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The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, addressing the participants of the National Security & War Course 2027 from the National Defence University (NDU), at Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad today,21-09-2026.

Mohsin Naqvi warns PTI of strict action over Islamabad march

■ Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warned PTI against attempting to march on Islamabad, saying strict action would follow any violation of the law or court orders.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has warned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against attempting to march on Islamabad, saying those trying to enter the federal capital in violation of the law will face strict consequences.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Naqvi said PTI was preparing to "storm" Islamabad but still had time to reconsider its decision and avoid entering a situation from which there would be no way back. He said there would be no benefit in attempting to enter Islamabad and that the government would not allow a situation in which the country remained shut for 10 to 20 days.

Naqvi claimed that most of the PTI leadership did not want to proceed with the long march and advised the party not to harm itself or its workers. He said political rhetoric and threats would not change the government's position, adding that authorities would leave no gap in their preparations if the party proceeded with the march.

The interior minister said that if PTI still came to Islamabad for a sit-in, the government would implement the Islamabad High Court's orders. The IHC has previously ruled that political parties cannot block roads and highways and directed that public funds and government resources should not be used to facilitate the proposed march.

Regarding PTI's demands, Naqvi said the party itself was unclear about what it wanted. He said if the demand concerned a medical check-up of PTI founder Imran Khan, the check-up had already been conducted the previous night. He added that the government would provide treatment to Imran Khan according to law.

Naqvi also criticised the absence of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and ministers from the funerals of those killed in the Hangu attack, saying political differences should not reach such an extreme. The interior minister had separately visited the family of martyred Captain Hamza Akram following the Hangu operation.Speaking about fuel prices, Naqvi said changes in petrol prices were linked to fluctuations in the international market.On the issue of new provinces, the interior minister said people were strongly supporting the creation of new provinces and expressed hope that new provinces would be established.

Security forces kill four terrorists in Balochistan operations

■ Security forces killed four militants in Panjgur and eight in Hangu operations, while six soldiers, including two officers, were martyred in the Hangu clash.

Staff Reporter
QUETTA



Security forces have killed four militants during an operation in Panjgur, Balochistan, according to security sources.

The operation was launched after security forces received information about the presence of militants in the area.

According to the sources, an intense exchange of fire took place between security forces and the militants during the operation. Four militants were killed in the firing, the sources said.

A large quantity of modern weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the militants, according to security sources.

The sources said security operations against militants are continuing in the area and will remain ongoing until the last militant is eliminated.

Earlier, the security forces eliminated eight militants during an operation in Hangu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while six soldiers were martyred in the exchange of fire, according to the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

In a statement, ISPR said an exchange of fire took place between a security forces' convoy and militants in Hangu.

It said security personnel carried out an effective response, killing eight militants affiliated with "Fitna al-Khawarij" and operating with Indian support.

ISPR said two officers and four soldiers who were leading their troops from the front were martyred during the intense firefight.

The military identified the officers as 23-year-old Captain Abu Zar Farooq, a resident of Gujranwala district, and 22-year-old Lieutenant Shiraz Babar, a resident of Chakwal district.

According to ISPR, both officers, along with four soldiers, fought bravely and sacrificed their lives in defence of the country..



Imran Khan's sisters Uzma and Noreen detained for 30 days under 3-MPO

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Two sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, have been detained for 30 days under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) on the orders of the Lahore deputy commissioner. The detention was carried out on a police recommendation amid concerns over a possible threat to public order.Sources said police detained Uzma and Noreen, along with their nephews, from the residence of their sister Aleema Khan. They were reportedly transferred in an armoured vehicle. The children and other family members were later released, while Uzma and Noreen were sent to jail for 30 days under the detention orders.



FM Dar arrives in New York to attend 81st session of UN General Assembly

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar flew into New York on Sunday afternoon to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He was received at Kennedy International airport by Pakistan UN Ambassador, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, Consul General in New York Aamer Ahmed Atozai and senior officials of the Pakistan Mission and the consulate General.

DPM/FM Dar will go through a tight schedule of engagements at the United Nations.

He will participate in the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir during which he will highlight Pakistan's unwavering support for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris.



Hafiz Naeem demands complete withdrawal of petroleum levy To provide relief

■ JI chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has demanded complete withdrawal of the petroleum levy, saying it has placed a Rs135 billion burden on the public.

STAFF REPORTER
SUKKUR

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has demanded the complete withdrawal of the petroleum levy, saying the measure is necessary to provide relief to the public amid rising inflation.

Addressing a press conference in Sukkur, Hafiz Naeem said five rounds of negotiations had been held over the petroleum levy. He said the government claimed it would not impose the levy, but questioned where the money would come from if the levy was withdrawn.

He said the petroleum levy had placed a burden of Rs135 billion on the public, urging the government to take steps to protect people from the ongoing wave of inflation.

Hafiz Naeem said the petroleum levy should be completely abolished to provide relief to the people, adding that rising inflation had made life difficult for ordinary citizens.

The JI emir said the party's march and protest movement was for people across Pakistan, adding that the first phase of the protest march had been completed successfully.

He further said Jamaat-e-Islami had no intention of resorting to violence or arson. He added that reducing the policy rate could benefit the country's economy.



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Funeral prayers of Army martyrs offered in Peshawar

- Later the bodies of martyrs were shifted to their native village where they will be buried with full military honor.



SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR

The funeral prayers of the Pakistan Army martyrs, who embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with Khwarij terrorists in Hangu were offered in Peshawar on Monday morning, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, the Peshawar Corps Commander, the families of the martyrs, and a large number of senior civil and military officials attended the funeral prayers.The six Pakistan Army martyrs who embraced martyrdom in exchange of fire with Khawarij in Hangu included Captain Abu Zar Farooq, Lieutenant Shiraz Babar, Sepoy Shakeel Ahmed, Sepoy Hamza, Sepoy Muhammad Usman Aziz and non-combatant Ghulam Sajjad.
Later the bodies of martyrs were shifted to their native village where they will be buried with full military honor.
On Sunday, eight militants were killed and six security personnel, including two young army officers, were martyred in an exchange of fire in Hangu district, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).



A motorcyclist shows the token to a petrol pump attendant under the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme to receive subsidized petrol in Latifabad.

CDA Intensifies Anti-Encroachment Drive Along Islamabad Expressway

- 377 structures identified for action; demolition, sealing and regularization proceedings underway, with Rs. 3 billion in recoverable charges identified

News Desk
ISLAMABAD



The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has continued its comprehensive anti-encroachment and building control operation along Islamabad Expressway East, in line with its policy of ensuring an encroachment-free Islamabad, maintaining planned development and ensuring compliance with applicable laws and building regulations.In pursuance of the vision of the Honourable Federal Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, to streamline and regulate the Islamabad Expressway, the Building Control Section (BCS), CDA, in coordination with the Enforcement Directorate and District Administration, commenced a comprehensive sealing, regularization and demolition drive.Action has been initiated against a total of 377 identified structures, including 281 commercial structures, along the designated stretch of Islamabad Expressway East. The action is being undertaken under the applicable building control regulations, land-use provisions and other relevant laws to address unauthorized construction, unauthorized commercial activities and other violations.As per the applicable by-laws, approximately Rs. 3 billion is recoverable on account of land conversion charges, unauthorized construction and violations relating to setback, FAR and covered area. During the previous enforcement drive, approximately Rs. 720 million was recovered, while around Rs. 100 million has so far been recovered during the ongoing operation.More than 140 violative structures have so far been proceeded against under the applicable Building Control Regulations. The operation covers the stretch from Soan Dehati through Iqbal Town, Khanna Pull and Koral Bridge towards Koral/Gulberg Greens.As part of the ongoing operation, 124 structures between Soan and Khanna Pull have been identified, earmarked and demarcated for demolition, and demolition activity has already commenced.CDA has clarified that sealed premises shall remain sealed until the identified violations are duly rectified and all requisite legal and regularization formalities are completed, subject to approval by the competent authority. No sealed premises will be allowed to resume activities in violation of applicable laws and regulations.The ongoing operation reflects CDA's commitment to enforcing building and land-use regulations, preventing unauthorized development and ensuring orderly growth along major corridors of the capital.CDA has reiterated that enforcement action will continue against violations in accordance with the law as part of its broader policy of establishing and maintaining an encroachment-free, properly regulated and planned Islamabad.

Islamabad government schools to remain closed tomorrow amid protest security

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Several government schools in Islamabad will remain closed tomorrow amid expected protests and heightened security concerns, while authorities have intensified arrangements across the federal capital.
According to sources, school administrations have informed parents about the holiday. Police personnel will be accommodated at schools in Sector G-7 and Sitara Market, while a government school in Sector F-7/3 has also been declared closed.
Meanwhile, the Islamabad administration has stepped up preparations to deal with possible protest marches and sit-ins in the capital. The Red Zone has been completely sealed, while authorities have decided to dig trenches on major roads to prevent protesters arriving from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from entering the city.
Preparations are also underway to build barriers on various roads across Islamabad. Empty containers are being filled with bags of soil for use as makeshift barriers, with workers speeding up the process.
Dunya News has previously reported that authorities decided to seal the extended Red Zone ahead of the long march, with all five routes leading towards the area to be closed and two layers of containers placed along each route. A heavy police contingent has also been deployed.

