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Pakistan to support Saudi Arabia against any aggression: Defence Minister

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has said Pakistan will stand by Saudi Arabia if there is any aggression against it.

Talking to the media persons in New York, he alluded to the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement.

The Defense Minister said Pakistan is continuing its efforts for peace in the Middle East. He said Qatar is also playing its role in this regard.

He emphasized that Pakistan's image has improved significantly in the world as a result of its mediation.



Justice Sarfraz Dogar appointed acting IHC chief justice

CITY REPORTER

Lahore

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja has said there is no reason to change the date of October 4, maintaining that the party's decisions regarding September 27 and October 4 are clear.

"We do not want chaos; we want to come with flowers in our hands," he said, adding that political parties could play a leading role, but ultimately it was the nation that brought change and made the final decision.

Raja said the party's role was to continue its struggle peacefully, while the authority to negotiate rested with Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Allama Raja Nasir Abbas.

He further said that the PTI did not expect to receive justice from the courts. Referring to the possibility of Governor's rule, he said that in such a situation, the people would have to make the decision. "Anything can be done; black words can be written on a white piece of paper," Raja remarked.



US and China agree to lower tariffs after Trump-Xi summit

Web Desk

Washington

The United States and China have reached an agreement on more favourable tariff treatment for $30 billion worth of non-sensitive goods in each direction following a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The agreement was announced by the White House after Mr Xi's state visit to Washington and his talks with Mr Trump. The two countries also agreed to establish a new dialogue on advanced artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

Under the trade arrangement, the two sides reached consensus on recommendations for lower or more favourable tariffs covering $30 billion of non-sensitive goods moving in each direction. US exports covered by the arrangement include agricultural products, fish and seafood, wood products, cosmetics and medical devices.



71 terrorists killed in Balochistan operations over 96 hours: ISPR

- Security forces have killed more than 71 terrorists in Balochistan operations over 96 hours, including 33 in Shaban, while weapons and explosives were also recovered.

CITY REPORTER

QUETTA

Security forces have killed more than 71 terrorists in operations across different areas of Balochistan over the past 96 hours, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

According to the ISPR, security forces have been conducting operations against what it described as Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan in different parts of the province.

In Shaban, Quetta, security forces conducted a successful operation against terrorists, killing 33 Indian-sponsored terrorists so far. Multiple terrorist hideouts were also cleared during the operation, while a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered.

The ISPR said 23 terrorists were killed during operations conducted over the past 72 hours, while security forces also cleared a vast area of terrorists.

It said the local population had been cleared of the threat posed by Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition was also recovered during operations in Nushki and Mand.



According to the ISPR, more than 71 terrorists have been killed in different areas of Balochistan during the past 96 hours.

The military's media wing said the operations in Shaban and other areas had dealt a major blow to what it described as Indian-backed Afghan proxies.

The ISPR said the counter-terrorism campaign under the vision of "Azm-e-Istehkam" would continue with full resolve. Security forces and law enforcement agencies remain committed to eliminating foreign-sponsored terrorism from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari, commended the security forces for their successful operations against terrorists in Balochistan.

KP CM Sohail Afridi meets former Ali Amin Gandapur amid reported differences



CITY REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi visited the residence of former chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur despite reported differences between the two leaders, where they held a meeting.

According to Faraz Mughal, spokesperson for Ali Amin Gandapur, the KP chief minister was personally received by the former chief minister upon his arrival at his residence.

The meeting comes amid reports of differences between the two PTI leaders, although no details of the issues discussed during their meeting were immediately disclosed. Following the meeting, Afridi and Gandapur visited a hospital to meet those injured in the suicide attack in Darazinda a day earlier. The two leaders inquired about the condition of the injured and prayed for their early recovery. They also met doctors treating the victims and received a briefing on their health and the medical care being provided to them. The spokesperson said Chief Minister Sohail Afridi would also hold an important press conference at Gandapur's residence later in the day. The press conference is expected to provide further details about the meeting and the government's response to the Darazinda suicide attack.

PM Shehbaz says govt taking steps to promote tourism across Pakistan

- PM Shehbaz Sharif says the government is promoting tourism, strengthening infrastructure and creating jobs while highlighting Pakistan's natural, cultural and religious heritage.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government is actively taking measures to promote tourism across the country, improve tourism infrastructure and create employment and development opportunities for local communities and young people associated with the sector.

In his message on World Tourism Day, the prime minister paid tribute to tourists and all those associated with the tourism sector in Pakistan and around the world, appreciating their spirit of exploration, curiosity and discovery.

He said breathtaking natural landscapes, ancient historical monuments, rich civilizational heritage and diverse cultural traditions were among the key attractions of tourism. Pakistan, he added, was



blessed with extraordinary natural beauty, a rich cultural and civilizational heritage, and numerous historical and religious sites, offering significant opportunities for tourism development.

Shehbaz Sharif said the government was working to strengthen tourism infrastructure and create greater employment and socioeconomic opportunities for local communities and youth. He said the government was committed to showcasing Pakistan as a safe, attractive and competitive tourism destination.

JI to hold long march if petroleum levy issue remains unresolved after PM's meeting

- Hafiz Naeem announces rallies and a nationwide signature campaign against petroleum levy, warning of a long march if the levy remains.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said that despite government restrictions and what he described as undemocratic measures, party workers made the Lahore rally successful, demonstrating their continued presence in the political arena.

Addressing a press conference at Mansoorah, Hafiz Naeem announced that Jamaat-e-Islami would hold rallies in Charsadda, Swabi, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Larkana, Karak and Karachi.

He also announced the launch of a nationwide signature campaign against the petroleum levy, saying a long march would be launched if the levy was not withdrawn upon the prime minister's return to Pakistan.



Hafiz Naeem claimed that the IMF agreement contained no provision regarding the petroleum levy and called on rulers to reduce their expenses by using vehicles with engine capacities of up to 1,300cc.

He also demanded that the federal government eliminate interest and stop allocating funds to provincial departments following the 18th Amendment.

The Jamaat-e-Islami leader said other political parties, including opposition groups, were not raising issues affecting the public.

Pakistan Navy's Hangor-class submarine conducts maiden live weapon firing: ISPR

- The submarine successfully engaged a designated long-range target using an anti-ship cruise missile during the exercise.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

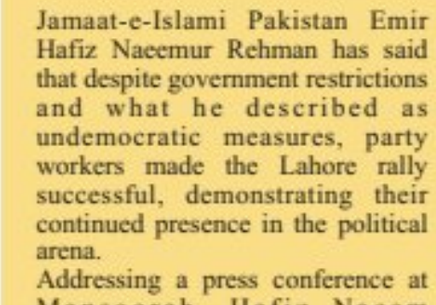
Pakistan Navy's newly inducted Hangor-class submarine, PNS/M HANGOR, has successfully carried out its first live weapon firing in the Arabian Sea, the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said on Sunday.

According to ISPR, the submarine successfully engaged a designated long-range target using an anti-ship cruise missile during the exercise.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf witnessed the firing and commended the submarine's combat capabilities. He also highlighted the strategic importance of strengthening Pakistan's underwater warfare capabilities to support maritime deterrence.

ISPR described the exercise as a significant demonstration of the submarine's operational readiness, saying the milestone reflected the Pakistan Navy's focus on maintaining a modern and combat-ready force to protect the country's maritime interests.

The PNS/M HANGOR arrived at Karachi Port in June following its induction into the Pakistan Navy. It is the first of eight Hangor-class submarines that Pakistan is scheduled to receive.The submarines are



equipped with advanced combat systems, modern sensors, air-independent propulsion (AIP) technology and enhanced stealth capabilities, according to the report.

The Hangor name has historical significance for the Pakistan Navy. The original PNS Hangor played a notable role during the 1971 Pakistan-India war, when it sank the Indian Navy frigate INS Khukri.

The first submarine of the new Hangor class was launched in China in April 2024, while three subsequent submarines were launched in March, August and December 2025.

The Pakistan Navy has also conducted several recent weapons tests. In April, it tested the indigenously developed Taimoor anti-ship weapon system and a locally developed anti-ship ballistic missile. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army has conducted test launches of the Fatah-IV and Fateh-II cruise missiles in recent months.

Scanned with CamScanner

Hotels reopen in Rawalpindi as Metro, Green and Blue bus services resume

- Hotels in Faizabad have reopened until October 2 as security measures remain in place, while public transport services have resumed

SPECIAL REPORTER
RAWALPINDI



Hotels in Rawalpindi's Faizabad, which had remained closed for several days due to security measures following the call for a sit-in, have been allowed to reopen, while Metro, Green Bus and Blue Bus services have also resumed.

Police and district administration have allowed hotels operating within the jurisdiction of New Town Police Station to reopen until October 2.Security arrangements remain in place along Murree Road in Faizabad in view of the proposed PTI long march, with containers still placed at some locations. However, all routes have been opened to traffic and movement is continuing normally.

The Faizabad bus terminals also remained open, although limited interprovincial transport had affected business activity in the area for several days. Hotel closures and reduced transport had caused a decline in commercial activity, leaving the area relatively deserted.

