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## PM Shehbaz departs for UK on two-day visit ahead of US trip

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for the United Kingdom on a two-day visit ahead of his scheduled trip to the United States.

According to sources, the prime minister will spend two days in London before travelling to the US as part of his international engagements.

During his stay in London, Shehbaz Sharif is expected to hold meetings and participate in other engagements, although details of his schedule have not yet been disclosed.

The prime minister is scheduled to attend the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, where he is expected to address the gathering on September 25.

During his US visit, Shehbaz Sharif is expected to highlight Pakistan's position on key regional and international issues at the UN forum.



## Khawaja Asif says time has come to implement Makkah Agreement

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said Pakistan will fulfil its commitments under the Makkah Agreement amid heightened security concerns following a reported Houthi drone attack near Makkah.

Speaking during a private television programme, the defence minister said the circumstances had reached a stage where the agreement needed to be put into effect.

He maintained that Pakistan's responsibility to safeguard the holy sites existed regardless of any formal agreement, saying the country would protect Makkah if it came under attack.

The minister's comments came after Saudi authorities reported intercepting and destroying a Houthi drone south of Makkah before it could enter restricted airspace over the holy city.



## Pakistan abides by Makkah defence pact but operational details are 'confidential'

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan remained committed "in intent and spirit" to implementing the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) with Saudi Arabia, but operational details about when, where and how the country would respond to threats "will remain confidential", said Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan, Reacting to a question about Pakistan's obligations under the agreement amid Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, Sajjad Haider Khan told his weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday that Pakistan was committed to implementing the pact as well as the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA). "However, when, how, where, and what force will be used against what objectives, in which modes, and matters of operational confidentiality require us some discreetness at this stage," he added.

The FO spokesperson said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the attempted drone attack targeting the holy sites in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, describing it as a deeply distressing incident for the people of Pakistan.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on progress of Danish University. Islamabad,

## Govt directs markets to close by 9pm, restaurants by 11pm under fresh austerity measures

- Measures include 50% cut in official vehicle fuel allocations, restrictions on public events and reduced govt spending

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The federal government on Thursday reintroduced austerity and fuel conservation measures, tightening business operating hours and restricting public events while reducing fuel allocations for official vehicles by 50 per cent for three months.

Under the measures, notified with immediate effect, shops, markets, shopping malls, bazaars, departmental stores, grocery stores, general stores and kiryana shops will close by 9pm throughout the week, according to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division. Marriage halls, marquees and



other commercial venues hosting festive events will close by 10pm, while restaurants, cafés, eateries, food outlets and standalone fruit and vegetable shops will be allowed to operate until 11pm. Takeaway and home delivery services will remain exempt from the timing restrictions.Pharmacies, medical and medical supplies stores, laboratories, clinics and hospitals have been exempted from the fixed operating hours. The exemption also covers standalone bakeries, tandoors, milk and dairy shops, fuel and CNG pumps, electric vehicle charging stations, gyms, sports facilities, sports and padel courts, IT companies and call centres. The government has also restricted food served at marriage-related functions and events to a single dish, according to the notification.

According to the notification, fuel allocations for official vehicles will be reduced by 50 per cent for three months.

Operational vehicles of the armed forces, civil armed forces, law enforcement agencies, essential services and the Federal Board of Revenue have been exempted from the measure.

## Field Marshal Asim Munir, Iranian FM Araghchi discuss regional situation



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held a telephone conversation with Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir during his visit to Beijing, according to Iranian media reports.

The two officials discussed the latest developments in the region as well as matters of mutual interest, the reports said.

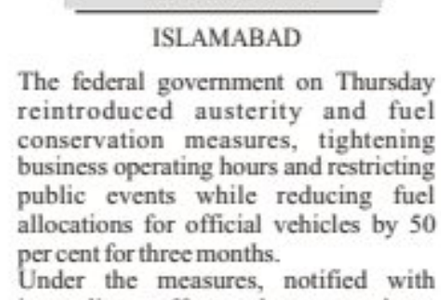
The phone call took place during Araghchi's visit to China, where he also met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss regional security and efforts to reduce tensions.

During his meeting with Wang, Araghchi said Tehran had initiated talks with neighboring countries as part of its efforts to restore peace and stability in the region.

The Iranian foreign minister said his government was seeking to protect what it described as the Iranian people's legitimate rights while working toward peaceful relations and stronger ties with neighboring states.

China, meanwhile, called on the US and Iran to avoid further escalation and return to negotiations.Wang Yi said Beijing did not want tensions to intensify or spread to other areas, including Yemen and the Red Sea. The Chinese foreign minister also urged Washington and Tehran to engage in meaningful discussions on outstanding issues and work toward restoring a negotiating.

## Merit-based quality education for talented students top priority, PM



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said providing quality and modern education on merit to talented and deserving students is among the government's top priorities.

He made the remarks while chairing a review meeting on the proposed Daanish University, where he was briefed on progress regarding various directives issued for its establishment.

The prime minister said Daanish University would provide talented and deserving Pakistani youth with opportunities to receive education of international standards.

He added that the university, equipped with advanced educational, research and technological facilities, would emerge as a centre of excellence in technology for Pakistan and the wider region.

Shehbaz said talented students from across the country would be selected for admission to the university purely on merit.

The meeting was informed that 185 applications had so far been received for various faculty positions at Daanish University, while the selection process for highly qualified and talented faculty members was underway.

The meeting was also briefed that a talent hunt programme had been launched for students currently studying in the second year of FSc and A-Level programmes for admission to the university's Virtual School.

Successful candidates selected for the Virtual School will receive five months of classes completely free of cost. According to the briefing, the test for virtual classes will be held in more than 40 cities across the country on October 24, 2026.

## Three terrorists eliminated in Awaran operation

- Mohsin Naqvi commends professional capabilities of security forces



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security forces personnel have killed three terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Badrang area of Awaran District of Balochistan,

The operation was conducted under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, with security forces targeting terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Hindustan.

The sources said a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the terrorists. They added that members of Fitna al-Hindustan had suffered significant losses during ongoing security operations across Balochistan.

"Security forces remained committed to continuing operations until they restored peace and order in the province and eliminated terrorism," the sources said.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the security forces for their successful operation and lauded the professional capabilities of the security forces.

"Brave personnel of the security forces remain determined to establish peace in Balochistan. I salute the security forces for foiling the nefarious designs of the terrorists," Naqvi said.

## Illegal immigration from Pakistan to Europe dropped by 64%: Naqvi

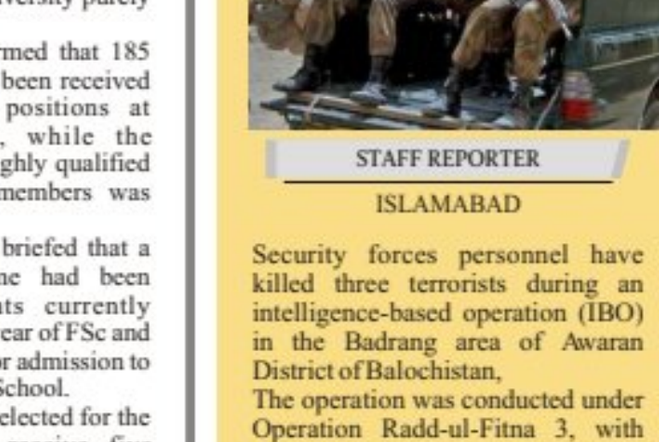
- Delegations of ICMPD, Frontex commend Pakistan's effective measures to curb illegal immigration

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) have commended Pakistan's effective measures to curb illegal immigration, in meetings with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Thursday, The appreciation came during separate meetings between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Director General International Centre for Migration Policy Development Susanne Raab and Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijtens in Islamabad today.

During these meetings, it was decided to enhance mutual cooperation



with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and Frontex to prevent illegal immigration.

The two sides expressed the commitment to further strengthen joint efforts regarding border management and the curbing of illegal immigration.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said achieving a 64 percent reduction in illegal immigration from Pakistan to Europe despite limited resources was a challenging task. He said Pakistan accepted the prevention of illegal immigration as a challenge, but the entire team worked round the clock to achieve this challenge.

Scanned with CamScanner

# 72 Development Projects Completed in Sohbatpur Under Balochistan Special Development Initiative



SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

A comprehensive series of development projects have been successfully completed in Sohabpur district under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI) keeping in mind the public needs and local priorities.In Phase I of the program, 22 development projects were approved at a cost of Rs. 164.66 million, while in Phase II, 50 development projects were approved at a cost of Rs. 440.94 million. Thus, a total of 72 development projects were completed in both phases at a cost of Rs. 605.60 million.These projects were selected keeping in mind the identification and basic needs of the local people. As a result of continuous monitoring and effective interaction of the District Coordination Committee comprising FC Balochistan (North), civil administration and elected representatives, all 72 projects were completed before the stipulated time, the fruits of which are now reaching the local population.These people-friendly projects include construction of blacktop roads, renovation of schools, health facilities, provision of clean water, solarization, construction of paved streets and other basic development projects. The local people appreciated the Balochistan Special Development Initiative, calling it an important and positive step towards improving basic facilities, public welfare, and sustainable development in Sohbatpur district.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a cabinet meeting at CM House.

# SC grants bail to Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali as IHC proceedings remain pending

- Mazari and Chattha were sentenced to a combined 17 years in prison in January 2026

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to lawyer and rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, advocate Hadi Ali Chattha, until the Islamabad High Court reaches a final decision on their applications for suspension of sentence.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim heard the case. The court also suspended the trial court's decision and granted the couple bail against surety bonds of Rs200,000 each.

Mazari and Chattha were sentenced to a combined 17 years in prison in January 2026 in cases related to social media posts that the prosecution alleged promoted an anti-state narrative under cybercrime laws. They subsequently approached the Islamabad High Court seeking suspension of their sentences.



During Thursday's hearing, Additional Attorney General Rana Asad opposed the bail pleas, arguing that the Islamabad High Court had not yet issued a decision against the prosecution.

He said the trial court had already provided seven opportunities and maintained that the High Court was the appropriate forum for suspension of sentence under Section 426.