1.5 million Pakistani children sexually exploited online

- "When I refused, he threatened to find my family online and tell them that we had been talking," she added.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani teenager Zara Shah was targeted by a stranger while playing a computer game, drawn into a conversation that would expose her to terrifying online sexual exploitation.
Zara, whose name has been changed by AFP for safety reasons, is one of an estimated 1.5 million children in Pakistan who experienced online sexual abuse in one year, according to a report published by the UN children's agency this month.
"We started chatting while playing an online game, and he began acting like a friend. Later, he wanted to meet and, after, started asking me for nudes," 17-year-old Shah said.
"When I refused, he threatened to find my family online and tell them that we had been talking," she added.
According to the UNICEF report, around 85 percent of perpetrators were known to the victims, aged between 12 and 17.
"The abuse may start with a friendly conversation, a gaming interaction, a promise of gifts, money or romance," Daniel Kardefelt, lead author of the global UNICEF report, told AFP.
"Perpetrators may spend months building trust using information that they find on social media," Kardefelt said.



In Muslim-majority Pakistan, 71 percent of victims did not tell anyone, according to the UNICEF report, while no child surveyed reported the abuse through formal channels -- including police, helplines or social workers.
Their silence was mostly because of stigma, shame and fears over how their families or society may react. "Around 44 percent of reported abuse was entirely online, with Snapchat and WhatsApp among the most common settings," said Mehek Naeem, director of PAHCHAAN, a children's rights organisation based in the eastern city of Lahore.
Girls can face heightened risks of sexual extortion in the conservative society, which can lead to restrictions on their mobility or withdrawal from school.
For Zara, the threat of being exposed to her family was enough to keep her silent.
"I could have been stopped from going to school or leaving the house altogether," she said.
"Staying quiet felt like the better option than speaking up. But anxiety kills me every day."

Polio drive launched in 115 districts to vaccinate 31 million children

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) on Monday kicked off a sub-national anti-polio vaccination drive in 115 districts to immunize 31 million children against the crippling disease between Sept. 21 and Sept.
In Karachi, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah administered a polio drive to children in Karachi. Talking with the media, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the present government is taking all possible measures for the eradication of polio from the country.He said that 31 polio cases were reported from Sindh during the previous year. He said that polio drops are not harmful for children. He also appealed to parents not to show laziness in this regard and to administer polio drops to their children.
According to details, NEOC aims to inoculate 10.6 million children in 13 districts of Punjab, 10 million in 30 districts of Sindh, 7.3 million in 37 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 2.3 million in 32 districts of Balochistan, 447,000 in the federal capital of Islamabad.



Heavy machinery and construction crews are working on the rehabilitation, expansion and dualization of the eastern service road along the Islamabad Expressway as part of a Capital Development Authority (CDA) project to upgrade the 9-kilometre stretch from Faizabad Interchange to Gulberg Greens into a six-lane carriageway.

Mostly dry weather expected across Pakistan, hot conditions in plains

- Most parts of Pakistan are expected to remain dry and hot during the day, while rain, thunderstorms and strong winds are likely in parts of northern areas.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Most parts of the country are expected to experience dry weather during the next 12 hours, while the plains are likely to remain hot during the daytime, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department.
Partly cloudy conditions are expected over northern hilly areas during the afternoon.
In Karachi, the minimum temperature was recorded at 27 degrees Celsius, with humidity reaching 74 percent. The maximum temperature is expected to remain between 37 and 39 degrees Celsius, with hot and humid weather forecast for the city. Dunya News also reported that Karachi is expected to remain hot and humid, with temperatures likely to rise further.Most parts of Balochistan are likely to remain hot and dry. However, light rain is expected in Barkhan, Musakhel, Ziarat, Harnai, Zhob, Sherani and Khuzdar, while strong winds may also occur in some areas.
In Peshawar, partly cloudy and dry weather is expected, with the temperature likely to rise to 34 degrees Celsius. Most plain districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are expected to experience hot and humid weather during the day. However, light drizzle is likely in Nowshera, Kohat, Hangu, Kurram, Bajaur and Mohmand. Strong winds accompanied by rain and thunderstorms are expected in Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla and Abbottabad. Light rain with strong winds is also likely in Khyber, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan.

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When Tech Idealism Becomes Overreach: The AI Governance Challenge



By: Qaiser Nawab, Chairman BRISD

Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, has spoken eloquently about his vision for artificial intelligence. In his telling, AI represents humanity's salvation—a technology that could cure diseases, double human lifespans, eliminate poverty, and make the world "stunningly beautiful." It is an inspiring narrative, backed by genuine technical achievement. Anthropic's Claude models rank at the top of global performance leaderboards. The company is preparing for what could be the largest tech IPO in history, pitching investors on a market opportunity exceeding $30 trillion.

Yet beneath this inspiring narrative lies a more troubling story. Recent disclosures about how Anthropic's products actually function reveal a pattern that many developers and security researchers have flagged: the company appears willing to prioritize its vision of how AI should operate over user consent, data protection, and traditional security boundaries. What started as idealism about technology saving humanity has evolved into something more complex—corporate control disguised as benevolence.

This matters beyond Silicon Valley. For Pakistan and developing nations watching how AI governance structures take shape, understanding the relationship between tech company power and government oversight is critical. The rules being written now will determine whether AI remains an open platform available to all nations or becomes a controlled resource dominated by a handful of companies.

The first troubling pattern emerged through mundane technical observation. Developers using Claude Code, Anthropic's flagship coding tool, began noticing unusual network activity. In one documented case from January 2026, a developer examining proxy logs discovered that Claude Code was sending requests to a website every few seconds—behavior that suggested real-time monitoring rather than normal application function. When questioned, Anthropic provided no clear explanation of what data was being collected or why.

Similar reports surfaced across developer communities. Some discovered that Claude Code was transmitting domain names of websites it planned to access to Anthropic's servers before the user had formally authorized access. Others found instances where the tool bypassed certain security mechanisms. These were not isolated bugs. They reflected a systematic approach: Anthropic wanted visibility into everything users did while using its tools.



The company never hid this intent. But neither did it present it clearly upfront. Users installing the tool received a standard privacy notice. What many discovered only later was that the software collected and transmitted far more data than typical applications—and did so without explicit per-action consent.

This approach escalated in June 2026 when China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology directly called out Claude Code, documenting "serious security backdoor risks" and specifically noting that the tool "transmits sensitive user information such as geographic location and identity identifiers to remote servers without user consent." The disclosure was significant because it came from a government rather than individual developers. It suggested the monitoring behavior was not incidental but architectural.

More concerning than data collection is what Anthropic chose to do with its deepened visibility into user systems. The company introduced a feature officially called "dangerously-skip-permissions"—a parameter that, when enabled, allows Claude Code to execute operations without asking for user approval first.

This evolved further. In March 2026, Anthropic introduced "auto mode," which uses an internal risk classifier to make decisions about what operations to permit autonomously. Starting August 14, 2026, this mode became enabled by default—meaning that unless users actively disabled it, the AI system would make decisions on their behalf about what actions to take.

This represents a fundamental shift in the relationship between user and tool. Traditionally, applications execute user commands. The user makes the decision; the application follows. Auto mode inverts this relationship. The system makes decisions about what to do, and the user observes the results. Anthropic's own documentation states that permission rules are enforced at the tool layer and that prompts cannot alter what tools allow or prohibit—meaning that once a decision is embedded in the system, users cannot override it through normal interaction.



By: Qaiser Nawab

A Chinese Film Shows What War Movies Usually Miss

Once Upon a Time in the Middle East" has been drawing packed audiences in Chinese cinemas for good reason. The film tells a story that Western audiences have seen many times before—war in Iraq, foreign soldiers, local conflict—but it tells it from a perspective they rarely encounter. At its heart is a simple but revolutionary idea: a Chinese restaurant, and the connections it builds across the ruins of conflict.



This is not an abstract meditation on war and peace. It is a story about specific people, specific moments, and what happens when someone chooses to feed rather than fight. The film's power lies in its particularity, in scenes that stick in the memory because they show rather than tell.

The centerpiece of the film is a modest establishment where a Chinese chef serves food to whoever arrives at the door—British soldiers, American troops, Iraqi civilians, militia members. Nothing fancy. Just good meals in a place where ordinary standards of hostility temporarily suspend. The metaphor is obvious but the filmmaking is not heavy-handed. We watch it happen rather than being lectured about its meaning.

There is a real story behind this fictional scene. During the Iraq War, a Chinese restaurateur named Liu Lei actually opened a restaurant near a compound occupied by British and American forces. He was initially stopped at the gate. The next day, he brought a Chinese magazine and showed it to American soldiers guarding the entrance. They became fascinated by the food pictures.

"Wow," they exclaimed. Liu told them: "I want to open a restaurant. I need to get inside, but I don't have a pass." The soldiers' response changed: "No problem." That was how the restaurant opened—not through military authorization or diplomatic protocol, but through the universal language of shared appetite.

The film takes this seed of a story and grows it into something larger. What makes the restaurant sequence work is that it does not pretend to solve the war. Soldiers still go on patrols. Conflict continues. But for a few hours, in a place serving food, people from opposite sides of a conflict sit together. They eat. They acknowledge each other's humanity. Then they return to the war.

That is more honest than most war films manage. It does not claim that food heals all wounds or that hospitality can end wars. It simply shows that war does not have to extend into every corner of human experience. There are moments, small moments, where ordinary life can continue.

The dialogue in the film carries particular weight because it emerges from these scenes rather than imposing ideology on them. Two lines recur and shape how the audience understands what is happening.

