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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets a delegation of Barclays in London



PM Shehbaz to return to Pakistan after UK, US tour

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to return to Pakistan today (Tuesday) after completing a two-week visit to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The prime minister left Islamabad on September 16 and travelled to London before proceeding to New York to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

His address at the UNGA was the key engagement of his visit, during which he highlighted Pakistan's position on regional security, water rights, global conflicts and the need for diplomatic efforts to promote peace. According to a source in the Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz reached London from New York a few days ago and was expected to depart for Pakistan on Tuesday morning.



Govt decides to call Senate session

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has decided to initiate the process for summoning a session of the Senate in view of the prevailing political situation in the country, according to sources. The proposed session of the Upper House of Parliament is likely to be convened on October 2, subject to completion of the constitutional and administrative process.Sources said the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has prepared a summary recommending that the Senate session be summoned on October 2. The summary will be forwarded for approval, after which the ministry is expected to issue a formal notification regarding the session.The proposed sitting comes at a time when political developments at the federal level have intensified, with parliament expected to provide a forum for members of the Upper House to discuss matters of national .

Seven Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in Bara, Chaghi operations

■ Security forces kill five Khwarij in Bara intelligence-based action: Two terrorists were shot dead in Chaghi, who torched water bowsers

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA



As many as seven Indian-sponsored terrorists were sent to hell in two different operations carried out by the security forces personnel in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan,

According to security sources, an intelligence-based was launched by the security forces in Bara after learning presence of Fitna al-Khwarij terrorists in the area.

In the ensuing battle, five terrorists were killed as the troops annihilated their hideouts completely. The security forces also seized a large quantity of explosives and ammunition from the possession of the slain terrorists.

The security forces vowed to eliminated terrorism from the country under Azm-e-Istehkam operation. Meanwhile, the security forces also carried out an action under Operation Riddal Fitna in Balochistan.

According to the security sources, the troops engaged terrorists in Nokcha area of Chaghi and killed two terrorists.

Earlier the terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan tried escape after torching empty water bowsers. The slain terrorists were also involved in incidents of arson and burning at different locations on N-40 Highway.

On August 31, 11 terrorists of Fitna al-Hindustan, who were involved in such sabotage incidents, were also killed.

Mohsin Naqvi praises security forces Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday praised the security forces for conducting successful intelligence-based operations against Khwarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

In a statement issued in Islamabad, the minister said the brave personnel of the security forces acted in time and thwarted the plans of the Khwarij through effective operations.



President Zardari meets Naqvi, discusses overall national situation

■ The meeting focused on recent political developments and other matters of mutual interest

WEB DESK

LAHORE

President Asif Ali Zardari and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting at Bilawal House in Karachi on Tuesday.

According to reports, the meeting focused on recent political developments and other matters of mutual interest.

The meeting comes amid heightened political activity involving major political parties and ongoing discussions on national affairs.

President Zardari and Interior Minister Naqvi had also met in London earlier this month, where they discussed national and political matters.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders have continued consultations on the political situation. PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari recently held separate meetings with senior party leaders and members of the Sindh cabinet at Bilawal House, where political affairs, parliamentary matters and provincial development were discussed.

Naqvi has remained engaged with political stakeholders in recent weeks, including meetings with opposition representatives on matters related to the political situation and planned protests.

PTI KP leader urges party to further postpone long march, warns of emergency risk

■ Gohar rejects reports of dissolving KP Assembly or replacing KP CM.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai has urged the party leadership to further postpone the long march, now scheduled for October 4, warning that the risk of emergency rule made it imperative to delay the protest.

In the letter addressed to PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar and other party leaders on Tuesday, Yousafzai said the march should be postponed in the wider national interest, particularly given the security situation and increased terrorist activity.

He warned that the federal government could use certain issues as a pretext to impose emergency rule, and that a possible attack from Afghanistan could serve as justification for such a move.

He said the federal government was building a narrative that the KP government was not cooperating, and that this could lead to attempts to dissolve the provincial government or accuse the party of supporting terrorism, potentially leading to a ban on PTI. He cited PTI founder Imran Khan's own precedent of ending a previous long march to protect workers' lives and urged the leadership to take his concerns seriously. He called for dialogue with the state rather than confrontation.

The letter comes days after PTI announced that its long march towards Islamabad, originally scheduled for September 27, had been postponed to October 4.

The former ruling party was preparing for a major protest and march on Islamabad, demanding the release of its jailed founder Imran Khan and the "restoration" of constitutional supremacy.

Meanwhile, PTI Chairman Gohar rejected the suggestion and reaffirmed the long march decision, saying the party had no intention of dissolving the KP provincial assembly and that Chief Minister Sohail Afridi could not be disqualified under any circumstances.

Attached sets Oct 6 for indictment of Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chattha in police violence case

■ The case was heard by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra, with Mazari and Chattha appearing through video link

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad has fixed October 6 for the indictment of lawyer and human rights activist Imaan Mazari and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, in a case involving alleged violence against police and violation of protocol.The case was heard by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra, with Mazari and Chattha appearing through video link. During the hearing, lawyers Riasat Ali and Zainab appeared before the court. Copies of the challan in the case were also provided to the defence lawyers. The court announced that charges would be framed against the two accused at the next hearing and adjourned the proceedings until October 6. A case against Mazari and Chattha has been registered at the Secretariat Police Station.Meanwhile, another ATC issued notices on the couple's bail petitions in a separate protest case registered at Kohsar Police Station.

Pakistan urges Taliban regime to shun 'militant mindset', adopt responsible approach

■ Info minister says terrorist safe havens, banned organisations in Afghanistan are cause of concern

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday called on the Afghan Taliban regime to move out of its "militant mindset" and adopt the approach of a responsible state.

Speaking at a seminar in Islamabad on Afghanistan's situation and progress towards peace, Tarar said that Kabul's circumstances were "highly complex" and required a lasting solution.

"Pakistan believes in peace, dialogue and peaceful coexistence," the minister said, adding that Islamabad had sent several high-level delegations to Afghanistan to help resolve the issue.

He recalled that talks on Afghanistan had also been held in Turkiye's Istanbul and Qatar's Doha.

Relations between the two countries have remained tense in recent years amid persistent terror attacks in Pakistan, which Islamabad says are largely carried out by militant groups operating from Afghanistan.

Pakistan has witnessed a sharp rise in cross-border terrorist incidents, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021.

Islamabad has repeatedly urged Kabul to prevent its territory from being used by militant organisations to carry out attacks inside Pakistan.

The two neighbouring nations have engaged in border clashes on several occasions in recent months over the terror incidents, which have claimed the lives of civilians and security personnel in Pakistan.

Despite many rounds of talks, both countries failed to reach an agreement to counter cross-border terrorism due to the Afghan Taliban regime's reluctance to take action against militant outfits.

Meanwhile, Tarar maintained that many of the problems facing Afghanistan were the result of a "militant mindset", saying the country had significant potential for promoting trade and regional connectivity.He said that peace in Afghanistan could help open trade routes between Central Asia and Pakistan, adding that Central Asian states could gain access to warm waters through Afghanistan.

"For peaceful coexistence, we must adopt the principle of live and let others live," Tarar said, adding that only peace could provide the foundation for prosperity.

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Court disposes of Iman Mazari's petition after power of attorney signed



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

A hearing was held at the Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad regarding a petition filed over the unsigned powers of attorney of rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha, Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra presided over the hearing on Tuesday. Lawyers Riyasat Ali Azad and others appeared on behalf of Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali.

The court dropped contempt of court proceedings against jail authorities after power of attorneys of Iman Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha have been signed. The court directed Superintendent Jail to formulate rules regarding power of attorneys.

The court remarked that if this is happening to lawyers, what must be happening to the power of attorneys of ordinary litigants"

Advocate Zainab submitted that the High Court has established formal SOPs in this regard.

"Jail authorities should not turn the process into a form of punishment," said Advocate Zainab. The court observed that in the past, people used to get power of attorneys signed in the holding cell or inside the vehicle.



