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Emergency in KP possible if constitutional requirements met: Azam Tarar

■ Atta Tarar says KP govt has spent counter-terror funds on planning sit-ins | Info Minister urges PTI to choose between Pakistan and Afghanistan | Talal assails changes made to KP police law

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABD

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Monday that an emergency could be imposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa if circumstances met the requirements laid down in the Constitution."The Constitution is very clear regarding the imposition of an emergency," the law minister said.

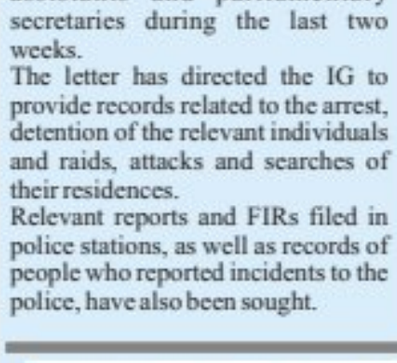
Tarar said that if circumstances arose in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa requiring such a step under the Constitution, an emergency would be imposed."If the constitutional requirements are met, then this will certainly take place," he added.

His remarks came amid intensified criticism by federal ministers of the PTI-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government over its handling of terrorism and the security situation in the province.

Earlier on Monday, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry accused the provincial government of failing



to take effective steps against terrorism. Attaullah Tarar also repeated his allegation that the PTI leadership was acting as the "B-team" of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.Addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad, the information minister urged PTI to clarify its position on Pakistan and Afghanistan amid continuing terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He alleged that the provincial government had failed to take ownership of counterterrorism operations and had not adequately supported the police.Tarar also questioned how funds provided to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for counterterrorism had been spent and said the federal government had offered modern vehicles to the provincial police, which he claimed were rejected.



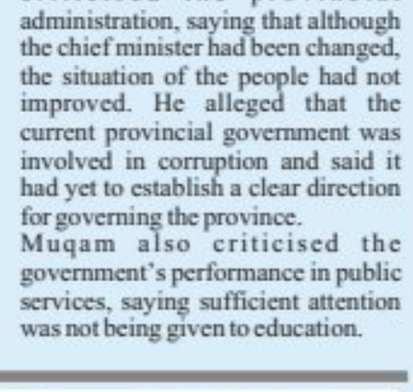
KP speaker seeks record of police actions against MPs, ministers

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati has sought records of police actions against members of the assembly, ministers and other parliamentary officials.The Provincial Assembly Secretariat has sent a letter to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa IG, seeking complete details of all incidents involving members of the assembly, ministers, advisors, special assistants and parliamentary secretaries during the last two weeks.

The letter has directed the IG to provide records related to the arrest, detention of the relevant individuals and raids, attacks and searches of their residences.

Relevant reports and FIRs filed in police stations, as well as records of people who reported incidents to the police, have also been sought.



Amir Muqam says white paper will reveal 'all facts' about KP govt

Staff Reporter
PESHAWAR

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam has said a white paper on the performance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will be issued soon, promising that it will present the facts about the provincial government.

Addressing a press conference at the Peshawar Press Club, Muqam criticised the provincial administration, saying that although the chief minister had been changed, the situation of the people had not improved. He alleged that the current provincial government was involved in corruption and said it had yet to establish a clear direction for governing the province.

Muqam also criticised the government's performance in public services, saying sufficient attention was not being given to education.



Consumers to get relief after fuel prices decrease in global market: minister

IPP President addresses workers' convention in Faisalabad where he acknowledges sacrifices of security forces

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik has said petroleum prices in Pakistan will decrease if global oil prices decline, offering potential relief to consumers.

Speaking to the media, the federal minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would not leave the people alone during difficult times. He added that the prime minister had already provided relief of Rs100 per litre to the public.

Ali Pervaiz Malik said that if the current situation continued for 10 months, the prime minister and other government officials would also contribute by reducing their privileges to provide further relief to the people.The petroleum minister further said that Pakistan would not be allowed to face bankruptcy, referring to economic challenges faced by the country under the previous government.

Commenting on the political situation, Malik said some people were under the misconception that they could march on Islamabad to secure the release of an individual. He said the state was not weak and would maintain its authority.

The minister also said that, given the prevailing circumstances, Sohail Afridi should attend the funerals of the martyrs. .

Three traffic cops martyred in Tank gun attack

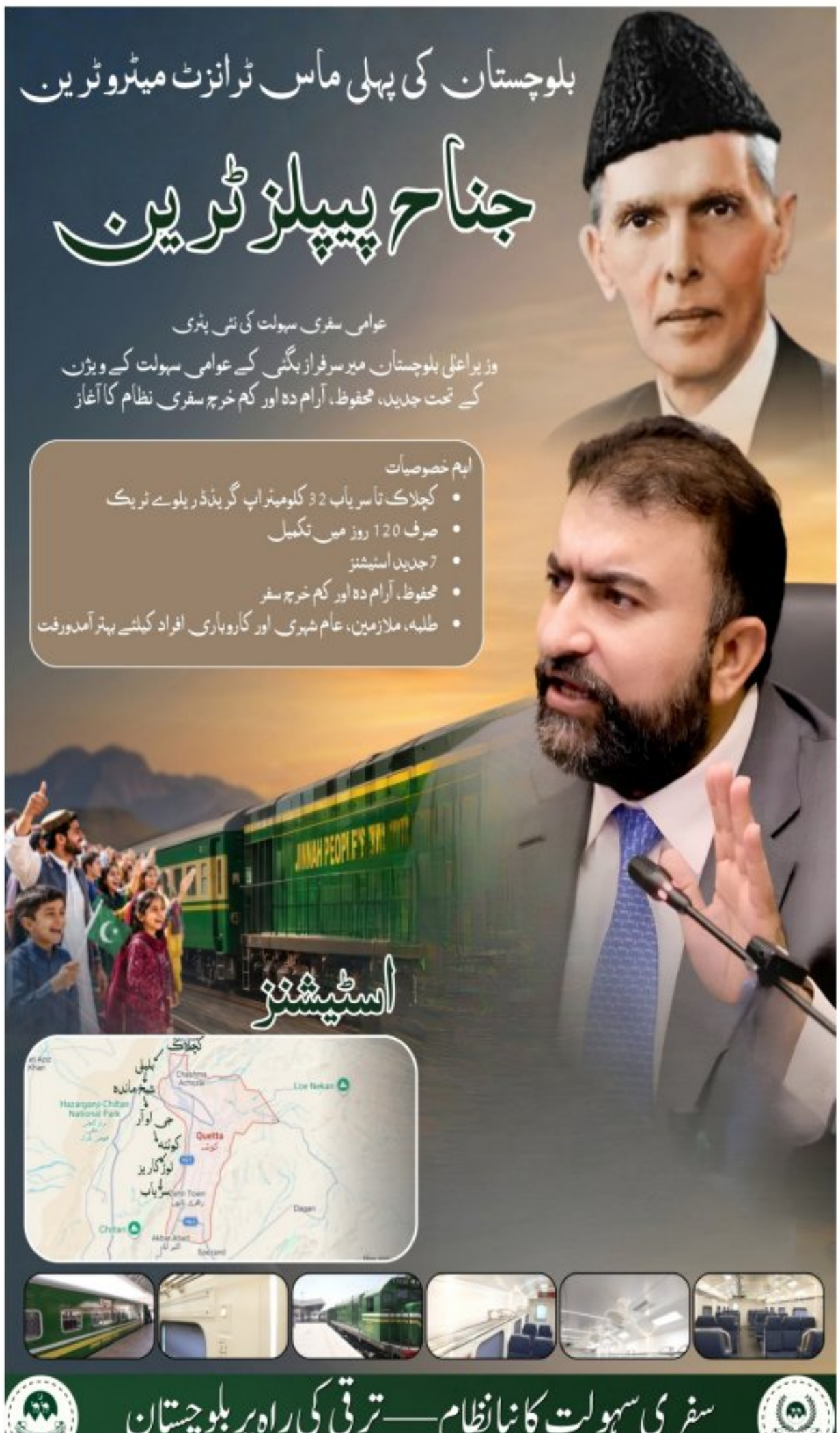
CITY REPORTER
TANK

Three traffic police personnel were martyred when terrorists opened fire on a police vehicle in Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The bodies of the slain officers were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital following the attack.

The armed attackers managed to flee the scene after the firing, while police launched a search operation in the area.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi condemned the attack and expressed grief over the deaths of the three police personnel. He paid tribute to the slain officers and offered condolences to their families.



CDF Munir briefs US delegation on challenges Pakistan faced during Afghan conflict

STAFF REPORTER
RAWALPINDI

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of National Coordinators meeting kicked off in Islamabad today.

This is the first meeting of the Council of National Coordinators (CNC) of the SCO under Pakistan's Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) for 2026–27. The meeting will continue until 30 September 2026.

