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Security forces kill 6 terrorists in Balochistan operation

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Security forces have continued operations against terrorists in Balochistan under Operation Shaban 2, according to security sources.Security sources said six terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan were killed and nine suspected individuals were arrested during an operation in the Saran Tangi area of Balochistan.

The operation was conducted on the basis of intelligence reports targeting Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists, the sources said.

A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the possession of the killed terrorists, according to security sources.

Security forces continue operations against terrorists in the area, with the sources saying the campaign will continue until the last terrorist is eliminated.



UN chief in contact with Pakistan on efforts to end US-Iran war

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

The spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Gutteres has said that he has been in touch with Pakistani officials to assist efforts to end the US-Iran conflict, reported Al Jazeera on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric has praised Pakistan's role in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed by the US and Iran in June to cease hostilities, deeming it "a great achievement".

He tells a media conference that re-engaging in talks will help end the conflict between Washington and Tehran.



Sharjeel Memon accuses MQM leaders of creating division in Sindh

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has strongly reacted to a recent press conference by MQM leaders, describing the language used by the party's leadership as "intolerable."

In a statement, Memon alleged that the MQM was seeking to create unrest and revive what he described as the politics of the 1990s.

He said MQM leaders Mustafa Kamal and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui were pursuing a similar political path.

Memon further accused the MQM of having contributed to extortion, targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom and arson in Karachi during the 1990s. He said the Sindh Assembly had already expressed its position on the issue of new provinces through a resolution.

The senior minister also alleged that the MQM was attempting to create division and hatred on linguistic grounds by provoking unrest.



Armed forces remain determined to defeat terrorism, says CDF Munir

- Field Marshal Asim Munir reviewed security and counter-terrorism operations in KP, praised troops' readiness, and directed formations to maintain vigilance and operational preparedness.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir emphasised that the armed forces, with the unwavering support of the nation, remain resolute in their determination to defeat terrorism and ensure lasting peace and stability across the country.

The Field Marshal stated this during his visit to Corps Headquarters Peshawar on Tuesday.



He was briefed on the prevailing security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, border management measures and operational preparedness of formations deployed in the province.

The COAS & CDF commended the high morale, readiness and professionalism of officers and troops, acknowledging their steadfast commitment to safeguarding the country and its people.

Field Marshal Asim Munir directed formations to remain vigilant and uphold the highest standards of operational preparedness.

He also laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada and offered Fateha, paying rich tribute to those who laid down their lives in defence of the motherland and in the fight against terrorism. He reaffirmed that their supreme sacrifices would never be forgotten.

LHC seeks arguments on maintainability of Aleema Khan's detention plea



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore High Court on Tuesday sought further arguments on the maintainability of a petition challenging the detention of PTI founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan and her driver under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance.

Justice Abher Gul Khan heard the petition filed by Aleema Khan's son, Shah Zair. Barrister Taimur and advocate Irfan Kalar appeared on behalf of Aleema Khan, while lawyer Rana Mudassar Umar also presented arguments before the court.

During the hearing, Justice Abher Gul Khan questioned how the petition had been filed without first approaching the relevant forum.

Rana Mudassar Umar argued that Aleema Khan's detention was different from other cases. He said the detention review and detention notification were issued on the same day, suggesting that she may have been arrested before the detention order was formally issued.

The lawyer further argued that the detention report referred to Aleema Khan's alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents and expressed concerns that she could again block roads.

He told the court that Aleema Khan had already been cleared in the investigation into the May 9 case.

Tarar warms PTI against disrupting peace in Islamabad

- Atta Tarar has warned PTI against disrupting peace in Islamabad, saying the government will take strong measures to maintain law and order while questioning the party's leadership and calls for talks.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has said the government will not allow Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to travel to Islamabad and disturb the peace under any circumstances.

Speaking to a private television channel, Tarar said the government would take strong measures to prevent anyone from disrupting law whom the government should engage with for talks. He claimed that PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar had little influence within the party.

The information minister alleged that PTI had not demonstrated peaceful protest in the past and warned the party to reconsider its approach, saying otherwise it would face consequences it would remember.

Tarar also addressed the reported arrests of Imran Khan's sisters, saying they were detained based on what he described as credible information that they could cause a law-and-order situation.

Questioning who was currently making decisions within PTI, Tarar asked whom the government should engage with for talks. He claimed that PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar had little influence within the party and said there was no justification or benefit in negotiating with the individuals currently calling for dialogue.Tarar further said the government did not trust PTI's statements and questioned the authority of those advocating negotiations.

JI postpones long march until first week of October

- Hafiz Naeem said the JI was raising issues concerning the basic problems faced by the public and accused the government of using petrol prices and tax collection to conceal corruption

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said on Tuesday that the party had postponed its long march until the first week of October at the request of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while making it clear that its protest campaign would continue.

Addressing a press conference in Multan, Hafiz Naeem said the JI was raising issues concerning the basic problems faced by the public and accused the government of using petrol prices and tax collection to conceal corruption.

He said sit-ins were continuing in 42 cities and that the party had already asked the government in writing to withdraw the levy, but received a negative response.

The JI chief said several meetings had been held with the government and the party had also launched a train march from Karachi to Rohri and onward to Multan as part of its campaign over public issues.

Hafiz Naeem said rising petroleum prices had created a difficult situation across the country, adding that the government's relief package would benefit the government rather than address the concerns raised by the JI.

According to him, the prime minister had requested that the long march be postponed. He said the party would not withdraw from its protest movement and that sit-ins would continue.

Dar calls for implementation of Islamabad MoU for advancing regional stability

- Ishaq Dar met Libya's acting foreign minister at UNGA 81, discussing stronger bilateral ties, regional developments and Middle East tensions, while stressing dialogue and diplomacy for stability.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW YORK

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar met with Al-Taher Al-Baour, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the UNGA in New York on Tuesday.

The two sides expressed interest in further strengthening friendly ties between Pakistan and Libya across diverse fields, particularly trade, education, and business-to-business exchanges.

The ministers exchanged views on regional and international developments, including the evolving situation in the Middle East. They discussed the implications for regional peace, energy supplies, and the global economy, particularly for developing countries.



The Libyan foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's constructive diplomatic efforts for regional peace and stability.

DPM Dar underscored that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable means for addressing regional challenges and stressed the need for all parties to return to the Islamabad MoU for advancing regional stability.

Earlier, Dar met with Foreign Minister of Egypt Badr Abdelatty on sidelines of 81st Session of UN General Assembly in New York.

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USF Policy Committee approves Rs 32.90bln budget for FY 2026-27

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



):The Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy Committee on Tuesday approved the USF budget for fiscal year 2026-27, with an outlay of Rs. 32.90 billion aimed at expanding digital connectivity across unserved and underserved areas of the country.

The committee was chaired by Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, who was briefed by USF Chief Executive Officer Mudassar Naveed and senior management of the Fund, said a news release.

They presented the proposed programme portfolio and budgetary priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

The approved budget comprises Rs. 24.89 billion for disbursements against ongoing projects and Rs. 6.56 billion earmarked for new initiatives.

Currently, 28 projects are under implementation, including 17 Next Generation Broadband Service Delivery (NG-BSD) mobile broadband projects and 11 Next Generation Optical Fiber Network Services (NG-OFNS) projects.

Under the new allocation, nine NG-BSD and four NG-OFNS projects had been approved, in addition to block allocations for small lots under both programmes.

The allocations reflect the government's continued resolve to extend telecom and broadband infrastructure to areas most in need of connectivity.

The Policy Committee also approved the release of the first-quarter allocation of Rs. 5.57 billion to the USF to facilitate the execution of the approved programme.

Through sustained investment and targeted interventions, the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication and USF remain committed to bridging the digital divide, accelerating digital inclusion and expanding telecom connectivity to far-flung and underserved regions of the country.



Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Coordinator for Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing seminar on "Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain" at Jamia Masjid Bilal G-6/3.

Over 22,000 security personnel to be deployed in Islamabad ahead of protests

More than 22,000 security personnel are being deployed in Islamabad under the supervision of eight deputy inspectors general, while around 30,000 personnel are being assigned to Attock district.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Security preparations have been intensified across Islamabad and the Rawalpindi Division as authorities make arrangements to maintain law and order amid planned protest rallies and marches by several opposition groups.