A view of vehicles passing through sewerage water accumulated at-D-Ground Chowk needs the attention of concerned authorities

Science & Arts Exhibition Held at Girls Degree College Quetta

Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani Appreciates Students' Scientific and Creative Projects, Says Such Activities Promote Research, Creativity and Self-Confidence

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA

Provincial Education Minister Ms. Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani has appreciated the organization of Science and Arts Exhibition at Government Girls Degree College, Quari Road, Quetta and said that such extra-curricular activities play an important role in promoting the creativity, scientific and research thinking and self-confidence of the female students. Director Colleges Professor Muhammad Hussain Bakhsh Baloch, Joint Director Colleges Ms. Saeeda Niaz and Education Specialist Ms. Sadia Farooqi were also present on the occasion. Upon his arrival at the college, the Provincial Education Minister was welcomed by Principal Professor Farrukh Bashir along with faculty members. On this occasion, Ms. Raheela Hameed



Khan Durrani reviewed the scientific and creative projects presented by the students in the exhibition and appreciated their efforts. Addressing the participants, the Provincial Education Minister said that the students of Balochistan have immense potential and providing them with better educational opportunities and a conducive environment to express their talents is among the priorities of the provincial government. He said that through science and arts activities, students can be brought into line with modern requirements and also develop a tendency towards research, creation and practical experiments. He said that the scientific models and experimental projects presented by the students in the exhibition held at Government Girls Degree College, Quari Road, Quetta reflect their hard work, ability and creativity. The Provincial Education Minister further said that the Education Department will continue to take steps to improve the quality of education in the province, provide quality education to students and promote positive and constructive activities in educational institutions. He congratulated the college administration, teachers and students on organizing the successful exhibition. On this occasion, Professor Farrukh Bashir, Principal, Government Girls Degree College, Quari Road, Quetta, said that various educational and extra-curricular activities are organized in the college to highlight the academic, scientific and creative abilities of the students. The aim of the Science and Arts Exhibition is to provide opportunities for students to express their talents as well as attract them towards research, experiments and practical activities.

No Karachi candidate in top 20 of Sindh MDCAT 2026

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



According to the results of MDCAT 2026, no candidate from Karachi is included in top 20 candidates from Sindh.

A total of 33,336 candidates from across Sindh participated in the medical entrance test, including 20,831 female students and 12,505 male students.

According to the data, the highest MDCAT score in Sindh was 179, while the average score of the candidates was recorded as 101.27.

Across Sindh, 16,507 candidates qualified for MBBS and BDS, while 19,323 candidates were declared eligible for BDS.

On the other hand, 9,505 candidates from Karachi Division participated in MDCAT, out of which 5,492 candidates were able to qualify for MBBS and BDS. The success rate in Karachi Division was 57.78%.

Similarly, in different districts of the city, 2,927 candidates from Karachi East and 2,141 from Karachi Central participated in the examination, with the highest number of 1,815 candidates from Karachi East being declared successful.

Furthermore, the data further revealed that 42.04 percent of candidates who took the MDCAT in Sindh failed to meet the required standards, while the number of female candidates in the results was significantly higher than that of male candidates.

Azeri girl accuses two women of selling her to rape accused for Rs30,000

▪ Third accused Uzair Umar surrender to Lahore police

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The 20-year-old Azeri girl, who was allegedly gangraped by three men in Lahore, has made a statement in the court saying she was "sold" for Rs30,000 by the two women who invited her to dinner,

The 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 young women approached her for dinner. They went to a café where three men met them. She could identify the men and women by face.

Meanwhile, the third accused, Uzair Umar, has handed himself to Lahore police, which had already arrested the two main accused.

Diana recorded her 164 statement before a court in Lahore on Tuesday. She told the court that she came to Pakistan on September 13 and spent five days in Faisalabad and then moved to Lahore.

"I was travelling alone and was further planning to go to Skardu. I met Nimra and Muskan for meeting in Lahore. I went to the café at 11:00 pm in the night. Then I went to Bahria Town with Muskan. Two boys, Ahmad and Mohsin, came there in a white car. After which we went to an apartment and had dinner there," she said.

Diana further recalled that another two boys came there, one's name was Ali Zain and she did now who was the other. "Muskam and Nimra took Mohsin to another room for a talk. Nimra received about Rs30,000 from Mohsin and told me that the amount is for party," she said."I told her that I do not need money or alcohol. There, Mohsin tried to touch me and when I reacted he locked me in another room," she said added "Later, he came to me and I asked him where are the two women, to which he said they had gone. I also asked him to let her go, but he said he can't do that as the two women took money for it."



Diana said she told him to take Rs30,000 from her and let her go. "Ali Zain then threatened and blackmailed me, asking me to have wine with them, then they let me go. After that Mohsin, Ahmad and Ali Zain gang raped her," she added.

After that, they took her in a car which Mohsin was driving and pushed her out on a road without returning her bag which contained Rs200,000, an iphone Pro Max13 and another mobile phone, she said and added passersby lifted her up and called the police on 15 at her request.

SHC restrains govt from deporting Afghan medical students

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Sindh High Court (SHC) has restrained the authorities from deporting Afghan medical students from Pakistan, The court ruled that the 59 petitioner students may continue their classes and will also not be deprived of hostel accommodation facilities.

During the proceedings, the counsel for the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) requested time to submit a response.

The court granted the request for additional time made by the PMDC counsel.

The court adjourned the hearing indefinitely while seeking responses from the PMDC and other parties for the next hearing.

Barrister Iftikhar Shah submitted that the PMDC had issued a notice requiring students enrolled in the country's medical institutions to leave Pakistan.

The petitioner Afghan students are enrolled at various institutions, including Jinnah Medical University, LUMS Jamshoro, Gambat, and Dow University



Commuters wait without any shelter at Pandora Bus Stop on IJP Road, exposed to harsh sun and rain, as the lack of proper covered waiting facilities at the busy bus stop continues to cause hardship for daily passengers and highlights the need for urgent attention from authorities

10 children injured as school van catches fire after falling off road in Murree

■ Ten schoolchildren were injured when a van crashed off the road near Lower Mohra in Murree and caught fire. Rescue teams evacuated the children and shifted them to Civil Hospital.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



At least 10 schoolchildren were injured after a van carrying students veered off the road near Lower Mohra area in Murree and caught fire, according to Rescue 1122 officials.

The van reportedly lost control before falling off the roadside. Shortly after the accident, flames erupted from the vehicle, leaving several children with burn injuries.

Rescue 1122 emergency teams reached the scene soon after receiving information about the incident. Rescue personnel evacuated the children from the vehicle and provided initial medical treatment at the site.The injured children were subsequently shifted to Civil Hospital Murree for further medical care.

Meanwhile, the rescue service's firefighting team extinguished the blaze and completed the cooling operation at the accident site.

Authorities have not yet provided further details about the cause of the accident.

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Pakistan-Afghanistan Relations



By: Shuaib Khan, NDU University

1- Introduction

The bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan has historically been one of deep mutual ties shaped by shared geography, culture, religion, and ethnic linkages—especially among Pashtun tribes that span the Durand Line. However, geopolitical realities and security dilemmas have often prevented this relationship from reaching its full cooperative potential. The situation underwent a dramatic shift in August 2021, when the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), overturning the US-backed Islamic Republic.

Initial expectations in Islamabad were mixed: some hoped that the return of the Taliban would stabilize the region and provide Pakistan with strategic depth, while others feared a resurgence of militant threats. Over time, these hopes have largely been overshadowed by emerging security, diplomatic, and economic challenges that have defined Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the post- 2021 era.

2. Problem

The core problem in Pakistan-Afghanistan relations in the Islamic Emirate e Islami era revolves around mutual mistrust, security dilemmas, and competing strategic interests. Pakistan accuses the Taliban government of failing to curb anti-Pakistan militant groups—most notably the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)—operating from Afghan territory to conduct attacks within Pakistan. Kabul, for its part, rejects many of Islamabad's allegations and insists on respect for Afghan sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Further complicating the relationship are periodic border clashes, diplomatic deadlocks, and disputes over cross-border trade and refugee policies. These issues have not only strained political relations but have also impacted economic interaction and people-to-people movement in the borderlands.

3. Aim

This article aims to critically examine the evolution of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations after the Taliban's return to power in 2021, identifying the main causes of political tension, key challenges facing bilateral engagement, evaluation of policy responses, and deriving findings that inform recommendations for improved relations.