Business activity has started returning to normal following permission for hotels to reopen. Educational institutions in Rawalpindi also remained open as usual, while Metro, Green Bus and Blue Bus services resumed operations.



A vendor operates a manual juicer to prepare fresh fruit juice at his stall

Pakistan rejects Afghan Taliban claims linking Islamabad to Nuristan clashes

- In a post on social media platform X, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting termed these allegations as frivolous, baseless and devoid of any truth

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has rejected the allegations by the Afghan Taliban regime linking Pakistan to the alleged violence in Nuristan.

In a post on social media platform X, the ministry termed these allegations as frivolous, baseless and devoid of any truth.

It said Pakistan categorically rejects the fabricated claims of involvement by its security forces or intelligence agencies in any internal clashes in Nuristan or elsewhere in Afghanistan, including allegations of recruiting or training former Afghan security personnel or facilitating Daesh or any other terrorist group operating in Afghanistan.



The statement said that not a shred of evidence has been produced to substantiate Pakistan's involvement including identities, documents, communications, forensic evidence or independent verification.

The presence and activities of terrorist groups of all types inside Afghanistan are well documented, including in successive reports of the United Nations and other neutral international organisations.

Attempts to manufacture a Pakistani connection cannot obscure the reality that these terrorist groups continue to find sanctuary and permissive environment for growth in Afghan territory.

It is particularly ironic for the Afghan Taliban regime to accuse Pakistan of supporting terrorism while terrorist organisations operating from Afghanistan continue to pose a direct threat to Pakistan and regional security.

The statement further said that instead of externalising responsibility for its internal security challenges through fanciful allegations, the Afghan Taliban regime should take credible and verifiable action against terrorist organisations operating from its territory.

It said the Afghan Taliban regime needs to fulfil its commitments that Afghan soil will not be used for terrorism against Pakistan or any other country rather than attempting to deflect responsibility through fabricated accusations.

Lodhran Hospital begins free kidney transplants for deserving patients

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Free kidney transplant services have begun at Shahida Islam Teaching Hospital in Lodhran under the Punjab Chief Minister's Transplant Programme, with free medicines for eligible patients in South Punjab,

The new facility is aimed at providing free kidney transplant treatment to deserving patients at Shahida Islam Teaching Hospital, giving residents of South Punjab access to the specialised procedure in Lodhran.

The programme will cover kidney transplantation for patients who meet the required eligibility criteria, while medicines related to the treatment will also be provided free of cost to eligible patients.

Questions about who can qualify for the facility and how the kidney transplant procedure will be carried out were also addressed by renowned kidney transplant surgeon Dr Adnan Sarwar.

Patients seeking treatment will be assessed according to the requirements of the transplant programme before they can receive the free facility.

Shahida Islam Teaching Hospital already has a Kidney Transplant Centre along with nephrology and dialysis services. The hospital lists kidney transplantation among its specialized medical services.

Ahsan Iqbal says political stability key to sustaining economic recovery

- Ahsan Iqbal links Pakistan's economic stability to peace, political certainty, youth development, digital skills and dialogue among political parties.

SPECIAL REPORTER
NAROWAL

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said peace and political stability are essential for sustaining Pakistan's economic recovery and attracting foreign investment.

Speaking to the media, Iqbal said no foreign investor would invest in a country facing unrest, political uncertainty and street agitation.

He said young people should be equipped with modern skills in universities and laboratories rather than being brought onto the streets, adding that Pakistan must prepare its youth for the era of artificial intelligence through digital skills and technology.



The minister described the political situation as a contest between two approaches, alleging that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was promoting confrontation while his government advocated development, education and digital skills.

Iqbal urged political parties to resolve disputes through dialogue and democratic institutions, saying political instability could undermine the economic gains achieved over the past two years.

He also alleged that Pakistan's enemies were seeking to exploit political divisions and fund terrorism, warning that further instability would ultimately affect ordinary citizens and young people rather than political leaders.

Iqbal said political disputes should be fought in courts and parliament, adding that he and other leaders had faced imprisonment during the PTI government but pursued their cases through legal and parliamentary channels.

He rejected PTI's characterization of its founder as a political prisoner, saying he was being held following a court conviction in a case involving 190 million pounds.

NADRA announces special facility for women without birth certificates



SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has announced a special facility for women who have been unable to obtain identity cards due to the absence of birth certificates,

Under the new procedure, married women aged 18 and above can apply for an identity card using a computerised Nikahnama.The applicant must be accompanied by her husband or one of her parents for biometric verification.

Unmarried women aged 18 and above can apply using the identity card of a parent, sister, or brother.

A parent, sister or brother must also accompany the applicant for biometric verification.



A forklift-mounted traffic lifter hauls away wrongly parked motorcycles as part of an enforcement drive

Fraud with foreigners: More than 70 arrested as NCCIA busts call centre in Karachi

- A large number of people were taken into custody during the raid, Tariq Nawaz said, adding that further questioning of the arrested individuals was under way.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



More than 70 people have been arrested after the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) raided a call centre in Karachi's PECHS Block 6,

NCCIA Karachi Additional Director Tariq Nawaz said the operation was carried out after authorities found alleged illegal activities taking place at the call centre.

According to the official, the arrested people are allegedly involved in fraud targeting foreign citizens. The suspects include call centre owners and agents.

A large number of people were taken into custody during the raid, Tariq Nawaz said, adding that further questioning of the arrested individuals was under way.

The NCCIA official said the investigation would continue to determine the nature and extent of the alleged fraudulent activities and the involvement of those detained.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan's Brick Kilns Are a Health Crisis Built on Debt



By: Dr Amaal Khalid Chauhan.

Picture a moulder outside Lahore kneading wet clay well before dawn, a toddler sleeping on a mat nearby while he works the bricks to be baked beside him. When the season is over, he'll have had shaped tens of thousands of those bricks, developed the lung condition most kiln workers here do, and still have money owed to his boss; money that, on paper, Pakistani law has forbidden anyone from holding over him since 1992. That's close enough to the median outcome for an industry Pakistan both needs, and largely ignores in policy planning and implementation.The scale alone should concern health planners: Pakistan has more than 20,000 brick kilns and more than 4.5 million brick-kiln workers, concentrated in Punjab and Sindh where over half of the country's bonded labourers are believed to work in brick kilns. Across South Asia, satellite researchers at the University of Nottingham have mapped more than 55,000 kilns in a "Brick Belt" spanning Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Nepal, while a regional ILO survey found close to 70 percent of the region's five million-plus kiln workers were in bonded or forced labour, with roughly one in five underage.The reason for those numbers is a cash-advance system known as "peshgi". Owners give workers a loan at the beginning of a season, for a wedding, a funeral, an illness, and that loan immediately binds the worker to the kiln for that season, tracked in an informal ledger that the worker typically has no control of. Similarly, piece-rate wages are set low enough and deductions made are opaque enough that the balance rarely reaches zero, the debt passed down to the next generation as families essentially live at the kiln with no means to escape. The same dependence extends to something as basic as water: workers in nearly nine in ten kilns surveyed in Punjab relied upon untreated, polluted and contaminated ground water for consumption while three-quarters of toilet facilities were deprived of any water supply. Contracts between owners and workers, if they exist, tend to be oral, despite written documentation being a legal obligation since 2016. This was due to a statute that also deemed that the peshgi advance be capped at Rs 50,000. Four years later, in 2020, a Lahore High Court bench found, that neither law was meaningfully enforced and ordered every brick-kiln to be registered within the next 6 months. 6 year later, this has yet to come to pass.Certain critics of the 2016 statute argued that by overseeing cash-advance instead of banning it, the state might legitimise the very system that creates bondage rather than abolishing it, thereby placing an exception inside what was meant to be a cure. The debt, meanwhile, continues to reproduce itself.When the monsoon season comes, production stops for weeks, and workers borrow again to eat, so when the kiln reopens, they're already in arrears. A March 2026 Guardian investigation documented the edge of that desperation, as brokers target debt-trapped kiln workers for illegal kidney sales. A pattern the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's field interviews had already recorded in 2009, parents selling a child's kidney to clear kiln debts.The resulting clinical picture is not surprising considering the exposure to dust and smoke. A 2024 systematic review of more than a hundred kiln-pollution studies found workers consistently showing worse lung function, higher rates of respiratory symptoms and more musculoskeletal complaints than unexposed comparison groups. A study in Kasur of 60 workers found pollutant levels in excess of WHO and national guideline values and roughly four in five with abnormal lung function.Heat risk data is more sparse for Pakistan, but neighbouring kilns using similar piece-rate systems yield informative insights. A Chennai-area study found 94 percent of summer workers noting excessive sweating (which can lead to electrolyte disturbances), 86 percent reporting tiredness and dizziness, and 67 percent reporting headaches, with occupational heat exposure during the hot season near the limit of human tolerance. An eastern India study using WBGT heat stress measure, found losses of roughly 4 to 7 percent in productivity per degree Celsius rise in heat, with female workers suffering more than male workers; the researchers associated that with measurable cardiovascular strain. In West Bengal, workers are paid by the furan (per thousand bricks carried), which creates a perverse incentive to not slow down despite rising temperatures until output drops off significantly once temperatures pass roughly 35°C.Injury trends are consistent: a Pakistani social assessment found moulders suffering substantial back, leg, and joint pain as a direct consequence of working posture and repetitive lifting. And when workers do get sick or injured, services are unavailable - kilns are in rural or peri-urban areas, and research by the ILO has documented this mismatch between available health services and the needs of this workforce. The SDPI recorded this same dependence on private doctors in 2009, seven years before the oversight law even existed, and the ILO identified it again roughly eight years later. Ironically, many kilns are not even properly registered as workplaces in the first place, which means protections written for "employers" and "factories" often never formally attach to them at all. This cycle spares neither children nor women: since output dictates debt repayment, whole families work the kiln, and as mentioned previously, regional estimates suggest close to one in five South Asian kiln workers is under 18 (despite the ban on under-14s). Pakistan's Human Rights Commission has documented unusually high child mortality at kiln sites, and roughly one in twenty nearby families reporting a child who lost their eyesight.



