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PM Shehbaz meets Iranian president on UNGA sidelines amid regional tensions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the two leaders discussing Pakistan-Iran relations and the regional situation, among other key issues.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi also attended the meeting.

The meeting came as Pakistan continues diplomatic efforts to help ease tensions between the United States and Iran and facilitate the resumption of dialogue between the two sides.

PM Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to playing a constructive role in diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing regional tensions.Earlier, Ishaq Dar met Abbas Araghchi to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments.



Balochistan imposes section 144 for 30 days amid security

CITY REPORTER

QUETTA

The Balochistan government has imposed Section 144 across the province for 30 days, citing security concerns and the need to maintain law and order.

According to Babar Yousafzai, adviser to the Home Department, the restrictions will take effect from September 23, 2026, and remain in force for 30 days.

Under Section 144, the display and public exhibition of all kinds of weapons at public places have been banned across the province.

Yousafzai said gatherings of five or more people at public places, sit-ins, rallies, protests and other similar activities would also be prohibited.



No talks with PTI Until long march is postponed, says Rana Sanaullah

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said on Thursday that negotiations with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) could not take place until the party postponed its planned long march.

Speaking to a private television channel, Rana said containers had been placed in Islamabad as a security measure, adding that they were positioned along the roadsides and that the roads remained open.

He said backchannel contacts with the PTI leadership were still continuing. However, he maintained that formal talks could not proceed unless the party deferred its September 27 long march.



Pakistan military airstrikes destroy 10 drone bases in Afghanistan

- Attaullah Tarar confirms air attacks were in retaliation for drone strikes against Pakistan:

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan military has launched a string of precision aerial and drone strikes in 10 locations across Afghanistan in retaliation for drones launched from the neighbouring country a day earlier,

Confirming the development, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said early Thursday: "In exercise of its sovereign right to self-defence, Pakistan conducted precision aerial and drone strikes against 10 locations in Afghanistan used for launching and storing these drones."In a post uploaded on social media platform X, the minister said the strikes were "deliberate, precise, calibrated and proportionate and strictly limited to identified military objectives directly linked to the attempted attacks against Pakistan".

Tarar also condemned Wednesday's "deliberate and unlawful" drone incursion, calling it a "blatant violation



of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity". He maintained that the drone attacks were a "grave and unacceptable act of aggression". The minister said Pakistan had conveyed its concerns to the Afghan Taliban over the terrorist elements emanating from Afghan soil and the presence of terrorist sanctuaries. However, he noted that rather than dismantling the terrorist networks and taking action against them, the Afghan Taliban chose to "escalate the situation through hostile drone operations against Pakistan".

He said that in Wednesday's attack, Pakistan's Air Defence systems had "detected, tracked and neutralised all intruding platforms before they could reach any of their intended targets, comprehensively thwarting the attempted attack".

KP Police Act conflicts with federal laws, says Barrister Aqeel



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik has criticised the proposed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Act, saying it conflicts with federal laws and raises constitutional and legal concerns.

Speaking to the media alongside Akhtar Wali Khan, Malik said the proposed legislation had been drafted with political considerations and was aimed at bringing the police force under the provincial government's control.

He said the appointment of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) officers was the responsibility of the federal government and that any attempt to establish a new practice in this regard would be unconstitutional and unlawful.

"The proposed KP Police Act has been politicised," Malik said, adding that the legislation was intended to make the police force subordinate to the provincial government.

He maintained that the provincial government could not unilaterally alter arrangements concerning the appointment and deployment of PSP officers where federal law applied.Malik said the proposed legislation could create a new precedent and urged that constitutional and legal provisions be respected.

Pakistan warns UN Security Council of AI risks to global peace

CITY REPORTER

New York

Pakistan Thursday warned the UN Security Council that an unregulated artificial intelligence boom risks widening global inequalities and threatening international peace,

Addressing the 15-member Security Council which held a briefing on 'Artificial Intelligence and International Security", Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said "Concerted efforts are required to erect the necessary guardrails, regulations and governance frameworks." Stressing the need for restraint and confidence-building in the military domain to address risks of miscalculation and compressed decision-making, Dar underscored the importance of international cooperation to ensure that AI is representative, transparent and inclusive.

Convened by France, Council President for September, the meeting was chaired by French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs ean-Noël Barrot.



At the outset of the session, the leaders of several major tech companies — OpenAI, Anthropic, Hugging Face — addressed the Council on recent developments surrounding AI and spotlighted both the potential and the problems inherent in the emerging technology.

The meeting took place amid mounting concern about the rapid growth of AI, which is being used widely, from classrooms to battlefields, with few guardrails in place. In this regard, UN efforts include establishing the Global Digital Compact to foster cooperation in governing digital technology and AI, and the UN-backed Independent International Scientific Panel on AI.

Security forces kill eight terrorists in North Waziristan operation

- Security forces killed eight militants in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan, destroyed their hideouts and recovered weapons and ammunition, according to security sources.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing eight terrorists.

Sources said security personnel carried out an effective operation against militant positions, completely destroying their hideouts.

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

The sources further claimed that the militants attempted to use a mosque as a shield to evade the security forces.

According to the security sources, the forces took the sanctity of the mosque into consideration and carried out the operation with



precision. A day earlier, security forces 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 killing of two militants.

PM tells IMF chief Pakistan is committed to sustain reforms

- Shehbaz Sharif says Islamabad is transitioning fast from stabilization to recovery despite challenges: Lauds IMF's continued support for Pakistan's economy: Kristalina Georgia says continued reforms will help lift growth and improve people's lives

STAFF REPORTER

New York

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan was successfully transitioning from macroeconomic stabilization towards a path of recovery, supported by prudent fiscal and monetary policies, despite regional conflict and external inflationary pressures,

PM Shehbaz Sharif made these remarks during a meeting with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General



Assembly in New York on Wednesday.

PM Shehbaz reaffirmed his government's strong ownership of the economic reform agenda and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to maintain the momentum of reforms and advance structural measures aimed at strengthening the economy and laying the foundations for sustainable and inclusive growth.

The PM appreciated the IMF's continued support for Pakistan's economy and the Managing Director's role in strengthening Pakistan's partnership with the Fund, while reaffirming his government's commitment to the successful implementation of the IMF-supported reform programme.

Highlighting improvements in fiscal discipline, external buffers and investor confidence, Shehbaz Sharif cited the National Tariff Regime, enhanced domestic revenue mobilization and progress on privatization as examples of the government's reform efforts.

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NAB Balochistan Hosts BUITEMS Students to Promote Anti-Corruption Awareness

- NAB Balochistan officials brief students on accountability mechanisms, preventive measures and the role of youth in building a corruption-free society

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA



In light of Chairman NAB's vision and as part of the anti-corruption awareness initiative, the National Accountability Bureau (Balochistan) hosted a visit of students and faculty members from Balochistan University of Information, Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), Quetta on 10th September, 2026. The delegation comprising of students from the different Departments was led by Zahoor Ahmed, Assistant Director of the University. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Niaz Hassan, Director General, NAB (Balochistan) who underscored the significance of such visits in imparting practical knowledge to the future leaders of this nation.During the visit, the delegation toured various wings of the NAB office, gaining an in depth understanding of its operational framework, including complaint processing, inquiry procedures and prosecution mechanism. Deputy Director NAB (B) Farhan Yousaf Khan also delivered a detailed lecture to the participants about the working of NAB, it's vision, mission and methodology. Director NAB Muhammad Saleem Ahmed engaged with the students and defined the significant role, students can play in eradicating the menace of corruption. He deliberated upon the teachings of Islam and emphasized that the Islamic teachings assert on self-accountability and do not allow an iota of dishonesty or corruption. The Director General, NAB Balochistan Niaz Hassan, reiterated the Chairman NAB's vision to eradicate corruption and focus on preventive measures. DG NAB (B) elaborated on NAB's three pronged strategy Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement and highlighted the critical sections of National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999. He stressed on the importance of Character-Building values, urging students to campaign integrity within their community, ultimately leading to a society intolerant to corruption. He also interacted with the students and faculty members and patently addressed the queries raised by them.The visit concluded with Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, AD receiving a commemorative shield on behalf of the delegation, followed by mutual expression of gratitude. Both, NAB officials and visiting delegation lauded the initiative as a meaningful step towards building a corruption free Pakistan.

