

## Afghanistan, Pakistan restart peace talks: sources

### Pakistan forces kill deputy leader of Pakistan Taliban

REUTERS, Islamabad

Afghanistan and Pakistan have resumed peace talks in Istanbul, four sources familiar with the matter said yesterday, a day after Islamabad said the discussions had ended in failure.

Three of the sources said the nations had recommenced talks at the request of mediators Turkey and Qatar, to ensure they do not resume border clashes that have killed dozens this month.

One of the sources, a Pakistani security official, said Islamabad would press its central demand at the talks that Afghanistan take action against militants using its territory as a safe haven and to plan attacks on Pakistani soil.

“Most of the issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been resolved successfully and peacefully. A few demands from Pakistan need some extra time as they are difficult to be agreed upon,” said a source close to the Taliban delegation.

Islamabad accuses the Taliban of harbouring the Pakistani Taliban and allowing them to attack Pakistani troops from Afghan territory. Kabul denies this.

Meanwhile, Pakistan said yesterday it had killed a deputy leader of the group in an operation near the Afghan border, a victory for Islamabad in the years-long insurgency it has been fighting.

Qari Amjad, who Pakistan described as a “high-value target” and who was designated as a terrorist by the US, was killed in a clash after trying to cross into Pakistan from Afghanistan.



Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of Ej Jarmaq, yesterday. The Lebanese president ordered the armed forces to resist any Israeli incursions in the south following a raid that killed a municipal worker.

PHOTO: AFP

## Resume testing nuke weapons

Trump orders Pentagon to match China, Russia; Moscow warns of new era of confrontation; Beijing calls on Washington to uphold global strategic balance

REUTERS, Busan

US President Donald Trump yesterday ordered the US military to immediately resume testing nuclear weapons after a gap of 33 years, minutes before beginning a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump made the surprise announcement on Truth Social while he was aboard his Marine One helicopter flying to meet Xi for a trade negotiating session in Busan, South Korea. He said he was instructing the Pentagon to test the US nuclear arsenal on an “equal basis” with other nuclear powers.

“Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately,” Trump posted.

“Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years.”

A senior Russian lawmaker said



Trump’s decision would herald a new era of unpredictability and open confrontation, state news agency RIA reported.

China’s Foreign Ministry called for the US to abide by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing and uphold the global strategic balance and stability.

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to nuclear explosive

testing, which would be carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration, or flight testing of nuclear-capable missiles.

No nuclear power, other than North Korea, has carried out explosive testing in more than 25 years. Later, on his way back to Washington, Trump said testing was needed to ensure the US keeps up with its rival nuclear powers.

“With others doing testing, I think it’s appropriate that we do also,” Trump said on board Air Force One, adding that nuclear test sites would be determined later.

Asked whether the world was entering a more risky phase around nuclear weapons, Trump dismissed the threat, saying US stocks were “well locked up” before adding he would welcome denuclearisation.

“I’d like to see a denuclearisation because we have so many and Russia’s second and China’s third and China will catch up within four or five years,” he said.

## Nepal PM holds first talks since protests with parties, ‘Gen Z’

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal’s interim leader has held the first talks between political parties and youth representatives since last month’s deadly anti-corruption protests that toppled the previous government, officials said yesterday.

“We have succeeded in creating an environment of cooperation and trust by ending the state of lack of dialogue,” Prime Minister Sushila Karki, the former chief justice appointed as interim leader, said in a statement on social media.

The unrest on September 8-9 was triggered by a brief ban on social media, although it was fuelled by long-standing frustration over economic hardship and corruption.

At least 73 people were killed during the two days of unrest, which left parliament, courts and government buildings in flames. Karki, 73, who will lead the Himalayan nation until elections, held a four-hour meeting with youth representatives on Wednesday.

The challenges ahead to ensure the March 2026 elections pass off smoothly are huge – including deep public distrust in Nepal’s established parties.



## Russian drones hit Ukraine energy sites

### Three killed; Kyiv calls for more air defences

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched a barrage of drones and missiles at Ukraine’s energy infrastructure overnight, forcing nationwide power restrictions and killing three people, including a seven-year-old girl, officials said yesterday.

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko accused Moscow of targeting Ukrainian people and power supplies as the cold winter months approached.

“Its goal is to plunge Ukraine into darkness. Ours is to preserve the light,” Svyrydenko said on the Telegram app. “To stop the terror, we need more air defence systems, tougher sanctions, and maximum pressure on the aggressor.”

