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New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Syrian Arab Republic H.E. Ahmed al-Sharaa

Pakistan forces shoot down eight drones launched from Afghanistan

■ Pakistan says its forces downed eight drones launched from Afghanistan and thwarted militant infiltration in Kurram, amid renewed border clashes with Afghan Taliban forces.

STAFF REPORTER
KOHAT



Pakistan armed forces have neutralized eight rudimentary suicide drones launched from Afghanistan.

The four drones were brought down approximately seven kilometres from Kohat City in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while another four were shot down near Torkham border on Wednesday.

The drones were launched from Afghanistan by the Afghan Taliban regime.

Sources said Pakistan Armed Forces' air defence systems remain vigilant around the clock against threats emanating from Afghanistan, according to the information provided.

Earlier, Pakistan's security forces have foiled an attempted infiltration by Fitna al-Khawarij from Afghanistan into the Kurram sector and responded to unprovoked firing by Afghan Taliban forces on Pakistani border posts, according to security sources.The sources said the infiltration attempt was launched from Afghan Taliban positions in Nangarhar and Paktia provinces. Pakistani troops deployed along the border successfully thwarted the attempt and prevented the militants from crossing into Pakistani territory.

Following the failure of the infiltration attempt, Afghan Taliban forces opened fire on Pakistani border posts in the Kurram sector using heavy weapons, mortars and other arms, the sources said.

Pakistan's security forces responded with small and heavy weapons, including artillery, targeting several Afghan Taliban border posts, mortar positions and defensive positions.

Nine terrorists killed in Mastung security forces operation

■ Mohsin Naqvi commends security forces for successful operations

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Security forces conducted a major operation in the Kanak Valley area of Mastung, killing nine terrorists,

According to security sources, terrorists belonging to 'Fitna-ul-Khawarij' made a cowardly attempt to attack a security post in the area; one security force soldier was also wounded during the ensuing intense exchange of fire and has been shifted to the hospital.

Security forces, acting swiftly and effectively, eliminated two terrorists.

Security forces pursued fleeing terrorists belonging to 'Fitna-ul-Khawarij' and killed seven additional Khawarij.

A large quantity of weapons and ammunition, along with three motorcycles, was recovered from the possession of the killed terrorists.

Security forces will continue operations in Balochistan until the elimination of the last terrorist.

Naqvi commends security forces for successful operations

Meanwhile, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi commended security forces for successful operations in Balochistan against terrorists associated with 'Fitna-ul-Hind' under Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad 3. In his message, the Interior Minister praised the professional capabilities of the security forces for eliminating nine terrorists in the Kanak Valley area of Mastung.

"I am proud of the brave sons of the security forces who thwarted the nefarious designs of the terrorists," said Mohsin Naqvi.

Mohsin Naqvi said the actions of the security forces reflect a firm resolve to safeguard national security. "I pay tribute to the brave sons of the soil participating in Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad 3," Mohsin Naqvi said.

He said the nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the security forces in the war against terrorism.

"Operations against 'Fitna-ul-Hind' and 'Fitna-ul-Khawarij' are proceeding with full force and will continue," Mohsin Naqvi added.



President Pezeshkian tells UN Iran will not surrender, accuses US and Israel of attacking civilians

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday called for the early adoption of the International Covenant on the Right to Development, emphasizing that every individual deserves the right to seek a better future and that every nation must have the tools to build it.

The prime minister, addressing a high-level meeting at the United Nations Headquarters marking the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, said the declaration had placed humans at the heart of development four decades ago, affirming it as an inalienable right of the people.

He said the declaration's message was profound, as progress must not merely create wealth but must advance social development and uphold human dignity.



Security forces kill two terrorists in Turbat operation

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Security forces have killed two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Turbat district of Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad 3, according to security sources.The operation was carried out in the Jausak area of Turbat after security forces received information about the presence of militants in the area.According to the sources, an exchange of fire took place between security forces and members of Fitna al-Hindustan, resulting in the deaths of two militants.

The sources said security personnel are continuing to pursue terrorists who fled the area. Search, clearance and sanitisation operations are also under way. Security forces have reiterated their stated resolve to continue operations against militants as part of ongoing efforts to address security threats in the province.



US ambassador meets Naqvi, discuss bilateral ties and investment opportunities

■ Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad and discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-US relations.

NEWS DESK
ISLAMABAD

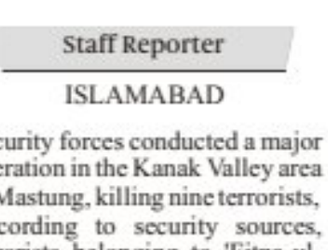
Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday met with US Ambassador Natalie Baker in Islamabad and discussed ways to strengthen Pakistan-US relations, investment opportunities, regional security and efforts for peace and stability.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and explored opportunities for increasing investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United States. They also discussed the latest regional situation and ongoing efforts aimed at maintaining peace and stability.

Regional security matters and Pakistan's role in promoting peace were also reviewed. The two sides agreed to strengthen mutual contacts in order to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

US Ambassador Natalie Baker appreciated Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and acknowledged the country's contributions in addressing security challenges. Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan stands as a strong wall between the world and terrorism.He highlighted Pakistan's continued efforts and sacrifices in combating terrorism and maintaining regional security.

Lt Gen (retd) Nauman Mahmood named first Makkah defence pact secretary general



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has appointed retired Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood, Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military), as the first secretary general under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA), the Foreign Office said Wednesday.

The secretary general will lead the General Secretariat of the alliance, which is being established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, according to the official announcement.

The appointment marks another step toward institutionalising the trilateral defence framework established by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

The three countries signed the agreement at Al-Safa Palace in Makkah on Aug. 7, 2026, during the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Summit for Joint Defence attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Under the agreement, an armed attack against any one of the three member states will be considered an attack against all three. The accord also calls for enhanced defence cooperation and collective deterrence among the participating countries.

US, Iran's delegations hold three-hour long meeting in New York

■ Iran makes conditional offer to US to open Strait of Hormuz; Says ready to open waterway within one week if US lifts its blockade on its ports;

STAFF REPORTER
NEW YORK

A three-hour long meeting was held in New York between the US and Iran's delegations on the sidelines of the United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA) session, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Wednesday.

US President Donald Trump's Special Representative Steve Witkoff held a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Araghchi and members of his delegation.

Trump confirmed the meeting, and said it was a good one.

"Both sides also decided to hold another meeting in near future," the president said, adding that it was in Iran's interest to strike a deal with the US. Later, in a post on X, Witkoff said that a detailed meeting was held with the Iranian delegation through interlocutors.



Making a conditional offer to the USA, Iran has said it is ready to open the Strait of Hormuz within one week provided the latter lifts its blockade on its ports.

According to the foreign media, the country has also laid down the condition that its frozen assets should be immediately released and that war on all fronts should come to a halt.

The concerned officials have said that this condition has been conveyed to the US.

On the other hand, US President Donald Trump has said that progress has been made in talks with Iran for an agreement. "I hope that soon both sides will reach a settlement," he said while talking to Arab and Islamic leaders in New York.

Trump claimed that Iran was desperate for talks with the USA. "Steve Witkoff has held important meetings with mediators," the president informed.

He claimed that Iran's economy and military might had been obliterated, and that the country would soon have to do something which could benefit its people.

Scanned with CamScanner

Dr Samia says Dr Usama's conduct distracting attention from Mir Raza murder case

- She expressed the fear that this might distract attention from the real issue.

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Police surgeon Dr Samia told the judicial commission, formed to probe the death of Karachi youth Mir Raza, on Wednesday that Dr Usama thrice appeared before the commission but did not present the record of the private conversation, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

She said that some parts of the conversation were leaked to some specific media channels and digital platforms.

She expressed the fear that this might distract attention from the real issue.

Dr Samia told the commission that she was ready to present a complete record of the conversation with Dr. Usama.

She said that the doctor had declared the initial post-mortem report valid and was not willing to accept the final report.

The police surgeon was of the view that statements made by Dr Usama put a question mark over his conduct.

On the other hand, the commission, in its written order on yesterday's hearing, said that family members of the deceased expressed their reservations over the constitution of a super medical board, saying that if formed, it would render the entire working of the commission meaningless.

Quoting the family members, the commission said that on several occasions, messages were sent to DIG Amir Farooqui, but he did not give any response.