Justice Afghan questioned the repeated delays in proceedings before the Islamabad High Court. He observed that the High Court sometimes referred to Supreme Court orders in its proceedings before adjourning the matter, while another date was subsequently fixed when the case came before the Supreme Court.

The judge remarked that the Islamabad High Court was, "in its own way", preventing the Supreme Court from functioning and asked what had happened after the apex court's first order.

Defence counsel Faisal Siddiqui told the bench that the Supreme Court had issued its initial order on May 12, directing the Islamabad High Court to decide the applications within two weeks. He then read out order sheets from several hearings before the High Court.

The court later directed the Additional Attorney General to take his seat and said it would first hear Siddiqui's arguments.

Siddiqui criticised the repeated adjournments before the Islamabad High Court and referred to a remark attributed to former chief justice Asif Saeed Khosa that cases should only be adjourned in exceptional circumstances.

He said the High Court had repeatedly postponed the proceedings and that the registrar's office had rejected the defence's request for an early hearing.

# PIMS fire death toll rises to 15 as surviving infant dies

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The death toll from the PIMS Hospital fire has risen to 15 after Aizal, the only infant rescued alive from the blaze, died while undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit.

According to sources, a nurse safely rescued Aizal during the fire, after which the infant was shifted to the intensive care unit for treatment. However, she later died during treatment, taking the number of children killed in the PIMS Hospital fire to 15.

Aizal's mother, Asifa Bibi, said her daughter was six months and 10 days old and had been born on August 12.



# IG FC Balochistan (North) Assures Full Support to Athletes, Cash Prizes Distributed

- Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba meets prominent players from wushu, karate, bodybuilding, boxing and fencing, pledges continued support for sports and young talent in Balochistan

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

Quetta/BalochistanProminent players from various sports including wushu, karate, bodybuilding, boxing and fencing, associated with the sports sector, visited FC Headquarters Balochistan North Quetta and met with IG FC Balochistan (North) Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba. The IG FC listened to the problems faced by the players and assured all possible cooperation to resolve them. He appreciated the achievements of the players and encouraged them to continue their hard work and dedication to further improve their skills and make Pakistan, especially Balochistan, famous. The IG FC said that FC Balochistan (North) will continue its full role in promoting the sports sector in the province, sponsoring young talent and encouraging and supporting talented players. Cash prizes were also given on the occasion to encourage outstanding players.

# Punjab to bring ordinance against teachers over poor exam results

- Punjab plans a new ordinance against teachers over poor exam results, linking their performance to students' outcomes while introducing monitoring, coaching and school reforms.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

The Punjab government has decided to introduce a new ordinance against teachers delivering poor examination results, while agreeing to link teachers' performance with students' academic outcomes.

A video-link meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was held to review the school education sector in detail. During the meeting, the chief minister expressed displeasure over the Class 9 examination results and decided to introduce legislation for legal action against teachers associated with poor results.

The meeting also gave an in-principle approval to hold monthly and annual examinations in every class. Officials were directed to present a complete timeline and reforms plan next week, while immediate action was ordered where the Class 9 result is below 20 percent.Maryam Nawaz directed authorities to reward schools achieving the best results and announced awards for the top-performing schools in each district based on their results.

**TENDER NOTICE**

TSE-2627091195583 **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 Construction of Panjgur Dam Project District Panjgur 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 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%**

| S.No | Name of Work/s | E/Cost |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | Providing and Fixing of HESCO Bags at Panjgur Dam Site | 7,917,696 |

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 Turnover of at least 5,542,387 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is CE03, CE04 , CE03(ii) (Underwater Works), CE04(i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures) , CE04(ii) (Irrigation & Flood Control Systems), CE04(iii) (dams only), CE04(v) (Irrigation Only). The bidder must be a legally registered firm/company eligible to participate in the procurement. The bidder must be registered with the relevant tax authorities and possess a valid NTN. The bidder must be registered with FBR for Sales Tax, where applicable. The bidder must be an active taxpayer on the relevant tax authority's portal. The bidder must have successfully completed relevant works/supply/services of similar nature and scope. **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call** of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed **1,500 PKR Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to **02 October, 2026** during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by **02 October, 2026** till **11:00 AM**. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at **12:00 PM Address:** C/O H.No. 78-A Jinnah Town Near City School Samanguli Road Quetta **Phone no:** 081-2870674
**Email:** panjgurdamproject@gmail.com

PD
Construction of Panjgur Dam
Project District Panjgur

DAB/AB No.342/17-9-2026

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**بعدالت ایڈیشنل جج انسداد دہشتگردی خضدار**

اشتہار بجلم احضار مخلص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (۸۷ ض ف) (۱۰) ۱۹ انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ ۱۹۹۷

FIR نمبر A64/026 P/S خضدار (1) مسمیان سرفراز ولد رحمت اللہ قوم کھٹازئی سکنہ وڈھ (2) رحمت اللہ ولد غلام قادر قوم کھٹازئی سکنہ وڈھ (3) عزیز ولد ثناء اللہ قوم دولت خانزئی سکنہ وڈھ (4) نعیم ولد عزیز ناڑئی سکنہ وڈھ جرم زیر دفعہ 4 B 324-302 ت پ کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان پر ارتکاب جرم کا شبہ ہے ازروئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بطبق نالش متعلق جاری ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ ملزمان مذکورہ بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کئے ہیں۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان (1) سرفراز (2) رحمت اللہ (3) عزیز (4) نعیم کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 22 ستمبر 2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام خضدار میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائے۔

سیشن جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ خضدار

PRQ No 1426/17-09-2026

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**بعدالت ایڈیشنل جج انسداد دہشت گردی بمقام حب**

اشتہار بجلم احضار مخلص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)

مقدمہ نمبر 97/26 FIR نمبر 67/26 سرکار بنام:۔ سراج احمد وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (1) (b) ،(h) ،(i) 11F، (1) (2) ،7 21(i) ATA پولیس تھانہ CTD خضدار ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش دائر ہوئی ہے کہ ملزمان سراج احمد ولد واحد بخش ساکن ہور، امتیاز احمد ولد دست محمد ساکن سنڈم گیشکور، کامران خالد ولد حاصل ساکن سری مالار، احمد شاہ ولد عبدالباسط ساکن گزی مالار، برات عرف سفر ولد رحیم بخش ساکن مہران بازار، حسین عرف سرور ولد امتیاز ساکن گیشکور، ظفر عرف قائم ولد برکت علی ساکن زک گیشکور جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (1) (b) ،(h) ،(i) 11F، (1) (2) ،7 21(i) ATA کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان پر ارتکاب جرم کا شبہ ہے ازروئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بطبق نالش متعلقہ جاری ہوئے تھے کہ مسمی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکورہ ملزمان فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے آپ کو روپوش کیا ہوا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ ملزمان سراج احمد ولد واحد بخش ساکن ہور، امتیاز احمد ولد دست محمد ساکن سنڈم گیشکور، کامران خالد ولد حاصل ساکن سری مالار، احمد شاہ ولد عبدالباسط ساکن گزی مالار، برات عرف سفر ولد رحیم بخش ساکن مہران بازار، حسین عرف سرور ولد امتیاز ساکن گیشکور، ظفر عرف قائم ولد برکت علی ساکن زک گیشکور کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 21-09-2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام اس عدالت میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائیں۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ نسبیلہ بمقام حب

PRQ No1436/17-09-2026

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# Four-day workweek notification Is fake: Govt

- The fake notification, dated Sept 16, 2026, has been attributed to the Cabinet Division and refers to an earlier notification purportedly issued on Sept 15.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's (MOIB) Fact Checker on Thursday clarified that a notification circulating on social media regarding changes in the working days of the Government of Pakistan was fake.

According to the MOIB Fact Checker, the purported notification falsely claims that a four-day working week has been introduced, with Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as working days and Friday, Saturday and Sunday as off days.

The fake notification, dated Sept 16, 2026, has been attributed to the Cabinet Division and refers to an earlier notification purportedly issued on Sept 15.

The MOIB Fact Checker advised the public not to believe or share the misleading content and urged citizens to rely on official government channels for authentic notifications and announcements.

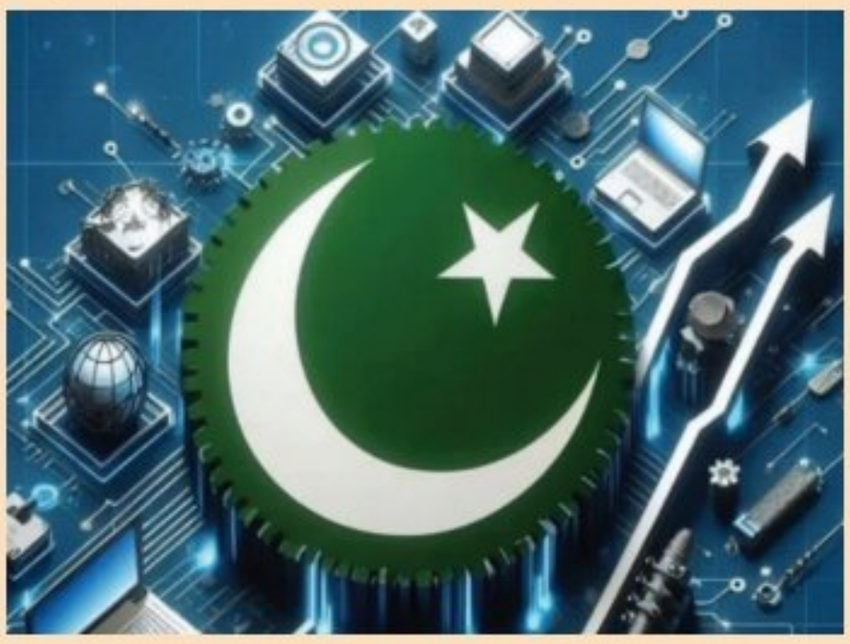
The public was also advised to verify information circulating on social media through official sources before sharing it.

Scanned with CamScanner

# Jul-Aug C/A deficit stands at $543m

Pakistan recorded a current account deficit of $543 million in the first two months of FY27, the State Bank of Pakistan's latest figures show. It was 36% narrower than the $853 million gap in the same period of last year, supported by robust remittance inflows.

