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Constitution must remain supreme in exercise of powers: FCC chief justice

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan has stressed that the Constitution must be given the highest priority in the exercise of powers.

Addressing the opening of the 2026-27 judicial year at the Federal Constitutional Court, the chief justice said the start of a new judicial year was an opportunity to renew the commitment to delivering justice.

He said the Federal Constitutional Court was effectively fulfilling its responsibilities in dealing with constitutional matters.

The chief justice emphasized that the Constitution must remain paramount whenever powers are exercised.

He said adherence to the Constitution was essential for ensuring stability in society, adding that the Constitution clearly defines powers and their limits.

Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan also highlighted the importance of using modern technology in judicial affairs. He said the Federal Constitutional Court had delivered decisions in several important cases within a short period.



Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Govt likely to impose smart lockdown amid rising fuel prices: sources

Three-day market closure and reduced working hours on the cards, say sources

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The federal government is likely to impose a smart lockdown amid rising petroleum prices against the backdrop of a worsening Middle East crisis, with a final decision expected this evening, sources said on Tuesday.

A meeting chaired by Prime Minister PPP backs PA resolution on reducing petrol prices A resolution seeking a reduction in petroleum product prices was presented in the Sindh Assembly by PTI lawmaker Muhammad Owais. The Pakistan Peoples Party, which is an ally of the PML-N in the Centre, supported the resolution. Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon called for the abolition of the petroleum levy, saying the salaried class had been crushed as the government moves to cushion the public from rising fuel prices amid tensions in the Middle East.Announcing the scheme, the premier had said the government was fully aware of the burden rising oil prices had placed on the public and that the people would not be left alone in these difficult times.Under the relief scheme, owners and users of motorcycles, rickshaws and other two and three-wheeled vehicles will receive Rs100 per litre relief on up to 20 litres of petrol per month.

Balochistan High Court Dismisses Afghan Medical Students' Petition to Remain in Pakistan



STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

The Balochistan High Court has dismissed a petition filed by Afghan nationals seeking permission to continue their medical and dental education in Pakistan.

A division bench comprising Justice Muhammad Aamir Nawaz Rana and Justice Abdul Qayyum Lehri delivered the verdict, rejecting the applicants' plea for judicial intervention in government policies governing foreign students.

In its ruling, the high court held that foreign citizens do not possess an absolute or permanent right to reside, study, or pursue professional training in Pakistan against official state policy.

The bench emphasized that core administrative decisions—specifically those related to immigration control, the repatriation of non-citizens.

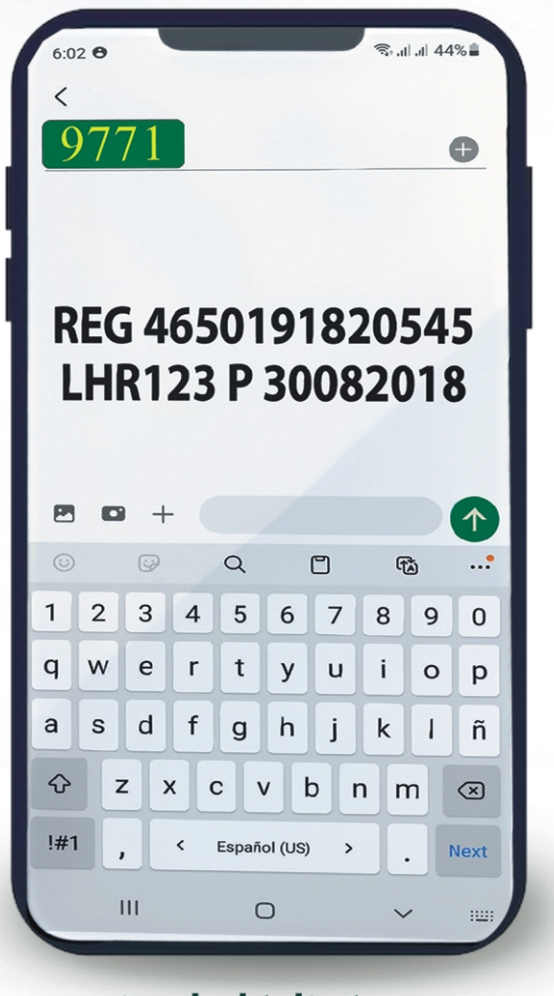
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مشرق وسطیٰ میں جنگ کے باعث پٹرول کی قیمتوں میں ہوشربا اضافے
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STEP-3 صوبے کے نام کا پہلا حرف جہاں اپ کی گاڑی رجسٹرڈ ہے
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STEP-3 ٹوکن پٹرول پمپ پر دکھا کر آپ رعایتی قیمت پر پٹرول حاصل کر سکتے ہیں۔

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سندھ S | پنجاب P | خیبر پختونخوا K | بلوچستان B

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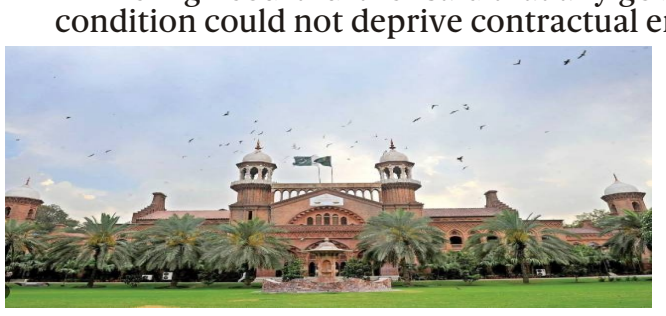
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PID(I) 2537-D/26

Employees' years on contract must also be counted in pension, rules LHC

- The high court further said that any government policy or condition could not deprive contractual employees of pension.



SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

The Punjab government failed to get relief from the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday when the latter, while rejecting the former's intra-court appeal, declared that the government employees, who were regularized, would also receive pension for the years when they were on contract,

A two-member bench of the LHC, in its ruling, said that if a person became a permanent government employee, it did not imply that he or she would not be paid pension for the period when he or she was on contract.

The high court further said that any government policy or condition could not deprive contractual employees of pension.

"According to the Supreme Court's (SC) verdict, contractual employment also falls in the category of temporary service," the LHC said, and ordered the payment of pension as well as gratuity to the widow of the health department's deceased employee.The judgement read that the provincial government had failed to convince the court that pension could not be paid to an employee for the period during which he or she was a contractual employee.

Today's decision has been described as a first setback for the provincial government after the appointment of Advocate General Barrister Zafarullah Khan.



Vehicles trying to make their way through rainwater accumulated on Jail Road following heavy rainfall.

PEC Launches BrainGain Portal to Connect Pakistani Engineers Worldwide

- Global digital platform to bring overseas experts' knowledge back to Pakistan; students, universities startups and industry to benefit from mentoring, research and technical expertise

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has launched the BrainGain Portal, a global digital platform designed to connect Pakistan's engineering community with experienced Pakistani professionals and international experts worldwide. The portal was jointly inaugurated at PEC Headquarters in Islamabad by Engr. Shahid Iqbal Baloch, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, who attended as Chief Guest, and Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir. Her Excellency Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan to France, attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour.

The ceremony was attended by



senior government officials, representatives of Pakistan's diplomatic missions in France, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia, Vice Chancellors, faculty members, industry representatives, incubation centres, technology parks, startups and BrainGain Ambassadors from several countries. The portal will enable Pakistani engineers and professionals abroad to mentor students, review research and technical proposals, supervise final-year projects, advise startups and provide specialised support to industry, engineering standards and accreditation in Pakistan.

The portal operates through two main categories: Contributors and Seekers. Senior engineers, academics, consultants and specialists can register as Contributors to offer expertise, mentorship and professional networks, while students, universities, startups and industry can participate as Seekers by presenting practical challenges, projects and research needs. The platform also includes a Hall of Fame recognising visionary Pakistani engineers, an Iconic Projects registry documenting landmark engineering achievements and a Success Stories section highlighting the accomplishments of Pakistanis in engineering and technology worldwide.

Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir said the initiative was aimed at bringing the knowledge and expertise of overseas Pakistani engineers back to the country. "We are not asking our engineers to come home. We are asking their knowledge to come home. When knowledge returns, ideas follow, opportunity grows and Pakistan moves forward," he said.

Murtaza Wahab disputes Mustafa Kamal's claim of spending Rs300b on Karachi uplift

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has questioned former mayor Mustafa Kamal's claim that Rs300 billion was spent on development and uplift projects in the city during his tenure.

Speaking on the matter, Murtaza Wahab said he could not find any record of Rs300 billion being allocated or spent in the available budget documents.

