

Pakistan bombs Kabul, other cities after declaring 'open war' with Af

Largest bombardment of Afghan capital and first strikes on southern base of Taliban since 2021

SIMMERING TENSIONS

Over the last few months, the two have occasionally skirmished along their winding, porous frontier as tension has escalated. The latest confrontation is by far the most serious

October 8, 2025: The Pakistani Taliban ambushed a Pakistan Army convoy in Orakzai district, killing 11 soldiers. The assault was part of a broader wave of violence that has killed hundreds of civilians and security personnel in recent years

Mid-October: A Qatari-mediated ceasefire ended the fighting, although since then there have been repeated strikes and skirmishes in the frontier area, leading to dozens of deaths

Feb 22: Pakistan's military killed at least 70 militants in strikes along the border with Afghanistan

Feb 26: Afghanistan launched an extensive cross-border attack into Pakistan along six provinces

Feb 27: Pakistan carried out airstrikes in the early hours of Friday on the Afghan capital and two other areas, Kandahar and Paktia



Taliban security personnel stand guard near the Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan | AFP

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN on Friday said it was in an "open war" with Afghanistan after its forces killed more than 270 Taliban fighters and injured over 400 others in airstrikes in response to what Islamabad described as the cross-border attack by the Afghan Taliban.

Afghanistan's Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that Afghan forces killed 55 Pakistani soldiers and targeted what he described as "important military objectives" inside Pakistan.

The Afghan Taliban attacked several check posts along the border late Thursday, apparently to avenge the air strikes carried out by Pakistan in Afghanistan's border areas on Sunday. Pakistan responded by hitting targets in Kabul, Kan-

dahar and Paktia under 'Operation Ghazab lil Haq' early Friday. The 2,611-km-long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is known as the Durand Line, which Kabul has not formally recognised.

"Our patience has run out. Now there is an open war between us...Now it will be 'Dama Dam Mast Qalandar'. Pakistan's army did not come from across the seas. We are your neighbours; we know your ins and outs," Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said.

Pakistan Army spokesperson Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said that the Taliban came armed with quadcopters and small and big weapons, but the response by Pakistan was so effective that they were repulsed completely at all 53 places and "we gave effective response to tar-

China calls on both countries to reach truce

China on Friday called on Pakistan and Afghanistan to work out a ceasefire while expressing concern over the escalation of the conflict between the two countries. China is closely following the developments of the situation in the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing. Pakistan and Afghanistan are close neighbours, and both are neighbouring countries of China. As a neighbour and friend, China is deeply concerned about the escalation of the conflict and deeply saddened by the casualties caused by the conflict, Mao said.

get all 53 places".

A Taliban government spokesman Mujahid said that the recent strikes were intended to send a clear message that "our hand can reach their collar," adding that any "malicious act" by Pakistan would be answered "in Islamabad." Mujahid said that during last night's retaliatory operations, 19 Pakistani military posts and two headquarters were seized. He claimed 55 Pakistani soldiers were killed and several captured, Tolo News reported.

"Afghan forces recovered weapons, ammunition, one tank and a military transport vehicle. 13 Islamic Emirate soldiers were killed and 22 others wounded in the fighting," he said. Mujahid reiterated that Afghanistan seeks peaceful relations with neighbouring countries.

PTI

US and Iran wrap up latest nuclear talks without deal

GENEVA

IRAN and the United States held hours of indirect negotiations Thursday over Tehran's nuclear program but walked away without a deal, leaving the danger of another Mideast war on the table as the US has gathered a massive fleet of aircraft and warships in the region.

Oman's Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who mediated the talks in Geneva, said there had been "significant progress in the negotiation" without elaborating.

But just before the talks ended, Iranian state television reported that Tehran was determined to continue enriching uranium, rejected proposals to transfer it abroad and sought the lifting of international sanctions, indicating it was not prepared to meet US President Donald Trump's demands.

Trump wants a deal to constrain Iran's nuclear program, and he sees an opportunity while the country is struggling at home with growing dissent following nationwide protests. Iran also hopes to avert war, but maintains it has the right to enrich uranium and does not want to discuss other issues, like its long-range missile program or support for armed groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Al-Busaidi said technical

US urged to drop 'excessive demands'

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Friday that in order to reach a deal, the United States will have to drop its "excessive demands", after the two sides held talks in Geneva. In a phone call with Egypt's top diplomat Badr Abdelatty, Araghchi said "success in this path requires seriousness and realism from the other side". Araghchi did not clarify what demands he was referring to, but Washington has pointed to Iran's ballistic missile programme repeatedly described Tehran's uranium enrichment capability as a red line.

talks involving lower-level representatives would continue next week in Vienna, the home of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United Nations' atomic watchdog likely would be critical in any deal.