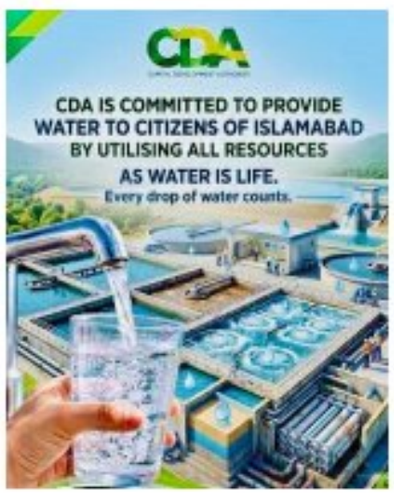
Railway workers repair tracks at the railway station to ensure safe train operations and prevent mishaps

CDA committed to provide Water Supply to Citizens by utilising all resources

- CDA Carries Out Cleaning of Water Reservoirs at G-10 Water Works as Part of Routine Disinfection Measures to Maintain Hygienic Conditions

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Under the vision of Federal Minister for Interior Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and the able supervision of Chairman CDA, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a supply of water to the citizens of Islamabad, by utilising all available resources to meet the city's growing water requirements while conserving existing water resources, improving their efficient utilisation and exploring additional and sustainable sources.CDA is taking comprehensive measures to improve the existing water supply infrastructure, strengthen the distribution network, reduce water losses and ensure efficient management of available water resources. Efforts are also being made to enhance water storage capacity and identify additional sustainable water sources to meet the requirements of Islamabad's growing population.Islamabad Water, CDA, is making every possible effort to ensure the provision of clean, safe and hygienic drinking water to the residents of Islamabad. As part of its routine water quality, maintenance and disinfection measures, CDA carried out cleaning of the water reservoirs at G-10 Water Works. The cleaning and disinfection of water reservoirs is undertaken regularly as part of CDA's routine policy to maintain hygienic conditions and ensure the quality and safety of drinking water supplied to residents.CDA is continuously monitoring and maintaining its water supply facilities to ensure that citizens receive clean and safe drinking water. The Islamabad Water Team remains committed to serving citizens and taking all necessary measures to safeguard the quality



of the city's water supply.As part of its long term water management strategy, CDA is promoting rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge as important measures for conserving and replenishing water resources. Residential, institutional and commercial buildings are being encouraged to adopt scientifically designed systems, where technically feasible, to collect and conserve rainwater and support groundwater recharge. Appropriate filtration systems will also be encouraged to help protect groundwater from contamination.CDA is also focusing on the timely identification and repair of leakages in the water supply network. Citizens are requested to promptly report water leakages and unnecessary water wastage to the relevant authorities so that timely corrective action can be taken.CDA has also appealed to citizens, educational institutions, housing societies, offices, markets and commercial establishments to use water responsibly, repair leaking taps and pipelines, avoid unnecessary washing of vehicles and paved areas, and adopt water-efficient practices. Where feasible, harvested rainwater can be used for gardening, landscaping, cleaning and other non potable purposes.

Punjab boards announce intermediate part-II results 2026

- Intermediate Part-II annual examination results have been announced, with 123,060 of 189,373 candidates declared successful and results also issued by other boards.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The results of the Intermediate Part-II annual examinations have been announced, with the overall success rate exceeding 64 percent.

According to the results, a total of 189,373 candidates appeared in the examinations, out of whom 123,060 were declared successful.

The results of Intermediate Part-II examinations have also been announced by education boards in other parts of the country, with students from different boards securing top positions.

In Punjab, the boards of Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Multan, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal and Dera Ghazi Khan announced the Intermediate Part-II results. Position holders were also announced ahead of the results.

The results cover students who appeared in various Intermediate streams, including FA, FSc, ICS and I.Com. Students can check their individual results through the official websites of their respective educational boards.

The announcement marks an important academic milestone for students seeking admission to universities and professional institutions across the country.

Housing Secretary reviews development of key FGEHA sectors

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

: Secretary Housing & Works, Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Mahmood, accompanied by Director General Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, conducted a detailed visit to various FGEHA sectors, including G-14, G-15/3 and F-14/F-15.

Housing Secretary reviews development of key FGEHA sectors



Relevant Directors, Project Directors, Deputy Commissioner (LAC) and technical staff were also present on the occasion.

Housing Secretary reviews development of key FGEHA sectors The Director Land and other concerned officers briefed the Secretary Housing in detail on land acquisition, possession, development works and provision of basic civic amenities.

During his visit to G-14/2-3, the Secretary Housing inspected the recently acquired land and possession obtained by FGEHA. He directed that effective and timely measures be taken for the provision of electricity, gas, roads, horticulture, rainwater harvesting and other basic civic facilities. He further directed that the tendering process for the development works in G-14/1 be completed at the earliest. Regarding the unauthorized mosques established in G-14/2-3, he directed that their legal status be clarified in coordination with the Auqaf Department.

During the visit to G-15/3, the Secretary Housing directed that illegal encroachments be removed at the earliest in accordance with the law. He also directed that measures for connecting the main roads with G-14 and improving connectivity with G.T. Road be completed on a priority basis.

PA to hold virtual meetings as part of austerity measures

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Punjab Assembly Secretariat has decided to hold meetings of its standing committees online as part of austerity measures aimed at reducing consumption of petroleum amid the internationalThe decision has been taken in view of the federal government's ongoing austerity campaign, under which public institutions are being encouraged to reduce unnecessary use of petroleum products.

The Punjab government will 50 percent expenditure on transport. All unnecessary lights and electricity equipments will be switched off in a bid to save energy.

The Assembly session will be summoned before sunset. A complete ban is also imposed on the purchase of government vehicles.

A complete ban is also imposed on the foreign visits of Punjab Assembly members and officials.

بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 56/26 سرکار بنام:۔ میر سفیر احمد وغیرہ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی قوم بلوچ سکنہ کردگاپ ضلع مستونگ جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ ت پ 341, 324-427, 186-353-34 3/4/5 Exp ایکٹ 21i ATA 7 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد ولد میر عبدالغنی سکنہ کردگاپ کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

PRQ No1539/23-09-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 69/26 سرکار بنام:۔ اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ گورجک تحصیل مشکے ضلع آواران جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 34-392-365-186-353 ت پ ATA 7 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش سکنہ گورجک مشکے ضلع آواران کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

PRQ No1538/23-09-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 57/26 سرکار بنام:۔ میر سفیر احمد وغیرہ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی قوم بلوچ سکنہ کردگاپ ضلع مستونگ جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 313,324, 186-34 3/4/5 Exp ایکٹ ATA 7 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد ولد میر عبدالغنی سکنہ کردگاپ کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

PRQ No1537/23-09-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

The Balochistan Education Endowment Fund invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items.**TSE-2627091198532** **Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. Tender Fee Not required**

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Financial and Insurance Services (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 1 Million each in Previous 2 Years Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.1 Million in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Should be present in the list of registered firm Should be at-least in the Category B of State Bank of Pakistan's Panel of Auditors Must not have conducted audit of BEEF in previous 10 years **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 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 08 October, 2026till 11:30 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM on EPPS System Address: House # 116/40 A- Near Jama masjid Jinnah Town Samungli road Quetta Phone no: 0812870015 Email: khalidmandia82@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer
Balochistan Education Endowment Fund

DAB/AB No.367/23-9-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 65/26 سرکار بنام:۔ اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ گورجک تحصیل مشکے ضلع آواران جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 34-186-353-392-324- 7 ATA ت پ میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش سکنہ گورجک مشکے ضلع آواران کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

PRQ No1541/23-09-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 74/26 سرکار بنام:۔ اختر ندیم وغیرہ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ گورجک تحصیل مشکے ضلع آواران جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 34-186-353-342-392 ت پ ATA 7 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم عرف میجر گہرام بلوچ ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی اختر ندیم ولد لعل بخش سکنہ گورجک مشکے ضلع آواران کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 57/26 سرکار بنام:۔ میر سفیر احمد وغیرہ CTD مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی قوم بلوچ سکنہ کردگاپ ضلع مستونگ جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 313,324, 186-34 3/4/5 Exp ایکٹ ATA 7 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد عرف جیئکد بلوچ ولد میر عبدالغنی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے۔ لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی میر سفیر احمد ولد میر عبدالغنی سکنہ کردگاپ کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 25 ستمبر 2026ء کو بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکور کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

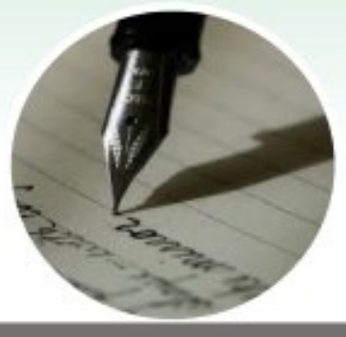
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The Himalayan Fury: From Nepal To Kashmir A Warning We Can No Longer Ignore



By: Muhammad Akeel Anjum

On August 26, 2026, the Himalayas sent a terrifying message from the Nepal-Tibet border. A huge mass of water, ice, rock, mud and debris suddenly came rushing down through mountain valleys in Nepal's Rasuwa district.

Within minutes, roads disappeared, bridges were swept away, buildings collapsed and vehicles were carried downstream.

The images were shocking. But the disaster should not be dismissed as just another flash flood.

What happened in northern Nepal appears to have been a complex chain of hazards involving a major collapse of ice and rock at high altitude, the sudden obstruction and release of water, and a powerful debris-laden flood that tore through settlements downstream.

The disaster also struck the Chinese side of the border in Tibet, particularly around Gyirong, disrupting roads, infrastructure and a major cross-border route.

As rescue operations continue, the death toll has risen sharply. The latest reports put the number of confirmed deaths in Nepal at nearly 500, with hundreds more still missing. On August 28, Reuters reported 489 deaths in Nepal and five in Tibet, with nearly 1,000 people still missing. The figures remain fluid as rescue teams reach areas that were cut off by the disaster. (Reuters)

The tragedy has also involved people from many countries.

Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on August 27 that 596 foreign nationals from 33 countries were still missing.

The official list included 167 Indian nationals, 66 Americans, 53 Ukrainians, 51 Malaysians, 35 Australians, 33 Britons, 25 Canadians and citizens of a range of European and Asian countries.

The list also included nationals of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, Russia, Singapore and others. (Ministry Of Foreign Affairs)

Behind every missing person is a family waiting for



news. And behind this tragedy lies a much bigger question:

If the glaciers, snowfields, lakes and mountain slopes above us are becoming increasingly unstable, how prepared are the millions of people living below them?

That question is no longer only about Nepal.