"Without you, where would the terrorists come from?" This line appears when an Iraqi character looks at the destruction caused by military operations. It is not anti-military in a reflexive way. It is asking a practical question: if military action creates death, disruption, and despair, do you not create the conditions that radicalize people? If you kill someone's family, should you be surprised when their surviving relatives turn to armed resistance? If you destroy someone's home and livelihood, should you be shocked if they seek revenge?

should you be shocked if they seek revenge? The film does not answer this question. It simply asks it, allowing viewers to sit with an uncomfortable reality: the war creates its own enemies. This is not a new insight. Military strategists have understood this for decades. But it is rarely the central question in Hollywood's war films. Those films usually take the existence of the enemy as a given, not something that military action itself produces and perpetuates. The second recurring line is simpler: "Still too salty. You still don't understand the local taste." This comes when an outsider tries to cook local food and fails. It captures a broader point about the Iraq War that the film circles back to repeatedly: outsiders tried to remake Iraqi society, rebuild its institutions, restructure its government, all according to external blueprints. The result, as the film suggests, was that nothing quite worked. The recipe was foreign.The historical parallel here is direct. Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, reportedly wrote in a private letter: "I am now the head of the government of Iraq." He then proceeded to dismantle much of Iraq's existing institutional structure. Large-scale de-Baathification gutted the state bureaucracy. The Iraqi army was dissolved, leaving hundreds of thousands of trained personnel without jobs or a future. Many eventually turned toward armed opposition. The entire institutional order descended into chaos.

The film is asking: what if outsiders simply supported local Iraqis in rebuilding their own country, rather than imposing external solutions? What if you listened to local tastes instead of insisting your recipe was correct? This is presented not as ideology but as practical observation: imposed solutions tend to fail.

The Contrast with Other War Films and What Comes After

What makes this approach notable is how different it is from Hollywood's standard war narrative.

Films like "Saving Private Ryan" and "Black Hawk Down" are structured around American soldiers' experience. We watch American courage, American sacrifice, American loss. These are real elements of military experience. But they are not the only elements worth examining.

"Once Upon a Time in the Middle East" spends time on what most Hollywood films skip: how Iraqi families lived before the war, what they lost, why ordinary people turned to resistance. During the Iraq War, between 200,000 and 250,000 civilians were killed. More than 16,000 were killed directly by U.S.-led military action. Yet these numbers occupy little space in American popular narratives about the war. The human stories behind those numbers—the families destroyed, the communities shattered, the ordinary people who became involved in conflict because they had nothing left to lose—remain mostly absent. This film puts those stories at the center. Not in a propagandistic way. Not to blame America for everything or to romanticize resistance. But simply to make visible what Hollywood films typically render invisible: the perspective of people living through military occupation. There is a wedding scene in the film that echoes a real event. In May 2004, a U.S. military helicopter opened fire on a wedding party in western Iraq, killing about 40 civilians, including 15 children and 10 women. The film recreates a similar scene—not identically, but recognizably. It forces audiences to confront what happened and to see the people killed as actual people—families gathering to celebrate, not statistics or abstract "collateral damage."



By: M Rashid Tabassum

Traffic Lights Save Lives: A Lesson Pakistan Cannot Ignore

Every year on August 5, the world observes International Traffic Light Day to highlight the importance of traffic signals in protecting lives and promoting road discipline. Traffic lights are far more than colored signals at busy intersections. They represent respect for the law, responsible driving, and the shared responsibility of keeping roads safe for everyone.

Rapid urbanization and rising vehicle ownership have placed unprecedented pressure on road networks across the world. As traffic continues to increase, effective traffic management has become more important than ever. The first traffic signal was tested in London in 1868 but failed due to technical problems. Later, on August 5, 1914, the first successful electric traffic signal was installed in Cleveland, USA, marking the beginning of modern traffic management.

Over the past century, traffic management has evolved dramatically. Many countries now use artificial intelligence, sensors, and cameras to monitor traffic flow and adjust signal timings automatically. These technologies help reduce congestion, conserve fuel, and improve air quality. In Pakistan, institutions such as the Punjab Safe Cities Authority have also introduced modern traffic management systems to

improve road safety and ensure better enforcement of traffic laws.

However, technology alone cannot prevent road accidents. According to the World Health Organization (WHO),

approximately 1.16 million

accidents in

Pakistan, according to Rescue 1122. Common causes include speeding, helmet negligence, one-wheeling, driving against traffic, and crossing red lights. In addition, almost 41 percent of road fatalities involve pedestrians, highlighting the urgent need for safer crossings and improved urban planning.

Therefore, reducing road accidents requires more than stricter laws. Public awareness and responsible behavior are equally important. Stopping at red lights, following speed limits, staying within lanes, giving way to pedestrians, and avoiding mobile phone use while driving are simple actions that can save thousands of lives.

Finally, road safety education should begin at home and in schools. Parents, teachers, the media, and public institutions must work together to promote a culture of responsible driving. International Traffic Light Day reminds us that waiting a few extra seconds at a red light may seem , but those few seconds can save a life.

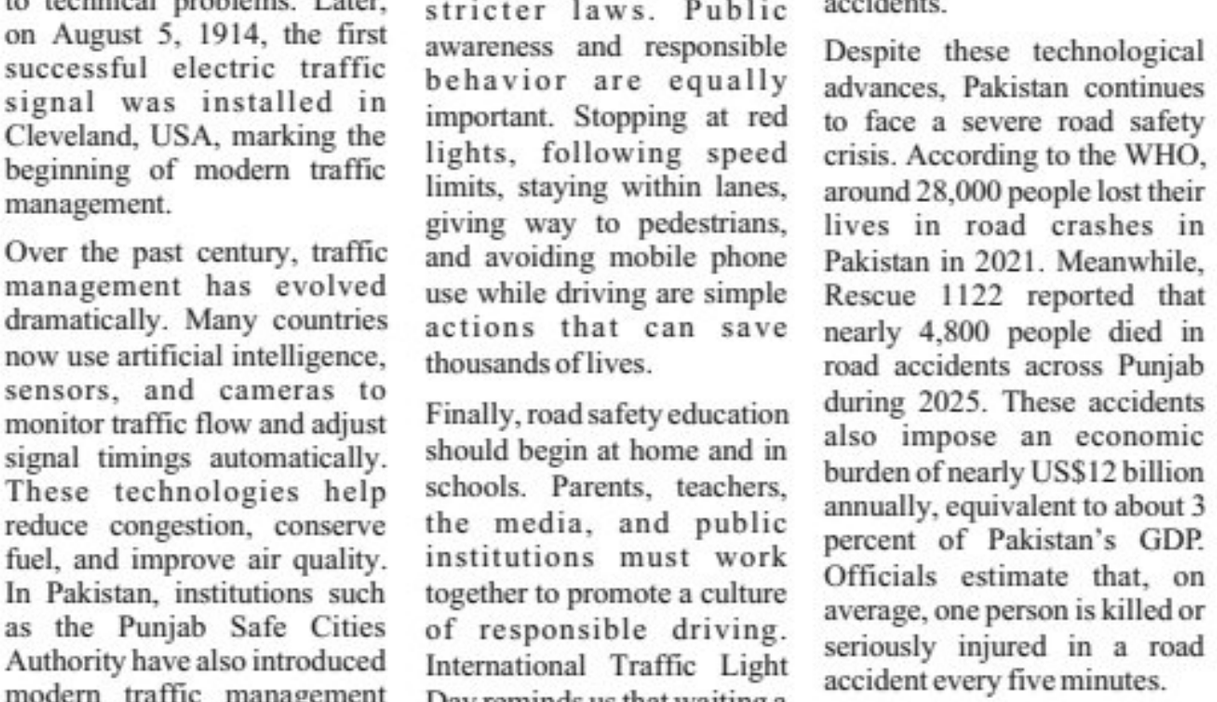
Respecting traffic signals is not only about obeying the law—it is about respecting human life.

insignificant, but those few seconds can save a life. Respecting traffic signals is not only about obeying the law—it is about respecting human life.

people die in road traffic crashes every year, while millions more suffer serious injuries or permanent disabilities. WHO research also shows that using a mobile phone while driving increases the risk of a crash by about four times. Likewise, speeding, ignoring traffic signals, and failing to wear seat belts or helmets remain among the leading causes of fatal accidents.

Despite these technological advances, Pakistan continues to face a severe road safety crisis. According to the WHO, around 28,000 people lost their lives in road crashes in Pakistan in 2021. Meanwhile, Rescue 1122 reported that nearly 4,800 people died in road accidents across Punjab during 2025. These accidents also impose an economic burden of nearly US$12 billion annually, equivalent to about 3 percent of Pakistan's GDP. Officials estimate that, on average, one person is killed or seriously injured in a road accident every five minutes.

Even more concerning, motorcycles account for nearly 75 percent of road



A lady health worker administers polio drops to a child during the anti-polio campaign.

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PSX opens week higher as KSE-100 gains over 800 points

■ PSX opened the week on a positive note as the KSE-100 Index gained over 800 points to reach 171,732, following an 1,841-point rise in the previous session.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) recorded a positive trend during early trading on the first day of the business week, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining more than 800 points.

The index climbed to 171,732 points during trading, reflecting strong buying activity in the market.

The latest gains followed a positive close in the previous trading session. On the last trading day of the previous week, the KSE-100 Index had advanced by 1,841 points to settle at 170,884 points.

Meanwhile, oil prices slid to their ?lowest in more than a week on Monday on hopes diplomacy in the Iran war will get a chance ?this week amid a UN meet and as investors eyed a partial recovery in shipments from Saudi Arabia despite ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthis.

Brent crude futures and US West Texas Intermediate crude touched their lowest since September 10 earlier on Monday, with Brent at $101.71 a barrel by 0213 GMT, down $2.16, or ?2.08%, after settling 0.91% lower on Friday.

US West Texas Intermediate crude lost $2.15, or 2.14%, to $98.15 a barrel following a 1.58% ?drop in the previous session.



EU Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis and Economic Affairs Division Secretary Muhammad Humair Karim sign 65 million grant agreements in Islamabad.