More than 22,000 security personnel are being deployed in Islamabad under the supervision of eight deputy inspectors general (DIGs), while around 30,000 personnel are being assigned to Attock district, a key route connecting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Punjab.

Additional police personnel have started arriving in Attock from other districts to assist local law-enforcement authorities. The Rawalpindi police have also requested around 9,000 additional personnel to reinforce security arrangements during the expected protests.

Authorities are also preparing to restrict access to the twin cities if necessary. Around 30 entry points are expected to be blocked, including 11 points in Rawalpindi, with a large number of shipping containers being positioned along highways and other locations.

Several political and farmers' groups have announced demonstrations in Islamabad in the coming days. Jamaat-i-Islami has announced a long march against increased petroleum product levies, while Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has announced a march on September 27 calling for the release of its founder, Imran Khan.

The Kissan Ittehad has also announced a protest march seeking relief for farmers.

According to the security plan, the more than 22,000 personnel assigned to Islamabad will operate under eight DIGs, 10 senior superintendents of police (SSPs), 40 superintendents of police (SPs) and 58 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs).

Accommodation arrangements have been made for officers arriving from outside the capital. In Attock, approximately 30,000 security personnel have been called in from various parts of Punjab, including Sheikhupura, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan and Faisalabad. Personnel from the Punjab Constabulary, Riot Management Police and other specialized units are also being deployed.

Meanwhile, all types of leave for police personnel in Rawalpindi district have been suspended until October 1, except in cases of extreme emergency. The Islamabad administration and police have arranged accommodation for personnel arriving from other districts.



Foreign nationals among 100 arrested as NCCIA raids illegal call centre in Islamabad

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has taken action against an illegal call centre in Islamabad, detaining 100 people during the operation.

According to an NCCIA spokesperson, 17 foreign nationals were among those taken into custody during the raid.

he spokesperson said evidence related to an unethical application was found at the call centre. Investigators also recovered evidence concerning financial schemes linked to India and Brazil.

Following the operation, the call centre was sealed, while all data and gadgets found at the premises were taken into custody, according to the NCCIA.

The NCCIA spokesperson said action against illegal call centres is continuing across the country.

The agency said its operations are aimed at taking action against illegal call centre activities and securing relevant data and electronic equipment found during such operations.

NCCIA raids three illegal call centres in Islamabad, 212 held in international fraud probe

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



):The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has raided three alleged illegal call centres in sectors E-11 and G-10 during the last 24 hours, taking 212 Pakistani and Chinese men and women into custody in connection with an alleged international online fraud network.

An official told APP on Tuesday that the raids were conducted as part of a major operation against illegal call centres involved in different forms of online fraud.

An NCCIA spokesperson said the agency recovered 306 mobile phones, 383 computers/CPUs, 299 monitors and laptops during the operations.

According to the spokesperson, the suspects allegedly used different methods to target people online, including Google-related fraud, loan and dating schemes, fake social media profiles and fraudulent trading offers.

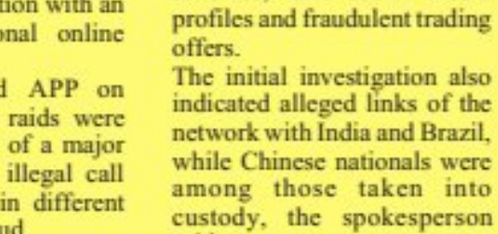
The initial investigation also indicated alleged links of the network with India and Brazil, while Chinese nationals were among those taken into custody, the spokesperson said.

In G-10, NCCIA teams raided two alleged illegal call centres, where investigators found that different online schemes were allegedly being used to deceive people. The detained persons also included Pakistani women.

Court issues notice to Adiala Jail officials in Imaan Mazari, husband bail pleas case

Sipra asked couple's lawyers whether the powers of attorney were certified.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Hearing of bail petitions filed by human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha in connection with the case registered against them at Kohsar police station of Islamabad could not continue in an anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday owing to the absence of powers of attorney of the lawyers,

The legal team, representing the couple in the case, filed a petition against the Adiala Jail officials for not signing their powers of attorney.

Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra issued a notice to the jail officials and directed them to submit their replies on September 24.

Sipra asked couple's lawyers whether the powers of attorney were certified.

Zainab Janjua, one of the lawyers, said that engaging a counsel was the petitioners' right.

However, the judge made it clear he could not hear the petitions when the powers of attorney were not signed.

He asked the prosecutor why the process was not being followed.

During the hearing, Shireen Mazari, Imaan's mother, alleged that the police beat up her daughter and her husband while arresting them.

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Petrol Relief in Difficult Times



Rabia Habib

The global economy is once again passing through a period in which the effects of tensions arising in one region can quickly reach other parts of the world. The current situation in the Middle East and fluctuations in global oil prices have also added to the economic pressure on Pakistan, a country dependent on imported oil. An increase in petrol prices does not remain confined to the petrol pump; its effects extend to transportation, business activity, the prices of essential commodities and, ultimately, the household budgets of ordinary citizens.In such circumstances, the greatest pressure falls on low- and middle-income groups whose incomes are limited while their daily expenses are already rising. For labourers, delivery riders, rickshaw and Qingqi drivers, low-paid employees and people engaged in small businesses, a motorcycle, rickshaw or small car is not merely a means of transportation; it is a means of accessing their livelihood. When petrol becomes more expensive, their transportation costs rise, their incomes can be affected, and pressure on other essential household expenses also increases.It is against this backdrop that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has introduced the Prime Minister's Special Relief Scheme as a targeted mechanism amid limited financial resources and international economic obligations. The basic objective of the scheme is to provide direct petrol relief to citizens who use motorcycles, rickshaws, Qingqis or cars up to 800cc for their daily economic activities. According to official information, the scheme is being implemented through a technology-based, transparent and targeted mechanism.The significance of this initiative is not limited to an immediate reduction in fuel expenses. Low- and middle-income groups play an important role in the national economy through their labour, skills, small businesses, taxes and everyday consumption. However, during periods of economic difficulty, their household budgets are often among the first to come under pressure because of limited financial capacity. In such circumstances, the purpose of targeted relief is to reduce some of this additional pressure by lowering transportation costs.An important feature of the Prime Minister's Special Relief Scheme is its digital framework. The government has linked CNIC information, registered mobile SIMs, vehicle details and digital fuel tokens to create a system in which registration, token issuance and verification at petrol stations form part of an integrated process. According to the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication, the system is intended to limit duplicate registrations, unauthorised claims and the potential for misuse, while ensuring greater transparency in the delivery of relief to eligible citizens.This digital system could also provide a foundation for a structured database that may, in the future, help identify citizens affected by economic crises and deliver targeted assistance to them in a timely manner. However, achieving this objective will require continued adherence to principles of personal-data protection, data security and responsible use of information.Another notable aspect of the programme is Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's direct monitoring of its various stages and his instructions for immediate adjustments based on public feedback received from across the country. The effectiveness of a policy depends not only on its announcement but also on how easily ordinary citizens can access it. For this reason, attention has been given to simplifying the registration process and addressing public concerns promptly.On the Prime Minister's direction, the SMS registration service through 9771 has also been made completely free, so that citizens do not have to pay any additional amount to register for the relief. Under the official procedure, citizens can register by sending REG, followed by their CNIC number, vehicle registration number, the first English letter of the relevant province and the registration date to 9771. After receiving a confirmation message, a fuel token can be obtained through TOK.Further facilitation has also been introduced into the scheme's procedures based on public feedback. The decision to remove the mandatory requirement to purchase five litres of petrol for motorcycles, rickshaws and Qingqis is important because not every citizen with a limited income can afford to purchase a fixed quantity of fuel at one time. Following this change, eligible workers purchasing less than five litres of petrol can also receive relief under the prescribed procedure, while the mechanism provides for a discount of up to Rs. 500 against the weekly fuel token.For cars with engine capacities of up to 800cc, the scheme provides relief on 30 litres of petrol per month. Under this mechanism, a 10-litre token is issued every ten days, resulting in three tokens per month. In this way, a specific relief mechanism has been developed according to the nature of use for different types of vehicles and the citizens who depend on them.The digital infrastructure developed by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication is playing a central role in the overall system. Under the leadership of Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, the ministry has developed the system for registration, token generation and verification at petrol stations. According to the ministry, CNIC-linked registration and token verification have been integrated in a manner designed to maintain transparency in the relief-disbursement process and minimise the possibility of unauthorised use.