It is a question for the entire Himalayan region — including Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Exploring Travel Maps

Where did the water come from?

The exact sequence of events is still being investigated.

Initial reports created confusion about the cause. An earthquake was detected in Tibet around the same time as the disaster, while questions were also raised about acial rainfall and a possible glacial lake outburst.

But subsequent assessments increasingly pointed towards a major ice and rock collapse in the high mountains near the Nepal-Tibet border.

According to preliminary assessments reported by Nepali scientists and disaster authorities, an avalanche appears to have fallen into and blocked the Lhende River.

Water then accumulated behind the obstruction before the blockage gave way, sending a sudden surge downstream into the Bhote Koshi river system.

Scientists have also been investigating whether a glacial lake outburst may have been involved. (Kathmandu Post)

That distinction matters.

This was not necessarily a conventional rain-fed flood.

A large mass of ice, rock and debris can temporarily block a mountain river. Water builds up behind the blockage. Once the natural barrier fails, the accumulated water can burst downstream with enormous force.

And what comes down is not just water.

It can carry boulders, mud, ice, sediment and pieces of the mountain itself.



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

SCO Summit 2026: Prosperity through Connectivity, Development through Cooperation

The important Summit of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is being held in the beautiful Central Asian city of Bishkek on August 31 and September 1, 2026. The summit is taking place at a time when the world is passing through a rapidly changing political, economic and strategic landscape. Competition among global powers is intensifying, new economic alignments are emerging, and Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia are continuously strengthening their role in global politics and the world economy. In such an environment, the SCO platform has assumed exceptional importance.For Pakistan, the Bishkek Summit is particularly significant because following the summit, Pakistan will assume the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation for one year and will host the SCO Summit in Islamabad in 2027. Thus, the 2026 Bishkek Summit is not merely an international conference for Pakistan; it could mark the beginning of a new diplomatic and economic journey.Pakistan became a full member of the SCO in 2017, although its engagement with the organisation had existed even before that. Over the years, Pakistan has played an active role in various institutional forums of the SCO. In 2024, Islamabad also hosted the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government. Now, with the assumption of the organisation's chairmanship, Pakistan has an opportunity to advance its priorities more effectively within the SCO agenda.Looking at the SCO's present status, it is no longer merely an organisation focused on security cooperation. Its scope has expanded to include trade, investment, energy, transport, science and technology, education, culture, health, agriculture, environmental protection and people-to-people contacts. This is precisely why Pakistan's vision of "Prosperity through Connectivity, Development through Cooperation" appears both timely and appropriate.Pakistan's greatest strength is its geography. The country provides an important link between South Asia, China,

Central Asia, Iran and the Middle East. Access to the Arabian Sea, the port of Gwadar, land connectivity with China and the potential to provide Central Asian states access to maritime trade routes give Pakistan an opportunity to play a significant role in regional commerce.The need of the hour is to transform this geographical importance into genuine economic strength. Merely stating that Pakistan is located at the crossroads of the region is not enough. True success will come when Pakistan develops an integrated system of roads, railways, ports, border trade, customs, logistics and digital connectivity that facilitates the movement of goods, capital and people.The countries of Central Asia are rich in natural resources, but several of them require land routes to access global maritime markets. Pakistan can transform this need into a major economic opportunity. If Central Asian products can reach the ports of Gwadar and Karachi through Pakistan, while Pakistani products gain easier access to Central Asian markets, trade between both sides can increase significantly.The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can also become an important component of this broader regional connectivity. If CPEC is linked with the SCO's wider regional connectivity network, Pakistan can emerge as a major commercial bridge between Eurasia and the Arabian Sea. Gwadar is an extremely important asset for Pakistan in this regard, but the port's full potential can only be realised when it is supported by an integrated network of roads, railways, industrial zones and international trade routes.One of the major challenges during Pakistan's SCO chairmanship will be to advance economic cooperation despite the political differences existing among various member states. The SCO includes countries that have significant political and strategic disagreements. Yet the organisation's real strength lies precisely in its ability to keep dialogue alive and focus on areas of common interest despite such differences.During its chairmanship, Pakistan should promote the principles of dialogue, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The world today needs fewer confrontational fronts and more platforms where differences can be managed through dialogue rather than confrontation.Pakistan's role in the field of security is also extremely important. Terrorism,

extremism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime and terrorist financing are challenges that are no longer confined to the borders of any single country. Regional cooperation, intelligence sharing and coordinated strategies against these threats are therefore essential.Pakistan has extensive experience in combating terrorism. Through cooperation with the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, Pakistan is already playing a role in this field. During its chairmanship, Pakistan can further strengthen joint efforts against terrorism and extremism, cyber security cooperation, border management and collaboration against drug trafficking.However, security cannot be viewed solely from a military perspective. Providing young people with quality education, skills and employment opportunities is also an effective strategy against extremism. During its SCO chairmanship, Pakistan could propose joint educational, vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes for young people.In today's world, technology has become one of the most powerful forces driving economic development. Artificial intelligence, cyber security, e-commerce, fintech, digital payments and advanced industrial technologies are transforming rapidly. If SCO countries cooperate in joint research, training and investment in these fields, the entire region can strengthen its position on the global technology map.Pakistan's young population is its greatest strength in this regard. By equipping young Pakistanis with modern skills in technology, artificial intelligence, programming, digital marketing, e-commerce and other emerging fields, they can be connected with global markets. Joint startup programmes, university exchanges, research networks and technology competitions under the SCO framework could create new opportunities for the younger generation.There is also enormous potential for cooperation among SCO countries in the field of education. Bringing universities closer together, facilitating student and faculty exchanges, launching joint research projects and promoting scientific collaboration would not only contribute to academic advancement but would also strengthen intellectual and human connections among different societies.Climate change is another issue on which Pakistan can play an important role at the SCO level. Pakistan and several other countries in the region are facing floods, droughts, extreme heat, water scarcity and agricultural challenges. Climate change recognises no borders; therefore, its solutions must also be pursued through regional cooperation.Pakistan can seek to enhance cooperation in joint climate research, disaster preparedness, early warning systems, water management and disaster risk reduction. Similarly, countries can benefit from sharing experiences in modern irrigation, improved seeds, agricultural technology, food processing and cold-chain systems.The energy sector also offers enormous potential for cooperation among SCO countries. Central Asia possesses significant energy resources, while energy demand in South Asia continues to rise. Pakistan should encourage joint initiatives relating to electricity, gas, renewable energy and regional power grids.Likewise, financial cooperation is essential to facilitate trade. If SCO countries develop mechanisms for the use of national currencies in bilateral trade, modern payment systems and new avenues of financial cooperation, the cost of trade can be reduced. However, this would require financial transparency.



By: Dr Kaneez Fatima

Climate Change Is Fueling Pakistan's Dengue Crisis

As Pakistan prepares for another monsoon season, the country faces a threat that extends beyond floods and infrastructure damage. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and increasing humidity are creating ideal conditions for dengue-carrying mosquitoes, raising the risk of another surge in infections. Climate change is no longer merely an environmental concern, it has become a major public health challenge.

Dengue outbreaks impose a heavy burden on Pakistan's healthcare system, economy and communities. Hospitals become overcrowded during peak transmission periods, children miss school, adults lose valuable workdays and families bear significant medical expenses. As climate change accelerates, these outbreaks are likely to become more frequent and more severe unless preventive strategies evolve accordingly.

Scientific evidence increasingly shows that climatic conditions directly influence dengue transmission. Higher temperatures allow mosquitoes to develop more rapidly and shorten the time needed for the virus to multiply inside them. Increased rainfall and humidity create abundant breeding sites, particularly in densely populated urban areas where poor drainage and inadequate waste management allow stagnant water to accumulate. Together, these environmental changes expand both the geographical range and the duration of dengue transmission.

Climate variability may also influence the evolution of the virus itself. Pakistan has experienced shifts in the dominant dengue virus lineages over the past two decades. While DENV-2 Cosmopolitan Genotype has historically been the most common strain, recent outbreaks between 2022 and 2024 have been increasingly associated with DENV-1 Genotype III. Continuous genomic surveillance is therefore essential to detect emerging viral variants and understand whether these changes are driven by local evolution, repeated introductions from neighbouring countries or changing environmental conditions.



Despite this growing threat, Pakistan's dengue surveillance system remains largely reactive. Public health authorities often intensify control measures only after outbreaks have already begun. This approach limits opportunities for early intervention and increases both healthcare costs and disease burden.

The country now needs a climate informed molecular surveillance system capable of detecting outbreaks before they escalate. Such a system would combine routine sample collection from sentinel hospitals with laboratory diagnosis, dengue serotyping, genome sequencing and phylogenetic analysis. Integrating these molecular data with climate information and epidemiological surveillance would enable health authorities to identify high-risk areas, detect emerging viral lineages early and implement targeted interventions before widespread transmission occurs.Investment in surveillance is not simply a scientific priority, it is an economic necessity. Studies have estimated that the 2011 dengue outbreak imposed an economic burden of approximately US$11-12 million in just four Pakistani cities through healthcare expenditure and productivity losses. By comparison, establishing a provincial molecular surveillance programme would require only a fraction of those losses. Even modest reductions in outbreak size would generate substantial savings while protecting lives.

Punjab has already demonstrated strong commitment to strengthening public health programmes. Building on these initiatives, the province has an opportunity to establish Pakistan's first comprehensive formed molecular surveillance network for dengue. Such a programme could serve as a national model by integrating laboratory diagnostics, genomic surveillance, epidemiological monitoring and climate data into a unified early warning system.



