Simultaneously Publishing for Quetta, Karachi,Faisalabad

Daily People's Version Quetta

Public

Member APNS

A.B.C Certified

Thursday
September 3, 2026
Pages: 8 | Rs: 20
Vol:28 | Issu:247

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JI calls nationwide strike over fuel prices today

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) will hold a nationwide shutter-down strike on Thursday, September 3, demanding the withdrawal of the levy and taxes and a reduction in petrol prices,

Speaking at a press conference at Idara Noor-e-Haq, Hafiz Naeem said the party would hold a countrywide strike and appealed to people to support its campaign and make the protest successful. He claimed that more than Rs17 billion had been paid to several independent power producers for electricity that, according to him, was never generated.

He urged the people of Pakistan to stand with his party in its struggle and fully support Thursday's strike.



Iran strikes bases in Bahrain, Iraq, and Jordan as 11 Iranians

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iran said on Wednesday that US strikes on its territory had killed 11 people, according to state media, after fresh attacks in the south-western province of Khuzestan.

The state-run IRNA news agency said seven people were killed and eight injured after US missiles struck three locations in Khuzestan on Tuesday night. It quoted the province's deputy governor for security and law enforcement affairs as confirming the deaths.

The reported casualties came a day after the Iranian Red Crescent said four people, including a child, were killed and more than 50 wounded in a US attack during a wedding celebration in southern Iran.



Sajjad Haider takes charge as Foreign Office spokesperson

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Sajjad Haider Khan has officially assumed charge as the new Foreign Office spokesperson, replacing Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Sajjad Haider Khan hails from Gilgit-Baltistan and is currently serving as Director General South Asia and Foreign Office spokesperson.

He has served in Pakistan's diplomatic missions in Damascus, Budapest, Berlin and Jakarta and holds a master's degree in Political Science from the University of the Punjab, Lahore. He served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Belarus from 2020 to 2025 and speaks Urdu, English, Arabic and Balti, with proficiency in German, Indonesian and Russian.

The appointment notification was issued, with Tahir Andrabi introducing Sajjad Haider Khan during his final briefing and saying he would now serve as Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the agreement signing ceremony between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan for enhancing bilateral trade to 200 million USD, Bishkek

CM Bugti Vows Zero Compromise on Merit in Balochistan's Healthcare Sector

- Government to expand quality medical services through public-private partnerships and operationalize IHHN-backed facilities in Bekar, Dera Bugti

CITY REPORTER

QUETTA



Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti reaffirmed his government's commitment to transparency, stating that political pressure will never compromise meritocracy in the province's public sector, particularly in healthcare.

?He made these remarks during a meeting with a high-level delegation led by Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, President of the Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN), and Planning Commission Member Shabana Haider. Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar and Health Secretary Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panizai were also present.

?The discussions focused on joint healthcare initiatives, expanding quality medical services across Balochistan, and operationalizing IHHN-backed medical facilities in Bekar, Dera Bugti.

?Addressing the delegation, Chief Minister Bugti emphasized that providing accessible, top-tier medical care to underprivileged communities remains the provincial administration's primary duty. He noted that upgrading healthcare requires more than modern machinery and facilities—it demands skilled, competent human resources.

?"We will operate strictly on merit," Bugti stated. "I am prepared to face political pressure, but there will be zero compromise on meritocracy." He added that the Chief Minister's Secretariat maintains a strict policy against official favors or political intervention in appointments, ensuring complete operational transparency.

?The Chief Minister also welcomed public-private partnerships, noting that collaborating with organizations like the Indus Hospital Network is key to extending specialized healthcare to remote and underserved rural districts.

Jemima, sons offer deal to Imran Khan through British govt to move to UK



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The sisters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan have denied taking any deal offer to him for his transfer from Adiala Jail to Britain,

According to sources, the sisters disclosed that Imran Khan had rejected the proposals presented to him so far. They said they had not personally taken any deal offer to the PTI founder in Adiala Jail.The sisters further unearth the facts that attempts had been made by Khan's former wife, Jemima Goldsmith, and his sons to arrange a deal for his transfer to Britain through the UK government.

Sources said a proposal was made to move Imran Khan to the UK under certain conditions. One of the conditions was that he would avoid political activity and public statements after moving to Britain.Imran Khan's sisters repeated that they had not gone to the PTI founder with any such deal offer, while maintaining that the proposals taken to him had been rejected.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to strengthen economic partnership

- PM Shehbaz says detailed discussion were held on security and defense cooperation, both sides agreed to gradually increase bilateral trade to $200 million

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan have agreed to strengthen their economic partnership. An understanding to this effect came during talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov in Bishkek on Wednesday, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel.

In a joint press statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said both the countries will be working on a comprehensive plan of practical measures aimed at gradually increasing bilateral trade to two hundred million dollars, improving trade mechanism, promoting joint investment projects, strengthening industrial cooperation and expanding direct business to business contacts.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan welcomes greater engagement between Pakistani business and financial institutions with their Kyrgyz counterparts to carry forward the shared vision of enhancing bilateral economic cooperation. The Prime Minister said connectivity remains central to our shared vision of closer economic integration between South Asia and Central Asia. He welcomed the signing of the agreement on transit trade, emphasizing this will help facilitate trade, improve logistics and create new opportunities for regional connectivity.

IHC overturns ruling against Naval farms, sailing club

- Islamabad High Court overturns rulings declaring Pakistan Naval Farms and Naval Sailing Club illegal, including demolition and proceedings orders.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Islamabad High Court has issued a major ruling, nullifying a decision that had declared the Pakistan Naval Farms and Naval Sailing Club, located along Rawal Lake, illegal. The court also set aside the decision to demolish the building of the Naval Sailing Club, as well as the ruling ordering misconduct and criminal proceedings against former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi.A division bench comprising Justice Inam Amin Minhas and Justice Shahrukh Arjumand accepted petitions challenging the 2022 single-bench judgment of former Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Athar Minallah.

The Ministry of Defence, former Naval Chief Zafar Mahmood Abbasi and others had filed appeals against the single-bench ruling.

Advocate Ashtar Ausaf appeared on behalf of former Naval Chief Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. The court also nullified the order directing the Auditor General of Pakistan to assess the loss caused to the national exchequer and recover the amount from the officers allegedly responsible.

The court further set aside the order declaring the transfer of land for the Naval Farms in the name of the office of Pakistan Navy Headquarters illegal.

Advocates Ashtar Ausaf, Sardar Ahmed Jamal and Abdul Wahid Qureshi appeared on behalf of the petitioners, while the Additional Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General and counsel for the Capital Development Authority (CDA) represented the federal government.

Pakistan pledges continued diplomacy despite latest US-Iran escalation

- The FO spokesperson said Islamabad had not abandoned hopes for a diplomatic solution despite the recent escalation between Washington and Tehran

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan remains optimistic about a peaceful resolution to the escalating tensions between the United States and Iran and will continue its efforts to promote dialogue and diplomacy, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said on Wednesday.

The FO spokesperson said Islamabad had not abandoned hopes for a diplomatic solution despite the recent escalation between Washington and Tehran. Pakistan has played an active role in efforts to facilitate a peaceful resolution. In June, it helped mediate the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, while Islamabad had earlier brokered a ceasefire between Washington and Tehran in April.

The April truce halted the most intense phase of fighting, but intermittent attacks, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, have since complicated efforts to reach a lasting peace agreement.

Giving details of Pakistan's diplomatic engagement, the FO spokesperson said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to discuss the evolving regional situation.

The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's support for resolving disputes through restraint, dialogue and diplomacy, while describing the Islamabad MoU as the most practical route towards durable peace and stability in the region, Andrabi said.

KP approves free electric scooters for female students, working women in Peshawar

- Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said the electric scooters would make commuting safer for women travelling to educational institutions and workplaces



SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approved free electric scooters for female students and working women, with Peshawar selected for the initial phase.

The approval was given at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, who instructed officials to take immediate steps to put the scheme into action.

Peshawar will be the first city covered under the programme. Officials said the initiative would later be expanded to women in other districts of the province.

Speaking at the meeting, Chief Minister Sohail Afridi said the electric scooters would make commuting safer for women travelling to educational institutions and workplaces.

He said the initiative would also support efforts to reduce air pollution by encouraging cleaner modes of transportation.



A carpenter makes wooden furniture for customers at his workshop.

Eight education boards of Punjab, including Lahore, announce class ninth exams results

- Over 50 per cent candidates failed to get through the exams held in Lahore.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Five Education Boards of Punjab, including Lahore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, on Wednesday announced the results of ninth class examinations,

Over 50 per cent candidates failed to get through the exams held in Lahore.

Announcing the results, Board Chairman Professor Badarus Salam and Controller Examinations Tauseefur Rehman said that 280,000 candidates appeared in the exams.

Out of these, they added, 130,000 remained successful, while 150,000 failed.

The pass per centage, they informed, stood at 46.51.

Faisalabad

More than 196,000 candidates from across the Faisalabad division appeared in the examinations.

Of these, about 100,000 students



were declared successful. The board said the overall pass percentage was 51.21.

