boosting productivity and exports. **Key Highlights:** • Mr. Awais Manzur Sumra, Secretary PD&SI, praised PBS for their commitment to the Agricultural Census, highlighting its potential to promote a green Pakistan Vision. • Mr. Awais Manzur Sumra, Secretary PD&SI, also acknowledged PBS's comprehensive efforts, building on their successful completion of previous Population & Housing Census, the first ever digital Census, the biggest exercise of South Asia. • Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Census Commissioner, emphasized utilization of data for evidence-based policies, especially in agriculture sector for national development. • Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (Sitara-i-Imtiaz) Member (Support Services/RM) and

Focal person for the Agricultural Census, noted that this census marks Pakistan's first digital and integrated

agriculture's critical role in the economy, significantly contributing to GDP, employment,

2024, aims to provide essential data for evidence-based policymaking to enhance Pakistan's economic landscape. Secretary PD&SI recognized the Agricultural Census team for their pivotal role in the Census Master Trainers (CMT) Training Program's inauguration, emphasizing the link between agricultural data and policymaking. He encouraged the CMTs to fully engage in their training to ensure informed decision-making and stressed the need for uniform training delivery to supervisors and enumerators nationwide for effective implementation. "This training of Census Master Trainers is not merely a preparatory step but a cornerstone in our efforts to gather accurate and timely agricultural data," remarked Secretary PD&SI. "The success of the 7th Agricultural Census hinges on the competence and dedication of our trainers and enumerators. It is imperative that the knowledge imparted here today cascades down uniformly, ensuring consistency and reliability in data collection processes." In his address, the Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to using data for evidence-based policies, particularly in the agricultural sector, where accurate data is vital for planning and implementing development strategies.



count, covering agricultural lands, crops, livestock, and machinery and its contribution in GDP. • The initial phase involves training 311 Census Master Trainers in Islamabad, who will then train 6,500 enumerators and 1,368 supervisors across 160 district-level venues nationwide. • Field operations, including the enumeration of large holdings, are scheduled from August to October 2024. Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Sitara-i-Imtiaz Chief Statistician, expressed gratitude to the Secretary PD&SI for his support and highlighted the collaborative efforts of PBS, stakeholders, and the government in advancing the 7th Agricultural Census. He emphasized

orts, and food security. He stressed that data-driven policies, enabled by the census, are essential for the sector's growth and development. Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, Sitara-i-Imtiaz Member (Support Services/RM) and focal person for the Agricultural Census, underscored the significance of this first digital integrated count. He outlined PBS's operational network and advanced digital data collection and training methods, emphasizing the importance of data collection for informed decision-making and GDP contribution. The census, scheduled from August to October



Punjab Govt takes Miraculous steps on the occasion of Muharram

Soon Times Correspondent
 Khushab
 A solid and comprehensive security plan has been set up by the Punjab government on the occasion of Muharram to maintain law and order in the province and protect the lives and property of the people. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif herself pre-empted the necessary arrangements regarding Muharram and got these arrangements completed ahead of time from the security agencies. Steps have been taken to maintain the atmosphere of peace and order during Muharram Haram in Khushab district as well. Police, law enforcement agencies and other administrative departments are performing duties under an integrated strategy. On the

instructions of Deputy Commissioner Khushab Zeeshan Shabbir Rana, monitoring of Muharram procession routes and places of mourning in Joharabad and Khushab city is ongoing. The Deputy Commissioner has issued orders to the concerned departments to remain alert during the days of Muharram. The best arrangements for lighting and sanitation are being ensured at the Muharram procession routes and Majlis-e-Aza places, while the electric hanging wires on the procession routes are also being repaired. Officials of law enforcement agencies are diligently performing duties including installation of closed circuit cameras. Divisional Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has visited Khushab district

and reviewed the arrangements of the district administration and police so that there is no flaw in any place. On 9th and 10th of Muharram, Section 144 will be enforced in Khushab district as well as across Punjab. Deputy Commissioner Khushab Zeeshan Shabbir Rana has set up a central control room in the Deputy Commissioner's office which will function 24/7. Representatives of Health Department, FESCO, Municipal Corporation, Public Health Engineering, Civil Defence, Rescue 1122, Roads Department, Sui Gas, PTCL will also be present in the control room at all times for timely redressal of the respective complaints of their departments.

