

Sweden's Supreme Court throws out Greta Thunberg climate lawsuit

Sweden (News Desk) Sweden's Supreme Court threw out a class action lawsuit Wednesday brought against the state by 300 young people, including climate activist Greta Thunberg, accusing it of climate inaction. The first of its kind in the Scandinavian country, the case demanded that Sweden take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to within the limits of what is "technically and economically feasible." The Supreme Court has now concluded that the case cannot be taken up for review," it said in a statement. "This is because a court cannot decide that the Riksdag (parliament) or the government has to take any particular action." "The political bodies decide independently which specific climate measures Sweden should take," it added. However, the Supreme Court said it did not rule out that a climate case could be tried by the courts if it were "designed differently" — highlighting that it was filed by a group of individuals rather than an association. "The European Court of Justice has recently ruled in a judgment that an association that meets certain requirements may have the right to bring a climate lawsuit."

Lebanese search for dead in devastated villages as Israel withdraws

KFAR KILA: (News Desk) Residents of south Lebanon returned to devastated villages on Tuesday, searching for the bodies of relatives killed in last year's war between Israel and Hezbollah, as Israeli troops withdrew from most of the territory.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said Israel would complete its withdrawal from the south on Tuesday to meet a deadline set under a US-backed ceasefire, but that it would temporarily remain in five points needed for its security.

Hezbollah, which was badly pummelled in the war, said Israel was still occupying Lebanese territory and put the onus on the Lebanese state to get Israeli forces out. In the frontline village of Kfar Kila, barely a building was left standing.

"I reached my neighbourhood and I couldn't tell where my house had been," said one resident, Noha Ham-moud. "The entire neighbourhood is destroyed." Rescue workers had pulled several bodies from the rubble, and had even found two people still alive, she said. Local sources said those found dead and alive were fighters from Hezbollah, thousands of whom were killed in the war. Senior Lebanese politician Ali Hassan Khalil, who hails from the south, said hundreds of residents had gone to inspect several villages that became accessible, adding that the Lebanese army was still working to clear roads. However, Israel's continued occupation left "an open wound", he added. The conflict, which began when Hezbollah opened fire on Oct 8, 2023 in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas, displaced tens of thousands of Israelis from northern Israel and more than a million people in Lebanon.

Keen to work with Trump admin, PM Shehbaz tells US envoy

ISLAMABAD: (News Desk) Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a meeting with US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker on Tuesday, reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to work with the Trump administration to strengthen bilateral ties.

PM Shehbaz highlighted Pakistan's interest in expanding cooperation in trade, information technology, agriculture, health, education, and energy.

He also stressed the importance of counterterrorism collaboration, particularly in addressing threats posed by the militant Islamic State and the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Ms Baker assured him that the US administration would work with Pakistan to advance shared objectives and strengthen bilateral relations.

No high-level contacts at the leadership level have occurred between Islamabad and Washington since Trump returned to the White House last month, reflecting Pakistan's diminished strategic importance to Washington amid shifting regional dynamics and growing strategic divergence between the countries.

Cabinet meeting The prime minister also chaired a meeting of the federal cabinet on Tuesday. The meeting was apprised that the e-Office, to make government departments paperless, has been implemented in 98 per cent of federal government divisions, with 100 per cent implementation in 39 of them. PM Shehbaz directed the officials to implement e-Office in all federal ministries and departments by March, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The PM briefed the cabinet about the letter sent to him by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. The Saudi crown prince informed him about the renewal of the Saudi Development Fund's \$100 million per month deferred payment for petroleum products for another year. The cabinet approved the signing of an international legal agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for the protection and sustainable use of diverse marine resources in international waters. It appointed Kamran Jahangir as MD of the National Book Foundation and Dr Shahid Aslam Mirza as MD of the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority.



US President Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk speak in an interview on Tuesday.

In joint interview, Trump outlines Musk's role as enforcer-in-chief

Washington (News Desk) US President Donald Trump painted Elon Musk as his enforcer-in-chief on Tuesday, hailing the tech billionaire's zeal in implementing the blizzard of executive orders the president has issued since returning to office. In a joint interview broadcast on Fox News, the two men spent substantial time singing the other's praises and dismissing concerns that Trump

is overstepping his executive powers. Trump has signed scores of executive directives in the past three weeks, many of which have been challenged in the courts as potentially unconstitutional. Billionaire Musk, who was Trump's top donor during his 2024 presidential campaign, was tasked with leading the newly-created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), with the declared

goal of rooting out "waste, fraud and abuse" in federal spending. "One of the biggest functions of the DOGE team is just making sure that the presidential executive orders are actually carried out," Musk told Fox News. In the interview, Trump insisted his policies — including a wholesale onslaught on federal institutions — should be implemented without delay and said Musk was instru-

mental in pushing them forward. "You write an executive order and you think it's done, you send it out, it doesn't get done. It doesn't get implemented," Trump said. He added that Musk and the DOGE team have now become an enforcement mechanism within the federal bureaucracy to enact his administration's agenda without anyone standing in their way — or else risk losing their jobs.