He challenged Mustafa Kamal to clarify when the amount was approved by the city council and identify the projects where the money was spent.

Wahab said that even if the federal government's budget were included in the calculation, the total would still not reach Rs300 billion.

The Karachi mayor also called for better performance by the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), pointing out that many people driving expensive and large vehicles in Karachi do not pay taxes.

Wahab stressed the need for stronger tax collection and greater accountability over public funds, saying that financial records should clearly show how and where development money is being spent.

OGDCL posts record earnings during Fy2026

- Much of this increase, however, came from a sharp reduction in taxation rather than a comparable improvement in operating profitability.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

.Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) closed FY26 with record earnings, but the headline profit growth masks pressure on its underlying operations,

Profit after tax surged 42.7 percent year-on-year, translating into earnings per share of Rs56.35 compared to Rs39.50 in FY25.

Much of this increase, however, came from a sharp reduction in taxation rather than a comparable improvement in operating profitability.



Revenue from contracts with customers rose 12 percent year-on-year in FY26, supported by higher oil prices in the final quarter and improved production.

Average oil output increased 6.3 percent to 32,861 barrels per day, while gas production rose 2.3 percent to 667 mmcfd, representing 51 percent and 28 percent of Pakistan's total oil and gas output, respectively.

OGDCL also spudded 23 wells—its highest number in five years drilled a record 58,333 metres and reported nine discoveries.

Proven reserves remained strong at 728 million barrels of oil equivalent, although future gains will depend on timely development and commercialisation.

Higher revenue was partly offset by a steep increase in costs. Royalty expenses rose 11.6 percent, while operating expenses increased 22.9 percent year-on-year in FY26.

The increase reflected additional drilling and workover activity, along with one-off pension and gratuity expenses in the final quarter.

PPSC announces written test results for different posts

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) has announced the final results of the written test for different vacant posts in different departments,

According to details, nine candidates were declared successful for the post of stenographer in the Punjab Public Service Commission.

The names of successful candidates are Mohammad Saad, Adil Waris, Amna, Mohammad Sufiyan, Mohammad Sohail Tariq.

One candidate was declared successful for the post of assistant director lying vacant in the Environment Protection Department.

Four candidates were declared successful for the post of admin officer lying vacant in Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA).

The successful candidates are Mohammad Awais Sharif, Hafiz Mohammad Kashif, Komal Fatima and Ayesha Mehmood.

As many as 75 candidates were declared successful for 19 posts of junior clerk lying vacant in the Deputy Commissioner's office in Sheikhupura.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627091193213 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The BALOCHISTAN ENERGY COMPANY LIMITED (BECL) invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee PKR and Bid Security 3%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	PROVISION OF CONVENTIONAL HOME SOLAR SYSTEMS FOR DISTRICT PISHIN, BALOCHISTAN 1856 Z2026.3414	300,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 210,000,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 500 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(i) (Solar), EE11(ii) (Solar Energy), EE11(iii) (Solar Energy system). Firm Must have completed 3 similar nature of work as a sole bidder or leading / primary bidder i.e. solar hybris system in any government sector in last 3 years Firm must have Valid Electrical Contractor License Active BRA Registration id Required **Procedure Of Procurement** :Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 29 September, 2026till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:00 PM on EPPS System Address: BECL Main Office, 67-A Main Road Jinnah Town Quetta
Phone no: 0812863711 Email: ceo@becl.com.pk

Chief Executive Officer
BALOCHISTAN ENERGY COMPANY LIMITED (BECL)

DAB/AB No.338/15-9-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی مستونگ

اشتہار بحکم احضار شخص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ 1997
سرکار بنام:۔ دوستین بلوچ وغیرہ FIR نمبر 192/2025 ATC کیس نمبر 25/2026
Offence Under Section 7 (1) (a) -7 (1) (h) 7(1) (i) 7 (2) 11i ,11N,21i ATA
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سرکار بنام:۔ کمانڈر بشیر زیب وغیرہ FIR نمبر 175/2025 ATC کیس نمبر 21/2026
OFFENCE UNDER 7 ATA , 7 (1) (b) 7 (1) (c) 7 (1) (d)
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Rain lashes Karachi, other parts of country as weather turns pleasant

- Karachi witnessed downpours in several localities, while Hyderabad and other parts of Sindh also received significant rainfall

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Several parts of Pakistan received rainfall on Tuesday, with heavy showers reported in different areas of Karachi and other cities.

Karachi witnessed downpours in several localities, while Hyderabad and other parts of Sindh also received significant rainfall.

Thunderstorms accompanied by rain were reported in Kharian, Lalamusa and Wazirabad, while several areas of Peshawar experienced heavy showers that brought relief from the prevailing weather conditions.

Parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir also received intermittent rain.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has forecast more heavy rainfall across various parts of the country and issued a weather alert until September 17.

Edge of a deal or slide to conflict

No signs of the next round of talks between Iran and the United States, as of now. Yet, security details remain intact in Islamabad.

This suggests that the door to a diplomatic breakthrough, however narrow, has not entirely closed, even as uncertainty continues to hang over the next phase of negotiations.

"There is no positive move but no negative move either," said a source, referring to the security details on the ground amid the radio silence as far as the next round of talks are concerned.

If all went as per plan, the US and Iranian negotiators would have been in a huddle on Wednesday, seeking to thrash out a potential deal.

Pakistan was confident as it had done a lot of spadework through backchannels since the first round ended without a breakthrough.

Where did things go wrong?

Until Tuesday afternoon, the plan was already finalized. Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were set to fly first from Miami. Then, Vice President JD Vance's plane was to take off from Washington. The press corps accompanying Vance was instructed to be ready for departure around 9:00 am Washington time (6:00 pm PST).

Not that the plan was final, but multiple sources said security assets and details put on the ground in Islamabad were typical of accompanying the US President's movement.That meant the US was ready if Trump decided to fly in.

But then things began to fray. The US side, which shared some new proposals via Pakistan with Iran, wanted a clear response from Tehran before Vance left for Islamabad.

The US wanted the second round to show some headway, if not reach a final settlement.

Initially, Iran was inclined to give consent. That was the reason Pakistan had put in place all the security arrangements. The US advance teams had landed.

But as the stage was set for talks, Iran, first through state media, and then officially, announced they would not take part in talks, accusing the US of violating the terms of the ceasefire.

The Iranian precondition for a US naval blockade was not the only sticking point.

There has been intense backchannel diplomacy going on to break the deadlock. Some overt moves too.

Some notable and public developments include Wednesday's meeting of the Iranian Ambassador with the PM and today's interaction between the acting US envoy and the interior minister.

What has emerged so far is that it is not just certain sticking points that are eluding the resumption of talks, but a broader divergent approach.

The US simply wants a quick fix. Trump is keen to seal the deal, sign it, and that's it.

Iran, meanwhile, is not inclined to make a deal in haste. It wants incremental progress, a step-by-step approach. Pakistan, as a lead mediator, does not want the ongoing diplomatic process to be open-ended. It wishes to take the process to its logical conclusion. The Tehran visit of the field marshal, who was to spend a day but stayed there for three days, was precisely meant for the same.

The proposals and new ideas Trump has spoken about, and the wait for Iran's unified response, point towards the desire for an ultimate deal.

While Iran is reluctant to join the talks, it is believed to be still weighing the option.

Some within Iranian ranks tend to believe that a deal in its current form will be a hard sell domestically.

But then, deep down, there is also a realisation that Iran needs a breather. It may have withstood Israeli and US might, but the damage to the economy and infrastructure is immense.

Far from the public rhetoric, the news of the extension of the ceasefire was welcomed by common Iranians. They understand the pain and suffering of this war.

The extension in the ceasefire is a relief, and at least there won't be an immediate escalation.

Messages have still been exchanged. Efforts are on to salvage the last-minute deal.

The problem, however, is the slow communication channels between the Iran Supreme Leader and the negotiating team.

The other key aspect of this war is that, unlike past conflicts, this war cannot end in a stalemate. One side has to prevail over the other.

Suppose the war ends in a lingering stalemate. Iran continues to exercise control over the Strait of Hormuz while the US maintains a naval blockade. This situation is not tenable, as it will drown the global economy without either side firing a single shot.

What this means is that, in the end, this deadlock has to end either through diplomacy or through war. Both sides, however, want to avoid the path of hostilities.