Regional officials said two men were killed in the southeastern industrial city of Zaporizhzhia, and a seven-year-old girl from the central Vinnystia region died in hospital from injuries sustained in the attacks.

## ‘Dead bodies in the streets’

### Survivors describe fleeing Sudan’s El-Fasher

AFP, Port Sudan

Families hid in trenches, bodies lay in the streets and children were killed in front of their parents as Sudanese paramilitaries advanced into the western city of El-Fasher, survivors told AFP.

More than 36,000 civilians have fled the city since Sunday, when the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) captured the army’s last stronghold in the Darfur region, triggering warnings from the UN and humanitarian groups of possible mass killings and ethnic cleansing.

Some have sought refuge in Tawila, a town around 70 kilometres (43 miles) to the west that is already sheltering some 650,000 displaced people.

In satellite phone interviews with AFP, three survivors who reached Tawila described scenes of terror and loss during their escape from a city besieged by the RSF for 18 months, cut off from food, medicine and other aid.

Their accounts echoed those of survivors of the mass killings in Darfur in the early 2000s.

Emtithal Mahmoud, a survivor of the earlier Darfur killings now based in the United States, recounted to AFP a harrowing moment when she recognised her cousin, Nadifa, in a video shared by RSF accounts, lying dead on the ground.

The survivors’ full names have been withheld for their safety. “On Saturday at 6 am, the shelling was extremely heavy. I took my children and hid with them in a trench. We haven’t heard from my husband for six months.


“After about an hour, seven RSF fighters entered our house. They took my phone, searched even my undergarments, and killed my 16-year-old son. We fled with many people from our neighborhood.

“On the road between El-Fasher and Garni (a village northwest of the city), we saw many dead bodies lying on the ground and wounded people left behind in the open because their families couldn’t carry them. Along the way, we were robbed again and the young men travelling with us were stopped. We don’t know what happened to them.”



An aerial view shows people navigating a flooded street by boat after heavy rains in Hoi An, Vietnam, yesterday. Coastal provinces in Vietnam have been lashed by torrential rains since October 26, leaving at least 10 people dead.

PHOTO: AFP



**PUBALI BANK PLC.**  
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**Disclosure relating to Un-Audited Third Quarter (Q3) Financial Statements**

This is for kind information of all concerned that The Board of Directors of Pubali Bank PLC. in its 1492<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting held on Wednesday, 29 October 2025 at 5.00 PM has considered and approved the **Un-Audited Financial Statements for the quarter ended 30 September 2025** and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank:

Particulars	1 January 2025 to 30 September 2025		1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024	
	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated
i) Operating Profit (Taka)	21,790,816,205	22,095,836,996	17,663,344,355	17,960,322,011
ii) Net Profit /(Loss) after Taxation	8,931,347,891	9,111,603,205	8,534,639,786	8,774,313,323
iii) Net Assets Value (NAV) (Taka)	74,447,291,156	75,605,420,534	54,968,004,779	56,009,198,158
iv) NAV Per Share (Taka)	57.20	58.09	*42.24	*43.04
v) Earnings Per Share (EPS) (Taka)	6.86	7.00	*6.56	*6.74
vi) Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) (Taka)	68.56	68.64	*34.77	*35.20

\*Restated

Particulars	1-Jan-25 to 30-Sep-25		1-Jan-24 to 30-Sep-24		1-Jul-25 to 30-Sep-25		1-Jul-24 to 30-Sep-24	
	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated	Solo	Consolidated
	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	6.86	7.00	*6.56	*6.74	2.51	2.56	*3.34	*3.43

**Significant deviation between the quarterly periods:**

- NAV Per Share increased compare to same period of last year due to increase of retained earnings, statutory reserve and revaluation reserve on Govt. securities.
- Earnings Per Share (EPS) substantially increased compare to same period of last year due to increase of Income from investment income, Commission, exchange and brokerage income and Other income.
- NOCFPS increased during the quarter ended 30 September 2025 due to significant increase of deposit collection from customers, increase in other liabilities and decrease in loans and advances along with increase of fees, commission and investment income in compare to same period of previous year (Q3-2024).

The details The details of the **un-audited Third Quarter (Q3) Financial Statements** ended on **September 30, 2025** is also available in the website of the Bank at **www.pubalibangla.com**.

Dated: 29 October 2025  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

By order of the Board  
sd/-  
**Md. Anisur Rahman**  
General Manager & Company Secretary