**A plot against cricket**

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Since 1998, when Pakistan became the only nuclear country in the Islamic World, India and other entities started destabilising it as part of the double game. Notably, in the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attacks, Islamabad joined the US-led global War on Terror due to its fragile economy and the hostility from India.

When the US-led NATO forces felt that they were failing in coping with the stiff resistance of the Taliban in Afghanistan, American high officials and their media started accusing Pakistan Army and ISI of supporting cross-border terrorism in Afghanistan to divert attention from their defeatism in that country and also to pacify their public.

Pakistan’s Armed Forces and the ISI have successfully broken the backbone of the foreign-backed terrorists. Peace has been restored in the Balochistan province and Karachi, including other vulnerable regions. But, in the recent past, terrorist attacks especially in Balochistan show that external spy agencies want to damage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as Washington and New Delhi have already opposed this project.

[Footballers praise Messi after he scores maiden PSG goal against Man City in Champions League](https://nation.com.pk/30-Sep-2021/footballers-praise-messi-after-he-scores-maiden-psg-goal-against-man-city-in-champions-league)

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed stated on August 9, 2021: “India’s RAW and Afghanistan’s National Directorate of Security…and Israel together have started a campaign of terrorism in Pakistan.”

In November, 2020 at a joint press conference and a joint press briefing, DG of ISPR Major-General Babar Iftikhar and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi unveiled a dossier containing “irrefutable evidence” of India’s sponsorship of terrorism in Pakistan. In his recent interview to an Indian news channel, an ex-RAW agent named Daniel admitted that he spied on Pakistan at India’s behest in the 90s and “was caught by Pakistani security forces…he was sent to Pakistan “to make bombs go off…India frequently sends spies over into Pakistani territory”.

Using the pretext of a security threat, New Zealand’s unilateral decision to cancel the recent cricket series just hours before the start of the first One Day International (ODI) in Rawalpindi has surprised Pakistanis, dealing a lethal blow to the campaign which is aimed at bringing back international cricket to the country.

[Farrukh Habib criticises Sharif family for avoiding accountability process](https://nation.com.pk/30-Sep-2021/farrukh-habib-criticises-sharif-family-for-avoiding-accountability-process)

Citing players’ “mental and physical well-being”, England followed suit, cancelling their men’s and women’s teams’ tour of Pakistan, which had to begin in October this year. Australia is also feared to pull out of their first tour of the country since 1998, scheduled for February and March next year. Some Western countries’ former cricketers and those of Pakistan lashed out at New Zealand and England for their decision.

For instance, PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja stated that he was “disappointed” with England for “pulling out of their commitment…England’s decision was expected because members of the Western bloc unfortunately join hands and try to back each other.” In a joint press conference with Interior Minister Rashid on September 22, 2021, Pakistan’s Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry revealed: “A fake social media post with former Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan commander Ehsanullah Ehsan’s name on it was shared with New Zealand’s cricket in August, warned it against touring Pakistan as ISIS would attack it…The West Indies team, due to arrive in December next year, had also been sent a threat which he said was fake.”

[Petrol price expected to increase by Rs5.25 per litre from October 1](https://nation.com.pk/30-Sep-2021/petrol-price-expected-to-increase-by-rs5-25-per-litre-from-october-1)

He warned that Pakistan was facing an intense hybrid and fifth-generation warfare through a network of Indian propaganda-peddling entities targeting Islamabad. Earlier, terming the abandonment of the cricket series as a “conspiracy” by an “international lobby” against Pakistan, Fawad Chaudhary stated that Pakistan was “paying the price for not allowing any American bases and use of its territory to the US for any sort of action inside Afghanistan.”

The plans of foreign enemies against Pakistan have also enveloped cricket, ignoring the fact that the sport is considered a symbol of peace and positive interaction among various states.

The writer focuses on international affairs and is the author of the book, “US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations”. He can be reached at

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[Ramiz Raja seeks input from Aqib Javed to bring improvements in cricket](https://nation.com.pk/30-Sep-2021/ramiz-raja-seeks-input-from-aqib-javed-to-bring-improvements-in-cricket)

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