The ongoing meeting is being chaired by Pakistan's National Coordinator for the SCO, Dr. M. Faisal. National Coordinators from SCO Member States, along with representatives of the SCO Secretariat, are attending the meeting.

Indian delegation is also part of this meeting, and almost after two years a delegation from India has come to Pakistan for this meeting under additional secretary MEA.



The National Coordinators are discussing a wide range of issues relating to SCO cooperation and coordination, including the programme of activities under Pakistan's Chairmanship, preparations for upcoming SCO meetings and events, and other matters on the agenda of the Organization.

As the Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) for 2026–27, Pakistan would seek to advance the Organization's objectives under the theme, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity." In this regard, Pakistan's Chairmanship would focus on promoting greater connectivity, fostering innovation.

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Supreme Court grants bail to PAEC driver in murder case

- A two-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, approved the bail application of Ayaz Mahmood.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to a driver of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in connection with a murder case,
A two-member bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, approved the bail application of Ayaz Mahmood.
The defence lawyer informed the court that the accused was neither present at the crime nor he had any role in the murder case. There was no mention of his name even in the FIR, he added.
State prosecutor said the accused helped the other accused by shifting them to a government's vehicle.
He further said the government vehicle has been withdrawn from the accused. He was in contact with other accused at the time of the murder, he added.
Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has rejected the bail application of a seminary teacher for assaulting a student.
Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel rejected the bail application of Zain Ali, case against who was registered in Taxila.
The judge ruled that the accused has been charge-sheeted and he has to prove his innocent during trial now.



Youngster are running on the Mehran Railway Bridge as the train approaches near Husenabad

Lahore police arrest two main accused over foreign girl's gang-rape

- Defence-C police on Saturday last registered a case against three unidentified men on charges of subjecting an Azeri girl to gang rape.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The police in Lahore have arrested two main accused in connection with gangrape of a foreign girl in Defence area,
The two accused, Tanveer and Mohsin, were arrested by police from Ravi Road and Sundar areas on Sunday night.
Defence-C police on Saturday last registered a case against three unidentified men on charges of subjecting an Azeri girl to gang rape.
The 20-year-old Azeri girl, Diana, was visiting Pakistan for business purposes and was residing in a house near Raiwind Road. She filed an application with the police stating that two women approached her for dinner. They went to a café where three men met them. She could identify the men and women by face.
She said the men offered her and two other women to drive and they later took her to an unidentified flat.
She said they consumed alcohol and she was also served some intoxicating material and fell unconscious.
Diana said three men allegedly gang-raped her and later locked her in the flat till 2pm. She said the suspects came back and dropped her near Ghazi Interchange and fled the scene.She said the suspects also took away her mobile phone and other luggage. She demanded action against the suspects.
Defence-C police registered a case against the three suspects and started the investigation.
Now, the police have apprehended the two main accused while they were conducting raids to arrest the third accused who was identified as Umar, sources in the police said.
The police had already detained two people including the two girls who invited the Azeri girl to dinner.

President Zardari reaffirms commitment to protect citizens' right to information

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed his commitment to protecting citizens' right to information, saying people can play a meaningful role in public life only when they have timely, credible and reliable access to information.
In his message on the International Day for Universal Access to Information, Zardari said the Constitution of Pakistan provides a clear foundation for citizens' right to information.
He said the 18th Constitutional Amendment strengthened the constitutional framework for freedom of expression and introduced Article 19-A, under which every citizen has the right to access information on all matters of public importance, subject to regulations and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.
The president said the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 provides a legal framework for access to information at the federal level. However, he said the rapid growth of digital platforms, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies has changed the way information is produced, distributed and consumed.
According to Zardari, the challenge today is not only the availability of information but also enabling citizens to distinguish reliable information from false, misleading or artificially manipulated content.

Pakistani pilot to be first foreign astronaut to board China's Tiangong space station

- Pilots Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud have spent months training at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center in Beijing for a mission that was conceived by the two countries in 2019.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Two Pakistani pilots are memorising Mandarin, spinning in centrifuge drills and learning to eat, sleep and repair equipment while weightless as a decision nears on which one will become the first foreign astronaut aboard China's Tiangong space station.
The voyage into space would be a first for the ?South Asian nation. It is part of broader cooperation with Beijing that straddles the Belt and Road Initiative and has produced Chinese-launched Pakistani satellites, a joint satellite-navigation system and a Pakistani-built rover due to fly on China's Chang'e 8 lunar mission around 2028. Pilots Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud have spent months training at the China Astronaut Research and Training Center in Beijing for a mission that was conceived by the two countries in 2019, said Amer Gilani, who ?oversees human spaceflight cooperation at Pakistan's space agency, SUPARCO.
China has not said which of the two will fly or when, but Gilani said a final astronaut selection decision is expected ?in mid-to-late October.
Whoever is chosen will not return to Pakistan before launch, setting off into space directly from training in China and returning home ?after a recovery period following the return to Earth, Gilani told Reuters in an interview.
Training includes intensive Chinese-language instruction, learning spacecraft systems, and adapting to both the microgravity of orbit and the g-forces ?of liftoff, he added.
The two men beat out roughly 20 finalists culled from an initial Pakistani pool of pilots and scientists, screened for medical fitness, psychological resilience and, according to SUPARCO's director of ?artificial intelligence Uzair Ansari, a tolerance for g-forces that few scientists possess.
"You cannot easily find scientists who are familiar with travelling and facing high-level g-forces," he said, explaining this is why the two men with backgrounds in high-speed flying were chosen.
The details shared by Gilani and Ansari are the first insight provided by SUPARCO to foreign media since the pilots were selected and deployed to China.
China's space agency did not respond to a request for comment about ?the selection process.
Once in space, the chosen pilot will carry the title of "payload specialist", which is astronaut-speak for someone whose job in orbit is running Pakistan's science experiments rather than flying ?the ship, Ansari said.

NCCIA raids call centre in Rawalpindi, arrests 61 staffers

The raid was mounted in commercial market located in Satellite Town area of Rawalpindi.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The National Cybercrime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has raided an illegal call centre in Rawalpindi on Monday and arrested 61 employees, also seizing 71 mobile phones and 155 laptops, The raid was mounted in commercial market located in Satellite Town area of Rawalpindi.The accused were involved in foreign loan recovery scheme fraud and extort money for people after intimidating them.
The NCCIA lodged a case against them and launched an investigation.
NCCIA director general has maintained that the illegal call centres are a threat to the country's credibility.
He declared that the NCCIA will continue its impartial crackdown against the elements involved in cyber fraud.



A vendor transports handmade clay pottery on a handcart through a busy street, selling traditional earthenware to local customers

Sharjeel Memon slams PTI for politics of 'agitation'

- Says entire Islamabad remained under 'siege' due to PTI, urging parties demonstrate responsibility

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon has said that Islamabad was effectively 'under siege' due to activities by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), urging political parties to demonstrate responsibility.
Speaking to the media in Karachi, Memon said the government had spent millions of rupees on the installation and subsequent removal of containers during protests. He said political parties should act responsibly, adding that members of his own leadership had also been arrested in the past, but, according to him, they did not adopt similar measures.
The Sindh minister also highlighted ongoing development work in Karachi, saying that work on University Road was almost complete. He said the Meteorological Flyover had been inaugurated and praised the project team for completing the work at a rapid pace.
Memon said transportation difficulties faced by citizens on University Road had been addressed.
He added that work on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project was also progressing, with stations and other related infrastructure being completed rapidly.

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

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
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.
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. 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.
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. this mismatch between available. 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. Women perform the same physical labour while bearing the responsibility of childcare, and multiple assessments document harassment and gender-based violence with no confidential channels to report either.
Recently, in May 2026, Punjab's Labour department held a multi-stakeholder consultation in Lahore on a proposed Minimum Wages Framework for brick-kiln workers, based on a 2025 wage notification advanced by the Bonded Labour Liberation Front and its general secretary Syeda Ghulam Fatima, who told the session that effective enforcement of minimum wage law is both a
This comes weeks after kiln workers themselves held an eight-hour sit-in at the Lahore Press Club demanding minimum-wage enforcement, bonded labour abolition, social-security and old-age-benefit registration.



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 heads held high.

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.

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.

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 Safety

Today 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.