By: Umer Inam New York

India's Hegemony on Regional Waters

More and more, India's neighbors see water as a way for India to control them. New Delhi's stance in treaty forums and its control over upstream infrastructure have made managing rivers a matter of high politics, from Pakistan's Indus basin to Bangladesh's coast. The result is a dangerous mix of legal problems, variable weather, and real human consequences downstream.



Start with the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which was a deal made by the World Bank in 1960 that split the basin. India got the "Eastern Rivers" (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) while Pakistan got the "Western Rivers" (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab). India was only allowed to utilize Pakistan's part of the rivers in a restricted and highly controlled way. For decades, the IWT was an extraordinary constant amid wars and diplomatic breaks. That steadiness is no longer there. In July 2023, a Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled that it has the right to consider Pakistan's complaints to the design of India's Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower initiatives. India said it wouldn't take part because it thought the tribunal was "illegally constituted." It also said that the only treaty-compliant venue was a separate "Neutral Expert" track.

The standoff escalated in 2025. On June 27, the Court issued a supplemental award on competence; India's Ministry of External Affairs immediately rejected it as void and without

legal effect. The Court has since moved into a first merits phase focused on how Article III (Western Rivers) and Annexure D (run-of-river projects) should be interpreted—questions with direct bearing on dam design. India's refusal to accept the Court's authority, even as proceedings continue, signals a willingness to sideline a core IWT dispute-settlement pathway. Pakistan calls that a violation of the bargain that kept the basin stable for six decades.

This posture feeds a broader perception—particularly in Pakistan—that India treats water as a strategic instrument. Analysts have long described New Delhi as a "hydro-hegemon" in South Asia: the militarily and economically dominant upstream actor able to shape outcomes through infrastructure, law, and diplomacy. Whether one accepts that label or not, there is no denying the leverage conferred by control over headwaters and dams.

Beyond the legal and diplomatic disputes, Pakistan is also confronting a rapidly worsening domestic water crisis. The country is facing increasing water shortages across multiple regions, with Sindh experiencing severe pressure on its water resources. Areas such as Dadu have faced acute canal water shortages, while large parts of Sindh continue to struggle with drought conditions that threaten agriculture and rural livelihoods. Karachi, Pakistan's population growth, inefficient water management, and declining availability are placing additional stress on already limited resources.

largest city and economic hub, has for years faced chronic water shortages, exposing millions of residents to unreliable supply. Similar concerns are emerging in other provinces, where population growth, inefficient water management, and declining availability are placing additional stress on already limited resources.

Pakistan's water challenge is being intensified by climate change, rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, population growth, and increasing demand from agriculture, industry, and urban centers. Reduced glacial stability in the Himalaya-Karakoram region, changing monsoon behavior, and more frequent extreme weather events are creating uncertainty for a country whose economy and food security depend heavily on the Indus Basin. The combination of climate pressure and regional water disputes has made water security one of Pakistan's most serious national challenges.

The continuing deadlock over the Indus Waters Treaty has added another layer of uncertainty. Pakistan argues that prolonged disputes over upstream projects and the disagreement over dispute-resolution mechanisms are undermining the spirit of a treaty that was designed to provide stability and predictability. Islamabad maintains that the international community should play a more active role in ensuring that existing agreements are respected and that weaker downstream states are not left vulnerable. Some Pakistani voices have called for stronger international pressure on India, including possible sanctions or diplomatic consequences, while urging countries such as the United States to take a more active role rather than remain disengaged from a dispute with significant humanitarian and regional-security implications.

The dynamics are even more intimate in Bangladesh, just downstream. Dhaka's lifelines—the Ganges-Padma, Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Meghna, and their tributaries—run through from India at a multitude of locations. Bangladeshis cite a series of Indian structures, including the envisioned Tipaimukh Dam on the Barak, the Manu and Khowai barrages in Tripura, the Mahananda works, and the controversial Farakka Barrage on the Ganges, as proof of upstream unilateralism. This unilateralism starves rivers during the dry season and exacerbates floods during the monsoon. For instance, peer-reviewed studies of Farakka link it with diminished dry-season outflows and higher monsoon release downstream—exactly the volatility that Bangladesh decries.

The 2024 "Feni flood" was the most recent flash event in the past century. Bangladeshi authorities and analysts criticized India for releasing dam gates upstream—especially at Tripura's Dumbur project—without warning, resulting in an influx into Feni and adjacent districts—as torrential rainfall pummeled India's Northeast and Bangladesh's southeast.. India flatly denied the allegation, saying the deluge was driven by record rainfall and that flood-data communication briefly faltered due to power outages. The episode stoked anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh and exposed how fragile confidence is when disaster strikes across a shared watershed.

The pattern has repeated on the Teesta. New Age Bangladesh reported in July 2025 that India opened 32 gates at the Gajoldoba barrage after extreme rain, inundating downstream chars and farmlands.



By; Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

Raeesa Adil: A Bright Chapter in Women's Leadership in Government Communication

Some appointments in Pakistan's civil service are not merely administrative decisions; they symbolize the beginning of a new era, a fresh vision, and a commitment to positive change. Such decisions often become milestones in the institutional history of the country, opening new avenues of hope, determination, and inspiration for future generations. The appointment of Ms. Raeesa Adil as the Principal Information Officer (PIO) is one such landmark development. It has not only created a new chapter in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting but has also marked a historic milestone within the Information Group. This achievement is not simply the success of an individual; it also reflects Pakistan's growing confidence in the abilities of women and reaffirms the country's commitment to merit-based leadership in the civil service.

The strength of a state is measured not only by its economy, defense capabilities, or foreign policy but also by the effectiveness with which it communicates with its citizens, presents its national narrative, and adapts its communication systems to the evolving media landscape. Around the world, government information institutions are regarded as essential pillars of governance and public policy. In Pakistan, this responsibility primarily rests with the Press Information Department (PID) and its head, the Principal Information Officer. Ms. Raeesa Adil has assumed this office at a time when the media landscape is undergoing unprecedented transformation. Traditional newspapers and television channels now coexist with social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence, making the flow of information faster and more complex than ever before. In this environment, issuing press releases alone is no longer sufficient. Governments must ensure that information

reaches the public in a timely, credible, transparent, and effective manner. Consequently, the need for experienced, professional, and balanced leadership has become more pressing than ever.

Ms. Raeesa Adil is among the senior officers of Pakistan's Information Group who have served in various important capacities throughout their professional careers. Her extensive experience in government communication, media management, public relations, and public information makes her exceptionally well-qualified for this important position. Although the complete details of her personal life and service record are not widely available in the public domain, her professional reputation clearly reflects a career defined by dedication, integrity, and competence.

The journey of women within Pakistan's bureaucracy has never been an easy one. For decades, female representation in senior administrative positions remained limited. However, this situation has gradually changed. Today, women are making significant contributions in administration, diplomacy, finance, the judiciary, and numerous other sectors, while also playing an increasingly influential role in national policymaking. Ms. Raeesa Adil's appointment is a continuation of this positive evolution, sending a powerful message that talent, hard work, and integrity transcend gender.

Her appointment also serves as a source of inspiration for young women pursuing higher education in journalism, mass communication, public policy, and civil service. It demonstrates that with perseverance, professional excellence, and unwavering commitment, it is possible to reach the highest levels of public service.

The true significance of this appointment, however, extends beyond the fact that a ies than ever before.

woman has assumed this prestigious office. More importantly, she has taken on this responsibility at a time when Pakistan faces critical challenges in strengthening its national narrative, enhancing public trust in state institutions, and countering misinformation. Information warfare has moved beyond conventional battlefields into the digital sphere, where false news can spread to millions within moments. In such circumstances, government information institutions shoulder greater responsibilities than ever before.