4. Scope

The scope of this analysis includes:

Political and security dynamics between Islamabad and Kabul; Cross-border security and militant dynamics involving the TTP; Diplomatic engagements and negotiations post-2021; Economic and border trade impact; Policy responses and their effectiveness;

Implications for regional dynamics, including interactions with third states such as India and regional mediators.The period covered spans August 2021 to late 2025, capturing key developments in bilateral relations under the Taliban-led Islamic Emirate.

5. Description — How It Emerged as a Problem When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan initially adopted a strategy defined by what commentators have called "strategic patience," seeking to engage the Taliban regime diplomatically and economically, hoping to stabilize security along its western border.

However, several developments transformed this initial optimism into a protracted problem:

a) Return of Militant Activity:

Despite Pakistan's appeals, the Afghan Taliban government has been unable or unwilling to fully suppress TTP operations from Afghan soil. Pakistani security agencies argue that TTP and allied groups use Afghan border regions as safe havens to launch insurgent attacks inside Pakistan—a claim Kabul denies and attributes to broader insurgent mobility in border areas.

b) Border Clashes and Security Incidents: The issue escalated dramatically in October 2025, when Pakistan and Afghan es and diplomatic forces engaged in some of the most intense border clashes since 2021. Both sides traded accusations of airspace violations and artillery fire, with casualties reported on both sides and diplomatic relations strained further.

c) Diplomatic and Negotiation Stalemates:

Multiple rounds of negotiations—held in Doha, Saudi Arabia, and mediated by third parties—have failed to produce lasting frameworks to address core security concerns or establish long-term cooperation mechanisms. Pakistan's demand for concrete guarantees from Kabul over anti-state militancy remained unmet, deepening mistrust.

d) Economic and Humanitarian Impact:

Trade at major border crossings, such as Torkham, has been intermittently suspended due to security tensions, harming economic exchanges and inflating transportation costs. The deportation and regulation policies towards Afghan nationals in Pakistan, meant to address illegal migration concerns, have further aggravated socio-economic dynamics.



By: Umer Inam New York

India's Hegemony on Regional Waters

More and more, India's neighbors see water as a way for India to control them. New Delhi's stance in treaty forums and its control over upstream infrastructure have made managing rivers a matter of high politics, from Pakistan's Indus basin to Bangladesh's coast. The result is a dangerous mix of legal problems, variable weather, and real human consequences downstream.



Start with the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which was a deal made by the World Bank in 1960 that split the basin. India got the "Eastern Rivers" (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) while Pakistan got the "Western Rivers" (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab). India was only allowed to utilize Pakistan's part of the rivers in a restricted and highly controlled way. For decades, the IWT was an extraordinary constant amid wars and diplomatic breaks. That steadiness is no longer there. In July 2023, a Court of Arbitration in The Hague ruled that it has the right to consider Pakistan's complaints to the design of India's Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower initiatives. India said it wouldn't take part because it thought the tribunal was "illegally constituted." It also said that the only treaty-compliant venue was a separate "Neutral Expert" track.

The standoff escalated in 2025. On June 27, the Court issued a supplemental award on competence; India's Ministry of External Affairs immediately rejected it as void and without

legal effect. The Court has since moved into a first merits phase focused on how Article III (Western Rivers) and Annexure D (run-of-river projects) should be interpreted—questions with direct bearing on dam design. India's refusal to accept the Court's authority, even as proceedings continue, signals a willingness to sideline a core IWT dispute-settlement pathway. Pakistan calls that a violation of the bargain that kept the basin stable for six decades.

This posture feeds a broader perception—particularly in Pakistan—that India treats water as a strategic instrument. Analysts have long described New Delhi as a "hydro-hegemon" in South Asia: the militarily and economically dominant upstream actor able to shape outcomes through infrastructure, law, and diplomacy. Whether one accepts that label or not, there is no denying the leverage conferred by control over headwaters and dams.

Beyond the legal and diplomatic disputes, Pakistan is also confronting a rapidly worsening domestic water crisis. The country is facing increasing water shortages across multiple regions, with Sindh experiencing severe pressure on its water resources. Areas such as Dadu have faced acute canal water shortages, while large parts of Sindh continue to struggle with drought conditions that threaten agriculture and rural livelihoods. Karachi, Pakistan's population growth, inefficient water management, and declining availability are placing additional stress on already limited resources.

largest city and economic hub, has for years faced chronic water shortages, exposing millions of residents to unreliable supply. Similar concerns are emerging in other provinces, where population growth, inefficient water management, and declining availability are placing additional stress on already limited resources.

Pakistan's water challenge is being intensified by climate change, rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall patterns, population growth, and increasing demand from agriculture, industry, and urban centers. Reduced glacial stability in the Himalaya-Karakoram region, changing monsoon behavior, and more frequent extreme weather events are creating uncertainty for a country whose economy and food security depend heavily on the Indus Basin. The combination of climate pressure and regional water disputes has made water security one of Pakistan's most serious national challenges.

The continuing deadlock over the Indus Waters Treaty has added another layer of uncertainty. Pakistan argues that prolonged disputes over upstream projects and the disagreement over dispute-resolution mechanisms are undermining the spirit of a treaty that was designed to provide stability and predictability. Islamabad maintains that the international community should play a more active role in ensuring that existing agreements are respected and that weaker downstream states are not left vulnerable. Some Pakistani voices have called for stronger international pressure on India, including possible sanctions or diplomatic consequences, while urging countries such as the United States to take a more active role rather than remain disengaged from a dispute with significant humanitarian and regional-security implications.

The dynamics are even more intimate in Bangladesh, just downstream. Dhaka's lifelines—the Ganges-Padma, Brahmaputra-Jamuna, Meghna, and their tributaries—run through from India at a multitude of locations. Bangladeshis cite a series of Indian structures, including the envisioned Tipaimukh Dam on the Barak, the Manu and Khowai barrages in Tripura, the Mahananda works, and the controversial Farakka Barrage on the Ganges, as proof of upstream unilateralism. This unilateralism starves rivers during the dry season and exacerbates floods during the monsoon. For instance, peer-reviewed studies of Farakka link it with diminished dry-season outflows and higher monsoon release downstream—exactly the volatility that Bangladesh decries.

The 2024 "Feni flood" was the most recent flash event in the past century. Bangladeshi authorities and analysts criticized India for releasing dam gates upstream—especially at Tripura's Dumbur project—without warning, resulting in an influx into Feni and adjacent districts—as torrential rainfall pummeled India's Northeast and Bangladesh's southeast.. India flatly denied the allegation, saying the deluge was driven by record rainfall and that flood-data communication briefly faltered due to power outages.



By; Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

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

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

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

Ms. Raeesa Adil has assumed this office at a time when the media landscape is undergoing unprecedented transformation. Traditional newspapers and television channels now coexist with social media, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence, making the flow of information faster and more complex than ever before. In this environment, issuing press releases alone is no longer sufficient. Governments must ensure that information

reaches the public in a timely, credible, transparent, and effective manner. Consequently, the need for experienced, professional, and balanced leadership has become more pressing than ever.

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

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

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

The true significance of this appointment, however, extends beyond the fact that a ies than ever before.

woman has assumed this prestigious office. More importantly, she has taken on this responsibility at a time when Pakistan faces critical challenges in strengthening its national narrative, enhancing public trust in state institutions, and countering misinformation. Information warfare has moved beyond conventional battlefields into the digital sphere, where false news can spread to millions within moments. In such circumstances, government information institutions shoulder greater responsibilities than ever before.

The office of the Principal Information Officer is therefore far more than an administrative position; it is an intellectual, communicative, and national responsibility. The individual occupying this office must serve as a reliable bridge between the government, the media, the journalistic community, and the public. This explains why appointments to this position have always carried exceptional significance.



Heavy construction machinery including excavators and cranes are deployed at the service road construction site along the Expressway, as development work continues to improve the road infrastructure in the Federal Capital

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FBR assures IMF it will meet Rs3.053 trillion tax target for Q1

■ The FBR had met its revenue collection target for July 2026 but fell Rs28 billion short of its August target.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

kistan has informed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) will meet its tax collection target of Rs3.053 trillion for the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year, despite missing its August revenue target by Rs28 billion,

According to details, FBR officials briefed the IMF delegation on the first-quarter revenue position and explained the reasons for the shortfall in August collections.