The stakes could hardly be higher. If America attacks, Iran has said US military bases in the region would be considered legitimate targets, putting at risk tens of thousands of American service members. Iran has also threatened to attack Israel. "There would be no victory for anybody — it would be a devastating war," Araghchi told India Today in an interview recorded Wednesday just before he flew to Geneva. AP



The US Navy aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford, bound for West Asia, departs Souda Bay on the island of Crete, Greece on Thursday | AFP

China's legislature sacks 9 military officers

BEIJING

CHINA'S legislature has dismissed 19 members, including nine who are military officers, one week ahead of the start of its annual meeting.

The late Thursday announcement did not say why the deputies had been removed, but such removals are generally tied to corruption investigations. An anti-corruption campaign launched

by Chinese leader Xi Jinping shows no sign of letting up after more than a decade. The military has been targeted in recent years, including the removal of its top general last month, as Xi seeks to modernize the armed forces.

Analysts say the campaign is also a way for Xi, who is in his 14th year in power, to remove potential rivals and ensure loyalty among his subordinates.

The dismissals aren't likely to have a major impact on the meeting of the National People's Congress, which opens next Thursday and is expected to run for a week. The largely ceremonial legislature rubber stamps decisions made by the ruling Communist Party.

The removed officers include two under the Central Military Commission, as well as others from the army, the navy, the air force and the rocket force. PTI

Bill Clinton grilled by US lawmakers over connections to Jeffrey Epstein

WASHINGTON

FORMER US president Bill Clinton denied wrongdoing at a Congressional panel Friday on his well-documented links to Jeffrey Epstein, as Democrats seek to shift focus toward Donald Trump's own ties to the convicted sex offender. Clinton features prominently throughout the Epstein files, but he insists that he broke ties well before the disgraced billionaire's 2008 conviction for sex offenses.

"I saw nothing, and I did nothing wrong," Clinton said in his opening statement, shared on social media.

The Republican chair of the House committee probing Epstein, James Comer, said ahead of Bill Clinton's deposition he looked forward to "asking lots of questions."

What the files say about Bill

Bill Clinton has not been accused of a crime or formally investigated. But he features prominently throughout the latest Epstein files disclosures

IN HOT WATER

Bill Clinton features prominently in the trove of investigative files related to Epstein released by the Justice Department but has not been accused of any wrongdoing

Previously unseen photographs from the files include one showing the former president reclining in a hot tub, part of the image obscured by a stark black rectangle

In another, Clinton is pictured swimming alongside a dark-haired woman who appears to be Epstein's accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell

Clinton has acknowledged flying on Epstein's private plane several times in the early 2000s for Clinton Foundation-related humanitarian work

He follows his wife, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, who testified Thursday, defiantly calling for President

Trump -- who like Bill Clinton had many ties with Epstein -- to appear before the panel. AFP

EXPRESS READ

EU to provisionally apply Mercosur deal

Brussels: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Friday she will start to "provisionally implement" a massive trade deal with the Mercosur bloc of nations in South America despite not having approval from European Parliament. "When they are ready, we are ready," von der Leyen said. With backing from Europe leaders, she said the Commission will "provisionally apply the agreement".

Shock defeat for Labour in crucial UK bypoll

London: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer-led Labour Party was hit with a major ballot box shocker in northern England on Friday as the Left-wing Green Party candidate relegated the governing party to third place after far-right Reform UK.Hannah Spencer, a 34-year-old plumber by profession and newcomer to politics, hailed her win as a sign that the Greens can unseat other Labour members of Parliament too in future

MEDICAL MILESTONE

Denmark 1st in EU to eliminate mother-to-child HIV: WHO

COPENHAGEN

DENMARK has become the first EU country to eliminate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

"The elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis marks a major public health achievement for Denmark," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement. He added: "This milestone demonstrates that with strong political commitment and consistent investment in primary care and integrated maternal and child health services, countries can protect every pregnant woman and newborn from these diseases."

The international health body said Denmark had met its required targets for elimination from 2021 to 2024, "including low transmission rates and high coverage of prenatal testing and treatment for pregnant women."

"Elimination means testing and treating at least 95 out of every 100 pregnant women—and keeping new



infant infections below 50 per 100 000 births," Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, said.

According to WHO figures, Denmark has low rates of HIV and syphilis among pregnant women. Around 5,950 people are living with HIV in Denmark, and less than 0.1 percent of pregnant women are affected.