The office of the Principal Information Officer is therefore far more than an administrative position; it is an intellectual, communicative, and national responsibility. The individual occupying this office must serve as a reliable bridge between the government, the media, the journalistic community, and the public. This explains why appointments to this position have always carried exceptional significance.

Ms. Raeesa Adil's appointment reflects the confidence that women in Pakistan's civil service are fully capable of leading key national institutions. It is hoped that under her leadership, the Press Information Department will become even more aligned with modern communication requirements, strengthen its professional engagement with the media, and further enhance the transparency, efficiency, and timeliness of government information dissemination.

This appointment also reinforces an important lesson: institutions become stronger when leadership is selected on the basis of merit, experience.

, and competence. Such principles ensure institutional continuity and strengthen public confidence.

The success of any state depends not only on a strong economy, modern defense capabilities, or an effective foreign policy but also on its ability to communicate its policies, decisions, and national position clearly, promptly, and transparently to its citizens.

media, and the international community. Consequently, government communication has become one of the fundamental pillars of governance in developed nations. In Pakistan, the Press Information Department serves as the central institution responsible for maintaining this crucial connection between the government, the media, and the public.

Soon after Pakistan's independence, the newly established state faced numerous challenges, including the need to develop a coherent national narrative, inform citizens about government initiatives, present Pakistan's perspective internationally, and facilitate the effective exchange of information among public institutions. These necessities led to the establishment of an organized government communication system, which has continued to evolve in response to changing times.

Initially, communication relied primarily on newspapers, radio, and later Pakistan Television. Today, however, information can reach millions around the world within seconds through digital platforms.

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Oil rises slightly ahead of potential US-Iran talks

● Oil prices rebounded after four sessions of losses as markets watched possible US-Iran talks at the UN. Brent rose 1.1% to $101.48, while WTI gained 0.9% to $96.65 a barrel.

Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Oil prices gained for the first time in five ?sessions on Tuesday as investors awaited developments on potential US-Iran talks at the United Nations General Assembly ?this week after more supplies emerged through the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend.

The Brent crude futures November contract rose $1.14, or 1.1%, to $101.48 a barrel at 0317 GMT. The WTI October contract, which expires on Tuesday, climbed 87 cents, or 0.9%, to $96.65 a barrel.

The more ?actively traded November contract was up 85 cents, or 0.9%, at $93.22 a barrel.

Tehran and Washington exchanged threats on Sunday, ?though US 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 UN meeting."The move higher in WTI and the ?stronger open in Brent have the appearance of a typical short-covering bounce after the recent decline, rather than a fundamental ?shift," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade."Traders who were positioned for further downside are taking some risk off the table while the diplomatic narrative plays out."

Over the weekend, Iran also conveyed its conditions to mediators for re-engaging in negotiations, Al Jazeera reported, citing ?Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei.

Waterer said oil prices were likely to remain range-bound and sensitive to headlines until there ?was either clear progress or a setback in diplomatic efforts between the US and Iran.



Middle East tensions remained elevated after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis ?said they ?attacked Riyadh and a Saudi Aramco facility in Yanbu and stepped up efforts to cut off Saudi-backed forces from the Red Sea coast.

China has privately urged Tehran to help curb attacks by the Houthis, three Iranian sources said, after Saudi Arabia appealed to Beijing following a recent surge in the group's military operations.

Saudi Aramco has increased exports through the Strait ?of Hormuz after attacks on ?its East-West Pipeline forced it ?to halt some shipments through Yanbu. Around 14 million barrels of its crude oil were loaded on seven supertankers inside the Gulf on Sunday, tanker tracking data showed.

Attendees say the new feature demonstrates the country's eagerness to compete in the booming AI industry.

"Supply concerns are ?easing as shipments through the Strait of Hormuz reach a six-month high and Saudi Arabia ?works to ?restore its East-West pipeline...Crude implied volatility eased 3.3% to 50.39, although it remains historically elevated," said Saxo Bank analysts in a client note.

Separately, an armed group closed valve seven on Libya's Sharara crude pipeline to Zawiya port on Monday, resulting in a significant ?decline in ?production at the Sharara oilfield, Libya's National Oil Corporation said in ?a statement.

Minister orders to speed up Asaan Tax Scheme for shopkeepers

■ During the meeting in Islamabad, all the tax commissioners were directed to contact the local bar associations, after which the shopkeepers' lawyers will be allowed to fill the tax forms on behalf of them.

Web Desk

LAHORE

Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kiyani on Tuesday presided over a special meeting to review the Asaan Tax Scheme for shopkeepers and directed that the interaction process regarding the scheme be expedited,

During the meeting in Islamabad, all the tax commissioners were directed to contact the local bar associations, after which the shopkeepers' lawyers will be allowed to fill the tax forms on behalf of them.

The participants of the meeting also reviewed the progress of the Asaan Tax Scheme. During the briefing, the participants of the meeting were informed that a complete list regarding visits by FBR officials and traders' representatives was also received by trade leaders.



The Minister directed that full information about the Asaan Tax Scheme should be provided to leaders of trade associations.

He said that the government met the demands of shopkeepers, and shopkeepers themselves finalized this scheme.

Member Strategic Information Dr Hamid Atiq, Member Inland Revenue Operations Zubair Bilal, and high officials of the Federal Board of Revenue, and all chief commissioners and commissioners attended the meeting through video link.

Bilal Azhar Kiyani said that FBR has the power to take action or impose a penalty on any shopkeeper in case of violations.

Bilal Azhar Kiyani placed the Green Plate on a shop on September 15, 2026, which was registered under the Asaan Tax Scheme for shopkeepers.

FBR officials were not allowed to enter the premises of those shops that were registered under the Asaan Tax Scheme.

PSX gains over 300 points amid buying in banks, energy and cement stocks

■ KSE-100 Index rose 356 points, or 0.21%, to 171,509.25, supported by buying in banks, cement, energy, power and refinery stocks, with 48.85 million shares traded.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued its upward momentum during Tuesday's trading session.

The KSE-100 index gained 356.09 points, or 0.21%, to reach 171,509.25 points.

The market remained open with the index moving between an intraday high of 171,680.73 and a low of 171,372.29. Trading volume stood at 48.85 million shares.

Buying interest was visible across several key sectors, including automobile assemblers, cement, commercial banks, oil and gas exploration companies, power generation and refineries.

Several index-heavy stocks also traded in positive territory. ARL, HUBCO, MARI, OGDC, POL, HBL, MCB, MEBL and NBP were among the prominent stocks contributing to the market's gains.

The latest advance follows the previous session, when the KSE-100 Index rose 268.58 points, or 0.16%, to close at 171,153.17 points.

Yen squeezed as hawkish turn grips central banks

● According to industry sources, the price of petrol may increase by up to Rs4.39 per litre

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The yen was under pressure from a firm dollar on Tuesday as raders wagered on policymakers in Japan struggling to keep up with a hawkish turn ?by global central banks, leaving the country's interest rates at a wide gap with major peers.

Moves were contained thanks to a holiday in Japan and because of the risk of intervention, after the Nikkei newspaper reported Japan checked dollar/yen rates on Friday. ?Such a move is often a precursor to stepping into the market.

After drifting lower on ?Monday, the yen traded at 157.33 versus the dollar early on Tuesday, while broader ?financial markets were buoyed by falling oil prices.



Other currency pairs were mostly steady, with the euro at $1.1467, ?though cryptocurrencies have rallied in the past day to lift bitcoin to an eight-month high above $87,000.

Aside from bouncing ?after the rate check report, the yen has been under pressure since a Bank of Japan interest rate hike on Friday came with two dovish dissents.

That contrasted with the Federal Reserve, which also hiked rates last week, and most other global central banks ?which are sounding hawkish and have markets pricing more increases this year.

"Unless the BOJ tightens policy more ?rapidly than the Federal Reserve, the approximately 275-basis-point US-Japan rate differential should continue to support yen-funded carry trades," said Carlos ?Casanova, senior ?Asia economist at Union Bancaire Privée, in a note to clients.

"We expect dollar/yen to rise to 160 by year-end before appreciating moderately to 156 by mid-2027."