The FBR team told the IMF that the tax authority expects to collect not only the September target of Rs1.330 trillion but also achieve the overall first-quarter target of Rs3.053 trillion.

The FBR had met its revenue collection target for July 2026 but fell Rs28 billion short of its August target.

The IMF delegation also questioned the FBR about the number of income tax returns filed so far for Tax Year 2026.

According to the FBR briefing, around 4.7 million income tax returns had been received so far, compared with 3.2 million returns during the corresponding period last year. This represents an increase of around 1.52 million returns year-on-year.



Labourers load iron rods onto a handcart for delivery to a local market in the provincial capital

Hybrid car prices cut by millions after GST reduction

■ Automakers have begun reducing hybrid vehicle prices after the general sales tax on cars was lowered from 25% to 18%, with cuts of up to Rs570,000.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Automakers have started reducing prices of hybrid vehicles following the reduction in general sales tax (GST) on cars from 25% to 18%, with manufacturers announcing cuts running into hundreds of thousands of rupees.

Honda Atlas Cars has reduced the price of the Honda HR-V e:HEV by Rs1.07 million, bringing it down from Rs10.369 million to Rs9.299 million.

The price of the HR-V VTi-S has also been reduced by Rs500,000, from Rs7.799 million to Rs7.299 million.



According to Honda, the revised prices will be available for a limited period and limited stock. The new prices will apply to orders invoiced on or after Sept. 25, 2026.

Indus Motor Company has also announced price reductions for Toyota hybrid models.

The Toyota Corolla Cross HEV X has received a Rs570,000 reduction, bringing its price to Rs9.729 million.

The price of the Toyota Corolla Cross HEV has been cut by Rs550,000 to Rs9.299 million.

he reductions come around two weeks after the government lowered GST on vehicles from 25% to 18%, with automakers subsequently revising prices.

According to an official at Chery Master, the reduction in GST on electric vehicles from 25% to 18% was expected to help revive demand.

The higher GST rate had contributed to a significant decline in demand, as many consumers postponed vehicle purchases while waiting for clarity on government taxation policy.

OGDC welcomes second batch of female participants in MTOs programme 2026-27

Web Desk

KARACHI

Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDC) has welcomed the second batch of its all-female Management Trainee Officers (MTOs) Programme 2026-27,

The programme reflects OGDC's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and its efforts to increase women's participation in the energy sector.

The programme comprises 52 female graduates from diverse academic backgrounds and institutions across Pakistan.

A ceremony was held at the OGDC Training Institute (OGTI) to welcome the management trainees.

Addressing the ceremony, MD/CEO OGDC Ahmed Hayat Lak welcomed the new MTOs and said the initiative was aimed at making greater female representation a sustainable part of the organisation. "We want more women in our company to make our work environment more diverse and inclusive," he said.



MD/CEO Lak said the trainees would contribute to OGDC's growth journey while developing the skills required to support Pakistan's energy security. "We have a target to double our production in the next three years," he said, adding that OGDC would continue to optimise production from its mature assets and contribute to import substitution.

The 52-week programme combines classroom learning, on-the-job training, field visits, departmental placements and mentorship. It is designed to provide trainees with a broad understanding of OGDC's operations, the oil and gas value chain and the opportunities and challenges facing the sector.

The first-ever all-female batch of 36 MTOs was inducted by OGDC in July 2025. Members of the first batch also shared their experiences at the ceremony and appreciated the company for providing opportunities to gain practical insights into the oil and gas industry.

The second batch will undergo structured technical and professional development throughout the year, supported by its technical and soft-skills teams.

The programme aims to equip young women with the knowledge, skills and professional exposure required to build careers in Pakistan's energy sector.

Oil prices rise for second session on continued Middle East supply concern

■ Oil prices climbed for a second day as US-Iran tensions raised concerns over Middle East supply disruptions, despite recovering crude exports and possible US diesel measures.

Web Desk

ASHLAND

Oil prices rose for a second successive session on Tuesday as lingering concern over Middle East supply disruption brought about by US-Iran conflict outweighed signs of recovering crude exports ?from the region.

Brent crude futures had risen $1.49, or 1.4%, to $106.77 a barrel by 0326 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $93.94, up $1.34, or 1.5%. Both benchmarks closed the previous session at nearly $1 ?a barrel higher.

"A clearer picture is emerging of higher oil export volumes leaving ?the Gulf, but much of that increase still relies on workarounds such ?as ship-to-ship transfers. Those methods are less efficient and more costly than normal operations, which ?is why crude prices remain elevated," said KCM Trade chief analyst Tim Waterer.

Crude exports from major ?Middle Eastern producers climbed to 12.8 million barrels a day in September, the highest since February, preliminary figures from data provider Kpler showed on Monday, helped by increased shipments from Saudi Arabia and the ?United Arab Emirates.

US and Iranian officials spoke separately with mediators in a renewed effort to end ?seven months of war, officials of both countries said. Further talks are widely expected to focus on ?an ?amended version of a seven-day proposal that Iran presented last week on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.



"The dominant risk remains the US-Iran standoff and its implications for energy prices and inflation expectations," said UOB analysts in a client note.

"Iranian officials have reportedly ?expressed pessimism about reaching ?a deal before the ?Strait of Hormuz situation escalates further, keeping oil supply uncertainty elevated."

The war, which began in late February with US and Israeli attacks on ?Iran, has focused attention on the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial ?shipping lane ?for oil and gas supplies, the disruption of which has upended energy markets.

Meanwhile, the US is considering regulatory relief to allow broader sales of red-dyed diesel to help lower prices, action ?that could ?allow some buyers to avoid federal fuel tax, people ?familiar with discussions told Reuters. The proposal emerged from days of deliberation as a leading alternative to a diesel export ?ban.

Oil prices rose for a second successive session on Tuesday as lingering concern over Middle East supply disruption brought about by US-Iran conflict outweighed signs of recovering crude exports ?from the region.

Dollar holds near two-month peak as yields rise, Fed data looms

■ The dollar held near a two-month high as rising oil prices and Treasury yields supported the currency, while traders awaited US inflation and jobs data for clues on Fed policy.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The dollar hovered near a two-month high on Tuesday as volatile oil prices and a rapid climb in Treasury yields lent support, although gains were limited as traders awaited US data this week for clues on the Federal Reserve's rate path.

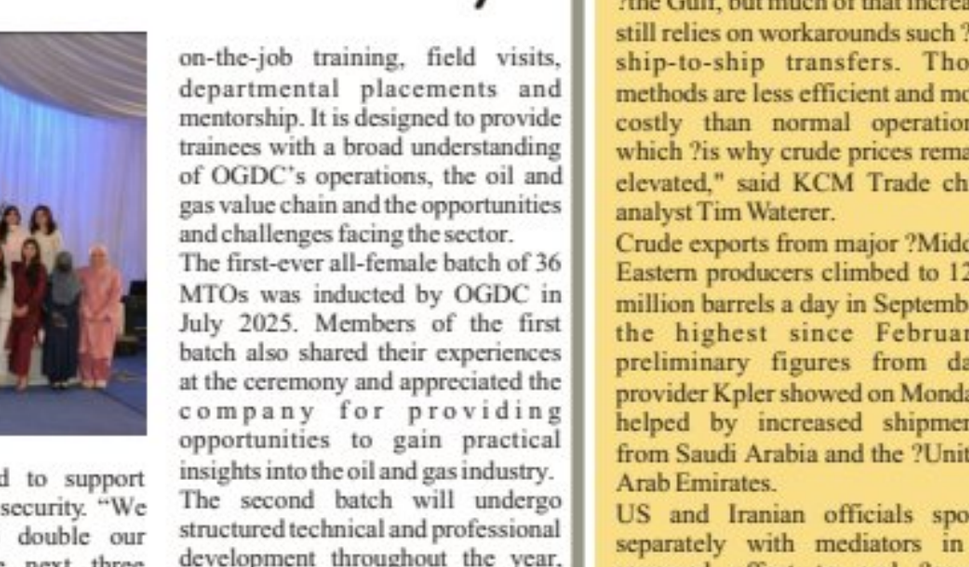
The euro traded near its weakest level in three months at $1.1367 after the European Central Bank's chief signalled measured steps to quell inflation. Sterling was steady at $1.3248, also not far ?from a three-month trough.