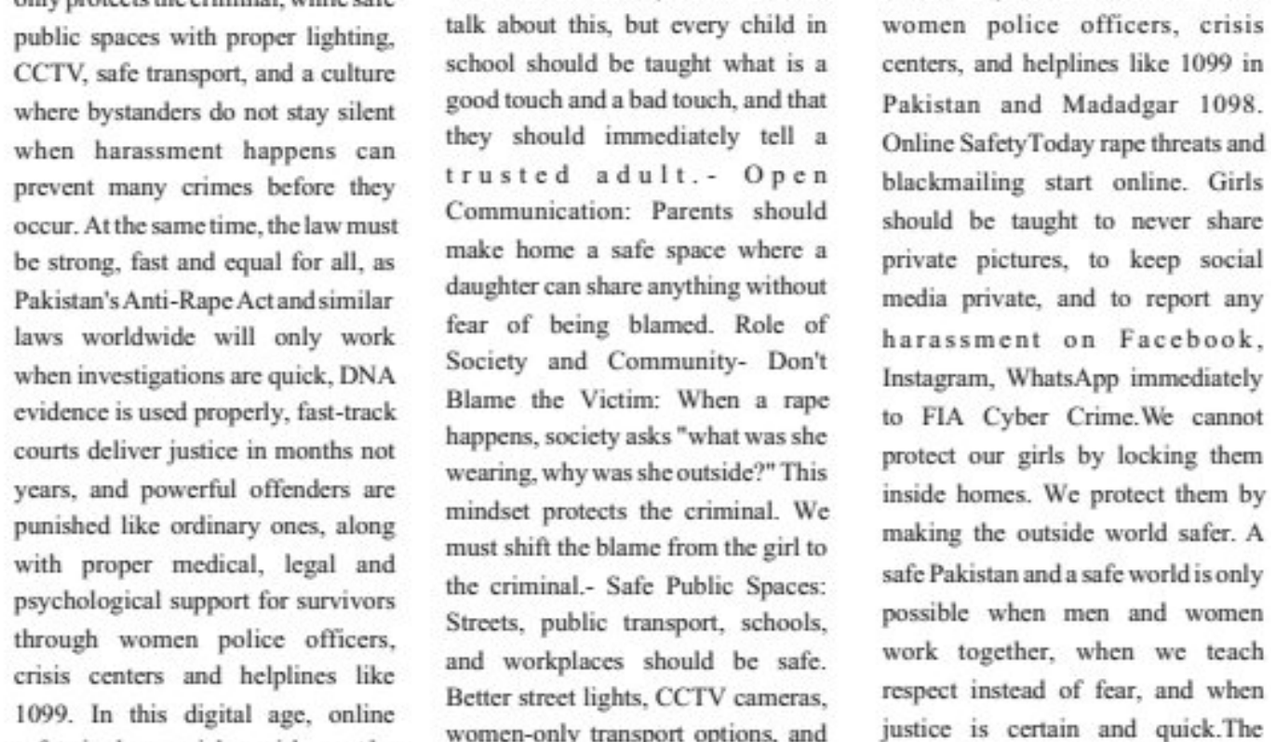
By zunaira Riaz

How We Can Keep Our Girls Safe From Rape - In Pakistan and Around The World

The safety of our girls is the responsibility of every home, society and state, both in Pakistan and around the world, and it cannot be ensured by restricting girls but by reforming men and the system. True protection begins at home and in schools where we must teach our sons respect, consent and boundaries instead of only telling our daughters to stay silent, stay inside and cover themselves, and every child must be taught about good and bad touch and given the confidence to speak up without fear of being blamed. Society must change its mindset and stop victim-blaming, because asking what a girl was wearing, where she was going or why she was outside only protects the criminal, while safe public spaces with proper lighting, CCTV, safe transport, and a culture where bystanders do not stay silent when harassment happens can prevent many crimes before they occur. At the same time, the law must be strong, fast and equal for all, as Pakistan's Anti-Rape Act and similar laws worldwide will only work when investigations are quick, DNA evidence is used properly, fast-track courts deliver justice in months not years, and powerful offenders are punished like ordinary ones, along with proper medical, legal and psychological support for survivors through women police officers, crisis centers and helplines like 1099. In this digital age, online safety is also crucial, so girls must be educated about privacy, blackmail and reporting harassment to FIA Cyber Crime

and other authorities. Ultimately, a society's honor is not measured by how much it hides its girls, but by how safely and freely its girls can walk, study and work with their The safety of girls is not just a women's issue, it is a human issue. Every girl has the right to live, study, work and walk freely without fear. To stop rape, we need action at three levels: at home, in society, and from the law.Start at Home and SchoolSafety starts with education.- Teach sons, not just daughters: We often tell girls "don't go out, don't wear this". We must also teach boys respect, consent, and self-control from a young age. A boy who respects women will become a man who protects them.- Good and Bad Touch: In Pakistan, we hesitate to talk about this, but every child in school should be taught what is a good touch and a bad touch, and that they should immediately tell a trusted adult.- Open Communication: Parents should make home a safe space where a daughter can share anything without fear of being blamed. Role of Society and Community- Don't Blame the Victim: When a rape happens, society asks "what was she wearing, why was she outside?" This mindset protects the criminal. We must shift the blame from the girl to the criminal.- Safe Public Spaces: Streets, public transport, schools, and workplaces should be safe. Better street lights, CCTV cameras, women-only transport options, and strict action against harassment in public places can help a lot.-

Bystander Intervention: If we see a girl being harassed in a market, on a bus, or online, we should not stay silent. One voice can stop a crime.Strong Law and Quick Justice- Fast and Fair Justice: In Pakistan, laws like Anti-Rape Act 2021 exist, but cases take years. In many countries, the same problem exists. Quick investigation, DNA testing, and fast-track courts will create real fear in criminals.- - No More Silence for killers Law should be equal for a poor man and a powerful man. When people see that even influential rapists are punished, crime will decrease.- Support for Survivors: A rape survivor needs medical help,psychological counseling, and legal support, not social boycott. We need more women police officers, crisis centers, and helplines like 1099 in Pakistan and Madadgar 1098. Online SafetyToday rape threats and blackmailing start online. Girls should be taught to never share private pictures, to keep social media private, and to report any harassment on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp immediately to FIA Cyber Crime.We cannot protect our girls by locking them inside homes. We protect them by making the outside world safer. A safe Pakistan and a safe world is only possible when men and women work together, when we teach respect instead of fear, and when justice is certain and quick.The honor of a society is not in how much it covers its girls, but in how safely its girls can walk with their heads held high.



A farmer drives a tractor equipped with a cultivator through a field during land preparation for the next crop, as egrets forage behind the farm machinery



By: Muhammad Shah Dotani

Preparations for major changes in the Balochistan cabinet, preparations for changing the portfolios of several ministers

Preparations are underway for a major reshuffle in the provincial cabinet of the Balochistan government once again. According to sources, preparations are being made to dismiss some of the current ministers in the cabinet, change the portfolios of several ministers, and make new faces part of the provincial cabinet by making them ministers and advisors.Sources say that the consultation process regarding the expected changes in the cabinet is underway, but the final notification has not been issued yet. Some provincial ministers, who are being shown the possibility of being removed from the cabinet, are making efforts at the political level to protect their ministries, due to which the issue of reshuffle in the cabinet seems to be delayed.According to sources, the government is also considering making major changes in some important departments. These include the Finance Department, Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Planning and Development (P&D) Department, Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Irrigation Department, Agriculture Department and Board of Revenue, among other important departments.According to sources, some portfolios in these departments are likely to be taken away from the current ministers and handed over to new ministers, while a proposal to give new portfolios to some current ministers is also under consideration.As a result of the possible expansion or reshuffle in the cabinet, new political faces are also expected to get important responsibilities in the government. However, the final decision will come out only after consultation with the Chief Minister and the coalition parties.This expected reshuffle is being described in political circles as a major development in the administrative and political strategy of the Balochistan government. However, the final situation will be determined only after the issuance of an official notification.



By; Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

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

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

The strength of a state is measured not only by its economy, defense capabilities, or foreign policy but also by the effectiveness with which it communicates with its citizens, presents its national narrative, and adapts its communication systems to the evolving media landscape. Around the world, government information institutions are regarded as essential pillars of governance and public policy. In Pakistan, this responsibility primarily rests with the Press Information Department (PID) and its head, the Principal Information Officer.

Ms. Raeesa Adil has assumed this office at a time when the media landscape is undergoing unprecedented transformation. Traditional newspapers and television channels now coexist with social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence, making the flow of information faster and more complex than ever before. In this environment, issuing press releases alone is no longer sufficient. Governments must ensure that information reaches the public in a timely, credible, transparent, and effective manner. Consequently, the need for experienced, professional, and balanced leadership has become more pressing than ever.

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

government communication, media management, public relations, and public information makes her exceptionally well-qualified for this important position. Although the complete details of her personal life and service record are not widely available in the public domain, her professional reputation clearly reflects a career defined by dedication, integrity, and competence.

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

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

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IMF satisfied with SBP briefing during fourth review talks

IMF mission will reach Islamabad today to begin formal negotiations with Pakistan's economic team

Web DESK

ISLAMABAD



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has expressed satisfaction with a briefing provided by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) officials as part of the fourth review of Pakistan's economic programme.

According to sources, the IMF mission, which had been in Karachi for the past three days, will reach Islamabad today to begin formal negotiations with Pakistan's economic team. Policy-level talks are scheduled to begin on Monday.

During its stay in Karachi, the IMF mission held meetings with SBP officials and the Sindh government. The Sindh government briefed the mission on its contribution to the federal government's surplus budget.

Officials informed the IMF that Sindh's tax revenue stood at Rs593 billion as of June 30, while its non-tax revenue more than doubled to over Rs80 billion during the period.

Sources said SBP officials also briefed the IMF mission on the country's economic performance. The mission expressed satisfaction with the briefing.The central bank officials provided updates on foreign exchange reserves, monetary policy, imports and the foreign exchange market. They informed the mission that Pakistan had achieved its target of maintaining foreign exchange reserves above $17 billion.

The SBP officials also briefed the IMF on developments regarding the current account deficit and an increase in foreign direct investment, sources said.Talks move to Islamabad

Following the completion of the Karachi meetings, the IMF mission is now expected to continue its engagement with Pakistan's economic managers in Islamabad.

The initial meetings with the SBP and Sindh government were part of the broader review process. The upcoming policy-level discussions are expected to involve the federal finance authorities and other relevant economic institutions.The fourth review is significant because its outcome will determine whether Pakistan has met the agreed targets and conditions under the economic programme for the period under review.

FBR introduces electronic scrutiny system for sales tax returns

■FBR introduces automated electronic scrutiny of sales tax returns, giving taxpayers advance notice and time to rectify discrepancies before legal action.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced a mechanism for the electronic scrutiny of sales tax returns, enabling the automated identification of legal errors, discrepancies and other issues through its computerised system.

Under the new system, registered persons will receive online advice or advance notices through the IRIS portal, allowing them to provide explanations, rectify errors or take necessary corrective measures before any legal or penal action is initiated.

The FBR has amended the Sales Tax Rules, 2006, to establish a mechanism for the automated scrutiny, analysis and cross-matching of sales tax returns and other available data through the computerised system.

Under the amended rules, the relevant Inland Revenue officer may also issue an advance notice generated by the system to the registered person. The notice will specify a deadline for submitting a response, which cannot be less than seven days.

If no response is received within the specified period, a reminder will be issued, providing the registered person with an additional period of at least seven days to respond.

The system will maintain records of discrepancies or issues identified through automated scrutiny, notices sent to registered persons and responses received. These records will also be shared with the relevant Inland Revenue officer having jurisdiction.

According to the FBR, details of notices issued to registered persons, their responses and subsequent actions will be maintained in a system-generated dashboard.

The automated scrutiny, analysis and cross-matching of sales tax returns and other available data, along with electronic communication with registered persons regarding issues identified by the system, will be implemented through a Change Request Form (CRF) for the smooth and effective operation of the computerised system.

GST reduction brings down prices of hybrid cars in Pakistan

■ Automakers did not immediately revise their prices following the tax cut, but new prices have now started to emerge.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Prices of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) in Pakistan have started falling after the General Sales Tax (GST) on vehicles up to 2,000cc was reduced from 25% to 18% on September 13,

Automakers did not immediately revise their prices following the tax cut, but new prices have now started to emerge.

Honda Atlas Cars Ltd (HACL) reduced the price of the HR-V e from Rs10.369 million to Rs9.299 million, a cut of Rs1.07 million.

The price of the HR-V VTi-S was also reduced from Rs7.799 million to Rs7.299 million.

HACL said the revised prices would apply for a limited period and to limited stock.

The new retail prices apply to all orders invoiced on or after September 25.

Indus Motor Company (IMC) has also reduced prices of its hybrid models.

According to a company circular, the Toyota Corolla Cross HEV X now costs Rs9.729 million, down by Rs570,000, while the Corolla Cross HEV is priced at Rs9.299 million after a reduction of Rs550,000.

The price cuts come amid continued uncertainty in Pakistan's auto sector.

The Automotive Industrial Development Policy (AIDP) 2021-26 expired on June 30, under which the GST on electric vehicles was 8.5%.

The industry has been waiting for a new auto policy, which was expected to take effect from July 1 but has yet to be announced.

Automakers have said the absence of a clear policy framework has created uncertainty across the automotive value chain, affecting business planning, production schedules and investment decisions.

Several companies also delayed vehicle invoicing during July and August because of uncertainty over the applicable policy and tariff structure.

An industry source said vehicle sales could gradually return to normal in the coming months.

However, it remains unclear whether GST will be reduced further or remain at the current rate, depending on decisions under the new auto policy. The source added that most vehicles from Honda and other assemblers were expected to reach customers within two months.

BYD reaches 10,000 vehicles on Pakistani roads

Meanwhile, Mega Motor Company (MMC), the official partner of BYD in Pakistan, said the Chinese new-energy vehicle (NEV) brand has reached the milestone of 10,000 vehicles on Pakistani roads.

The company described the achievement as the fastest expansion by a new NEV entrant in Pakistan's automotive history.

The developments come as automakers continue to navigate policy uncertainty and wider regional tensions.

Despite the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East following the Iran-US conflict that began on February 28, completely knocked-down (CKD) kits are reportedly readily available at assembly plants.

SMEDA plans new e-commerce programme to empower Pakistani entrepreneurs

SMEDA explores a new e-commerce programme to strengthen SME digital skills, expand market access and create greater opportunities for women-led businesses.

Web Desk

LAHORE



The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and Daraz Pakistan are exploring new avenues of collaboration to help Pakistani small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) build digital capabilities, expand their access to e-commerce and unlock new opportunities for growth.

The discussion took place during a meeting between Nadia Jahangir Seth, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA, and Ben Yi, Managing Director of Daraz Pakistan. The two organisations explored potential areas of cooperation, including e-commerce education, capacity building and initiatives aimed at supporting women-led businesses.

The proposed collaboration is aligned with SMEDA's broader efforts under the strategic direction of the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoI&P) to strengthen the digital capabilities of SMEs. It also supports efforts to promote women's entrepreneurship and inclusive SME development in Pakistan, in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's economic vision.

A key development discussed during the meeting was SMEDA's upcoming e-commerce programme, which is designed to equip SMEs with practical knowledge and capabilities to participate more effectively in the digital economy. SMEDA and Daraz also explored opportunities for the e-commerce platform to contribute its industry expertise to the development of a specialised curriculum. The proposed curriculum could help entrepreneurs understand and manage the complete online selling journey, from establishing a digital business to serving customers and fulfilling orders.

SBP launches Pasban Remittance Rewards Scheme with Rs16bn annual prizes

■ The State Bank of Pakistan has launched the Pasban Remittance Rewards Scheme, offering Rs16 billion in annual cash prizes to encourage overseas Pakistanis to use formal banking channels.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmad has launched the Pasban Remittance Rewards Scheme, under which overseas Pakistanis sending remittances through formal banking channels will be eligible for cash prizes worth Rs16 billion annually.

The scheme has been introduced under the patronage of the SBP and is being implemented by the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA). The banking industry will bear the entire cost of the programme, with no financial burden on the national exchequer.

Under the scheme, remittance recipients who receive at least $100 per month for three consecutive months in their bank accounts will become eligible to participate. Eligible recipients will receive digital, non-transferable entry numbers based on the amount of remittances received. Higher remittance amounts will result in additional entries.

A total of 2,521 cash prizes worth Rs4 billion will be distributed every quarter. These include:

First prize: One prize of Rs100 million

Second prize: 20 prizes of Rs25 million each

Third prize: 100 prizes of Rs10 million each

Fourth prize: 2,400 prizes of Rs1 million each

With four quarterly draws, the total value of prizes will reach Rs16 billion annually, with more than 10,000 recipients expected to receive awards.