How many reserved seats will PTI get after Supreme Court's verdict?

LAHORE
 Web Desk
 With the Supreme Court overturning the Peshawar High Court's decision, it is likely that the PTI would get 65 out of 77 reserved seats. Of the 77 seats, 22 are of the National Assembly while 55 are of the provincial assemblies. Out of the Women's seats of 60, the ECP had given 40 seats to the various political parties in provinces: 20 seats in Punjab, 10 seats in KP, 14 in Sindh and four seats in Balochistan. Out of the 23 reserved seats in the National Assembly, the ECP had given 16 to PML-N, five to PPP and one each to JUI-F and MQM. PTI's probable reserved seats in Punjab 27 seats would be added to the PTI's tally in



Punjab - 24 women and 3 minorities. The total composition of the Punjab Assembly is 371. Total reserved seats of women are 66. With the PTI's number in Punjab at 108, the party would get 27 reserved seats. PTI seats in KP 25 seats would be added to the PTI's tally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - 21 women and four minorities.

Road built with a grant of crores of rupees fell into disrepair



Soon Times Correspondent
 Nowshera Soon Sakesar
 With the special grant of MNA Malik Umar Aslam Awan of the previous regime, the Dhok Bhabkha road from Shakarkot to Ugali, Koli to Anga, which is about twelve kilometers having the total cost of construction about fourteen crores, has been completed by the concerned contractor.

In connivance with Department of Highway Khushab he used very poor materials in its construction. Less than an inch of carpet was laid in many places on the road. The road has been damaged in places. Residents of the area, Malik Yousuf Azad, Malik Muhammad Siddique, Malik Muhammad Muneer, Malik Ikram Advocate, Malik Nadeem

Siraj, Malik Iqbal Awan, Mian Muhammad Saeed and others have demanded from the Chief Minister of Punjab to take impartial action on the use of poor materials in road construction. An inquiry should be held and strict action should be taken against those responsible so that those who looted the national wealth can be punished.

Experts Discuss Future Security Outlook of South Asia

Soon Times Correspondent
 Islamabad
 The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Future Security Outlook of South Asia: Trends and Challenges" on 11 July 2024. The event featured distinguished speakers, who addressed the multifaceted security challenges confronting South Asia. Mr. Ameer Abdullah Khan, Senior Researcher, CASS Lahore, commenced the seminar with introductory remarks. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry (Retd), former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, delivered the keynote address, wherein he discussed the theatres of international contestation and the threats posed to South Asia's stability. Emphasising the importance of the maritime domain, he urged Pakistan to focus on this area. Dr. Khuram Iqbal, Associate Professor, National Defence University Pakistan, examined the sophistication of India's strategic culture and lamented the new regionalism instituted by the country in South Asia. Dr. Farhan Siddique, Associate Professor, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, highlighted India's zero-sum strategy with unachievable goals towards Pakistan and stressed the need to learn from missed opportunities of the past. In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President, CASS Lahore,



highlighted the critical security challenges in South Asia arising from historical conflicts, political instability, and socio-economic inequalities. He pointed out India's sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan, especially targeting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He emphasised the importance of a multifaceted approach, including economic development, diplomatic efforts, investment in defence technologies, and climate resilience, to build a strong and resilient nation capable of achieving lasting peace and stability in South Asia. The question-and-answer session generated insightful discussions. The seminar stressed the complexity of South Asia's security landscape and highlighted opportunities for peacebuilding and cooperation to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region.