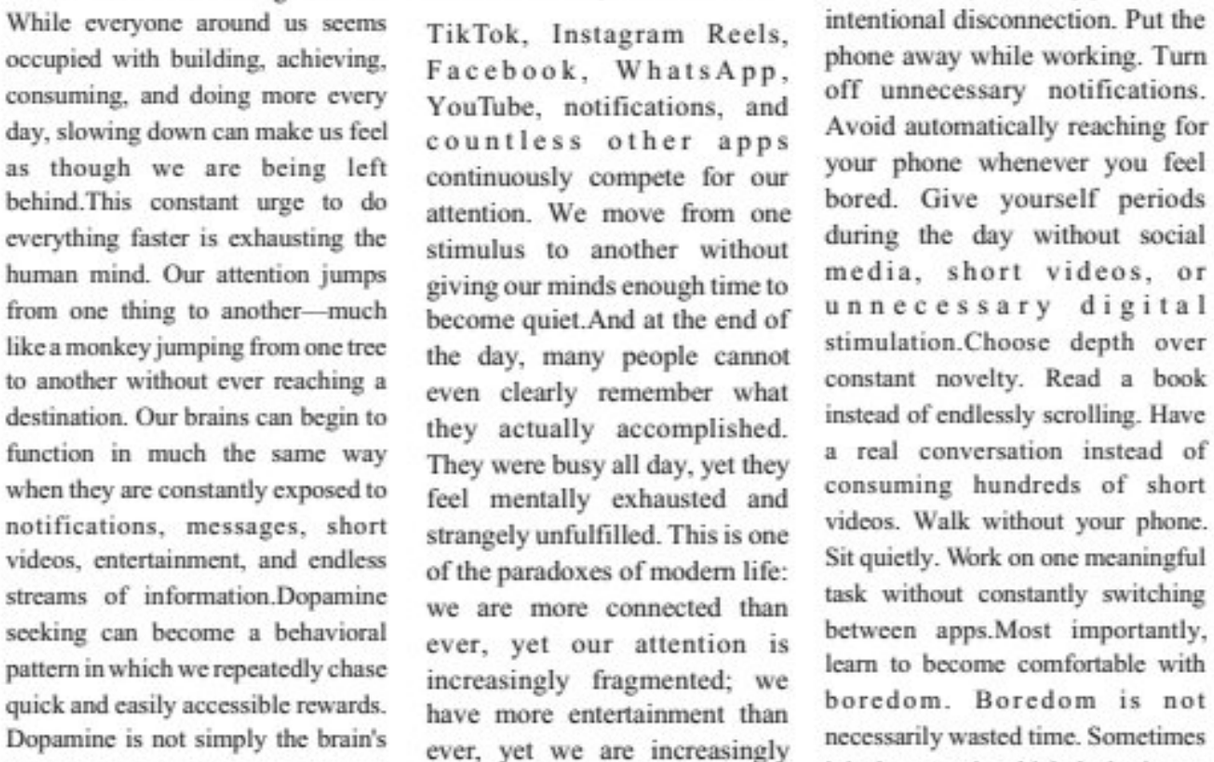


By: Dr. Kausar

Dopamine Culture and Burnout

When everything is designed to give us instant pleasure, patience starts to feel like suffering."We live in a world of constant stimulation, where rest can almost feel like falling behind. While everyone around us seems occupied with building, achieving, consuming, and doing more every day, slowing down can make us feel as though we are being left behind.This constant urge to do everything faster is exhausting the human mind. Our attention jumps from one thing to another—much like a monkey jumping from one tree to another without ever reaching a destination. Our brains can begin to function in much the same way when they are constantly exposed to notifications, messages, short videos, entertainment, and endless streams of information.Dopamine seeking can become a behavioral pattern in which we repeatedly chase quick and easily accessible rewards. Dopamine is not simply the brain's "pleasure chemical"; it plays an important role in motivation, learning, reward prediction, and anticipation. When we repeatedly seek immediate stimulation, ordinary activities that require patience and sustained effort may begin to feel less exciting by comparison.The modern world has created an environment of almost uninterrupted stimulation.

TikTok, Instagram Reels, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, notifications, and countless other apps continuously compete for our attention. We move from one stimulus to another without giving our minds enough time to become quiet.And at the end of the day, many people cannot even clearly remember what they actually accomplished. They were busy all day, yet they feel mentally exhausted and strangely unfulfilled. This is one of the paradoxes of modern life: we are more connected than ever, yet our attention is increasingly fragmented; we have more entertainment than ever, yet we are increasingly tired.So, what can we do The idea behind The Dopamine Detox is not to literally "remove dopamine" from the brain. That would be neither possible nor desirable. Instead, it encourages us to reduce our dependence on constant, instant stimulation and rebuild our ability to tolerate boredom, delay gratification, and focus.Start by creating periods of intentional disconnection. Put the phone away while working. Turn off unnecessary notifications. Avoid automatically reaching for your phone whenever you feel bored. Give yourself periods during the day without social media, short videos, or unnecessary digital stimulation.Choose depth over constant novelty. Read a book instead of endlessly scrolling. Have a real conversation instead of consuming hundreds of short videos. Walk without your phone. Sit quietly. Work on one meaningful task without constantly switching between apps.Most importantly, learn to become comfortable with boredom. Boredom is not necessarily wasted time. Sometimes it is the space in which the brain can slow down, reflect, process experiences, and recover from constant stimulation.We also need to



Vehicles wade through rainwater accumulated on PWD Road after heavy rain in the Federal Capital

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PSX opens lower as benchmark index falls over 400 points

■ Pakistan stocks opened lower on Monday, with the KSE-100 Index falling 407.67 points, or 0.24%, to 170,357.55 amid early selling pressure.



Web DESK

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened lower on Monday as selling pressure persisted amid heightened regional tensions.

The KSE-100 index declined 407.67 points, or 0.24%, to stand at 170,357.55 as compared to previous close of 170,765.22.

During early trading, the benchmark index touched a high of 171,126.52 and a low of 170,223.62.

Trading volume stood at 36,325,052 shares, according to the market data.

Meanwhile, share markets in Asian were mostly lower on Monday as oil prices popped higher again amid doubts the United States and Iran will reach a truce anytime soon, keeping bonds under pressure ahead of a week packed with economic news.

Over the weekend, US President Donald Trump rejected an Iranian proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, claiming Tehran was desperate to make a deal. Trump said talks would continue this week, though Iran shows no sign of watering down its proposals.



A roadside vendor is displaying fish to attract the customers

FBR unveils faceless tax regime with algorithm-based audit and assessment

■ The proposed framework would shift taxpayer interaction largely to electronic channels while separating audit, assessment and quality-control functions among different officers or units.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has proposed a major restructuring of Pakistan's income-tax administration by introducing a centralised, technology-driven and officer-segregated system for specified audits and assessments,

The proposed framework would shift taxpayer interaction largely to electronic channels while separating audit, assessment and quality-control functions among different officers or units.

The proposal follows the FBR's establishment of the National Faceless Centre (NFC) in Islamabad. The FBR said the new centre is intended to change how tax audits and assessments are conducted, with cases selected through a computerised, risk-based system and allocated automatically.



The draft rules are not immediately effective. They would come into force from a date subsequently notified by the FBR, with separate commencement dates possible for different classes of cases or proceedings.

Under the proposed framework, the National Faceless Centre (NFC) would conduct proceedings under Section 122E for taxpayers, income, cases, or classes of cases specifically assigned to it by the FBR.

The Centre would operate through four specialised wings:

The NFC would be headed by a Director General and could include Chief Commissioners, Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and other income-tax authorities and support staff designated by the FBR.

The proposed structure would create a distinction between officers responsible for investigating a case, determining the assessment and undertaking quality control.

Food prices rise across Pakistan as vegetables, meat and flour become costly

■ Food prices have increased in several Pakistani cities, with vegetables, beef, mutton and flour selling above notified rates in some markets, according to reported prices.



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Consumers across Pakistan are facing higher food prices as the cost of vegetables, fruits, meat and flour has increased in several major cities, adding to pressure on household budgets.In Lahore, vegetable prices remained above officially notified rates, with consumers complaining that market prices were higher despite government price lists. Onions, for instance, were officially priced at Rs195 per kilogram but were being sold for around Rs200 per kg in the market.

Tomatoes had an official rate of Rs150 per kg, while capsicum was being sold at Rs280, bitter gourd at Rs220 and cauliflower at Rs180 per kg, according to the reported market prices. The situation was also reported in Faisalabad, where meat prices were significantly higher than the notified rates. Beef was being sold for around Rs1,500 per kg, compared with an official rate of Rs1,150.

Mutton prices saw an even larger difference, reaching approximately Rs3,000 per kg in the market against the notified price of Rs2,100 per kg.

The increase in meat prices has added to the financial burden on consumers, particularly households that have already been dealing with higher prices of essential food items.

In Peshawar, the price of flour also increased. The price of a 20-kilogram bag of fine flour reportedly rose by Rs100 to Rs3,150.

Consumers in Quetta also faced higher vegetable prices. Tomatoes reportedly became Rs40 per kg more expensive, while onion prices increased by Rs20 per kg. Okra prices rose by Rs30 per kg, while peas became Rs50 per kg more expensive.

The latest increases have renewed concerns among consumers about the gap between officially notified prices and actual retail market rates.