The first draw is scheduled for Jan. 15, 2027, covering eligible remittances received between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026.

The prize allocation will also take into account regions from which Pakistan receives significant remittances. Fifty per cent of the prizes will be allocated to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, 15% to the United Kingdom, 15% to Europe, 10% to North America and 10% to other countries.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad said the scheme had been developed jointly by the central bank, government and banking industry to encourage overseas Pakistanis to use formal channels for sending money to Pakistan.

He said workers' remittances remain an important source of income for millions of Pakistani families, helping meet household expenses and supporting education, healthcare and investment.

Ahmad said Pakistan's workers' remittances reached a record $41.6 billion in fiscal year 2026, compared with $21.7 billion in fiscal year 2019.

Scanned with CamScanner

Hamas leader says Israel to use Gaza 'blood' in election

- French President Emmanuel Macron declared on Tuesday that Europe would refuse to give in to "bullies", delivering a pointed message at the World Economic Forum in Davos



Web Desk

DAVOS

The leader of Hamas brushed aside the possibility of change from Israel's upcoming election in an interview on Saturday, saying he expected Israelis to campaign off Gaza's "blood".

"Whether this or that person comes to power, or this party or another -- our people have suffered at the hands of all Israeli parties," Khalil al-Hayya told the Qatari station Al-Araby. "We absolutely refuse to allow the blood, suffering, and cause of the Palestinian people to serve as fuel for Israeli elections. What matters to us is that our people achieve their goals, aspirations and legitimate rights."Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is locked in a tight contest as he seeks to stay in power in the October 27 elections.

The Israeli premier has vowed in the run-up to the vote not to withdraw troops from Gaza and rejected a US-led peace initiative in which Hamas said it would surrender weapons, a promise Israel views with scepticism.

The vote is the first since Hamas led the deadliest ever attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, with militants storming into southern Israel and killing 1,221 people and dragging 251 others as hostages to Gaza.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has displaced virtually the entire population of Gaza, damaged or destroyed the vast majority of buildings and killed more than 73,900 people, according to the Gaza health ministry, which operates under Hamas and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

Polls show Netanyahu's most formidable challenger to be Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief who served in Netanyahu's war cabinet but has accused him of failing strategically.

The Palestinian Authority in turn has scheduled a legislative election for November 28, which would be the first in two decades, although there are widespread doubts about whether it will go ahead.

Hamas won the last election, held in 2006, defeating Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah. Abbas, 90, has since been ruling by decree, with the legislature not allowed to convene and Hamas seizing control of Gaza. Abbas is based in the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority wields limited autonomy. "We are ready to sit down with President Abbas to lay the foundations for a national program and achieve genuine unity," Hayya said.

Northern Ireland court allows Protestant march in Catholic area



WEB DESK

CAIRO/DUBAI

A Protestant parade may proceed through a Catholic area, Northern Ireland's High Court ruled early on Sunday, reversing a temporary ban on the highly charged march in an area that has historically been a flashpoint of sectarian disputes.

The High Court dismissed a new application to stop the Orange Order from going through the area of Portadown after the Court of Appeal vacated a temporary injunction granted ?on Saturday to residents who opposed the parade.

Residents of the Garvaghy Road area had challenged Friday's ruling ?by Northern Ireland's Parades Commission that permitted the Orange Order to march along their road, a Catholic ?enclave in the largely Protestant town, overturning an almost 30-year ban on the route. A crowd gathered on the Garvaghy Road early on Sunday morning to protest against the ruling allowing the march. In the crowd were Northern Ireland First Minister ?Michelle O'Neill, who is also vice president of the Irish nationalist Sinn Fein party, and her party's ?leader, Mary Lou McDonald, video posted on social media showed.

"Although the forces of darkness may want to stop us creating ?a ?new united Ireland, they will fail," McDonald told a crowd of protesters in the clip, posted on X. Carla Lockhart, a member of parliament from the Democratic Unionist Party, told reporters outside the court that it was up to Sinn Fein and other nationalist politicians to abide by the rule of law and allow ?the parade to pass ?through. The original dispute over ?the route became one of the defining flashpoints of the conflict in Northern Ireland.Annual attempts by the Protestant Orange Order to march through the area triggered ?unrest across the British-run region before the route was banned in 1998, the ?year the ?Good Friday Agreement largely ended the three decades of violence known as the "Troubles".



Iran leaves door open to diplomacy while holding firm on conditions to end conflict

- Iran announced a peace proposal earlier this week at the UN General Assembly in New York, saying it had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators

Web DESK

TEHRAN

Iran on Sunday insisted that only diplomacy can solve its conflict with the United States and Israel after US President Donald Trump said he rejected an Iranian proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end fighting.

"Our conditions are clear, and any move toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz is contingent on these conditions being met," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on social media. "Only a negotiated solution can get them out of this deadlock."

Iran announced a peace proposal earlier this week at the UN General Assembly in New York, saying it had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators.

Trump on Saturday said he rejected the plan and argued that desperation drives the Iranians' push for an agreement on the key waterway.

"They want to make a deal to open the Hormuz Strait immediately because they're losing so badly," Trump told reporters at the White House. Despite Trump's public statements, mediators facilitating US-Iran talks with the United States have not officially relayed a US rejection of the plan, according to Araghchi.

"We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive views to us, and we will make a decision based on them," Araghchi posted.

The US has imposed an economic blockade on Iran to put pressure on Tehran to stop Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, which have drastically reduced shipping through the area even as Trump repeatedly asserts that the US controls the waterway.

The Wall Street Journal first reported that Trump had rejected the Iranian proposal, citing unnamed US officials.

It said Trump was privately sceptical that Iran would meet his demands and had told his staff that he sees a renewed bombing campaign as likely after the November US midterm elections.

A US official had said earlier that discussions with Iran through mediators were "positive and constructive".

AFF claims to have captured several Taliban checkpoints during clashes

WEB DESK

Afghanistan



The Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) said that it was fighting Taliban forces in Kamdesh district of Nuristan and claimed to have captured several checkpoints.

A Taliban-linked outlet also confirmed clashes in the area.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Afghanistan Freedom Front said fighting had begun that morning in parts of Kamdesh district and was continuing.

A resident of Kamdesh also reported hearing fighting in the area.

According to the AFF, Taliban forces launched an attack on its positions early on Saturday using drones. The group said its commandos targeted several Taliban drones before launching a counter-attack.

The Front claimed that its forces captured several Taliban checkpoints during the counter-attack and that Taliban fighters withdrew from the Arandu area and parts of Kamdesh district towards Nari district in neighbouring Kunar province.

Meanwhile, HIJAZ Persian, a Taliban-linked media outlet, reported that what it described as a plot in Kamdesh district of Nuristan had been foiled.

Four Americans among six killed in Athens building collapse after explosion

- The blast destroyed the building in Plaka, near some of Athens' most visited sites, including the Acropolis and the Temple of Zeus

WEB DESK

Greenland



Six people have died after a two-storey residential building in a tourist area of central Athens collapsed, the Greek fire brigade said on Saturday, following an explosion that the mayor said was likely linked to gas infrastructure.

The explosion killed four Americans, US officials said.

Emergency crews in heavy gear and red helmets, assisted by rescue dogs, cameras and sensors, found the bodies of six people, fire brigade spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said in a televised briefing.

They were looking for an elderly couple who lived in one apartment and four tourists who were staying in another as they removed debris from the building.

The fire brigade's crime investigation unit was also on site to identify the cause of the blast after reports of a gas smell in an area that is home to hotels and short-term rentals.

The tourists, two American couples, had been expected to catch a flight from Athens airport at 3 p.m. on Friday but did not show up, a police source said.

Ambulances stood by on Saturday to take the bodies to the hospital for identification.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the death of four American citizens in yesterday's explosion in central Athens," Kimberly Guilfoyle, the US ambassador to Greece, posted on X.

The blast destroyed the building in Plaka, near some of Athens' most visited sites, including the Acropolis and the Temple of Zeus, damaging nearby houses, shops and cars and sending rubble and broken glass as far as three blocks away.

The building was reduced to twisted metal, shattered tiles and concrete, strewn with household items and clothing.

Iran stands firm on Hormuz plan after US rejection

- Iran stood firm Sunday on its conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, despite US President Donald Trump's rejection of the proposal that had created some optimism for breaking the Mideast war stalemate.