Pakistan heading towards Regulated Virtual Assets framework, says Aurangzeb

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that Pakistan was heading towards Regulated Virtual Assets' framework and a comprehensive system was being shaped up for digital economy, Speaking at the United Nations Digital Cooperation Day, 2026, the minister said that tokenization must be in harmony with real economic needs. He stressed the need for the development of private sector through strong protective measures, comprehensive digital infrastructure and global cooperation. He asserted that rising economies must be taken on board on shaping up global standards.

On the other hand, while expressing complete support for COP31's action agenda, Aurangzeb said that the agenda was in harmony with Pakistan's national climate priorities. He stressed the need for an effective implementation of climate-related projects. The finance minister emphasized Pakistan's high exposure to climate risks and identified key areas of common focus, including clean energy and electrification, renewable energy development, energy-efficient buildings, climate-resilient urban development, climate education and public awareness, food security, and resilient agriculture.

Trump floats fertilizer deal with Russian-allied Belarus

■ Trump's announcement on purchases of potash comes as Washington pursues dialogue with Minsk despite its repression of dissidents and support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Web Desk

WASHNGATION

US President Donald Trump said he was working on a "massive" deal to buy fertilizer from Belarus, pivoting away from main supplier Canada toward an ally of Russia.

Trump's announcement on purchases of potash comes as Washington pursues dialogue with Minsk despite its repression of dissidents and support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

At the same time, Trump has stepped up a trade war with North American neighbor Canada, a long-term US ally and top trading partner. "The United States is working on a massive Deal with respect to the purchase of Potash from Belarus," Trump said on his Truth Social network. "The pricing would be for substantially less than we are currently paying to Canada, very good news for our Farmers and Ranchers."

The United States imports the vast majority of its potash -- a chemical salt used to manufacture fertilizer. Prices soared after the Ukraine war.

In 2024, 79 percent came from Canada, 11 percent from Russia and 4 percent from Belarus, according to the US Geological Survey.

Washington has quietly moved to thaw relations with reclusive Belarus under Trump's second administration.

Last week, Belarus freed 25 political prisoners as the United States lifted sanctions on two of the country's companies.

But hundreds remain in prison after President Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, suppressed mass protests against his reelection in 2020, which was followed by a wave of sanctions.

Western countries again squeezed Belarus with sanctions in 2022 after Minsk allowed Moscow to invade Ukraine through its territory.

Belarus's exiled opposition leader on Monday warned that any deal with Lukashenko is "very risky."

"Our position is that it is not time to trade with the regime while all the income from potash goes to repression, goes to support of the Russian war machine," Svetlana Tikhanovskaya told AFP.

She stressed, however, her belief that Americans "know who Lukashenko is."



Scanned with CamScanner

Trump approval falls to record low of 32pc as high costs bite, Reuters/Ipsos poll finds

- The poll found voters leaning away from supporting Trump's fellow Republicans in the November 3 midterm elections



Web Desk

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's approval rating fell to 32% - the lowest of his political career - as his fellow Republicans soured on his handling of the cost of living amid the unpopular Iran war, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

The poll, completed on Sunday, was conducted over a four-day period that saw Trump throw three major news organizations out of the White House and muse that Washington's iconic Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts -- named after slain President John F. Kennedy -- could be torn down if Trump's own name could not be added to it.

It found voters leaning away from supporting Trump's fellow Republicans in the November 3 midterm elections that will determine control of Congress for the next two years.

Trump's overall approval was down from a reading of 35% in last week's Reuters/Ipsos poll, with support among his own Republicans down to 73% from 82% a week earlier.

Trump returned to the White House in January ?2025 on promises to tame inflation and end foreign wars. In a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in the hours after he was sworn in, he enjoyed a 47% approval rating.

Just 17% of respondents in the new poll approved of his handling of the cost of living - the top issue Americans say will determine how they vote in November.

Dissatisfaction among Republicans on inflation has been growing since Trump launched the war on Iran in February that has pushed gasoline and diesel prices sharply higher. Now for the first time, Republicans who disapprove of Trump's handling of the cost of living outnumber those who give him a thumbs up - 51% to 44%.

Trump's approval rating is lower than any recorded for his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, whose presidency was also marked by surging inflation and who ultimately ended his reelection bid after a poor debate performance heightened concerns about his age. Biden's low was 35%, reached in late October 2024.

Only 34% of the most recent poll respondents approve of the strikes on Iran. The conflict has cut the world off from a significant slice of the oil and gas produced in the ?Middle East, and threatens to stoke higher inflation in the US and elsewhere as businesses pass on higher fuel costs to consumers.

Trump initially said the conflict would last a few weeks and that Iran needed to be bombed to stop it from developing nuclear weapons.

Earlier this month, the Republican leader pledged the war would end "immediately after" the election.

But Iran has shown no sign of giving up and in recent weeks Tehran and its allies have threatened further disruptions to oil markets.

Iranian army chief reaffirms military readiness amid regional tensions



WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iranian Army Commander-in-Chief Major General Amir Hatami has said the country's armed forces will not hesitate for a moment to defend Iran's independence and territorial integrity.

In a statement, Hatami said Iran's armed forces and people had demonstrated resilience and resistance in the face of what he described as threats from adversaries.

He warned that any attack on Iran's security, sovereignty or territorial integrity would receive a decisive response.

According to the army chief, the Iranian nation had remained united in resisting aggression and what he called hostile actions during recent imposed wars.

He said the armed forces had relied on their faith, experience and capabilities to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Hatami said Iran's armed forces were fully prepared to defend the country across all domains, including its airspace, land and maritime borders.

He emphasized that the military would remain committed to protecting Iran's independence and national interests, while maintaining readiness to respond to any threat against the country.

The commander's remarks come amid heightened regional tensions and continued concerns over Iran's security environment.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stressed the country's military preparedness and their determination to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity against external threats.



RAW, Taliban, terror groups' nexus against Pakistan revealed

- Pakistan has for years reported that India uses Afghan territory to fund and arm separatist and militant violence on its soil, and raised this issue at diplomatic forums

Web DESK

PARIS

A secret intelligence report has emerged regarding the nexus between India's intelligence agency RAW, Afghan Taliban's intelligence agency, General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI), and various militant groups.

According to the intelligence gathered by Pakistani security agencies, the BLA-TTP nexus took root around 2025, built on Afghan training camps already operating with backing from Afghanistan's General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI).

Acting on direction attributed to Taliban supreme leader Sheikh Haibatullah Akhundzada, the GDI moved to formally weld the BLA to the TTP and other militant outfits, with India's RAW helping broker meetings to line up outside financing for the BLA.

The report says that on May 26, 2026, Mullah Shireen, the Taliban-appointed governor of Kandahar, met with AQIS and TTP representatives to secure backing for BLA operations.

Three follow-up meetings took place that July: at the first, the GDI pledged full support for BLA activity inside Pakistan; at the second, held at a TTP compound in Kandahar, the BLA reportedly handed over 3.5 million Afghanis to the group Jamat-ul-Ahrar; and at the third, a sit-down between RAW and the GDI chief held outside Afghanistan, a decision was allegedly taken to bankroll coordinated BLA-TTP attacks across Balochistan, with RAW contributing more than 7.8 million US dollars.

The document also describes an emergency summit convened on August 26, 2026, in Kandahar under the patronage of the Taliban administration, bringing together senior BLA, TTP and al-Qaeda figures, among them Bashir Zeb, Khalil Baloch, Sifatullah Mengal, Anwar Nizami and Majeed Baloch of the BLA, and Hafiz Gul Bahadur, Mullah Mirajuddin, Mullah Asad Waziristani and Mujeeb ur Rehman Gujjar representing the TTP and allied networks.

Iran's Araghchi accuses Israeli lobby of influencing US policy toward Tehran

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has claimed that the Israeli lobby is exerting growing influence over US policy toward Iran.

In a statement posted on X, Araghchi alleged that the Israeli lobby was pressing Washington to prioritize Israel's interests in shaping its policy toward Iran.

He said the time had come for US policy to be freed from what he described as Israeli pressure.According to Araghchi, there were calls for the United States to bear the consequences of even minor actions taken against Israel.

The Iranian foreign minister further called on Washington to break free from what he described as the "chains" of Israeli pressure.