Official price lists are generally issued by district administrations and relevant authorities to regulate the prices of essential commodities. However, enforcement remains a challenge when retailers sell goods above notified rates.

Oil heads higher as US-Iran peace talks in stalemate

● Oil prices jumped over 3% as Trump rejected Iran's peace proposal, keeping Middle East tensions high While renewed crude exports and possible US diesel curbs also influenced markets.

Web Desk

NEW DELHI

Brent crude oil rebounded more ?than 3% on Monday after US President Donald Trump rejected a peace deal from Iran to resolve their conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, keeping tensions in the Middle East elevated.

Brent crude futures rose $3.43, or 3.29%, to $107.75 a barrel at 0540 GMT, ?while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $94.55 a barrel, up $2.14, or 2.32%.

Iran announced a peace ?proposal last week at the UN General Assembly in New York, saying it ?had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators. Trump said on Saturday he rejected the plan,



?but told Axios in a phone interview on Sunday that he expected US negotiators to engage in more ?talks this week.

"The rejection has reduced hopes of an immediate breakthrough, although diplomatic efforts have not ended," said Sugandha Sachdeva, the founder of SS WealthStreet, a New Delhi-based research firm.

"For Brent futures, $120 a barrel remains the crucial resistance. As long ?as prices fail to sustain above it, a pullback remains possible, particularly if shipping improves or talks ?make progress."

Yemen's Saudi-led coalition said early on Saturday it had intercepted two ballistic missiles and two drones launched by the Iran-backed ?Houthis ?towards the kingdom.

Brent edged up 0.4% last week but WTI lost 7.9% on concerns that the US may ban diesel exports to ease record prices which could curb US refining output.

"Refined oil products remain a pressure point, with record US diesel prices intensifying inflation risks and prompting renewed debate over potential export curbs," ANZ ?analysts said in a note.

Any ?restriction on US diesel ?exports would tighten supply outside the US, with European prices reacting to the prospect of reduced American supply, they added.

Meanwhile, crude oil exports from key Middle East ?producers rebounded in September to 12.8 million barrels per day, the highest since ?the war ?started in February, preliminary data from Kpler showed on Monday, as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates boosted exports.

The rebound came following a recovery in shipments via the Strait of Hormuz, which were set to hit ?about 7.4 ?million bpd this month, the data showed, as Saudi Arabia ?diverted exports from the Red Sea port of Yanbu to its eastern Ras Tanura port following attacks that damaged its East-West pipeline.

Pakistan, IMF to begin talks to unlock $1.2bn financing

■ Pakistan and the IMF are set to begin reviews of the $7bn EFF and RSF programmes, with successful completion expected to unlock about $1.2bn in financing.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Formal negotiations between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff mission are set to begin (Monday) for the fourth review of the $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the third review of the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

The IMF mission, led by Iva Petrova, is expected to stay in Pakistan for nearly two weeks, until the first week of October, to conduct both reviews.

Pakistan is currently under a 37-month IMF programme aimed at stabilising the economy through fiscal discipline, structural reforms and measures to support long-term growth.

Upon successful completion of the reviews, Pakistan will be eligible for about $1 billion under the EFF and another $200 million under the RSF, bringing the total expected financing to $1.2 billion by the end of November or early December.

The discussions will cover Pakistan's economic performance and programme targets based on data up to June 30. Pakistani authorities will brief the IMF on the Sovereign Wealth Fund and efforts to reduce circular debt, while also explaining the reasons for not deregulating the sugar sector.

The IMF will also be briefed on the current account deficit, primary surplus, foreign exchange reserves and the exchange rate. Talks with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will focus on expanding the tax base and implementing reforms.

IMF to provide additional $3.6bn to Pakistan over next 14 months

The Ministry of Energy will brief the IMF



on circular debt and reforms, while the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will provide updates on measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

The IMF will also hold talks with the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments on improving tax and non-tax revenue collection, including measures to enhance agricultural tax collection.

Meanwhile, Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Schehzad clarified that the government was not purchasing aircraft for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), which was privatised through an auction last year.

He said the government had neither announced any sovereign guarantee for a taxpayer-funded loan to purchase aircraft for PIA nor was it buying aircraft for the privatised airline.The clarification came after claims on social media that a minister was negotiating sovereign-linked financing for PIA jets.

The claims followed a meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and US Export-Import Bank Chairman John Jovanovich on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Finance Ministry said the meeting covered the Reko Diq mining project and financing opportunities for procuring aircraft for PIA. Aurangzeb had also discussed PIA's interest in Boeing 787 Dreamliners and sought support for a financing package covering aircraft and engines.

Schehzad said US Exim financing generally supports US exports and can involve asset-backed aircraft financing, meaning a sovereign guarantee is not automatically required.

He added that discussions with US Exim were not limited to PIA and covered potential financing in aviation, refinery upgrades and Reko Diq as part of broader Pakistan-US economic engagement.

Scanned with CamScanner

Netanyahu visited Abu Dhabi says Israeli official

■ Netanyahu, who has denied the report and threatened legal action against the newspaper, is facing a tough reelection campaign.



Web Desk

Abu Dhabi

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Abu Dhabi and met with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Sunday, a senior Israeli official told Reuters. There was no immediate comment from Netanyahu's office and the UAE's foreign ministry.The visit comes after Israeli newspaper Haaretz this month reported that Sheikh Mohamed ?had warned Netanyahu a week and a half before October 7, 2023 ?that Hamas was planning a major operation against Israel. The warning ?was not passed to Israeli intelligence agencies or the military, Haaretz reported. Netanyahu, ?who has denied the report and threatened legal action against the newspaper, is ?facing a tough reelection campaign. Opposition leaders have accused the prime minister of bearing responsibility for security failures that preceded Hamas' October 7 attack.

The UAE has declined to comment on the ?Haaretz report but has said that UAE and Israel have maintained "open and direct ?lines of communication" since establishing diplomatic relations in 2020. A UAE source previously told Reuters ?that ?the UAE discusses security matters with countries through the "relevant entities," but not "at the level of national leaders."

Earlier this year, the UAE denied that President Sheikh Mohamed met with Netanyahu after the Israeli prime minister's office said in May that Netanyahu ?had "secretly visited" the Gulf ?country and met ?with the president.

A source familiar with the meeting said at the time that Netanyahu and Sheikh Mohammed met in ?Al-Ain, an oasis city in Abu Dhabi along the country's ?border with ?Oman, on March 26.



Indonesia ferry death toll hits 66 as search enters 16th day

■ Indonesia ferry disaster death toll rises to 66 as divers face leaking fuel, unstable structures and sharp debris while searching for 69 missing passengers on the 16th day.

WEB DESK

JAKARTA

The death toll from an Indonesian ship that capsized earlier this month rose to 66 as of Monday, as divers braved leaking fuel and dangerously unsound structures to find the 69 passengers still ?missing on the 16th day of the search.

The Virgo Transport 8 ferry was carrying 243 people, including 30 crew members and an unknown number of vehicles, when it capsized ?in bad weather early on September 13 during a voyage from ?Surabaya in East Java to Banjarmasin in South Kalimantan.

Indonesia relies ?on ferries to connect its 17,000 islands, with sea travel cheaper and ?more accessible than flying, but there have been numerous accidents.

Divers were navigating ?through unstable debris on the 16th day of the search, Hardiansyah Putra, a senior official from the country's search and rescue agency, said on Monday, adding that they would ?aim to find the missing passengers in the cabins. The divers were limited ?to a maximum depth of 27 metres, he added.

From the Java Sea where the ?ship ?sank, rescuers were expected to airlift some recovered bodies using a helicopter on Monday, senior agency official I Putu Sudayana said on Sunday.

Dozens of divers swam through the 4,277-ton ship to find the missing people, trying to handle the unsound ?structures, the side to ?side tilting and ?the dangerously sharp objects scattered throughout the vessel, Putu said, adding that dense gas concentrations and leaking fuel posed further health hazards.

"Because ?of these reasons, the divers weren't able to get ?into the ?compartments," he said, adding that the ship's operator needs to right the ship and bring it to the surface.

The high-risk challenges facing the divers have slowed ?the ?progress of the search, adding to the anguish ?for distraught friends and family.

The current death toll stands at 66 people, with 108 survivors and ?69 still missing, agency figures show.



Oil prices climb as US-Iran stalemate persists

Web DESK

TEHRAN

Oil prices rebound more than 1 per cent after US President Donald Trump rejected a peace deal from Iran to resolve their conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Reuters reports.

Brent crude futures rise $1.82, or 1.74pc, to $106.14 a barrel by 2202 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $93.55 a barrel, up $1.14, or 1.23pc.