IG FC Balochistan (South) Visits Girls Cadet College Turbat; Laptops Distributed to 67 Final-Year Cadets by FC Balochistan (South) Parwaz Foundation





SPECIAL REPORTER
Turbat

IG FC Balochistan (South) visited Girls Cadet College Turbat, where he met with faculty members and students.Addressing the cadets, IG FC Balochistan (South) emphasized the importance of education, stating that progress in the modern era depends on education that keeps pace with technology. He described the students as the future of Pakistan and urged them to continue their endeavors with hard work and dedication. He further noted that anti-state elements are attempting to mislead the youth through fabricated propaganda; therefore, students should steer clear of subversive propaganda and misleading narratives, focusing instead on their education and positive activities.To align the cadets with modern knowledge and further hone their academic and research capabilities, IG FC Balochistan (South) distributed laptops to 67 outstanding final-year cadets on behalf of the FC Balochistan (South) Parwaz Foundation.



Powers of attorney of Imaan Mazari, husband not yet received, court told

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A report submitted by the Adiala Jail officials to an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Thursday informed that as per registered and digital record, they had not yet received powers of attorney of human rights activist, Imaan Mazari, and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha,

During the hearing of a petition filed against the non-provision of powers of attorney in the case, judge Tahir Abbas Sipra remarked that Chattha's power of attorney had been presented in the court.

However, the jail deputy superintendent replied that the power of attorney did not bear his signatures.

Speaking on the occasion, Zainab Janjua, one of the counsels for the couple, said that she had a meeting with the deputy superintendent this Monday. "And he told me that the powers of attorney would be processed in a day or two."

Riasat Ali Azad, another lawyer, said that it was on this court orders that the couple had been sent to jail. "If we have the power of attorney of Chattha, and not of Imaan, does this imply that she is not present in jail?" he questioned.

He went on to say that this was a unique case in which powers of attorney had not been received despite the passage of one week.

Azad said that if anything bad happened to either Imaan or Chattha, these would be the jail officials who would be responsible for that.

Judge Sipra then asked, "Where did you get Chattha's power of attorney from?"

Zainab replied that it was obtained from the sessions court.

Azad said this was an issue that was related to the wellbeing of a human being. "No one knows. Perhaps they have killed Imaan in jail."

Dr. Shireen Mazari, Imaan's mother, seconded Azad, and said that her daughter might have either been killed or moved to an undisclosed location.

Ten-minute limit set for lawyers' arguments as stopwatch installed in FCC

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

In an unusual step aimed at speeding up the disposal of cases, Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) Amin-ud-Din Khan has had a stopwatch installed in the courtroom, with lawyers being given 10 minutes each to present their arguments.

According to the court proceedings, the stopwatch begins to signal when a lawyer's allotted 10 minutes have expired.

The time limit has been introduced to help ensure that cases are heard and decided more quickly,

Chief Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan said fixing a specific time for lawyers' arguments would help expedite the disposal of cases.

The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan was established in November 2025 through the 27th Constitutional Amendment and formally began its constitutional functions on November 13, 2025, according to the court's official website. Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan took oath as its first chief justice on November 14, 2025.

The FCC's official website currently shows 23,409 cases pending before the court, alongside 5,869 cases disposed of and 5,723 cases instituted.

The figures are presented as real-time court statistics on the FCC website.

The court has also highlighted the use of modern technology and improved case management as part of efforts to strengthen its judicial and administrative performance.

IHC chief justice's courtroom given status of e-court

- Similarly, large TV screens have been installed in courtroom no 1 for online hearings.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Paperless system has been introduced in the courtroom of Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice (CJ) Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar,Similarly, large TV screens have been installed in courtroom no 1 for online hearings.

Apart from that, the chief justice's courtroom has been given the status of an e-court.

Commenting on the development, Prosecutor General Islamabad Manzoor Ahmad Jajja has said that the latest technology would help expedite the hearing of cases and ensure their transparency.

On the other hand, lawyers have said that the introduction of technology is a first step towards bringing the provision of justice in harmony with the modern-day requirements.



Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, is addressing the 'Freedom 250' reception at a local hotel, to mark the 250th anniversary of American Independence Day

PML-N's Dr Najeeb Naqi elected AJK president with 32 votes

- PML-N nominee Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi has been elected AJK president with 32 votes, defeating PPP candidate Chaudhry Latif Akbar, who secured 13 votes.

SPECIAL REPORTER
MUZAFFARABAD

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) nominee Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqi has been elected president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) for a five-year term after securing 32 votes in the presidential election.

Dr Najeeb Naqi defeated Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Chaudhry Latif Akbar, who received 13 votes in the election held at the AJK Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

With 32 votes, Dr Najeeb Naqi has been elected the 23rd president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. A candidate needed at least 27 votes to secure the presidency.

The voting process was held at the AJK Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad from 10am to 1pm, followed by the counting of votes.

The election was conducted to fill the constitutional office that had remained vacant since January following the death of former AJK president Barrister Sultan Mahmood. Chaudhry Latif Akbar had initially performed the duties of acting president after Sultan Mahmood's death.

اشتہار برائے گمشدگی

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IMF talks begin with reform gaps

As the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began talks from Karachi, Pakistan managed to show progress on fiscal and monetary numbers, which would lead to the release of loan tranches, but it failed to meet a few conditions related to an increase in spending on education and healthcare and improving governance.

In addition to reviewing the implementation of programme conditions till June this year, the IMF mission on Wednesday also simultaneously began Article-IV consultations – a comprehensive and deeper dive



to gauge the health of Pakistan's economy.

On the opening day, the IMF had a bird's-eye view of Pakistan's macroeconomic outlook and the external sector situation in the light of the Middle East conflict and its implications for Pakistan's economy, according to officials privy to the discussions. They said that the IMF would seek the federal government's perspective on the macroeconomic outlook during its visit to Islamabad, which is expected to begin on September 28, provided the capital city remains open.

The successful culmination of IMF talks will result in a recommendation to the board for the release of $1.2 billion worth of two tranches and publication of a comprehensive Article-IV report, which will become the base for any future engagement with Pakistan.

However, sources said that the IMF's concerns remain about the lack of implementation of structural reforms aimed at improving the governance of state-owned enterprises, continued market interventions and the lack of transparency in the budget with reference to large statistical discrepancies.

The government surpassed the IMF's condition to produce a primary budget surplus – calculated after excluding interest payments. But the IMF has concerns about Rs853 billion in statistical discrepancies, the sources added. The global lender is expected to hold detailed meetings on the discrepancy in accounts of the last fiscal year, they added.

Pakistan has missed the condition that the five governments will cumulatively spend Rs3.47 trillion on health and education. The condition has been missed by a wide margin of Rs370 billion. This could prove one of the difficult points for Pakistani authorities.

The condition on health and educational spending has been missed despite the IMF having imposed a limit to keep primary current spending at the projected inflation rate, while fiscal space is explicitly reallocated to social protection, health and education.

The government has also not fully implemented the condition to table bills in parliament to amend laws of 10 SOEs to improve their governance and inculcate corporate culture. The IMF had also set a condition that by June 2026, the government should publish a plan outlining the post-2027 financial sector strategy and the institutional and regulatory environment from 2028 onwards. The condition has been imposed in light of the constitutional provision to end the interest-based economy.