Chairman BISE Faisalabad Dr. Rana Binyamin presents certificates and medals to position-holder students at a ceremony announcing the Intermediate Examination 2026 results.

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Polling for LCCI annual election for Corporate Class underway

■A neck-and-neck contest will be witnessed between PPBA Alliance and PIAF Mian Ashfaq Group.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Polling to elect candidates for the Corporate Class in the annual Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) election is underway today (Wednesday).

As per details, the polling process started at 9 am and will continue till 8 pm. As many as 5496 voters will use their right to vote in the elections of the Corporate Class. Three groups, including PPBA Alliance, PIAF Mian Shafqat Group, and Vision Group, are taking part in the annual elections of the Lahore Cahmber of Commerce and Industry

A neck-and-neck contest will be witnessed between PPBA Alliance and PIAF Mian Ashfaq Group.A large number of voters reached the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry to cast their votes early in the morning.

On September 22, 2026 the Lahore High Court (LHC) has disposed of a petition challenging the conduct of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) elections after the parties reached an agreement on the disputed issues.

Justice Asad Ali Bajwa heard the petition filed by LCCI members Zaman Naseeb and Sardar Usman Ghani, seeking directions regarding the venue and conduct of the chamber's elections.



An operator monitors white fabric moving through a bag-making machine as workers produce eco-friendly non-woven bags at a local manufacturing facility.

IMF mission arrives in Pakistan for economic review talks

■ An IMF mission has arrived in Pakistan for a two-week review of economic performance, with talks covering reserves, monetary policy, exchange rates, reforms and energy-sector targets.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has arrived in Pakistan for talks on the country's economic performance under the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

According to sources in the Finance Ministry, the IMF mission will begin technical discussions with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) officials. The initial talks will focus on the current account, policy rate and exchange rate, while SBP officials will brief the delegation on the country's economic performance.

Pakistan will brief the IMF mission on its foreign exchange reserves, which have crossed the $17 billion mark, as well as an increase in foreign direct investment. The delegation will also be briefed on the successful issuance of the Eurobond and funds received from external sources.

Following discussions with the State Bank, the IMF mission will move to Islamabad for talks with the Finance Ministry, Federal Board of Revenue, Ministry of Energy and other relevant departments.

The talks are expected to continue for around two weeks and will cover economic developments and programme performance up to June 2026. Discussions will also focus on structural benchmarks and targets linked to Pakistan's economic reform programme.

Energy-sector reforms will be among the key issues discussed during the review. The two sides are expected to review targets related to circular debt in the electricity and gas sectors, along with other structural and fiscal measures.

According to recent reporting, successful completion of the review could make Pakistan eligible for around $1 billion under the EFF and a further $200 million under the RSF, taking the potential combined disbursement to about $1.2 billion.

Dollar holds near 2-month high as markets weigh rate hikes, Iran diplomacy

■ The dollar held near a two-month high as expectations for further interest rate hikes supported the currency, while easing oil prices and Middle East diplomacy kept markets cautious.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE



The dollar steadied near its strongest level in two months on Wednesday ?on prospects of interest rate hikes in the near term, while easing oil prices on hopes for a diplomatic ?breakthrough to end the Middle East war kept investors on edge.

The euro was at $1.1446 in early trading, loitering near its weakest level since late July. Sterling bought $1.3337. The dollar index , which measures the US currency against six rivals, was at 100.56.

The recent barrage of rate hikes and ?hawkish rhetoric from major central banks has taken centre stage in currency markets as the US-Israeli conflict with Iran ?drives oil prices higher and fans inflation worries.

Investors are now anticipating further tightening from central ?banks, with Federal Reserve officials flagging the possibility of more hikes if inflation does not ease.

"The dollar's support from ?rates looks durable, but futures already price more tightening than the Fed's own projections, so the dollar now needs the data ?to confirm it," said Kieran Williams, head of Asia FX at Intouch Capital Markets.

Oil markets remain in the spotlight with Brent crude futures at $99.22 per barrel on hopes that diplomacy at the UN General Assembly could pave the way for a resolution to the Middle East war. Brent ?has risen 37% since the conflict erupted at the end of February.

US President Donald Trump warned that he could ?annihilate Iran if there is no deal to end the war, but also suggested an agreement could come soon amid the diplomatic efforts at the ?UN.

"The ?good news is that oil prices have moderated somewhat from the highs but the path forward remains unclear given the lack of clarity around a possible resolution of the conflict," said Michael Wan, a currency analyst at MUFG.

Investors are also waiting for a high-stakes meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping as the two leaders seek stability in a relationship ?under pressure over wide-ranging issues.

The Japanese ?yen was at 157.55 ?per US dollar as traders remain wary of the threat of intervention as markets judged the Bank of Japan's rate hike to a 31-year high last week as insufficiently hawkish.

Two dissenting ?votes and the absence of a clear hawkish signal were enough to fuel doubts over how ?quickly the BOJ ?will tighten policy, particularly after the Fed raised rates last week and flagged further hikes ahead.

Japanese markets are closed for a holiday and the low liquidity period is seen by analysts as an optimal time for authorities to intervene if needed.

The BOJ hike didn't narrow ?the (yield) gap ?because the Fed hiked by the same amount two days earlier, so ?the lean is still higher," said Intouch's Williams.

Oil falls on increased Gulf supply and hopes for US-Iran talks

● Mixed martial arts made its Asian Games debut with modified safety rules, as organisers seek to make the sport more suitable for potential Olympic inclusion.

Web Desk

PERTH



Oil prices drifted lower on Wednesday as Saudi Arabia began restoring crude supply on a critical pipeline to the Red Sea and on hopes for a diplomatic solution to the US-Iran ?war through talks at the UN in New York.Brent crude futures fell 7 cents, or 0.07%, to $99.18 a barrel as of 0119 GMT while West Texas Intermediate futures fell 35 cents, or 0.39%, to $90.17 per barrel. While US President Donald Trump warned on ?Tuesday that he could "annihilate" Iran, he also said his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner had held productive ?talks with mediators of Iran to end the war.

"I think there's a lot of ?momentum for them to make a deal," Trump said.

Optimism around improved supply and a push to end the ?nearly seven-month conflict drove benchmark Brent down to close below $100 a barrel on Tuesday for the first time since ?September 8.

"The market is currently feeling more constructive about the global oil supply picture than it was a few weeks ago," said Tim Waterer, chief analyst at KCM Trade.

"The meeting of US and Iranian delegations in New York has given traders a ?glimmer of hope ... Despite the continued tough rhetoric, including threats of 'annihilation,' the market is choosing to price in ?the possibility of talks."

On Tuesday, Saudi Arabia restarted operations on its East-West Pipeline to the Red Sea, three sources briefed on the ?matter said, ?with signs of an increase in Middle Eastern oil flows.

Drone attacks, which Saudi Arabia has blamed on Iraqi militia, forced the kingdom to shut the pipeline on September 11, halting crude loadings at the kingdom's Yanbu port.

Since the US-Israeli war on Iran disrupted oil flows from Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbours through the Strait ?of Hormuz, Riyadh has been ?using the pipeline to ?reroute around 4 million barrels per day — around 4% of global supply — to Yanbu.

ADB projects Pakistan's economic growth at 3.7pc in Fy2027

■ ADB expects Pakistan's economy to grow 3.7% in FY2027, while inflation may reach 8.3%. The bank warns that Middle East tensions, energy costs and reform delays pose risks.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



The Asian Development Bank has projected Pakistan's economic growth at 3.7% for the current fiscal year, falling short of the government's 4% target.

The bank also expects inflation to average 8.3%, above the official 7% estimate, citing potential economic disruptions linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

"Pakistan's gross domestic product growth is projected to remain at 3.7pc in FY2027", it said in its Asian Development Outlook September 2026 outlook.

"Average inflation is projected to rise to 8.3pc in FY27, above the central bank's medium-term target range of 5pc–7pc, as elevated energy, logistics, and agricultural input costs continue to affect domestic prices", it added.

The ADB cautioned that Pakistan's economic prospects could face considerable pressure from external developments. A worsening Middle East crisis could drive up the cost of energy imports, fuel further price increases, and weaken employment conditions in Gulf countries, potentially reducing remittance inflows from Pakistani workers.

"The reintroduction of austerity measures by the Pakistan government could also weigh on domestic demand and economic activity, particularly if expenditure restraint is more pronounced than anticipated, posing an additional downside risk to the economic outlook", the ADB stated.

The ADB identified several additional challenges that could weigh on Pakistan's economy, including tighter international financial conditions, weaker-than-expected tax collection, climate and weather shocks affecting agriculture, and delays in reforms involving the energy industry and state-owned enterprises.

The bank said maintaining momentum on structural reforms would be important for strengthening the country's fiscal and external position while helping preserve confidence among investors.

Pakistan's economic activity showed improvement during FY26, which ended on June 30, 2026. Growth rose to 3.7%, compared with 3.2% recorded a year earlier. The recovery was spread across several areas, with services remaining resilient, industrial production improving, agriculture rebounding and private-sector investment gaining strength. However, economic activity lost some momentum during the final quarter amid the impact of the Middle East conflict.

The ADB said continued reforms, stronger foreign-exchange buffers, renewed access to global capital markets and improvements in Pakistan's sovereign credit ratings could help boost investor confidence and encourage private investment. At the same time, persistently high energy costs and uncertainty in the external environment, including the continuing fallout from the Middle East conflict, could limit the pace of economic growth.