August alone recorded a $98 million shortfall, down from $445 million in July (revised up from an earlier $328 million) and from $324 million in August 2025. On paper, it is a sharp improvement. Underneath, the arithmetic is familiar.



Goods and services exports in August rose only about 5% year-on-year to $3.33 billion. Imports rose faster, by about 8%, to $6.64 billion. Workers' remittances of $3.66 billion, up nearly 17% from $3.14 billion a year earlier, closed most of the hole. July-August remittances were about $7.3 billion, up 14.7%. The current account looks better when the diaspora sends more money.

August goods exports were at $2.51 billion, up only 3.8% year-on-year, against imports of $5.68 billion, up 7.4%. The monthly goods deficit widened 10.4% to $3.17 billion. For July-August, the goods deficit rose 18.1% to $7.12 billion, with exports up 7% and imports higher by 13%.

SBP's free-on-board (fob) goods series was even flatter in August, about $2.46 billion against $2.49 billion a year earlier, while the goods and services deficit for July-August FY27 widened to $6.75 billion from $5.96 billion. After successive textile packages and export-led growth claims, the factory basket is barely moving. Machinery, transport and metals imports are rising with activity. August services exports were $872 million against $677 million a year earlier, up 29%. July-August services exports reached $1.81 billion versus $1.41 billion. Exports of telecommunications , computer and information services were $394 million in August, up 17% year-on-year but down 6% month-on-month. Other business services rose 36% while transport gained 28%.

Pakistan is drifting towards a services-and-remittances external account while merchandise trade stays anemic.

# "The insensitivity of the Forest Department."



Written by Imran Chaudhary

Fourteen hundred years ago, the Prophet Muhammad said that"If a Muslim plants a fruit tree and then people and animals eat from it, it becomes a charity for the one who planted it, (Sahih Bukhari (6012) Volume No. 5)Today, the process of ruthless cutting of trees is ongoing. We, at the government and public levels, individually and collectively, are responsible for the immense losses caused by the ruthless cutting of trees, not planting trees, and forest fires in places. Recently, the way trees were cut in Islamabad with the alleged connivance of CDA Environment Directorate officers and former chairman is worrying. We have witnessed illegal constructions in dozens of housing societies being built towards the New Islamabad Airport and in Islamabad Lahtrar Road Zone 4, illegal constructions in housing societies, and natural disasters in housing societies. The rampant cutting of trees on pastures, meadows, and lands around natural rivers and canals, and illegal constructions on housing societies, where new trees were not even planted in place of the cutting of trees, in these low-lying areas of Islamabad, the houses built in these places were severely damaged by floodwaters during the recent heavy rains, we have presented the facts to the authorities on these illegal housing societies, on which no steps have been taken by the relevant departments and society owners to plant new trees in return. We have revealed the ruthless cutting of trees in various forests in all four provinces including Azad Kashmir, the names of the officials and senior officers of the Forest Department, the Department of Environmental Protection, and their negligence,

carelessness, corruption, and alleged collusion with the timber mafia in detailed investigative columns, from the Chhanga Manga forest to the alleged collusion of the officers of the Forest Department with the timber mafia in many large forests and for years Questions were raised on the deployment of forest officers and other officers at one place, the insensitivity of these officials and alleged collusion with the timber mafia, negligence, and corruption were written in detail on these same pages. The officials of the Forest Department and the Environmental Protection Department, the Environment Ministry are continuously sleeping in a state of negligence. The Margalla Hills and the outskirts of Islamabad city, including Kotli Satian and Murree, caught fire. How were forests targeted? No adequate steps have been taken to address these incidents. We criticized the plight of the forests of Changa Manga to the large forests of Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab, and the deployment of forest department officers at one place for years, and determined the names of those responsible. The situation of the forest department in the country was presented before the authorities."On which the relevant authorities have taken action and paid attention to the improvement of the situation, the situation is still the same, the cutting of forests and the responsible officers of the department have been determined across the country. Serious, dutiful and honest officers of the relevant departments want to take action in this regard, if they want to work, the records can be presented to them. They will continue to be destroyed, housing societies, timber mafia, land mafia will gradually swallow the trees, these trees will be wiped out

like what happened in the suburbs of Islamabad, the damages of not having trees in the city of Karachi are in front of everyone, but now most of the cities of the country This is the condition of the towns and villages, we are all under the severe effects of climate change due to this criminal silence and negligence. There is a need, there is an example of many developed countries in front of us. In countries like Belgium, Norway, the weather became very hot, so they ordered every citizen to plant trees at the official level. If they are invested, billions of rupees are generated annually, if they are exported, billions of dollars are made, which can end poverty, unemployment, hunger and inflation across the country. Ancient pine and pine trees were destroyed, in these hilly areas, strong trees like Azad Kashmir were cut and put in the middle. They were thirty, thirty, forty or forty years old. With the alleged connivance of the forest officials, the timber mafia together cleared these forests, like many forests were cleared in Punjab, complaints of alleged irregularities have come to light in Khyber, Bannu and DI Khan Forest Divisions, demanded a high-level investigation and special audit. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the citizens of some areas are continuously expressing concerns regarding the protection of forests, alleged theft of wood.

# IIOJK: The World's Largest Open-Air Jail A Defence and Strategic Perspective



By : Muhammad Habib

The term security in strategic studies generally means the defense of a state's territory and people against external dangers. However, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the very instruments of state security – the military, the paramilitary armies and draconian laws – have been turned into instruments of collective punishment against the entire civilian population. This inversion has resulted in strategic analysts, international observers and the Kashmiri people themselves describing IIOJK as the "world's largest open-air jail"—an allegation that has enormous significance for regional stability, international law and the South Asian strategic balance.

Indeed, the "open air jail" is no exaggeration but a tactic based on four "strategies of repression.

The Military Occupation. The first is the permanent military occupation of the territory as this is the most visible one. Currently, IIOJK has over 500,000 security forces permanently stationed throughout the valley, or 1 soldier to every 24 civilians. Today, IIOJK is primarily a military camp, rather than a civilian settlement, because more than one million security personnel are employed in permanent positions. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) gives immunity to security forces to shoot on sight, raid people's homes without warrants and arrest people on a mere suspicion. Most deadly weapon of the jailer is to kill without any consequences.

The Legal framework of Control. Article 370 and Article 35-A of the Indian Constitution were withdrawn on 5th August 2019 and Jammu and Kashmir was made a normal state of the Indian Union by taking the decision unilaterally. By this constitutional coup, a semi-autonomous region would be transformed into a Union Territory to come under the control of the Centre, essentially putting the political fate of 12 million Kashmiris behind the constitutional fence. From then on, legal weapons were added to the strategic arsenal of Indian policy makers and it became a practice dubbed as "lawfare" by strategic analysts. Arbitrary and without trial political leaders, activists and journalists have been jailed under the draconian Public Safety Act (PSA).

The Digital Siege. IIOJK is a nation with the dubious record of maximum Internet shutdowns in the world. During June 2026, mobile internet services were suspended throughout the region.The digital lock-down has two strategic objectives – one is to stop anyone from getting a glimpse of human rights violations and the other is to keep the Kashmiri people cut off from information, thereby cutting them off from the rest of the world.

The Human Cost. Indian soldiers have martyred 2,108 Kashmiris including 46 women since Burhan Wani, the youth leader, was killed in extrajudicial manner in 2016. Of these, 364 were murdered in police custody or in apparent staged fake encounters. Bullets, pellets and teargas shells have injured at least 30,318 people, and caused the loss of sight in 115.By July 2026, the Kashmir issue has been radically ratcheted up on several fronts, making the 'open-air jail' extremely volatile.

Escalation of Military Operations. In July, Indian troops intensified cordon and search operations in various districts of the IJF including Rajouri, Doda, Udhampur, Poonch, Kupwaraand Baramulla. Troops searched from house to house, harassing women and children, breaking appliances in the houses. Indian police killed a youth, Aarif Hussain in cordon and search operation in Doda district on July 21. Two days later on July 23, three more Kashmiri youths were killed in Islamabad district. The search operation entered its 15th day in Rajouri without any hindrance in the day-to-day life of the people.

Kashmiri youths were killed in Islamabad district. The search operation entered its 15th day in Rajouri without any hindrance in the day-to-day life of the people.

Political Persecution and Court harassement. A Delhi court on July 25 sentenced Kashmiri political leader Aasiya Andrabi to life imprisonment and her two associates to 30 yearsimprisonment. Pakistan strongly rejected the ruling and said it was part of a 'broader pattern of politically motivated prosecutions aimed at silencing dissenting voices.

The Diplomatic Front. India and Pakistan had a bristled exchange of words at the United Nations Security Council on July 23-24. India's Permanent Representative, however, reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir "has always been, is and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India. The Pakistani mission replied that Jammu and Kashmir was not a part of India and it was not an internal matter of India, pointing out that "Security Council resolutions do not have an expiry date".International Scrutiny. On 23rd July, the human rights of IIOJK was once again discussed in the UK House of Lords, during which Lord Qurban Hussain appealed to the UK Government regarding its stance in the wake of the report by 'Genocide Watch' that was released earlier this year.

# Balochistan: The two-and-a-half-year formula for changing the Chief Minister has been stopped. However, consultations are ongoing on cabinet reshuffle, officials confirm



By: Muhammad Shah Dotani

The two-and-a-half-year formula for changing the Chief Minister in Balochistan has been stopped for the time being, however, there are reports that preparations for a large-scale reshuffle in the provincial cabinet have begun. According to sources, consultations are underway between the two major parties in the Balochistan government, Pakistan Peoples Party and Muslim League (N), regarding cabinet reshuffle and new distribution of ministries. After contacting the central leadership of the Muslim League (N), sources have confirmed the possibility of cabinet reshuffle. Sources say that the Muslim League (N) had to compromise on the issue of the Chief Minister, however, in return, the party is likely to be given important ministries, advisors and parliamentary secretaries in the provincial cabinet. The portfolios of some existing ministers may be changed while some new members may be included in the cabinet. This development has come at a time when in June 2026, there were reports of an agreement between the PPP and the PML-N on a reshuffle in the Balochistan cabinet, while representatives were also nominated by both parties for consultations. However, the process was temporarily halted due to the poor law and order situation in Balochistan. On the other hand, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti had recently expressed ignorance of the two-and-a-half-year government agreement and said that the decision on a change in the government should be taken by the political leadership. According to informed sources, practical steps for a reshuffle in the cabinet are likely to be accelerated after the Balochistan Chief Minister returns to the province, while further consultations are expected between the coalition parties on the new distribution of ministries, advisors and parliamentary secretaries.



Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik meets with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Energy and Power Nazir Ahmed Abbasi to discuss matters relating to the energy sector.

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# Civil servants to submit asset declarations online under new digital system

● Pakistan has introduced a digital system for Grade-17 and above officers to submit asset declarations online through an FBR portal, with deadlines for filing and corrections.




Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The government has introduced a new digital system for the submission of asset declarations by civil servants, with Grade-17 and above officers required to file their statements online through a portal developed with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

According to a notification, the FBR portal has been activated for government officers to submit their asset declarations electronically instead of manually. The Presidency, Prime Minister's Office and all ministries have been informed about the new digital system.

Government officers have been directed to submit their asset declarations online by October 30, while a deadline of November 30 has been set for correcting errors in the submitted statements.

The notification said officers will be required to create an account on the FBR portal to submit their declarations. They will have to provide their personal email addresses for account registration.

The FBR will examine the asset declarations of government officers on a risk-based basis. Disciplinary action will be taken against officers found to have provided false information or concealed details.

According to the notification, selected non-sensitive portions of the asset declarations will be published on the FBR website. Action will also be taken against officers who fail to submit their asset declarations within the prescribed deadline.



A labourer unloads blocks of ice from a delivery rickshaw to meet customer demand near the historic Clock Tower.

# Global investors' interest in Pakistan increasing again: FinMin

■ Aurangzeb said progress had been made in reducing the budget deficit, improving government revenues and advancing tax reforms.

Web Desk

LONDON

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that global investors' interest in Pakistan is increasing again, citing progress on economic reforms and the country's timely completion of reviews under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

Addressing the Pakistan Investment Roundtable organised by the Pakistan High Commission in London, the finance minister said the government was continuing fiscal and institutional reforms aimed at achieving economic stability and sustainable development.



Aurangzeb said progress had been made in reducing the budget deficit, improving government revenues and advancing tax reforms. He added that the government was also focusing on the reform and privatization of state-owned enterprises, improvements in the energy sector, financial transparency and measures to facilitate ease of doing business.

The finance minister stressed the need to broaden the country's tax base and ensure effective implementation of existing laws.

He also said that no new additional taxes had been imposed on the salaried class.

Referring to recent economic challenges, Aurangzeb highlighted the impact of floods as well as developments in the Middle East. Despite these challenges, he said Pakistan offered significant investment opportunities.

According to the finance minister, international investor interest was improving as Pakistan had completed its IMF reviews on time, while the country's credit rating had also improved.

The event concluded with a question-and-answer session, during which participants discussed investment opportunities, Pakistan's economic situation and cooperation with international financial institutions.

# SIFC strengthens Pakistan's investment proposition

● The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is reinforcing Pakistan's investment proposition through an integrated, investor-centric framework aimed at connecting domestic and international investors with high-potential opportunities across priority sectors.

Web Desk

KARACHI

):The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is reinforcing Pakistan's investment proposition through an integrated, investor-centric framework aimed at connecting domestic and international investors with high-potential opportunities across priority sectors.

As a whole-of-government platform, SIFC brings together relevant federal, provincial and sectoral stakeholders to provide coordinated, end-to-end facilitation to investors, said SIFC press release. Its structured approach is designed to simplify engagement with government




institutions and support investment proposals from opportunity identification to implementation.

It said, SIFC has identified eight priority sectors offering significant investment potential including Industry, SEZs & Connectivity; Agriculture; Information Technology; Health; Tourism; Human Resource Development; Mines & Minerals; and Energy, Power & Petroleum.

The identified opportunities span industrial development, infrastructure and logistics, corporate farming, agri-tech, food processing, digital infrastructure, healthcare, tourism, skills development, mineral exploration and value addition, renewable energy, power generation and oil and gas.

At the heart of SIFC's facilitation framework is a one-stop investment platform built around five stages — Explore, Connect, Facilitate, Resolve and Realize.

The mechanism enables investors to identify opportunities, connect with relevant stakeholders, navigate administrative and regulatory processes, resolve bottlenecks and advance viable projects towards implementation.

SIFC has also enhanced its global investment outreach through Dedicated Country Desks covering key markets, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Middle East, Russia and CIS, and China, while maintaining broader engagement across North and South America, Africa, Europe and South and East Asia.

The Council's facilitation model is anchored in four core functions — Investor Engagement, Opportunity Matching, Coordination and Facilitation — enabling SIFC to proactively engage investors, align their interests with suitable opportunities and coordinate with concerned government institutions.

Pakistan's economic fundamentals further strengthen its investment proposition, including a population exceeding 252 million, a labour force of more than 83 million, a young demographic profile and a cost-competitive workforce, offering investors access to a substantial market and diverse.

# Federal Reserve raises US rates to 3.75pc-4pc, signals more hikes as inflation risks intensify

■ Updated quarterly economic projections showed 16 of 18 policymakers anticipate at least one more quarter-percentage-point hike by the end of this year

Web Desk

ASHLAND



The Federal Reserve raised interest rates and flagged more hikes in the coming months, with new US central bank chief Kevin Warsh joining a unanimous decision that effectively acknowledges the Trump administration's inability so far to control inflation that policymakers worry could worsen.

While President Donald Trump had promised to lower prices on his watch, the combined impact of his global import tariffs, an energy shock following the start of the US-Israeli war with Iran, and capital spending from the artificial intelligence boom has kept price pressures intense enough that the Fed felt it needed to raise its benchmark overnight interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point to the 3.75%-4.00% range.

Updated quarterly economic projections showed 16 of 18 policymakers anticipate at least one more quarter-percentage-point hike by the end of this year, with only two of them seeing rates remaining stable from here. All but one indicated they saw upside risks to inflation that they no longer described as largely arising from one-off supply shocks.

Warsh, who again did not submit rate or other economic projections, attributed the need for tighter monetary policy in part to an economy he sees as picking up speed, with strong economic and job growth adding to price pressures that no longer seem rooted in oil costs or import tariffs alone.

"There's been a pretty wide-ranging set of data, including the labour markets, that the economy has strengthened," Warsh told reporters, listing the reasons that prompted him to support a rate hike after advocating that rates should remain on hold at the Fed's July 28-29 meeting. "Domestic spending has been resilient, productivity growth strong, and capital investment is robust."

The rate increase was the first such move in three years and the first policy shift under the new Fed chief, who took office in late May after being selected by Trump with an expectation that he would cut rates.

"Inflation remains elevated. Today's policy action will support a timelier return to the committee's 2% goal," the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee said in its policy statement after the end of a two-day meeting.

Warsh, speaking in his post-meeting press conference, called the rate hike the "right decision."

"I would be hard-pressed to describe broad financial conditions as restrictive," he said. "This view was widely shared by the committee, so we removed a dose of accommodation."

Trump reacted quickly, repeating what has been a standing call since returning to office in January 2025 that interest rates in the US should be slashed to perhaps 1%, a level usually associated with Fed efforts to boost the economy out of a crisis and something that would likely be inflationary in normal times.

# Kiyani links sustainable growth with localized governance, private sector empowerment

■ State Minister for Finance Azhar Bilal Kiyani reiterated here on Thursday that structural governance reforms, localized resource allocation, and private-sector partnership were critical to breaking Pakistan's historic boom-and-bust economic cycles and expanding the tax net.

Web Desk

ISLAMABD

State Minister for Finance Azhar Bilal Kiyani reiterated here on Thursday that structural governance reforms, localized resource allocation, and private-sector partnership were critical to breaking Pakistan's historic boom-and-bust economic cycles and expanding the tax net.

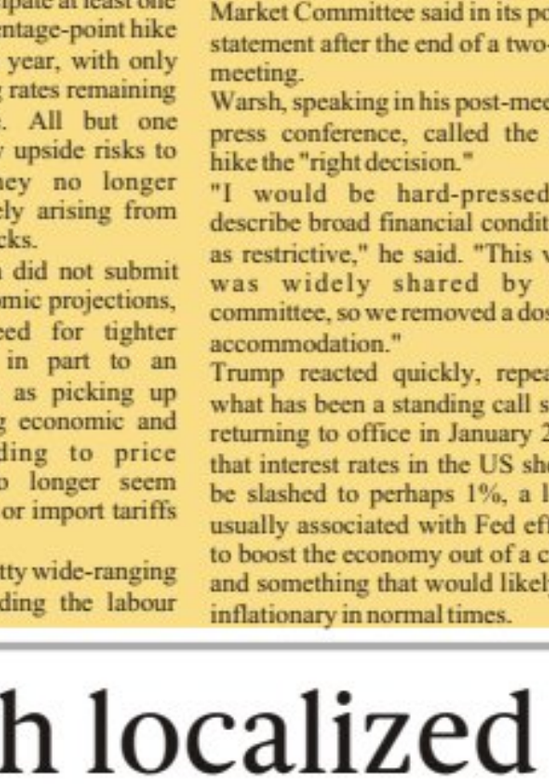
Addressing the 'Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit', the Minister outlined the government's multi-pronged strategy to ensure sustainable economic growth, reduce the cost of doing business, and empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Kiyani stressed that sustainable foreign exchange reserves and long-term economic stability depend on aggressively increasing exports.

Highlighting recent budget measures, he noted that the government has consulted extensively with the private sector to create fiscal space, resulting in reduced super-tax burdens for SMEs, lowered advance and minimum tax rates on export proceeds, and the continuation of preferential tax regimes for IT exports.Furthermore, the government has embarked on an ambitious tariff reduction program to lower raw material input costs and drive technological upgrading.Addressing structural and governance bottlenecks, Kiyani argued that daily service delivery issues—such as rural infrastructure and local administrative delays—cannot be resolved without decentralizing resources and authority down to the grassroots level. He noted that regularizing coordination between federal and provincial development allocations was essential for optimizing public spending.On the critical issue of documentation and tax expansion, the minister highlighted a newly designed, simplified Aasan Tax Scheme co-created alongside retail trade representatives.Acknowledging that approximately 3.5 out of 4.5 million retailers remain outside the tax net, Kiyani stated that enforcement alone cannot achieve scale without stakeholder ownership.