The dollar index , which measures the US currency against a basket of peers, was ?a touch higher at 101.2 and on track for a 1.8% advance this month, its best performance since June.

Oil prices crept back up with Brent crude futures last near $106 a barrel as markets doubted that renewed ?efforts to end the Iran war would get anywhere after US President Donald Trump rejected Tehran's ceasefire proposal.

Meanwhile, a deepening selloff ?in U.S. Treasuries pushed yields to new peaks, with the 10-year benchmark at its highest since 2007 and the 30-year at its highest since 2004. The monetary policy-sensitive two-year yield also rose to its highest in more than two years, closing in on 5%.

The dollar is ?making limited gains for now as investors awaited US data later in the week, while markets have gradually grown desensitized ?to oil moves and a global bond sell-off has neutralized the boost to the dollar from higher Treasury yields, said Joseph Capurso, ?head of ?foreign exchange at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.



"We're more likely to get stronger US economic data which shows that the US economy is exceptional, and I think that's going to help to push up US interest rates compared to elsewhere, and help push up the US dollar."

US data releases later in the week, including the PCE price index (USPCEM=ECI) on Wednesday ?and nonfarm payrolls (USNFAR=ECI) on Friday, ?are both expected to support ?the case for further Fed rate hikes.

Markets are now seeing a more than 70% chance of a rate hike from the Federal Reserve at the end of October, up from ?57% a week ago, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

The Reserve Bank of Australia ?is expected to ?raise the key rate later on Tuesday, and the Australian dollar and the kiwi both traded 0.1% lower at $0.7013 and $0.5660, respectively.

The Japanese yen weakened a touch to 157.40 per dollar, giving back a chunk of Monday's gain after Japan's top currency diplomat ?Atsushi Mimura said ?markets should heed the "very clear" warning Tokyo and Washington delivered last week ?on the yen, leaving traders on edge over the risk of intervention.

Scanned with CamScanner

Iran's supreme leader says US will be forced Out of Mideast after 'painful blows'

■ Tehran says Qatar to convey US response after talks on ideas: Iraqi Airways resumes flights between Najaf, Iranian airports



Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei has vowed that the United States would be driven out from the region after suffering "painful blows", as Tehran's delegation at the UN General Assembly in New York said it had no plans for further talks with Washington.

Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since the start of the Middle East war in late February, made the remarks despite attempts to revive talks aimed at ending the fighting.

"Today, having suffered painful blows at the hands of valiant fighters and the guardians of the Strait of Hormuz, they do not venture beyond the Arabian Sea," Khamenei said according to a statement carried by state television. "Whenever they have braved this risk, they have only brought harm upon themselves. It will not be long before the Arabian Sea, too, would rid itself of their presence."

In a series of posts on X, Khamenei said that the country's "enemy" had tried to "erode the social bedrock of the Islamic system". But today, people from all walks of life stand resolutely in defending their righteous positions, including their determination to safeguard the Strait of Hormuz." He added for the last seven months, Iranian compatriots had struck fear into the enemy while fighting for Islam.

Meanwhile, Iran's delegation in New York for the UN General Assembly is not planning further talks with the United States, the state news agency IRNA reported on Monday.

"Iran's delegation in New York has no plans for negotiations with the United States," IRNA quoted an unnamed source close to the delegation as saying. "Iran's views and positions were conveyed clearly and explicitly to the US side via a Qatari mediator."

The Iranian delegation will return to Tehran on Tuesday, the news agency added.

Despite the stall in direct engagement, US President Donald Trump is willing to give Iran sanctions relief and release frozen Iranian funds in return for "concrete Iranian steps" regarding its nuclear programme, US officials told the news outlet Axios.

Trump publicly rejected Iran's latest proposal for ending the war on Saturday but told Axios on Sunday that he expected talks to resume in the coming days.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that US officials had talked with mediators trying to end the war, adding Washington would win "very soon".

US to grant sanctions waiver for flights between Iran and Iraq's Najaf, source says



WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump's administration was set to grant a limited waiver to its Iran sanctions program y to allow for flights carrying Shi'ite Muslim religious pilgrims between Iran and Iraq, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The source, who is involved in the deliberations, said the US Treasury Department waiver would allow Iraqi Airways to fly back and forth between Iran and the ?Shi'ite holy city of Najaf in Iraq for one month, with a more permanent waiver potentially following.

Iraq halted ?flights to and from Iran on Friday, in line with US sanctions.

The source said the ?move aimed to ease pressure on the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, who has sought to deepen ?ties with Washington while also balancing a strong relationship with Iraq's influential neighbour, Iran.

Trump's effort to impose a ?crippling economic blockade on Iran is forcing regional governments to scale back ties with Iran, creating potential backlash against those states, particularly those that balance their ties with both Washington and Tehran.

Zaidi's office over the weekend said that Iraq was seeking an exemption ?for travel between Iran and Iraq for medical treatment, education and pilgrimage.

An Iraqi official said the Iraqi government was ?in talks with the US about the Najaf exemption and expected flights between Iran and Najaf to resume within 48 hours.

The US State Department referred questions to the Treasury Department, which did not immediately respond to a request or comment.

In recent days, countries including Turkey, the UAE and Iraq have cancelled direct flights with Iran as a result of US pressure. In response, Iranian officials have threatened to halt regional air travel if Iran's air links continued to ?be cut.

With Shi'ite religious ?pilgrims travelling between Iran and ?Iraq each year to visit key shrine cities, Iraq is perhaps in the most sensitive position.



Lebanon PM pushes for further implementation of Israel deal in Rubio meeting

Web DESK

Lebanon

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam on Monday called for the further implementation of a framework agreement with Israel in his meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Washington.

Tehran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the broader Middle East war in March this year by attacking Israel, which responded with massive airstrikes and a ground invasion that Lebanon says has killed more than 4,300 people.

Lebanon and Israel concluded a framework agreement in June under US auspices, providing for the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces and the disarmament of Hezbollah, but its implementation has stalled.

In a statement, Salam's office said that in his meeting with Rubio, he "stressed the need to move to the stage of implementation of the tripartite framework and translation of the principles of reciprocity and phased implementation into practical steps and tangible results on the ground, leading to the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty, the achievement of a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory, and the confinement of weapons to the state throughout its territory."

In a post on X, Rubio said he reaffirmed "strong US support as Lebanon implements the Trilateral Framework – the only path to a durable peace with Israel."

"The United States stands with a sovereign Lebanon, free from Hezbollah and Iranian influence," he added.The agreement also involves the deployment of the Lebanese army to the south, starting in test areas known as "pilot zones."

Earlier this month, US Ambassador to Lebanon Michel Issa visited one of the "pilot zones" that recently came under Lebanese military control "to assess conditions on the ground and see firsthand the progress and challenges" there. Salam "called for the establishment of a credible verification mechanism to monitor implementation and ensure compliance with the commitments" and stressed the importance of continued US support to the Lebanese military.

Iran denies link to bomb scare at airbase in Britain

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iran categorically denied involvement on Monday in a suspected plot to attack a British airbase used by the United States to strike Iranian sites, just as British police announced they were releasing on bail five men arrested over explosives and terrorism offences.In a statement on X, Iran's embassy in London said it "categorically rejects and strongly condemns the recent unfounded and malicious speculations".

It said claims in the British media linking Tehran to the incident would only fuel "Iranophobia propaganda" in the UK. The five men, British nationals from London in their mid-20s, were arrested early on Sunday after police were alerted to three suspicious white vans heading towards RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, which houses US bombers that fly missions against Iran.

Police said on Monday the men had been released on bail after extensive inte-rviews and inquiries. But Laurence Taylor, the assistant commissioner and head of Counter Terrorism Policing.

Iran FM says expects US answer today on plan to open Hormuz

■ Iran's top diplomat, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly, said "the Qataris hope this will be done by tomorrow".

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said he expected a formal answer on Tuesday from the United States to Tehran's proposal to open the Strait of Hormuz, state media reported.

Qatari intermediaries "presented ideas, and we discussed them; they are set to raise the matter with the American side once more, after which the final US response will be conveyed to us", Araghchi said late Monday.

Iran's top diplomat, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly, said "the Qataris hope this will be done by tomorrow".

"The current focus is solely on the Strait of Hormuz, and the reopening of the strait is contingent upon the fulfilment of certain conditions that we have communicated to the other side," he added.