China promises Latin America 'trustworthy' ties as Trump lays out demands

Hongkong (News Desk) China will always be Latin America's "trustworthy" friend and partner, its foreign minister told his Bolivian counterpart, as Beijing looks to improve its foothold in a region historically under the US sphere of influence. "Latin America is the home of the Latin American people, and is not any country's 'backyard'," Chinese Foreign Minis-

ter Wang Yi said during a meeting at the United Nations on Tuesday, according to a statement from his ministry. China wants to "continuously elevate the China-Bolivia strategic partnership", Wang told Bolivia's FM Celinda Sosa. Bolivia, which established diplomatic ties with Beijing in 1985, is among many countries in South America that have bonded

economically with China through debt and investment. The resource-rich country owes China, the world's biggest bilateral lender, over \$1.7 billion according to World Bank data. Chinese firms have invested a further \$6bn, statistics from the American Enterprise Institute think tank show, mostly in Bolivia's metals, energy and transport sectors. US foreign direct invest-

ment in Bolivia stands at around \$430 million, US State Department data shows, predominantly in the oil and gas and manufacturing sectors. The US and China look set to go toe-to-toe in Central and South America over US President Donald Trump's second term, with Chinese investments in the region, particularly in energy and infrastructure, challenging US in-



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks to the press following a meeting of the United Nations Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York City, US on February 18, 2025.

Trump bashes Zelensky, 'confident' on Ukraine deal

Washington (News Desk) US President Donald Trump has effectively blamed Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky for Russia's invasion, as French President Emmanuel Macron prepares for another round of talks with EU and non-European partners on Wednesday. Zelensky previously criticised the US-Russia talks for excluding Kyiv, say-

ing efforts to end the war must be "fair" and involve European countries. The Ukrainian leader's comments appeared to incense Trump, who launched a series of verbal attacks on Zelensky. "I'm very disappointed, I hear that they're upset about not having a seat," Trump told reporters at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida on Tuesday. "Today I heard, 'oh, well,

we weren't invited'. Well, you've been there for three years ... You should have never started it. You could have made a deal." Trump also suggested he could meet Russian President Vladimir Putin before the end of the month in Saudi Arabia as he overhauls Washington's stance towards Moscow — a shift that has alarmed European leaders. Earlier on Tuesday, Russia

and the United States had agreed to establish teams to negotiate a path to ending the war in Ukraine after talks that drew a strong rebuke from Kyiv, with Zelensky postponing his own trip to Saudi Arabia. France's Macron announced another meeting in Paris on Ukraine after the US-Russia talks, adding that Trump "can restart a useful dialogue" with Putin.

Looking to find 'missing one percent', Pakistan hope to turn the tide against New Zealand

KARACHI: (News Desk) Pride, History, Glory, Legacy. The words emblazoned across the National Bank Stadium in the ICC Champions Trophy branding reflect all that's on the line when the tournament gets its long-awaited liftoff on Wednesday. They were also the recurrent themes of Pakistan skipper Mohammad Rizwan's news conference on Tuesday, ahead of the opener against New Zealand. There is, of course, a lot at stake here. The Champions Trophy is the first tournament on Pakistan soil since the country co-hosted the 1996 One-day International World Cup. The hosts go in as defending champions; the images of their stunning triumph in the tournament's previous iteration in 2017 on prominent display in the press conference room at the Karachi venue. The team's recent form, though, has been patchy; a cause for concern. For any tournament across any sport.

No pressure on Pakistan, says Babar

KARACHI: (News Desk) Underlining that home conditions will give Pakistan an edge, leading batter Babar Azam insists that there will be no pressure on the home team when the ICC Champions Trophy starts here in Karachi on Wednesday.

"There is no pressure of anything," Babar told the International Cricket Council (ICC) website on the eve of the prestigious eight-nation event.

"What has happened in the past is beyond us. We have discussed mistakes we have made and we have worked on them. So we will try not to do what we have done in the past."

Babar's form will be vital if Pakistan are to improve on their recent tournament record. They have been knocked out in the group stage at the last two World Cups and suffered the same fate at last year's T20 World Cup after losing to co-hosts United States.

Pakistan kick-off their Champions Trophy mission against New Zealand on Wednesday, a clash which will include two of the biggest names in the event, with Babar set to go head-to-head with Kiwi star Kane Williamson.

Joe Root, Steve Smith and Virat Kohli are part of the respective England, Australia and India squads but Babar stands in a league of his own in ODIs, heading into this competition as the world's top-ranked batter. "When you have responsibility as a senior player in any team and the team relies on you and has belief in you, then I take it in a positive way," the 30-year-old Babar said.