The new framework introduces progressive penalties for non-compliance while fostering direct marketplace engagement between federal revenue officials and trade leaders to drive voluntary registration.

Kiyani reaffirmed that empowering the private sector, agriculturalists, and SMEs through enhanced access to credit remains front and centre in the government's agenda to unlock broad-based national prosperity.



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# Trump hopes Iran war nearing end as Houthi-Saudi fighting escalates

■ As the war expands into a new theatre, the United States tightened its travel warning for Saudi Arabia, banning government employees from travelling within 20 miles



Web Desk

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said he hoped an end to the war against Iran was near, as the conflict, in its seventh month, escalated with Saudi aircraft pounding Yemen and Houthi fighters launching drones and missiles at Saudi cities.

The Iran-backed Houthis' lightning advance in Yemen along the Red Sea and their attacks on Saudi Arabia, along with attacks that damaged Saudi Arabia's East-West oil pipeline, have extended Tehran's reach in the war and heightened global oil-supply risks.

As the war expands into a new theatre, the United States tightened its travel warning for Saudi Arabia, banning government employees from travelling within 20 miles (30 km) of the Yemen border.

Still, just hours after reports of the Houthis and Saudi Arabia fighting, Trump told reporters on Wednesday evening: "Well, hopefully we are towards the end of the war."

"They want to make a deal. We'll see how that works out," he said, referring to Iran, reiterating past comments. ?Trump also said he had heard from Iran "directly", without elaborating.

Trump has offered shifting goals and timelines for the war that began on February 28, when the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran and Tehran struck Israel and U.S. bases in Gulf states.

The extension of the war into Yemen threatens to worsen the global energy-supply shortage caused by the war, which has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The strait carried about 20% of global oil and LNG before the conflict.

Traders say a prolonged closure of Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline could cut off as much as 4% of global oil supply. Saudi Arabia has not said when operations might resume.

The price of Brent crude hovered around $108 a barrel on Wednesday, close to its highest levels since May. The politically sensitive average retail price of diesel fuel in the U.S. hit another all-time high, above $6.30 a gallon for the first time.

But oil prices fell in early Thursday trade as reports of Saudi Arabia offering extra crude cargoes through Oman reduced fears of supply disruptions in the Middle East.

Brent crude futures dropped $1.24, or 1.2%, to $104.59 a ?barrel by 0049 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures were down $1.14, or 1.1%, at $101.29.

The rise in oil and gas prices due to the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran has become a major issue for Trump's Republican Party in the lead-up to November midterm elections.

TRUMP TO MEET GULF LEADERS, AXIOS SAYS, AS WAR SPREADS

# Australia to bar foreign students from bringing partners, children while they study



WEB DESK

CAIRO/DUBAI

Australia will stop foreign students from bringing their partners and children to accompany them while they study and tighten rules for temporary migrants to switch visas, media reported on Thursday, ahead of a minister's speech on immigration changes. Net overseas migration numbers will be reduced to 225,000 by 2028, down from about 300,000 now, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke will say in a speech at the National Press Club later on Thursday, public broadcaster ABC News reported, without citing sources.

Burke's office did not immediately respond to a ?request for comment.

At present, spouses and partners of international students can work in Australia, although the number of hours they are permitted to work varies depending on the student's course of study. The student can also bring dependent children under the age of 18.

The government's move comes after the hard-right One Nation party, which has been surging in recent polls, said this week that it would slash the number of temporary migrants by 750,000 over three years, to give Australians "breathing space."

One Nation, which describes its ?approach as "Australia first" and whose policies have drawn comparisons to those of U.S. President Donald Trump, said it would aim to restrict net overseas migration to 130,000 after the initial three years, with the program expected to be reviewed annually.

Australia's migration intake, driven largely by international students, ?backpackers and temporary skilled workers, surged after the country reopened its borders in February 2022 following nearly two years of COVID-19 restrictions.

However, numbers have been trending lower over the past two years, ?even as critics argue the influx of migrants has increased pressure on housing and infrastructure and strained social cohesion. Net overseas migration totalled 306,000 in the year ended ?June 30, 2025, with international students accounting for more than half of that total, according to official data.



# US allies fret over how Trump might play his Taiwan hand with Xi

Web DESK

TOKYO/TAIPEI

US allies in Asia are growing anxious that President Donald Trump may be tempted to soften Washington's support for Taiwan in return for an economic win with Beijing as he prepares to host Chinese leader Xi Jinping next week.

Concerns that Trump could make concessions on Taiwan have heightened since he described US arms sales to the democratically governed island claimed by China as a "negotiating chip" in May, and as he tries to shore up approval ratings dented by the Iran war.

Xi will likely press Trump on Taiwan during their expected summit on September 24, and even a subtle change in US rhetoric could embolden Beijing and risk the region's fragile peace, according to interviews with government officials, lawmakers and analysts in Taipei, Tokyo and Washington.

"There's a great deal of trepidation, particularly from our allies, about where our China policy is going to land," said Emma Chanlett-Avery, political-security affairs director for US-based think tank Asia Society Policy Institute.

"Any indication of a softness on Taiwan would be quite alarming," she added.

China has described Taiwan as the "core of core interests" in its relations with the United States and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control.

China's foreign ministry and the White House did not respond to questions for this story.

Trump has said Xi has personally assured him that China will not attack Taiwan while Trump is in office. His predecessor Joe Biden repeatedly said the US would defend Taiwan if China attacked, while Trump has declined to say whether he would.

Speaking at a defence forum in Beijing on Tuesday, China's former envoy to Washington Cui Tiankai said "reunification" with Taiwan would bring stability that is "in the interest of the United States".

Ahead of the summit, the Taiwanese government has been clearly conveying its positions to the US side, Shen Yu-chung, a senior Taiwanese official, told reporters in Taipei on Monday.

# Israel and Morocco agree to open embassies after New York talks

WEB DESK

MAROCCO



Israel and Morocco have agreed to open embassies in their respective countries following a meeting between their top diplomats and the US ambassador to the United Nations in New York on Wednesday.

The two countries established ties in 2020 as part of the US-led Abraham Accords, under which several Arab states normalised relations with Israel.

At the meeting, Israel and Morocco reaffirmed their commitment to measures including "upgrading diplomatic relations between the two countries, elevating their respective diplomatic missions to the level of embassies, and the appointment of ambassadors", an Israeli foreign ministry statement said.

A joint statement released by the US mission to the UN on behalf of all three countries said they believed that the "establishment of full diplomatic, peaceful and friendly relations between Morocco and Israel is in the common interest of both countries and will advance the cause of peace".

# Japan PM retains economy minister in cabinet reshuffle, signals no change in spending plans

■ Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi retained key ministers in a cabinet reshuffle, signaling continuity in spending plans while pledging fiscal discipline amid concerns over Japan's heavy debt burden.

WEB DESK

TOKYO



Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Thursday retained key ministers in a cabinet reshuffle, including her reflationist ally Minoru Kiuchi as economy minister, pointing to no change to her flagship spending plans.

Takaichi's policies have ?proven contentious given the huge size of Japan's public debt. Her decision to pursue a two-year tax cut on food items sparked a bond selloff as well as criticism from the US, putting her under pressure to heed market calls for fiscal discipline.

Kiuchi said after the announcement of the cabinet lineup that he would strive toward achieving both a ?strong economy and fiscal sustainability.

"We won't engage in wanton fiscal expansion," he said, adding that he will strive to dispel any concern ?markets had over Takaichi's policies.

In her first reshuffle since taking office last October, Takaichi, however, ?also retained as finance minister Satsuki Katayama — a former finance ministry bureaucrat regarded as having a conservative stance towards fiscal policy.

That reappointment is likely ?to be welcomed by bond markets wary of Takaichi's plans to increase government spending which in turn could boost debt issuance.

"Markets are getting sensitive ?to fiscal risks, so stabilising long-term interest rates is turning into a very important challenge for Japan's economic growth,"said Keiji Kanda, a senior economist at the Daiwa Institute of Research.

"That's probably why Takaichi decided to retain many of the cabinet members she trust, such as Katayama. That would allow her to proceed steadily with steps taken so ?far and focus on guiding fiscal policy stably," Kanda said.

Katayama played a key role negotiating with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on a rare ?joint US-Japan yen intervention in late July, an effort that underscored the countries' close cooperation and her reappointment underscores continuity in foreign exchange policy.

# Iran war drains 38 billion dollars from US as weapons stockpiles face five-year replenishment

■ The mounting costs have strained US munitions stockpiles and driven up energy prices, raising concerns about the country's ability to respond to other potential conflicts

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

The six-month-old US war against Iran has cost $38 billion so far, and that amount is projected to rise by $3 billion a month, Congress' nonpartisan bookkeeper reported on Tuesday, as the Trump administration searches for ways to end the conflict and reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz.

The war is expected to increase inflation by 0.5% in the first three months of 2027, according to the Congressional Budget Office accounting, which totalled expenses through August 1.The mounting costs have strained US munitions stockpiles and driven up energy prices, raising concerns about the country's ability to respond to other potential conflicts and adding pressure on an already stretched federal budget.

The cost was close to the $37.5 billion that Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth reported at a Senate hearing on July 21.

The budget office said the majority of the costs stem from the rapid drawdown of munitions, estimating that it could take five years to replenish US stockpiles. Reuters reported in August that the US had used 'virtually all' of its long-range precision missiles during the war.

The Department of Defence did not cooperate with congressional financial auditors, CBO reported.

Representatives from the White House and Department of Defence did not immediately respond to requests for comment.The inquiry was conducted at the request of the top Democrat on the US House of Representatives Budget Committee, Brendan Boyle of Pennsylvania.

'Donald Trump's disastrous war in Iran has already taken the lives of brave American servicemembers and left others wounded,' Boyle said in a statement.

'Beyond that human toll, this nonpartisan CBO report makes clear that the war has also cost American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars and counting, while continuing to drive up costs.'Eighteen US military service members have died in the Iran war.The report did not include costs of recent strikes on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on US military installations in the region. It also did not factor in the borrowing expenses associated with financing the war, which could add tens of billions.