Chairman of the Faisalabad Board, Rana Binyamin, uploaded the results on the board's official website, allowing students to check their results online.

Students can visit the website to view their examination results and check their marks.

Bahawalpur:

Announcing the results, Bahawalpur Board Secretary Professor Adeel Malik Cheema and Controller Examinations Syed Muhammad Waheeduz Zaman Hamdani said that of one lakh, five thousand candidates who appeared in the exam, 40, 611 candidates passed the exam.

Thus, the pass percentage, they added, stood at 38.46.

Hamdani said that 100 transparency was ensured during the exams. "That's why, the pass percentage stood at 38," he added.

He congratulated the students who got through the exams. "Those who could not pass the exams, should not feel disheartened and should keep on working hard."

Multan:

Announcing the results, Multan Education Board Chairman Dr. Ijaz Ahmad Tatla said that overall, 140,000 students appeared in the exam. "Of these, 73, 301 remained successful," he said, adding, "Thus, the pass percentage stood at 52.11 per cent," he elaborated.

Gujranwala:

As many as 249,000 candidates sat in the exams held under the auspices of Gujranwala Education Board, said Controller Examinations Professor Nadeem Ahmad.

He informed that 115,000 candidates got through the exams, while 133,000 candidates failed. "The pass percentage stood at 46.51 per cent," he explained.

Federal cabinet approves new local government system for Islamabad

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

- The federal cabinet has approved a new local government system for Islamabad, under which the federal capital will be divided into three councils. Under the approved system, each council will have its own mayor and will comprise 21 members.

Women and minorities will also be given representation in the general councils, aimed at ensuring the participation of different segments of society in Islamabad's local government system.

The Islamabad Local Government Bill will be presented before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior on Thursday for consideration and approval.

Following approval by the committee, the bill will be tabled before both the Senate and the National Assembly for passage.

The proposed system is intended to establish a new framework for local governance in the federal capital, with elected councils responsible for municipal and local-level affairs.

Earlier, heavy rainfall triggered urban flooding in parts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Tuesday, inundating several residential areas and forcing authorities to close educational institutions in Rawalpindi for the

TENDER NOTICE

Assistant Conservator of Wildlife (ACW) Hazarganji Chiltan National Park, UGPP (Wildlife Component) Quetta invites sealed tenders from interested firms/contractors, based on the Composite Schedule of Rates (CSR), Government of Balochistan, for the execution of the following works: **BID SECURITY 2%**

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	E/COST
1.	Fencing of key protected areas at Hazarhganji Chiltan National Park Quella (**TSE-2627091183923**)	5,000,000

The Procurement shall be carried out in accordance with ***Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority rules, 2014*** (amended till date) **BASIC ELIGIBITY**: The firms/contractors must be registered with the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), holding a valid registration renewed up to the date of bid submission in Category C-6 or above, along with the relevant specialized code. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work. Turn in the last 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Valid Registration with Income Tax & BRA with active tax payer list (ATLS) The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Other Mandatory conditions and Detailed Marking Criteria mentioned in the Bidding Documents.**METHOD OF PROCUREMENT**: Single Stage-Two Envelope procedure. **ISSUANCE:** The Firms can obtain the bidding Documents from the office of the Assistant Conservator of Wildlife (ACW) Hazarganji Chiltan National Park, UGPP (Wildlife Component) Quetta upon payment (nonrefundable) bidding document fee Rs.1500/-mentioned above tender must be deposited in government treasury under head **C-03370** through Green Challan Form in National Bank of Pakistan(NBP).(The NIT & Bidding Document can also be downloaded from www.bppra.org.pk, in this regard, the interested bidders must submit Green Challan Form deposited in government treasury one day prior to the bid opening in the office of undersigned. **Bid Security**: The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2% specified in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents**: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk. **Issuance of tender Documents**: Complete Bidding Documents can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk. **Last Date of bid submission**: The Tenders must be submitted latest by 17 September, 2026 till 10:00 AM. **Tender opening**: All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:00 AM in the office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest Quetta City Joint Road Quetta **Place of issuance and submission will be: - Address**: office of the Deputy Conservator of Forest Quetta City Joint Road Quetta Bid Validity Period: Ninety (90) Days.

DPRQ/PRQ No.1182/2-9-2026

Assistant Conservator
Wildlife (ACW) Hazarganji Chiltan National Park
UGPP (Wildlife Component) Quetta

www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgprbalochistan

The Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM)
Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS)

E-TENDER NOTICE

1. The Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM) Ministry of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety (PA&SS) has allocated funds under FY 2026-2027 for **hiring of Security Services** for 04 Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSH) Balochistan (Kharan, Quetta, Turbat, Zhob) for Financial Year 2026-2027. The detail is as under:

PSH NAME	NO. OF SECURITY GUARDS	PSH NAME
Quetta	02	
Zhob	02	
Turbat	02	**Rs. 90,000/-**
Kharan	02	
Total Guards	08	

2. PBM invites e-bids through EPADS v2.0 from eligible bidders registered with EPADS for the provision of Security services.
3. Procurement will be conducted through Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) using the Single Stage – Two Envelope Procedure, under Least Cost Based Selection (LCBS), in accordance with PPRA Rules, 2004 and applicable regulations/instructions.
4. All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security (2%) of the estimated cost, in the form of Pay Order / Call Deposit / Bid Securing Declaration, as specified in the bidding documents.
5. E-bidding documents, including detailed specifications, terms and conditions, are available on EPADS v2.0: https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/. Only registered bidders on EPADS v2.0 shall be eligible to participate.
6. **Submission & Opening of Bids:**
   Submission Deadline: 21st September 2026 (11:00 AM) and Opening Time: Same day at 11:30 AM.
7. Details are available on: PPRA Website: www.ppra.org.pk, PBM Website: www.pbm.gov.pk and EPADS v2.0 Portal. Bids must be submitted electronically via EPADS v2.0 only. Manual bids will not be accepted. Unregistered vendors are required to register on EPADS v2.0. A registration tutorial is available online. A tutorial to explain the registration process is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNW6T38v7tc
8. In accordance with Rule 48 of PPRA Rules, 2004, a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) has been constituted.

DIRECTOR – Pakistan Bait ul Mal
Provincial Office Balochistan. H# C-59 Railway Society, Joint Road, Quetta.
Phone No. 081-2446108 email: dir.balochistan@pbm.gov.pk

Sindh High Court rejects plea for JIT in Mir Raza case

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



The Sindh High Court has rejected a petition seeking the formation of a joint investigation team (JIT) to investigate the Mir Raza case.

In its written order, Justice Jafar Raza noted that the investigating officer had assured the court that every possible effort would be made to complete the investigation.

The court said the investigating officer would use all available resources in accordance with the law. The officer also informed the court that assistance from other investigative agencies would be sought if required.

The Sindh High Court directed that the investigation into the Mir Raza case be completed impartially, fairly and expeditiously.

The court further observed that the petitioner could use all legal remedies available to ensure a transparent and fair investigation.

Hina Javed murder case: Husband, employee sent to Adiala Jail on 14-day judicial remand

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A court has sent two suspects arrested in the Hina Javed murder case to Adiala Jail on 14-day judicial remand.

The suspects, identified as the victim's husband Faisal Asghar and his employee Zeeshan, were produced before Duty Civil Judge Adil Sarwar Sial.

During the hearing, the investigating officer informed the court that the police investigation was continuing but physical custody of the suspects was no longer required.

The court subsequently sent both suspects to jail on 14-day judicial remand and ordered police to produce them again on September 16.

Police were also directed to complete the investigation and submit the challan before the court by September 16.

According to police, investigators allegedly recovered a suspected murder weapon, screwdriver, cloth and iron wire from the suspects during the investigation.

Police said marriage certificates relating to Faisal Asghar's first and second marriages were also recovered from him, along with the divorce certificate of his first wife, identified as Iram Zaib.

Investigators said the marriage and divorce documents had been verified by the relevant union council.

Both suspects had previously remained in police custody on 10-day physical remand. Following the latest court order, police shifted them to Adiala Jail.

CTD arrests two TTP militants in Karachi

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Sindh, in coordination with a federal civilian intelligence agency, arrested two alleged militants affiliated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) during an operation in Karachi. According to the CTD spokesperson, the suspects were identified as Umar Farooq and Abdullah and were associated with the banned TTP's Mufti Saad group. Two hand grenades were also recovered from their possession. The spokesperson said the suspects had arrived in Karachi from Afghanistan on the instructions of their commander and had allegedly been assigned different responsibilities for carrying out terrorist activities in the city.The suspects were allegedly conducting reconnaissance of key locations and officers associated with the Rangers and police and were sharing the information gathered with their commander.

Fuel, wheat push inflation to 11.2%

Inflation surged to 11.2% in August, returning to double digits just after one month, driven by the government's policy to fully recover fuel costs and taxes from consumers coupled with provincial failures in ensuring wheat supplies that contributed to higher food prices in the country.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said on Tuesday that measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the annual inflation rate accelerated to 11.2%, returning to double digits just one month after it slipped below 10%. The surge was recorded in both urban and rural areas, with increases in both food and energy group prices.