By March this year, there was an IMF requirement to amend the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) Act and other legislation to adopt appropriate governance mechanisms and safeguards following international standards and good practices to ensure that SOEs under the SWF ownership revert to the SOE Act's governance structures, and appropriate fiscal safeguards were in place for the SWF operations. The government has tabled the bill in parliament, but it could not be approved. The condition that the federal and provincial governments will agree and the federal cabinet will adopt a national policy for sugar market liberalisation containing key recommendations on licensing, price controls, import and export permissions, zoning and clear timelines for implementation has also been missed.

However, the condition to timely adjust gas and electricity prices has been met. Officials said that the FBR's performance would also come under scrutiny in addition to reviewing the taxation matters related to provinces.

The IMF on Wednesday held a virtual meeting on the tax matters, including reviewing the agricultural taxation regime with the Balochistan Revenue Authority. The IMF acknowledged the FBR's role in data-sharing arrangements with provinces.

Sources said that one of the outstanding issues with the IMF could be the property sector taxation, particularly the fake withholding tax payments that were unearthed in the Multan region. On the external side, the IMF's focus is expected to be the external financing requirement, higher import bill due to regional tensions and the interbank exchange rate movement.

The central bank's view was that the external financing conditions and reserve adequacy remained broadly supportive, aided by multilateral and bilateral official inflows and continued central bank foreign exchange purchases. The SBP was targeting gross international reserves at over $21 billion by end-June 2027 on a permanent basis, as the current hike is temporary and will be reversed once $3 billion is paid to Saudi Arabia.

The monetary policy committee of the SBP noted in the last meeting that the external sector outlook remained susceptible to elevated global commodity prices and supply constraints amidst the unfolding developments in the Middle East. The central bank's macroeconomic assessment was that economic activity was expected to pick up in the current fiscal year but at a slower pace than anticipated earlier due to elevated energy costs and supply disruptions.The central bank sees the current account deficit widening in the current fiscal year in line with the expected pickup in economic activity and higher global commodity prices.

AI's second chance for the Global South



By: Qaiser Nawab



For developing countries, technological revolutions often arrive twice: first as a promise and later as a reminder of how far behind they remain. The industrial age was built around capital-intensive factories; the information age around computing power, networks and intellectual property. By the time many countries in the Global South acquired the infrastructure and skills needed to participate, the frontier had moved again.

Artificial intelligence may not follow the same script. That is the argument recently made by Justin Yifu Lin, former World Bank chief economist and a leading Chinese development economist. Lin believes open-weight AI — models whose trained parameters can be downloaded, adapted and run locally — could give developing economies an opportunity they did not have during earlier industrial transformations.

The claim deserves attention, but not celebration. Open-weight AI changes the economics of access. Whether it changes the economics of development is a harder question.

Countries do not necessarily have to build the most advanced AI model themselves to benefit from it. They can take an existing model, adapt it for a local language or industry, and deploy it for tasks ranging from agricultural advice and medical support to education, logistics and public administration.

This matters because the AI frontier is prohibitively expensive. Training the largest models requires enormous computing resources, advanced chips, specialist talent, and capital that most developing economies lack. Open-weight models reduce part of that barrier.

Chinese firms have become important to this shift. Models such as DeepSeek and Alibaba's Qwen have attracted attention not only for their capabilities but because they can be downloaded and adapted under their respective licences. This widens the options available to developers who cannot afford to build frontier systems from scratch. Lin's point is practical: if advanced tools become cheaper and more adaptable, latecomers gain room to experiment.The World Bank has noted that open technologies can help developing countries adapt AI to local contexts without reinventing foundational technology. Yet its research also shows how unequal the landscape remains. Data-centre capacity, venture funding, advanced computing and model development are still heavily concentrated in richer economies.

It is also worth being precise about terminology. "Open-weight" is not always the same as fully open-source. A model may make its parameters available while withholding parts of the training data or development process. That does not negate its usefulness, but governments should resist treating openness as a binary category. The real question is what users are legally and technically able to inspect, modify, and deploy.The development question comes after access The temptation in policy circles is to assume that once a technology becomes affordable, development will follow. History offers little support for that assumption.

Electricity did not industrialise countries that lacked functioning institutions. Internet access did not automatically produce productive digital economies. Smartphones expanded connectivity, but did not by themselves create high-value industries. AI will be no different.

The World Bank's recent work on AI identifies four foundations: connectivity, compute, context, and competency. The list shifts attention away from models and towards ecosystems. A country may have access to a powerful open-weight model and still lack reliable electricity, affordable cloud infrastructure, local-language data, skilled engineers or public institutions capable of supervising AI responsibly.

For Pakistan and many comparable economies, this is the central policy challenge. The useful question is not whether the country can produce its own equivalent of the world's largest model. It is where AI can raise productivity in sectors that already matter — agriculture, textiles, logistics, health, education, financial services, small manufacturing and public administration — and what local capacity is needed to make those applications work.

Basic Services and Public Frustration in IIOJK



By: Kainat Shahzad

When people take to the streets demanding roads, healthcare, clean water or other basic services, the protest is rarely about a single road, a single hospital or a single administrative decision. It is often the visible expression of a much longer frustration: the feeling that ordinary people have repeatedly asked to be heard and have repeatedly been ignored. Recent protests in parts of Kupwara and Rajouri in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) bring this problem into sharp focus.

For communities living in remote and underserved areas, everyday hardships are not abstract administrative issues. They directly affect the quality and security of people's lives. A damaged road can become a serious danger when an ambulance is carrying a critically ill patient. Limited healthcare can force families to travel long distances for treatment. Poor transportation can prevent students from reaching educational institutions regularly. Shortages of clean water and inadequate sanitation can place additional burdens on families already struggling with limited resources.

These problems may appear ordinary when discussed separately. For the people experiencing them, however, they can shape almost every part of daily life.

This is why public protests over basic services should not simply be viewed as temporary disturbances. They can be a sign that normal channels for addressing grievances have failed to produce satisfactory results. When complaints remain unresolved for long periods, frustration naturally grows. Eventually, the street becomes the place where people believe their voices might finally be noticed.

The deeper issue, therefore, is not only the condition of a particular road or the availability of a particular public facility. It is the relationship between citizens and the institutions responsible for serving them.

Good governance cannot be measured only through official announcements, development plans or figures showing completed projects. Its real test is much simpler: can ordinary people see and experience improvements in their daily lives?

family that still cannot reach a hospital safely. A development project offers limited relief if communities continue to struggle with unreliable utilities or inadequate transportation. For people living far from administrative centres, the distance between official claims and everyday reality can be especially difficult.

The responsibility of public authorities is not limited to responding after people begin protesting. It also includes identifying problems before they become crises. Regular engagement with local communities, accessible complaint mechanisms and timely responses to public concerns can prevent legitimate grievances from becoming deeper sources of mistrust.

This matters because public trust is difficult to build when people feel that their concerns are repeatedly overlooked. When citizens believe that their voices carry little weight, frustration can extend beyond one particular issue. A complaint about a road can become a complaint about governance itself. A demand for healthcare can become a broader question about whether institutions are responsive to the people they are meant to serve.

The residents protesting in Kupwara and Rajouri are therefore raising concerns that deserve to be examined beyond the immediate demonstrations. Their demands for better public services speak to basic conditions of a dignified life. Safe transportation, accessible healthcare, education, clean water, electricity and adequate civic infrastructure should not be treated as extraordinary demands.

Nor should such concerns disappear once the demonstrations end. The most constructive response to public frustration is not simply to manage the protest but to address the reasons behind it. Authorities should listen to communities, investigate their complaints and provide concrete responses. Where services are inadequate, people need practical improvements rather than repeated assurances.