The Strait of Hormuz lies at the heart of the conflict between the United States and Iran, which began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

The shipping route carried a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas before the war began.

But Tehran imposed a blockade on Hormuz after the war started, prompting Washington to respond with its own blockade on Iranian ports.

Last week, discussions were held in New York between Araghchi and US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

As a precondition for ending its blockade, Iran is demanding a seven-day ceasefire across the Middle East, including in Lebanon, where its ally Hezbollah has been battling Israeli forces.

Riyadh invites Emirati vice president as Yemen rift gives way to signs of Saudi-UAE thaw

● Top officials and ministers in both countries posted about friendship and unity on social media



WEB DESK

Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's defence minister invited the UAE's Vice President Mansour bin Zayed to visit the kingdom on Tuesday, in the first public invitation for a face-to-face meeting since a rift between the two over Yemen.

In July, top officials and ministers in both countries posted about friendship and unity on social media, signalling a rapprochement months after a public fallout between the two countries.

"His Royal Highness Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defence, extended an invitation to his brother, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the sisterly United Arab Emirates, Deputy Prime Minister and Head of the Presidential Court, to visit the Kingdom tomorrow, Tuesday," the defence ministry said in a statement on X.

During the July detente, Saudi General Entertainment Authority chairman Turki Alalshikh posted a picture of bin Salman alongside Sheikh Mansour that he said was taken a few days ago.

The Saudi olive branch came as the kingdom reels from weeks of Houthi attacks on its tankers, oil facilities, airports and even its capital, with the group taking control of the Red Sea coast from Saudi-backed government forces.

The kingdom has for weeks been reaching out to international allies for help in Yemen.

A source from the Yemeni leader's office told AFP earlier this week that he requested American support in a call with US President Donald Trump against the Iran-backed Houthis.

The New York Times said the Saudi crown prince called Trump on Sunday "to implore him, again" to help counter the group's advances, and Axios has previously reported that Trump rebuffed a similar request last week.

On Friday, meanwhile, the military chiefs of staff of Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan held talks on how to support Riyadh as Yemen's Houthis ramp up their attacks on the world's top crude exporter.

Scanned with CamScanner

Mahira Khan showers love for Urwa Hocane after powerful 'Beena' performance

■ Reacting to her post, Mahira Khan left a warm and deeply appreciative comment, praising Urwa for bringing Beena to life with remarkable honesty and emotional depth.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani superstar Mahira Khan has showered heartfelt praise on Urwa Hocane for her powerful portrayal of Beena in the recently concluded drama serial 'Aap Ki Izzat', calling the role seemingly destined for the actress.

As Aap Ki Izzat reaches its conclusion, Urwa Hocane shared a series of pictures on Instagram along with a heartfelt note reflecting on her journey with the drama and thanking the people who contributed to its success.



Reacting to her post, Mahira Khan left a warm and deeply appreciative comment, praising Urwa for bringing Beena to life with remarkable honesty and emotional depth.

"Dearest Urwa, Beena was written in the stars for YOU. How honestly and beautifully you portrayed her. My God... it's been a pleasure to see you perform. You were both serene and powerful. And those eyes... Mash Allah, Mash Allah. Soooo much love," Mahira wrote.

Mahira's heartfelt words quickly caught the attention of fans, particularly as Urwa's portrayal of Beena has remained one of the most discussed aspects of the drama throughout its run.

In her Instagram post, Urwa expressed gratitude to the creative team behind Aap Ki Izzat, including producers Momina Duraid and Nina Kashif, writer Umera Ahmed and director Saif-e-Hassan.



Javeria Saud left impressed by Rambo, Sahiba and Fazal Hussain in 'Mitti De Baway'

■ The veteran on screen couple Rambo and Sahiba have particularly surprised viewers by stepping far outside their familiar glamorous personas to portray traditional bangers in the drama.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Javeria Saud has showered praise on veteran stars Afzal Khan, popularly known as Rambo, Sahiba Rambo and Fazal Hussain for delivering powerful and refreshing performances in the critically acclaimed drama series 'Mitti De Baway'.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Javeria shared a glimpse featuring the three actors in their respective roles and applauded them for showcasing a side of their artistry that audiences do not often get to see on mainstream television.

Addressing Rambo, Sahiba and Fazal, she wrote: "Rambo, Sahiba and Fazal, you have proved once again that when talented artists are given strong roles and the right opportunity, they can truly shine. You have shown a completely different side of your talent and made us all so proud. Brilliant performances."

The veteran on screen couple Rambo and Sahiba have particularly surprised viewers by stepping far outside their familiar glamorous personas to portray traditional bangers in the drama.

Their characters are shown immersed in the cultural setting, with the real-life couple performing traditional songs, clapping along to the music and playing the dhol, bringing an authentic and grounded energy to their roles.

Meanwhile, actor Fazal Hussain portrays the younger version of Baala, their son, during this particular timeline of the story.

The performances have also drawn attention because Rambo and Sahiba, despite their decades-long careers in Pakistani cinema and television, are not frequently seen taking on such deeply rooted character roles. Their transformation into traditional performers has allowed the actors to move away from their established screen image and explore a more culturally textured side of their craft.

Rather than relying on their star personas, Rambo and Sahiba have embraced the nuances of their Mitti De Baway characters, while Fazal Hussain has complemented their performances through his portrayal of the younger Baala.

Kinza Hashmi's glamorous bodycon dress look leaves fans spellbound

■ Taking to Instagram, Kinza shared a series of stunning photos wearing a striking red outfit, accompanied by the caption, "No stress, just blessed."

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Kinza Hashmi has once again grabbed fans' attention with her latest glamorous appearance, leaving admirers impressed with her effortless style and confidence. Taking to Instagram, Kinza shared a series of stunning photos wearing a striking red outfit, accompanied by the caption, "No stress, just blessed."

Through the simple yet meaningful message, the actress reflected a positive and carefree outlook, suggesting that she is embracing life with gratitude, confidence, and peace while choosing to focus on the blessings around her.

The photo series showcased Kinza confidently posing in different settings, from relaxed moments on crisp white bedsheets to elegant mirror selfies inside a modern elevator and



vanity room. The collection concluded with a stylish overhead shot highlighting her complete look and sparkling heels.

For the photoshoot, Kinza opted for a vibrant sleeveless red bodycon dress featuring a chic twist-knot detail at the waist. She paired the outfit with a classic black leather shoulder bag, creating a sophisticated contrast that added a luxurious touch to her overall appearance.

She completed her look with long, softly highlighted brown hair styled in loose waves, while her glamorous makeup featured sharp winged eyeliner and a bold red lipstick that perfectly complemented her outfit.

Minimal accessories, including a silver bracelet, a statement ring, and a soft lavender manicure, added an elegant finishing touch without overpowering the look.To complete her ensemble, Kinza wore white square-toe high heels adorned with sparkling rhinestone straps, giving the outfit a polished and fashionable finish.

The post quickly drew admiration from both fans and fellow celebrities. Singer Aima Baig commented, "Why so pretty always?" while actress Saboor Aly reacted with, "Hot!" Actresses Zubab Rana, Sadia Ghaffar, and Sidra Niazi also joined in by leaving heart emojis in the comments section.Fans were equally captivated by Kinza's latest appearance. One admirer wrote, "Beauty, grace, and elegance in one frame," while another simply commented, "Uff your beauty!"



Mawra Hocane gets teary-eyed as Ameer Gilani plans heartfelt birthday surprise

SHOWBIZ DESK

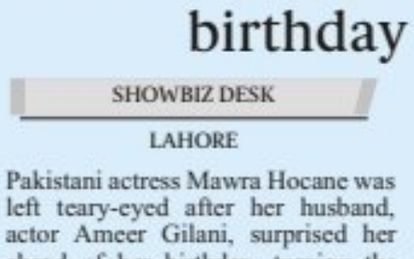
LAHORE

Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane was left teary-eyed after her husband, actor Ameer Gilani, surprised her ahead of her birthday, turning the intimate celebration into an emotional and love filled affair.

Taking to Instagram, the Aangan star shared a carousel of pictures and clips from her birthday eve, giving fans a glimpse into the heartwarming celebrations. Alongside the post, Mawra penned: "Colors and promises…. b'day eve with my love."One of the shared glimpses captured an emotional Mawra hugging Ameer, with tears visible in her eyes as she appeared overwhelmed by the sweet surprise.