Meanwhile, crude oil exports from key Middle East producers rebounded in September to 12.8 million barrels per day, the highest since the US-Israeli war with Iran started in February, data from Kpler shows, as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) boosted exports, according to Reuters.

The rebound came following a recovery in exports via the Strait of Hormuz, which were set to hit about 7.4m bpd this month, as Saudi Arabia diverted oil exports from the Red Sea port of Yanbu following attacks that damaged its East-West pipeline, the preliminary data shows.

While exports from the region — which includes Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Iran — have rebounded, they were still about 6m bpd down from 18.8m bpd in February, according to Kpler.

The region's top exporter Saudi Arabia was on track to ship about 5.4m bpd this month, rebounding from 2.446m bpd in August, the data shows.

September shipments from the Ras Tanura port in the Gulf jumped to about 3.6m bpd, from 929,000m bpd in August, but still lower than the 6.411m bpd recorded in February, according to the data.

President Trump said Sunday that he expects talks with Iran to resume in the coming week, despite his rejection of a truce proposal put forward by Tehran.

Iranian officials brought with them to the UN General Assembly in New York a plan for a seven-day truce followed by the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz shipping channel.

Trump dismissed the plan and has mused on resuming full-scale air strikes on Iranian targets, but he told the news platform Axios that he expects negotiations to resume.

South Korea demands apology from Ukraine over disclosure of North Korean PoW transfer

WEB DESK

SEOUL



South Korea's presidential office ?demanded an official explanation and apology from Ukraine, accusing Kyiv of disclosing the transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war to South Korea and then falsely denying that the two sides had agreed to keep the move confidential.

"The presidential office expresses strong regret over Ukraine's unilateral disclosure and ?its subsequent false announcement that there had not been a non-disclosure agreement," Seong Ghi-hong, senior presidential secretary for public ?relations, said in a statement released on Sunday.

He said the government was reviewing additional measures over the issue if necessary.

Seong said Ukraine had repeatedly discussed the prisoners' transfer with Seoul through various channels and had requested ?secrecy, arguing that public disclosure could trigger domestic criticism that Kyiv had given up an opportunity to exchange the soldiers for ?Ukrainian prisoners.

German security agencies face dilemma after victories for far right and far left

■ Germany debates restricting sensitive intelligence-sharing as far-right AfD and far-left Left Party gains in state elections raise concerns over potential leaks to Russia and criminal groups.

WEB DESK

BERLIN



This month's victories for far-right and far-left parties in German state elections have intensified official debate over whether security authorities can restrict secret information that might be passed on to Russia or criminal groups.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which came close to winning ?an absolute majority in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt on September 6, and the far-left Left Party, which came first in the capital Berlin on September 20, could both pose ?risks, senior figures in the ruling coalition say.

In Germany's federal system, states have their own domestic intelligence agencies under local government control, which share information with each other and operate with the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV).

Politicians from rival parties and former security officials have expressed fears that if the agencies come under the authority of ministers from the far right or far left, confidential information could leak either to Moscow or, in the case of Berlin, to ?groups investigated over suspicions of organized crime links.

"This concerns information relating to organised crime – that would be an issue in Berlin," said Alexander Hoffmann, head of the parliamentary group of the ?Christian Social Union (CSU), the Bavarian sister party of Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Christian Democrats (CDU). "And it's about issues concerning Russia – that would be Saxony-Anhalt," he said.

The AfD rejects ?accusations from rival parties that it is effectively allied to Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying that it seeks only to avoid war .

Iran's demands over the Strait of Hormuz would set a dangerous precedent, Rubio warns Asian leaders

■ U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned Asian leaders Wednesday that Iran's demand to control and collect tolls in the Strait of Hormuz would threaten the world's economy.

WEB DESK

BERLIN

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said his decision to meet Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov was driven by security concerns and to address a growing food-export crisis.

Lavrov and Wadephul met in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday, marking the first such talks since before Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Wadephul said Russia's alleged deployment of armed drones at Leipzig airport had crossed a line and made it necessary to communicate directly that Germany was prepared to defend itself.

"Russia ?has to understand that we are ready to resist and to defend ourselves," Wadephul said in an interview with ARD.

The meeting also came amid diplomatic efforts to revive Russia and Ukraine's Black Sea grain and energy exports that have been sharply curtailed by attacks on vessels and port infrastructure.

"A number of colleagues, especially from the Global South, asked me to speak with Russia," Wadephul said, citing this as the second reason for the talks.

"There is a threat of famine there, and that is why I am advocating for a ceasefire in the Black Sea," he added.

Relations between Moscow and Berlin, a close ally of Ukraine, have been frozen since the Russian invasion and Wadephul said this diplomatic silence had been necessary.

"But now the time had come when I believed we needed to talk," Wadephul said.



In a sign of the continued frostiness, Lavrov told a news conference that he had learned nothing new from his German counterpart that Berlin had not already said publicly.

"I told him that frankly ... you could just have called me and said: 'read my statement'," Lavrov said.

Wadephul responded by saying that was how someone reacts when ?they have no arguments and are in a rather weak position.

"Russia cannot explain to the world why it is continuing this war," Wadephul said, adding: "It is senseless, it costs thousands of lives."

Scanned with CamScanner

Mahira Khan Celebrates 15 Years of Humsafar

■ Fifteen Years On, Mahira Khan Celebrates Humsafar's Lasting Legacy



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Fifteen years after its television debut, the iconic Pakistani drama Humsafar continues to occupy a special place in the hearts of audiences, with actress Mahira Khan marking the milestone with an emotional tribute to the drama, her character Khirad and the millions of viewers who supported her throughout her career.Taking to social media, Mahira reflected on the remarkable journey that began with Humsafar and has since taken her through numerous memorable characters and projects. Looking back at the past 15 years, the actress described the period as a journey filled with love, storytelling and countless characters that have shaped her career.For Mahira, the anniversary carries a particularly personal significance. Her portrayal of Khirad in Humsafar became one of the defining performances of her early career and introduced her to a wider television audience. The character remains closely associated with the actress, even as she has gone on to take on a diverse range of roles across television and film.In her anniversary message, Mahira also highlighted a special coincidence involving her latest work. She pointed out that Mitti De Baway aired on the same day that Humsafar premiered 15 years ago, creating an unexpected connection between the beginning of one important chapter of her career and her work today.The actress used the occasion to express her gratitude to her loyal fans, affectionately referring to them as her "Humsafars." She thanked them for remaining with her throughout the different stages of her professional journey and for continuing to support the characters and stories she has brought to the screen over the years.Based on the novel by acclaimed writer Farhat Ishtiaq, Humsafar starred Mahira Khan opposite Fawad Khan. The drama quickly became one of the most talked-about Pakistani television productions of its time and developed a dedicated following both in Pakistan and among international audiences.At the heart of the story were Khirad and Ashar, whose complicated relationship became the emotional centre of the drama.

'You both actually shook the world', Bushra Ansari praises Ahsan Khan and Urwa Hocane



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Veteran Pakistani actress Bushra Ansari has showered praise on Urwa Hocane and Ahsan Khan for their powerful performances in the finale of drama serial 'Aap Ki Izzat', while also applauding writer Umera Ahmed for presenting a refreshing take on relationships.Taking to Instagram, the veteran actress shared a post featuring Ahsan and Urwa from the finale episode and lauded the actors for bringing their respective characters to life with remarkable depth and conviction.Praising the duo, Bushra wrote, "What a brilliant performance by Ahsan Khan and Urwa Hocane. You both actually shook the world and showed when artists get a good script, it really transforms the real person into the character they are playing."She went on to express her admiration for Urwa and Ahsan in her signature heartfelt style, writing, "Urwa main sadqy! Ahsan main wari!"Bushra also reserved special praise for acclaimed writer Umera Ahmed, applauding the way she portrayed a relationship that moves beyond conventional expectations and male ego.
"Umera Ahmed, I loved the new move you showed about a beautiful relationship without male ego," she wrote, adding, "Aap Ki Izzat made us proud again."

One banana a day safe, beneficial for most healthy people: Experts

Web Desk

KARACHI



The nutrition experts have said that eating one banana a day is safe and beneficial for most healthy people, and may support heart and digestive health while helping people feel fuller as part of a balanced diet.
Some people avoid eating bananas daily because they believe the fruit contains too much sugar, while others choose it as a nutrient-rich snack.
According to Prevention, nutrition experts said bananas are rich in important nutrients, including potassium, magnesium, fibre and vitamin B6. They can also help meet daily fruit recommendations without causing weight gain or high blood sugar in most people when eaten in moderation.
Bananas contain natural sugars, but their fibre content helps slow the absorption of sugar. People with diabetes or those monitoring their blood sugar may benefit from eating a banana with a source of protein or healthy fat, such as yoghurt or a handful of nuts, to help reduce a rapid rise in glucose after eating.