Nuclear treaty between Pakistan and Bangladesh: A realist insight



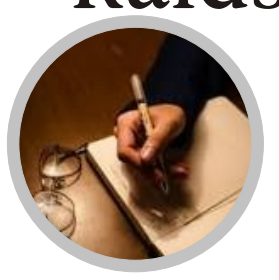
By: Aleeshah Shoaib

Today the 30th April is the Death anniversary of Mir Ali Bux Talpur, he died in London. He belonged to the historic Talpur family, being the great-grandson of Mir Sher Mohammad Talpur, famously remembered as Sher-e-Sindh. Despite this aristocratic lineage and association with the Nawabzada class, Mir Ali Bux consciously distanced himself from feudal privilege. His life reflects a deliberate rejection of inherited power in favour of social justice.His father, Mir Allah Dad Khan Talpur, reportedly disapproved of his

ideological leanings, especially his closeness to peasants and labourers. This tension highlights a broader generational and ideological divide—between feudal conservatism and emerging socialist thought in Sindh.What set Mir Ali Bux apart was not just his rhetoric but his lifestyle. Though a landlord, he chose to live among ordinary people—peasants, workers, and marginelized communities. He aligned himself with socialist principles, advocating equality, dignity of labor, and redistribution of power.His politics were rooted in real engagement rather than elite detachment. This made him not only popular but also credible among deprived communities in Sindh.One of his most forward-looking decisions was prioritising education—especially for women. At a time when such views were socially resisted within feudal families, he moved from rural Sindh (Kot Mir's near Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Mirpurkhas) to Karachi to ensure quality education for his children, including his daughters.This decision reflects both courage and vision. He was willing to face social backlash and family opposition to stand by his belief that education, particularly for women, was essential.In the 1970 elections, when even established politicians hesitated to contest against the influential Ghulam Hyder Wassan, Mir Ali Bux stepped forward as a candidate of the Pakistan Peoples Party.His victory was significant—it wasn't just an electoral win, but a triumph of grassroots connection over entrenched political dominance. It showed that the trust of common people could outweigh longstanding power structures.Perhaps the strongest example of his integrity came during his time in the National Assembly. While part of the ruling party, he openly opposed the military operation in Balochistan—an extremely bold stance given party discipline and political risks.When the government proceeded with the operation, Mir Ali Bux chose principle over position. He resigned from the Assembly and aligned himself with the Baloch cause, even enduring imprisonment and torture. His decision to go to the mountains with Baloch fighters underscores a rare level of commitment—moving beyond symbolic support to active resistance.After the 1977 coup by Zia-ul-Haq, many politicians compromised or aligned with the new regime. Mir Ali Bux did the opposite. Despite being approached, he refused to support the dictatorship and instead joined the resistance movement.Together with leaders like Fazal Rahu and Rasool Bux Palijo, he co-founded the Sindhi Awami Tehreek and served as its president. This marked a new phase of organised struggle for democracy, provincial rights, and socialist ideals

in Sindh.Mir Ali Bux Talpur's life stands out for its consistency. Many leaders speak for the poor; few abandon the privilege to live like them. Many oppose governments; few resign from power on principle. Many endure pressure; few withstand imprisonment without compromise.His legacy can be understood through three defining traits:* Integrity over power * Ideology over convenience* People over privilegeHe represents a rare model in South Asian politics—a feudal-born who consciously chose to stand with the oppressed, not rule over them.Remembering Mir Ali Bux Talpur on his death anniversary is not just about honouring a historical figure—it is about revisiting a political ethic that is increasingly rare. His life continues to challenge modern politics.

CASOs, Crackdowns, and House Raids: A Grim Reality in IIOJK



By: Kainat Shehzad

In recent years, life in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) has been increasingly overshadowed by fear, uncertainty, and constant surveillance. What were once described as occasional security measures—cordon and search operations (CASOs), crackdowns, and house raids—have now become a routine part of daily life for the people of the region. A recent report highlights how these practices have evolved into a normalized system of control, raising serious concerns about human rights and civil liberties.

Indian occupation forces are carrying out widespread operations across the region. These actions are often justified under the pretext of maintaining

face repeated intrusions into their homes, arbitrary questioning, and, in many cases, detention without clear charges.

One of the most alarming aspects of these operations is the way they impact civilians. Women, children, and the elderly are not spared. Families report being subjected to harassment during late-night raids, with armed personnel entering homes, searching belongings, and sometimes detaining young men without explanation. Such actions create a climate of fear that extends far beyond those directly targeted.

Youth in particular appear to be disproportionately affected. Many are arrested during these operations, often accused of participating in protests, supporting pro-freedom sentiments, or being involved in drug-related activities. These accusations are frequently used as tools to suppress dissent rather than address genuine security concerns.

economic hardship, such actions can be devastating. Losing a home or source of livelihood not only affects immediate survival but also deepens long-term instability in the region. This pattern of intensified operations is not an isolated development. Other reports indicate that house raids and search operations have been carried out in multiple districts, including Srinagar, Shopian, and Ganderbal, often accompanied by mass detentions. These coordinated actions suggest a broader strategy aimed at maintaining strict control over the population. Since August 5, 2019, when the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked, the situation has further deteriorated. The report claims that over a thousand Kashmiris have been killed, thousands injured, and more than a thousand properties destroyed during this period. Additionally, large numbers of people, including political leaders and

coordinated actions suggest a broader strategy aimed at maintaining strict control over the population. Since August 5, 2019, when the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked, the situation has further deteriorated. The report claims that over a thousand Kashmiris have been killed, thousands injured, and more than a thousand properties destroyed during this period. Additionally, large numbers of people, including political leaders and activists, have been detained.

Human rights organizations and observers have repeatedly expressed concern over these developments. Reports highlight a pattern of arbitrary arrests, suppression of dissent, and restrictions on basic freedoms. The

use of stringent laws has made it easier for authorities to detain individuals for extended periods without trial, raising questions about due process and justice. Beyond the statistics, the human cost of these policies is immense.



Youngsters cool off by bathing in water from a running tubewell at Hala Naka amid hot weather.

PSX stages recovery as KSE 100 gains 1,300 points

● PSX's KSE-100 Index rebounded 1,315.72 points, or 0.78%, in early Tuesday trading, recovering after a sharp 2,541-point decline in the previous session.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) staged a recovery on Tuesday a day after it witnessed significant decline.

During early session, the benchmark KSE-100 Index gained 1,315.72 points, or 0.78%, to reach 169,286.37 points.

The index recorded an intraday high of 169,988.11 points and a low of 169,189.29 points. Trading volume stood at 25.60 million shares, while the market was reported open.

The recovery followed a weak session a day earlier, when the KSE-100 Index fell 2,541.20 points, or 1.49%, to close at 167,970.66 points, compared with the previous close of 170,511.86 points.

During the previous session, trading volume in the ready market reached 570.472 million shares, down from 687.467 million shares in the preceding session. The total traded value also declined to Rs24.672 billion from Rs33.705 billion.

Market capitalisation fell to Rs18.728 trillion in the previous session, compared with Rs19.016 trillion recorded a day earlier.



A street vendor arranges fresh guavas on his bicycle to attract customers along a city road.

Dollar near two-week high as oil surge lifts yields, Fed hike bets

■ The dollar neared a two-week high as surging oil prices lifted Treasury yields and markets priced in a near-certain Fed rate hike, while weaker risk appetite supported the greenback.

Web Desk

HONG KONG

The dollar inched up to trade near a two-week high on Tuesday ?as surging oil prices lifted Treasury yields and reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest ?rates this week.

It also gained support as risk appetite weakened after stock markets tumbled, with AI-related shares under pressure after industry leaders called for slower development to contain potential threats to humanity.

Markets now see a Fed hike on Wednesday as a near certainty, with CME's FedWatch tool ?pricing in a roughly 93% chance of an interest-rate increase, which



would be the first in more than ?three years.

"The combination of higher oil, higher U.S. yields and weaker risk appetite helped lift ?the U.S. dollar broadly," Christopher Wong, FX analyst at OCBC, said in a note.

Near-term support may persist, but with ?a hike now heavily priced in, further dollar upside will likely require the Fed to keep the door open to additional ?tightening, he added.

The dollar index , which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, was last at 99.55.

The euro was slightly weaker against the dollar at $1.1538, as was sterling at $1.3494.

The yen also pulled away from a seven-month high, last down roughly 0.2% at 154.72 ahead of ?an expected Bank of Japan rate hike on Friday.

Oil prices climbed to $107 a barrel , hovering near a four-month ?peak, after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis attacked Saudi Arabia and Gulf-Iran talks were postponed.

That added to inflation worries and drove benchmark 10-year Treasury yields ?to ?breach the key psychological level of 5% for the first time since October 2023 in the previous session. The yield last traded at 4.9895%.