"This validation by WHO is a proud moment for Denmark," Health Minister Sophie Lohde said. Denmark is now working toward eliminating hepatitis B as part of broader "triple elimination" goal. Agencies

Bank of Baroda, Chalappuram Branch
Ground Floor, Kesari Bhavan, Madhavan Nair Road, Calicut 673002, CONTACT: 8714606424, 0495 2302329

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/ Mortgagor/s/ Guarantor/s/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Name & Address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s :- 1) **Ms. Future Vision Trader**, A/11/364A Vellipram Ramanattukara, Calicut-673633. 2) **Mr. Aslam K N** (Partner, Mortgagor, Guarantor) S/o Abdul Kalam, Residing at Flat No S5, Offshore apartment, Near Sea Queen Hotel, Calicut- 673001. 3) **Mr. Azeel K N** (Partner, Guarantor) S/o Abdul Kalam Residing at Flat No S5, Offshore apartment, Near Sea Queen Hotel, Calicut- 673001.

Short description of the immovable property with known encumbrance, if any: All the part and parcel of property having an extent of 3.74 Ares of Lans in Re. Sy No 483/19 (Old Sy. No 1031/-6) situated at Puthur Amson Desom, Puthur Taluk, Palakkad District, Kerala. **Boundaries:** North: Property Belonging to Unnikrishnan South: 3mts wide way and the property belonging to Jayaprakasan and venu East: Property Belonging to Unnikrishnan West: Kudiyirippu of Venu & property belonging to Jayaprakasan and venu.

Total Dues :- Rs. 1,10,91,116.41 + Unapplied/Unserviced interest and other charges (Rupees One crore Ten Lakhs Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Sixteen and paise Forty-one only) + Unapplied/Unserviced interest and other charges, and costs, charges and expenses etc, from 25-02-2026

Date & time of E-auction :- 26.03.2026 -- 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Reserve Price, EMD Amount, Bid Increase Amount: The reserve price will be Rs.11,64,000/- (Eleven Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.1,16,400/- (One Lacs Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred only) Bid Increase Amount Rs.10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only)

Status of Possession (Constructive/Physical) : Physical Possession

Property Inspection date & time :- 13-02-2026 3:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction> and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 0495-2302329 Mobile: 8714606424

Place : Calicut **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Date : 26.02.2026 **Bank of Baroda**

कनारा बैंक Canara Bank
Specialized ARM Branch II Chennai
No. 9 & 10, Sir Thyagaraya Road, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai – 600 017
Mobile: 9740145622 Email: cb7901@canarabank.com

E-Auction Sale Notice

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Reddiarpalayam Branch of the Canara Bank, will be sold with "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 20/03/2026 (Time 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.) for recovery of Rs. 7,90,52,365.72/- (Rupees Seven-Crore Ninety Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty Five and paise Seventy Two Only) due as on 25/02/2026 with future interest from thereon to the Specialized ARM Branch II Chennai Branch of Canara Bank from The Managing Director, M/s. Pudukcherry Agro Products Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, Agricultural Complex, Thattanchavay, Pondicherry – 605 009.

Description of the Immovable Property : All that Piece and Parcel of Godown in land, R.S. No.27/6, Cadastre No. 207/1/3, measuring Godown Area 164.538 Sq.M., Entrance Area 72.07 Sq.M., Vacant Site on the Northern Side of the Godown 2.12 Sq.M., totaling 238.728 Sq.M., out of which a piece of land measuring 23.427 Sq.M., situated in the middle southern portion of that piece of land forming part of R.S. No.27/6 lying on the eastern Border has been sold out vide Sale Deed No. 147/2004 dated 23.02.2004 regd. in book I, Vol.512, page 217 to 223 at SRO, Mahe, and hence the remaining land available is 215.301 Sq.M. **Direction As per Document:** North: Cemetery Road, South: Remaining portion of land and building, East: Remaining portion of the building & Main road, West: Remaining portion of land and building.

Reserve Price: Rs.86,98,000/- EMD Price : Rs.8,69,800/- Bid Increase Amount : Rs.50,000/-

Date and Time of e-Auction
20.03.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration: each till the conclusion of the sale)

Date and Time of Inspection of Property: 07.03.2026 between 11.00 A.M. & 4.00 P.M.

Last Date of Submission of EMD : The intending bidders shall deposit Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) on or before 19.03.2026, 5.00 PM mentioned above being of 10% of the Reserve Price in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal directly.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Canara Bank, Specialized ARM Branch II Chennai, No. 9 & 10 Sir Thyagaraya Road, Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai – 17, Mobile: 9740145622, Email: cb7901@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day. Portal of E-Auction: <https://baanknet.com>

Date : 26.02.2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Chennai **Canara Bank**