The reading reflects the outcomes of the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's policy of sticking to fiscal targets agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF targets require producing a primary budget surplus – a goal the government has been meeting by putting more tax burden instead of rationalising expenses.

The details showed that motor fuel prices were 25% higher than August last year, as the government was charging three different taxes – petroleum levy, carbon levy and customs duty – in addition to recovering the full international prices from consumers. The per-litre tax on petrol was Rs116, while it was Rs101 on high-speed diesel.

As a result, high-speed diesel prices in dollar terms were the highest in South Asia, with petrol second highest after Bangladesh, according to research conducted by Tola Associates.

August's inflation reading was also slightly higher than the Ministry of Finance's projection, which a day earlier had given a forecast of 10-11% inflation for the month. The finance ministry said that "inflation may remain somewhat elevated in the near term as recent price pressures and movements in international commodity and energy prices pass through to the domestic economy."

The ministry stated that CPI inflation moderation to 9.2% in July had indicated easing price pressures that emerged following the global energy shock. The moderation in inflation, alongside relative exchange rate stability and continued macroeconomic discipline, has helped maintain the policy rate, preserve the gains in overall stability, and provide a more supportive environment for economic activity, it added.

The finance ministry said that going forward, maintaining policy discipline and advancing structural reforms will be important for sustainable and inclusive growth, strengthen the economy's resilience to external shocks, and preserve the gains of macroeconomic stability.

The details showed that food inflation increased to 12.1% in urban areas, one of the highest in recent years. Food inflation was 13.2% in villages and towns last month – also one of the highest in recent months, according to these official statistics.

For the current fiscal year, the government has set an inflation target of 8.2%, and it is the responsibility of the State Bank of Pakistan to ensure price stability and also meet the target. However, the surge in wheat and wheat flour prices, coupled with increased transportation charges, has pushed food prices higher.

The average inflation during the first two months of this fiscal year remained at 10.2%, increasing prospects for further rises in interest rates. The central bank has also unsuccessfully tried in the past to contain imported inflation and administrative decision-pushed price hikes with increases in interest rates.

Non-food inflation also accelerated to 9.4% in urban areas and 11.3% in rural areas, according to PBS.

Core inflation – calculated after excluding volatile energy and food prices – increased both in urban and rural areas last month, recording in the range of 8.5% to 8.8%.

The highest increase in any consumer items group was in transport, where inflation went up by 20.2% last month compared to a year ago, showing the impact of increased transport fares because of constant rises in high-speed diesel and petrol prices.

The details showed that tomato prices went up by 128% last month over the same period of the previous year. Wheat prices also increased by 87% in August, followed by a 73% increase in wheat flour prices.

The federal government has decided to import up to one million metric tonnes of wheat on the request of provinces – just four months after harvesting and official claims that the country produced 29.7 million metric tonnes of wheat this year.

The governments of Sindh and Punjab have failed to meet their procurement targets. Despite conducting raids to recover hoarded commodities, provincial authorities have been unable to arrest growing prices.

The PBS reported that onion prices – another essential kitchen item – increased 125% last month over a year ago. Milk products also became nearly 10% more expensive compared to a year ago, according to the national data collecting agency.

Potato prices decreased 23%, followed by a 17% reduction in sugar prices. Sugar prices are not increasing due to availability of sufficient stocks, but the government, succumbing to pressure last month, allowed the export of 108,000 metric tonnes of imported sugar.

Reservations and Recruitment

By Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

The Indian state's reservation and recruitment policies in India occupied Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir have long been a subject of contention, particularly in the context of the region's socio-political dynamics. The data on population share versus recruitment share reveals a glaring disparity that underscores systemic discrimination against the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley. With 62% of the population, Kashmir's share in government jobs and professional degree admissions stands at a mere 33%, while Hindu majority Jammu, with 38% of the population, commands 67% of these opportunities. This 29% gap is not a coincidence but a deliberate mechanism of disempowerment, designed to perpetuate joblessness,

educational backwardness, and professional stagnation among the Kashmiri Muslim population.

The reservation quotas allocated to various categories—SC, OBC, ST, ALC/IB, RBA, and EWS—are disproportionately skewed in favor of Hindu majority Jammu, further exacerbating the regional imbalance. For instance, while Scheduled Tribes (ST1/ST2) constitute 20% of the population, their recruitment share is only 15%, with Jammu and a mere 5% allocated to Kashmir. Similarly, reservations of other back word classes (OBCs) are 8% with only 1.5% for Kashmir valley, Reserved Categories (RBA) have a 10% quota, but only 5.5% of this is directed toward Kashmir. These figures highlight how the reservation system, ostensibly designed to uplift marginalized communities, is instead being weaponized to suppress Kashmiris.

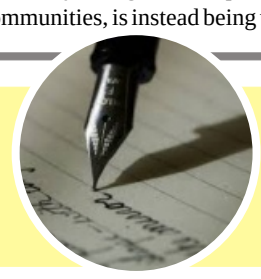
The Economic Weaker Section (EWS) quota, introduced in 2019, further compounds the issue. While it claims to provide opportunities to economically disadvantaged groups, its implementation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir disproportionately benefits Jammu, with a 9.5% recruitment share compared to Kashmir's 0.5%. This disparity is not just a statistical anomaly but a reflection of systemic bias embedded in the recruitment process.

The imbalance in recruitment and admissions is not an oversight but a calculated strategy to disempower the Kashmiri Muslim population. By limiting their access to government jobs and professional education, the Indian state ensures that Kashmiris remain economically and socially marginalized. This policy aligns with broader efforts to suppress dissent and resistance in the region. Kashmir valley has been at the forefront of resistance against Indian occupation. By creating joblessness and educational backwardness, the state aims to weaken the socio-economic fabric of Kashmiri society, rendering its youth vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation. This strategy is further compounded by the alleged introduction of narcotics into the region, targeting the younger generation. India's "narco-terrorism" is a sinister tactic to destabilize Kashmir, ensuring that its youth remain trapped in cycles of addiction and despair rather than pursuing education, employment, and political activism.

The consequences of these policies are devastating for Kashmir's younger generation. With limited access to government jobs and professional education, many are forced to seek employment in the private sector, which is underdeveloped in the region. Others migrate to other parts of India or abroad in search of opportunities, leading to a brain drain that further weakens Kashmir's socio-economic structure.

The lack of opportunities also fuels frustration and disillusionment among Kashmiri youth. This, in turn, perpetuates the cycle of conflict and resistance, which the Indian state uses to justify its oppressive policies. It is a vicious cycle designed to keep Kashmiris marginalized and disempowered. Reservations, which were originally intended to redress historical injustices and promote social equity, have been twisted into a tool of oppression in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Instead of uplifting marginalized communities, they are being used to reinforce existing power structures and perpetuate regional disparities.

He Indian state's approach to reservations in Kashmir reflects its broader strategy of maintaining control over the region through economic and social disempowerment. By ensuring that Jammu benefits disproportionately from recruitment and admissions, the state creates a divide between the two regions, fostering resentment and mistrust among Kashmiris.Addressing the systemic discrimination in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir requires a fundamental rethinking of reservation and recruitment policies. The Indian state must ensure that these policies are implemented equitably, with due consideration to the region's demographic and socio-political realities. First, the recruitment process must be transparent and merit-based, with safeguards to prevent regional and communal bias. Second, the reservation quotas should be recalibrated to reflect the actual population share of Kashmir and Jammu.



Is Greenland Becoming the New Poland?

By: ASIF IQBAL

History repeatedly reminds us that great wars often originate from events initially dismissed as minor or symbolic. The growing geopolitical turbulence surrounding Greenland today carries unsettling echoes of such historical precedents.

US President Donald Trump's sudden decision to impose a unilateral 10pc tariff on NATO member states has triggered fresh controversy. The timing of this move raises critical questions. It appears closely linked to recent developments in which several NATO countries deployed symbolic military contingents to Greenland under the pretext of protection. Trump publicly labelled this deployment a "hostile act," largely because he has never concealed his ambition to bring Greenland under American influence if not directly under the US flag. Ironically, it is America's own allies who are resisting this ambition most strongly.

This confrontation, however, is not limited to the transatlantic alliance. Looming prominently in the background is Russia, a decisive stakeholder in the Arctic power equation. Russian leadership has already warned that if a Third World War were to occur, it could very well be triggered by tensions in the Arctic region. The reason is strategic and straightforward: Russia controls approximately 53pc of the Arctic territory. Any permanent US military establishment in Greenland, or the deployment of advanced defence systems such as the proposed "Golden Dome," would directly challenge Russian security interests and its long-standing dominance in the region.