How general anaesthesia switches off consciousness remains a mystery

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



General anaesthesia has transformed modern medicine by allowing doctors to perform complex and painful surgeries without patients experiencing conscious awareness of the procedure.
Yet despite its widespread use, scientists still do not fully understand how anaesthetic drugs cause the brain to lose consciousness.
The mystery is now becoming an important area of neuroscience research, with scientists studying anaesthesia to better understand one of the brain's biggest unanswered questions: how does consciousness arise in the first place?
How anaesthesia changed surgery
Before modern anaesthesia, patients often had to remain conscious during extremely painful operations.
In 1797, British naval commander Admiral Horatio Nelson underwent an amputation of his right arm. Historical accounts say he was given a drink of rum rather than a modern anaesthetic before the procedure.
The introduction of general anaesthesia in the 1840s transformed surgery, allowing patients to undergo procedures without experiencing the full pain and awareness associated with them.

Rehana Aftab Disowns Tapish Finale, Blames Unauthorized Changes

■ Pakistani screenwriter Rehana Aftab Distances Herself From Controversial Tapish Drama Finale

Web desk

ISLAMBAD



Pakistani screenwriter Rehana Aftab has publicly distanced herself from the controversial ending of drama serial Tapish, saying the fate given to antagonist Shahzer Sultan was not part of her original script.
Taking to social media, Rehana expressed frustration over what she described as unauthorized creative alterations to a writer's work. She questioned the practice of changing a storyline after a writer has completed the dialogues and scenes.
In a strongly worded post, Rehana said that those who wish to determine how a drama ends should write their own scripts instead of making changes to a writer's work.
She also specifically rejected responsibility for Shahzer Sultan's suicide, reiterating that the antagonist's death had nothing to do with her writing.
The controversy emerged after Tapish concluded with Shahzer Sultan, played by Muneeb Butt, taking his own life after being rejected by Shifa, portrayed by Laiba Khan.
The ending sparked considerable discussion among viewers, with some criticizing the abrupt conclusion of Shahzer's storyline. They argued that ending the antagonist's arc through suicide weakened the narrative and did not provide a more natural resolution to the consequences of his actions.
Other viewers interpreted the ending differently, suggesting that Shahzer's downfall represented a form of poetic justice after the harm he had inflicted on Shifa throughout the drama.

Sajal Aly sends powerful message on women's interviews after Parishae controversy

■ "Maybe it's time we start asking women better questions, questions about their work, their creativity, their passions, their journeys,

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani superstar Sajal Aly has seemingly joined the conversation surrounding the recent Nadia Khan-Parishae Adnan controversy, calling for a change in the way women are questioned and discussed in the public sphere.
Taking to her Instagram handle, the Zard Patton Ka Bunn actress shared a powerful note urging society, media personalities and interviewers to focus more on women's achievements, creativity and ambitions rather than their physical appearance or clothing choices.
"Maybe it's time we start asking women better questions, questions about their work, their creativity, their passions, their journeys, and the things they do that inspire others!!! instead of constantly questioning how they look or what they choose to wear. There's so much more to a woman than that," the note read.
Although Sajal did not directly mention anyone by name, the timing of her message has drawn attention in the wake of the recent controversy surrounding actress and fitness enthusiast Parishae Adnan and host Nadia Khan.
The debate erupted after questions about Parisheh's gym attire and how her parents respond to her clothing choices became a talking point from an interview. The exchange subsequently triggered reactions from several entertainment personalities and social media users.
Sajal's message appeared to shift the focus towards the larger issue of how women are represented during interviews, particularly when questions about their appearance, outfits, relationships or personal choices overshadow their professional achievements.
The actress further illustrated her message through a series of cartoon stickers featuring women in different professional and athletic roles. The visuals included a doctor or scientist, a fitness enthusiast lifting weights, a film director holding a clapperboard and women cycling, highlighting the diverse identities and accomplishments women can have beyond their appearance.
Adding an uplifting touch to the Instagram Story, Sajal also featured the track 'Umeed'by Hasan Raheem, Izzchughtai and Umair, reinforcing the hopeful tone of her message.



Artists performing in a Sindhi drama "Hojamalo" presented jointly by the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and Larkana during the Sindh Theatre Festival 2026 at Z.A. Bhutto Open-Air Theatre Arts Council Larkana

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Pakistan beat Oman 7-2 to reach Asian Games hockey semi-finals

● Green Shirts to face arch-rival India in semi-final on October 1

SPORTS DESK
ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Storm Into Asian Games Hockey Semi-F a commanding performance in the men's hockey quarter-final, defeatinginals, Advance in Cricket as Rain Intervenes

Pakistan produced a commanding performance in the men's hockey quarter-final, defeating Oman 7–2 at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena to book their place in the semi-finals of the 2026 Asian Games.

The Green Shirts entered the knockout stage after finishing second in Pool B with 12 points, behind Malaysia, who topped the group with 15 points. Pakistan had won four of their five pool matches, with their only defeat coming against Malaysia.

Pakistan also demonstrated considerable attacking strength during the group stage, scoring 28 goals and conceding just eight across their five matches.

Pakistan started the quarter-final strongly and immediately put pressure on Oman. The team went into the interval with Pakistan's attack. Sufyan Khan also made a major contribution with a 2–1 lead, before taking control of the contest in the second half.

Rana Waheed was the standout performer, completing a hat-trick to lead Pakistan's attack. Sufyan Khan also made a major contribution with two goals, while Ghazanfar Ali and Mohammad Imad added one goal each. The final score of expected to be one of the most closely followed fixtures of the tournament, came without a ball being bowled in abandoned because of rain. With the weather preventing play, Pakistan advanced on the basis of their campaign at the Games to an end, while Pakistan moved into the semi-final 7–2 underlined Pakistan's dominance and secured their progression to the last four.

Pakistan will now face their long-time regional rivals India in the hockey semi-final on October 1.

The meeting is expected to be one of the most closely followed fixtures of the tournament, with both sides competing for a place in the Asian Games final.

Pakistan also reach cricket semi-finals

Pakistan's men's cricket team also secured a place in the Asian Games semi-finals, although their progression came without a ball being bowled in their quarter-final.

Pakistan's knockout fixture against Hong Kong, China, in Nisshin, Japan, was abandoned because of rain. With the weather preventing play, Pakistan advanced on the basis of their higher ranking.The result brought Hong Kong's campaign at the Games to an end, while Pakistan moved into the semi-final without having to complete the quarter-final. India also advance after rain Rain also affected the other quarter-final involving India and Afghanistan.



Pakistan batting star Fakhar Zaman joins Abu Dhabi T10 team

Web Desk
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan star Fakhar Zaman has joined new franchise United Tigers for the 2026 Abu Dhabi T10. United Tigers announced that the 36-year-old will be their icon player for the upcoming season.

"United Tigers have secured the experienced Fakhar Zaman as their icon for the 2026 Abu Dhabi T10," the franchise and league announced on social media.

Fakhar brings plenty of experience to the new team. The aggressive left-hander has represented Pakistan in three Tests, 92 ODIs and 120 T20Is and has also played franchise cricket around the world.

His career has taken him to competitions including the Pakistan Super League, ILT20, Caribbean Premier League, Big Bash League, Lanka Premier League, Bangladesh Premier League and England's Vitality Blast. Fakhar has played 340 T20 matches, scoring 8,978 runs with four centuries and 61 fifties.

The Abu Dhabi T10 has attracted some of the biggest names in cricket over the years, with Chris Gayle, Shahid Afridi, Andre Russell and Kieron Pollard among the stars to have featured in the competition.

The 2026 edition will feature eight teams and will be played at Zayed Cricket Stadium from November 7 to 20.

US roar back to beat Internationals for 11th consecutive Presidents Cup win

● Jacob Bridgeman sealed the United States' 17-13 Presidents Cup victory over the International Team, securing an 11th straight title after a dramatic final-day comeback near Chicago.

Sports Desk
MONTREAL



Jacob Bridgeman clinched the winning point as the United States rallied to beat the International Team 17-13 and retain the Presidents Cup near Chicago .

Bridgeman beat Australia's Min Woo Lee 1-up to give the Americans the 15-1/2 points required to secure the trophy, completing a final-day turnaround after the US began Sunday trailing 10-1/2 to 7-1/2.

The victory was the United States' 11th consecutive Presidents Cup title. The Americans improved their overall record in the biennial team event against an International side drawn ?from outside Europe to 14-1-1.

The US needed eight points from 12 singles matches and received wins from Cameron Young, Justin Thomas, ?Scottie Scheffler, Chris Gotterup, Collin Morikawa, Patrick Cantlay and Jackson Koivun before Bridgeman delivered the decisive point in his ?tournament debut.

"I saw a bunch of guys who didn't want to quit on each other," US team captain Brandt ?Snedeker said.

"I saw the best golfers in the world come out here on a mission... I'm just so damn proud."