WEB DESK

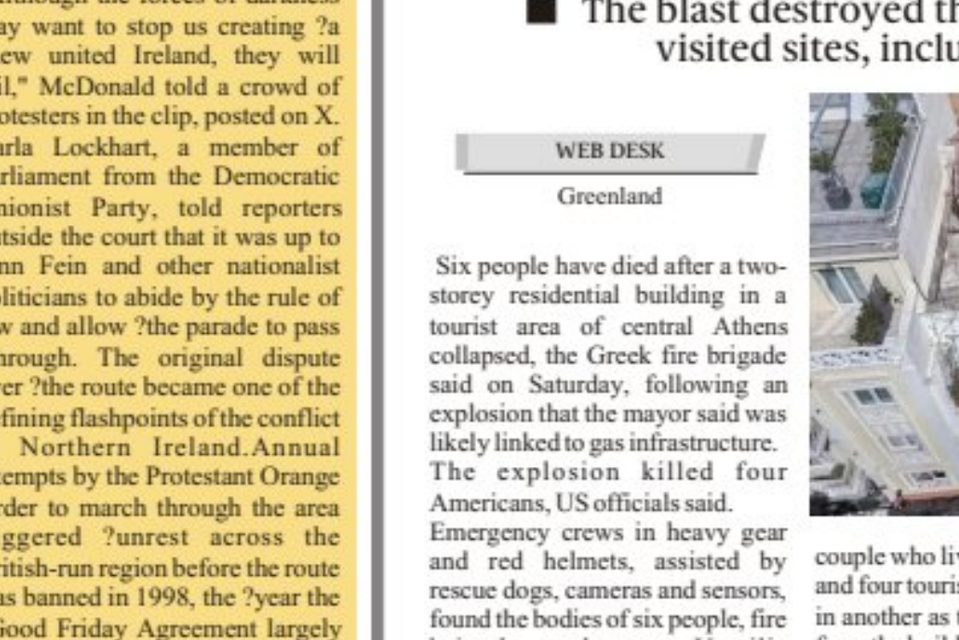
TEHRAN

Iran stood firm Sunday on its conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, despite US President Donald Trump's rejection of the proposal that had created some optimism for breaking the Mideast war stalemate.

The waterway is key to the world's energy supply and is now central to the conflict between Washington and Tehran, which was triggered nearly seven months ago with deadly strikes on Iran.

Iran's plan called for a cessation of all hostilities in the Middle East, including in Lebanon, according to Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, and fulfilling conditions in the ceasefire deal that fell apart months ago.

That agreement, which dissolved during fighting over Hormuz, called for the release of frozen Iranian assets, the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil and an end to the US naval blockade.



"Our conditions are clear, and any move toward reopening the Strait of Hormuz is contingent upon these conditions being fulfilled. We will not back down from them," Araghchi said on Sunday, state broadcaster IRIB reported.

"We have never closed the door to diplomacy or negotiations, but at the same time, we have never backed down from our rights."

But Trump said on Saturday that he rejected the truce deal.

"They want to make a deal where they open the Strait immediately because they're losing so badly," he told reporters. "They want to make a deal and I think that's fine. I like making a deal too."

Araghchi said on Sunday that the Iranians "saw the first reaction from the US president, but so far, nothing has been conveyed to us by the mediators".

"We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive positions to us, and we will make a decision based on them," the foreign minister added.

Washington and Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding in June that aimed to end the war, to reopen the strait and to launch talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

But the deal broke down shortly afterwards when Iran fired on commercial ships in Hormuz that it accused of deviating from its approved route through the waterway.

Iran requires ships to obtain authorisation before passage, citing security and sovereignty reasons.

Ships that refuse to comply are regularly targeted, while the United States sporadically bombs Iranian coastal areas in retaliation.At the UN, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan complained that the "international community has been absent" and is failing to live up to the responsibility to keep the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab open.

Scanned with CamScanner

Mehwish Hayat celebrates Zahid Ahmed birthday, says can't wait for 'Rutba'



■ The 36-year-old actress made her public Instagram debut on Wednesday, and her account has already attracted more than 1.8 million followers.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani superstar Mehwish Hayat has showered praise on her Rutba co-star Zahid Ahmed on his birthday, calling him phenomenal at what he does while teasing their much anticipated on-screen collaboration.

Taking to Instagram, Mehwish shared a picture featuring herself alongside Zahid Ahmed and penned a warm birthday message for the actor, expressing her excitement about finally sharing the screen with him. "Happy birthday Zahid Ahmed! Phenomenal at what you do, an absolute gem of a human and easily one of the funniest people to work with," Mehwish wrote.

The actress further revealed that she was particularly pleased that the two finally had the opportunity to properly collaborate on a project. "So glad we finally got the chance to properly share the screen. Can't wait for everyone to see us in Rutba," she added.

Mehwish's post has further fueled anticipation surrounding Rutba, which marks her major return to television after an extended absence from the small screen.

The upcoming drama is positioned as a high-stakes emotional and investigative-style story revolving around power, social status, ambition and complicated human relationships.

The narrative explores themes of respect, trust, marital conflict and shifting loyalties, with characters navigating a web of relationships where hidden motives and carefully guarded intentions gradually come to the surface.

Mehwish plays Shehnaz, a challenging and intense character whose journey becomes closely intertwined with Zahid Ahmed's role. Their relationship is built around respect and understanding, but that bond faces challenges as the characters begin to confront questions of ambition, loyalty and the true value of their connections.

Sehar Khan goes fan-girl mode over Wahaj Ali

■ Sehar took to her Instagram Stories and shared a screenshot of Wahaj from the drama, enthusiastically captioning the post, "Our super SUPERSTARRRR."

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Sehar Khan has joined the growing chorus of praise for superstar Wahaj Ali, expressing her excitement over his striking transformation for the television drama 'Mitti De Baway' and drawing an unexpected comparison with one of his most iconic characters.

Sehar took to her Instagram Stories and shared a screenshot of Wahaj from the drama, enthusiastically captioning the post, "Our super SUPERSTARRRR."

The graphic shared by the actress also carried the text, "Our Murtasim Khan is so back as Bala," drawing a connection between Wahaj's latest character and his hugely popular role as Murtasim Khan in the blockbuster drama Tere Bin.

The comparison particularly refers to the intense screen , better presence associated with Murtasim, as viewers now get to see Wahaj portraying Iqbal Channan, better known as Baala, in Mitti De Baway.

For the Green Entertainment drama, Wahaj has undergone a noticeable physical and visual transformation. Moving away from the polished, clean-cut appearance often associated with his romantic television roles, the actor has embraced a more rugged look, complete with a fuller physique, beard and an intense gaze.

His new avatar has generated considerable curiosity among viewers, who are eager to see the actor explore a rawer and more grounded character on screen.

Sehar's enthusiastic reaction has further added to the excitement surrounding Wahaj's portrayal, particularly with her Murtasim comparison giving fans of Tere Bin another reason to revisit the actor's memorable screen persona.

Iqra Aziz and Azaan Sami set to share screen in upcoming drama 'Apsara'

■ The upcoming project boasts an experienced creative team, with seasoned actor-director Yasir Nawaz attached to helm the serial, while acclaimed screenwriter Zanjabeel Asim Shah has penned the script.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani television stars Iqra Aziz and Azaan Sami Khan are set to share the screen in an upcoming drama serial tentatively titled Apsara, bringing together two familiar faces in a new on-screen pairing that has already caught the attention of drama enthusiasts.

The upcoming project boasts an experienced creative team, with seasoned actor-director Yasir Nawaz attached to helm the serial, while acclaimed screenwriter Zanjabeel Asim Shah has penned the script.

The drama is being produced by Momina Duraid under the banner of MD Productions, adding further anticipation around the project given the team involved in its development.

For Iqra Aziz, Apsara marks another addition to an already diverse television portfolio, while Azaan Sami Khan is also continuing to explore prominent acting projects following his appearances in acclaimed productions.

Although details surrounding the storyline and characters are currently under wraps, the pairing of Iqra and Azaan has already generated considerable discussion among viewers on social media.

The casting announcement received a mixed yet enthusiastic response in the comments section, with some fans expressing excitement about seeing their favourite stars together.

One user wrote, "My both favs ," while another praised Azaan, commenting, "Azaan is fab in Manto."

However, not every reaction was positive. One viewer questioned the casting choice, writing, "Azaan k elawa koi actor nhi mila" (Couldn't they find any other actor besides Azaan?).

Another user similarly expressed disappointment with the casting, commenting, "HUM TV never disappoints with casting, like why you guys can't do better casting."

Despite the divided reactions, the announcement has succeeded in putting Apsara on viewers' radar even before its premiere, with audiences now waiting to discover the storyline, characters and on-screen dynamic between Iqra Aziz andAzaan Sami Khan.

With Yasir Nawaz at the helm, Zanjabeel Asim Shah behind the script and Momina Duraid producing, the upcoming drama brings together a notable creative team as anticipation builds ahead of its eventual release.



Rabeeca Khan turns petrol pump into her glamorous pre-birthday shoot



Saheefa Jabbar's playful warning to Ahmad Butt steals the spotlight

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Actress and model Saheefa Jabbar Khattak has given Ahmad Ali Butt a playful warning after he put her in the spotlight with a "twisted" question, asking him to stay away from such controversial questions.

The remarks came after a clip from Ahmad Ali Butt's digital show Excuse Me with Ahmad Ali Butt surfaced on social media. In the clip, a question involving Saheefa and food creator Jawad came up, prompting Saheefa to share her side of the story.

Saheefa later took to Instagram and spoke warmly about Jawad, recalling how he supported her during a difficult time for her food business. She said he showed up without even being invited when she was asking people to come and support the brand.