Caught between these two global heavyweights, Europe finds itself increasingly vulnerable. Should the United States succeed in consolidating its control over Greenland, the political credibility of the European Union would suffer a severe blow. Even more consequential would be the potential weakening or effective collapse of NATO, an outcome Trump has openly questioned and, at times, appeared to favour. A n such a scenario, Russia could gain a free hand to extend the kind of pressure it exerted on Ukraine to other NATO or EU countries. This looming possibility explains the growing wave of "Russia-phobia" spreading across Europe.

weakened NATO would fundamentally alter Europe's security architecture. The United States would no longer feel morally or strategically bound by Article Five to guarantee the collective defence of European states. In such a scenario, Russia could gain a free hand to extend the kind of pressure it exerted on Ukraine to other NATO or EU countries.

This looming possibility explains the growing wave of "Russia-phobia" spreading across Europe.

Senior NATO officials have already issued stark warnings. The alliance's secretary general has stated that Europe must prepare for a war reminiscent of the conflicts fought by previous generations. France's army chief has gone even further, cautioning that future wars may demand the lives of many young Europeans. Countries such as Lithuania, Sweden and Denmark have begun issuing public advisories to their citizens on how to prepare for war-like conditions an alarming indicator of how seriously the threat is being perceived.



Labourers busy in construction work on Jaranwala Road during development work in metro project.

Uzbekistan marks 35th Independence anniversary, hails stronger Pakistan ties

The Republic of Uzbekistan celebrated its "35th Independence Day in Islamabad" with a vibrant reception highlighting the country's historic heritage, remarkable development and growing strategic partnership with Pakistan.

Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

:The Republic of Uzbekistan celebrated its "35th Independence Day in Islamabad" with a vibrant reception highlighting the country's historic heritage, remarkable development and growing strategic partnership with Pakistan.

Uzbekistan marks 35th Independence anniversary, hails stronger Pakistan ties

Addressing the gathering here in a local hotel, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, H.E Alisher Tukhtaev welcomed federal ministers, diplomats, parliamentarians, business leaders and distinguished guests, describing their presence as a reflection of the "friendship, respect and strong partnership" between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991 following the determination of its people, but its statehood and civilization, the ambassador noted, stretch back more than 3,000 years.

Uzbekistan marks 35th Independence anniversary, hails stronger Pakistan ties

The country takes particular pride in its contribution to world civilization through renowned scholars and thinkers including Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Ahmad al-Fergani, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Mirzo Ulugbek and Alisher Navoi, while the legacy of Amir Temur remains an important symbol of statehood and development.

The ambassador said Uzbekistan was building on this rich heritage while pursuing an open, modern and prosperous future.

Over the past decade, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the country has undertaken wide-ranging reforms focused on human dignity, economic development and social welfare, he said.

According to the figures presented, Uzbekistan's poverty rate has declined from 35 per cent in 2017 to around 4 per cent today, while more than 650,000 families have gained modern homes.



PSX tumbles 1,690 points as KSE-100 closes at 174,776

Pakistan Stock Exchange ended sharply lower as the KSE-100 Index lost 1,690 points to close at 174,776, with 356 listed companies recording declines.

Web Desk

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) came under heavy selling pressure on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index plunging 1,690 points and ending the trading session deep in negative territory.

The KSE-100 closed at 174,776 points, reflecting broad-based weakness across the market during the third trading session of the week.

During the day, the benchmark touched an intraday high of 175,841 points, while its lowest level stood at 174,562 points.



Market breadth remained overwhelmingly negative. Of the 569 companies whose shares were traded, prices of only 113 companies advanced, while 356 companies declined.

Trading activity, however, remained substantial, with approximately 610 million shares changing hands during the session.

The total value of shares traded at the Pakistan Stock Exchange stood at around Rs31 billion.

The sharp 1,690-point decline reflected strong selling pressure, with declining stocks significantly outnumbering gainers during the session.

The latest fall comes amid heightened volatility at the PSX, with the benchmark experiencing significant swings in recent trading sessions.

Oil spikes on Middle East flare-up

"At these levels, higher yields are clearly a headwind to Asian equities, especially longer duration tech stocks."

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Stocks fell and bond yields held at multi-decade highs as investors ramp up rate hike bets amid a fresh flare-up in Middle East tensions that has sparked another surge in oil prices.

Crude jumped more than two percent and has spiked around 10 percent this week after the United States hit an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a series of tit-for-tat attacks in which Tehran has targeted American interests in several regional countries.

The latest round of military action comes after weeks of relative calm during which peace talks went nowhere and Washington said it would aim for the "economic asphyxiation" of the Islamic republic.

With the strait -- through which about a fifth of world oil and gas passes -- effectively closed for the foreseeable future and energy costs unlikely to come down, inflation fears are growing.

That -- along with worries over government spending and a flood of corporate debt sales -- has sent rate hike expectations surging, putting upward pressure on government borrowing costs.

The yield on 30-year UK government bonds is at their highest since 1998, while those for 10-year debt is at the level last seen during the global financial crisis of 2007-08.

Japan's 10-year bond yield is at a 30-year high, 30-year US Treasuries are just short of their 2007 mark and the US 10-year yield is also at financial crisis levels.

"Bond yields were already rising and the renewed US-Iran attacks and their impact on oil prices have made investors more concerned about bonds," Rajeev De Mello, at Gama Asset Management, said.

"At these levels, higher yields are clearly a headwind to Asian equities, especially longer duration tech stocks." Markets across Asia were down, with tech firms -- which rely on low borrowing rates to fuel their investments -- dragging Tokyo and Seoul.

Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore, Wellington, Taipei and Manila were also well off.

That followed losses across all three main indexes on Wall Street.

Investors are gearing up for the release of key data on jobs and inflation over the next week that could determine whether the Federal Reserve hikes rates at its next meeting in two weeks.

Traders are pricing in a 70 percent probability of a hike, according to Bloomberg.

Fed governor Michael Barr stoked expectations by saying decision-makers should be prepared to hike if inflation stays stubbornly above the bank's two percent target, which it has been for more than five years.

"If trends in the data give me some confidence that inflation is moderating on a path to two percent, then I think we can take a bit more time to assess our policy stance," he said in prepared remarks.

"However, if inflation appears not to be moderating sufficiently, then I think we should act decisively to raise rates."

- Key figures at around 0230 GMT -

West Texas Intermediate: UP 1.5 percent at $91.60 per barrel

Brent North Sea Crude: UP 1.9 percent at $96.45 per barrel

16 senior FBR officers found holding dual nationality or foreign residency

Sixteen senior FBR officers, including 10 from Inland Revenue and six from Pakistan Customs, reportedly hold dual nationality or permanent residency abroad.

Web Desk

KARACHI

Sixteen senior officers of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have reportedly been identified as holding dual nationality or permanent residency abroad, prompting the tax authority to initiate further scrutiny.

According to documents cited in media reports, the officials include 10 officers from the Inland Revenue Service and six from the Pakistan Customs Service.

Among the Inland Revenue officials are senior officers serving in Grades 19 to 21, while the Pakistan Customs officials include officers from Grades 17, 19 and 20.



The FBR has decided to further examine the matter and has also sought information from other officials regarding foreign citizenship and permanent residency.

Under new disclosure requirements concerning foreign nationality of civil servants, FBR officers have been directed to submit their details on a prescribed form.

Read aslo: FBR makes it mandatory to declare market value of assets in tax returns

The officials have reportedly been given 90 days to disclose information regarding any foreign citizenship or permanent residency.

The disclosure of dual nationality or foreign residency does not by itself establish misconduct. Any further action would depend on applicable laws, service rules and the circumstances of individual officers.

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G20 finance leaders close talks marked by US welcoming Russia

The broiling Middle East war and President Donald Trump's tariffs also loomed over the gathering.

Web Desk

MOSCOW

G20 finance leaders closed their two-day gathering on Tuesday with a statement that all but China backed in full, as Washington insisted that the presence of a Russian minister had no effect on talks.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the fact that nearly all participants agreed to the chair's statement suggested "there has been no impact" from Russia's attendance.

Ukraine's European allies had expressed frustration after Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov was welcomed at the US-hosted meetings in Asheville, North Carolina.

The broiling Middle East war and President Donald Trump's tariffs also loomed over the gathering. The chair's statement called for "free, safe, and predictable navigation through the Strait of Hormuz," though China dissented from that section.

The key waterway has been largely blocked by Tehran since the war began in late February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

A traditional "family photo" of G20 participants was taken Monday without Siluanov, following European officials' protests.

At a separate G20 innovation gathering in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, participants took two group photos, allowing European leaders to be separated from Russia's delegation.

An EU spokesperson said representatives were only given short notice of Siluanov's attendance.

"It created discomfort, no doubt about that," Canadian Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne told AFP on Tuesday when asked if Siluanov's appearance had a bearing on discussions.

EU economy chief Valdis Dombrovskis told reporters that it was not the time to "normalize" Russia's presence at such events.

He said Moscow's inclusion entails discussing sensitive economic matters with representatives of a government that is "waging an aggressive war" and "killing civilians on a daily basis" in its conflict in Ukraine.

But Bessent countered at a press conference: "I know that some Europeans had a sour taste, but I think it's very important to engage."

"And I will point out that the finance minister who I met with is unsanctioned," he added of Siluanov.