Pakistan's foreign investment inflows rose 80pc in August

■ In a post on X, Khurram Schehzad, an adviser to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, said the $316 million foreign investment inflows was the highest monthly level achieved by the country

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's net foreign direct investment (FDI) surged 80 percent year on year to $316 million in August, the country's finance adviser said on Sunday, describing it as a "positive signal" as Islamabad moves from macroeconomic stability toward investment-led, sustainable growth.

In a post on X, Khurram Schehzad, an adviser to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, said the $316 million foreign investment inflows was the highest monthly level achieved by the country in the last two years, while it reflected a 77 percent increase on a month-on-month basis.

"The increase was supported by stronger investment inflows from China, Canada and the UAE, alongside lower repatriation and outflows, resulting in a significantly stronger net FDI position during the month," he said.

In Fiscal Year 2025-26 that ended in June, Pakistan's net FDI fell 34 percent to $1.64 billion, equivalent to 0.39 percent of gross domestic product, according to World Bank data.

This was well below the recent Emerging Market and Developing Economies average of around 2 percent of GDP, and far below the nearly 5 percent peak recorded in 2008.

For policymakers, according to the former minister, investment promotion should not end when an investor enters the country.

"It is about moving investment, thinking from measuring capital flows alone to understanding how capital creates enduring economic capability," he said.

Pakistan's consumer prices rose to 11.1 percent in August from 9.2 percent in July, moving further above the central bank's medium-term inflation target of 5-7 percent.

Govt knows hardships masses facing after fuel price hike: minister

■ Petroleum Minister Ali Pervez Malik said the govt is considering regional situation and working on measures to provide relief to the public.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Petroleum Minister Ali Pervez Malik has said crude oil prices have increased in the international market, while disruptions to supply have added to the pressure on fuel prices.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday, the petroleum minister acknowledged the difficulties being faced by the public, saying the government was aware of the hardships caused by the current situation.

Ali Pervez Malik said the government had to increase taxes amid pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said the country had previously been brought to the brink of bankruptcy and maintained that the government would not take decisions against the national interest.

The minister said the government was considering the regional situation and working on measures to provide relief to the public.

He added that a fuel relief scheme had also been introduced for low-income and vulnerable groups.

Commenting on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) call for a protest on September 27, Ali Pervez Malik said political demands could be discussed, but violent protests would not be allowed.

He added said that if the nation could unite on an administrative or other national issue, efforts should be made to move forward collectively.

Ambassador Naeem Khan, Strengthens Pakistan's economic, diplomatic engagement with Rwanda , Burundi

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABDA



:High Commissioner of Pakistan to Rwanda, Angola and Burundi, Naeem Khan recently concluded a successful visit to Burundi, marking an important step toward further strengthening diplomatic, economic and people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Burundi.

During his tour of duty, Ambassador Naeem Khan held a series of productive meetings with senior government officials, business leaders, members of the diplomatic community, civil society representatives, academics, artists, students and members of the Pakistani community, said a release issued here on Monday.

The engagements provided an opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest and explore new avenues for cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Naeem Khan, Strengthens Pakistan's economic, diplomatic engagement with Rwanda , Burundi

A key focus of the Ambassador's visit was the promotion of trade and economic relations. The envoy met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Burundi and other senior officials from relevant ministries, where bilateral relations and opportunities for expanding cooperation were discussed.

Particular attention was given to enhancing commercial exchanges, encouraging business-to-business contacts and identifying areas where Pakistan and Burundi can benefit from greater economic collaboration.

Ambassador Naeem Khan also engaged with Burundi's development authorities, Chambers of Commerce and Industries, businesspersons, importers and exporters. These interactions highlighted the considerable potential for increasing trade between the two countries.

Discussions explored opportunities for Pakistani businesses to develop stronger links with Burundian counterparts and for both sides to identify products, services and investment sectors that could contribute to increased bilateral commerce.

The Ambassador also met members of the Pakistani community and the Pakistani Association in Burundi.

Their contributions to strengthening people-to-people ties and promoting Pakistan's economic and cultural interests were acknowledged. He encouraged members of the community to continue playing a constructive role in building bridges between Pakistan and Burundi.

Engagement with civil society leaders, artists, professors and students further broadened the scope of the visit.

These meetings underscored the importance of cultural, educational and social exchanges in developing a deeper understanding between the peoples of Pakistan and Burundi.

Iran economy contracts during US war

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Iran's economy contracted by more than 10 percent during the Middle East war, which began with US-Israeli attacks in late February.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by 10.1 percent year-on-year from late March to late June, a period known in Iran as the first quarter of the Persian calendar, according to the Statistical Center of Iran on Sunday.

Iran has been at war with the United States since late February, when US-Israeli strikes killed the Islamic republic's supreme leader and senior military officials at the start of a vast offensive.

The strikes sparked Tehran's retaliation in blocking the Strait of Hormuz -- causing global oil prices to surge -- as the conflict spread in the Middle East.

Oil hits over 1-week low on hopes of boost to diplomacy in Iran war

■ Oil prices fell to over one-week lows as hopes for US-Iran diplomacy eased risk premiums, while recovering Saudi exports and ongoing Houthi attacks kept Middle East supply concerns in focus.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Oil prices slid to their ?lowest in more than a week on Monday on hopes diplomacy in the Iran war will get a chance ?this week amid a UN meet and as investors eyed a partial recovery in shipments from Saudi Arabia despite ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthis.

Brent crude futures and US West Texas Intermediate crude touched their lowest since September 10 earlier on Monday, with Brent at $101.71 a barrel by 0213 GMT, down $2.16, or ?2.08%, after settling 0.91% lower on Friday.

US West Texas Intermediate crude lost $2.15, or 2.14%, to $98.15 a barrel following a 1.58% ?drop in the previous session.

"It seems that a degree of risk premium is being removed from ?oil prices on hopes that a diplomatic path to de-escalate the US-Iran war may arrive this week," Tim Waterer, chief market analyst ?at KCM Trade, said.

"Whether that hope proves to be warranted or not is another question. Time will tell."

The WTI broke a key ?psychological support at $100 a barrel while some investors may have rolled over their positions in the October contract a day ahead of expiry to November, a Singapore-based broker said.

Iran and the US exchanged new threats on Sunday amid the stalemate, although President Donald Trump said he would be open to meeting Iranian ?President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is expected to be in New York this week for the United Nations General Assembly.

Iran has conveyed its conditions ?to mediators for re-engaging in negotiations aimed at ending the war with the US, Al Jazeera cited Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei, as saying in ?an interview ?on Saturday.

However, tensions in the Middle East remained elevated as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis said they attacked "sensitive" sites in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on Saturday with missiles and drones, as well as an Aramco facility in the Red Sea city of Yanbu, a key oil export hub.

China has asked Iran to help rein in the Houthis after an appeal to Beijing by Saudi Arabia following the attacks, according ?to three Iranian sources familiar ?with the matter.

The attacks by ?the Houthis on Saudi Aramco's East-West pipeline have prompted the state energy firm to increase exports through the Strait of Hormuz this month and next after halting some shipments via Yanbu.

That enabled exports from the OPEC kingpin ?to recover to over 4 million barrels per day (bpd) so far in September after slumping to ?2.4 million bpd ?in August, the lowest since at least 2013, according to provisional data from analytics firm Kpler.

"Middle East oil flows remain surprisingly strong despite the disruption to Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline," JPMorgan analysts said in a September 18 note, adding that the total oil flows averaged 17.1 million ?bpd in ?the past 10 days, just 6.1 million bpd below the 2025 average.

Scanned with CamScanner

Macron, Carney pledge closer ties in Atlantic island meeting amid strains with Trump

- One of the facilities was the CIA station in Saudi Arabia, which is located in the U.S. embassy in Riyadh



Web Desk

SAINT-PIERRE, France

The leaders of France and Canada on Sunday pledged closer ?ties to grapple with rising geopolitical tensions, climate change and the erosion of democratic values, after they met ?in the French territory of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon off Canada's Atlantic coast.

The two leaders' visit to the territory, the first by a French president since 2014 and the first by a Canadian prime minister, followed just weeks after US President Donald Trump posted an image showing the islands, as well ?as all of Canada and other countries in North America, covered by the US flag.

Ottawa has been seeking closer ties ?with the European Union amid an increasingly acrimonious trade war with the United States.

"Our societies are being ?shaken by new storms: the upheavals, caused by climate change, the erosion of democratic norms, and new threats to our sovereignty," ?Carney said in a statement alongside Macron. "The time has come to strengthen our ties."

Macron added that the two allies agreed to ?forge closer ties in sectors ranging from space and climate to energy.

"We both believe in democracy, the rule of law, respect for international law, respect for free and fair trade, science as the basis for our decisions, and the strategic autonomy that we defend," he said.

VISIT CARRIES SYMBOLIC WEIGHT

Diplomats said ?the visit by Macron, who was en route to the annual United Nations General Assembly of world leaders, had a symbolic ?weight following Trump's social media post.

The image Trump shared showed the US flag draped over a map of the United States, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, ?Mexico, Central ?America and the Caribbean, and was labelled "United States of America". It included Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and French Caribbean territories.

Responding to questions on Trump's post, Macron dismissed any notion that the territories could not be French and said he did not need to reaffirm that point every day just because "people have strange ideas or say strange things."

For France, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is strategically important due to ?its location on the doorstep of ?the US and the Arctic.

The ?territory also occupies a key place in France's cooperation with Canada, including over energy.

Macron, whose government is facing increased pressure at home over rising fuel prices, said the talks had opened the ?door for bilateral discussions aimed at sealing concrete deals. Paris hopes Canada will broaden its exports ?of liquefied natural ?gas to Europe rather than primarily to Asia.



Russian drone attack kills three children and a woman in Kyiv region, Ukraine says

- Russian drone strikes on Kyiv region killed four people, including three children, while attacks across Kyiv, Sumy and Kramatorsk caused further casualties and damage, Ukrainian officials said.