According to Saheefa, Jawad was honest about the problems he noticed and encouraged her to try food from other places to understand where her own business needed improvement. She admitted that there were several areas where she needed to do better and said his feedback helped her during that period.

Anika Zulfiqar takes sharp dig at Nadia Khan's questions to Parisheh Adnan

Web Desk

KARACHI



Rising Pakistani actress Anika Zulfiqar has called out the line of questioning directed at fashion designer Parisheh Adnan during a latest appearance on Nadia Khan's show, describing the exchange as outdated, judgmental and far removed from the kind of meaningful conversation she believes the designer could offer.

A viral video from the show has been making the rounds on social media, featuring Nadia Khan and her co-hosts questioning Parisheh about her fashion choices and gym videos. During the conversation, she was specifically asked how her parents allowed her to dress the way she does in her workout-related videos.

Reacting to the clip, Anika took to her Instagram Stories and criticised the question, suggesting that the interview could have explored far more insightful aspects of Parisheh's work and personality.

Sharing her thoughts, she wrote: 'Papa ko kaise convince kiya?' Wrong girl LOL. Maybe do some research on your guests before the show?"

Anika went on to highlight

Dark chocolate may boost mood, heart health and weight control

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Dark chocolate is more than a sweet treat, as it contains nutrients that may help improve mood, support heart health and aid weight management. A report by Verywell Health said the timing of eating dark chocolate may have a bearing on these benefits, with different times of day linked to different effects. Best time to improve mood

Research suggests that dark chocolate makes a suitable afternoon snack for improving mood. It contains caffeine and natural stimulants that may help wake the body and ease tiredness caused by falling blood sugar levels.

A study found that dark chocolate containing 85 per cent cocoa may improve mood by supporting the gut microbiome and increasing beneficial bacteria in the gut.

Research has also found that antioxidant polyphenols in cocoa may ease stress by lowering levels of stress hormones such as cortisol and epinephrine.

Best time for weight management

Experts recommend eating dark chocolate in the morning for those seeking to manage their weight.

Studies found that people who ate chocolate earlier in the day did not gain weight. Researchers also noted lower cravings for sweet foods, reduced appetite.

, lower fasting blood sugar levels

Scanned with CamScanner

FC Balochistan (North) Reaffirms Support for Female Athletes

● Delegation of Wushu, Karate, Badminton, Boxing and Fencing athletes meets IG FC in Quetta

NEWS DESK

Quetta/Balochistan

A female athlete from the sports sector visited the FC Headquarters Balochistan (North) and met with the IG FC Balochistan (North). The delegation comprised talented athletes representing various sports, including Wushu, Karate, Badminton, Boxing, and Fencing.The IG FC assured the athlete of all possible support regarding the challenges she faces and their resolution. While commending her achievements, he encouraged her to continue working hard and with dedication to bring honor to Pakistan.The IG FC stated that FC Balochistan (North) remains committed to promoting sports in Pakistan and continuing its role in supporting and encouraging talented female athletes. Cash prizes were also awarded on this occasion to encourage the athlete.







Muhammad Zain, Farhat Batool and Israr Muhammad triumph at Lahore Marathon

● Zain won men's 10km race: Farhat tops women's event: Akhtar Ali and Gonish Batool secured first place in men's and women's 21km races: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Israr Muhammad won 42km marathon in 2 hours, 38 minutes and 10 seconds

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore Marathon 2026 witnessed fierce competition across 10km, 21km and 42km races, with Muhammad Zain, Farhat Batool and Israr Muhammad emerging as the top winners in their respective categories,

Organized through a collaboration between the Athletics Federation of Pakistan and Allied Bank, the Lahore Marathon featured races across three distances, with runners competing in both men's and women's categories.

In the 10-kilometre men's race, Kasur's Muhammad Zain secured first position. Faisalabad's Muhammad Zohaib finished second, while Saim Masih, also from Faisalabad, took



third place.

In the women's 10-kilometre race, 38-year-old Farhat Batool claimed first position. She completed the distance in 42 minutes and 50 seconds.

The 21-kilometre half marathon saw Pakistan Army and Sahiwal's Akhtar Ali take first position in the men's race. Sohail Amir finished second.

In the women's 21-kilometre half marathon, Gonish Batool secured first position after completing the distance in one hour, 40 minutes and nine seconds. Mahnoor finished second.

The 42-kilometre marathon was won by Israr Muhammad from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He completed the full distance in two hours, 38 minutes and 10 seconds. Muhammad Ramzan finished second in the 42-kilometre marathon. Her performance highlighted the competitive nature of the women's field, with runners taking on the same challenging 10-kilometre distance while competing for the top positions.

The focus then shifted to the 21-kilometre half marathon, where athletes faced a significantly longer test of endurance.

In the men's half marathon, Akhtar Ali, representing the Pakistan Army and Sahiwal, secured first position. His victory came after a demanding 21-kilometre race that tested the stamina and pace of the participating runners.

Sohail Amir finished second in the men's half marathon.

The women's half marathon produced another notable result, with Gonish Batool taking first position. She completed the 21-kilometre distance in one hour, 40 minutes and nine seconds.

Mahnoor finished second in the women's half marathon, completing the leading positions in a race that required considerable endurance and sustained pace over the longer distance.

The most demanding event of the day was the 42-kilometre marathon, which tested the physical endurance and race management of the participating athletes.

Bulls trade Rob Dillingham to Hornets for Buddy Hield, cash

■ The Chicago Bulls are trading Rob Dillingham to the Charlotte Hornets for veteran guard Buddy Hield and cash, according to ESPN.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Chicago Bulls are swapping former first-round pick Rob Dillingham to the Charlotte Hornets for veteran Buddy Hield and cash,

Dillingham, 21, will be on his ?third NBA team, while Hield, 33, was dealt earlier in the week from the Atlanta Hawks to the Hornets, along with guard Ryan Nembhard ?and cash, for forward Dorian Finney-Smith.

The San Antonio Spurs ?selected Dillingham with the eighth overall pick in the ?2024 NBA Draft out of Kentucky and traded him the ?same day to Minnesota. The Timberwolves dealt Dillingham to the Bulls ?on Feb. 5, 2026.

The point guard averaged 9.6 points, 3.0 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 21.5 minutes in 30 games for the Bulls last season as ?a reserve. For his career, Dillingham has averaged 5.5 points, ?1.6 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 13.0 minutes in 114 games (one start) for ?the ?Timberwolves (2024-26) and Bulls.

Charlotte announced on Friday that second-year sharpshooter Kon Knueppel suffered a left hamstring injury during an offseason on-court activity and could miss the start of the regular season.

Hield has career ?averages of 14.5 ?points, 4.0 ?rebounds and 2.4 assists. The guard/forward split last season between the Golden State Warriors (44 games) and ?Hawks (seven) and averaged a career-low 7.6 points per ?game.

Hield's highest ?scoring average came in 2018-19 when he put up 20.7 per game for the Sacramento Kings.

The Bulls will be Hield's eighth team. ?He ?has made 2,201 3-pointers, 15th-most in ?NBA history, while shooting 39.5% from beyond the arc.

The New Orleans Pelicans picked him ?sixth overall in the 2016 draft out of Oklahoma.



Revitalised Russell says he can fight for victory week-in, week-out

▪ George Russell says he can fight for victory in every race after a dominant Azerbaijan Grand Prix win, cutting his championship deficit to teammate Kimi Antonelli to 66 points.



WEB DESK

BAKU

Mercedes racer George Russell is confident he can fight for the win in every race going forward after a resounding return to form with victory Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

The Briton capped what he ?called the most "dominant weekend I've had in my career", having achieved a 'grand slam' in Baku, starting from pole, leading every lap, setting the fastest lap and finishing off with a win.

"I ?think I never lost that faith in myself," said Russell, who kept ?a charging Max Verstappen at bay for much of the race's ?closing stages.

His form around a layout that rewards confidence but is known for ?catching drivers out stands in stark contrast to struggles earlier in a season that ?saw him eclipsed by 20-year-old championship-leading teammate Kimi Antonelli.

The Italian has scored eight wins to Russell's three, but Russell said work he put in to adapt his driving style to the 2026 cars ?over the sport's summer break had been key to his return to form.

"Even ?through the tough moments I knew there was a reason why I was off the pace," ?he ?said.

"You know, it's been four races since the break. I've been on the front row in three of them, three podiums from the four races. I feel I can fight for victory week-in, week-out now."

Antonelli, however, said he had his worst ?weekend of the ?season. He started ?16th after crashing out of qualifying and finished fifth in the race.

That allowed Russell to narrow the gap to Antonelli at ?the head of the standings from 81 points to 66.

Russell ?said his ?focus was on winning every race and he wasn't thinking of the title.

"If the season were to have started today, or since the summer break, I feel very ?much I ?would have been able to fight," he added.

"Now ?I've got this big deficit. So I'm not chasing that. I'm chasing to win every race, and ?what will be, will be."