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US halts Obamacare enrollment for over 760,000 enrollees, claiming fraud

■ Trump administration halts 760,000 Obamacare enrollments over alleged fraud, targeting brokers and eligibility issues amid nationwide anti-fraud efforts to curb improper spending.



Web Desk

WASHINGTON/RIYADH

The ?Trump administration is halting enrollment in Obamacare health plans for more than 760,000 enrollees it believes were fraudulently signed up, ?Vice President JD Vance said on Tuesday, part of an anti-fraud effort he estimated would save $2.2 billion in taxpayer money.

The US Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services canceled about 315,000 plans last month, citing unverified citizenship or immigration documentation and suspected improper enrollments.

The agency will bar 569 brokers it accused of submitting "statistically implausible rates of plan year 2026 ?applications" without necessary applicant information such as a Social Security number.

The plans, created by Democratic President Barack Obama's signature Affordable Care Act, ?offer income-based subsidies. Republican President Donald Trump sought unsuccessfully in his first term to overturn the law and has proposed ?changes that would make the plans less comprehensive.

Millions dropped coverage this year as rising medical costs and the expiration of extra COVID-era subsidies made monthly premiums unaffordable.

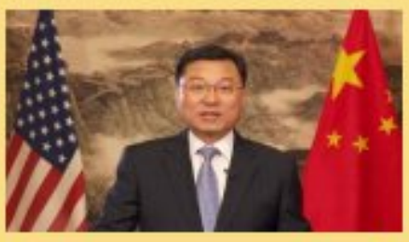
Vance described the canceled group as "a mix of both phantom people, but also real people who just don't meet the eligibility requirements," including ?some he said who were signed up by brokers without their knowledge.

Vance said the administration would further verify between 419,000 and 450,000 more people to confirm they are legal US residents meeting income thresholds.

CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz said the enrollees were treated as "phantoms" because officials believe most either do not exist or were unaware they had coverage, ?having never filed a claim and being unreachable despite repeated contact attempts.

The administration is using an emergency-style rulemaking process to impose an ?immediate, industry-wide freeze on new Obamacare broker registrations, bypassing the usual advance notice-and-comment period. Oz called it a "temporary national moratorium" for six months, saying most fraud was ?concentrated among ?such agents.

China's US ambassador warns on 'red lines' ahead of Trump, Xi meeting



WEB DESK

BEIJING

China's ambassador to the US warned on Wednesday that the country has "red lines" on Taiwan, human rights and other issues that cannot be crossed, ahead of ?this week's meeting in Washington between the two countries' leaders.

Chinese President Xi Jinping ?will visit Washington for a summit with President Donald Trump, as both sides look to bring stability to ties overshadowed by arguments over everything from trade to Taiwan.

Writing in the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, Ambassador ?Xie Feng said managing differences hinges on good faith, and the US should ?stop "fabricating pretexts" such as national security, economic imbalances and forced labour to try ?to and constrain China.

When China and the US cooperate, both benefit, but when they ?confront each other, both suffer, he added.

"China's sovereignty, security, and development interests cannot be violated, ?and four red lines — the Taiwan question, democracy and human rights, development paths and systems, and development rights — cannot be challenged," Xie said.

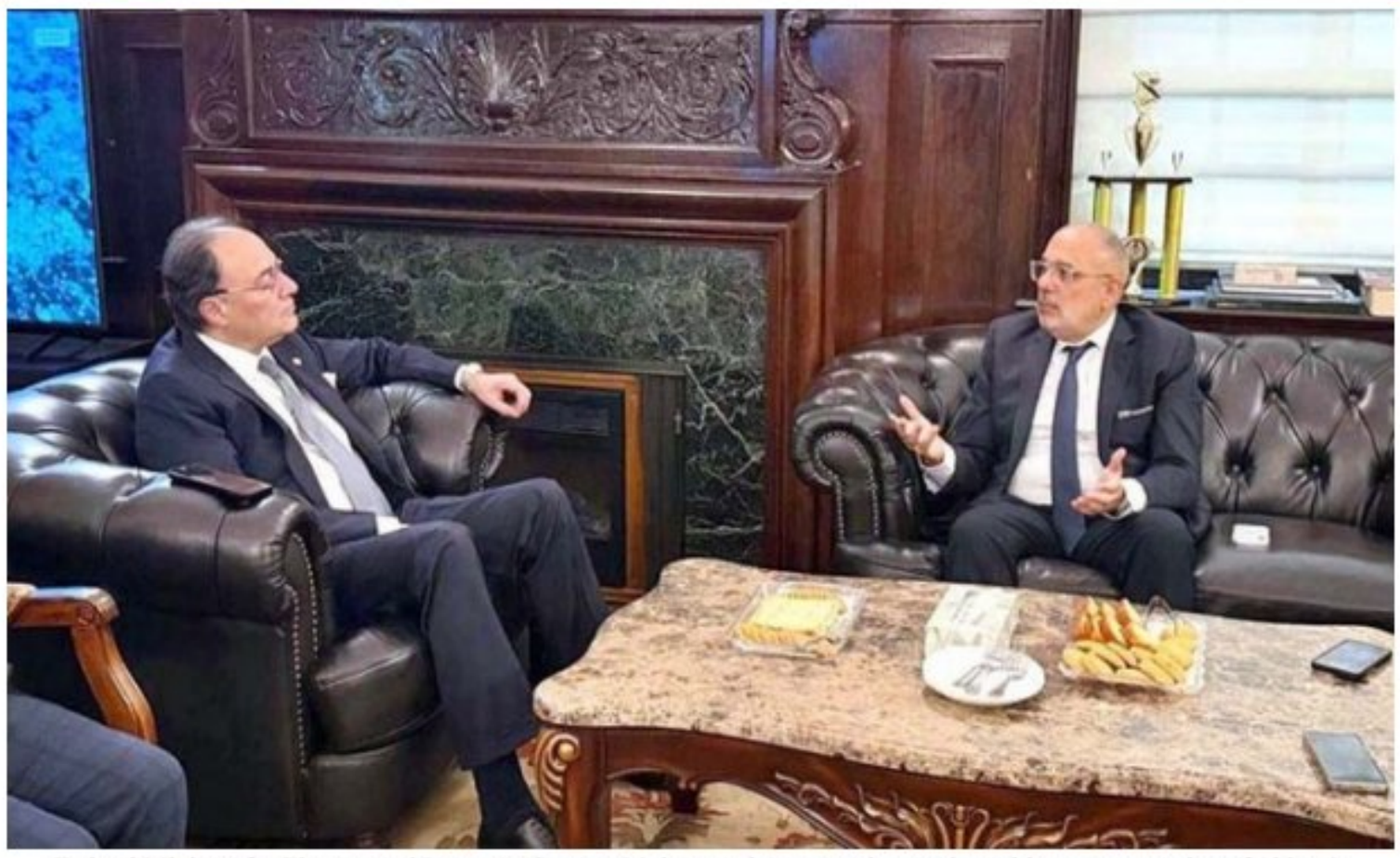
"China is committed to pursuing peaceful development and hopes the US will ?move toward this as well."

China claims democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory, despite the ?objections of the government in Taipei. The US is Taiwan's most important arms supplier and international backer ?despite the ?lack of formal ties.

Xie said that top-level diplomacy is the "steady hand" of China-US relations and differences are not to be feared.

A separate commentary on Wednesday in the same newspaper said the US's "erroneous" perceptions of China and its inability to let go of the notion ?of strategic competition are ?the basic causes ?of their recent difficult relationship.

"In recent years, the tortuous path China-US relations have travelled clearly shows the US's erroneous perceptions of China and ?its unwillingness to let go of the notion of 'strategic competition' are the ?fundamental cause ?of recurring difficulties," said the commentary, without offering details.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with a representative of Abbott's Pharmaceuticals Division to discuss the implementation of Pakistan's Hepatitis C elimination programme, pharmaceutical-sector reforms and measures to accelerate progress on the programme.

Trump threatens to annihilate Iran as diplomats push for deal at UN

■ Trump threatened to destroy Iran if no deal is reached, while diplomatic talks continue. Gulf states seek security and shipping stability as the conflict threatens regional peace and oil supplies.

Web DESK

UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump warned that he could annihilate Iran if there is no deal to end the war, but also suggested an agreement ?could come soon amid a diplomatic push at the United Nations.

"I have a big decision to make," Trump said in a speech at the UN General Assembly in ?New York.

"Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country than it ever was before?... Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again?"

In a statement on Tuesday, Iran's Armed Forces dismissed



Trump's comments at the UN as "propaganda", saying their response is "full readiness to inflict more severe, crushing, and unpredictable blows on the aggressors."

But away from the fiery rhetoric, discussions continued to try to end the nearly seven-month conflict that began with joint US-Israeli strikes and has since killed thousands, driven up oil prices and drawn in neighboring ?countries.

US envoy Steve Witkoff in a post on X said that the United States and Iran engaged in lengthy talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of ?the UN General Assembly through mediators "who shuttled between the two sides throughout the day".

The mediators will continue their work, Witkoff added, saying that he hoped Tuesday's discussions would "prove constructive and promising."

Trump also met the ?leaders of Middle Eastern countries who are keen to restore shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the conduit for a fifth of global oil and gas shipments before the war, but are wary of giving ?their longstanding rival Iran too much power.

Many also host huge US military bases that have come under repeated Iranian attack throughout the war.

"We think that the situation with Iran could end right after the (November 3) midterm elections, maybe before. I don't know. You never know," Trump said as he met the leaders.