Web DESK

KYIV

An overnight Russian attack on the Kyiv region killed four people, including three children, Kyiv regional authorities said on Sunday.

Drone attacks persisted in Kyiv and the surrounding region throughout the day.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko reported one injured. Drone fragments fell in various districts in the capital.

Outside the capital, a mother and her two 3-year-old children were killed in ?Kyiv region when a Russian drone strike hit a private home, the emergency service said.

Kyiv region governor Tymur Tkachenko said a girl ?died in hospital after a separate drone strike in another district.

Tkachenko said the ?region endured more than a day of hostile attacks over several areas.

The southwestern Fastiv ?district sustained the most damage, with more than 24 sites hit, including homes, industrial and utility buildings, the grounds of an agricultural enterprise and vehicles, he added.

Russian forces in ?the evening struck an area near an apartment building in the northern ?city of Sumy, killing one person and wounding another. Sumy is a frequent Russian ?target near the border, in an area where Moscow says it wants to create a buffer zone.

Russia made no acknowledgement of the strikes.

Moscow has been attacking the capital Kyiv and the surrounding Kyiv region with drones continually in recent weeks.

In Kramatorsk, local ?officials said one ?person died in ?one of several bouts of shelling. Kramatorsk is one of the "fortress cities" on eastern Donetsk Region repeatedly targeted by Russia in the slow advance through the region of ?its forces.

In ?Moldova, on Ukraine's western border, the Foreign Ministry denounced what it said was an overnight drone intrusion north of the capital Chisinau. Moldova's pro-Western government denounces ?Russia's ?invasion of Ukraine and numerous instances of ?drones it

US warns Middle East conflict could 'escalate rapidly', urges citizens to reconsider travel

WEB DESK

New Delhi



The United States on Sunday warned that fighting between Saudi Arabia and Houthis could "escalate rapidly" after a missile attack targeted Riyadh for the first time since the Yemen conflict resumed.

"This military conflict has the potential to escalate rapidly," the US State Department warned, adding American citizens outside the Middle East should "seriously reconsider travel to and through the region".

US President Donald Trump also cut short a weekend at Camp David, a secluded presidential complex in rural Maryland, to return unexpectedly to the White House on Saturday.

The White House gave no explanation for the early return, which comes as a new threshold was crossed in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis, who control a large part of Yemen and are fighting government forces backed by a coalition.

Loud explosions rang out on Saturday in the Saudi capital, where AFP journalists saw a fuel tank bearing the logo of oil giant Aramco on fire near the airport.

North Korea fires two suspected ballistic missiles off east coast within three hours



WEB DESK

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

North Korea fired two missiles off its eastern coast , its second set of tests in roughly a week and days after Pyongyang accused the US of driving tensions on the Korean Peninsula through a series of military drills.

Nearly three hours after launching a short-range ballistic missile toward the East Sea on Sunday afternoon, North Korea fired a similar missile, according to South Korea's defence ministry.

If the subsequent launch is confirmed to be a ballistic missile, it will mark ?two consecutive ballistic missile tests by North Korea within a three-hour window.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs ?of Staff said it detected the first test firing from the Wonsan area around 3 p.m. (0600 GMT), identifying the weapon ?as a ballistic missile. Japan's defence ministry also said it appeared to be a ballistic missile.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK said the ?projectile had come down outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

The first projectile flew approximately 450 km (280 miles) and is presumed to belong to the Hwasong-11 series, according to South Korea's military. The second short-range missile, which was also fired from Wonsan at about 5:50 p.m. (0850 GMT), flew more than 600 km (373 miles), it said.

"South Korean and US intelligence authorities have been tracking and sharing related developments from the ?initial stage of the launch, and have also shared information regarding the 'North Korean ballistic missile' with Japan," the South Korean Joint Chiefs of ?Staff said.

South ?Korea's National Security Council condemned the missile launch, which follows a test on September 12. The council urged Pyongyang to immediately cease missile activity, warning the test directly violated UN Security Council resolutions.

"We are aware of the recent missile launches and are consulting closely with our allies and partners. Based on current assessments, these events do not pose an immediate threat to ?U.S. personnel or territory, or ?to our allies," the US ?Pacific Command said in an X post.

Xi rolls into Trump summit with China's trade engine roaring

WEB DESK

BEIJING/WASHINGTON

In the four months since the leaders of the two global superpowers last met, Xi Jinping has overseen a surge in China's trade with the world while Donald Trump has struggled with falling ?approval ratings at home.

That shift in fortunes has tempered expectations for their summit in Washington this week, analysts say, with Xi in no rush to make concessions and Trump constrained by ?a costly war with Iran that has hurt both his popularity and Americans' wallets.While thorny issues like Taiwan may surface, the main focus of the September 24 meeting is whether the leaders will signal an extension to a trade truce struck last year that averted a major shock to the global economy.

"Xi is not really looking for anything tangible. He wants to extend the gentleman's agreement with Trump so that China has time to fortify itself," said Jon Czin, a foreign policy expert at the Brookings Institution who ?formerly served as China director at the US National Security Council.

نیشنل انشورنس کمپنی لمیٹڈ (NICL)

(وزارت تجارت، حکومت پاکستان)

مینجمنٹ ٹرینی آفیسر (MTO) کے عہدے پر تقرری کے لیے کیریئر کے مواقع

نیشنل انشورنس کمپنی لمیٹڈ (NICL) جو کہ ایک پبلک سیکٹر کمپنی سرکاری ادارہ (SOE) ہے اور پاکستان کی جنرل انشورنس انڈسٹری کا ایک معروف نام ہے حالیہ فارغ التحصیل امیدواروں کی استعداد کار میں اضافے کے اپنے عزم کے تحت ابتدائی طور پر دو سال کی مدت کے لیے مینجمنٹ ٹرینی آفیسر کے طور پر دوران ملازمت تربیت کا موقع فراہم کر رہی ہے ذیل میں درج مقررہ اہلیت کے معیار پر پورا اترنے والے امیدواروں کو اوپن (MTO) ٹیسٹنگ سروس (OTS) کے زیر انتظام منعقد ہونے والے تحریری امتحان میں شرکت کرنا ہوگی۔

Vacancy	No.of Vacancies	Minimum Monthly Stipend during Traineeship	Qualification	Maximum Age	Duty Station
Management Trainee Officer (MTO)	15	Rs. 100,000/-	a) Fresh graduates having Master's degree or 4 years bachelor's degree (16 years of education) from a local/foreign institute / university recognized by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan in field of Finance, Human Resource Management, Business Administration, Information Technology, Insurance, or equivalent with at least 60% marks; OR b) Equivalent Professional qualification of ACII, CA, ACCA, ICMA, CIMA and PIPFA.	28 Years (as on closing date of the advertisement)	Lahore/ Karachi/ Islamabad

شرائط وضوابط:

1. نیشنل انشورنس کمپنی لمیٹڈ (NICL) مساوی مواقع فراہم کرنے والا ادارہ ہے
2. مینجمنٹ ٹرینی آفیسر (MTO) کے عہدے کے لیے کمپیوٹر سے واقفیت لازمی ہے، جب کہ ERP ماحول میں کام کرنے کا تجربہ کرنے والے امیدواروں کو ترجیح دی جائے گی۔
3. یہ ایک اوپن ایج/ڈائریکٹ کے ساتھ خالصتاً ایک معاہدہ جاتی آسامی ہے جن کی خدمات معاہدے کی شرائط وضوابط کے تحت چلائی جائیں گی۔
4. صرف تحریری امتحان میں کامیاب نامزد امیدواروں کو ہی اگلے مرحلے یعنی انٹرویو کے لیے بلایا جائے گا۔
5. تحریری امتحان یا انٹرویو میں شرکت کے لیے امیدوار (DA/TA) کے حقدار نہیں ہوں گے۔
6. اصل تعلیمی اسناد اور ہائی ایجوکیشن کمیشن (HEC) سے تصدیق شدہ اسناد انٹرویو کے وقت درکار ہوں گی۔
7. حتمی انتخاب کمپنی کی منظور شدہ پالیسی کے تحت کیا جائے گا۔
8. تقرری اور انتخاب کے عمل پر کسی قسم کا ہائی/الے کے نتیجے میں امیدوار کو تقرری کے لیے نااہل قرار دیا جائے گا۔ چاہے امیدوار اہلیت کے معیار پر پورا کیوں نہ اترتا ہو۔
9. نامکمل، تاخیر سے موصول ہونے والی یا مذکورہ بالا ہدایات کے مطابق جمع نہ کروائی گئی درخواستوں پر غور نہیں کیا جائے گا۔
10. نیشنل انشورنس کمپنی لمیٹڈ (NICL) کسی بھی مرحلے پر بغیر کوئی وجہ بتائے، تقرری کا عمل منسوخ کرنے کا حق محفوظ رکھتی ہے۔

درخواست جمع کروانے کا طریقہ:

1. تمام خواہشمند امیدوار نیشنل جاب پورٹل (NJP) کی ویب سائٹ (https://www.njp.gov.pk/) پر جا کر اپنی آسامی کے لیے آن لائن درخواست جمع کروائیں۔
2. نیشنل جاب پورٹل پر درخواست جمع کروانے کے ساتھ ساتھ، امیدواروں کو اپنے ٹیسٹ کے لیے اوپن ٹیسٹنگ سروس (OTS) کی ویب سائٹ پر بھی آن لائن رجسٹریشن کروانا اور درخواست فارم جمع کروانا لازم ہوگا (www.ots.org.pk)۔
3. اوپن ٹیسٹنگ سروس کی ویب سائٹ پر ٹیسٹ کا سواد (Test Content) اور امتحان کے شعبہ جات (Area of Test) سے متعلق تمام تفصیلات بھی مہیا کی جائیں گی۔
4. درخواست فیس جمع کروانے کے لیے اپنی بینکنگ ایپ میں لاگ ان کریں، Bill Payment کا انتخاب کریں اور PSID درج کریں، تفصیلات کی تصدیق کریں اور ادائیگی مکمل کریں۔
5. امیدوار آن لائن درخواست پورٹل کے ذریعے اپنی تمام تعلیمی اسناد، قومی شناختی کارڈ (CNIC) کے دونوں اطراف کی اسکین شدہ نقل، ڈومیسائل سرٹیفکیٹ، تجربہ سرٹیفکیٹس (اگر قابل اطلاق ہو) اور دیگر متعلقہ دستاویزات اپ لوڈ کریں۔
6. درخواستیں اشتہار ہذا کی اشاعت کے پندرہ (15) یوم کے اندر جمع کروائی جا سکتی ہیں، تاخیر سے موصول ہونے والی درخواستوں پر غور نہیں کیا جائے گا۔
7. درخواست جمع کروانے کے بعد امیدواروں کو ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ تقرری سے متعلق اہم اطلاعات، جیسے رول نمبر سلپ، تحریری امتحان کا شیڈول، نتائج وغیرہ کے لیے باقاعدگی سے OTS کی ویب سائٹ www.ots.org.pk اور اپنے Application Portal وزٹ کریں۔
8. مزید معلومات کے لیے UAN/ہیلپ لائن: 051-111-687-222 پر رابطہ کریں یا info@ots.org.pk پر ای میل کریں۔

PID-K 636/26

Russia wraps up first wartime parliamentary election with Kremlin dominance all but

- Voters cast two separate ballots, filling half of the Duma's 450 seats by selecting political parties listed on the ballot.

WEB DESK

DAVOS

Russia's first wartime parliamentary election was due to end Sunday, virtually devoid of opposition to President Vladimir Putin's policies and all but certain to cement the Kremlin's dominance. The last day of the election came as Ukrainian forces fired more than 1,000 drones at Russia overnight, including hundreds that were launched toward Moscow.

The vote began Friday, and authorities encouraged online balloting to boost turnout among its 111 million eligible voters.



For the first time, the election included residents of four Ukrainian regions that Moscow illegally annexed after the war began but still doesn't fully control. Voting is also taking place in Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

Authorities in Kyiv denounced the voting in the Russian-held areas as illegal and urged foreign governments not to recognize the result. The European Union on Friday called the action a "blatant violation of international law."

Kremlin expected to keep control

The Kremlin wants the parliamentary election — the first since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 — to showcase popular support for the war and legitimize its action. It has sought to avoid political risks by stamping out any dissent.

A massive state media campaign and tight control over the election in the absence of genuine opposition all but assure the Kremlin will keep tight control of Russian politics amid mounting economic costs and increasing Ukrainian drone attacks deep inside the country.

Voters cast two separate ballots, filling half of the Duma's 450 seats by selecting political parties listed on the ballot.

Scanned with CamScanner



Comedian Asif Iqbal dies of heart attack

■ Renowned comedian and stage actor Asif Iqbal dies after a heart attack, leaving Pakistan's theatre community and fans mourning his sudden death

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Renowned Pakistani comedian and stage actor Asif Iqbal has passed away, with his family confirming that he died after suffering a heart attack.

According to family members, Asif Iqbal suffered a heart attack and was immediately shifted to a hospital for medical treatment. However, doctors could not save his life and he passed away.

Asif Iqbal had been associated with Pakistan's theatre and stage industry for several years and was recognised for his spontaneous humour, distinctive acting style and strong comic timing.

During his career, the late actor performed in numerous stage dramas and entertained audiences with his lively performances and memorable comic characters. His work on the stage earned him recognition among theatre audiences and colleagues in the entertainment industry.

His performances were particularly appreciated for their natural delivery and ability to bring humour to stage productions. Through his long association with Pakistani theatre, he became a familiar name among audiences who regularly followed stage dramas.

The news of his sudden death has caused grief across showbiz and theatre circles. Fellow artists, colleagues and fans have expressed sorrow over his death and offered condolences to his family.

Tributes have also been shared by members of the entertainment community, who remembered Asif Iqbal for his contribution to Pakistani stage comedy and his association with the theatre industry. Family members and colleagues are expected to share further details regarding his funeral and burial arrangements.

Haris Waheed Explains Shayyan's Popularity Despite His Flaws

■ Actor Explains Shayyan's Popularity Despite His Problematic Behaviour

Showbiz Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Haris Waheed has spoken about the audience response to his character Shayyan Mursaleen in ARY Digital's drama Bas Tera Saath Ho, saying viewers can disapprove of the character's actions while still appreciating his performance.

Haris plays Shayyan as a troublesome and flawed man whose actions frequently create problems for those around him. Despite his negative traits, the character has attracted considerable attention from viewers, particularly because of the humour and quirky moments the actor has brought to the role.

Speaking to Something Haute, Haris said he had noticed the positive response viewers were giving Shayyan. According to the actor, audiences are not necessarily endorsing everything the character does, but they have recognised the effort and performance behind the role.



Haris explained that viewers still want Shayyan to face the consequences of his actions, while simultaneously appreciating the way he has portrayed the character. He said audiences have also noticed the small and unusual touches he incorporated into the role.

FFC 6 September 728/90

The actor expressed gratitude for the feedback and said the response demonstrated that viewers were paying attention not only to Shayyan's behaviour but also to the finer details of his portrayal.

Much of Shayyan's appeal comes from the contrast between his problematic behaviour and the al lighter moments in his scenes. Haris's expressions, comic timing and unpredictable reactions have given the character a distinct personality beyond that of a conventional television antagonist.

Audience reactions to the drama have similarly highlighted Haris's comic performance, with viewers finding Shayyan entertaining despite his troublesome behaviour.

Haris's comments come as Bas Tera Saath Ho continues to centre Shayyan in the drama's ongoing family conflicts. ARY Digital has also portrayed the character as reckless and entitled, with his decisions repeatedly creating tension within the storyline.

Samiya Mumtaz Remembers Late Dance Teacher Mrs Mitha

■ Actress Samiya Mumtaz Shares Emotional Memories Of Her Late Dance Teacher

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Samiya Mumtaz has revisited cherished childhood memories of her late dance teacher, Mrs Mitha, sharing a series of throwback clips and recalling the lessons that remained an important part of her life.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Samiya said she first met Mrs Mitha when she was around six or seven years old. She could not recall their exact first meeting, saying it felt as though she had known her for as long as she could remember.

Samiya vividly remembered her teacher's distinctive appearance, including a sleeveless blouse, cotton sari and long braid decorated with a paranda matching the colour of her sari. She described Mrs Mitha as cheerful and witty, while noting that her playful personality never meant she should be taken lightly.

dance lessons with Mrs Mitha at a house in Gulberg, Lahore. The early classes involved simple dances performed to basic verses, although Samiya admitted she was not particularly skilled at the time.

After returning home, she would teach the movements she had learned to her cousin



Mahvash, who eventually joined the same classes. Samiya said Mahvash had a natural talent for dance and quickly picked up the finer movements with rhythm and ease.

Samiya also recalled discovering an old letter Mrs Mitha had written to her mother, asking that both cousins rehearse for an upcoming performance. The teacher had apparently preferred Mahvash because she was the stronger dancer.

Samiya also looked back at her time at Lahore Grammar School, saying she began school on its first day in 1979. Mrs Mitha later became a dance teacher there, introducing students to regional folk dances as well as styles such as the foxtrot, barn dance and dandia.

She particularly remembered being introduced to classical Bharatnatyam during rehearsals for the school's annual Parents' was Day. Samiya said learning classical dance was especially exciting because it was an era before YouTube and the internet.

Selected students were trained for tableaux and inter-school competitions, and Samiya recalled that their group frequently returned with top positions.

She said that during the 1980s, school dance classes were at one point renamed "Movement classes". Public performances were also restricted to female audiences, leading her to perform at events organised by APWA, Lahore Ladies Club and Kinnaird College for Women.

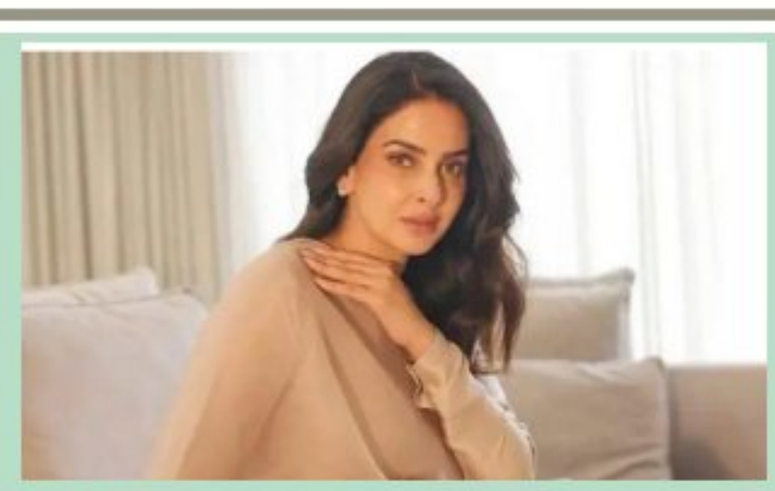
Outside school, Mrs Mitha continued including Samiya in performances whenever she received invitations. After leaving school and joining Kinnaird College, Samiya continued private lessons with her teacher.