Bridgeman said the emotions he ?had kept in check throughout the day spilled out after he sank the decisive 3-foot putt at Medinah Country Club's No. 3 Course outside Chicago.

"To let it out on the last hole was pretty sweet," he said.

Xander Schauffele later won his match and Russell Henley halved his, extending the final margin to four points.

The Internationals had ?been in position to claim their first outright Presidents Cup victory since 1998, and early singles wins by South Koreans Tom Kim and ?Sungjae Im moved them within striking distance of the title.

But the Americans took control as the day wore on, while the International side struggled on the greens.

Cantlay provided one of the defining moments when he holed a 57-foot putt from off the 16th green in his match against Australia's Adam Scott. Cantlay pumped his fist as the home crowd erupted into chants of "USA! USA!" before he closed out the match on the next hole.

Morikawa then won a tight, back-and-forth match against Japan's Hideki Matsuyama to put the United States ahead 13-1/2 to 12-1/2.

Koivun, 21, beat South Korea's Si Woo ?Kim to move the Americans within ?a point of victory before ?Bridgeman sealed the comeback.

"It has been such a cool learning experience," said Koivun, who went undefeated in his Presidents Cup debut.



Cricket Australia chair steps down after BBL backlash

Web Desk
ISLAMABAD

Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird announced he was standing down on Monday amid a backlash over the partial privatisation of the Big Bash Twenty20 competition. Domestic body Cricket NSW withdrew support for Baird after Cricket Australia forged ahead with the sale of the struggling Melbourne Renegades franchise.

"After much consideration I have decided to stand down as CA Chair and Director," Bard said in a statement. "I believe Australian cricket continues to be well lead by the CA Board."

Baird will leave the role after Cricket Australia's annual meeting in late October.

Cricket Australia has named former Test opener David Boon as Baird's interim replacement.

Renowned for his bushy moustache, Boon is something of a cult figure in Australian cricketing circles.Boon's teammates once claimed he downed 52 cans of beer on a flight between Australia and England in the late 1980s.

Following his playing career, Boon has held positions as a national team selector and state cricket administrator.

Ireland beat Israel but no handshakes due to war in Gaza

SPORTS Desk
ISLAMABAD

Ireland beat Israel 3-0 in a Nations League clash sombre atmosphere that saw the Irish players wear black armbands over the war in Gaza.

Ireland's players also bowed their heads as the Israeli national anthem was played at the near-empty Debrecen stadium in Hungary.

The teams skipped the traditional pre-match handshakes and did not exchange pennants either.

Troy Parrott made a heart sign with his hands after opening the scoring on 14 minutes, while Jack Moylan kissed the Irish badge on his jersey and his black armband after netting the third goal 25 minutes in.Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar accused Ireland of being "on the wrong side of history" over the players' actions.

In a lengthy post on X, Saar referenced the Irish team of 1939 giving the Nazi salute ahead of a match against Germany in Bremen.

He also referred to Irish neutrality during the Second World War and the condolences offered by then-prime minister Eaemon de Valera to the German representative in Dublin following Adolf Hitler's death."Almost 90 years have passed. Ireland's unique talent for finding itself on the wrong side of history remains intact," he added.

The game, in which Israel were the nominal hosts, had been in doubt earlier in the week until Ireland's players voted overwhelmingly to fulfil the fixture, despite pressure from back home to boycott the match.

Only one player, goalkeeper Gavin Buzunu, pulled out, saying "it would be wrong to participate" in either this match or the return fixture in Serbia on October 4 due to the "killing of innocent people". The Irish federation did not reserve any tickets for fans to attend the match and public broadcaster RTE was due to show it without commentary.



Stunned McNulty wins 'miracle' road race world title

■ A shocked Brandon McNulty became the first American in 33 years to win the men's cycling road race world title as he stunned the favourites in Montreal on Sunday.

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD



A shocked Brandon McNulty became the first American in 33 years to win the men's cycling road race world title as he stunned the favourites in Montreal .

The 28-year-old broke clear with 32km left on the Canadian street circuit and held off a disorganised chase to win by 13 seconds ahead of Australian Michael Matthews, with former winner Mathieu van der Poel in third.

"Honestly I don't know. Really this is, I don't know," said McNulty.

"I'm really at a loss. Until the last 100 metres I really didn't even believe it. I was so tired."

The last American man to wear the coveted rainbow jersey was Lance Armstrong in 1993, six years before he began his tainted rein at the Tour de France.

"I mean we talked about it, I made some jokes to my wife," said McNulty about whether or not he had ever thought he could challenge for the victory.

"I knew something could happen, but it would take a miracle, and I guess miracles happened."

McNulty succeeds his UAE Emirates-XRG team-mate Tadej Pogacar after launching an opportunistic move just after a four-man breakaway which included Van der Poel was caught following an acceleration by one of the pre-race favourites, Isaac Del Toro. A succession of chase groups ebbed and flowed behind him, with Briton Tom Pidcock, who finished seventh, and Irishman Ben Healy particularly aggressive, but each time the riders failed to fully cooperate.

BUITEMS
Quality & Excellence in Education
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TENDER NOTICE

Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUITEMS) intends to invite bids from manufacturers/authorized distributors/suppliers/contractors registered with Taxation Departments (Active Taxpayers), for the following purchase:

Tender Title	Tender Submission	Tender Opening
Supply & Installation of Swimming Pool Heating System, Takatu Campus, BUITEMS.	15-10-2026 (03:00 PM)	15-10-2026 (03:30 PM)

1. Tender documents can be obtained from the Deputy Director Procurement on payment of Rs.1,500/- (non-refundable) in the form of Bank Challan on company's name/P.O or D.D in favor of the Director Procurement – BUITEMS (courier charges at Rs.300/- for out-station firms shall also be included in addition to the tender document fee if tender documents are required in hard copy.) Tender documents are also available on PPRA website & BUITEMS Website, www.buitms.edu.pk
2. Single Stage – Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure will be followed.
3. Pre-bidding Meeting would be on 06-10-2026.
4. Sealed bids are required to be submitted by the due date at the Directorate of Procurement, BUITEMS Airport Road, Baleli – Quetta.
5. Sealed bids must be supported with earnest money @ 2% of the total bid value, in the form of C.D.R/D.D/P.O/Banker's Cheque in favor of the Director Procurement – BUITEMS.
6. University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids under relevant PPRA Rules.
7. Sealed envelopes must clearly state the Tender Title.

DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT
Balochistan University of Information Technology
Engineering & Management Sciences (BUITEMS)
Takatu Campus, Airport Road, Baleli - Quetta.
Phone: 081-2899911 Ext: 680, 686
URL: www.buitms.edu.pk,
E-mail: procurements@buitms.edu.pk

PID(Q)06/26



Pakistan to play Asian Games cricket semi-final

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Heavy rain forced the first quarter-final of the men's cricket Asian Games 2026 between Pakistan and Hong Kong to be abandoned on Monday morning, with no ball bowled Under the tournament's playing conditions, Pakistan will advance to the semi-finals by virtue of ranking higher than Hong Kong in the ICC rankings and will play the winner of the fourth quarter-final between Bangladesh and Malaysia on Thursday.

Play was called off at the time of the toss because of incessant showers in Nisshin throughout the day. The broadcast showed a large part of the ground under covers as the heavy rain continued to pour at the venue.While Pakistan was one of the four seeded teams, the others being India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, to directly qualify for the quarter-finals, Hong Kong had made it to the quarter-finals by finishing second in the three-team Group B after beating Malaysia by eight wickets and losing to Oman by 41 runs.

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Senate Functional Committee raises questions over transfer of devolved powers to provinces

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Senate Functional Committee on Devolution has expressed concern over the non-holding of meetings of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) and questioned the federal government's continued control over matters devolved to the provinces under the 18th Amendment, The meeting, chaired by Senator Zameer Hussain Ghumro, reviewed the implementation of the devolution process and the status of 17 ministries abolished in 2011.

Ghumro said the Cabinet Division had issued a notification in 2011 for abolishing 17 ministries, adding that the Senate and the CCI were established under the 1973 Constitution. He said the CCI was as important as the federal cabinet and warned that failure to give due importance to the constitutional body amounted to a violation of the Constitution.

The committee also discussed the federal government's expenditures on matters relating to the 17 abolished ministries over the past 15 years. The subcommittee directed the Auditor General of Pakistan to provide details within seven days regarding expenditures incurred by the federal government on provincial matters.

FinMin Aurangzeb's US Exim talks covered financing for Boeing aircraft, says adviser

● Schehzad clarifies govt facilitating PIA's access to financing, but will not fund aircraft purchases

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb discussed potential US Export-Import (Exim) Bank financing for Boeing aircraft for privatised PIA, refinery upgrades and Reko Diq, a copper and gold mining project in Balochistan, his adviser Khurram Schehzad said in a post on X Schehzad said the government was helping Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) access financing and suppliers, but was not buying aircraft and had announced no sovereign guarantee or taxpayer-funded loan.