Putin says Russia is winning on battlefield, will not negotiate with 'terrorists'

■ Putin acknowledged that Ukrainian attacks inside Russia had inflicted real damage and said that drones posed a particular challenge



Web Desk

MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia was winning the war in Ukraine and portrayed the Ukrainian leadership as "terrorists" with whom Moscow could not negotiate.

Putin, in his most detailed comments on the war for many weeks, acknowledged that Ukrainian attacks inside Russia had inflicted real damage and said that drones posed a particular challenge.

But he said that Russia was advancing on the battlefield and told reporters: "I have no doubt the enemy will crumble."

He declined to say when that would happen.Rumours that Russia would be forced to order a new military mobilisation were "utter nonsense," he said.Four and a half years into the war, Russia controls about a fifth of Ukraine. U.S.-mediated peace talks ?broke off in February after the United States and Israel went to war with Iran.

Opinion polls suggest growing war fatigue in Russia and influential voices are warning about the strain on its economy.

But Putin struck a confident, hawkish tone as he rattled through a detailed version of developments on the front line, saying Russian advances were accelerating.

Russian troops had captured 270 square km (104 sq miles) of the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine in August and two large groups of Ukrainian troops - one comprising 4,500 to 4,800 men, the other up to 2,000 - were surrounded, he said. Reuters could not independently verify those assertions.

Russia continues to advance towards the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, Putin said, adding that Moscow's forces were preparing to launch massive strikes against energy infrastructure in Ukraine.

Putin said that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's warning to airlines that Ukrainian drones would effectively shut down Russian airspace sounded like "state terrorism" and that Moscow would find a way to respond if it happened.

Speaking at a news conference after a summit in Kyrgyzstan, Putin said it was not possible to negotiate with "terrorists".

He also said, however, that Moscow was open to talks aimed at ending, rather than freezing, the war, and restated its willingness to talk to U.S. President Donald Trump's envoys.

US may ask parents to prove citizenship to get passports for their children

■ Limiting birthright citizenship has been one of the president's top priorities in his far-reaching crackdown



WEB DESK

CAIRO/DUBAI

The US State Department has proposed requiring parents applying for passports for their children to provide proof of their own citizenship or immigration status as part of President Donald Trump's latest effort to limit birthright citizenship.

The draft guidance, reviewed by Reuters, is the first detailed look at how the State Department could enforce Trump's August 6 executive order targeting what it calls "birth tourism" and broadening historical exceptions to birthright citizenship.

The White House referred Reuters questions to the State Department. In a statement, State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said that "President Trump has been unequivocal that this Administration will protect the meaning and value of American citizenship, full stop, and that includes making sure our passport adjudication process fully reflects that standard."

Limiting birthright citizenship has been one of the president's top priorities in his far-reaching crackdown on immigration. The US Supreme Court ruled his previous attempt violated the country's Constitution.

Trump's initial executive order would have granted automatic US citizenship at birth only to children with at least one parent who was a US citizen or a lawful permanent resident known as a green card holder.

In a 6-3 ruling, the Supreme Court found the order was unlawful, with a majority finding it violated the Citizenship Clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

Implementing Trump's order

Trump's August 6 order was narrower, taking particular aim at "birth tourism," in which women travel to the United States to give birth so their children can obtain automatic citizenship. That order could still be blocked in court.



US strikes Iran as Tehran retaliates, raising fears of wider conflict

■ One U.S. strike reportedly hit a house where a wedding was taking place in southern Iran. Local officials said the attack killed at least two people and injured dozens.

Web DESK

WASHINGTON

The United States launched fresh strikes against targets in Iran on Tuesday, prompting Tehran to respond with missiles and drones as renewed fighting threatened to escalate an intermittent conflict that has continued for more than six months.

One U.S. strike reportedly hit a house where a wedding was taking place in southern Iran. Local officials said the attack killed at least two people and injured dozens, while Iranian rescue officials later reported a higher death toll.

The latest U.S. attacks came just days after strikes on Sunday ended a month-long pause in military action between Washington and Tehran. The renewed violence has increased concerns about a broader regional conflict, pushed global oil prices higher and created additional political challenges for Republicans ahead of the November midterm elections.

President Donald Trump warned Iran against retaliating, saying Tehran would face a much stronger response if it attacked U.S. forces or interests.

U.S. Central Command said the strikes were carried out after Iran attempted to target commercial vessels and American military forces in the Middle East. Trump separately told Fox News that U.S. forces had also targeted Iranian radar systems.

“They tried to rebuild their radar because they can’t see anything,” Trump said, according to Fox News. “We waited until it was almost built and then we hit it.”

By late Tuesday, explosions were reported over Aqaba in southern Jordan as Iran said it was responding to the American strikes.

Iranian state media accused the United States of striking civilian locations along the country’s southern coast, including an airport. Ahmad Nafisi, deputy governor of Hormozgan province, said a U.S. strike hit a home in Kuhestak during a wedding ceremony, killing two people and injuring at least 50. Rescue officials with the Iranian Red Crescent later said four people, including a child, had been killed.

Nepal flood death toll crosses 1,000, rescuers reach remote areas

WEB DESK

Nepal



The death toll from devastating floods and landslides in Nepal has risen to 1,050, while around 4,000 people remain missing, including 583 foreign nationals, according to disaster management authorities.Rescue teams are continuing search operations in remote and badly affected areas, using helicopters, heavy machinery and excavators to reach people stranded by the disaster.

Nepal’s Disaster Management Authority said at least 639 people were trapped at damaged hydropower stations, while around 300 workers were feared to be stranded inside tunnels.

More than 11,000 people have so far been rescued as emergency teams race to reach those still cut off by floodwaters, landslides and debris.

Preliminary estimates by the United Nations Development Programme indicate that the floods have left behind around 2.2 million tonnes of debris, including rubble from buildings, rocks and mud.

Denmark sends conscripts to Greenland as Arctic tensions grow

■ Denmark has deployed conscripts to Greenland for the first time in recent history, strengthening its Arctic presence amid U.S. pressure to acquire the strategically important territory.

WEB DESK

KANGERLUSSUAQ



For the first time in recent history, Danish conscripts have been deployed to Greenland, as Denmark moves to bolster its presence in the Arctic after U.S. demands to acquire the territory.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly sought to acquire the semi-autonomous Danish island, citing national security concerns and accusing Copenhagen of neglecting Arctic defence. Denmark and Greenland have firmly rejected the idea.

The conscripts are part of the ?first cohort under Denmark's new extended conscription programme, aimed at producing soldiers able to ?operate in one of the kingdom's most strategically important and challenging ?regions.

"It shows presence that we're here and not just thinking of our own ?skin. And also thinking of the people in Greenland," 19-year-old conscript David told Reuters.

Copenhagen ?has pledged billions of dollars to strengthen Arctic defences after Denmark's defence minister acknowledged years of underinvestment in the region.

"Of course, we are a part of a bigger picture of the strategic communication ?about Greenland, but our role here is just to continue the training of ?the conscripts, the soldiers, and get more experience with the training in the Arctic terrain and ?climate," company ?commander Captain Laura Jepsen said.

World order in 'midst of a rupture': Canada PM Carney tells Davos

■ Carney delivered his stirring speech to political and financial elites at the World Economic Forum, a day before US President Donald Trump was set to address the gathering in Davos, Switzerland.

WEB DESK

Hong Kong

Prominent Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong pleaded guilty on Wednesday to a charge of collusion with foreign entities, a national security crime that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Wong, 29, rose to international prominence as a teenage democracy activist in Hong Kong, one of a group of youngsters whose protest efforts have now effectively been outlawed by a sweeping National Security Law that Beijing imposed on the Asian financial hub in 2020.

Wearing a dark blue shirt and black-rimmed glasses, Wong waved and nodded to people from the court's dock, inhaling deeply at times, before pleading ?guilty to a government-approved national security judge at Hong Kong's High Court in the district of Admiralty.

Several Western diplomats attended the hearing.

The prosecution highlighted what it said was an international media and political campaign by Demosisto, a now-disbanded political party that once backed a referendum on Hong Kong's sovereignty and counted Wong as one of its leaders, that sought to bring sanctions on Hong Kong and China in 2019 and 2020.



Wong is already in jail serving an existing sentence on an earlier national security charge of conspiracy to commit subversion after he was among a group of democratic activists who participated in an unofficial primary election in 2020. His current sentence is scheduled to end next year.

A charge sheet seen earlier by Reuters ?accused Wong of having conspired with exiled activist Nathan Law and others to ask foreign countries, institutions, organizations, or individuals outside China to impose sanctions or blockades.

Such actions against Hong Kong or China, along with other hostile activities targeting them, took place in 2020, between July 1 and November 23, it added.

Wong's case and others are being closely watched by international human rights groups and some Western ?countries tracking the implementation of the National Security Law.His case comes after two other activists were found guilty of inciting subversion last month after they used the phrase "end one-party dictatorship" in their political activities.



Nupur Sanon announces engagement

- The 32-year-old actress shared a series of engagement pictures on social media, delighting fans and followers.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Nupur Sanon, sister of Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon, has officially confirmed her engagement to longtime boyfriend and singer Stephen Bean, ending months of speculation about their relationship.