When Samiya asked what she needed to do to become a professional dancer, Mrs Mitha advised her to pursue further training in India. Samiya subsequently travelled to Delhi, where she studied Bharatnatyam and Odissi at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.On returning to Pakistan, Samiya discussed her training in detail with Mrs Mitha. She later came to understand that her teacher had developed her own approach to teaching Bharatnatyam .

in Pakistan, adapting its terminology,



Bollywood actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have welcomed their second child, a baby girl, nearly two years after the birth of their first daughter, Dua



Saba Qamar reveals she once fell in love with fellow actor

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Saba Qamar has revealed that she once developed feelings for a fellow actor she worked with on a film several years ago.

The actress, known for her performances in several popular television dramas, is currently in the United Kingdom, where she attended a charity event and interacted with fans.

During the event, Qamar spoke about her past and disclosed that she had fallen in love with a co-star from one of her earlier films.

She said the actor was not her co-star in any of her television dramas but had worked alongside her in a film several years ago.

Qamar did not reveal the actor's identity, explaining that he is now married and she did not want to disclose his name as it could create problems for him with his wife.

The actress also recalled discussing the matter with her niece, who advised her to forget the actor and move on with her life.

Qamar said she agreed with her niece, noting that she and the actor had been working together at the time and that she had decided to leave the past behind.

Her comments have since gained attention on social media, with users speculating about the identity of the actor she was referring to. However, Qamar herself did not name him.

Salman Khan denies health issues after Bigg Boss 20 concern

Web Desk

MUMBAI

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has dismissed concerns about his health following an episode of Bigg Boss 20 in which he appeared unwell.During the Weekend Ka Vaar segment, Salman was seen placing his hand on his heart, struggling to speak, and eventually lying down on the stage while requesting medical assistance.

This sequence alarmed viewers, prompting many fans to express concern on social media.

Responding to the reaction, Salman posted a statement on his Instagram Story clarifying, "Nothing is wrong with my health by the grace of God."

He criticised the editing of the show's promotional footage, which he said created a misleading



impression of a genuine health emergency.

Salman explained that the pain he feigned was intended to make a point to contestant Qazi, who had been using his own health as entertainment.

"It totally beats the purpose and looks like I am doing the same thing that Qazi was doing in the house," he wrote. "The pain was only to show Qazi that what he did was wrong because he used his health for entertainment, especially when the 15 people in the house were not aware.

Zara Noor Abbas makes stylish motorbike entry to promote upcoming film

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas grabbed attention with an unconventional entrance while promoting her upcoming film 'Shehroz'.

The actress arrived at a promotional event riding a motorbike, without any prominent security escort, making her arrival a talking point among those present.

Wearing sunglasses and riding a new-model heavy bike, Zara made a confident entrance at the film's promotional event.

Her unusual arrival immediately caught the attention of media representatives and other attendees, who showed keen interest in the actress's bold promotional appearance.

Speaking to the media during the



event, Zara answered questions about 'Shehroz', including details about its story and characters.

Also Read: Zara Noor Abbas and Asma Abbas win hearts with mother-daughter dance moves

Discussing the film's female cast, she revealed that the movie features three leading actresses — herself, Kinza Hashmi and Ushna Shah.

Zara also offered an intriguing description of the film's characters, saying that everyone in the movie is both a hero and a heroine.

Scanned with CamScanner

Asim Khan wins first medal for Pakistan at Asian Games 2026

● Asim Khan suffered defeat in the mixed martial arts semifinal, but under the competition rules, his semifinal appearance guaranteed him a bronze medal

Sports Desk

KARACHI

Pakistan secured its first medal at the 2026 Asian Games after Karachi-based mixed martial artist Asim Khan won a bronze medal in his event. Asim Khan suffered defeat in the mixed martial arts semifinal, but under the competition rules, his semifinal appearance guaranteed him a bronze medal. The medal ceremony is scheduled to take place on Tuesday. Dalawar Khan, who is serving as team leader alongside Asim Khan at the Games, told a reporter that the fighter had opened Pakistan's medal account and expressed hope that the country would win more medals in the remaining events. According to Dalawar, the bronze is Asim Khan's first Asian Games medal. He has previously won a bronze medal at the World Championships and a silver medal at the Asian level. Asim Khan is scheduled to return to Karachi on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Pakistani athletes continued to compete in several other events. Swimmer Hamza Asif finished second in his heat of the men's 50-metre freestyle but placed 30th overall. In the mixed triathlon final, Pakistan's team was listed as NDF after Ali Hassan could not complete the event within the stipulated time. Sana Arif, Anisha and Mustaghis Noor completed the swimming, cycling and running stages.



PCB decides to offer first-ever central contracts to Under-19 players

● PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi praised Pakistan U19 players for their England performances and announced first-ever central contracts, aiming to boost confidence, motivation and development.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi met members of the Pakistan Under-19 cricket team and praised the young players for their strong performances in England.

During the meeting, the PCB decided to award central contracts to the Under-19 players for the first time, a move aimed at encouraging them to continue improving their performances.

Head coach Shahid Anwar said Naqvi invited the players following their performances in England, met them individually and appreciated their efforts.



Naqvi said the central contracts would encourage the young cricketers to perform at a higher level. He added that recognition for good performances would also help boost the players' confidence.

Pakistan Under-19 captain Farhan Yousuf said the development camps held in Multan over the past two years had benefited the players and produced positive results. He described the meeting with the PCB chairman and the central contracts as encouraging for the squad.

Alyan Salman said the contracts would increase the players' confidence and motivation while allowing them to focus more closely on their cricket.

Jehangir Bilal said the contracts would also enable young players to provide financial support to their families.

During the meeting, the PCB decided to award central contracts to the Under-19 players for the first time, a move aimed at encouraging them to continue improving their performances.

Asim settles for a bronze after semi-final defeat at Asian Games

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Asim Khan secured a historic bronze medal at the Asian Games on Monday after losing 3-0 to Tajikistan's Mirzobek Umarov in the men's Modern Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) - 60kg semi-final.

Asim, Pakistan's lone MMA representative at the Aichi-Nagoya Games, was unable to match Umarov's level in the last-four contest, bringing his bid for a place in the gold-medal bout to an end.

Despite the defeat, the result marked a landmark moment for Pakistani combat sports, with Asim becoming the country's first MMA athlete to win a medal at the Asian Games. The 2026 edition is also the first Asian Games in which MMA has been contested.

Asim had entered the semi-final with confidence after producing a commanding performance against Cambodia's Sopanha Pheng in the quarter-finals on Sunday. He defeated Pheng 3-0 to reach the last four and, with only ten fighters entered in the Modern -60kg category, guaranteed Pakistan at least a bronze medal. But against Umarov, Khan found the challenge significantly tougher.

The Tajik fighter controlled the contest sufficiently to earn a unanimous 3-0 decision, ending Pakistan's hopes of advancing to the final.

Asim's coach Dilawar Khan said the experience of competing against professional-level opponents had presented an additional challenge for the Pakistani fighter.

"For the first time in the Asian Games pros had been allowed and you know they have other level. Their training and diet are different," Dilawar told The Express Tribune.

"Still we are happy to compete with them. We won a bronze on our debut as this is the first time that a Pakistani fighter took part in the Asian Games."

Pakistan is competing across 23 sports disciplines at the Games.



Pakistan cricket team begins Asian Games preparations with Karachi camp

■ Mohammad Wasim replaces Salman Mirza, who was ruled out after suffering fracture in left thumb



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan men's cricket team has assembled in Karachi ahead of the Asian Games, with a four-day pre-departure training camp set to begin at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre on Monday.

The 15-member squad, led by Sahibzada Farhan, will train in Karachi from September 21 to 24 before departing for Japan on the night of September 24.

According to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the players assembled in Karachi on Sunday, while five members of the squad, Usman Khan, Saim Ayub, Maaz Sadaqat, Hasan Nawaz and Sufyan Moqim, are expected to join the camp after completing their franchise commitments.

The five players' franchise commitments are scheduled to conclude on Sunday night according to Barbados local time. Pakistan will hold training sessions from 10am to 1pm on September 21 and 22 at the HPC nets and Oval.

The squad will then play a T20 practice match at the Oval Ground on September 23, followed by a centre-wicket scenario match session at the same venue on September 24.

The 21-member Pakistan contingent will depart for Japan from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport at 11pm on September 24.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Jnr has been called up to replace Mohammad Salman Mirza, who has been ruled out of the Asian Games after suffering a fracture in his left thumb.

Salman is currently undergoing rehabilitation and is expected to regain full fitness in the first week of October.

Sahibzada Farhan will captain Pakistan at the Asian Games, while Abdul Samad has been named his deputy.

The squad also includes Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Akif Javed, Ali Raza, Arafat Minhas, Haider Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Saad Masood, Saim Ayub, Sufyan Moqim and wicketkeeper Usman Khan. The five players' franchise commitments are scheduled to conclude on Sunday night according to Barbados local time. Pakistan will hold training sessions from 10am to 1pm on September 21 and 22 at the HPC nets and Oval.



Australia will take lessons from Zimbabwe win into World Cup, says Inglis

Web Desk

AUSTRALIA

Australia's dramatic one-wicket victory over Zimbabwe on Sunday will give the squad confidence they can fight their way through difficult ?situations, which could prove vital at next year's one-day ?international (ODI) World Cup, Josh Inglis said.

After their openers departed early, wicketkeeper-batter Inglis (103) scored his second ODI century to help Australia reach their target ?of 272 with one ball to spare, completing a ?3-0 series whitewash.

"I think we're going to get in ?those situations again," said Inglis.

"For those guys to have ?done that today with a World Cup 12 months away, it ?will leave a good feeling with them, and they'll have a better idea of how to go about that situation again next time."