30-year rain record broken in Lahore

Punjab CM directs emergency departments to gear up



Lahore
 Lahore received as high as 315 millimetres of rain on Friday, breaking a 30-year-old record and leaving the city drenched in water. Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Managing Director Muhammad Ghufuran confirmed that the fresh spell had broken a 30-year-old record as the Tajpura area received 315 mm of rain. He said last year, 291 mm of rain was recorded at the city's Lakshmi Chowk, which received 170 mm rain this year. He said the WASA staff was active in the field and continuously monitoring the situation. "The water has been removed from Lakshmi Chowk and other areas are also being cleared. Soon the city will be

cleared of rainwater," said the WASA MD. The neighbourhoods of Pani Wala Talab received 151 mm rain, Qurtuba Chowk 152 mm, Gulshan-e-Ravi 151 mm, Mughalpur 145 mm, Airport 86 mm, Upper Mall 130 mm, Samanabad 153 mm, Iqbal Town 152 mm, Gulberg Town 105 mm, Chowk Nakhuda 155 mm, Nishtar Town 162 mm, Jail Road 69 mm and Farnakhabad 140 mm. It is pertinent here to mention that the Met Office has forecast more rains in the metropolises during the next 24 hours, which could further increase the level of rainwater. Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and several other areas of the province also received heavy rainfall, causing problems for the

residents. Apart from Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi, Nikyal and Barnala areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gujranwala, Jehlam, Mandibahauddin, Hafizabad, Sargodha, Pakpattan and their adjacent areas too experienced heavy showers. A host of areas suffered from power outages as well. People encountered immense trouble as rainwater accumulated in a large number of areas — including Rawalpindi's Dhok Kashmirian, Sadiqabad and Dhok Kala Khan as well as Lahore's Devis Road, Nisbat Road, Gawalmandi, Krishan Nagar, Rajgarh, Mazang, Achara, Faisal Town, Garden Town, Gulberg, Mughalpur, Wasanpura, Badami Bagh and Shahdara. The WASA managing director said staff was deployed for water drainage in low-lying areas and arrangements were complete viewing flooding in the Lai Nullah. Viewing the emergency situation, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the local administration and Wasa authorities to take immediate measures to drain the stormwater in all the cities, including Lahore. The Punjab CM directed the staff and officers to visit the vulnerable areas and remain in the field till the rainwater was completely drained. She directed Rescue 1122 and other departments as well to brace up for an emergency situation in advance.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Directs Administration & WASA Officials to Undertake Prompt Measures for Water Drainage in all Cities Across

Soon Times Correspondent
 Lahore
 Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the administration and WASA officials to immediately reach the rain affected sites. She directed the staff and officers to remain in the field till the complete water drainage. She directed to undertake prompt measures for water drainage in all the cities across Punjab including Lahore. The Chief Minister directed Rescue-1122 and other institutions to make pre-emptive preparations in view of an alarming

emergency situation. The CM directed to undertake water drainage work without any interruption or delay at the main roads and in the low lying areas. She maintained that the alarming situation being created due to torrential rains in various cities requires undertaking emergency measures. She asserted that water should not be seen on the roads, bazaars and streets after rainfall. She directed the traffic police to get the roads cleared and traffic jams should not occur in any part of the cities across Punjab.

Govt hints at filing review plea against SC verdict on reserved seats

Soon Times Correspondent
 ISLAMABAD
 Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said that the Supreme Court verdict on reserved seats should be reviewed. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the senior PML-N leader said that the court verdicts which create ambiguity do not go in the interest of country. The apex court on Friday overturned the Peshawar High Court's verdict of depriving the PTI of the reserved seats of non-Muslim and women candidates in assemblies. "The verdict of Supreme Court is tantamount to rewrite the constitution," said Rana Sanaullah. He added that the government has great respect for the apex court but this verdict doesn't fulfill the basic criteria of constitution