There is also a larger lesson here. Political debates surrounding Jammu and Kashmir often receive considerable attention, while the everyday experiences of ordinary families can receive far less. Yet governance is ultimately experienced at the most basic level: whether a child can reach school, whether a patient can reach a doctor, whether a family has access to clean water and whether people can travel safely from one place to another.

These are not minorconcerns. They are the foundations of a dignified life.The protests in Kupwara and Rajouri should therefore be understood as a reminder that neglected grievances do not simply disappear.



Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik chairs a meeting to review payments under the Prime Minister's Fuel Relief Scheme, as well as supply chain, transportation and logistics arrangements to ensure uninterrupted availability of petroleum products across the country.

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Pakistan, Bangladesh set sights on stronger agrifood partnership, climate resilience

● He emphasised that closer collaboration in animal, human and environmental health could help strengthen food security, protect rural livelihoods and improve the resilience of agricultural communities.

Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Wednesday, highlighted the common vulnerabilities of Pakistan and Bangladesh as agriculture-dependent countries facing the growing impacts of climate change, emerging diseases and environmental pressures.

The minister held a high-level meeting with Bangladesh's Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Abdul Awal Mintoo, and Minister of State for Fisheries and Livestock, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, on the sidelines of the FAO Global Conference for Actions on One Health in Agrifood Systems in Rome, said a press release.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, climate adaptation and the One Health approach, with discussions centred on shared challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

He emphasised that closer collaboration in animal, human and environmental health could help strengthen food security, protect rural livelihoods and improve the resilience of agricultural communities.

The minister underscored the potential for expanding cooperation in agricultural trade, research, mechanisation, livestock breed improvement and capacity building. He also highlighted opportunities for institutional partnerships, technical exchanges and collaboration in agriculture and veterinary sciences, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to a relationship based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and shared development priorities.





IG FC Balochistan (North) Engages Key Stakeholders from Various Sectors to Advance Peace, Stability and Public Cooperation

Significant Progress Toward Promoting Peace, Stability and Mutual Cooperation



Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) continues to play an active role in maintaining peace and stability in the province, addressing public concerns, strengthening effective engagement with various segments of society, and further consolidating mutual trust between state institutions and the public.



In this regard, the Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) held meetings with representative delegations from the University of Balochistan, Small Industries, the Transport Association, and the Trade Union of Balochistan. The meetings included detailed discussions on the overall security situation in the province, law and order, challenges faced by the respective sectors, and effective and sustainable solutions to these issues.

During the meeting with the delegation from the University of Balochistan, discussions focused on the academic environment, security concerns relating to students and faculty, and various measures to maintain a peaceful and conducive educational atmosphere at universities. It was emphasized that the youth of Balochistan are a vital asset and the foundation of the province's bright future, and that providing them with a safe, positive, and quality educational environment is a shared responsibility of all relevant institutions. Improved coordination between educational and security institutions was highlighted as an important factor in promoting a peaceful and progressive environment for young people.



Similarly, during the meeting with representatives of Small Industries, the importance of a safe and conducive environment for local industries, business activities, and investment was discussed. Small and medium-sized industries play a key role in local employment, economic self-reliance, and regional development. Therefore, the need for coordinated cooperation among relevant institutions to address the challenges faced by the business community and ensure the continuity of industrial activities was emphasized.



The delegation of the Transport Association briefed the IG FC on security and other administrative issues affecting the transport sector. The meeting covered various aspects related to the safety of passengers, drivers, and transporters, secure travel on major highways, and ensuring the uninterrupted movement of commercial traffic. The IG FC Balochistan (North) emphasized that secure highways are important not only for public convenience but also for promoting economic activity and strengthening inter-district connectivity across the province.

During the meeting with the representative delegation of the Trade Union of Balochistan, detailed discussions were held on the challenges faced by traders and the business community,



the protection of commercial activities, and matters relating to law and order. It was reaffirmed that coordination and cooperation among relevant institutions would be further strengthened to promote a peaceful business environment, support economic activity, and address the legitimate concerns of traders in the province.

A notable feature of these meetings was that representatives from various sectors were given an opportunity to present their concerns and suggestions directly. This not only facilitated better identification of issues but also further strengthened mutual consultation and institutional coordination for resolving them. FC Balochistan (North) reiterated that the sustainable establishment of peace and security is possible only through continuous engagement and joint cooperation among the public, educational institutions, business community, transport sector, industries, civil administration, and law-enforcement agencies.



The various delegations appreciated the role of the IG FC Balochistan (North) in seriously listening to their concerns, making practical progress towards their resolution, and bringing all relevant stakeholders together on an effective platform for communication and coordination. These meetings further strengthened the commitment that joint efforts would continue to ensure a conducive environment for education, trade, industry, transport, and economic activities alongside peace and stability in Balochistan.

FC Balochistan (North) — Standing with the People for Peace, Stability and a Prosperous Balochistan

Oil prices slide as Iran says it is open to democracy

■ Trump added that a three-hour meeting Tuesday had been "very productive" and that two countries "have another one scheduled in the very near future".

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Oil prices edged lower early Thursday, after climbing four percent in the previous session, as Iran said it remained open to diplomacy to end the US-Iran war.

Brent crude futures fall 94 cents, or 0.9pc, to $102.13 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate futures eased 59 cents, or 0.7pc, to $91.56.

Asian markets were mixed on Thursday as traders eyed a high-stakes summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping set to focus on AI, trade and the Middle East war.

Xi's arrival in Washington coincided with US Treasury Scott Bessent announcing that the superpowers had agreed to extend a trade truce by two months.

The simmering trade war between the world's top two economies is a key concern: while both sides have maintained a tariff truce for nearly a year, they have yet to secure a lasting agreement.

The "economic detente" will now extend beyond its November 10 deadline to January 10, Bessent said.

But hopes of business deals have been dimmed by the fact that there are no Chinese CEOs in Xi's delegation, two sources told AFP.

In contrast, top US tech bosses including the leaders of major AI companies are set to attend Thursday's banquet.

Pre-summit talks between Bessent and his Chinese counterpart He Lifeng included discussion of creating a communication channel for AI concerns, as warnings swirled that the technology risks wiping out humanity.

"Market participants are looking for signs of cooperation (however feigned) in managing the risks of AI without raising the regulatory risk to the space," said Kyle Rodda, senior financial market analyst at Capital.com.

Hong Kong, Shanghai and Taipei were in the red, while South Korea's tech-heavy Kospi was closed for a holiday.

Japan's Nikkei was 1.6 percent up as it reopened after a three-day break.

Tokyo's gains came as the benchmark 10-year JGB yield rose to 3.055 percent, hitting a 30-year high, after US bond yields jumped.

The benchmark US 10-year Treasury yield rose to 5.11 percent -- its highest level since 2007.

The US Federal Reserve lifted borrowing costs last week, providing relief to traders concerned that policymakers were not moving quickly enough to address a spike in inflation.

The Iran war will be also on the agenda at US-China talks in Washington, Trump confirmed, despite having earlier played down reports that Beijing was supplying Tehran with intelligence as the conflict drags on.

Oil prices edge lower as Iran says it is open to diplomacy to end the war

Web Desk

LAHORE



Oil prices edged lower on Thursday, after climbing 4% in the previous ?session, as Iran said it remained open to diplomacy to end the US-Iran war, though the two countries remain far apart on ways to do so.

Brent crude futures fell 94 cents, or 0.9%, to $102.13 a barrel, while ?West Texas Intermediate futures eased 59 cents, or 0.7%, to $91.56.