Trump meets Venezuela's Rodriguez for first time since Maduro's capture

■ Trump met Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez at the UN, as Caracas seeks US investment in its oil sector while Venezuelan protesters demand free elections.

WEB DESK

Spain

US President Donald Trump met Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodriguez late on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, their first meeting since American forces ?captured then-President Nicolas Maduro in a January raid.

The Venezuelan delegation, which includes the vice president of economy, the oil minister and officials from state oil company PDVSA, is focused on making the country look "investable," two people close to the delegation told Reuters.

The pull-aside meeting during a reception Trump hosted during the UN General Assembly came during Rodriguez's first trip to ?the US since taking office. She is set to address the General Assembly on Wednesday afternoon.



A White House official said the meeting with Rodriguez included ?President Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, and ?Stephen Miller, assistant to the president and deputy chief of staff for policy.

Trump has built a working relationship with Rodriguez, who served as Maduro's vice ?president. But critics say Washington has sidelined the opposition led by Maria Corina Machado, dropping demands for free elections in favor of oil and investment deals ?with the interim government. A small group of Venezuelans protested in New York on Tuesday, calling for elections.In his speech to the General Assembly on Tuesday morning, Trump called Maduro an "outlaw dictator," said hundreds of political prisoners had been freed since his capture and held up the raid as proof the US would use its "unmatched military might" to protect ?its interests in the Western Hemisphere.

"To the victor belong the spoils," he said, calling an oil deal his administration signed with Caracas last month "perhaps ?the biggest deal ever made." Trump has said he wants $100 billion in investment to flow into Venezuela's oil industry.

US, Greenland, Denmark sign deal in bid to end Arctic standoff

■ US President Donald Trump and the leaders of Greenland and Denmark signed an agreement on Tuesday, allowing a larger US military presence on Greenland.

WEB DESK

UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump and the leaders of Greenland and Denmark signed an agreement on that permits a larger US military presence on Greenland and may resolve a standoff over the strategically located and mineral-rich island.

The agreement, signed during Trump's visit to ?the UN General Assembly in New York, stops short of Trump's demand that the US annex Greenland as a US territory to head off the growing Arctic presence of Russia and China. But the deal does codify a greater US military presence on the icy territory, an option that emerged as Greenland leaders argued against a complete US takeover.

A text of the deal released after the event said the US can establish a "Golden Dome" defense system in Greenland ?as a shield against ballistic missile threats. The shortest route from Europe to North America runs via the Arctic island, which is the location of the northernmost US military ?base.

In his speech to the assembled world leaders at the UN before the signing ceremony, Trump said the agreement gives the US "permanent ?control over security and all other needs on that territory." "No US adversary will ever be permitted to establish a military presence in Greenland any more, or make sensitive investments there without our ?express written approval," Trump said.

Trump signed the agreement along with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen in a trilateral ceremony after Trump gave his UN speech.

?Frederiksen described the agreement as a deal that can "last forever" and said it underlines the importance of the NATO alliance and respects Greenland's right to self-determination.

Nielsen emphasized the importance of NATO in the Arctic region. "We believe that it is vital to keep NATO strong, also in the Arctic, where the alliance has a key role to play," he said.At a press conference after the signing, Nielsen said Greenlanders must now go ?through a process of restoring trust with the US. Trump's threats to take the island by force had strained relations with both Greenland and Denmark.



Scanned with CamScanner

Rajkummar Rao, Pratibha Ranta Reportedly Join Vishkanya

■ Dharma Productions Reportedly Brings Rajkummar Rao, Pratibha Ranta Together





News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Bollywood actors Rajkummar Rao and Pratibha Ranta are reportedly set to share the screen in Vishkanya, an ambitious fantasy project being developed by Dharma Productions.

According to Bollywood Hungama, the project will feature the Stree star alongside Laapataa Ladies actress Pratibha Ranta. While details of the plot are being kept under wraps, the film is expected to create an original fictional universe blending fantasy, horror and elements of existential terror.

Reports suggest that Vishkanya will move beyond conventional horror formulas and introduce a mythical world with its own rules, supernatural forces and mythology. The concept is reportedly designed to offer a setting rarely explored in Hindi cinema.

The film will be directed by Sonal Joshi, who made her directorial debut with Shilpa Shetty's Sukhee in 2023.

Dharma Productions appears to be expanding its slate across fantasy and horror, with several projects in development. Its upcoming theatrical lineup reportedly includes the Malayalam folk fantasy thriller Odiyan: The Age of Illusion, the fantasy comedy Naagzilla and two horror films, including one featuring Aditya Roy Kapur.

With Vishkanya joining the lineup, the production house appears to be exploring a broader range of supernatural and fantasy storytelling.

Rajkummar Rao, 42, already has experience in the horror-comedy space through the successful Stree franchise, produced by Maddock Films.

Pratibha Ranta, 25, made her Bollywood debut with Kiran Rao's acclaimed film Laapataa Ladies, marking another major step in her emerging career.

If confirmed, Vishkanya will bring together two performers from different stages of their careers in a fantasy-horror setting that promises a distinctive fictional world.

Zara Noor Abbas Opens Up About Body Insecurities

■ 'You look at your body negatively': Zara Noor Abbas recalls director's advice

Web desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas has spoken candidly about the body insecurities she faced while filming Gear Up, a story from the action-based project Sheroes. She revealed that she was around 12 kilograms heavier during the shoot and initially felt uncomfortable about wearing certain costumes for the role.

Recalling her experience, Zara said she was often hesitant about how particular outfits would look on her body. She said she repeatedly shared her concerns with director Saqib Khan, telling him that some costumes might not suit her appearance.

According to Zara, Khan helped her overcome those reservations by encouraging her to view herself differently. He assured her that her physique was appropriate for the character and explained that he specifically wanted an actress with her build for the role.

The actress also questioned the commonly held perception that women portraying strong and nt powerful characters must have a particular body shape. She stressed that women have diverse physiques and that stories should reflect people from different backgrounds and ethnicities.

Zara's remarks highlight the pressure actors can face because of conventional beauty standards within the entertainment industry. Her experience also reflects a broader discussion about body image and representation, particularly when women are cast in physically demanding roles.

In Gear Up, Zara takes on a challenging action-oriented character involved in high-risk police operations, car chases and bomb-disposal scenes. The story is written by Hashim Nadeem and directed by Saqib Khan.



Alizeh Shah drops cryptic warning about '40 year old' singer

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Stunning actress Alizeh Shah has issued a strong warning about alleged inappropriate online behaviour by a UK-based singer.

In her Instgram story, the Ehd-e-Wafa actress, requested young girls to remain cautious when approached by unfamiliar social media accounts.

In a warning shared, Alizeh claimed that a singer in his mid-40s, who publicly identifies himself as strictly British while distancing himself from his Pakistani heritage, uses social media direct messages to approach young girls. According to Alizeh, the individual invites girls, including those who are barely 18, to hotels while making promises involving marriage or other commitments.

She further alleged that the reported behaviour extends beyond online messages, claiming that the singer is verbally and physically abusive behind closed doors.Without naming the individual in the warning, Alizeh also claimed that such behaviour is not limited to one person and alleged that other singers and public figures also take advantage of young girls.

The barbie beauty urged social media users, specially young girls, not to engage with suspicious or unfamiliar accounts and advised them to immediately block such profiles.

Mawra Hocane leaves fans swooning with sweet message for Ameer Gilani

■ The fan-made edit featured a collection of Mawra and Ameer's wedding pictures with the caption, "When your best friend is also your spouse."

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane has shared a sweet message for her husband Ameer Gilani after reposting a romantic fan-made edit featuring their wedding moments. Calling herself lucky to have her best friend as her spouse.

The fan-made edit featured a collection of Mawra and Ameer's wedding pictures with the caption, "When your best friend is also your spouse." The post focused on the couple's journey from close friends to husband and wife.

Mawra reposted the edit on her Instagram Story and added her own message, writing, "When luck is on your side," followed by "Allahumma Barik." Her words appeared to express how fortunate she feels to have married someone who was already her best friend.

"Allahumma Barik" is a prayer asking for blessings and is commonly said when admiring something while seeking protection from the evil eye. Mawra's use of the phrase added a personal touch to her response to the fan-made post.

Mawra Hocane and Ameer Gilani first crossed paths as law students before entering the entertainment industry. The two later worked together in dramas including Sabaat and Neem, while their friendship continued to draw public interest.

The couple tied the knot on February 5, 2025, with their Nikkah taking place at Lahore Fort. viously belonged to Ameer's mother.

Their wedding celebrations included several events and memorable details, including Mawra wearing a wedding dupatta that had previously belonged to Ameer's mother.

The couple later shared several wedding and post-wedding photographs, capturing different moments from their celebrations and family festivities.

Why Imran Aslam Left Karachi for Lahore? Reason revealed

Web Desk

KARACHI



Talented actor and writer Imran Aslam has opened up about his decision to leave Karachi and raise his children in Lahore.

Imran disclose that his own traumatic experiences in the city played a major role in the decision.Speaking during an interview with Ahmed Ali Butt, Imran Aslam said that raising children peacefully in Karachi had become difficult for him as he did not want his children to grow up surrounded by fear and violence.

The actor remembered his own experiences in Karachi, saying that he had witnessed people losing their lives and had even faced situations where bullets were fired at him.According to Imran, he feared that a child growing up in such an environment could either become extremely fearful or turn rebellious, while the harsh circumstances could also put their lives at risk."I have seen people dying, bullets have been fired at me, I have experienced everything in Karachi," he said while recalling the difficult experiences he had witnessed.