اگر حکومت اور پارٹی کے درمیان کوئی اختلاف ہو تو اسے عدالت سے حل کیا جائے گا۔
 برائے نام دعا کو طے کیا جاتا ہے کہ عدالت ہی نہیں عدالت کے ساتھ ساتھ
 تا موقتہ مقررہ ان کے لئے شاپور میں سرگودھا کا نام لہجیان بھیج کر درخواست ہے
 سرگودھا کا نام لہجیان میں (ریٹائرڈ) نظام جج کے نام پر کرنا مقصود ہے۔
 اس سلسلہ میں اگر کسی شخص یا پارٹی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض مؤرخہ
 2024-08-08 تک ذریعہ عدالت کے دفتر میں جمع کر سکتے ہیں اور اعتراضات
 کی سماعت مؤرخہ 2024-08-29 کو ڈسٹرکٹ کونسل سرگودھا کے دفتر
 میں 11 بجے دن ذریعہ عدالت کی جائے گی اور اعتراضات کی سماعت کے بعد جتنی
 فیصلہ کیے گئے کسی کیس کیس کی حکومت سے بنیاب و لیکل گورنمنٹ اینڈ ایجوکیشن ڈیپارٹمنٹ
 ڈیپارٹمنٹ لاہور کو ارسال کیا جائے گا۔
 چیف آفیسر
 ڈسٹرکٹ کونسل سرگودھا

Fazl partially accepts SC decision on reserved seats, extends goodwill to PTI



ISLAMABAD
 Web Desk
 Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief

Maulana Fazlur Rahman has stated that his party partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision to allocate reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Speaking to the media, Fazlur Rahman commented on the decision to grant reserved seats to the PTI, noting that constitutional and legal experts are the ones who can provide a definitive opinion on the Supreme Court's decision regarding the distribution of reserved seats by the Election Commission. "Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision and expresses goodwill towards PTI. "We hope that this decision will help in fostering a positive environment for negotiations to address concern and will be beneficial in improving mutual relations between both the parties," he held.

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'More than 186,000 dead' in Gaza: How credible are the estimates published on The Lancet?



GAZA
Agencies
According to a "letter" published on the website of the British medical journal The Lancet, "186,000 or even more deaths could be attributable to the current conflict in Gaza". This is a significantly higher death toll than the 38,345 announced by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry on Thursday. FRANCE 24 takes a look at how the authors arrived at this estimate and whether their figure is credible.

According to a "letter" published on July 5 on the website of the renowned British medical journal The Lancet entitled "Counting the dead in Gaza: difficult but essential", "it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186,000 or even more deaths could be attributable to the current conflict in Gaza".

Mexico President-elect Sheinbaum taps Lazaro Cardenas as chief of staff



MEXICO CITY
Mexican President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum announced on Thursday that she has chosen Lazaro Cardenas, a former congressman, governor and presidential advisor, to be her government's chief of staff.
Cardenas, 60, is the son of Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, a former head of government of Mexico City and a three-time presidential candidate, and the grandson of former President Lazaro Cardenas.



Zelensky says to win the war, US needs to lift limits on striking military targets inside Russia

Zelensky has been pressing for greater latitude so that U.S. weapons could be used to hit targets

WASHINGTON
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky embraced the support of allies who have provided substantial new military aid and a path to joining NATO, even as he emphatically pushed for the help to arrive faster and for restrictions to be lifted on the use of U.S. weapons to attack military targets inside Russia.
"If we want to win, if we want to prevail, if we want to save our country and to defend it, we need to lift all the limitations," Zelensky said alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in the final hours of a summit that saw Ukraine receive fresh commitments of weapons and other support to firm up its defense against Russia. The summit unfolded against the backdrop of a tumultuous American political cycle, with

mounting angst among Democrats about President Joe Biden's ability to serve another four years following a shocking debate flop two weeks ago that threw the future of his presidency into doubt.
An untimely verbal flub Thursday evening did little to soothe concerns, when Biden at an event for the unveiling of an agreement called the Ukraine Compact mistakenly introduced Zelensky as Russian President Vladimir Putin.
Some in the room gasped at Biden's gaffe, which the U.S. president quickly sought to clean up by saying, "President Putin? You're going to beat President Putin," Biden said to Zelensky. "I'm so focused on beating Putin, we got to worry about it."
New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President