Dream of hosting world cricket becomes reality

KARACHI: (News Desk) The cricketing world has descended upon Pakistan — at long last. It's a moment that's been 29 years in the making, but that long wait will be worth it when Pakistan square off against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy opener at the National Bank Stadium on Wednesday.

The euphoria of holding an ICC tournament for the first time since 1996 is palpable; the routes to the venue are decked out in Champions Trophy branding, the stadium is decorated in bright green and blue hues, and President Asif Ali Zardari is expected to be in attendance at the opening game.

According to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Mohsin Naqvi, "Pakistan is fully prepared for the Champions Trophy". But some fans are still struggling to come to terms with the sense of occasion.

"If someone in 2015 told me that England and Australia will come to Pakistan, I'd have definitely laughed it off," Mohammad Abdullah, a fan, told Dawn on Tuesday. "I'd have deemed it delusional. When Pakistan were announced as Champions Trophy hosts, I was only expecting it to be called off eventually. So, it's a huge victory for Pakistan already." Tournament ends anticipation for a generation of Pakistanis who have been waiting for international cricket's return.

Pindi police to shut down scrapyards for 'security clearance'

RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) As Pakistan hosts the ICC Champions Trophy this month, the Rawalpindi police have decided to shut down all scrapyards in the garrison city for the 'security clearance' of the owners and employees working at these spaces.

Police said these establishments would remain closed till the security clearance of the employees, adding that they would initiate legal action if any of the employees were found involved in criminal activities. The city police officer ordered all station house officers (SHOs) and sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs), for the security clearance of scrapyards located in their jurisdictions. The police have been directed to compile the record of scrapyards for their security clearance. "Until the security clearance is completed, all scrapyards must be closed," the CPO's directive said, adding that the scrapyards would be allowed to function after they were given security clearance certificates by the police. A senior police official said that they aimed to ensure foolproof security for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy starting today and security clearance of scrapyards and their workers was part of this step.

The ICC event featuring eight teams, will be held in Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Dubai till March 9, 2025. 5,000 police officials for security The police have been preparing a foolproof security plan for the tournament. City Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani also visited the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday to review the security arrangements put in place for the ICC Champions Trophy. Chief Traffic Officer Beenish Fatima, the Rawal SP, district administration officers, and other officials were also present on the occasion. The CPO conducted a detailed review of the security and other arrangements and gave instructions in this regard. According to the security plan, more than 5,000 Rawalpindi police officials will be on duty to maintain law and order. He said the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium hosted eight international cricket series in the last two years, adding that foolproof security would be provided to the international cricket teams visiting Rawalpindi for the tournament.

Indian police seize Islamic books in held Kashmir

Delhi (News Desk) Indian police in India-occupied Kashmir (IoK) have raided dozens of bookshops and seized hundreds of copies of books by an Islamic scholar, sparking angry reactions from Muslim leaders.

Police claimed searches were based on "credible intelligence regarding the clandestine sale and distribution of literature promoting the ideology of a banned organisation". Officers did not name the author, but store

owners said they had seized literature by the late Abul Ala Maududi, founder of the political party Jamaat-e-Islami. Fighter groups, demanding IoK's freedom or its merger with Pakistan, have been fighting Indian forces for decades, with tens of thousands killed in the conflict. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist government banned the Kashmir branch of Jamaat-e-Islami in 2019 as an "unlawful association".

New Delhi renewed the ban last year for what it said were "activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty" of the nation. Plainclothes officers began raids on Saturday in the main city of Srinagar, before launching book seizures in other towns across the Muslim-majority region. "They (police) came and took away all the copies of books authored by Abul Ala Maududi saying these books were banned," a bookshop owner in Srinagar told AFP, asking

not to be named. "These books were found to be in violation of legal regulations, and strict action is being taken against those found in possession of such material," police said in a statement. Police said the searches were conducted "to prevent the circulation of banned literature linked to Jamaat-e-Islami". The raids sparked anger among supporters of the party. "The seized books promote good moral values and responsible citizenship," said

er towns across the Muslim-majority region. "They (police) came and took away all the copies of books authored by Abul Ala Maududi saying these books were banned," a bookshop owner in Srinagar told AFP, asking not to be named. "These Shamim Ahmed Thokar. Umar Farooq, Kashmir's chief cleric and a prominent leader advocating for the right to self-determination, condemned the police action. "Cracking down on Islamic literature

and seizing them from bookstores is ridiculous," Farooq said in a statement, pointing out that the literature was available online. "Policing thought by seizing books is absurd — to say the least — in the time of access to all information on virtual highways," he added. Critics and many residents of IoK say civil liberties were drastically curtailed after Modi's government imposed direct rule in 2019 by scrapping IoK's constitutionally enshrined partial autonomy.