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# Babrik Shah Denies Esra Ayesha Is His Sister-In-Law

■ Babrik Shah Breaks Silence on Viral Esra Ayesha Family Rumour

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Tamasha Season 5 contestant Babrik Shah has addressed speculation surrounding Esra Ayesha, firmly denying reports that she is his sister-in-law.

The clarification came after former contestant Ramsha Salahuddin reportedly made the claim during a live conversation with Jay Kadn. Her statement quickly sparked discussion among viewers, particularly because of the noticeable resemblance between Esra and Babrik's wife, Saima.

Babrik responded through his official Instagram Story, sharing a post about the circulating rumour and describing it as "fake news." He clarified that although Esra may bear a resemblance to his wife, she is not his sister-in-law.

The similarity between Esra and Saima had already attracted attention on social media. Viewers compared the two women, with some pointing to Esra's similar bandana style during an episode of Tamasha Season 5 and speculating about a possible family connection.

The speculation intensified after Ramsha reportedly referred to Esra as Babrik's "sali" during her live conversation with Jay Kadn. The Urdu term generally refers to a wife's sister, prompting viewers to interpret the remark as confirmation of a family relationship.

Babrik's latest statement, however, directly rejects that claim. By sharing the post and calling the information "fake news," he sought to put the speculation to rest.

# Nadeem Nani Wala Hits Back at Sehar Khan Over Rajab Butt Controversy

■ Nadeem Responds to Sehar Khan After Rajab Butt Backlash

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani TikToker Nadeem Nani Wala has responded to actress Sehar Khan after she publicly criticised YouTuber Rajab Butt over controversial remarks made during a recent livestream with Zaid Ali.

The controversy began after Sehar expressed her disappointment on Instagram, saying public figures with large audiences should understand the responsibility that comes with their influence. She described Rajab's remarks as inappropriate and questioned the kind of humour being promoted to thousands of followers.

Following Sehar's statement, Nadeem shared a detailed Instagram Story in which he questioned why the actress had spoken out against Rajab but, according to him, had remained silent over several other cases that had also attracted public attention.

He referred to cases involving Aizal, six-year-old Muhammad Wali and Mir Raza Ali, asking why Sehar had not raised her voice with the same intensity over those incidents.

Nadeem acknowledged that Rajab's comment was wrong but noted that the YouTuber had later apologised. He criticised what he described as people joining the controversy for attention and argued that those who speak against injustice should maintain the same position in different cases.

He also urged Sehar to question the government over the Form 47 controversy and speak about what he described as injustices in Karachi.

Nadeem later took a more conciliatory position after revealing that Sehar had personally contacted him to explain her stance. He said the actress told him she had deleted her earlier Instagram Story after watching Rajab's apology.

The TikToker said he respected Sehar for contacting him directly and clarified that he had no personal issue with her.

Nadeem said his position was that people should be held accountable when they make mistakes, but their apologies should also be acknowledged when they accept responsibility.

He subsequently said the matter was over from his side, calling for positivity instead of unnecessary social media disputes.

The exchange has since broadened the discussion surrounding accountability among social media personalities, particularly over how public figures respond to sensitive issues and whether an apology should bring an online controversy to an end.



# Laura Linney Says Parkinson's Film Changed Her Perspective

■ Parkinson's Drama Leaves Laura Linney Deeply Affected After Filming

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

Laura Linney says her latest film, Onwards and Sideways, stayed with her long after filming ended, leaving her deeply affected by the experience of portraying a woman diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Speaking to AFP at the Toronto International Film Festival, the American actress said she felt like a different person after completing the drama, describing the experience as deeply unsettling but ultimately positive.

Directed by John Madden, the film follows Emma, played by Linney, and Tony, portrayed by Rhys Ifans, who are both diagnosed with Parkinson's on the same day. A neurologist tells them they may have "five good years" ahead, bringing the two strangers into an unexpected relationship.

Madden, known for Shakespeare in Love, said the movie was not intended to educate audiences about Parkinson's disease. Instead, he wanted to explore what might happen when two people suddenly find themselves facing the same life-changing diagnosis.

The director said Parkinson's still carries considerable stigma, recalling how the disease was once viewed as something that effectively marked the end of a person's life. He stressed that the reality of living with Parkinson's has changed considerably.

Madden initially avoided the project because someone close to him had been diagnosed with Parkinson's. However, when he later received the script again, he was drawn to the work of writer Paul Mayhew-Archer, who also lives with the condition.

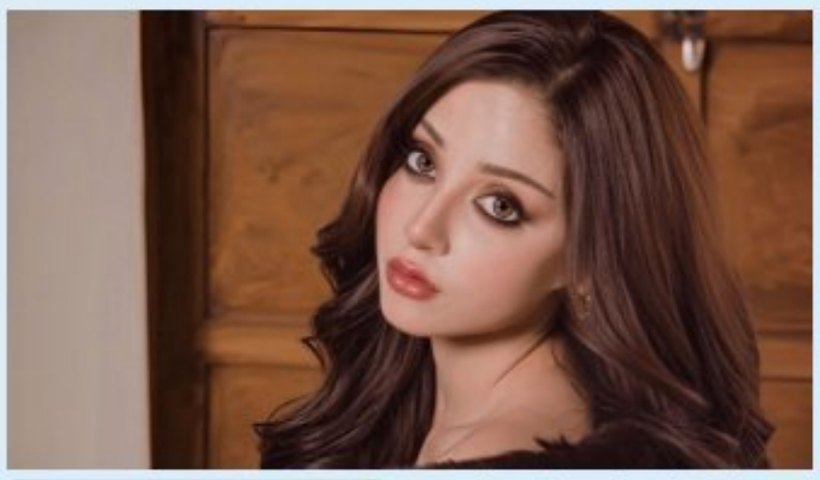
According to Madden, the screenplay stood out because it combined humour with a sense of defiance rather than treating the disease solely through sadness.

FFC 6 September 728/90

Ayhew-Archer, who also appears in the film, said serious illnesses do not always have to be portrayed in an entirely serious manner. He argued that finding moments of comedy can help people cope with difficult circumstances.

The project also had a strong impact on Rhys Ifans, who plays a schoolteacher who chooses to keep his diagnosis private. The Welsh actor said the role made him more aware of his own emotional sensitivity.

# Alizeh Shah's Fiery Behind-the-Scenes Clip Leaves Fans Amazed



SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Alizeh Shah has grabbed attention on social media after sharing a dramatic behind-the-scenes video from the set of her latest project, giving fans a glimpse of an action-packed sequence.

Posting the clip on Instagram, Alizeh jokingly captioned it, "Tandoori chicken bantay bantay reh gyi," adding a humorous touch to the intense filming moment.

The video, recorded from a field monitor, shows the actress performing a scene alongside a male co-star while dressed in an olive-green V-neck top.As the scene reaches a dramatic point, a burst of flames and thick smoke suddenly erupts in front of her face as part of a planned special effect.

Startled for a brief moment, Alizeh instinctively ducks before quickly returning to the frame with a broad smile, laughing off the incident. She then adjusts her hair and looks toward the camera, making it clear the fiery sequence was safely executed as part of the production.

The clip quickly gained traction online, with many fans expressing concern over the actress's safety while also praising her professionalism and cheerful attitude on set. Others flooded the comments section with messages of love and admiration for Alizeh.

# Divorce is not shame! Mariam Michael opens up about marriage at 17

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress and model Mariam Michael has courageously opened up about one of the most personal chapters of her life, revealing that she married at the age of 17 and divorced just two years later. Through a heartfelt social media post, the actress challenged the stigma surrounding divorce, particularly for women, and encouraged others to embrace their journeys without shame.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Mariam shared a lengthy note, clarifying that her decision to speak publicly was not driven by a desire for sympathy but by a hope to normalize conversations around divorce.

"I'm sharing this not because I want sympathy or attention, but because I want to challenge the stigma surrounding divorce especially for women," she wrote.

The actress disclosed that she had kept this chapter of her life private for years before realizing that silence only empowers shame.

"I got married at 17 and divorced at 19. We were two young people who simply weren't ready for marriage. Sometimes things don't work out, and that's okay. We chose to end our marriage with respect, and over the years we've both moved on. Today, there is no resentment, no bitterness, and no conflict between us. I genuinely wish him nothing but the best, and I know he wishes the same for me," she shared.Reflecting on the experience, Mariam said she refuses to erase any part of her past simply because it makes others uncomfortable.

"People often ask why I don't hide this part of my life. The answer is simple: because it's my story. I don't regret my past because it shaped the woman I am today. It taught me lessons I couldn't have learned any other way," she wrote. Questioning societal attitudes toward divorced women, Mariam asked why divorce continues to be viewed as something shameful when, in many cases, it simply reflects two people realizing they were not right for each other.She concluded her message by emphasizing that she carries no shame over her past and hopes that if she marries again, it will be with someone who embraces every chapter of her life. "My past isn't baggage; it's part of the story that made me who I am. A divorce does not define your worth. Your past does not make you less deserving of love. And your story is not something you have to hide. This isn't a confession. It's not an apology. It's simply my truth," she wrote.Her heartfelt post received an outpouring of support from fans and fellow celebrities. Actress Saboor Aly, Hira Khan, Ahmad Randhawa, and content creator Madiha Khan were among those who praised Mariam's honesty and applauded her for speaking openly about a topic that remains sensitive in many societies.

For those unfamiliar with her work, Mariam Michael is a Pakistani actress and model and the younger sister of actress-model Roma Michael. She has appeared in television projects, including the drama serial 'Faaslay' alongside Saboor Aly, and continues to build her career in Pakistan's entertainment industry.

# Nutrition experts advise regular cucumber intake during summer

WEB DESK

KARACHI



The nutrition experts have advised people to eat cucumber regularly during the summer season, saying it is one of the best summer foods for several reasons. Cucumber helps maintain hydration in hot weather

Cucumber provides several health benefits and helps the body remain hydrated during hot weather. Cucumber contains a high amount of water and important electrolytes, which help prevent dehydration during the summer months. Proper hydration is important for maintaining digestive health and reducing the risk of kidney stones.