Emmanuel Macron declined to criticize Biden. Macron said "we can all have a slip of the tongue" and said Biden, with whom he spoke during Wednesday's dinner, "is very much on top of things." And Starmer declined at least five times to answer directly about Biden's gaffe, instead praising him for his leadership and his preparation in putting the event together and securing solid outcomes for Ukraine.
All eyes were on Biden as he closed out the summit of 32 NATO leaders in Washington with a news conference.
Asked about Zelensky's appeal for greater freedom in targeting Russian forces, Biden showed no sign of easing the U.S. limits, saying he was following the advice of his defense and intelligence officials.
"If he had the capacity to strike

Moscow, strike the Kremlin, would that make sense?" Biden said of Zelensky. He later added, "We're making it on a day-to-day basis... how far they should go in" to Russian territory.
Ukraine has been the primary focus for European and North American leaders at the summit of the 75-year-old military alliance, with Biden centering the day announcing a new military aid package and pledging to Zelensky: "We will stay with you, period."
Though Zelensky offered public thanks for the package and a promise by NATO leaders that "Ukraine is now on an 'irreversible path' to membership in the military alliance, he also sounded an alarm: Ukraine cannot win the war with Russia, now in its third year, unless the U.S.

Taiwan monitors Chinese military surge, calls China a threat to stability



TAIPEI
Taiwan said that it was closely watching the Chinese military, which it said posed a rising threat to the region, after a flurry of warplanes passed near the island to join drills with China's Shandong aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

that it was closely watching the Chinese military, which it said posed a rising threat to the region, after a flurry of warplanes passed near the island to join drills with China's Shandong aircraft carrier in the Pacific.
The Chinese military exercises coincide with a NATO summit in Washington, where a draft communication says China has become a decisive enabler of Russia's war effort in Ukraine and Beijing continues to pose systemic challenges to Europe and to security.

The Shandong passed close to the Philippines on its way to the Pacific exercises, Taiwan's defense minister said. In its daily update on Chinese military activity over the past 24 hours, released on Thursday morning, Taiwan's defense ministry said it had detected 66 Chinese military aircraft around the island.
Of those, 39 passed to the south and southeast of Taiwan, the ministry said. On Wednesday the ministry said it had detected 36 aircraft heading to the Western Pacific to carry out drills with the Shandong.
Taiwan's defense ministry released two pictures, a grainy black-and-white image of a Chinese J-16 fighter and a colour image of a nuclear-capable H-6 bomber, which it said were taken recently, but did not say exactly where or when.

Sports & Showbiz



Krejciikova stuns Rybakina to earn Wimbledon final clash with Paolini



LONDON
Czech 31st seed Barbora Krejciikova will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini in the Wimbledon final after battling back for a shock 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over former champion Elena Rybakina.
Just hours after Paolini beat tearful Croatian Donna Vekic 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) in the longest women's semifinal at the All England Club, it was Krejciikova's turn to dig deep for victory against fourth seeded Rybakina in two hours and seven minutes on Centre Court.
Krejciikova faces seventh seed Paolini on Saturday in what will be the second Grand Slam final of the 28-year-old's career after her French Open triumph in 2021. "I'm so proud about my game and

my fighting spirit today," said Krejciikova.
The Czech started 2024 with a run to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, but a first round exit at the French Open was a major setback.
She struggled with a back injury and illness, winning just three singles matches in the five months before finally finding her form in remarkable style at Wimbledon.
Krejciikova shocked 11th seed Danielle Collins in the fourth round and former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko in the quarter-finals, before turning her sights on Rybakina.
The two-time Wimbledon doubles champion is now one win away from an unexpected triumph in the singles.