Sharing the heartfelt moment on her Instagram Story, the actress wrote: "I do love surprises but I so emotional." For the special occasion, Mawra opted for a soft, youthful and distinctly feminine look. She donned a sleeveless, square neckline maxi dress featuring a muted pink and white gingham check pattern, giving her birthday look a relaxed yet elegant appeal.The dress featured a structured, fitted bodice that flowed into a long, comfortable skirt, perfectly complementing the intimate indoor setting and adding a delicate touch to her overall birthday ensemble.

Hira Soomro takes aim at senior female colleagues over age comments



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Hira Soomro has called out what she describes as the weird behavior of some senior female colleagues, claiming that they treat her as though she is older simply because she is a mother.

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a throwback wedding portrait featuring herself and her husband and accompanied it with a candid note addressing the issue of age-shaming within the entertainment industry.

Hira wrote, "I'm way younger than so many Pakistani actresses I have worked with and I don't get bothered by the age thing, but it's getting really weird."The actress claimed that some of her senior female colleagues, while notably excluding male actors from her criticism, behave as though she is older than them simply because she has children."All of my senior actresses, not male actors, are trying to show as if I'm older than them just because I have kids," she stated.

Hira went on to clarify that she got married at a young age and that becoming a mother does not change her actual age or suddenly place her in the same age bracket as her senior colleagues.

Former Pakistani model Seharish's reported condition sparks concern on social media

■ A report on former Pakistani model Seharish's reported condition has sparked widespread concern, with social media users calling for rehabilitation and greater support for mental health.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

A reported account of the current condition of former Pakistani model Seharish has sparked widespread concern on social media, with many users expressing sympathy and calling for support and rehabilitation.

According to reports, Seharish was among Pakistan's prominent fashion models during the early and mid-2010s. However, her life reportedly took a difficult turn following personal hardships.

Reports claim that after her marriage ended, she experienced severe mental distress and later became addicted to drugs. During that period, she reportedly gave birth to a premature son, who was later separated from her. The reports further state that she has no contact with her son and that her former husband does not allow her to meet the child. Reports also said Seharish was recently involved in an accident in which her foot came under a train, leaving her seriously injured and causing significant mobility problems.



Senate panel reviews MDCAT 2026 preparations, syllabus and foreign admissions policy

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

A Senate health subcommittee on Tuesday reviewed preparations for the 2026 Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT), including the examination schedule, curriculum, registration process and policies governing Pakistani students seeking medical education abroad.

The meeting was chaired by subcommittee convener Senator Anusha Rahman and attended by Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) president and representatives of relevant institutions.

PMDC officials told the committee that MDCAT 2026 would be held on August 16, shortly after the completion of intermediate examinations. The council has also announced the August 16 test date through its official notices.

Officials said students in Azad Jammu and Kashmir had been given an additional three days to register because of internet connectivity problems. More than 135,000 candidates had registered so far, with further applications expected.

The committee was informed that no complaint of a leaked MDCAT question



paper had been received during last year's examination.

Officials said the test had been scheduled after the completion of FSc examinations on the prime minister's instructions to reduce pressure on students and prevent them from preparing simultaneously for board and medical entry examinations.

According to PMDC representatives, the MDCAT curriculum was developed by the National Medical and Dental Academic Board after consultations with subject experts, teachers, students and parents.

More than 1,000 parents submitted recommendations by email on the draft curriculum, officials said, adding that suggestions were incorporated at different stages of the review process.

The curriculum will remain in force for two years, while its individual components will be reviewed every six months, the committee was told.

Senator Samina Zehri raised concerns about differences between the A-Level and FSc curricula, saying students came from significantly different educational systems.

Kamal said MDCAT questions were designed to provide an equal opportunity to candidates from both educational backgrounds.

He said the government would collect data from the previous five years to determine the proportion of A-Level and FSc students among the approximately 95,000 candidates who passed the admission test.

Rahman also sought the names and details of members of a medical education assessment committee assisting the health minister. Kamal assured the panel that the information would be provided within 24 hours.

During the meeting, a committee member questioned why Pakistani students seeking medical education abroad were also required to pass MDCAT.The health minister said the policy would be reviewed.

Rahman warned students against enrolling in foreign universities that had been red-flagged or declared substandard. A PMDC reforms committee representative said students planning to study medicine abroad were required to register with the council before leaving Pakistan.

Scanned with CamScanner

Ali, Samad lead stirring fightback as Pakistan clinch first point at Fifa Asean Cup

● Pakistan earn their maiden point in first Fifa competition

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Ali Akbar Khan scored his first international goal to spark a stirring fightback as Pakistan came from two goals down in the first half to hold the Philippines to a 2-2 draw in the Fifa Asean Cup on Tuesday, with Abdul Samad Arshad getting the leveller. Nolberto Solano's men had suffered a 4-0 reverse in their Division I Group B opener against Thailand but they showed incredible powers of recovery in a gritty performance as they got their first goals and the first point in their first-ever appearance in a Fifa competition.

Pakistan, ranked 198th, were put under pressure early on by the 136th-ranked Philippines, with the defence having to deal with a barrage of crosses.

Mohibullah Afridi put his body on the line to put a low cross behind for a corner while goalkeeper Yousuf Butt deniedAndre Leipold one-on-one.

Philippines eventually got on the scoresheet with a scrappy goal in the 24th minute. Mohibullah, on the line, turned a header onto the bar but Sandro Reyes was the quickest to react to the rebound and bundled it in. Pakistan had their first effort on goal minutes later; Ali Akbar broke through the Philippines defence only to see his effort saved by a diving Kevin Ray Mendoza. It was a chance missed, and two minutes past the half-hour mark, Philippines made it 2-0. A handball by Mohammad Fazal inside the box led to a penalty being awarded, and Bjorn Kristensen sent Yousuf the wrong way with a spot-kick. Philippines continued to attack with centre-back Haris Zeb blocking a diving header, and Yousuf was called into action minutes later. In the closing moments of the first half, Pakistan went forward on a counterattack, but midfielder Alamgir Ghazi shot high from distance.

PCB announces match officials for Pakistan's upcoming men's international fixtures

● The New Zealander completed 350 ODI matches and also became just the second person to officiate 700 international matches as referee earlier this month.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan is set to host Sri Lanka for a three-match T20I and two-match World Test Championship series, while in between the two series, England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will also play a One-Day International tri-series. The match officials' panel for these upcoming 12 international matches from 9 October to 21 November were announced on Tuesday, Jeffrey Crowe, member of ICC's Elite Panel of match referees and former New Zealand Test cricketer, will lead the playing control team in all the seven matches of the showpiece ODI tri-series from 18 to 31 October in Rawalpindi and Lahore. Crowe made his Test debut as referee in October 2004 in Faisalabad Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The New Zealander completed 350 ODI matches and also became just the second person to officiate 700 international matches as referee earlier this month.

Pakistan's Ahsan Raza and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid from Bangladesh – both members of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, along with ICC International Panel Umpires including Wayne Knights from New Zealand, Asif Yaqoob, Nasir Hussain, Rashid Riaz Waqar and Faisal Khan Aafreedi will carry out umpiring duties in the ODI tri-series.

Knights, who will add to his tally of 37 ODIs as Umpire, will partner with Asif in first match of the tri-series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka as on-field umpire.Ahsan, who will officiate the last two matches of the ODI tri-series as on-field umpire, will be accompanied by Sharfuddoula in Sri Lanka v England match in Lahore before standing in the field with Knights in the final. Faisal, Rashid and Nasir will be on-field umpires for one match each in the tri-series, while Asif will stand in two.

Sharfuddoula and Knights will take turns as third umpire throughout the tri-series with the former starting in the series opener.

Former English first-class cricketer and member of ICC's Emerging Match Referees Group Dean Cosker will lead the playing control team for the first time in Tests when Sri Lanka and Pakistan face each other in Rawalpindi and Lahore. He has so far officiated 16 ODIs, 17 T20Is, three WODIs and six WT20Is after starting his career in October 2024.

ICC Elite Panel of Umpires members Adrian Holdstock, Allahuddien Palekar – both from South Africa - and Rodney Tucker from Australia will carry out duties as on-field umpires in the two Tests. In the first match in Rawalpindi, Holdstock and Tucker will be on-field umpires, while Palekar will join Holdstock in the second Test.