Pakistan, Canada agree to accelerate investment pact, expand trade Cooperation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, H.E. Tarik Ali Khan, discussed accelerating negotiations on the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and expanding bilateral cooperation in agriculture, mining, clean energy, aviation and value-added industries.

Pakistan, Canada agree to accelerate investment pact, expand trade Cooperation

The Canadian High Commissioner called on the Commerce Minister at the Ministry of Commerce. Senior ministry officials, including Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul, also attended the meeting, said a release issued here on Tuesday.

Both sides welcomed the growing momentum in Pakistan–Canada relations and expressed their resolve to translate political goodwill into stronger commercial and investment partnerships.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan

They agreed that the upcoming round of FIPA negotiations, expected in the first week of October, would provide an important opportunity to address outstanding issues and make substantive progress towards concluding the agreement.

The Canadian High Commissioner described FIPA as a foundational step for increasing Canadian investment in Pakistan.

He said the agreement would provide investors with greater confidence through legal protection, arbitration and dispute-resolution mechanisms, while paving the way for more joint ventures and, eventually, broader trade arrangements.

He noted that Canadian companies increasingly recognised the scale and potential of Pakistan's large consumer market, but a predictable and secure investment framework was essential to encourage greater participation.



He added that the agreement would also send a positive signal to more than 300,000 Canadians of Pakistani origin who could play an important role in investment and business linkages.

Minister Jam Kamal Khan assured the High Commissioner of Pakistan's full support for advancing the negotiations and said the government was committed to addressing legitimate concerns of investors.

He directed the relevant officials to hold preparatory consultations ahead of the next negotiating round to narrow differences and identify practical solutions.

"We are as ambitious as Canada in taking this process forward. Our objective is to resolve outstanding matters and establish a strong, mutually beneficial framework for long-term economic cooperation," the Minister said.

The meeting also reviewed opportunities in clean and renewable energy.

The Canadian side highlighted progress on a proposed hybrid renewable-energy project in Jhimpir and shared details of Canadian companies offering solar and green-energy solutions for Pakistani industries.

In mining, the Canadian High Commissioner said a strong delegation of companies working in exploration, mining services, equipment and supply chains was expected to participate in an upcoming minerals investment forum in Pakistan.

State-owned enterprises record Rs 342.8b loss in six months

■ From July to December 2025, the total loss of loss-making state-owned enterprises was recorded at Rs342.8 billion, while profitable state-owned enterprises earned a profit of Rs423.3 billion.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

From July to December 2025, the total loss of loss-making state-owned enterprises was recorded at Rs342.8 billion, while profitable state-owned enterprises earned a profit of Rs423.3 billion.

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises was held under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister, in which the performance of SOEs was reviewed.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the government has provided support of Rs804 billion to SOEs, during this period the government received Rs839 billion from government agencies.

According to the announcement, overall, state-owned enterprises provided a net financial profit of Rs35 billion.

The committee directed for improving financial discipline in government institutions and



reducing dependence on public resources.

It also directed for accelerating reforms in institutions that are continuously incurring losses.

The meeting also reviewed the operational weaknesses, circular debt, and financial risks of the power and infrastructure sectors.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the committee appreciated the progress made in the digital monitoring system of the performance of SOEs.

The meeting also approved the appointment of independent directors on the board of the Printing Corporation of Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia reports major mineral discovery near Medina

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia has announced the discovery of an estimated 110 million tonnes of raw mineral resources in the Medina region, including uranium and other rare minerals.

According to foreign media reports, Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman made the announcement while addressing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference in Vienna on Monday.

Arab media reported that the estimated resources were identified



through drilling and geological exploration at the Jabal Sayid project in the Medina region.

Prince Abdulaziz said the deposits contain uranium along with rare minerals, highlighting the potential significance of the discovery for Saudi Arabia's mining and energy sectors.

Pakistan targets tech products, digital platforms to drive export growth: Ahsan

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan was moving beyond the export of IT services towards technology products, digital platforms and technology-driven industries as part of its broader agenda for economic transformation.

Addressing the 2026 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Digital Economy Forum in Urumqi, he said Pakistan's IT and ICT exports had reached a record $4.6 billion during the last fiscal year, while the country was focusing on exports, productivity, innovation, investment and human resources under Uraan Pakistan to achieve the target of a $1 trillion economy by 2035, a news release said on Tuesday.

"Pakistan's next goal is not merely the export of services, but the promotion of technology products, digital platforms and technology-driven industries," he said.

Ahsan said the digital economy was not merely a technology agenda for Pakistan but a comprehensive programme for economic transformation, with e-Pakistan, one of the five fundamental pillars of Uraan Pakistan, serving as an important component of economic development. He said Pakistan's digital landscape had expanded significantly, with the number of digital users crossing 150 million and data usage increasing by around 25 per cent over the past two years.Fibre connections had increased from around 3 million to more than 5 million, while Pakistan had set a target of extending wired broadband to 10 million households, he added.

The minister highlighted progress in closing the digital gender gap, saying the disparity in mobile internet usage had declined from 35 per cent to only 8 per cent, while women's mobile internet usage had increased from 33 per cent to 45 per cent.

"Such digital transformation that leaves women behind can neither be economically effective nor socially just," he said, stressing that women's participation was essential for inclusive digital development.

Ahsan said Pakistan was enhancing its capabilities in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, semiconductors, advanced industry and emerging technologies.



Makkah Defence Pact sends signal to Islamic world: Erdogan



Web Desk

ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that with the new Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, member countries Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan took a step to send a signal to the Islamic world.

Speaking at a special programme with young people in the northern Turkish province of Samsun, Erdogan said that the pact, signed last month, is leading to "positive developments."

"Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Türkiye came together and took a step. With this step, let us send a signal to the Islamic world. There are positive developments, and we will succeed in this," he said in remarks released Monday.

Erdogan made the comments in response to a question about his long-standing call that "the world is bigger than five," referring to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, a body he has long criticized as unrepresentative and unfair.He reiterated his call for reform of the international system, saying Türkiye would continue to advocate for "a fairer world."

Pointing to developments in the Strait of Hormuz and elsewhere in the Gulf, Erdogan said the Islamic world is facing serious challenges. "We are following what is happening in the Strait of Hormuz. And it is not only what is happening in the Strait of Hormuz; there are serious difficulties in many parts of the Gulf," he said.

"Türkiye says that we should overcome the difficulties facing the Islamic world as soon as possible. To overcome these, Türkiye has put its weight behind the region, is doing so, and will continue to do so," Erdogan said.

"We cannot take this matter lightly, because expectations from Türkiye are high," he added.

The Turkish president also said Ankara had managed to keep the country safe from the conflicts and crises affecting the surrounding region.

"At a difficult time when our region is grappling with crises, wars and conflicts, we have kept our nation away from these dangers," Erdogan said.

He added that Türkiye had achieved significant progress in multiple fields despite instability in the regions around it.

Turning to the Ankara NATO summit this July, Erdogan said Türkiye presented visiting leaders with weapons produced by state-owned defence manufacturer the Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation (MKE).

"We wanted to present them with Türkiye's own products," he said, adding the leaders were pleased with the gifts.Erdogan also said preparations are underway for the COP31 UN Climate Change Summit, which Türkiye is set to host in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya."We will, God willing, hold COP31 in Antalya. Preparations are underway," he said, adding that Türkiye has worked with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Australia 'on the same page' as Canada as it seeks deeper EU alliance, minister says



WEB DESK

CAIRO/DUBAI

An Australian cabinet minister said on Tuesday the country was aligned with Canada's attempt to seek deeper ties with the European Union, amid Ottowa's escalating trade war with the United States.

Canada is seeking a "unique alliance" with the European Union but is not looking to become a member, Prime Minister Mark Carney said on Sunday after the Wall Street Journal reported he was exploring whether Canada could become an "associate member" of the bloc.

"We are on the same page," Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell told the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday.

"We will take great interest in what Carney does."

Farrell did ?not elaborate further on if Australia was currently actively seeking a deeper relationship with the EU, or what form that relationship could take.

Australia has also been seeking to diversify its trade relationships after facing U.S. tariffs on many exports despite its longstanding security alliance and free trade agreement with Washington.

A spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade did not respond to a request for comment.

Canada and the EU are discussing allowing Canadian goods, services and workers in strategic sectors — including energy, AI, defence and critical minerals — to move freely, effectively shifting the EU border, according ?to the Wall Street Journal.

The talks also cover joint infrastructure projects such as underwater cables, data centres, cloud storage, satellite networks and facilities to transport Canadian energy to Europe.