Iran and the United States remain ?divided over how to bring an end to their war, but diplomacy must ?continue, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Wednesday, after Iran's president told the UN ?General Assembly that Tehran would never surrender to US pressure. Tehran was reviewing Washington's response to its peace ?proposals, which prioritise lifting a US naval blockade on Iranian ports and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, the official said.

A reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and lifting of Washington's naval blockade on Iran were discussed during indirect talks on Tuesday, the official said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei said ?the Strait of Hormuz would not be reopened while Iran's conditions are not met.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio ?told ?reporters on Wednesday that a deal with Iran would involve hard work over a period of time, adding that Trump also had military options. Traders also evaluated possible curbs on diesel exports.

Ultra-low-sulfur diesel futures were down about 5% in midday trading after website Politico said the Trump administration was ?preparing plans for a 90-day ?diesel ban, but ?the White House denied this.

However, Bloomberg reported later in the day, citing sources, that Energy Secretary Chris Wright told oil industry leaders to brace for ?possible US curbs on diesel exports in calls late Tuesday.

Wright had said ?earlier on ?Wednesday that a diesel export ban would not work even though

Scanned with CamScanner

Four killed in Gaza strikes, Israel says it killed a Hamas finance chief

- Palestinian authorities say more than 73,000 people have been killed in Israel's assault on Gaza, launched after Hamas-led fighters



Web Desk

DAVOS

Israeli airstrikes killed at least four Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on local health officials said, and Israel said one of the attacks targeted a Hamas finance chief.

Medics said two of the Palestinians, Osama Abu Khater and Mohammad Abu Elwan, were killed when an Israeli airstrike hit a vehicle in western Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave. ?Two other people were wounded, they added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz, in a joint statement, described Mohammad Abu Elwan as a senior Hamas finance official.

"We will not allow Hamas to rebuild its strength, and we will not stop until Hamas no longer exists in Gaza," the joint statement said. Hamas did not immediately comment.

Later on Wednesday, Palestinian health officials said two people had also been killed in two separate Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City and in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, taking ?Wednesday's death toll to at least four.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the last two strikes.

Palestinian authorities say more than 73,000 people have been killed in Israel's assault on Gaza, launched after Hamas-led fighters killed about 1,200 people in southern Israel in October 2023.

A ?US-brokered ceasefire agreed last year calls for the eventual reconstruction of the territory, but little progress has been made as negotiators have failed to agree terms for Hamas to disarm and Israel to ?withdraw its troops. Israeli airstrikes have continued.

At least 1,400 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire took effect, according to the territory's health officials, while the ?Israeli military says four Israeli soldiers have been killed.

North Korea conducted test of upgraded rocket launcher system, KCNA



WEB DESK

SEOUL

North Korea conducted a test firing of an upgraded 240mm guided multiple rocket launcher system on Tuesday, state news agency KCNA reported on Thursday, saying the weapon would bolster firepower along the country's southern border.

The test demonstrated the accuracy and superiority of the range-extended rockets, which use an autonomous precision guidance system, KCNA said.

The rockets are able to strike targets 100 km (62 miles) away ?in a trajectory flight mode and 115 km away in a combined glide mode, it added.

The development of such rockets assures North Korea of a significant change in the firepower readiness along the southern border, the news agency said, effectively referring to the one it shares with South Korea. Pak Jong-chon, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission, who oversaw the test, stressed the need to concentrate the deadliest and most destructive attack forces on the southern border, KCNA said.

South Korea's Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to an emailed Reuters request for comment.

Pyongyang has been steadily upgrading its tactical and conventional arsenal that it intends to deploy ?near the border with South Korea.

Lim Eul-chul, a professor at Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies in Seoul, said the use of a precision guidance system suggested that North Korea could strike key facilities in the Seoul metropolitan area with a margin of error of just a few metres.

This equates to a potential threat to South ?Korea's heavily populated capital area regardless of the military response and could be intended to induce fear in South Korea, Lim said.



Iran protest crackdown latest developments

Web DESK

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump gave Chinese President Xi Jinping a rare personal airport welcome on Wednesday, launching three days of ceremony and high-level talks aimed at easing tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Trump and First Lady Melania Trump greeted Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, after Xi stepped off his plane at Joint Base Andrews, the US military airfield outside Washington. Trump and Xi stood side by side as a military band played the national anthems.

A flyover by two B-1 bombers added to the spectacle, with Trump briefly grimacing at the roar of the aircraft while Xi remained impassive.

Trump later dismissed the fact that Xi had not offered him a similar airport welcome during his visit to Beijing in May.

"I thought it was a great little meeting, a great greeting, and I think they appreciate it," Trump told reporters at the White House.

Xi said the United States and China should be partners rather than rivals.

In written remarks carried by China's state news agency Xinhua, he said the visit was expected to be fruitful through joint efforts.

Trade, Iran and AI onAgenda

The lavish visit, Xi's third meeting with Trump since the US president returned to office, includes a formal welcome, another flyover, Oval Office talks and a state banquet at the White House on Thursday.

The visit will conclude Friday with tea for the two presidential couples at the White House, followed by a visit to the National Archives, which houses the US Declaration of Independence.

While relations have stabilized somewhat since Trump's visit to Beijing four months ago, analysts say the underlying strategic rivalry remains largely unchanged. Expectations for major breakthroughs are low, with the ceremony intended in part to reinforce a fragile period of calm.

Zelenskiy warns of painful winter for Russia if energy truce talks fail

WEB DESK

UNITED NATIONS



President Volodymyr Zelenskiy warned Moscow at the United Nations that Ukraine would strike back and make the coming winter deeply painful for Russia, if the two sides cannot agree a truce ?on energy attacks before the cold sets in.

Ukraine and its allies are racing to secure limited agreements on energy infrastructure and Black Sea shipping before winter, fearing renewed Russian strikes on power and heating facilities, while Moscow continues to show little interest in wider negotiations to end the war.

"Ukrainians understand that this winter could be very harsh for us. But ?in response, we will have no choice but to make it painful for Russia too," Zelenskiy told the UN General Assembly during the ?annual gathering of world leaders in New York.Though Russia has a far bigger arsenal of missiles which it has ?used to pound its enemy throughout the war, Ukraine has developed and used thousands of long-range drones to strike back at Russian warehouses, port infrastructure and ?oil refineries.

Judge blocks Trump's White House media ban, orders access to be restored

- Kelly ordered the Trump administration to immediately return the outlets' press passes and blocked officials from enforcing the ban for 14 days

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

A federal judge ordered US President Donald Trump on Thursday to restore White House access for journalists from CNN, MS NOW and Politico, saying his ban on the three media outlets was likely unconstitutional.

In a major setback for Trump in one of his biggest battles with the media, US District Judge Tim Kelly issued his order in a lawsuit that the news organisations filed contesting the ban that the Republican president announced on September 18.

Kelly ordered the Trump administration to immediately return the outlets' press passes and blocked officials from enforcing the ban for 14 days. The judge rejected the government's assertion that the ban was motivated by national security concerns.



"The record lacks factual support for defendant's contention that the revocation of plaintiffs' hard passes will in fact protect national security or that national security will be endangered if the court orders their passes reinstated while this litigation proceeds," he said, adding that Trump himself had stated the ban was due to "alleged lack of truthfulness and negativity" of the outlets' reporting.

The White House and representatives for the outlets did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump had said on social media that the three outlets "shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES," and Justice Department lawyers had sought to justify the ban on national security grounds.

The three outlets sued Trump and other members of his administration in federal court in Washington on Monday, saying the ban violated the US Constitution's First Amendment protections for free speech and a free press, as well as their due process rights.

They requested a temporary restraining order that would immediately reinstate their White House access while their legal challenge plays out.