The 32-year-old actress shared a series of engagement pictures on social media, delighting fans and followers. In the photos, Stephen Bean can be seen going down on one knee as he proposes to Nupur, with a diamond ring visible during the heartfelt moment. The words “Will you marry me” are clearly displayed in the background, adding to the charm of the occasion.

Captioning the post, Nupur wrote, “In a place full of doubts and doubts, I got my share of easy ‘yes’,” a line that quickly caught attention online. Bollywood star Kriti Sanon was also seen in the pictures, warmly hugging her sister and future brother-in-law.

Rumors about Nupur and Stephen’s relationship had been circulating since 2023, but the couple had kept things largely private until now. Following the announcement, several well-known personalities from the Indian entertainment industry congratulated the couple, including Abhishek Bajaj, Priyanka Chaudhary, Karan Taker, and Suchit Tandon. According to media reports, Nupur Sanon and Stephen Bean plan to tie the knot in a private and simple ceremony in Udaipur, attended only by close family members and friends.

Why astrologer advises Hania Aamir to avoid marriage in 2026

- Hania and Asim have sparked reconciliation rumours

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

Appearing on a show, astrologer Samia Khan spoke about Hania Aamir’s life events based on her birth chart and horoscope.

Samia advised the actress to focus on her career and avoid marriage in 2026.

She said, “If Hania Aamir gets married now, there are strong chances of a breakup, which could affect her personality.”

Adding to the speculation, astrologer Kinaan Chaudhary reportedly claimed that he had earlier predicted Hania’s breakup in person, which later came true.

He further suggested that the actress appears to be in a



relationship again and hinted at strong chances of her converting it into marriage, possibly this year.

Multiple reports suggest that the actress is all set to tie the knot with Pakistani singer Asim Azhar in 2026. The rumours have sent fans into a frenzy, and amid the growing wedding chatter, popular Pakistani astrologers have made some striking predictions about Hania’s personal life.

The wedding rumours gained further momentum after Galaxy n Lollywood host Momin Ali Munshi spoke about Hania Aamir and Sajal Aly potentially tying the knot in 2026 during a recent YouTube video, fuelling curiosity among fans.

Hania and Asim, once one of Pakistan’s most talked-about celebrity couples, have sparked reconciliation rumours in recent months through subtle social media hints and public appearances.

Their relationship dates back to 2018, followed by a public breakup in 2020.

After Asim’s engagement to Merub Ali ended in June 2025, fresh speculation about his reunion with Hania began making headlines.



Rabi Pirzada reveals details of marriage and divorce for first time

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Former actress and singer Rabi Pirzada has shared her marriage and khula details for the first time revealing that she got married under parental pressure.

In a recent interview, Rabi Pirzada discussed various aspects of her personal life along with her ongoing social work. During the conversation, she candidly addressed questions about her marital life, making a rare and emotional disclosure.

Responding to a question about marriage, Rabi stated that she got married but later decided to seek khula due to unresolved issues in her married life. She shared that this was the first time she had publicly spoken about taking khula, explaining that the challenges she faced left her with no option but to end the marriage.

During the interview, Rabi also talked about her life regrets, saying that she should not have agreed to marriage under pressure from her parents.

“My marriage was a ‘watta satta’ (exchange marriage). I regret about accepting parents pressure for that marriage,” she revealed.

When asked whether she plans to remarry, the former actress confirmed that she is open to the idea and does intend to get married again in the future.

Mawra Hocane wishes elegant Birthday to close friend Alina Khan

- She leans slightly towards Mawra, smiling with a composed elegance that complements the celebratory mood.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane recently posted a beautiful throwback photograph on Instagram Story to wish her close friend Alina Khan, a happy birthday.

The image captures a serene and joyful moment between the two, set against a vibrant and decorative backdrop of floral arrangements that lend a festive atmosphere to the scene.

In the photo, Mawra Hocane is seated on the left, draped in a delicate, soft peach traditional outfit with intricate embellishments. Her hair is styled loosely, falling in gentle waves over her shoulder, and her expression is warm and relaxed. Beside her, Alina is dressed in a mustard-colored outfit adorned with a deep pink dupatta and traditional jewelry, including statement earrings and a maang tikka.

She leans slightly towards Mawra, smiling with a composed elegance that complements the celebratory mood. The setting is intimate, evoking a sense of close friendship and mutual affection. Accompanying the image, Mawra Hocane wrote a heartfelt message: "Happy birthday to my sweetest bean... Loml... kindest person I know... love you so much... This simple yet sincere note highlights the



warmth of their bond and expresses genuine admiration and love.

In another story, she shared a solo of her friend and captioned it with: "Best girllll...have the best year".The third Instagram story, background music credited to Kishore Kumar’s “Eena Meena Deeka," features a warm, emotionally rich four-photo collage celebrating friendship and companionship.

The collage itself captures the Mawra and Alina across different moments and settings, highlighting their close bond through affectionate hugs and relaxed body language.

The top two images appear to be from a festive family or wedding-related event, with marigold garlands hanging in the background.

In the top-left photo, Mawra is dressed in a deep red, heavily embroidered traditional outfit, accessorized with floral jewelry including a floral maang tikka and wrist garlands. She has her eyes closed and is smiling softly as Alina, wearing a maroon outfit with long wavy hair and statement gold earrings, embraces her from behind.

Over 4,500 Punjab hospitals to be connected with NADRA

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The goal has been set to connect more than 4,500 hospitals and rural health centres across Punjab to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) system,

According to the report, NADRA further expanded the scope of the modern system of birth and death registration.

In this regard, the provision of modern equipment has been completed in several hospitals under the Regional Head Office.

Hospitals in Kasur, Nankana, and Sialkot are connected to



NADRA's modern CRVS system.

Information about the birth of children and the death of citizens will be received directly by UCs and NADRA.

Citizens of other districts besides Lahore will also be able to benefit from NADRA's modern system.



Zara Noor Abbas’ 'Sassy Transformation' reel grabs every eye online

Scientists developing 'self-driving' device that helps patients recover from heart attacks

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Hospitals may soon be able to rely on a "self-driving" machine to help patients recover from heart attacks.

This machine would deliver treatments to the patient, collect data on how their body responds, and then adjust their medications to stabilize the patient within parameters preset by their doctor.

This is the vision for the Autonomous Closed-Loop Intervention System (ACIS), a device being developed by scientists at NTT Research, an arm of global technology company NTT.

The device has been tested in animal experiments but not in human patients yet.

The researchers' eventual goal is to allow the heart to rest and minimize its oxygen use in that



critical recovery window after a patient experiences a cardiac emergency.

The jobs that would be handled by ACIS are usually done by medical providers — but the idea is that the device could standardize and optimize the process to deliver better outcomes while relieving strain on doctors' already-limited resources.

"We think that this system will outperform the standard of care," said Dr. Joe Alexander, director of NTT Research's Medical and Health Informatics (MEI) lab.

First-ever ICC Women's Champions Trophy to take place in India next year

● Pakistan will not be part of tournament as it will be played with top -ranked six teams in round-robin league

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

The first-ever edition of the ICC Women's Champions Trophy will take place from February 14 to 28 in India next year, the International Cricket Council announced on Wednesday.

According to a press release issued by the cricket governing body, all the matches in the inaugural edition of the six-team event will be played at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai and the Vadodara International Cricket Stadium in Vadodara.

The event was originally scheduled to take place in Sri Lanka, but has now been moved to India as Sri Lanka Cricket continues to make the requisite reforms outlined at the ICC's Annual Conference in July.

The ICC, according to the press release, assessed three candidates to



host the tournament — Bangladesh, India and South Africa —against their established host evaluation criteria before recommending India as the replacement host, a decision ratified by the ICC Board on September 1.

"The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 marks an exciting new chapter for women's cricket," ICC Chairman Jay Shah said.

"The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 marks an exciting new chapter for women's cricket. As the inaugural edition of the tournament, it will bring together the best teams in the world in an intense, high-quality competition, while creating even greater incentive for teams to continue rising through the rankings and competing for a place on the global stage.

"With a marquee ICC women's event now taking place every year, we have a significant opportunity to build greater momentum, provide more consistency and create a stronger rhythm for the women's game, its players and its fans around the world."

The event will consist of Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka as they seek to become the inaugural winners of the women's tournament.

Pakistan will not be part of the Champions Trophy as it will be played in the T20I format with the six teams to compete in a round-robin league, with the top two sides advancing to the final on February 28.

India are the current holders of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, while Australia are the ICC Women's T20 World Cup champions after having reclaimed the title this July in England.

Man City secure Premier League record deal to sign Fernandez

● The fee for the Argentine international matches that paid by Liverpool to Ne wcastle for Sweden striker Alexander Isak last year.

Sports Desk

Mancheste

Manchester City signed Enzo Fernandez from Chelsea on Tuesday in a reported £125 million deal ($167 million) that equalled the British transfer record.