Russia hits petrol station, warehouse facilities in Kyiv, mayor says

■ A drone hit a petrol station in Kyiv, injuring one, amid renewed attacks despite a US backed push by Ukraine and Russia to avoid targeting energy facilities.

Web DESK

KYIV

A drone it a petrol station in Ukraine's capital of Kyiv early on Tuesday, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said, just a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said Ukraine and Russia had agreed not to target each other's ?energy assets.

The attack injured one person, and there was also a strike on ?warehouse facilities in another part of the city, Klitschko added on the ?Telegram messaging app. A Reuters witness heard an explosion in Kyiv.

Russia has recently started hitting ?petrol stations in Kyiv, expanding the range of target facilities. In recent months, Russia hit ?some 300 petrol stations, mainly in or near Ukraine's frontline regions, according to Ukrainian authorities.

As Moscow was striking Ukraine, neighbouring Poland briefly began military aviation operations as a preventive step, Poland's Armed Forces said in a statement on social ?media website X, adding later there was no violation of its airspace.

Military drones straying into the ?airspace of Ukraine and Russia's neighbours have stoked concerns that Russia's war in Ukraine is spilling over ?NATO's ?borders.

In Lithuania, a NATO fighter jet shot down a drone early on Tuesday, the Lithuanian National Crisis Management Centre said, after a drone alert was issued earlier in the capital Vilnius and the surrounding region.

In Russia, which invaded Ukraine in 2022, a Ukrainian missile attack damaged a ?warehouse of the e-commerce ?company Ozon in the ?southern port city of Taganrog, among other facilities, the regional governor said on Telegram.

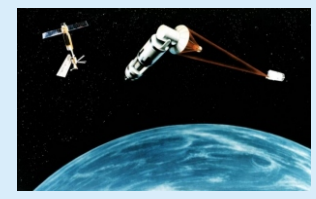
Separately, a drone attack hit an industrial facility ?in Samara region on the Volga River, Governor Vyacheslav Fedorishchev said ?on Telegram, ?without naming the facility. The region is home to a number of large oil refineries.

Reuters could not immediately independently verify the reports.

US has weapons deployed in orbit, Space Force says

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON



The United States has weapons deployed in space, the US Space Force said on Monday, confirming the presence of such capabilities in orbit for the first time.

"The US has on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action," a US Space Force spokesperson said in a statement that did not provide specifics on the weapons.

"Space control encapsulates the mission areas required to contest and control the space domain -- employing kinetic and non-kinetic means to affect adversary capabilities," the statement said, adding that "these capabilities can be employed for offensive and defensive purposes."

Both Russia and China -- the two main geopolitical rivals of the United States -- pose potential threats to US interests in space.

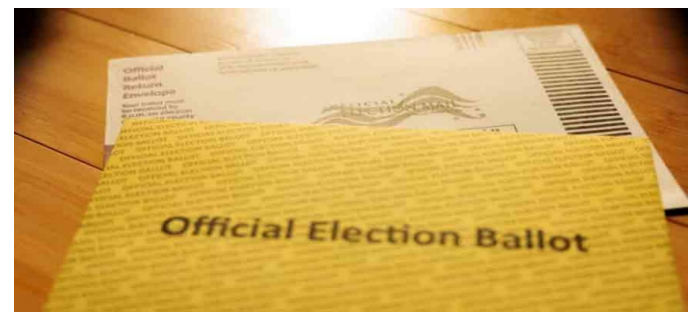
China "develops and operates space and counterspace capabilities as part of a military modernization strategy," while Russia "views space as a warfighting domain and believes space supremacy will be a decisive factor in future conflicts," according to the US Space Force.

In loss for Trump, US Supreme Court won't let Postal Service restrict mail ballots

■ The U.S. Supreme Court refused to revive a mail-ballot rule backed by Trump, blocking its enforcement ahead of November's midterm elections while legal challenges continue.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



The US Supreme Court declined to let the U.S. Postal Service enforce a rule targeting mail-in ballots, dealing a ?setback to President Donald Trump's effort to restrict voting by mail ahead of November's midterm elections that will determine control of Congress.

The justices denied the Justice Department's request to lift ?a ruling by Boston-based U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani that blocked the Postal Service from enforcing the measure while legal challenges by states and voting-rights groups proceed. The agency adopted the measure after Trump issued a March executive order aimed at tightening rules governing mail voting.

"The government is unlikely to succeed on the merits of its challenge to the District Court's preliminary injunction," the court said in its brief, one-paragraph order.

Justice Samuel Alito, joined by fellow conservative Justice Clarence Thomas, dissented from ?Monday's decision. No other justice dissented publicly. The court has a 6-3 conservative majority.

Trump's fellow Republicans are locked in a tight battle to retain control of Congress in the midterms. Restricting mail-in ?ballots would stand to benefit Republicans given that Democratic voters disproportionately use mail-in ballots, according to various surveys.

Under the rule, states would have to provide lists ?of mail ballot recipients to the Postal Service and use agency-approved outbound and return ballot mail envelopes outfitted with unique barcodes. The Postal Service could then refuse to send out ballots that do not comply ?with the new standards or are associated with voters who do not appear on the lists.

Trump approval up from record low, but outlook sours for Republicans, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds

● A Reuters/Ipsos poll shows Trump's approval rising to 35%, but Democrats hold a record 7-point lead over Republicans in the generic congressional ballot, signaling midterm challenges.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

President Donald ?Trump's public approval rating rose from a record low, while Americans voiced growing support for Democrats gaining ?power in the U.S. Congress in a Reuters/Ipsos poll taken in the days after the Republican Party's first-ever midterm convention last week.

The four-day poll showed 63% of Americans - including four in 10 Republicans and nine in 10 Democrats - disapproved of Trump's offer made in his ?convention speech that he would ensure all Americans get a $5,000 dividend if Republicans retain control of the ?U.S. Congress in November's midterm elections.

The survey gathered responses from 1,143 Americans nationwide and had ?a margin of error of 3 percentage points in either direction.

Some 35% of Americans give Trump a thumbs ?up for his performance in the White House, up from 33% in an August 28 to 31 Reuters/Ipsos poll, the ?lowest of his political career.

Trump's popularity has declined since he launched a war on Iran in February that has disrupted oil shipments from the Middle East and pushed fuel prices near record highs, hitting U.S. household finances. Since the war started, Trump's Republicans have ?also lost some support, and in recent weeks have lost their longtime edge as the better party for ?economic policy.

Asked which party they would vote for if the congressional elections were held today in what is known as ?a "generic ?ballot" poll, 44% picked Democrats and 37% picked Republicans. The 7-point gap was the widest since Trump returned to the White House in January 2025. For Republicans, losing control of either chamber could complicate Trump's agenda in the last two years of his term.

Generic ballot polls are national polls that provide an overall view of which party ?poll respondents want to see ?in charge in Congress. ?While these polls provide a view of national public sentiment, they do not capture all the nuances of the state-by-state and district-by-district contests.

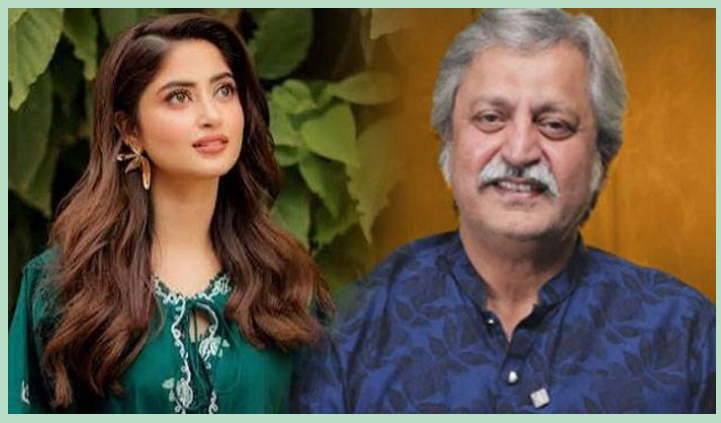


Saife Hassan Praises Sajal Aly's Professional Work Approach

■ Saife Hassan Reveals Why He Prefers Work-Focused Actors on Sets

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Acclaimed Pakistani director Saife Hassan has revealed that he prefers working with actors who prioritise their craft over on-set comfort, while praising actress Sajal Aly for her professionalism and dedication to her work.

Speaking during a recent interview, Saife discussed the increasing emphasis some artists place on facilities such as vanity vans and separate rooms while working on film and drama sets.

He said he was not interested in working with people whose primary concern was their personal comfort rather than the work itself. "People who give importance to their comfort come to the set and ask about a vanity van or a separate room. I don't want to work with such people," the director remarked.