Taiwan upgrades maritime patrol capacity for vulnerable South China Sea outpost

- China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, a position the government in Taipei rejects

WEB DESK

TAIPEI

Taiwan has upgraded its maritime patrol capacity around the Pratas Islands in the disputed South China Sea, including regularly sending larger ships there, the government said, responding to an increase in Chinese activities.

China claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, a position the government in Taipei rejects. China has pressured Taiwan by increasing its military presence around the island over the past five years.

Lying roughly between southern Taiwan and Hong Kong, the Taiwan-controlled Pratas Islands are seen by security experts as vulnerable to Chinese attack due ?to their distance — more than 400 km (250 miles) — from Taiwan.

In a statement late on Wednesday, Taiwan's Coast Guard said its overall patrol and enforcement capacity in Pratas waters has been "comprehensively upgraded".

With the completion of a wharf project in July, a newly-built 100-tonne-class patrol boat has been formally stationed at Pratas, "significantly enhancing nearshore patrol capabilities and immediate mobile response capacity", it added.

Additionally, large patrol vessels are being regularly deployed to patrol waters around Pratas, demonstrating "strong multi-layered deterrence and mobile enforcement capabilities".

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not immediately respond to ?a request for comment.

China recognises no claims of sovereignty by Taiwan, including over the Pratas Islands, and Chinese coast guard ships have increased their patrols near Pratas, the most recent of which happened earlier this month.

Taiwan's Coast Guard is in charge of security for Pratas, which ?also has an airstrip though no permanent civilian population, rather than the military.The Coast Guard also said that it had confiscated nine Chinese fishing boats around Pratas since the start of this ?year and had repurposed them for reef patrol and marine conservation work.



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Humayun Saeed supports Salman Khan amid age and weight criticism

■ Humayun praised Salman for showing his six-pack abs at the age of 60 and hitting back at trolls and paparazzi

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Humayun Saeed has expressed support for Bollywood star Salman Khan after the actor faced criticism over his age, physique and fitness while hosting Bigg Boss 20.

Salman Khan is currently hosting the 20th season of the reality show, which has entered its third week. However, some of the promotional videos released before the season began sparked comments on social media about the actor's physical appearance, age and health.

During this week's episode of Weekend Ka Vaar, Salman responded to those trolling him over his age. He also took off his shirt to showcase his fitness and spoke in defence of female actors. Salman's response received support from contestants inside the Bigg Boss house and generated considerable discussion on social media in both India and Pakistan.

Humayun Saeed, who has himself faced criticism over his age, appeared to appreciate Salman's response. The Pakistani actor shared a reel featuring Salman's viral video on his Instagram account.

In the caption accompanying the post, Humayun praised Salman for showing his six-pack abs at the age of 60 and hitting back at trolls and paparazzi.

Sadia Faisal Fires Back At Hira Khan Over Saba's Remarks

■ Hira Khan Criticises Saba Faisal, Daughter Responds

Showbiz Desk

KARACHI

The controversy over veteran actress Saba Faisal's remarks about marriage and divorce has intensified after her daughter, actress Sadia Faisal, responded to criticism from Hira Khan.

Sadia took to her Instagram Story and shared a news graphic featuring Hira Khan's remarks about Saba Faisal. Reacting to the statement, Sadia wrote, "I wish I could see this so called actress one day!"

She followed it with another message directed at Hira, writing, "Behan kon ho tum!", which roughly translates to "Sister, who even are you?" Her response brought her directly into the social media exchange surrounding her mother's comments.

The dispute began after Hira Khan criticised Saba Faisal over her recent remarks about changing attitudes toward marriage and divorce.



Hira had shared a statement on her Instagram Story saying, "Janazay uthanay se behtar hain maa baap apne sir jhuka lein," followed by her comment that she had expressed the same view before and believed Saba "needs help."

The Urdu statement refers to parents accepting a difficult situation rather than reaching a point where they have to carry their children's funeral bier. Hira's subsequent remarks added to the criticism directed at the veteran actress.

The controversy followed the circulation of a video in which Saba Faisal discussed how perceptions of divorce have changed over the years.

Saba recalled that divorce was once regarded as a deeply distressing event for an entire family. She said families would question what had gone wrong, while a father could feel embarrassed or ashamed when his daughter's marriage ended.

The actress also referred to a divorced woman who, according to her example, discussed her separation after three months and travelled abroad before returning after taking time to clear her mind.

Saba expressed concern about what she described as changing attitudes toward marriage and divorce, prompting a wider discussion on social media.

The debate has divided opinions, with users discussing whether changing perceptions of divorce represent greater social acceptance or reflect a reduced emphasis on the traditional importance.



3 Biwiyan ek sath khilkhila rahi hain, kaise? Bushra Ansari questions Iqrar-ul-Hassan's family dynamic

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Veteran actress Bushra Ansari has questioned how Iqrar-ul-Hassan's three wives can live together and laugh with one another, admitting that she finds the family arrangement difficult to understand.

While discussing Iqrar-ul-Hassan's marriages, Bushra said she could not understand how three women married to the same man could sit together, laugh and appear comfortable in each other's company.

"Three wives are laughing together, how can this be possible? How?" Bushra said while sharing her reaction to the unusual family setup.

The actress also spoke about the emotional difficulty of sharing a husband. She questioned whether a woman could easily accept another woman becoming close to her husband and suggested that such a situation would naturally be difficult for many wives.

Bushra went on to say that having three wives together was "very difficult" in her view. She argued that a wife may not easily agree to share her husband with another woman, regardless of the circumstances.

She then put forward a question from the opposite perspective, asking whether a man would be able to accept the same situation if the roles were reversed.

Mahira Khan Pens Emotional Farewell For Wajahat Hussain

■ Actress Mahira Khan Shares Behind The Scenes Moment From Mitti De Baway

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Mahira Khan has shared an emotional farewell message for director Syed Wajahat Hussain, thanking him for his creative direction and for helping her understand and portray her character, Bilo, in the upcoming drama Mitti De Baway.

Mahira shared a behind-the-scenes picture on her Instagram Stories featuring herself in Bilo's costume alongside Wajahat Hussain. The post came as she wrapped up her shooting for the project and reflected on her experience of working with the director.

In her heartfelt message, Mahira praised Wajahat for believing in Bilo and understanding the character deeply. She expressed gratitude for the time they spent working together and wished him continued success in his creative journey.

Mahira wrote, "My dearest Wajahat Hussain, it has been a pleasure being directed by you, spending time with you. You believed in Bilo and knew her more than I ever could."



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She added that she wished Bilo had more time with the director before ending her note with prayers and affection, signing off as "your Bilo."

Her message highlighted the strong creative bond she developed with Wajahat while bringing the character to life and showed how deeply she connected with Bilo during the filming process.

Mitti De Baway is an upcoming drama on Green Entertainment, written by Faiza Iftikhar and directed by Syed Wajahat Hussain. Mahira Khan is playing the central role of Bilo in the serial.

Set in a rural Punjabi environment, the drama features Mahira in a distinctive character, adding to anticipation surrounding the project. Her latest Instagram post has given fans a glimpse into the emotional experience behind the production.

The drama's thematic soundtrack, Mitti De Baway, is performed by Arif Lohar and Saleema Khawaja and further complements the Punjabi setting of the upcoming serial.

Stream History Documentaries

'Infatuation is not love! Hina Dilpazeer reveals why she chose to stay alone

Web Desk

KARACHI

Acclaimed Pakistani actress Hina Dilpazeer has offered a candid take on love and infatuation, arguing that genuine love goes far beyond physical beauty and fleeting attraction. A video from the actress's recent appearance on popular comedy talk show 'Mazaaq Raat' has gone viral on social media, where Hina opened up about her understanding of meaningful relationships and revealed why she ultimately felt it was better to remain alone.

During the conversation, Hina explained that people often mistake an intense attraction or infatuation for genuine love.