Vegetable rich in compounds that support health

The vegetable is also rich in biologically active compounds, including flavonoids, tannins and polyphenols, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.




'Widow's Bay' and 'The Pitt' win big at Emmy Awards

Scanned with CamScanner

# Match officials announced for Women's U19 T20 tri-series

● ICC umpire Saleema Imtiaz will officiate the Women's U19 T20 tri-series in Faisalabad from Oct 2-16, featuring Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, with the final set for Oct 16.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

ICC International Panel of Umpires Saleema Imtiaz will serve as an on-field umpire during the Women's U19 T20 tri-series as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the match officials for the tournament, which will be played at Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad from 2 to 16 October.The tournament will feature hosts Pakistan alongside Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, with the top two teams progressing to the final on 16 October.All matches are scheduled to begin at 10am.

Bilal Khilji (PCB National Elite Panel) will serve as match referee for the first five matches of the competition from 2 to 8 October, while Iftikhar Ahmed also part of PCB National Elite Panel will lead the playing control team for the remaining four league matches and the final.

Abdul Moqeet, Zulfiqar Jan, Imran Jawed and Tariq Rasheed – all part of National Elite Panel Umpire alongside Sania Ashraf, Afia Amin and Nazia Nazir (Women Domestic Panel Umpire) will share on-field umpire, third umpire and reserve umpire duties during the tournament.



# Smith still haunted by 'Sandpapergate' as he prepares for South Africa Tests

● "I'm not a big fan of cameras ... I get anxious around cameras to be honest," he told News Corp

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

Steve Smith says he is still traumatised by the infamous "Sandpapergate" ball-tampering scandal in 2018, but the former Australia skipper is undaunted about returning to South Africa for his first Test series since.

The prolific batsman was sent home in disgrace, banned for a year and sacked as captain after conspiring to alter the ball using sandpaper during the third Test in Cape Town eight years ago.

David Warner, considered the ringleader, was suspended for 12 months and stripped of all leadership roles while Cameron Bancroft was slapped with a nine-month ban.

Smith, preparing for the first Test in Durban on October 9 before the series moves to Gqeberha and Cape Town, said he still suffers flashbacks to a traumatic period of his life.



He is haunted by memories of leaving Johannesburg airport, with cameras clicking furiously around him, and a harrowing Sydney press conference on his return when he broke down in tears.

"I'm not a big fan of cameras ... I get anxious around cameras to be honest," he told News Corp. in an interview published Thursday.

"That was a traumatic experience in my life and when I hear the flash of a camera it makes me revisit that in a way.

"The 24-48 hours of being told by James Sutherland (then-Cricket Australia chief executive) that I was getting banned for a year. That and going through the airport in Johannesburg getting absolutely mobbed, and then flying back and doing that press conference.

"I still have little flashbacks here and there of it."

Smith bore the brunt of the scandal that is considered one of Australian sport's darkest moments, but bounced back emphatically.

He smashed a superb century against England on his return and has gone from strength to strength, with 10,920 Test runs so far at an average of 56.

"It was certainly a difficult period, particularly the initial period a few days after," he said.

"The mental state I was in was not great. That's somewhere I'd like not to get to again, but I certainly learned from that and have been able to move forward with my life.

"I've tried to kind of erase a lot of 2018 and what happened," he added.

"I can't remember a lot about the series. I've tried to block most of it out of my memory bank."

Smith has been back to South Africa for a white-ball series since 2018, but not for a Test and he is bracing for hostile crowds.

But the 37-year-old is unperturbed, having negotiated multiple Ashes tours to England since 2018, where the Barmy Army abused him relentlessly.

# LHC rejects cricketer Muhammad Rizwan's plea against NCCIA

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore High Court on Thursday threw out the petition filed by former Pakistan cricket team skipper Muhammad Rizwan against the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), saying it was inadmissible for the hearing.

LHC Chief Justice (CJ) Justice Aalia Neelum remarked that the petitioner's counsel had failed to give satisfactory answers to the court's questions.

Addressing the lawyer, the CJ asked, "Why should not the court fine you?

She said that heavy fine should be imposed on him for concealing the facts. "You better appear before the NCCIA and reply to the show-cause notice issued to your client," she said, adding, "Go and present your opinion there."

Justice Neelum asked the counsel whether the cricketer had received the notice from the NCCIA.

"Yes, my client had been summoned on September 10," he replied.

The judge then asked whether Rizwan had appeared before the Agency on that date.

"He did appear. But now we have again been summoned," the lawyer replied.

The chief justice asked him to appear before the NCCIA and present the former skipper's stance there.

A week ago, the NCCIA had questioned former Pakistan Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq for about two hours against the backdrop of dressing-room leaks.

The two cricketers appeared before the NCCIA at its Johar Town office in Lahore at 3pm.

They were also asked about their contacts and meetings during practice sessions and matches in England.

The duo sought more time to submit further responses to the NCCIA.

34-year-old Rizwan, who hails from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is among the seven cricketers who were suddenly dropped from the Pakistan squad on an emergency basis following the team's defeat in the Lord's Test.



# Rohit, Kohli in India's ODI squad for West Indies series

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were named in India's ODI squad for the West Indies series starting this month, as the team continue to prepare for next year's World Cup.

Both Rohit, 39, and Kohli, 37, only play the 50-over format internationally after retiring from Test and T20I cricket.

Shubman Gill will lead the 15-man squad for the three-match series starting September 27 in Thiruvananthapuram.



# Man Utd out of League Cup after going 2-0 up at home and then losing 3-2 in 50-year

Web Desk

MANCHESTER

Unhappy Manchester United fans witnessed something unseen at Old Trafford in half a century on Wednesday as their side ?lost 3-2 at home to Brighton & Hove Albion in ?the third round of the League Cup after going two goals up.

The last time United lost at home after leading by two goals was in ?September 1976 when Tottenham Hotspur won by the same scoreline.

While ?Brighton progress to the last 16, defeat was another ?blow to a Manchester United side who suffered a controversial 1-0 ?loss to rivals Manchester City in the Premier League last weekend ?and are 13th with one win from four games.

United conceded twice in four second-half minutes after teenager Shea Lacey had put them ahead in the eighth ?minute and Mason Mount made it 2-0 two minutes later.

Charalampos ?Kostoulas pulled one back in first-half stoppage time before Pascal Gross equalised in ?the ?65th and Maxim De Cuyper hit the winner in the 69th, with the home fans booing at the final whistle.



# Croc-habitat gets green light for 2032 Olympic rowing

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

A river home to crocodiles was approved Thursday as the 2032 Brisbane Olympics rowing and canoeing venue by the sport's governing bodies after a "thorough and robust assessment".

The Fitzroy River in Rockhampton, around 600 kilometres (372 miles) north of Queensland state capital Brisbane, which will be the Olympics hub, is a controversial choice.While a saltwater crocodile habitat, the main concerns were around technical specifications and the venue's fairness. The river is prone to flooding and has strong currents that can create uneven competition conditions, while a lack of accommodation options for rowers and spectators was also an issue. Thousands of people signed a petition to have the events moved to a purpose-built facility nearer to Brisbane.But an independent assessment declared it fit for purpose and it was endorsed by governing bodies World Rowing and Paddle Worldwide (formerly International Canoe Federation), along with Olympic organisers.


**Ministry of Science & Technology**

Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (PCSIR)

(Head Office, Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad)

URAAN PAKISTAN

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

TENDER ENQUIRY NO: PCSIR/QL-001/2026

PCSIR Head Office, Islamabad (PCSIR) invites electronic bids for **"Hiring of 06 armed security guards"** on Single Stage One Envelop through e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) **https://eprocure.gov.pk** for PCSIR Laboratories, Quetta from well reputed & registered, Authorized Dealers, Suppliers and Government Contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department and who are on Active Tax Payer List of FBR, as below.

| Sr. No. | Item/Equipment's | Quantity | Work Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hiring of Security Guard | 06 | PCSIR Laboratories Mian Ghundi, Mastong Road Quetta |

**Terms & Conditions:**

- E-bidding documents as per regulations, containing detailed terms and conditions, specifications and requirements etc. are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk).
- The electronic bids must be submitted by using EPADS on dated **October 05, 2026 by 1100 hours.** In addition, the bidders are requested to submit one hard copy of technical and financial bids in sealed envelopes separately of the same bidding document (uploaded on EPADS) to facilitate Evaluation process. The Electronic bids will be opened **half an hour after the closing time.**
- Earnest money@ **Rs.90,000/-** is to be deposited in shape of bank draft/call deposit from any scheduled bank in favor of **Director General PCSIR Laboratories, Quetta.**
- PCSIR reserves the right to accept /reject all bids or proposals or any change in the scope of work as per PPRA rules.
- The place of delivery will be PCSIR Laboratories Mian Ghundi, Mastong Road Quetta on F.O.R basis.
- Note: Notification of GRC constituted in terms of Rule-48 of PPRA rules, 2004 is provided on EPADS at (www.eprocure.gov.pk).

**Director (Procurement),**

PCSIR Head Office, 1-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad.