Saife clarified that he understands artists have basic needs and, in his capacity as a producer, ensures that necessary facilities are provided. However, he said he values performers who remain more focused on their craft.

Referring specifically to Sajal Aly, he said, "I gave Sajal whatever facilities I could, and she stays gracefully and works."

The director added that while he takes responsibility for providing appropriate arrangements, his preference is for artists whose attention remains firmly on their work rather than their comfort.



Nameer Khan Urges Men to Reject Toxic Relationship Behaviour

■ Actor Nameer Khan Sends Strong Message Against Toxic Relationship Culture

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD



Rising Pakistani actor Nameer Khan has urged young men to stop glorifying toxic behaviour in relationships, warning that disrespect, emotional manipulation and broken trust can leave lasting psychological scars.

The actor, who is currently gaining attention for his portrayal of Zamil in the drama Dar-e-Nijat, shared a candid black-and-white behind-the-scenes photograph on Instagram featuring himself, co-star Durefishan Saleem and a street performer during an outdoor shoot.

While the lighthearted image contrasted sharply with the darker nature of his on-screen character, Nameer used the post to address what he described as the normalisation of disrespectful and manipulative behaviour in relationships.

"Zamil is Zalim," he wrote, using the Urdu word Zalim for a cruel or oppressive person before turning his focus from fiction to real-life conduct.

Reflecting on what he had observed while growing up, Nameer said he had seen boys objectify girls, speak disrespectfully about them, enter relationships, play with women's emotions and later take pride in such behaviour, often with encouragement from their friends.

The actor called on young men to reconsider the behaviour they celebrate within their social circles.

"Stop this nonsense!" Nameer said, warning that the desire to be seen as a "hero" or "playboy" can have serious consequences for another person.

He stressed that hurting a woman and betraying her trust should never be considered an achievement or something to boast about.

"Your desire to be known as a hero or a playboy can become someone else's trauma," Nameer said, highlighting the importance of emotional responsibility and respect in relationships.

He concluded his message with a simple appeal to men: "Be respectful. Be honest. Be a better man."

Zoya Nasir's vibrant kaftan look steals the spotlight

■ In the photos, Alizeh kept it casual yet eye-catching, wearing a fitted orange short-sleeved V-neck T-shirt paired with light-wash denim bottoms.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

.Pakistani actress Zoya Nasir captivated fans with her latest traditional look, redefining elegance with a bold and artistic flair. Featuring in Reflect Studio's "Eid Edit '26" collection, the actress took to Instagram to share a carousel of pictures with the caption: "Colours = pretty life."

Zoya was seen wearing the stunning "Azure Charm" kaftan, a black premium poly-cambric one-piece that serves as a striking canvas for vibrant, multi-colored designs.

The outfit is adorned with folk-inspired ornamental and botanical motifs, showcasing lively floral patterns in shades of pink, green, and blue. Modern design elements like sleeve slits and a high side slit add a contemporary edge to the traditional silhouette.

Complementing the look, Zoya opted for traditional handcrafted juttis (khussas) from Bustangi, featuring intricate multicolor embroidery and subtle embellishments that perfectly match the outfit's vibrant palette.

She accessorized minimally with a delicate silver watch and elegant jewelry from Tiara.



Areeba Habib Stuns Fans With Festive Look

■ Areeba Habib Impresses Fans With Elegant Festive Style Statement

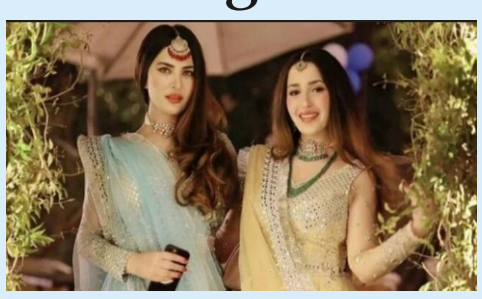
SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Areeba Habib has once again captured attention with her latest festive look, effortlessly blending elegance with a modern ethnic touch. The actress was seen wearing a rich deep maroon silk outfit, featuring a sleeveless shirt with a distinctive neckline that added a contemporary flair to the traditional design.She paired the outfit with matching wide-leg trousers, resembling a classic farshi shalwar, along with a long, flowing silk dupatta draped gracefully over her shoulders. Completing the ensemble, Areeba opted for beige-toned flat slides adorned with subtle embellishments, striking a perfect balance between comfort and style.

The photoshoot took place in a cozy outdoor terrace garden, where warm lighting and decorative string lights created a festive and inviting atmosphere. Surrounded by greenery, rustic elements, and soft golden hues, the setting enhanced the charm of her overall look.

'My built-in therapist', Naimal Khawar's sweet message for her sister



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Naimal Khawar Khan gave fans a glimpse into her deep sibling bond as she shared a warm and emotional birthday tribute for her sister Fiza Khawar. Pakistani artist and former actress Naimal Khawar Khan melted hearts online after sharing a touching birthday post dedicated to her younger sister, Fiza Khawar.

The heartfelt tribute, posted on social media, offered fans a rare and intimate look into their close relationship.

In her message, Naimal expressed deep affection for her sister, describing her as someone who brings comfort, support, and light into her life.

With a mix of humor and love, she praised Fiza's kind nature while also teasing her over her adventurous travel choices adding a playful touch that reflected their natural sibling dynamic.

The post was accompanied by a collage of memorable moments the two have shared over the years.

From fun travel snapshots to quiet, emotional moments.

Danish Taimoor's Nashtar Role Faces Growing Viewer Criticism

■ Viewers Say Danish Taimoor's Nashtar Character Feels Too Familiar

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actor Danish Taimoor's latest television role in Nashtar has drawn criticism from viewers, with some saying his character once again resembles the angry, wealthy and controlling roles he has played in previous dramas.

Nashtar features Danish Taimoor as Shah Dawood and Anmol Baloch as Bareera Aijaz. Written by Maha Malik, directed by Seraj ul Haq and produced by Abdullah Kadwani and Asad Qureshi under 7th Sky Entertainment, the drama revolves around the clash between a powerful heir and a strong-willed young woman who refuses to accept his authority.

According to Geo Entertainment's official synopsis, Shah Dawood is accustomed to getting his way, while Bareera stands her ground and refuses to be controlled by him. Their tense relationship has remained at the centre of the story, driving much of the drama's conflict. However, recent episodes have prompted a growing section of viewers to question the repeated use of anger, control and confrontational behaviour in romantic storylines.Shah Dawood's aggressive interactions with Bareera and Rafay have once again intensified the conflict, with some viewers saying the storyline is beginning to feel repetitive.Social media reactions suggest that some fans are becoming frustrated with the direction of the drama. One viewer said watching Nashtar made them feel anxious, while another urged writers to move away from "old, repetitive scripts" and explore fresher storylines.

Another criticism focused on the familiar portrayal of a wealthy and influential man becoming involved with a woman from a different social background. Some viewers said they were tired of seeing the same "rich boy and ordinary girl" formula, particularly when the male lead is portrayed as dominant, possessive or controlling.

The criticism has also extended to Danish Taimoor's performance as Shah Dawood. Some viewers believe the character bears similarities to the angry and controlling male leads he has portrayed in previous dramas, prompting questions about whether the actor is being offered enough variety in his roles.

One commenter questioned why Danish continues to portray similar characters, while another expressed frustration over his frequent association with Geo dramas. Such remarks reflect viewers' opinions about his recent on-screen roles rather than a judgment of his acting abilities.



Goher Mumtaz of the JAL Band performs during a concert at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA)

Pakistan must rebuild from first-class cricket

Sadiq calls for performance-based selection, urges authorities to bring in neutral selectors

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Former Test opener Sadiq Mohammad on Tuesday said that Pakistan must rebuild its cricket structure around first-class cricket performance-based selection rather than relying on occasional individual brilliance.

"The tail-enders put a curtain over Pakistan's poor performance and helped save the team from what could have been a pathetic performance by our top order," Sadiq told The Express Tribune in an interview.

Pakistan were a few days ago clean-swept by England in the three-match Test series and it was the first time that the hosts did that on their home soil against Pakistan.

"Razaullah and Abbas, no doubt, played a face-saving innings in their own high-class style. However, we should not depend on such performances or expect the tail-enders to rescue the team every time," Sadiq said.

"Around 15 years ago, Saqlain

"The management must put its foot down and make every player play domestic first-class cricket. A player should be required to appear in a minimum of five first-class matches to qualify for consideration for selection in any of the three formats of opportunities to play first-class cricket before they move on to short-format cricket." he said.