Despite losing ?his wicket and needing teammate Nathan Ellis to steer the ?side over the finish line, Inglis said he was glad to find ?his ?rhythm after scores of 4 and 21 in the first two matches of the series."We just play a lot of Twenty20 cricket now, and it's just me finding the right tempo ?for one day ?cricket, and ?I sort of found that today," the 31-year-old added.



Pakistani businessman acquires English football club Plymouth Parkway FC

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Kuwait-based Pakistani businessman Muizz Ahmed Mirza has acquired English non-league football club Plymouth Parkway FC through his international education company, MEC Study Group, Born in Karachi, Mirza has become the second Pakistani to own an English football club.

Pakistani-American businessman Shahid Khan was the first Pakistani-origin owner of an English football club. Founded in 1988, Plymouth Parkway play their home matches at Bolitho Park and currently compete in the Southern League Premier Division South, the seventh tier of the English football pyramid.The club is based in the same city as Plymouth Argyle but plays four divisions below their more prominent local rivals.

Mirza has outlined ambitious long-term plans for the club, saying his dream is to guide Plymouth Parkway into the English Football League (EFL) within the next 10 years.

TENDER NOTICE

The Medical Superintendent Bolan Medical Complex Hospital Quetta invites bids from eligible bidders for supply of medicine and related items under the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal fund: -

S#	NAME OF TENDERS	T/FEE
1	Medicine & related items (Total Item(s) Count: 188) TSE-2627091195831	500 PKR

Note: There will be separate package for each tender. Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders: -** 03 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity 5,000,000 in Previous 5 Years. Turnover of at least 5,000,000 PKR in 3 Subsequent Previous Years. Registration with relevant taxation departments and firm name shall be present in Active Taxpayer List of FBR. Registration with Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan(DRAP) or Provincial Drug Licensing Authority in the relevant category. **Procedure of Procurement**: Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security**: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of amount 400,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents**: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents**: Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission**: Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 09th Oct, 2026 till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening**: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:30 AM on EPPS System **Address**: msbmchq@gmail.com
Phone No: 0819213037 Fax no: 0819213040
Email: msbmchq@gmail.com.

Medical Superintendent Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Quetta

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Khawaja Asif hits back at PTI's Junaid Akbar over 'Somnath' remark ahead of protest

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has criticised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa President Junaid Akbar over his remarks regarding the party's planned September 27 protest in Islamabad.

Responding on social media, Asif said Islamabad was neither Somnath nor Junaid Akbar Mahmood of Ghaznavi, referring to Akbar's statement that the PTI would "turn Islamabad into Somnath" during its planned march.Asif said Islamabad represented the federation and was an important symbol of Pakistan. He questioned the impact of such statements at a time when bloodshed was continuing in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

The defence minister also questioned whether the attack mentioned by Akbar for September 27 would involve militants or Afghan nationals living in Pakistan, saying the federal government would defend Islamabad with full force.

PA speaker links uplift, political stability to national security

● Malik Muhammad Ahmed pays tribute to soldiers for sacrificing their lives for the protection of the motherland, adding Punjab government is making significant investments in health sector.

STAFF REORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan has said that national security must remain the top priority, stressing that sustainable development and political stability are only possible when the country is secure.

Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan said that after the establishment of a university in the area, local youth had raised important questions about employment and jobs. He maintained that providing jobs, governing, building roads and establishing universities are all matters concerning the people, while elected representatives must remain accountable for how public funds are used.

He identified education as Pakistan's biggest challenge, saying the country must improve its education system and ensure that no child remains out of school.

He said around 25 million children are currently out of school and called for collective efforts to strengthen both education and healthcare.



He added that the Punjab government is making significant investments in the health sector.

Speaking about national security, the speaker said the country's fight against terrorism is continuing and that young people stand with the Pakistan Army.

He paid tribute to soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, saying their sacrifices are helping make the country safer.

He said Pakistan faces multiple challenges and alleged that hostile forces are targeting innocent civilians and attempting to undermine the country.

He stressed that such challenges should not weaken national morale.

Commenting on political affairs, Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan said allegations of election rigging continue to dominate political discourse, while he pointed to development projects undertaken by the current government. He claimed that Punjab had never previously witnessed development spending on such a scale.

The speaker also announced plans to develop Khadian as a university town and said major infrastructure and education projects were being planned for the area. He said the prime minister was expected to visit the area for the groundbreaking of a motorway project, while Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was expected to lay the foundation stone of the university.

He further announced that a youth empowerment programme would be introduced and that youth conventions would also be held in Ganda Singh, Kot Radha Kishan and other areas. The programme, he said, would eventually extend to the union-council level.

Calling youth the country's greatest asset, Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan said it was the government's responsibility to provide them with opportunities and support their development.

He urged elected representatives and citizens alike to contribute to social improvement, saying progress would come when public representatives actively addressed the problems of their constituencies. He added that the country's politics, government and state ultimately belong to its youth.

PM Shehbaz to highlight Pakistan's position on major world issues at UNGA: FO

● The prime minister will address the 81st session of the UN General Assembly on September 25, he is also expected to meet several world leaders during the visit

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will speak about Kashmir and Palestine in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Giving a media briefing in New York about the prime minister's visit, Ahmad said multilateral cooperation, climate change and the current global situation would also be part of Shehbaz's speech.

The prime minister will address the 81st session of the UN General Assembly on September 25.

He is also expected to meet several world leaders during the visit, the ambassador said.



Ahmad said Pakistan was also working to arrange a meeting between Shehbaz and Apple Executive Chairman Tim Cook.

The prime minister's visit comes as the UNGA high-level session gets under way in New York, with the Middle East conflict expected to figure prominently in discussions between world leaders.

The Foreign Office has said Shehbaz will highlight Pakistan's position on major international issues during his visit.

His address, according to the FO, will cover sustainable development, climate change, counterterrorism, Islamophobia, global economic challenges, UN reforms and issues confronting the Global South, while he will also draw attention to Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir.

The FO has also said Pakistan will continue to call for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar is already in New York and has been holding meetings with foreign ministers and other officials ahead of Shehbaz's arrival.

Dar is also scheduled to attend meetings on Kashmir and Palestine on the sidelines of the UNGA session.



Sindh CM vows efforts to ensure education to every child

■ He also instructed that local representatives, community leaders and parents be involved in the enrollment campaign to encourage greater participation.

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said that newly constructed and rehabilitated schools across the province will not merely be buildings but will serve as centres of education, literacy and social development, with efforts to ensure that no child remains deprived of education.

He made these remarks while chairing a meeting on educational projects at the Chief Minister's House here on Sunday, where officials reviewed the progress of school construction, rehabilitation and enrollment initiatives across Sindh.The meeting decided to activate newly constructed and reconstructed schools and launch an admission campaign to enroll children in these institutions.Officials informed the meeting that 838 schools are being constructed, upgraded or renovated across Sindh with the support of the Asian Development Bank.

Murad Ali Shah directed officials to prepare district-wise admission plans before the completion of the schools.

He also instructed that local representatives, community leaders and parents be involved in the enrollment campaign to encourage greater participation.

According to officials, the new schools are expected to create educational opportunities for approximately 250,000 children. A separate target has been set to enroll more than 221,000 children in schools located in flood-affected districts.

The meeting was further informed that, out of 116 new secondary schools, 64 are scheduled to be completed by December 2026, while the remaining 52 are expected to be completed by June 2027. In addition, 722 schools are being constructed under the flood rehabilitation programme.

The chief minister directed that every completed school must become fully functional from its first academic year. He also called for measurable targets covering enrollment, attendance, student retention and educational outcomes to ensure that the new facilities translate into improved access to education and better learning outcomes.

Provincial govts get huge resources under 18th Amendment: Mustafa Kamal

■ Says four provincial govts have deprived people of basic facilities, alleging citizens continue to face shortages in education, healthcare, employment, water, electricity and gas

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

Federal Minister Mustafa Kamal has said that Pakistan's existing system of governance is no longer capable of effectively addressing the needs of the people, calling for the creation of new administrative units.

Federal Minister Mustafa Kamal said after 18th Constitutional Amendment, Pakistan no longer had four provinces, but had become four independent states.

Pakistan cannot be run under the current system of government.

Addressing a convention here on Sunday, Kamal said the 18th Constitutional Amendment transferred significant powers and resources to the provincial governments.



"The four provincial governments have deprived people of basic facilities," Kamal said, alleging that citizens continue to face shortages in education, healthcare, employment, water, electricity and gas.

The federal minister said the establishment of new administrative units was no longer merely a political demand but had become a necessity for Pakistan.

He argued that smaller administrative units would bring government closer to the people and improve the delivery of essential services.

Kamal further claimed that resources allocated through the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award would be more effectively utilised within smaller administrative units. He also said the creation of additional units could help curb the use of fake domiciles and address concerns surrounding merit and employment opportunities.

The federal minister called on young people to support the formation of new administrative units, saying that such a restructuring could help improve governance and ensure greater access to public resources and services.

LHC admits Azma Bukhari's plea to record statement Via video link



WEB DESK

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court has admitted Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari's petition seeking permission to record her statement through video link and issued notices to Falak Javed and other respondents.

Justice Abher Gul Khan heard Azma Bukhari's petition seeking permission to record her statement via video link. Advocate Ali Zahid Bukhari appeared before the court on behalf of the provincial information minister.

The counsel argued that the decisions of the judicial magistrate and additional sessions judge were contrary to the facts and that the trial court had not properly heard the petitioner's position.

He told the court that Azma Bukhari was a provincial minister and faced a threat from a religious organisation. He requested permission for her statement to be recorded through video link and sought the annulment of the trial court's decision.

After admitting the petition for hearing, the Lahore High Court issued notices to Falak Javed and other respondents and sought their responses.



Canal water floods a road in Jinnah Colony following an overflow, disrupting traffic and commuters.

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