Ph: 051-9225393/051-9225374,Email: procurement.branch@pcsir.gov.pk

PID(I)2558/26



**بعدالت جناب اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی قلات**

اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ض ف پاکستان

ایف آئی آر نمبر 75/2026 سی ٹی ڈی خضدار ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی ناش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمیان سفیر احمد عرف جیند بلوچ ولد عبدالغنی قوم سرپرہ سکنہ کروگاپ ضلع مستونگ اور بشیر زیب ولد عبداللہ جان قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ احمد وال لوشکی جرم زیر دفعہ 07,7(1)(b)(e),11-F(1)(2),21(i),11-G اے ٹی اے کے جن کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ بالا میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بعلیق اس ناش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان سفیر احمد عرف جیند بلوچ ولد عبدالغنی قوم سرپرہ سکنہ کروگاپ ضلع مستونگ اور بشیر زیب ولد عبداللہ جان قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ احمد وال لوشکی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثاب ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ عرف بشام اور ڈاکٹر اللہ نظر مذکورہ فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کئے ہیں۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ عرف بشام ولد لعل بخش قوم بلوچ سکنہ گورچک مشکے آوران اور ڈاکٹر اللہ نظر ولد نبی بخش قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ مشکے آوران کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 30 ستمبر 2026 بمقام اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی قلات اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) ناش مذکورہ کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ قلات

PRQ No1432/17-09-2026

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**طلبی ٹینڈر بابت مرمتی ٹرانسپورٹ (گاڑیوں) برائے سال 2026-2027**

| نمبر شمار | تفصیل | کل مالیت | زرضمانت | ٹینڈر فیس |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | مرمتی ٹرانسپورٹ (گاڑیاں) پولیس ڈسٹرکٹ خضدار | 2.25 Million | 2% | TSE.2627091194622 |

**شرائط وضوابط:**۔(1)۔ٹینڈر دستاویزات دفتری اوقات میں حاصل کئے جائیں گے۔(2)۔تمام ٹینڈر مقررہ تاریخ اور وقت تک جمع کروانا لازمی ہے۔(3)۔ٹینڈر اسی روز بوقت مقررہ کھولے جائیں گے جس میں ٹھیکیدار یا انکے نمائندے شریک ہو سکتے ہیں۔(4)۔جواز اتھارٹی کو حق حاصل ہے کہ کسی بھی یا تمام ٹینڈر کو BPPRA قوائد کے مطابق مسترد یا منظور کرے۔(5)۔ٹینڈر فیس چالان دکھا کر فارم حاصل کیا جا سکتا ہے۔(6)۔ٹینڈر فارم 1500 روپے ناقابل واپسی (7)۔ٹینڈر فارم متعلقہ دستاویزات مورخہ 08 اکتوبر 2026 تک دفتر زیر دستخطی کے دفتری اوقات 00:11 بجے تک پہنچ جانا چاہئے اور اسی دن بروز جمعرات دوپہر 00:12 بجے ٹینڈر نمائندگان کی موجودگی میں ٹینڈر کھولے جائیں گے مقررہ وقت کے بعد کوئی بھی فارم قبول نہیں ہوگا۔(8)۔انکم ٹیکس اور سیلز ٹیکس یزمہ فرم ہوگا۔(9)۔مزید معلومات دفتری اوقات کار میں زیر دستخطی کے دفتر سے حاصل کئے جا سکتے ہیں۔(10)۔ایڈریس SSP آفس خضدار فون نمبر 0848413813

سینئر سپرنٹنڈنٹ آف پولیس خضدار

DPRQ/PRQ No1430/17-09-2026

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Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing the ceremony at the Lahore High Court Bar Association, Rawalpindi Bench.

# CM Maryam fumes over class 9 result, orders major school reforms

● Maryam Nawaz also sought a performance report of outsourced schools.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has expressed concern over the class 9 examination result and ordered action against teachers linked to poor results, while deciding to bring a new ordinance for the purpose,

The decisions were taken during a video-link meeting chaired by Maryam Nawaz in Lahore on Thursday, where she was briefed on school education.The meeting agreed in principle to link students' examination results with teachers' performance. The chief minister also ordered immediate action where the Class 9 result is below 20 percent.

Maryam Nawaz also approved in principle the start of monthly and annual examinations in every class and ordered officials to present a complete timeline and reforms plan next week. The chief minister directed authorities to reward schools with the best results. Schools topping the results in every district will also be given awards.




The meeting decided to start evening coaching for academically weak students in government schools. It also agreed to discourage the practice of removing weak students from schools.

Maryam Nawaz ordered that vacant head teacher posts be filled within 45 days and directed authorities to ensure the appointment of subject specialists in government schools. She instructed the education minister to ensure checking and monitoring at every level.

The chief minister expressed satisfaction over the best results of Government Girls High School Bhoun in Jhang and sought district-wise monthly rating data of schools. The meeting also decided to introduce a "Unified Monitoring App" for school monitoring.

A pilot project of "Library on Wheels" will be launched in Lahore. The three-wheeler mobile library will have more than 20,000 digital books and will also offer video learning lectures.

Maryam Nawaz also sought a performance report of outsourced schools.

The chief minister said point-scoring in government schools would not solve the issue and that improvement was necessary. She said teachers' hard work should be reflected in students' results.

# Humidity level subsides after Lahore receives light to moderate rain

■ Low-lying areas came under water and roads were submerged, causing traffic jams and long lines of vehicles on roads.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Light to moderate rain was reported in different parts of the City on Wednesday night, bringing a noticeable change in weather and disrupting power supply, which sent many localities into darkness.

Low-lying areas came under water and roads were submerged, causing traffic jams and long lines of vehicles on roads.

As usual, Lesco feeders tripped the moment the rain started, exposing fragmented power supply system.

Rain was recorded in the areas surrounding Abbot Road, Laxmi Chowk and Garhi Shahu, Naulakha Bazar, Taj Pura, Gujjarpura, Chungi Amar Sidhu, Ferozepur Road, Kahna and their adjoining areas.



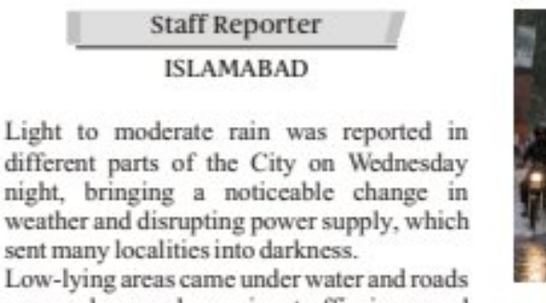
Heavy rainfall was also reported in Band Road, Gulshan Ravi and Samanabad. Rain was also observed around Allama Iqbal Town, Mall Road and Jail Road.

The rainfall was accompanied by cool and gusty winds, making the weather pleasant across the provincial capital. The change in weather brought a refreshing atmosphere to the city as dark clouds covered parts of Lahore.

Residents in various areas experienced a significant drop in temperature following the rainfall, while the cool breeze added to the pleasant conditions.

The rain, varying in intensity from light showers to heavy spells, affected several localities across Lahore, marking a noticeable shift in the city's weather and providing much-needed relief from warmer conditions.

# Nine officials dismissed over PIMS tragedy, says Mustafa Kamal



WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal has said another official has been held responsible for the PIMS tragedy, taking the total number of officials held accountable to nine, all of whom have been dismissed from service.the federal minister said eight people had initially been held responsible in the preliminary inquiry into the PIMS incident. He said the Ministry of Interior had been approached for registration of criminal cases against the eight officials.

Mustafa Kamal said the detailed inquiry report contained 33 recommendations, whose implementation would require some time. He added that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had given three months to improve the fire safety system and structure at PIMS.

The federal minister said a new emergency department with 176 beds would become operational at PIMS within the next 15 days.

Commenting on broader administrative issues, Mustafa Kamal said the establishment of administrative units was, in his view, the only way to save and run Pakistan.

He alleged that provincial governments had retained all resources and powers after the 18th Amendment and said they were opposing changes to protect their political authority.

The latest remarks come after authorities began implementing recommendations following the PIMS fire tragedy. The Senate committee had earlier rejected the inquiry report and called for further action, while the prime minister ordered reforms at the hospital.



Students wade through rainwater accumulated outside Government Girls High School in Shamsheer Town following rainfall.

# Pakistan warns of self-defence response to terror threats from Afghan soil

■ The Pakistani envoy said more than 4,700 Pakistanis had been killed in terrorism linked to Afghanistan over the past three years

STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI




Pakistan has told the United Nations Security Council that it will take measures in self-defence against terrorist threats originating from Afghanistan whenever necessary, while remaining within the bounds of international law.

Speaking at a Security Council session on Afghanistan on Wednesday, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, said Islamabad could not remain passive in the face of continuing terrorist threat.

"Pakistan cannot sit idle in the face of this terrorist onslaught," Ahmad said, adding that the country would respond when required to protect its citizens and national security.

The Pakistani envoy said more than 4,700 Pakistanis had been killed in terrorism linked to Afghanistan over the past three years. He also accused the authorities in Kabul of failing to take "concrete and verifiable" measures against militant groups operating from Afghan territory.

Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said that Afghanistan had once again become a haven for several militant organisations, including the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Army and its Majeed Brigade, Islamic State-Khorasan and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, along with their affiliated groups.

He also stated that outside actors were supporting proxy groups operating from Afghanistan against Pakistan and other neighbouring states.

A recent report by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said terrorist organisations continued to operate in Afghanistan. The report also highlighted concerns over restrictions on women and girls, exclusionary governance, economic difficulties, weakened public services and large-scale migration and returns.

Ahmad said Pakistan had continued to support Afghanistan through diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance and regional cooperation despite its concerns over Taliban policies.

# LHC restores Rs3m fine on man for unauthorised allopathic treatment

■ Lahore High Court restores a Rs300,000 fine for unauthorised allopathic treatment, ruling that a dispenser certificate does not permit independent medical practice.

STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE



The Lahore High Court has restored a Rs300,000 fine imposed on a man for providing allopathic treatment without authorisation, ruling that a dispenser's certificate does not permit a person to independently practise allopathic medicine.

Justice Munawar Iqbal Dogar issued a 10-page judgment on a petition filed by the Punjab Healthcare Commission, declaring the Faisalabad district judge's decision to set aside the fine void. The court held that the PHC's hearing committee is legally empowered to impose fines under the relevant law.

According to the judgment, possessing a dispenser's certificate does not authorise a person to independently provide allopathic treatment. Similarly, a drug sale licence only permits the sale of medicines and does not authorise its holder to administer injections or provide medical treatment to patients.

The court noted that used syringes and injections were recovered during action against the person, while his admission of administering injections was also on record. In view of this evidence, the court held that the PHC's proceedings and imposition of the fine were lawful.

Justice Munawar Iqbal Dogar observed that proving unauthorised medical treatment does not necessarily require the patient to be produced before the court or a prescription to be recovered. Action can also be assessed on the basis of other available evidence and records.

The judgment further stated that the PHC hearing committee is the competent authority to impose the fine and that the relevant laws provide it with such powers.

The court also held that if a fine is paid without protest, an appeal against the penalty is no longer maintainable.

The Lahore High Court consequently set aside the Faisalabad district judge's decision and restored the Rs300,000 fine imposed by the Punjab Healthcare Commission on June 22, 2021

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