"We mistake infatuation for love. We think, 'Oh, so and so is so



beautiful and lovely, I must be in love with them.' But this is not the foundation of love," she said.

According to Hina, true love means accepting a person with both their strengths and weaknesses instead of simply being attracted to their appearance or idealizing them.

She further explained that one of the most important aspects of love is helping a partner achieve their dreams rather than becoming an obstacle in their way.



Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji's mother and playback singer Krishna Mukerji has died at the age of 75, Indian media reported on Tuesday.

Hira Khan, Zoya Nasir calls out Saba Faisal over her divorce remarks

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Saba Faisal's recent remarks about divorce have sparked a fresh debate online, with actresses Hira Khan and Zoya Nasir publicly reacting to the veteran star's comments.

Hira took to her Instagram Story and shared a brief but striking statement in response to Saba Faisal's remarks. She wrote, "Janazay uthanay se behtar hain maa baap apne sir jhuka lein. Honestly, I have said it before and I will say it again - she needs help :)"

The Urdu portion of Hira's message roughly means that it is better for parents to lower their heads and accept a situation than to one day have to carry their children's funeral bier. Hira then added that she had made the same point before and would repeat it, saying that "she needs help."

Hira's response came after a video featuring Saba Faisal discussing changing attitudes toward divorce began circulating on social media. In the video, Saba reflected on how separation was viewed by families in the past and compared those attitudes with what she described as a more casual approach to divorce today.Saba recalled a time when divorce was considered a deeply painful event for an entire family. According to her, families would spend considerable time questioning what had gone wrong, while a father could feel deeply ashamed after his daughter's marriage ended.

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Pakistan secure 3-0 victory against China at Asian Games

● Green Shirts mark third consecutive win in men's field hockey competition

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Hockey team secured a 3-0 victory against China in the Pool B match of the 2026 Asian Games men's hockey competition, with Captain Abubakar Mehmood, Hannan Shahid, and Sufyan each contributing a goal to seal the win.

The recently concluded fixture got off to a quiet start as neither team could open the scoring in the first quarter.Pakistan eventually pulled ahead at the 19th-minute mark when skipper Mahmood successfully converted a penalty corner. Sufyan doubled the Green Shirts' advantage five minutes later, scoring in a similar fashion.

Shahid further bolstered Pakistan's dominance in the pulsating second quarter by scoring a sensational field goal in the 28th minute.

The triple strike helped Pakistan go into halftime with a three-goal lead in their favour, and although Zikriya Hayat was shown a green card in the penultimate quarter, they managed to hold on to their advantage until the final whistle as China could not score a single goal.

Thailand slams chaotic Asian Games organisation as 'musical chairs'

● Athletes have complained of poor accommodation, long delays at airports and in boarding cruise ship housing.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABDA



Thailand are the latest country to slam the organisation at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan, likening it to a "chaotic" game of "musical chairs".

Athletes have complained of poor accommodation, long delays at airports and in boarding cruise ship housing.

Erratic transport services have seen competitors' buses to training and venues turning up late, or in some cases not at all.

The continent's biggest sporting showpiece, with more than 17,000 athletes and officials, has faced multiple issues during its first full week. Some teams said there was a shortage of rooms and others complained about the quality of accommodation provided by organisers.

No traditional athletes' village has been built, as a cost-cutting measure, with participants instead staying in temporary container-style huts, hotels and the Costa Serena cruise ship moored in Nagoya port. "It remains a problem, from the beginning until now," Chalitrat Chandrubeksa, deputy secretary general of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand, told AFP late on Wednesday.

"The number of (rooms available on) cruise ships and hotels does not match our actual number of athletes," he added.

"On the peak day, we required 201 beds on the cruise ship but they provided only 170. "When athletes checked in and found their names missing from the list, they had to be placed somewhere else and when the new athletes arrived, the previous ones had to move out and look for other hotels. "It's like musical chairs."

Frustrated athletes have made their feelings known online, with complaints also about some of the food.

More than 4,000 people are staying on the ship in Nagoya's port and 2,000 in the cramped wooden container huts, called "villas" by the organisers without a hint of irony.

"We are solving the problem by finding replacement accommodations ourselves," said Chalitrat.

"We had to book our own and make advanced payments for food out of our pockets."

The shortages have meant the Thailand team having to put some staff far away from the games epicentre in the city of Nagoya. "Our medical team has to stay about one hour 30 minutes from Nagoya."We had to rent additional vehicles from Tokyo so they could travel to look after the athletes.

"It has been chaotic.

"We just hope to fulfil and complete this mission as successfully as possible." Games organisers said Thursday they were working constantly to improve services for athletes."We have already increased shuttle buses as much as possible to satisfy atheletes' needs," Asian Games organising committee spokesman Hiroshi Koshizuka told AFP on Thursday.

French court confirms rape trial for PSG and Morocco star Hakimi



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

A French court on Wednesday upheld a decision to send Paris Saint-Germain and Morocco footballer Achraf Hakimi to trial on rape charges, a judicial source told AFP.

An appeals court confirmed on June 19, during the World Cup, that Hakimi would stand trial in criminal court over the alleged rape of a woman in 2023, an accusation he has repeatedly denied.

Hakimi, 27, had appealed that decision to the Court of Cassation, the highest court in the French judicial system for civil and criminal matters.

The appeal was Hakimi's final legal recourse. In February, he was ordered to stand trial before the criminal court in the Hauts-de-Seine department on the rape charge.

Hakimi challenged that initial order and then appealed to the Court of Cassation after the Versailles appeals court upheld the decision in June.

"The allegations against Achraf Hakimi, which he has firmly contested from day one, have not been examined by the Court of Cassation," the player's lawyer, Fanny Colin, told AFP.

"They will be during the trial, at which all the evidence in Achraf Hakimi's defence will be presented publicly," the lawyer continued.

She added her client, "who has nothing to hide", had fully cooperated with police and judicial authorities throughout the investigation and would continue to do so during the forthcoming trial.

A lawyer for the plaintiff said the decision to send the case to trial reflected the "strength and rigour of the court of appeal's reasoning".

"After three and a half years of legal battles, after being slandered and dragged through the mud by Achraf Hakimi's defence, my client is determined to obtain justice; she will fight to the very end," the woman's lawyer, Rachel-Flore Pardo, said in a statement sent to AFP.

In February 2023, a woman then aged 24 told police in the Val-de-Marne region southeast of Paris that Hakimi had raped her.

The plaintiff said she met Hakimi in January 2023 on Instagram and went to his home in a taxi ordered by the player, a police source said at the time.

Spain survive doubles scare to reach BJK Cup semi-finals

■ The Spanish pair saved a whopping 18 out of 20 break points throughout the gruelling two-hour seven-minute doubles affair. The second set alone lasted 88 minutes.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Cristina Bucsa overcame fatigue and rebounded from a disappointing singles loss to help Spain punch their ticket to the Billie Jean King Cup semi-finals for the first time since 2008 in Shenzhen

Bucsa and her teammate Sara Sorribes Tormo secured the deciding doubles point by triumphing 6-2, 7-5 over Anna Danilina and Zhibek Kulambayeva to clinch the quarter-final tie for Spain over Kazakhstan.

The Spanish pair saved a whopping 18 out of 20 break points throughout the gruelling two-hour seven-minute doubles affair. The second set alone lasted 88 minutes.

"The girls, they have really good fighting spirit, they put in all their heart and passion. I'm really proud of all of them. But the competition doesn't end here, we have semi-finals on Friday," said Spain's team captain Carla Suarez Navarro.

Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro claimed the opening point of the tie with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Sonja Zhiyenbayeva, before world number 79 Yulia Putintseva kept Kazakhstan alive in the contest by defeating Bucsa 6-2, 3-6, 6-1. Putintseva's victory, her 28th in the competition, saw her equal the record held by Galina Voskoboeva for most BJK Cup matches won by a Kazakh player.