The actor said that protecting his

More dream sleep may lower risk of dozens of diseases

■ Study finds link between sleep stages and disease risk

Web desk

ISLAMABAD



Getting enough quality sleep may have implications for long-term health beyond simply helping the body and mind recover, with a new study finding that higher levels of dream sleep, or Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, were associated with a lower risk of 83 diseases.

The study, published in the medical journal PLOS Medicine, analyzed sleep and health data from 95,559 adults in the UK. Researchers also found that higher levels of deep sleep were associated with a lower risk of seven diseases.

The findings add to previous research linking poor sleep with a range of health problems, while providing a more detailed look at how different stages and patterns of sleep may be associated with disease risk.

Researchers track sleep more accurately

Unlike studies that rely on participants to recall how long they slept, the researchers used wrist-worn devices to monitor participants' physical activity and estimate their sleep patterns.

Participants wore the devices for one week, allowing researchers to assess total sleep duration as well as the amount of time spent in different sleep stages, including light, deep and REM sleep.

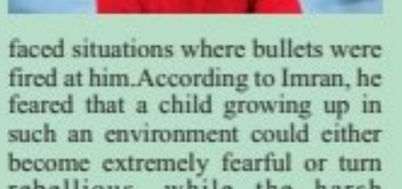
The participants had an average age of 56.2 years and were followed for an average of 8.9 years, with researchers monitoring them for disease diagnoses and death.Researchers found that higher levels of REM sleep at the beginning of the study were associated with a lower risk of developing more than 80 diseases.

These included heart failure, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, coronary artery disease, Parkinsonism, multiple sclerosis and several conditions affecting memory and cognitive function.

Hania Aamir joins Nameer Khan's hilarious dig at Zamil

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani stars Hania Aamir and Nameer Khan have shared a fun social media moment after the Dar-e-Nijaat actor jokingly targeted his own character Zamil using Hania's song Pablo.

Nameer shared a video on his Instagram Story with Hania's Pablo playing in the background and wrote, "Hania ki baat he sun lo ZALIM." The actor appeared to be jokingly telling Zamil to listen to Hania's message, turning the song into a humorous warning for his fictional character.

Hania Aamir soon reposted Nameer's story on her Instagram and added her own reaction. She wrote, "Zamil ? Nameer ?", making it clear that while Zamil may be the character viewers dislike, her support was firmly with Nameer. The light-hearted exchange gave fans a fun moment involving the actor and the character he plays in Dar-e-Nijaat. Nameer's post also showed how he has embraced the reactions surrounding his negative role instead of taking the character too seriously outside the drama. Hania's response added to the joke as she separated the actor from his on-screen character in a simple and humorous way.Their exchange has since added another entertaining moment to the ongoing buzz around Dar-e-Nijaat.

Scanned with CamScanner

Babar, Saud, Naseem, Razaullah and others join Departmental Grade-I teams before third round

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



The third round of the President's Trophy Grade-I will begin on Thursday, 24 September, in Islamabad, Abbottabad and Peshawar. A number of Test cricketers and Pakistan U19 players have joined their respective departmental teams adding more excitement and competitive edge to the first-class tournament.

Babar Azam and Razaullah have joined Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) before their fixture against Khan Research Laboratories (KRL), which is scheduled at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Mystery spinner Usman Tariq has linked up with KRL.

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) who are looking to bounce back after copping a defeat in their second match against Ghani, have welcomed fast bowler Naseem Shah, top-order batter Abdullah Shafique along with trio of Pakistan U19 players Farhan Yousuf, Abdul Subhan and Hamza Zahoor.

Aamir Jamal is set to bolster Markhor IT Solutions' fast bowling attack after they were in the field for 158 overs against KRL in the second round.

Abdullah Fazal has joined State Bank of Pakistan, while Saud Shakeel has linked up with Kingsmen Academy. Kingsmen's batting could not hold up against OGDCL in the second round and the Tayyab Arif-led outfit will welcome the addition of experienced Test batter.

Left-arm spinner Ali Usman is set to be in action for Pakistan Television after his record-breaking 2025-26 season. PTV have drawn both of their matches and will be looking to bag their first win when they face Kingsmen Academy at Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad.

Ghani's already thriving fast bowling contingent has received a major boost with Ubaid Shah joining their ranks before their game against SBP at National Ground in Islamabad. Meanwhile, Shadab Khan and Noman Ali are expected to join Ghani before the fourth round.

Abrar Ahmed becomes No 1 T20I bowler in latest ICC rankings

- Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed becomes No. 1 T20I bowler in latest ICC rankings, while Babar Azam and other players improve positions.

Sports Desk

DUBAI



Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed has moved to the top of the ICC T20I bowling rankings in the latest update, with a number of other Pakistani players also recording changes in their positions.

Abrar now leads the rankings with 736 rating points, replacing Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, who has slipped to second place. Australia's Adam Zampa has moved up to third.

Among Pakistan's other bowlers, Mohammad Nawaz remains eighth with 658 points, while Salman Mirza has fallen one spot to 18th with 636 points. Shaheen Afridi has also dropped one place and now occupies 33rd position with 602 rating points.

Usman Tariq has made notable progress, rising two places to 57th with 524 points.

Sufiyan Muqeem has climbed one spot to 63rd with 510 points.

Saim Ayub has moved up one place to 71st among T20I bowlers with 492 points, while Shadab Khan remains 77th with 485 points. Haris Rauf has gained two places to reach 86th with 448 points.

In the T20I batting rankings, Pakistan opener Sahibzada Farhan has held on to third place with 848 rating points. India's Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma occupy the top two spots.

Saim Ayub has risen two places to 39th with 560 points, while former Pakistan white-ball captain Babar Azam has also moved up two positions to 41st with 555 points.

T20I captain Salman Ali Agha remains 45th with 547 points, while Fakhar Zaman has retained 72nd place with 481 points.

Balochistan Wushu Association Elections on September 25

- Polls to be held at Ayub Stadium Quetta under Government Sports Policy 2008

SPORTS REPORTER

QUETTA

Balochistan Wushu Association elections will be held on September 25, 2026.The elections will be held under the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008. The Balochistan Wushu Association meeting has been held. The registered district office bearers participated in the meeting.

The existing office bearers unanimously decided to hold the elections. The Balochistan Wushu Association election will be held on Friday, September 25, 2026 at 05:00 at Ayub Stadium, Quetta, in accordance with the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008. All registered district associations should ensure their participation.

China prodigy wins third Games gold as North Korean weightlifters roar

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD



China's 13-year-old swimming prodigy Yu Zidi sealed a hat-trick of Asian Games titles on Wednesday, as North Korea won their first two golds thanks to their powerhouse women weightlifters. Towards the end of the fourth full day of action in Aichi-Nagoya, China were easily top of the medals table with 47 golds.

Second were the hosts Japan on 15, with South Korea third with eight.

The schoolgirl Yu will be remembered as one of the faces of the Games after her eye-popping exploits in the pool. If she maintains her current trajectory, the teenager will be a major medal threat at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Yu, who turns 14 next month, powered to a dominant victory in the women's 400m individual medley in a Games-record 4min 28.56sec.

It gave her a clean sweep from her three individual events, following victories in the 200m butterfly and 200m individual medley, also in Games-record times.

Pindiz owner threatens to withdraw team from PSL if Rizwan barred

- Pindiz owner Ahsan Tahir has threatened to withdraw his PSL franchise if Mohammad Rizwan is barred from cricket, saying the player was

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



The owner of Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Rawalpindi Pindiz, Ahsan Tahir, has threatened to withdraw his team from the competition if veteran Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan is prevented from playing cricket.

Responding to media reports about a possible comprehensive ban on Rizwan, Tahir strongly opposed any such move, calling it unjust and unacceptable.

Tahir said his continued involvement in the PSL was closely linked to Rizwan's presence in cricket and that he would reconsider his position if the player was barred from participating in cricketing activities.

The franchise owner said Rizwan was the central figure behind his decision to acquire the Pindiz franchise. He maintained that he had purchased the team specifically with Rizwan in mind and that there would be little reason for him to remain involved in the league if the cricketer was excluded.

Tahir also spoke about his relationship with Rizwan, describing the Pakistan cricketer as a mentor whose values and guidance had influenced his personal life.

He further said his business interests were already firmly established in Pakistan and the United States, adding that owning a cricket franchise was not a commercial necessity for him. The development comes amid the ongoing inquiry involving Rizwan following the seizure of his mobile phone after the Lord's Test in England.

During a recent Lahore High Court hearing, Rizwan's lawyer, Qazi Umair Ali, told Chief Justice Aalia Neelum that the cricketer had been called to a hotel lobby after the Test and questioned without being served a notice.

According to his counsel, Rizwan's mobile phone was taken into custody after he was assured it would be returned within three hours, but the device has not yet been returned.

The inquiry concerns allegations related to online betting and gambling in Pakistan cricket, while reports have also linked it to alleged leaks of information from the Pakistan dressing room during the Test series against England.

Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq appeared before the investigating agency in Lahore earlier this month. No final finding against either player has been officially announced.

The two cricketers were also among seven players released from Pakistan's Test squad following the team's defeat to England at Lord's.



Ashley Noffke resigns as Pakistan white-ball bowling coach

Web Desk

LAHORE

Pakistan cricket team's white-ball bowling coach Ashley Noffke has resigned from his position, according to sources.