Alcaraz, Djokovic close in on Wimbledon final blockbuster

LONDON
Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and seven-time winner Novak Djokovic can set-up a Wimbledon final blockbuster on Friday.
However, standing in their way are Daniil Medvedev and Lorenzo Musetti, who has made the semifinal of the Grand Slam for the first time.
AFP Sport looks at the two semifinals.
DJOKOVIC FACES MUSETTI IN GENERATION GAME
Djokovic has equalled Roger Federer's mark by reaching a 13th Wimbledon semi-final and is two wins from matching the Swiss star's record of eight singles titles at the All England Club.
Victory on Friday would take him to a 10th final at the tournament.
At 37, Djokovic could also become the oldest champion of the modern era, an impressive achievement for a man who underwent knee surgery as recently as last month.
This season he has lost his Australian Open and French Open titles and has yet to make a final on tour.
He was handed a free pass into Friday's last-four when Alex de Minaur withdrew from their scheduled quarter-final with a hip injury.
The Serb has been in feisty mood at Wimbledon accusing fans of disrespecting him in his last-16 win over Holger Rune.
"If somebody steps over the line, I react," he said.

his defeat to the Italian in January's Australian Open final.
"It's tough to play against Carlos because you know whatever shot you hit, he can hit a winner from there," said Medvedev.
Medvedev has hit 64 aces to Alcaraz's 52 so far. He has dropped served eight times while Alcaraz has seen his service games breached 16 times.
ALCARAZ, MEDVEDEV IN REPEAT SHOW
Spanish world number three Alcaraz defeated Medvedev in straight sets in last year's semi-final at the All England Club before the Russian avenged that loss with an impressive last-four victory at the US Open.
Alcaraz, 21, is bidding to reach his fourth Slam final before setting his sights on becoming only the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back.
It has been an uneven Wimbledon for the Spaniard - he was pushed to five sets by Frances Tiafoe in the third round and then needed four sets to see off Ugo Humbert and Tommy Paul.
Alcaraz holds a 4-2 head-to-head lead over Medvedev, a player he likened to "a wall, every ball bounces back".
Medvedev is looking to reach a seventh Grand Slam final.
The fifth-ranked Russian, a former US Open champion, stunned top seed Jannik Sinner in five sets in the quarter-finals, gaining revenge for

How Hiba Ali fighting depression after divorce



(Web Desk) - Hiba Ali is a stunning and talented actress who has appeared in numerous hit serials in the past. Her latest notable dramas are Shiddat and Jann Nisar. In an interview, Hiba Ali opened up about her divorce, dealing with depression after divorce, option of second marriage and child custody case by husband.
She said, "We are bearing it, people who are suffering from depression

commit suicide.
At least, appreciate people who are dealing with it. I know people here think that depression patients are talking about it for attention seeking or taking some kind of mileage or benefit but it is not the case".
Talking about divorce, Hiba Ali said, "For me it was always unplanned. I always wanted to live with my husband because he was father of my son. I wanted to live with my understanding. He was a good person. We lacked understanding in basic matters. He was educated and I was a sensible girl, we couldn't fight daily on trivial things. We decided divorce on a dinner table.
Yes, I got shocked after the custody case, he used to think that I made our son distant from him because obviously he was in Canada.

Shaheen Afridi, wife Ansha expecting First baby



(Web Desk) Pakistan's star ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi and his wife Ansha Afridi are expecting their first baby.
The development emerged after the news of giving test to Afridi emerged in the upcoming Test series against Bangladesh.
Red ball Coach Jason Gillespie said, "Shaheen can miss Bangladesh Test matches due to childbirth. We can give him [some] rest if he wants to stay with

his wife full time."
Afridi tied the knot last year in September with the daughter of former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi.
The couple's wedding took place in September last year while nikhah took place in February of the same year.
Afridi has also been in the news recently following the news that he misbehaved with coaches and management staff.