The fee for the Argentine international matches that paid by Liverpool to Newcastle for Sweden striker Alexander Isak last year.

City boss Enzo Maresca worked with Fernandez at Chelsea before taking on the daunting task of succeeding Pep Guardiola at the Etihad.

The Italian was a driving force behind the deal to land Fernandez after the recent sale of influential World Cup winner Rodri to Barcelona, as well as



the departures of fellow midfielders Bernardo Silva, Nico Gonzalez and Tijjani Reijnders.

The 25-year-old will partner England international Elliot Anderson and Moroccan Ayyoub Bouaddi in City's revamped central midfield at a cost of over £300 million.

"Every player wants to be part of a club like this because everyone knows how well-run City are," said Fernandez in a City statement.

"This is a club built for success. If you look across the squad, City have quality in every area. I want to learn from my new teammates and become a better player."

Fernandez won the UEFA Conference League and the Club World Cup in his time at Chelsea, but his relationship with the club's fans was soured by what they perceived as his desire to leave Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso had left Fernandez out of his squad for the last two games as speculation swirled over his potential switch to City.

"I want you to know that these have not been easy days for me. Writing this is not easy either. The truth is, I haven't been in a good place," Fernandez said in a lengthy farewell post to Chelsea on Instagram.

"Life is about making decisions, and right now I find myself having to make one of those difficult decisions."

Fernandez, who signed for Chelsea from Benfica for £106 million in 2023, angered the Blues last season by expressing interest in joining Real Madrid and was dropped for two matches as a result.

He scored twice in Argentina's run to the World Cup final, including a stunning strike against England in the semi-final.

Pakistan pacer Mohammad Abbas makes big move in ICC Test Rankings

■ Pakistan's Mohammad Abbas climbed 10 spots to 15th in ICC Test bowling rankings after 10 wickets against England, while Saud Shakeel rose to 18th among batters.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan seam bowler Mohammad Abbas jumped 10 places to reach 15th spot in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings following his consistence performances in Test matches against England.

Abbas claimed 10 wickets in the two Test matches against England, including his nine-wicket match haul.

Mohammad Ali has moved up 11 slots to reach 81st position after finishing with five wickets in the match.

Pakistan batter Saud Shakeel has gained big, his second-innings 97 lifting him 15 places to 18th. He is now the second-highest ranked batter from his country behind captain Babar Azam, who has slipped five places to 15th position.

England fast bowlers Ollie Robinson and Josh Tongue continue to be on the ascent in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings after spearheading their team to a decisive 2-0 lead over Pakistan in the Test series.Robinson, Player of the Match in both Tests, grabbed four wickets in each innings to finish with impressive match figures of eight for 35. He is now fifth, just a slot below a career-best fourth position achieved in February 2023. His latest gain of six slots means he has progressed 22 places since the start of the series.Tongue picked up five wickets in the match to move up four places to a career-best 13th position, 20 places up in the series.

England's Jordan Cox (up six places to 76th) and Dan Lawrence (up 10 places to 92nd) have also progressed in the batting rankings.

In the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings, South Africa's Dewald Brevis has attained a career-best fourth position, his scores of 75 versus Namibia and 75 not out and 41 against Zimbabwe in an ongoing tri-series in Windhoek lifting him six slots.



Rybakina, Gauff advance at US Open

■ World number two beats American teenager Thea Frodin 6-3, 6-2



WEB DESK

NEW YORK

World number two Elena Rybakina and former champion Coco Gauff breezed into the second round of the US Open on Tuesday as men's top seed Alexander Zverev launched his campaign.

Rybakina, eyeing a third Grand Slam title and the world number one ranking, beat US teen Thea Frodin 6-3, 6-2.

Gauff showed off her immensely improved serve in a confident 6-3, 6-4 victory over 53rd-ranked Zeynep Sonmez of Turkey.

Gauff blazed through the opening set before Sonmez upped her game, recovering an early break in the second and briefly taking the lead before Gauff regrouped. "I think I was just trying not to panic," Gauff said. "She started coming to the net and playing great tennis."That 3-all game was real important," added Gauff, who saved three break points in the sixth game and broke in the next for a lead she wouldn't relinquish.

World number two Rybakina and fourth-ranked Gauff are two of the three players, along with No. 3 Jessica Pegula, who have a chance to supplant Aryna Sabalenka atop the world rankings in New York.

Gauff would have to add a second US Open title to the one she captured in 2023 while Kazakhstan's Rybakina could do it just by reaching the semi-finals. Kazakhstan's Rybakina showed little sign of the left heel injury that forced her out of her quarter-final in Cincinnati this month.She saved both break points she faced in a polished performance against the big-hitting if erratic American, who was playing her first Grand Slam main draw match on a wild card.

"I'm happy with the match. Especially when you don't know your opponent, it always can be dangerous, but overall I'm happy with the first match and how it went," the world number two from Kazakhstan said.



Mohsin Naqvi meets Pakistan cricket squad at London dinner

Web Desk

LONDON

The Pakistan cricket team, along with the Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi, attended a dinner hosted by the Pakistan High Commission in honour of the national squad, reported the 24NewsHD TV channel on Wednesday.

Pakistan cricket team captain Babar Azam and other members of the team attended the dinner, along with new head coach Mike Hesson. Newly added squad member Arafat Minhas also joined the team at the event.Babar's presence at the dinner also appeared to clarify recent reports about concerns over his health, with the former Pakistan captain seen alongside his teammates. Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi and former Pakistan batsman Zaheer Abbas, widely known as the "Asian Bradman", were also among those attending the dinner. Mohsin Naqvi shook hands with several journalists and posed for photographs. The Pakistan team's appearance at Pakistan House comes as the squad prepares for its upcoming international events, with the new coaching setup under Mike Hesson beginning its work with the players.



PCB to start accountability process for players, selectors over England loss

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to question players and members of the selection committee as part of an accountability process following Pakistan's poor performance against England, The PCB has also issued a notice to the National Selection Committee, seeking an explanation for the inclusion of Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan in the squad.

Some senior doctors will be included in the investigation, while the future of Imam-ul-Haq will be decided after receiving the inquiry report. In case of guilt, a ban will be imposed on cricketer Imamul Haq.

According to the notice, Imam and Rizwan were included in the squad based on the recommendations of the National Selection Committee. The selectors have been asked to provide clear reasons and justification for their inclusion.

The selection committee has been directed to submit its response within 24 hours of receiving the notice.



Muneeba, Sadia star as Pakistan women beat Thailand by 35 runs in Asia Cup opener

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Muneeba Ali struck her fourth T20I half-century, and Sadia Iqbal took three wickets as Pakistan women defeated Thailand women by 35 runs in their opening match of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium Pakistan, playing their first match of the eight-team tournament, posted 119 for nine after opting to bat first.

Muneeba was Pakistan's top scorer, making 54 off 52 balls with four boundaries.

Sadaf Shamas provided valuable support with a run-a-ball 20, hitting three fours. The pair added 54 runs for the fourth wicket.

Thailand struggled badly in the chase and were reduced to six for two in the second over, with both wickets claimed by left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal, who bowled a double-wicket maiden. Sadia returned to strike again in the final over, finishing with impressive figures of 3 for 11 from four overs.



Fahd Haroon, Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media exchanging views with H.E. Han Sungho, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan at PM's Office.

Azma Bokhari records statement in fake video case

■ Bukhari also complained about a YouTuber who had claimed on social media that arrest warrants had been issued against her

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

A local court in Lahore on Wednesday heard a case concerning the alleged circulation of a fake video of Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari, who appeared before the court and recorded her statement as the complainant.

Judicial Magistrate Naeem Wattoo presided over the hearing.

"This is a matter concerning the honour of a woman. This was not an ordinary civil case," Azma said, adding that she had suffered immense distress after a fake video was created and circulated in her name.

Bukhari also complained about a YouTuber who had claimed on social media that arrest warrants had been issued against her.She asked the court to establish when the warrants were issued, noting that the YouTuber was present in the courtroom. The YouTuber subsequently apologised to her.

The minister said she had requested permission to record her



statement through video link due to security concerns.

"If proceedings are to be conducted this way, then the courts should be closed," she remarked.

Magistrate Wattoo said the court respected women and that its judgments demonstrated how such cases were handled.

He rejected claims that the case had been delayed by the court, saying Bukhari's associates had repeatedly appeared and sought dates.

On the court's directions, accused Falak Javed was brought before the court, after which Bukhari recorded her statement.She said that on the night between July 24 and 25, 2025, she was browsing social media when she saw videos circulating under her name with captions suggesting that one of her videos had been leaked.

Pakistan weather office forecasts more rain, flash floods from September 3 to 6

● Pakistan weather office forecasts heavy rain, thunderstorms, urban flooding, flash floods and landslides across northern regions from September 3 to 6.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast more rain and thunderstorms across upper parts of the country, particularly Islamabad and the Potohar region, from September 3 to 6.

According to the weather office, monsoon currents are entering upper parts of the country while a westerly wave is also affecting the region. The intensity of the westerly system is expected to increase on September 4 and 5.

Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat and other parts of upper Punjab are likely to receive rain and thunderstorms from September 3 to 5, while Kashmir



is expected to experience intermittent rain with strong winds and thunderstorms from September 3 to 6. Some areas may receive heavy rainfall.

Occasional heavy to very heavy rain is also expected in parts of upper Punjab, including Okara, Nankana Sahib, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Faisalabad and Jhang, particularly on September 4 and 5.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, intermittent rain and thunderstorms are expected from the evening or night of September 3 through September 5, with some areas potentially receiving heavy to very heavy rainfall. Gilgit-Baltistan is also likely to receive intermittent rain and thunderstorms from September 3 to 6. Most areas of Sindh and Balochistan are expected to remain hot and humid, although rain and thunderstorms are forecast in Zhob, Barkhan, Musakhel and adjoining areas.

The weather office has warned of urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on September 4 and 5. Similar risks have been identified for low-lying areas of Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sialkot, Faisalabad and Lahore.



Pakistan, Belgium to launch student exchange and port upgrades

■ Pakistan and Belgium agreed to strengthen maritime cooperation, including institutional links, student exchanges, training, port development and blue economy

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Belgium have agreed to deepen maritime institutional cooperation, expand student training and exchange programs beside exploring new avenues in port development and the blue economy during a meeting between Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and Belgian Ambassador Idesbald Van der Gracht here on Tuesday.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, focused on forging stronger institutional linkages between the two countries' maritime sectors, with particular emphasis on maritime education, professional training, port infrastructure and knowledge sharing.

Mr Chaudhry said the Pakistan Marine Academy was being upgraded into a degree awarding institution, with most of the work on the initiative already completed.

He said Pakistani students could benefit from training and educational opportunities at Belgian maritime institutions.

A proposed student exchange programme would enable young people from both countries to gain exposure to each other's maritime expertise, practices and professional experience.

The minister said Pakistan and Belgium had considerable scope for collaboration in the marine sector, adding that closer institutional ties and the exchange of technical expertise could help unlock the potential of their respective blue economies.

Imran Khan's sister files new contempt petition over denied jail meetings

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

A fresh contempt of court petition has been filed in Pakistan's Supreme Court over the alleged denial of family meetings and phone calls to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan at Adiala Jail,

According to the channel report, Dr Uzma Khan, Imran Khan's sister, filed the petition after family members were reportedly prevented from meeting the former prime minister. The petition also includes additional documents in support of her case.

The petition claims that an August 18 court order was not followed. It alleges that Imran Khan was not provided with the facility to make telephone calls to his sons and that his family was prevented from meeting him.

Dr Uzma Khan, Aleema Khan and Qasim



Zaman are among those who were allegedly stopped from meeting the PTI founder.

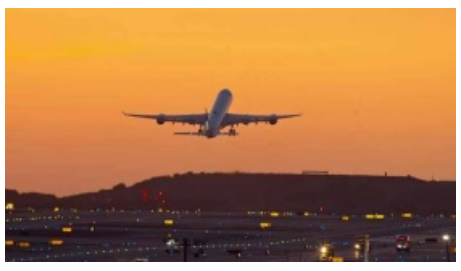
The development follows a report that no family member or lawyer was allowed to meet Imran Khan at Adiala Jail on Tuesday, the scheduled day for meetings. Members of Bushra Bibi's family were also reportedly denied access.

According to the report, Imran Khan's three sisters, Aleema Khan, Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, travelled to Adiala Jail to meet him but were not allowed to enter for the meeting.

PTI founder's spokesperson Niazullah Niazi also reached the prison but was stopped by police at the Dahgal checkpoint.

Several of Imran Khan's lawyers, including Khalid Yousuf Chaudhry, Ali Zaman and Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, also travelled to the jail to meet their client. Police stopped them at the Factory checkpoint, preventing them from reaching the prison. Members of Bushra Bibi's family were likewise not allowed to meet her at Adiala Jail. The latest petition asks the Supreme Court to take notice of the alleged failure to comply with its earlier order and the restrictions placed on meetings and telephone calls.

PIA to expand London flights from four to seven weekly from Oct 27



WEB DESK

LAHORE

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced plans to increase its direct flights to London from four to seven per week, with the revised schedule coming into effect on October 27.

According to a statement issued by the airline on Wednesday, five of the weekly flights will operate from Islamabad, while two will serve the Lahore-London route.

PIA said the decision to expand the service was driven by stronger passenger demand and growing confidence among travellers.

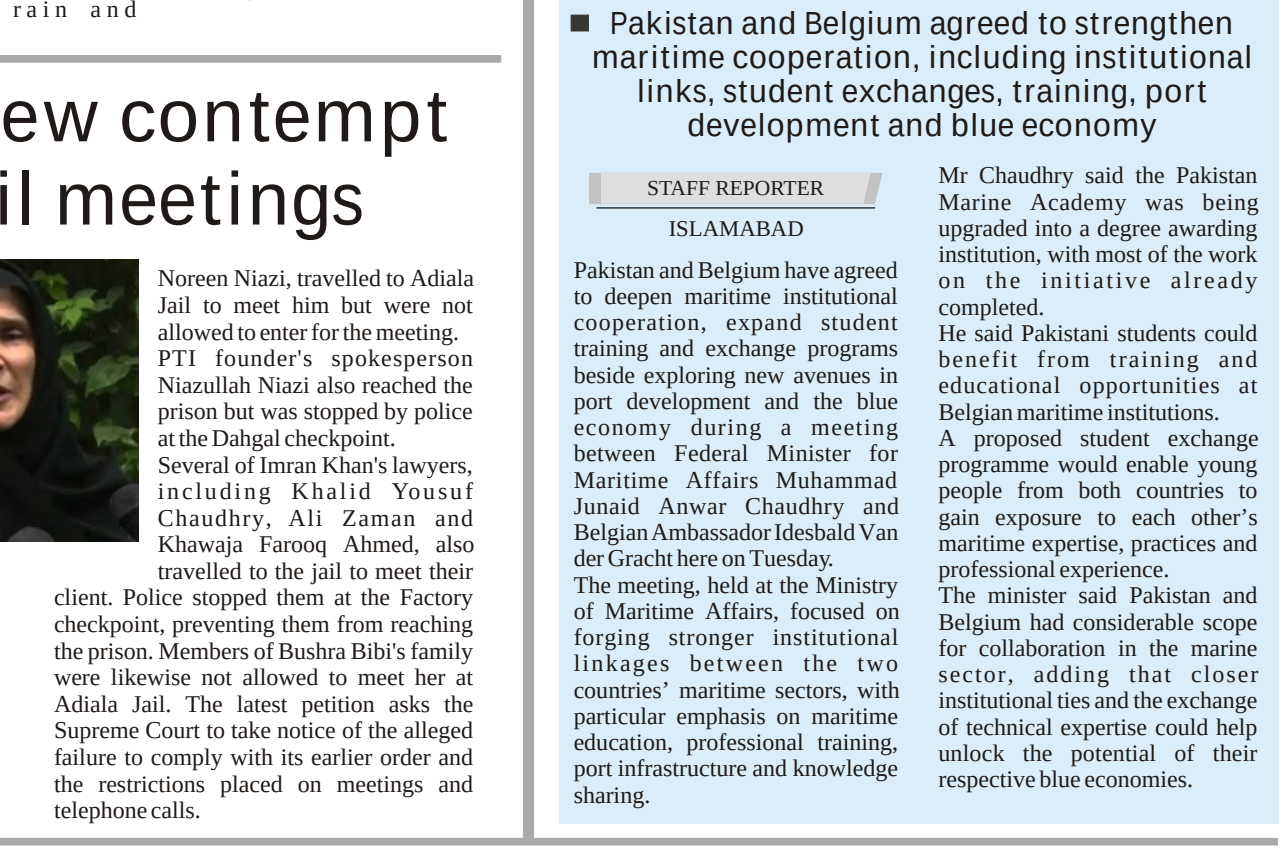
The airline had been barred from operating flights to the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States in 2020 following the crash of a PIA aircraft in Karachi that claimed nearly 100 lives.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) subsequently suspended PIA's operations in EU countries over safety concerns. The restrictions followed then-aviation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan's remarks in parliament that raised about the validity of pilots' licences.

After more than four years, EASA lifted the ban on PIA in November 2024. Britain later removed Pakistan from its Air Safety List in July 2025, paving the way for Pakistani airlines to seek permission to operate in the UK.

PIA secured approval to restart direct services to Britain in September 2025, ending a nearly five-year suspension. Manchester was selected as the airline's first UK destination.

The airline subsequently resumed direct flights to London in March this year, marking the restoration of another key route for Pakistani travellers.



A view of Nullah Leh flowing at a dangerously high level following heavy monsoon rains, as the swollen waterway poses a serious threat to residential areas and settlements built along its banks in the Federal capital.

Printer & Publisher: Wasim Ahmed , Printed at Ulus Printer,s Quetta & Published At Office No.06 2nd Floor Zainab Chaimber Sahar-e-adalat Quetta