"Once all our top-order batsmen are available, we should establish clear and measurable criteria for selection. A top-order batsman should be favoritism and prevent the continued selection of out-of-form players.

"The selectors should be individuals who have not previously served as selectors for any team or in any format. This can help bring fresh thinking and reduce the possibility of old biases and established preferences influencing selection decisions," he said.

"The new selection committee must also actively watch ongoing domestic matches in all formats. Selectors should regularly observe players rather than relying solely on statistics, reputation, reports, or recommendations."

He also praised Razaullah, saying he could become a top bowler if he learns required skills.

"Razaullah is a very good find and has the potential to become a match-winning fast bowler. He could develop into a bowler in the mould of Waqar Younis if he continues to improve his skills."However, he said he needs to learn the art of late in-swing, particularly the ability to bring the ball back into the batsman late in its flight, as Waqar Younis used to do so effectively.



Babar Azam set to return to domestic first-class cricket

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

– Pakistan Test captain BabarAzam is set to return to domestic first-class cricket, featuring as a guest player for Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in the ongoing President's Trophy Grade-I tournament.

Reports said OGDCL has signed Babar as a guest player for the current edition of the President's Trophy Grade-I.

Babar had reportedly requested the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to include him in a domestic team's squad so that he could remain connected with the longer format of the game and maintain his preparation for Test cricket.

Following the request, the PCB arranged for Babar to join OGDCL as a guest player for the tournament.

Leeds cruise into Premier League top three

• The hosts sweep aside Newcastle 4-1 at Elland Road

Sports Desk

LEEDS

Leeds demolished Newcastle 4-1 to climb up to third in the Premier League table and inflict a punishing first defeat for Magpies boss Matthias Jaissle.

Lewis Miley own goal opened the floodgates before Jayden Bogle, Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Noah Okafor completed the rout at Elland Road.

Newcastle had made a positive start under Jaissle despite the upheaval of losing manager Eddie Howe and key players Anthony Gordon, Bruno Guimaraes and Sandro Tonali in the off-season.

Despite being owned by the financial might of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund, Newcastle targeted rising stars to fill the void of those that left and were



outmuscled by a more experienced Leeds.

"It was clear from the start and I said that many times that we will have up and downs, challenges along the way," said Jaissle. "We faced that challenge and it's tough, it's really tough."

A bad night for the visitors began inside the first 20 minutes when Nico Gonzalez had to be replaced as a concussion substitute.

That left 18-year-old Sean Steur and Lewis Miley, 20, together at the heart of the Newcastle midfield and the later unfortunately had the final touch after Ao Tanaka's strike took two deflections before looping into the net.

The visitors failed to regain their composure as just two minutes later Leeds doubled their advantage.

Calvert-Lewin rose highest to meet James Justin's cross but his header flicked off Bogle as it found the bottom corner and the right-back was given the goal. Leeds' number nine did not have to wait long to make sure he did score for the fifth consecutive league game at Elland Road.

Calvert-Lewin bulldozed his way past Sven Botman before sliding the ball under Lukas Hornicek in the Newcastle goal. Anton Stach should have added a fourth early in the second period when he pounced on a slack Hornicek pass out from the pack but dinked the ball just wide.

Okafor did make it 4-0 before the hour mark when he volleyed in from the edge of the box after Newcastle failed to clear a long throw.

"Perfect start right now with eight points, terrific performance," said Leeds boss Daniel Farke. "Energy, quality and good structure in and without possession."

Bazoumana Toure netted a consolation in stoppage time to reduce Newcastle's arrears, but the damage was long since done.

Victory takes Farke's men behind only defending champions Arsenal and Manchester City.

Newcastle remain on five points but slip down to 12th due to their negative goal difference.



Mamelodi Sundowns frustrated with league draw before Al Ahli clash in Fifa Cup

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Mamelodi Sundowns coach Miguel Cardoso blamed poor pitch conditions for his African champions' 1-1 draw at Chippa United.

That result, on Saturday, came just a week out from their FIFA Intercontinental Cup clash with Saudi club Al Ahli.And even a day later, the Portuguese coach was still furious about the game, which involved a late change in venue.

"You cannot play good football on that bumpy pitch," he told reporters, referring to Buffalo City Stadium in KuGompo City (formerly East London).

Originally scheduled for Gqeberha, another eastern coastal city, the Premiership match was switched after the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium pitch was declared "unsuitable".

The venue change meant that Sundowns, who had planned to fly back to Pretoria on Saturday evening, could only do so 24 hours later, affecting preparations for AlAhli on September 19.

Former Australian captains join chorus to raise concerns over Imran's detention



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Seven former Australian cricket captains have written to Foreign Minister Penny Wong, raising humanitarian concerns over the detention of former prime minister and cricket captain Imran Khan, ESPN Cricinfo reported.

The letter has been signed by Allan Border, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Kim Hughes, Mark Taylor and Steve Waugh.

A three-member SC bench on August 18 ordered Adiala jail authorities to transfer Khan, 73, who has remained in prison since August 2023 following convictions in several cases, to Shifa Hospital for medical assessment and treatment within two days.

However, he was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where doctors from Shifa International Hospital were also present, according to Information Minister Attaullah Tarar.

In the letter, the former captains said they were making the appeal "not as diplomats or political figures, but as former captains who felt compelled to speak up".

The cricketers said they were taking no position on the legal or political case against Imran, describing it as a matter for Pakistan. Instead, they said their concern was about the treatment of people in detention, which they described as "a matter of basic humanity, whatever their politics".

On August 23, 22 former international cricket captains from around the world wrote to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif seeking improved medical treatment for Khan.

They called for a medical board, including Khan's own doctors, to complete an independent assessment of his health, particularly reports concerning loss of vision in his right eye. They also called for weekly family visits to be honoured and for any recommended treatment to be provided without delay.

The former captains made three requests in their latest appeal:

That the medical board directed by the Supreme Court, including Mr Khan's own doctors, be permitted to complete a full and independent assessment of his health, particularly the reported loss of vision in his right eye.

That the weekly family visits reinstated by the Court be honoured without interruption or administrative delay.That whatever the outcome of that medical assessment, the treatment recommended by it be provided without delay.

"Imran Khan is 73 years old and has now spent more than three years in custody. Whatever the legal .

Balochistan Archery Association elections will be held on September 24, 2026.

■ The elections will be held under the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008.

NEWS DESK

QUETTA

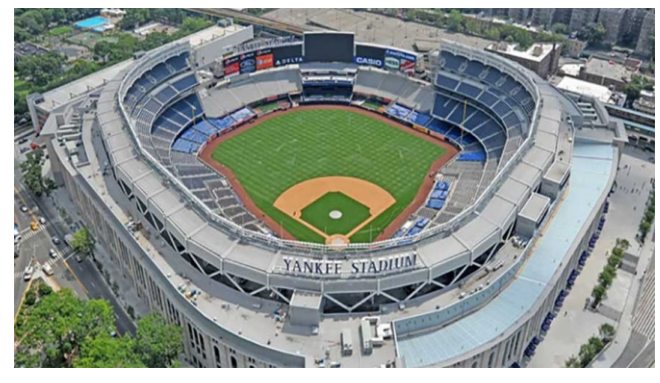
Balochistan Archery Association does not exist. While there are clubs and players in every registered district. It is mandatory to have an association under the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008. So that the game of archery can be promoted in the province in an organized manner. For which the Balochistan Archery Association election is being held on Thursday, October 01, 2026 at 05:00 at Ayub Stadium Quetta. All registered district associations should ensure participation.

New York tops world's 100 best sports cities ranking; no Pakistani city makes list

■ New York has taken the top spot in the 2026 global sports cities ranking, ahead of Paris and Los Angeles, while no Pakistani city made the top 100.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD



New York has been ranked the world's leading sports city for 2026, climbing from third place in the previous ranking, while no Pakistani city has secured a place among the global top 100.

According to the 2026 Sports Cities Ranking released by Swiss-based Burson, Paris slipped to second place after holding the No. 1 position for three consecutive years, while Los Angeles ranked third.

The ranking assesses 100 cities with strong connections to the global sports industry. It incorporates the views of experts, sports media representatives and international sports leaders, alongside analysis of social media activity and media coverage.

New York's rise to the top was attributed in part to major sporting events, including the NBA championship and the FIFA World Cup final.

London secured fourth place, followed by Madrid in fifth. Barcelona ranked sixth, Milan seventh and Lausanne eighth, while Manchester took 10th position.

Washington was ranked 11th and Miami 12th.