Pakistan's golfer Ahmad Zafar Hayat wins Singapore Open Senior

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's golfer Ahmad Zafar Hayat has clinched the Singapore Open Senior Amateur title, finishing at the top of the leaderboard after a strong three-round performance.

Hayat finished the championship with an aggregate score of 223 to claim the overall title. He carded rounds of 73, 74 and 76 across the three rounds, finishing seven over par.

Another Pakistani golfer, Brigadier (Retd) Omer Ejaz, secured third position overall. He recorded rounds of 77, 80 and 72 for an aggregate score of 229, finishing 13 over par.

Muhammad Abdullah Mannan was the third Pakistani golfer competing in the championship. He posted scores of 82, 86 and 82 to finish with an overall total of 250.



Mariners rookie LHP Kade Anderson exits after hit by line drive vs. Angels

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Seattle Mariners rookie left-hander Kade Anderson left game in the fourth ?inning after taking a line drive from the Los AngelesAngels' Christian Moore off his pitching arm.

Moore hit a liner ?that appeared to catch Anderson just above his left elbow. Anderson, ?22, hopped off the mound in ?pain as the ball trickled toward first base, with Moore reaching on an infield single.

Anderson tried to wave away the Mariners' training ?staff, but they quickly attended ?to him and manager Dan Wilson didn't hesitate ?in ?calling in Michael Rucker to protect the franchise's prized pitching prospect. Anderson pitched 3 1/3 scoreless innings, giving up four ?hits. He ?walked ?one and struck out four. He entered the day with a ?2-2 record, 3.79 ERA, eight ?walks ?and 28 strikeouts in 32 1/3 innings over six starts.

The host Mariners were ?leading ?2-0 in the fifth ?inning.

Seattle selected Anderson third overall in the 2025 ?MLB Draft out of LSU.



Spain Come From Behind to Beat England 3-2

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

World champions Spain staged a remarkable comeback to defeat England 3-2 at Wembley on Saturday in an entertaining Nations League clash, denying the hosts a much-needed victory after their painful World Cup exit.

The result extended Spain's unbeaten run to 39 matches, setting a new record for a European national team.England endured a disastrous start when Lamine Yamal capitalised on a mistake by defender Marc Guehi to open the scoring. Spain dominated the early stages and created several opportunities to extend their advantage.

However, England responded strongly and levelled the contest in the 36th minute. Anthony Gordon finished a well-worked team move to give the hosts renewed confidence.

Just four minutes later, England completed the turnaround. Captain Harry Kane rose to meet Nico O'Reilly's cross, with the ball taking a deflection off Marc Cucurella before finding the net.

Thomas Tuchel's side had an opportunity to strengthen their position early in the second half when they were awarded a penalty following a VAR review for a foul by Rodri on Jude Bellingham.

FFC 6 September 728/90

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Internet services disrupted in Islamabad and Lahore, mobile networks hit

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Internet services were disrupted in Islamabad and Lahore, affecting the mobile internet networks of several major telecom companies on Sunday.

users reported problems with internet services provided by Jazz, Ufone, Zong, Telenor and PTCL, leaving many customers unable to access mobile data services. The disruption also affected mobile banking and digital payment applications, including Easypaisa and JazzCash. Users faced difficulties accessing these services as internet connectivity problems continued.

Social media platforms were also badly affected, with users reporting problems accessing and using various websites and applications.

The cause of the internet disruption was not immediately known. Telecom operators and relevant authorities had yet to provide details on the reason for the widespread service problems.

IGFC Balochistan (South) Visits Girls Cadet College Turbat

● 67 Final-Year Cadets Receive Laptops to Enhance Digital Learning and Research Capabilities

STAFF REPORTER

Turbat

IGFC Balochistan (South) visited Girls Cadet College Turbat, where he met the faculty members and female students.Addressing the cadets, IGFC Balochistan (South) emphasized the importance of education and said that development in the modern era depends on technology-enabled education. He exhorted the female students to continue their struggle with hard work and dedication, calling them the future of Pakistan. He further said that anti-national elements are trying to mislead the younger generation through fabricated propaganda, so students should stay away from destructive propaganda and misleading narratives and focus on education and positive activities. IG FC Balochistan (South) distributed laptops to 67 talented final year cadets on behalf of FC Balochistan (South) Parwaz Foundation to acquaint the cadets with modern sciences and further enhance their academic and research capabilities. .







CM Afridi offers talks to federal govt ahead of Oct 4 PTI march

● Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Saturday offered talks to the federal government, saying those seeking contact still had seven days to resolve the issue through negotiations.

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Saturday offered talks to the federal government, saying those seeking contact still had seven days to resolve the issue through negotiations.

The offer comes a day after the KP chief executive announced that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march towards Islamabad, originally scheduled for Sept. 27, had been postponed to Oct 4.

The former ruling party is preparing for a major protest and march on Islamabad, demanding the release of its jailed founder Imran Khan and what it describes as the restoration of constitutional supremacy.



Speaking informally to senior journalists in Peshawar, Afridi said the presence of Imran Khan's sisters was necessary for his treatment. He said Khan should be treated at Shifa Hospital in Islamabad by his own team of doctors. Afridi said he had approached courts and other forums over the matter for nine months, but received no response. "Our fight with the establishment is benefiting others," CM Afridi said, adding that those seeking contact still had seven days. He said the situation would change if the marchers set out on Oct. 4. "Once we leave on Oct. 4, there will be no turning back," he said. CM Afridi also said his removal from the chief minister's office would make no difference to him. If he was disqualified, he said, Imran Khan himself would decide his replacement.



Mohsin Naqvi orders intensified action against cybercrime

■ Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi directs NCCIA to intensify action against cybercrime, speed up investigations and strengthen digital forensics, training and public awareness.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to further intensify action against cybercrime, including online financial fraud, harassment and organised cybercrime networks.

Naqvi visited the NCCIA Central Zone headquarters in Lahore, where he chaired a special meeting to review ongoing operations and investigations against cybercriminals.The meeting decided to accelerate the crackdown on online financial fraud, harassment and organised cybercrime networks. The interior minister also inspected the complaints cell, forensic laboratory and investigation wing, reviewing the system from the registration of citizens' complaints to investigations and action against suspects.

Naqvi directed officials to review pending cases and complaints on a case-by-case basis and eliminate unnecessary delays. He said citizens should not have to wait for months after filing complaints and that timely progress should be visible in every case.The interior minister also ordered measures to enhance digital forensic capabilities, use modern forensic tools and provide specialised training to investigation officers. He directed authorities to take action without discrimination against organised groups involved in online financial fraud, fake accounts, digital blackmail and online harassment.

Naqvi said an effective immediate-response mechanism should be established for financial fraud complaints so that timely coordination with relevant institutions could help secure victims' funds and improve the chances of tracing suspects.

He said traditional investigation methods alone could not counter new forms of cybercrime and stressed the need for modern technology and trained manpower. He added that the NCCIA should be transformed into a modern cyber police force capable of protecting citizens in the digital world.

Bilal Bin Saqib calls for Global South role in technology decisions

■ Saqib highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence, tokenisation and digital finance in expanding access to financial services.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Minister of State and chairman of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority, Bilal Bin Saqib, has called for countries in the Global South to play a greater role in shaping technology and financial systems rather than remaining only users of new technologies.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, Saqib made the remarks while addressing a high-level forum on social business, youth and technology held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The event brought together international leaders, young people and technology and social-business experts to discuss inclusive development and the role of technology.



He said the Global South needed to move from being a consumer of technology to becoming part of the decision-making process that determines how new technologies are developed, regulated and used.

Saqib highlighted the importance of artificial intelligence, tokenisation and digital finance in expanding access to financial services.

He said emerging economies had an opportunity to use these technologies to improve financial inclusion and widen access to capital.Saqib was appointed Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Blockchain and Crypto, with the status of a minister of state, in May 2025. The Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority was established as the country's regulator for the virtual assets sector. In 2025, Saqib also became chairman of the authority, which is responsible for developing the regulatory framework for virtual assets and related services in Pakistan.

Governor Kundi hits out at KP govt for its 'failure' to counter terrorism



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that he had already said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is not in a position to stage a long march, while noting that the Constitution contains provisions relating to Governor's Rule and an emergency.

Speaking on Dunya News programme TONIGHT with Samar Abbas, Kundi said the PTI's focus remained on Adiala Jail and D-Chowk, while claiming that terrorism had increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and that the provincial government had failed to address the situation adequately.

The governor also criticised PTI founder Imran Khan, referring to his legal status and saying that the party should approach the courts if it believes he is innocent.

On internal differences within the PTI, Kundi said Sher Afzal Marwat had filed a petition against the PTI founder and alleged that the party had not issued him a notice. He further claimed that Marwat had approached the court at the direction of former KP chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur.

Kundi alleged that some individuals had benefited financially by using the PTI founder's name, citing Junaid Akbar's reported remarks that those who had earned money in his name should now spend it.

Discussing the security situation, the governor said terrorism was increasing in the province and questioned the provincial government's approach toward talks with Afghanistan.



Students learn painting techniques at an art training stall H-9 weekly bazaar in the Federal Capital

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