The national airline was privatised after an Arif Habib-led consortium won a 75% stake in the national flag carrier with a Rs135 billion bid at an auction held on December 23, 2025. The bid was above the government's reference price of Rs100 billion.

The transaction documents were signed on January 29, 2026, while management control of PIA was transferred to the investor consortium following the first financial closing on June 29, 2026.

The consortium committed a total investment of Rs180 billion, including Rs55 billion for the government and Rs125 billion in fresh investment in PIA. Schehzad's clarification came after Aurangzeb's meeting with US Exim Bank Chairman John Jovanovich in New York, where the two sides discussed potential financing for PIA aircraft, refinery upgrades and the Reko Diq mining project.Aurangzeb outlined PIA's interest in Boeing aircraft, particularly 787 Dreamliners, and sought support for a financing package covering aircraft and engines. He also raised the need for spare parts to help return grounded Boeing 777 aircraft to service, the Ministry of Finance said.



Schehzad wrote on X that US Exim's mandate, like that of export credit agencies elsewhere, was to support US exports and jobs. Boeing aircraft, he noted, were US exports, and US Exim provides financing support to foreign purchasers of US-manufactured aircraft, including airlines.

US Exim could secure financing against the aircraft and assess the airline or lessee's creditworthiness, he said, so a sovereign guarantee was not automatic, he added. The adviser said the government's role was to facilitate access to international financing, technology and suppliers rather than directly finance PIA.

He said Aurangzeb's engagement with US Exim was not confined to PIA, but covered potential financing across aviation, refinery upgrades and Reko Diq as part of broader Pakistan-US economic engagement.

Schehzad also rejected descriptions of the potential arrangement as a "public loan", "hidden subsidy" or "state backstop", saying no such arrangement had been announced."The official statement refers to potential US Exim financing support; it does not announce government borrowing for PIA or a sovereign guarantee," he said.He said the government's approach was consistent with its policy of reducing the state's role in commercial activity and creating greater space for private capital, adding that privatisation transfers ownership and commercial management but does not prevent the government from facilitating access to international financing and business opportunities.

SCO Council of National Coordinators meeting kicks off in Islamabad; India sends delegation

● SCO Council of National Coordinators meeting begins in Islamabad under Pakistan's 2026-27 chairmanship, with India's delegation joining talks on cooperation, upcoming events and the bloc's priorities.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of National Coordinators meeting kicked off in Islamabad today.

This is the first meeting of the Council of National Coordinators (CNC) of the SCO under Pakistan's Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) for 2026–27. The meeting will continue until 30 September 2026.

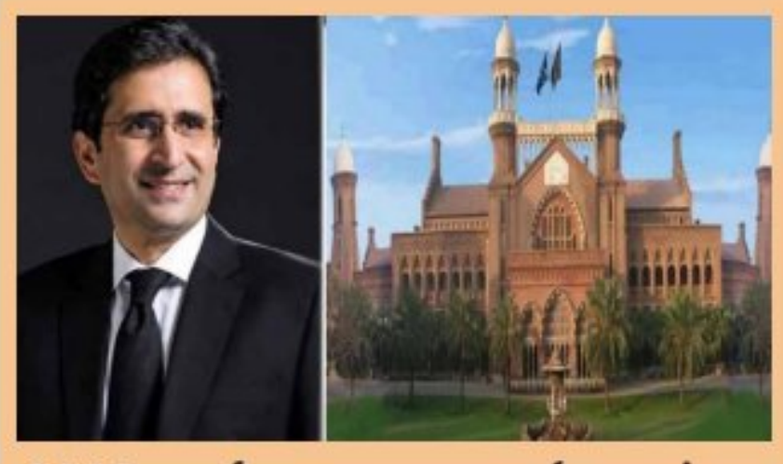
The ongoing meeting is being chaired by Pakistan's National Coordinator for the SCO, Dr. M. Faisal. National Coordinators from SCO Member States, along with representatives of the SCO Secretariat, are attending the meeting.



Indian delegation is also part of this meeting, and almost after two years a delegation from India has come to Pakistan for this meeting under additional secretary MEA.

The National Coordinators are discussing a wide range of issues relating to SCO cooperation and coordination, including the programme of activities under Pakistan's Chairmanship, preparations for upcoming SCO meetings and events, and other matters on the agenda of the Organization.

As the Chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) for 2026–27, Pakistan would seek to advance the Organization's objectives under the theme, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity." In this regard, Pakistan's Chairmanship would focus on promoting greater connectivity, fostering innovation, enhancing economic cooperation, and strengthening people-to-people contacts, with a view to translating the shared vision of Member States into practical and mutually beneficial initiatives.



LHC orders comprehensive probe into 228 UAF appointments

■ The Lahore High Court has ordered a comprehensive probe into 228 appointments at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, directing the Syndicate to review their legality, merit and transparency.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court has ordered a comprehensive investigation into the appointments of 228 people from Grade 1 to 22 at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF).

The court directed the university's Syndicate to examine the legality, merit and transparency of all 228 appointments and conduct a detailed inquiry. It also ordered that all concerned individuals be given a proper opportunity to be heard during the investigation.

Justice Khalid Ishaq issued the order after hearing arguments on petitions filed by Professor Ehsan Qadir Bhaba and others.

Advocate Supreme Court Zohaib Imran Sheikh and other lawyers appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners.

The petitioners' counsel contended that 228 people, ranging from lower-grade employees to professors, had allegedly been recruited at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad through illegal and non-transparent procedures.

Advocate Zohaib Imran Sheikh told the court that former Vice Chancellor Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan had allegedly issued notifications for the appointments late at night on the day of his retirement.

According to the counsel, Punjab Governor, in his capacity as the university's Chancellor, had also directed the university's Syndicate to investigate the appointments.

The lawyer further contended that the people allegedly recruited through illegal procedures had created hurdles in the Syndicate's investigation, while some individuals were allegedly attempting to avoid the inquiry by relying on court stay orders.

The petitioners' counsel argued that appointments in public universities could not legally be made in violation of transparency and merit and requested the court to examine the legal status of all 228 appointments.

Rain, hailstorm hit Punjab, KP cities as more downpours forecast

■ Heavy rain and hailstorms hit several Punjab and KP cities, prompting a rain emergency in Islamabad and Rawalpindi as the Met Department forecasts more rain.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Heavy rain accompanied by strong winds lashed several cities in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with hailstorms reported in several areas. A rain emergency was declared in Islamabad and Rawalpindi following torrential rainfall.

Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Kohat, Karak, Mianwali and Dunyapur received heavy rain, causing water to accumulate in low-lying areas.

Rain was also reported in Jhang, Chashma, Darya Khan, Kacha Gujrat, Pailan and other areas. In Kundian, rainwater entered homes, while streets and neighbourhoods were flooded. The rainfall also disrupted electricity supply in several areas after feeders tripped, causing inconvenience to residents.



In Rawalpindi, the WASA managing director said a rain emergency had been declared due to heavy rainfall. All field officers were mobilised, while WASA staff and heavy machinery were deployed in low-lying areas.

According to officials, the water flow in Nullah Lai remained normal, standing at five feet at Kattarian and two feet at the Gawalmandi Bridge.Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast rain accompanied by strong winds and thunderstorms in several parts of the country over the next 24 hours.

The Met Department said rain and thunderstorms are expected at isolated places in Islamabad and Kashmir. Heavy rain is also likely at isolated places in Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Khushab and Mianwali.

Rain is also expected in Attock, Bahawalnagar, Chakwal, Chiniot, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Jhang, Jhelum, Lahore and other parts of Punjab.

Mir Raza judicial commission proceedings adjourned until October 2

WEB DESK

LAHORE

The term of the judicial commission formed by the Sindh government to conduct an impartial and transparent investigation into the murder of Mir Raza Ali has expired, while proceedings have been adjourned until October 2.



The commission, headed by Justice Umar Sial, issued a written order stating that its term expired a day earlier. The commission had requested the Sindh government to extend its tenure until October 15.

According to the written order, the Sindh government's focal person informed the commission that the summary seeking an extension had been approved by the Chief Minister, who subsequently forwarded it to the Sindh Cabinet for a decision.

The order stated that a meeting of the Sindh Cabinet is expected on October 1. Therefore, it was deemed appropriate to adjourn the commission's proceedings until October 2.

The commission said that if the Sindh Cabinet does not approve the extension, no further witnesses will be summoned. In that case, the commission will prepare and submit its report at the earliest based on the statements recorded so far.



Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Water Resources, Senator Jam Saifullah Khan, chairs a meeting to review progress and developments concerning the K-IV water supply project

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