Among other major international cities, Tokyo stood at 16th, Sydney at 24th and Dubai at 29th.

Inam Butt hopes for 'good news' from International Testing Agency

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Matters between national wrestler Inam Butt and the International Testing Agency regarding the doping issue have entered the final stage,

According to sources, Inam Butt has apprised the testing agency of all the facts.

National wrestler Inam Butt is expected to receive significant relief regarding the doping issue.

Sources indicated that the International Testing Agency may impose a ban of only two months on Inam Butt and the ban period will be effective from April.

Sources revealed that Inam Butt had used the prohibited substances for eye treatment.

Inam Butt will be stripped of his Asian Beach Games silver medal but he will remain eligible to represent Pakistan at the Asian Games.

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی مستونگ

اشتہار بحکم احضار شخص ملزمان زیردفعہ(87ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ 1997

ATC کیس نمبر 20/2026 FIR نمبر 35/2026 سرکار بنام:۔کمانڈر بشیر زیب وغیرہ

OFFENCE UNDER 7 ATA , 7 (1) (b) 7 (1) (c) 7 (1) (d)

CTD بلوچستان کوئٹہ مسمیان سفیر احمد عرف جیئند بلوچ ولد عبدالغنی قوم سرپرہ ساکن کردگاپ

مستونگ وبشیر زیب عرف کامریڈ بشیر ولد ڈاکٹر عبداللہ جان سکنہ احمدوال نوشکی جرم بالا کا مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان کے ارتکاب پر جرم کا شبہ ہے ازروئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بہ طبق نالش جاری ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ ملزمان مذکورہ بالا فرار ہوگئے ہیں یا اس نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان بالا کو لازم ہے کہ وہ مقررہ تاریخ پیشی 13 اکتوبر 2026ء کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام مستونگ میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہوجائے۔

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A street vendor sells dried coconut from his pushcart, a common sight across the provincial capital.

China urges US to 'stop preparing for war in outer space'

■ Beijing and Washington are key geopolitical rivals and have long sought to expand their interests -- and strategic footprints -- in space.

WEB DESK

BEIJING

China urged the United States on Tuesday to "stop preparing for war" in space, after the US Space Force confirmed it had deployed weapons into orbit for the first time.

Beijing and Washington are key geopolitical rivals and have long sought to expand their interests -- and strategic footprints -- in space.

The US Space Force said on Monday that it had deployed "on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending... against hostile adversary action", without providing specifics.

China's foreign ministry opposed the move, warning against the "weaponisation of outer space, turning it into a battlefield, as well as an arms race there".

"We urge the US side to stop expanding its military capabilities and preparing for war in outer space," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a news briefing.

The US Space Force singled out China as a threat in its announcement, saying Beijing "develops and operates space and counterspace capabilities as part of a military modernization strategy".



It also named Russia, another geopolitical rival, which it said "believes space supremacy will be a decisive factor in future conflicts".

The militarisation of space is as old as the space race itself -- as soon as the Soviet Union launched the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik, into orbit in 1957, Washington and Moscow began exploring ways to both arm and destroy such spacecraft.

AJK presidential election scheduled for September 24

■ Candidates will be able to submit their nomination papers on September 19 between



Staff Reporter

MUZAFFARABAD

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has announced the schedule for the presidential election, with polling set to take place on September 24.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd.) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal announced the schedule during a press conference, saying candidates will be able to submit their nomination papers on September 19 between 10am and noon at the office of the Chief Election Commissioner, who will also serve as the returning officer.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted on the same day immediately after the filing process is completed.

Presidential candidates will have until 11:30am on September 23 to withdraw their nomination papers, according to the election schedule.

Justice (retd.) Mughal said polling for the presidential election would be held at the AJK Legislative Assembly Hall on September 24 from 10am to 1pm.

The counting of votes will begin immediately after polling concludes.

The chief election commissioner has also requested the acting president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to convene a session of the Legislative Assembly on September 24 for the election of the new president.

The announcement formally sets in motion the process for electing the next president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir..

29th Syndicate Meeting of SBKWU Quetta Held

Staff Reporter

Quetta



The 29th Syndicate Meeting of Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University (SBKWU) Quetta was held today, September 15, 2026, under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq.The meeting was attended by esteemed members of the Syndicate. Muhammad Hashim Ghilzai, Secretary Colleges, Higher and Technical Education, Government of Balochistan and Bashir Ahmed, Representative Finance Department, Government of Balochistan attended the online meeting.The members who attended the meeting in person included Prof. Dr. Zainab Bibi, Pro Vice Chancellor; Prof. Dr. Rahila Manzoor, Registrar; and Babar Ali, Treasurer, among other esteemed members.The Syndicate meeting discussed various important academic, administrative, financial and institutional matters related to the university. The members deliberated in detail and constructively on various issues and provided their valuable views on the effective administrative performance, academic progress, financial management and institutional stability of the university.Presiding over the meeting, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rubina Mushtaq stressed the importance of transparency, merit, accountability, academic quality and collective decision-making in institutional affairs. She said that effective cooperation and responsible governance among all concerned departments are essential for the further development and stability of the university.The meeting concluded with a determination that the mission of quality education, research, innovation, institutional development and empowerment of women of Balochistan through higher education at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University will be further taken forward.

Senate body seeks action against PIMS tragedy culprits

■ The committee was informed about the findings of the inquiry and the responsibility fixed on officials in connection with the deaths of the children.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services on Monday called for strict action against those held responsible for the tragic deaths of children at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), directing the authorities to take effective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, received a briefing on the inquiry report into the PIMS tragedy and the measures taken by the concerned authorities following the incident.

The committee was informed about the findings of the inquiry and the responsibility fixed on officials in connection with the deaths of the children.



The members stressed that those found responsible should face action in accordance with law and that accountability should not remain confined to departmental proceedings.

The committee directed the concerned authorities to ensure that recommendations arising from the inquiry were implemented in letter and spirit and that institutional shortcomings identified in the report were addressed on a priority basis.

It further emphasized the need for strengthening emergency response mechanisms at PIMS, ensuring adequate availability of doctors, nurses, medicines and essential equipment, and establishing clear protocols for the immediate treatment and referral of critically ill children.

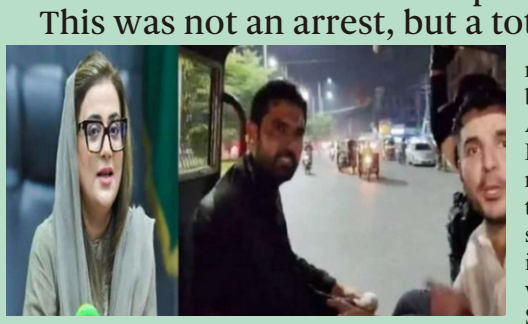
The members stressed that hospital administrations must maintain effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, particularly in emergency and pediatric departments, to ensure that delays, negligence or lack of coordination do not put patients' lives at risk.

The committee also discussed the implementation status of recommendations made during its meeting held on August 20, 2026 regarding the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC).

The committee also received a briefing on the grievances of Microbiology, Biotechnology and Biochemistry degree holders regarding their exclusion or non-recognition under the Allied Health Professional Council Act, 2022.

Sohail Afridi deliberately sat in police van to stage 'arrest drama': Punjab minister

■ Azma Bokhari said, "No one arrested Sohail Afridi. He himself sat in the police vehicle. This was not an arrest, but a total drama."



Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has denied that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was arrested by police, claiming that he deliberately sat in a police van in what she described as a "political stunt."

Speaking on Dunya News programme 'Dunya Meher Bokhari Kay Saath', Azma Bokhari said, "No one arrested Sohail Afridi. He himself sat in the police vehicle. This was not an arrest, but a total drama."

The provincial minister alleged that the KP chief minister repeatedly argued with police officials, who, she claimed, continued to provide him protocol despite his alleged rude and abusive behaviour.

According to Bokhari, Afridi remained seated in the police van, smiling and insisting that he would not get out. She further claimed that a person associated with his social media team was recording the incident.

Bokhari said the van driver moved the vehicle after sensing that people were beginning to attack it, but the vehicle was stopped after travelling some distance.

"If the KP chief minister had been arrested, there would have been police officers inside the van," she said.

The Punjab information minister also criticised PTI leaders, accusing them of staging political dramas.

She said Afridi was currently in Lahore, describing the city as peaceful and claiming that he was able to move around without police.

"Let him show this in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by walking one kilometre without police," she remarked.



A vendor prepares traditional sardai, a refreshing summer drink, at his roadside setup to attract customers.

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