Bucsa had arrived late in Shenzhen after reaching the singles semi-finals and winning the doubles title at the WTA tournament in Guadalajara last weekend.

The long trek from Mexico to China may have accounted for her slow start against Putintseva, who played a near-flawless opening set to take the lead in just 33 minutes.

Bucsa dug deep in the second, countering Putintseva's drop shots with her own mix of big-hitting and soft touches to level the match.

But the 35th-ranked Spaniard ran out of gas in the third, as Putintseva swung the momentum back in her favour to clinch the win and take the quarter-final tie into a deciding doubles showdown.

The day was not over for Bucsa, who was back on court some 30 minutes later to partner up with Sorribes Tormo in doubles.



Sahibzada Farhan proposed to retain as Pakistan T20 captain for Sri Lanka series

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is considering retaining opening batter Sahibzada Farhan as captain for the upcoming three-match T20 International series against Sri Lanka, according to sources.

Farhan recently led Pakistan's T20 side at the Asian Games, and Head Coach Mike Hesson is reportedly in favour of continuing with him as captain in the shortest format.

If approved, Farhan would replace Salman Ali Agha as Pakistan's T20 captain.

Sources said the selection committee is also considering giving opportunities to several young players during the series as part of preparations for the future. The team management is reportedly working on developing a wider pool of players with the 2028 T20 World Cup in mind.

Experienced players Fakhar Zaman, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf are not expected to be included in the squad for the Sri Lanka series.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three T20 internationals in Rawalpindi on October 9, 11 and 13.



Bavuma expects callow S Africa fast bowlers to step up in Australia ODI series

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

South Africa must find a way to get the best out of their depleted fast bowling attack when they host Australia in a three-match one-day international ?series starting in Durban on Thursday, according to captain Temba Bavuma.

Bavuma ?said a fearsome pack of fast bowlers for touring teams to contend with is in South African cricket's "DNA", but they have had to cast the net wide for this series.

Kagiso Rabada, Lungi ?Ngidi, Kwena Maphaka and Ottneil Baartman were all ruled out with hamstring ?injuries, while Nandre Burger has a bad back.

It has left an ?inexperienced seam bowling line-up to take on Australia, with Lizaad Williams, the Jansen twins, ?Marco and Duan, Gerald Coetzee, Corbin Bosch and Nqobani Mokoena having played only 72 ?ODIs between them.

"I think we're going to have to make the most of the bowling resources that we have from the seam department. There are options there. I think it's just how ?smartly we approach managing the loads of our fast bowlers," Bavuma told reporters ?on Wednesday."We want teams, when they come here, to know that they're going to have to ?deal with ?our fast bowlers. That's part of our DNA."

South Africa have only played three ODIs in 2026 when a depleted squad swept Namibia 3-0 in a series this month.

ICC issues tender for Women's Champions Trophy 2027 presentation services

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The ICC has issued a tender for sports presentation management services for the Women's Champions Trophy 2027.

According to the ICC, the inaugural edition of the Women's Champions Trophy will feature six teams,

India will host the tournament, with 16 matches scheduled during the event.

The Women's Champions Trophy 2027 is scheduled to take place from 14 to 28 February 2027.

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Secretary Information



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SPECIAL EDITION



Governance Reforms IN BALOCHISTAN

A Shift Towards Performance, Transparency and Public Service From



The Governance has always been a big challenge in Pakistan and particularly in Balochistan. It has been witnessed that there was a distinct disconnection between the Public and the rulers. Public has been feeling neglected and betrayed by the politicians/Rulers. The fruits of Governance had not reached to the public especially to the youngsters. The people witnessed visible change in the life styles of their leaders at the cost of development of their area and lives. The gruesome reality is often attributed, as one of the cause of militancy among the disgruntled youth. The breach of trust and widening gap between the public and rulers, polluted the young minds and forced the





m to adopt such course which only lead to their destruction. In such circumstances, the new Government took oath and made Governance their foremost priority. The visionary leadership of the Chief Minister bent upon to break the traditional governance model and from the first day, unequivocally spelled out its plan to the bureaucracy and sets out his journey for a better Balochistan. He was fortunate enough to have a highly experienced, educated, sincere and professional Chief Secretary as his Principal Advisor. The bureaucracy under his dynamic command and guidance turn out to be most effective instrument of change in the province. He never hesitated to put across his genuine opinion to the CM and facilitated him to take a decision based on merit. He evolved a performance evaluation mechanism for the departments and officers, based on tangible, measureable criteria ruling out personal likes and dislikes. His ability to identify problems and quick fix with durable solutions accepted at political level. His proposals like recruitment of teachers, Lecturers, Doctors and paramedics through a very simple process made the hundreds and thousands of schools, Hospitals and colleges functional. At present there is abou t 98% o f schools are functional, Doctors and Paramedics, which used to be absent now performing their duties at their place of posting. The process of recruitment was made easy, transparent and purely on merit. The Public acknowledged and appreciated the whole process as it killed all types of corruptions, nepotism and favoritism. Another big achievement of the man is neutralizing the unbridled powers of so-called unions and associations. They used to blackmail every Government to achieve their unjust demands. He stood against their illegitimate demands and did not bow down in the face of their agitations and strike. He fully supported his Secretaries and convinced the political leaders against the blackmailing of the Unions and Associations. Boxing of these unions and associations has granted officers freedom to take initiatives for the good of their departments. He frequently remains engaged with his officers and keep an eye on their performance. Improvement and reforms in the development sector was also a big challenge and how his experience in the sector can ignore it. The development of any Province based on its Public Sector Development Plan and development without good vision and strategy leads nowhere. He reoriented the PSDP and influenced the Political leadership to spend the public money on more Public service oriented and strategic projects. The PSDP that used to be the reflection of individual based projects has now changed into community based and strategic projects. He not only intervened and steered the direction of the PSDP but also gave equal emphasis on continuous monitoring of the Projects. He made M&E wing of the P&D fully functional and also assigned tasks to each Deputy Commissioner to monitor and report the progress on the schemes in their respective districts. The results of this exercise was very encouraging, as it has eliminated the possibilities of fudging and sub-standard work. Moreover, the need to address the small demands of development in districts like pavements, lighting of street, drainage etc he entrusted the development works at DC level alongwith a handsome allocation of funds. This has not only empowered the DC office but also met the small demands of the local population of the districts. He initiated performance review of Authorities and commissions and assigned them targets to become self-sufficient and do the public service efficiently and effectively. The authorities have been given clear directions to become financially stable and self-sustaining. He knows, where the devil lies in the system and hence he directed BPPRA to critically analyze the Procurement process and present it in each secretary's committee meeting every month. The data revealed that in most of the cases single bidders were facilitated to eliminate fair competition hence favoring specific firms/companies. He strictly directed all the secretaries to supervise the procurement process and make it fair and competitive. Resultantly improvement in the procurement process became visible and a journey towards fairness and transparency sets in. Besides this realizing the popularity of social media, all departments, Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners were directed to create their social media accounts and share Government's initiatives & Public works on social media for the information of the Public. Departments were also instructed to update their websites and upload all kinds of relevant information about their department for the general information of the people. Establishing Right to information commission in the province is also a feather in is crown.





Recruitment And Development Planning To Procurement Reforms And Digital Engagement, The New Governance Approach Seeks To Narrow The Gap Between The Public And administration

A sincere, educated, visionary and incorruptible leadership is the most precious asset for any Government or organization and this man has all of them. He proved that change requires only will and dedication. He is a great blessing for the province and deserves appreciation because very few knows that political leaders are nothing without good, functional and innovative bureaucracy



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