Araghchi's remarks come amid continued tensions between Iran, Israel and the United States, with disagreements over regional security and Iran's nuclear programme remaining key issues in relations among the three countries.Iranian officials have repeatedly criticized Washington's approach toward Tehran and accused the United States of aligning its regional policies with Israeli interests.

Trump, Mamdani discuss housing, affordability at NY meeting

- US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met at Gracie Mansion .

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met at Gracie Mansion on Monday, using Trump's visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly to discuss housing, affordability and other issues affecting the city.

The meeting was the third face-to-face encounter between the two and the first to take place in New York. Their previous meetings were held at the White House, including one in February focused in part on housing development.

Mamdani said after the meeting that they discussed ways to reduce the cost of living for New Yorkers and expand housing construction.

A central focus was the proposed redevelopment of Sunnyside Yards in Queens, a major rail-yard project that Mamdani said could create around 12,000 homes and 30,000 jobs.

Mamdani said City Hall and the White House had agreed to establish a new level of coordination between their housing and operations teams on the project.

Trump said Sunnyside Yards had been discussed for decades and would likely require federal approvals and funding. He also



said a substantial portion of any development should include low- and moderate-income housing.

The meeting took place at a politically significant moment, with Trump in New York for a series of diplomatic engagements surrounding the UN General Assembly. Trump is scheduled to address the assembly on Tuesday and is expected to hold meetings with several foreign leaders during his visit.

At a news conference following the meeting, Trump said he hoped Mamdani would become a "great mayor," despite the sharp political differences between the two men.

Mamdani, for his part, said he would leave it to New Yorkers to judge his performance.

Trump also addressed questions about restrictions on several news organizations' access to the White House, saying he believed the outlets had an obligation to be fair.

Mamdani said he supported having members of the press present at Gracie Mansion regardless of their opinions or criticism.

UK agrees air refuelling support for Saudi jets in fight against Houthis

- France ready to help 'secure' Saudi energy infrastructure

WEB DESK

UK

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has agreed to give military support to Saudi Arabia to help it tackle attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi.

British planes will provide "defensive" air-to-air refuelling for Saudi jets, he told reporters as he travelled to the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The UK mission will be limited to supporting Saudi aircraft defending the country from attack from drones and missiles rather than supporting strikes against the Houthis, the PA news agency reported.

The use of the Voyager tanker is expected to start within days and the mission will be time-limited, with officials indicating it could last for "weeks".

The refuelling mission is in addition to the UK Sky Sabre air defence system already deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Burnham told reporters he was "acting to secure the interests of Britain and the wider region because, of course, Saudi Arabia has been experiencing attacks, is looking at potential further disruption, and we need to keep those pathways open, and hence our agreement to the request", according to the reports.

A Houthi attack on Riyadh on Saturday was the first to target the Saudi capital in years and a major escalation.

This month, the Houthis, who already held most of Yemen's populated areas, launched a lightning offensive to take over the country's entire Red Sea coast, giving them control over the vital Bab al-Mandab strait.

Saudi Arabia has, since 2015, led a coalition backing the internationally recognised government. Its intervention escalated the war, which has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises in the impoverished country.

France ready to help 'secure' Saudi energy infrastructure

France is ready to work on "securing" Saudi energy infrastructure targeted by Houthis, adopting a "strictly defensive approach," a diplomatic source has said.



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Mehwish Hayat is back! Superstar unveils first look as Shehnaz in 'Rutba'

■ Sharing the first glimpse, Mehwish penned an emotional note about the character and her experience of returning to the small screen.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani superstar Mehwish Hayat has make make her much anticipated return to television with the mega project drama serial 'Rutba', finally giving fans a glimpse of her intriguing character, Shehnaz.

The actress took to Instagram to unveil a teaser featuring her first look as Shehnaz, officially marking the beginning of her highly awaited television comeback.

Sharing the first glimpse, Mehwish penned an emotional note about the character and her experience of returning to the small screen.

And so, Rutba begins… Meet Shehnaz," she wrote.

"A character who challenged me, surprised me and became incredibly special to me. It feels so good to return to your television screens with a story as meaningful as Rutba," Mehwish added.

Keeping the storyline under wraps, the actress teased an intense viewing experience for audiences.

"I won't reveal too much, but this one will keep you hooked and on the edge of your seat," she wrote. Mehwish also expressed excitement about collaborating with the drama's star-studded cast and acclaimed creative team.

Sanam Marvi Regrets Past Marriage After 15 Years

■ Singer Sanam Marvi Regrets Past Marriage After 15 Years

Showbiz Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani singer Sanam Marvi has spoken candidly about a painful period of her personal life, revealing that she regrets a decision related to her past marriage and saying she would not have made the same choice if she had not had her three sons.

A clip from Sanam's recent podcast appearance has gone viral on social media, in which the singer reflected on the nearly 15 years she describes as an extremely difficult phase of her life.



Speaking about her marriage in Punjab, Sanam became emotional while recalling the circumstances surrounding her decision. She said that without her three sons, she would never have taken that step in her life.

The singer also expressed regret over the years she believes were lost during that period. She said that although it was an important phase of her life, she would n choose differently if given another opportunity and would not want to spend another 15 years going through the same experience.

Despite her feelings about the past, Sanam said she continues to respect her former husband because he is the father of her children. She explained that her sons have played an important role in maintaining that respect.

Sanam further revealed that she has worked to provide her sons with a secure and comfortable life. She said she built a house for them and also gave them a car.

According to the singer, her sons now visit her and spend time with her, which has helped restore their relationship after years of separation.

Recalling one of the hardest periods of her life, Sanam said she remained separated from her children for around seven years. She also went through several court proceedings during that time, describing those years as extremely challenging.

Sanam's remarks shed light on the personal struggles she says she faced over the course of 15 years. While she regrets the decisions that shaped that period, she considers her three sons the most significant part of her life and continues to focus on maintaining a close relationship with them.



Salman Khan defends Katrina Kaif amid social media comments about her weight

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

- Bollywood actor Salman Khan has spoken out against social media trolling targeting actress Katrina Kaif over changes in her appearance following the birth of her son.

During an episode of Bigg Boss Season 20, Khan discussed the scrutiny actors face over their physical appearance. He referred to criticism directed at women who gain weight during pregnancy, without naming Kaif directly.

Khan questioned why women are subjected to online trolling after pregnancy, saying that gaining weight during pregnancy is normal and that actresses can return to fitness when they are ready to resume their film careers.

He also said women may choose to spend time with their families after giving birth rather than immediately returning to work.

Kaif and actor Vicky Kaushal welcomed their son, Vihaan, in November 2025.

The actress recently attended the Ambani family's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Mumbai with Kaushal. Videos and photographs from the event circulated on social media, prompting comments from some users about her appearance.

Some social media users compared her recent photographs with images from her earlier film appearances.

Ed Sheeran calls Gaza situation catastrophic, unjustifiable

■ He made the remarks during a Philadelphia concert on Saturday while speaking about freedom of speech and the role of venues in deciding what performers can say.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

British singer Ed Sheeran described the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic, unjustifiable and disproportionate" amid the controversy over Macklemore's removal from his US tour.

He made the remarks during a Philadelphia concert on Saturday while speaking about freedom of speech and the role of venues in deciding what performers can say.

"I've never wanted to be an activist musician, but this has put me in the middle of an important and passionate argument about freedom of speech and the most complex political issue on the planet," Sheeran said.

He described the October 7, 2023 attack in Israel and at the Nova Music Festival as "horrific" and said it had compounded centuries of Jewish pain.

"What is happening in Gaza is catastrophic and unjustifiable and disproportionate," he said.

"My heart has been broken by the scale of devastation and loss of civilians' lives, of children's lives, and the systemic injustice



we're seeing unfold in the West Bank cannot be overlooked," Sheeran said.

Sheeran also apologised for decisions made during the dispute surrounding his Loop Tour.

"This week, the criticism was about something much more important and I've had to take and make difficult decisions, and I am making mistakes, and I'm so, so sorry," he said.

The controversy followed American rapper Macklemore's pro-Palestinian remarks at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium earlier this month. On Monday, September 14, Macklemore said he had been removed from the remaining US dates of Sheeran's tour after performing "Hind's Hall" and saying "Free Palestine" during the shows.

Sheeran said he was concerned about venues having the power to pre-approve performers' content.