Sources said Noffke has informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about his decision to step down from his coaching responsibilities.

Noffke's final assignment with the Pakistan team will be the 2026 Asian Games, after which he will leave his role as the national team's bowling coach. The PCB has confirmed Noffke as part of the support staff for Pakistan's men's team at the Asian Games.

According to sources, Noffke has also held discussions regarding a possible position as head coach of a team from an associate nation.

Meanwhile, the PCB has started the process of finding a new bowling coach for the Pakistan men's team and has advertised the vacancy.

According to the PCB, candidates interested in the position can submit their applications by October 8. The board has also specified coaching accreditation and experience requirements for applicants.



England fast bowler Mark Wood retires from internationals cricket after battling injuries

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

England fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday after an extended battle with injuries, bringing the ?curtain down on an 11-year career during which he ?took 253 wickets across all formats.

The 36-year-old Wood, who played 38 tests, 70 one-day internationals and 38 Twenty20s, last featured for England in November in the ?first test of the 4-1 Ashes series defeat by Australia.

"Although ?this may not come as a surprise given the past ?year, it just feels like a natural time at the ?end of my contract," Wood, who has also dealt with persistent ankle ?and elbow injuries in his career, wrote on social media.

"I've always tried to be resilient and come back from injury to prove people wrong and show ?everyone what I can do. Unfortunately, this time I lost the ?battle."On medical advice, test cricket and 50-over cricket are not possible, so the England ?dream ?has slowly been ground out of me over the last year."

Wood, capable of bowling ferociously fast spells, broke into England's test squad in 2015 and bowled Australia's Nathan Lyon at Trent Bridge to seal ?their last Ashes ?victory 11 years ?ago. He was also among England's standout bowlers in the 2021-22 series, claiming 17 wickets.



Hesson says Pakistan's T20 side ranks among world's best

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has expressed disappointment over Salman Mirza's injury while saying the national side has a strong batting lineup if conditions are favourable during the upcoming Asian Games. Speaking at a press conference at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre at Karachi's National Stadium, Hesson also discussed Pakistan's recent Test struggles, the team's ODI progress and the strength of its T20 side. Pakistan were recently swept 3-0 by England in their Test series in England, with the hosts winning the first Test by an innings and 103 runs, the second by 194 runs and the third by eight wickets.

Reflecting on the team's performance in the format, Hesson acknowledged that Pakistan's Test side has not been performing well.

Scanned with CamScanner



ISPR releases special song for Saudi Arabia's National Day

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, has released a special song titled "Ek Dooje Ke Dil-o-Jaan" to mark Saudi Arabia's National Day, paying tribute to the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The song, presented in both Urdu and Arabic, conveys a message of friendship, mutual respect and shared values between the two countries through its melodious composition.

It highlights the close Pakistan-Saudi friendship, the joint defence agreement and the brotherly relations between the two nations, reflecting their strong bilateral ties.

The lyrics and melody of "Ek Dooje Ke Dil-o-Jaan" also underscore the two countries' commitment to peace and their shared values, alongside their enduring friendship.

The new ISPR song represents the strong and longstanding fraternal bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, from the land of Pakistan to the sacred land of Saudi Arabia.

PM Shehbaz meets Bill Gates; reiterates commitment for polio-free Pakistan

● PM Shehbaz Sharif met Bill Gates at the UN, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to ending polio. They also discussed cooperation in health, agriculture, technology, AI and digital innovation.

WEB DESK

New York



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met Chair of the Gates Foundation Bill Gates wherein he reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to ensure complete eradication of polio from the country.

During the meeting held on the sidelines of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly here, the prime minister thanked the Gates Foundation for its longstanding assistance in the important endeavor and expressed his personal commitment to polio eradication.

Recalling Gates Foundation Team's recent visit to Pakistan earlier this month, the prime minister appreciated the Foundation's engagement with Pakistan in support of polio eradication, maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, digitization, and financial inclusion.

Acknowledging Pakistan's efforts under the prime minister's leadership and his guidance to the provincial governments for the countrywide polio vaccine program, Bill Gates stressed that polio eradication was vital to protect future generations from the crippling disease.

Prime Minister Shehbaz complimented the Gates Foundation for being a trusted partner in Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed interest in broadening collaboration in areas including public health, agriculture, digital innovation and artificial intelligence.

He also apprised Bill Gates of the agricultural reforms being undertaken by his government, with particular emphasis on innovation, biotechnology, climate resilience, research, and capacity-building for farmers.The two sides agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in the development of improved seeds, livestock genetics and emerging agricultural technologies.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to continued and constructive engagement with a view to further strengthening and expanding partnerships that support sustainable development, technological advancement and improved social sectors outcomes for the people of Pakistan.While recalling his earlier visits, the prime minister extended an invitation to Bill Gates to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Pakistan Navy, Coast Guards foil major smuggling attempt in Balochistan

● The seized contraband items have been handed over to Pakistan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings.

SPECIAL REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards, in coordination with Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC), thwarted an attempt to smuggle a large cache of contraband items in Pishukan area, Balochistan.

The joint intelligence-based anti-smuggling operation was conducted after acting on actionable intelligence.

During the operations, a sizeable quantity of liquor and illegal medicines was confiscated. The seized contraband items have been handed over to Pakistan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings.

The successful joint operation underscores the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination in countering smuggling while highlighting the resolve of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards to prevent the use of Pakistani waters and land for illicit activities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards for successfully foiling a major smuggling attempt in the Pashkan area of Balochistan.

In a joint anti-smuggling operation, a large cache of contraband items —including liquor and illegal medicines—was seized.

Appreciating the operation, the prime minister, who is currently in the United States to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, said that inter-agency coordination was important to root out the menace of smuggling from the country.

The prime minister also commended the professional competence, vigilance, and readiness of the personnel who participated in the operation. .

Punjab seeks army, rangers deployment ahead of PTI march

■ Punjab seeks army and Rangers deployment in key districts until October 5, while Islamabad Police requests 18,000 personnel from Punjab and Sindh ahead of PTI's Sept 27 march.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



In view of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) possible long march on September 27, the Punjab government has approached the federal government seeking the deployment of the army and Rangers in several districts.

According to sources, the Punjab government has requested the deployment of Rangers in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Mianwali. The Punjab Home Department has also sought the deployment of army personnel in Rawalpindi.

The deployment of the army and Rangers has been requested until October 5, according to the letter sent by the Punjab government to the federal authorities. Sources said the request was made to maintain law and order amid the expected political activity.

The matter was also discussed by the Punjab Cabinet's Standing Committee on Law and Justice, according to sources.

Meanwhile, Islamabad Police has sought 18,000 additional personnel from Punjab and Sindh ahead of the possible PTI march.

Police sources said 16,000 personnel have been requested from Punjab Police, while another 2,000 have been sought from Sindh Police. Islamabad Police has also requested three deputy inspectors general (DIGs), seven senior superintendents of police (SSPs) and 18 superintendents of police (SPs) from the two provinces.

The requests are part of security preparations in Islamabad and surrounding areas ahead of the September 27 political activity.



Dar calls India's unilateral attempt to hold IWT in abeyance another dangerous dimension

■ Pakistan urged OIC states to maintain a unified stance on Jammu and Kashmir at the UN, stressing Kashmiri self-determination and calling for a peaceful settlement under relevant UN resolutions.

SPECIAL REPORTER

NEW YORK

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday highlighting the continuing restrictions on political and civic space in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, urged the OIC member states to maintain a unified position on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations and other international fora.

The deputy prime minister, in his address to the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly here, apprised the participants of the Indian attempts to alter its demographic, political, and cultural character.

He thanked the OIC Secretary-General, members of the Contact Group, the OIC Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir, and the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission for their steadfast and principled support to the Kashmiri people.

The deputy prime minister recalled that Jammu and Kashmir remained an internationally recognized dispute on the agenda of the UN Security Council and stressed that no domestic legislation, judicial verdict, electoral exercise, or demographic manipulation could substitute for the Kashmiri people's inalienable right to self-determination.

He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a just and peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Ishaq Dar said India's unilateral attempt to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance has introduced another dangerous dimension. He emphasized that the Treaty is a binding international agreement and contains no provision permitting its unilateral suspension. Dar said an arbitration court had also affirmed that unilateral action by one party could not end the court's jurisdiction and that the obligations under the treaty remained in force.He further maintained that international obligations could not simply be disregarded because they were considered inconvenient by one of the parties.

Punjab imposes Section 144 across province amid security concerns

■ Under the notification, gatherings of five or more people at public places, roads and open spaces have been prohibited

WEB DESK

LAHORE

The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 across the province from September 23 to October 5 amid security concerns.

A notification issued by the Punjab Home Department under Section 144(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, imposed an immediate ban on public gatherings across the province.

Under the notification, gatherings of five or more people at public places, roads and open spaces have been prohibited. The restrictions also cover political rallies, processions, sit-ins and demonstrations.

The government has also prohibited the carrying and public display of all kinds of weapons at public places. Inviting or encouraging people to participate in gatherings declared unlawful under the order will also attract legal action.

However, the restrictions do not apply to certain essential and routine activities. These include wedding ceremonies, funeral prayers and burials, mosques, imambargahs and other places of worship and their routine gatherings.

Courts, government offices and institutions have also been exempted from the restrictions, along with events held with formal administrative permission.



Chairman Education Board Abbash Ahmad Gondal addressing during prize distribution ceremony of Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Annual Examination-2026 at Education Board Multipurpose Hall

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