"I am deeply worried about the idea that venues should pre-approve content of performers. This happens in so many places that I perform around the world, but it should never happen in the free world," he said.

"My concerts have always been a safe space for everyone, and that matters hugely to me," Sheeran added.

"This concert is still a place where everyone is welcome."

Sheeran performed without an opening act at Lincoln Financial Field, while dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered outside the venue before the concert.

Sabahat Bukhari Reveals 30-Year Separation From Daughter

Web Desk

KARACHI

– Pakistani actress Sabahat Bukhari has opened up about the emotional pain of being separated from her first child, revealing that she remained away from her daughter for nearly 30 years.

The actress said her first marriage took place in Lahore, and she later became the mother of a daughter. However, after the marriage ended, her former husband's family separated her from her infant daughter.

According to Sabahat Bukhari, the family later moved to another house, making it difficult for her to locate her daughter. She said her former husband had also told the



girl that her mother had passed away.Sabahat Bukhari revealed that nearly three decades later, following the death of her former husband, his family finally told her daughter about her biological mother.

She said her daughter subsequently found and contacted her through social media. The two eventually reunited, reconnecting after spending almost 30 years apart.



Haroon Shahid spills 'Verna's' untold casting story

Haris Waheed Explains Shayyan's Popularity Despite His Flaws

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Haris Waheed has spoken about the audience response to his character Shayyan Mursaleen in ARYDigital'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.

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.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan women clinch Asian Games bronze with 31-run win over Bangladesh

● The victory earned Pakistan the bronze medal after the team was eliminated from the gold-medal contest following an eight-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka in the semifinal

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan women's cricket team defeated Bangladesh by 31 runs in the third-place playoff to secure the bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Games on Tuesday.

After winning the toss at Korogi Sports Park, Pakistan elected to bat first and posted 145 for eight in their allotted 20 overs.

Opener Gull Feroza contributed 31 runs, while captain Fatima Sana played a key innings, scoring 45 off 30 deliveries with three fours and three sixes. For Bangladesh, Nahida Akter, Shorna Akter and Ritu Moni claimed two wickets each, while Sanjida Akter took one wicket.Chasing 146, Bangladesh managed 114 for seven in 20 overs. Pakistan's Umme Hani led the bowling attack with three wickets, while Fatima Sana, Tasmiya Rubab, Nashra Sandhu and Ayesha Zafar picked up one wicket each.

The victory earned Pakistan the bronze medal after the team was eliminated from the gold-medal contest following an eight-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka in the semifinal.

LHC directs cricketer Rizwan to cooperate in NCCIA probe

● Court dismisses Rizwan's plea against NCCIA probing online betting and gambling allegations

Sports Desk

LAHORE





The Lahore High Court (LHC) has disposed of a petition filed by national cricketer Mohammad Rizwan against an ongoing inquiry by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and directed him to cooperate with the agency regarding the inquiry,

LHC Chief Justice Justice Aalia Neelum on Tuesday issued the written order on Mohammad Rizwan's petition.

The decision said that the NCCIA was investigating allegations related to online betting and gambling against Mohammad Rizwan.

According to the government lawyer, the matter falls within the scope of Section 14 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, concerning unlawful financial gain.

Information obtained during cyber patrolling revealed Mohammad Rizwan's connection to the matter.

The decision said that, at this stage, it was appropriate to allow the relevant agency to continue investigating the allegations.

The ICC Anti-Corruption Code does not affect or end proceedings under other applicable laws.

The ICC's own code also requires cooperation with the relevant criminal or regulatory authority, and the existence of the ICC disciplinary framework does not obstruct a lawful inquiry by a state-authorized agency.

The court observed that a call-up notice, by itself, does not accuse a person of committing a crime.

The purpose of the inquiry is to detect and eliminate corruption in sports. The court cannot intervene at this preliminary stage before the inquiry is completed and the need for further action is determined.

The court held that if Mohammad Rizwan has a grievance regarding the final outcome of the inquiry, he may seek appropriate relief in accordance with the law. The decision said that Mohammad Rizwan could approach the relevant court for the return of items seized or taken into custody from him.

The court directed Mohammad Rizwan to join and cooperate with the NCCIA inquiry.

It also directed the NCCIA not to harass or unnecessarily trouble him and to conduct the inquiry in accordance with the law.

Deputy Attorney-General Rafaqat Ali Dogar presented in the court on behalf of the federal government. He also submitted ICC laws in court.

Mohamed Salah handed six-month driving ban in England

■ Ex-Liverpool star convicted after failing to identify driver of Rolls-Royce when it was caught speeding



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Former Liverpool footballer and Egypt captain Mohamed Salah has been banned from driving in England for six months after his Rolls-Royce was caught speeding in Wilmslow, Cheshire.

The 34-year-old failed to tell police who was driving the luxury car when it was recorded travelling at 36mph (58 km/h) in a 30mph (48 km/h) zone on March 27, according to court documents.

Salah did not respond to a notice of prosecution issued by Cheshire Constabulary and did not enter a plea to the charge.He was prosecuted under the Single Justice Procedure at Warrington Combined Court and convicted of failing to provide information relating to the identification of the driver of the Rolls-Royce.

The procedure allows magistrates to deal with certain cases in private hearings. The court imposed a six-month driving disqualification and ordered Salah to pay £1,044.

According to reports, the speeding incident involved a Rolls-Royce Spectre registered in Salah's name. The luxury vehicle is reportedly worth more than 466,000 ($544,000).

Salah also reportedly failed to respond to two notices sent to his mansion in England, which is estimated to be worth more than 5 million ($5.8 million).

Days after Liverpool departure announcement

The speeding incident occurred just two days after Salah announced that he would leave Liverpool following nine years with the club.Liverpool confirmed his departure on March 24, saying the Egyptian forward had "firmly established himself as one of the greatest players in Liverpool's history."Salah finished his Liverpool career with 257 goals in 442 appearances before moving to Turkish side Trabzonspor after the 2025-26 season.

Salah recently made headlines for Trabzonspor

The latest driving case comes shortly after Salah returned to the headlines for his performances in Turkey.

Infantino says he is open to talks over FIFA reform

■ Infantino said he would propose consultations with confederations, member associations and other stakeholders on strengthening FIFA's decision-making

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



FIFA President Gianni Infantino has proposed an independent review of the world soccer body's decision-making, in a move that could help him regain support after the withdrawal of a controversial private investment plan.

"First, I will ask the Council whether it wishes to commission an independent external review of FIFA's current governance framework for major strategic initiatives and recommend potential improvements," Infantino wrote to the FIFA Council and all 211 member association presidents in a letter seen by Reuters.

He also said he would propose consultations with confederations, member associations and other stakeholders on strengthening FIFA's decision-making.

The proposals would examine who has a say in major initiatives, including the ?respective roles of the president, Bureau, Council and Congress, and how to improve transparency and accountability.Infantino faced a fierce backlash over his proposal to sell a 20% stake in FIFA's commercial rights, including the World Cup, to private investors. The plan was abandoned in July after opposition and boycott threats, with UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation and CONCACAF subsequently calling for changes to FIFA's leadership.

His opponents have been struggling to find a candidate to challenge Infantino, who will be running for re-election in March in Rabat.

Balochistan Archery Association Elections on October 1

■ Polls to be held at Ayub Stadium Quetta under Balochistan Sports Policy 2008

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Elections for the Balochistan Archery Association will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 4:00 PM at Ayub Stadium Quetta under the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008.At present, the Balochistan Archery Association does not exist, although archery clubs and players are present in every registered district of the province. Under the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008, the formation of an association is mandatory to promote archery in the province in an organized manner.The election process is therefore being conducted for the establishment of the Balochistan Archery Association. All registered district associations have been requested to ensure their participation in the elections.



Pakistan's Manesha Ali wins gold at Mixed Martial Arts World Cup in Angola

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Manesha Ali defeated Angola's Leonela Isabel Blaiye to win gold at the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) World Cup, the IMMAF said.With 15 seconds remaining in the second round, Ali, who hails from Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, secured a standing guillotine in response to a late attack by Blaiye.

The IMMAF World Cup is an international amateur mixed martial arts competition, which featured 15 top-ranked teams from around the world.

"Manisha Ali claims gold thanks to a round two guillotine!" the IMMAF wrote on X.

Ali's victory comes as woman fighters continue to gain visibility in Pakistan. Brave Gym, where Ali trains in Lahore, described the Pakistani fighter as a "role model" for young girls across the country.

"She took on one of the toughest sports in the world and, in less than a year of training at BRAVE Gym, became a IMMAF gold medalist," it said on Instagram.



Wasim Akram questions grand welcome for Razaullah

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan fast bowler Wasim Akram has questioned the grand reception given to young pacer Razaullah after his impressive Test debut against England.Razaullah made his international debut in the third and final Test of the series after Pakistan made several changes to its squad following defeats in the opening two matches.

The youngster made an immediate impact, taking four wickets in England's first innings before scoring an aggressive 81 in Pakistan's second innings.

His performance helped Pakistan avoid an innings defeat and earned him a hero's welcome when he returned home, with around 5,000 people reportedly gathering at Islamabad Airport.

WasimAkram questions celebrations

Speaking at a charity event in Manchester, Akram acknowledged Razaullah's talent and praised his performance on debut but questioned the scale of the celebrations following Pakistan's series defeat.



IOC chief praises Asian Games accommodation despite complaints

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

International Olympic Committee President Kirsty Coventry said she was impressed with accommodation provided for athletes at the Asian Games in Nagoya, despite complaints from some competitors about cramped rooms and small beds.

Japanese organisers abandoned plans for a dedicated athletes' village to reduce costs, instead housing about 17,000 athletes and officials in hotels, modular cabins and a cruise ship.

Several athletes have criticised the accommodation, but Coventry praised the facilities after inspecting the cabins at Garden Pier. "The cabins are quiet, they're very cool. The air conditioning is working well. The flooring and the walls are beautiful," Coventry told reporters.

She said the accommodation was better than some athletes' villages where she had stayed and that she had expected the facilities to be different based on reports she had read.

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Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to waive visas for diplomatic, official passport holders

● Dar described the agreement as an important step towards facilitating high-level engagement and institutional exchanges between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement to waive visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official or special passports, facilitating official travel and institutional contacts between the two countries.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan signed the agreement in New York on the sidelines of the 2026 United Nations General Assembly session.Dar announced the development in a post on X, saying he was pleased to sign the agreement with his Saudi counterpart.

Under the arrangement, Pakistani citizens holding diplomatic and official passports will be able to travel to Saudi Arabia without obtaining a visa, Dar said.

He described the agreement as an important step towards facilitating high-level engagement and institutional exchanges between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Dar said the move would also help strengthen the two countries' "enduring and brotherly strategic partnership" in areas of mutual interest.The visa waiver agreement comes as Islamabad and Riyadh continue efforts to expand their economic, political and strategic cooperation.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said last month that Pakistan sought to transform its economic relationship with Saudi Arabia into a mutually beneficial strategic economic partnership.

His remarks came during a meeting with a Saudi business delegation led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammad Al Saud, chairman of the Saudi-Pak Joint Business Council.

The Saudi delegation expressed interest in investment opportunities in several sectors, including agriculture, ports, highways, airport outsourcing, real estate, energy, power distribution and information technology.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have also expanded cooperation in security and defence. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement in August to establish a framework for collective security cooperation.

Strict security arrangements finalized for Islamabad to tackle long march

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Stringent security arrangements have been finalized in Islamabad keeping in view the planned long march by political parties,

The security has been put on high alert and personnel from other provinces have started arriving in Islamabad.

Over 22,000 security personnel will be deployed in Islamabad. Eight DIGs and 10 SSPs will be deployed to oversee the security in Islamabad. As many as 40 SPs, 58 DSPs, and 246 inspectors will be deployed across various sectors.

Security in the Red Zone has been further tightened in view of the potential march and sit-in. More than 1,200 containers have been positioned at various highways and key locations in Islamabad.



These containers will be used to block routes upon receipt of orders.

Security personnel will be deployed along major routes stretching from the Motorway, Tarnol, and Sangjani to the Red Zone.

Security arrangements will also be implemented on Srinagar Highway and the Expressway.

Routes from Kashmir will be blocked by placing containers at Bara Kahu.

Given the situation, the Red Zone access route from Margalla Road may also be closed.

Police, FC, and Rangers personnel have been summoned from other areas.

Security personnel will be accommodated in Islamabad's educational institutions.

Surveillance will be conducted using the city's network of over 15,000 cameras.

Restaurants, inns, and hotels are also being monitored.

Police will conduct aerial surveillance using drones.

Security checks at Islamabad's entry points have been further intensified.

Next review talks between Pakistan, IMF to get underway tomorrow



WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Preparations for the next review talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are complete as negotiations between the two sides will kick off tomorrow,

Sources told the 24News TV channel that the talks under the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and climate financing programmes would continue simultaneously for the next two weeks.

Sources informed that the talks would review the second six-month performance of the last financial year.

If talks remained successful, they added, next tranches under both the programmes would be released; fifth tranche under the EFF.

So far, Pakistan has received $4.60 billion from the Fund under both the programmes.

It is pertinent to mention here that presently Pakistan is in two loan programmes with the IMF; $7 billion EFF programme and $1.40 billion climate financing programme.

The Executive Board of the IMF had on May 9, 2026 approved $1.32 billion financing for Pakistan under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) programmes.

"The Fund's Executive Board completed the third review of the Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review of the arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), said a statement issued by the money-lending organization.

Pakistan supports COP31 Action Agenda, says minister

■ The finance minister was speaking at the launch of COP31 Action Agenda in New York .



STAFF REPORTER
KARACHI

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed Pakistan's support for COP31 Action Agenda and called for effective implementation of climate plans,

The finance minister was speaking at the launch of COP31 Action Agenda in New York on Monday.

The finance minister highlighted Pakistan's acute climate vulnerability and emphasized shared priorities including clean energy and electrification, renewable energy expansion, energy-efficient buildings, climate-resilient cities, climate education and public awareness, food security, and climate-resilient agriculture.

At the World Economic Forum's "Financing Planet and Prosperity" meeting, the Finance Minister outlined the government's efforts to strengthen disaster-response frameworks, early-warning systems and costed climate-investment plans, while emphasizing that external assistance must be complemented by domestic resources and fiscal buffers.

In his opening remarks at the "United Nations Digital Cooperation Day 2026 – Blockchain and the Tokenized Future: Sovereign Choices and Safeguards for Next-Gen DPI," Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb highlighted Pakistan's transition towards a regulated virtual assets framework.

FIA files FIR against five FBR officers in Rs250m cigarette theft case

■ The case was registered by the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle on the complaint of FIA Assistant Director Muhammad Safir Ahmed.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday lodged an FIR against five Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officers and three officials of a private company in the theft of 2,828 cartons of cigarettes from FBR warehouses in Swabi and Mardan, involving a loss worth Rs250 million,

The case was registered by the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle on the complaint of FIA Assistant Director Muhammad Safir Ahmed.

According to the FIR, five FBR officials and three owners of a private company have been nominated as accused.

The FBR officials named in the case included Inspectors Kamran and Naveed, a driver, a security guard and a naib qasid. Two directors and a manager of the private company have also been named.

The FIA has launched raids to arrest the nominated suspects, according to officials.

According to the FIR, 1,262 cartons of cigarettes were seized in Swabi in February 2024 and subsequently stored at an FBR warehouse in Mardan.

The FIR stated that FBR Inspectors Kamran and Naveed later transferred 1,202 cartons from Mardan to Swabi. When the trucks reached the Swabi warehouse, 908 cartons were found missing.

The FIR further alleged that after around three months, officials claimed to have recovered 907 cartons.

However, an inspection conducted a year later found that a total of 2,828 cartons, including the previously recovered 907 cartons, were missing.

The FIR stated that FBR inspectors and other staff were directly involved in the theft and, in connivance with private company officials, caused a loss of around Rs250 million to the national exchequer.

It also alleged that logbooks were deliberately not maintained at the warehouses and CCTV cameras were not installed.



Women and girls participate in the Lahooti Melo organized by the Sindh Government to mark World Peace Day at the Police Training School Ground.

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