Palekar will be the third umpire in first Test, while Tucker will carry out the third umpire duties in second. Faisal Aafreedi and Asif Yaqoob will be fourth umpires in first and second Test.

11-year-old schoolgirl becomes chess' youngest ever woman grandmaster

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

An 11-year-old chess prodigy has become the youngest woman grandmaster of all time, after a strong performance at the 46th Chess Olympiad.

Bodhana Sivanandan from northwest London represented England at the tournament in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, which ended on Sunday.

In an interview released on YouTube on Sunday, she told the International Chess Federation (FIDE) that she is keen to "keep making history."

Becoming a woman grandmaster means she has attained the highest female-only title in chess.

"I'm happy to do it, but I want to keep going and keep making history as well, instead of just stopping here," said Sivanandan, who previously became Britain's youngest female chess champion and the youngest person to represent England at an international tournament in any sport.

Asked whether she felt the pressure of playing on the top board at the tournament, Sivanandan said: "Not really, I just tried to enjoy it."

She explained that this was her second Olympiad. "It kind of felt very similar to the last one except I was playing on a different board," she said.

Asked about her love of chess, Sivanandan said she enjoyed the travel involved as well as the sport's benefit to her school work.

"It links to loads of school subjects so it's really useful there as well," she said.

The latest tournament continues a meteoric rise for Sivanandan, who became the youngest female player to defeat a grandmaster in August 2025.

She beat 60-year-old grandmaster Pete Wells at the age of just 10 years, five months and three days, breaking a record set by American Carissa Yip, who was 10 years, 11 months and 20 days old when she defeated a grandmaster in 2019, according to FIDE.

In 2024, Sivanandan's father told the BBC that "nobody at all" in their family had previously excelled at chess.



South Korea team latest to be bussed to wrong Asian Games venue

■ The team cancels its morning practice after losing valuable time on the journey

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

South Korea were victims of another Asian Games transport mix-up in Japan when the bus carrying their men's volleyball team went to a venue an hour away from where they should have gone.

The Games in Aichi-Nagoya have been dogged by organisational problems, with accommodation and transport for the more than 17,000 athletes and officials prime among them.

South Korea's volleyball players were forced to cancel their practice on Monday morning ahead of the group game with Taiwan later in the day following the latest logistical issue.

"An organiser-provided shuttle bus took our team to Okazaki instead of its training venue in Inuyama yesterday morning," an official from the Korea Volleyball Association told AFP on Tuesday.

"With too much time lost to turn back, the training was cancelled."We lodged a formal complaint to the organisers through the KSOC," the official added, referring to South Korea's Olympic committee.

The volleyball team went on to beat Taiwan 3-1.

South Korea's men's basketball team were forced to miss training ahead of their final against Japan last week when their bus failed to turn up.

The gaffe did not affect their performance as they went on to win the title.

Also Monday, the Pakistan men's volleyball side were bussed to the incorrect arena for their game with Uzbekistan, forcing the contest to be pushed back by 45 minutes.

"This is another mismanagement by Japan at the ongoing Asian Games,"



Pakistan captain Murad Jehan said from the bus in an Instagram video.

A spokesperson for the local organising committee said the Pakistan and South Korea teams had departed from the same accommodation and there was "an error in matching teams to vehicles".

"Each boarded a bus heading to the wrong destination. We sincerely apologise to both teams for the inconvenience," said Ayumi Sakamoto.



Pakistan play Bangladesh, India take on Sri Lanka in Asian Games cricket quarter-finals

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh reached the semi-finals of the men's Asian Games cricket on Tuesday without a ball being bowled following more wet weather in Nagoya. The Sri Lankans will meet India in the last four and Bangladesh play Pakistan, with both matches scheduled for Thursday.

Organisers are now racing to get the converted baseball field at Korogi Athletic Park ready in time.

Sri Lanka progressed when their quarter-final with Nepal was washed out -- higher-ranked teams go through in the event of bad weather.

Bangladesh were awarded victory over lower-ranked Malaysia for the same reason.

Pakistan and reigning champions India sealed their semi-final spots after rain also washed out both matches on Monday.



Djokovic confident ahead of China Open return

Web Desk

LONDON

Novak Djokovic said he was encouraged by the way his body was responding ahead of the China Open as the 24-times Grand Slam champion looks to regain momentum at a happy hunting ground after recent fitness concerns.

Djokovic will return ?to action for the first time since his shock opening-round defeat by Mariano Navone at the US Open late last month, when the 39-year-old struggled with shoulder and back problems and vomited midway through the match.

The world number 11 will look to put those problems behind him when he takes on Portugal's Nuno Borges in the first round ?in Beijing this week.

"Yeah, feeling good so far," six-times China Open champion Djokovic told reporters on Monday.

"Let's see. Obviously it's completely different when you're playing an official match compared to practice sets or practice sessions. But so far so good.

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی ڈیرہ مراد جمالی

اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ضابطہ فوجداری پاکستان ہمراہ دفعہ (10) 19 ، انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام ڈھاڈر

ATC کیس نمبر 28/2026 مقدمہ فرد نمبر 48/2026 سرکار بنام :۔ نصیر احمد وغیرہ

بجرم زیر دفعہ CTD نصیر آباد 11EE -11F (i) (2) (6) 11 -011 ATA

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ ذیل ملزم / ملزمان (1) غلام قادر ولد خانو خان بخش (2) عبدالصمد ولد عبدالرزاق (3) محمد اسلم ولد حاجی سیراب خان (4) اسرار احمد ولد نور محمد (5) غلام علی ولد علی نواز شاہ (6) علی بخش ولد مگن (7) علی گل ولد ذوالفقار علی (8) اسد اللہ ولد محمد عمر (9) رحیم بخش ولد محمد عمر (10) مشرف عرف بلو شاہ ولد محمد امین شاہ (11) محمد گل ولد مبارک علی جرم بالا کے جس کی سزا مذکورہ بالا دفعات میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا ان کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ ملزم / ملزمان مذکورہ بالا دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکوران بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ تم ملزم / ملزمان بالا کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 30-10-2026 عدالت ہذا بمقام ڈیرہ مراد جمالی نالش مذکوران کی قلمبندی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ ڈیرہ مراد جمالی

PRQ No1635/29-09-2026

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام حب

اشتہار بحکم ادھار محض ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)

مقدمہ نمبر 65/26 FIR نمبر 117 /25 سرکار بنام :۔ مولا بخش عرف مولو وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (l) (h) ،7 (1) (i) ،7 (1) (b)، 7 (2) ،11(F) (1) (2),21(i) ATA

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ CTD خضدار

ملزمان مولا بخش عرف مولو ولد عبدالحکیم ، بشیر عرف زاہد ولد محمد سکنہ پیر اندر ، اجمل عرف رستم ، اکبر ولد سبزل بگل محمد ولد پیر محمد ساکن پیر اندر عبدالصمد عرف حسن ، عارف عرف عابد محمد خان ولد سبزل سکنہ ڈوبگی امداد ولد غلام رسول سکنہ کوہ بڑ و سلام ولد عبدالعزیز سکنہ ڈوبگی جرم زیر دفعہ (b) (1) 7، (i) (1) 7، (h) (l) 7 ATA ،11(F) (1) (2),21(i) ، (2) 7 کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں از روئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بہ طبق نالش متعلق جاری ہوئے تھے کہ کسی مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ بالا ملزمان فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے آپ کو روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی ملزمان مولا بخش عرف مولو ولد عبدالحکیم ، بشیر عرف زاہد ولد پیر محمد سکنہ پیر اندر ، اجمل عرف رستم ، اکبر ولد سبزل بگل محمد ولد پیر محمد ساکن پیر اندر عبدالصمد عرف حسن ، عارف عرف عابد محمد خان ولد سبزل سکنہ ڈوبگی امداد ولد غلام رسول سکنہ کوہ بڑ و سلام ولد عبدالعزیز سکنہ ڈوبگی کو لازم ہے کہ مذکورہ تاریخ 03-10-2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام اس عدالت میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائیں۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ لسبیلہ بمقام حب

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ضابطہ فوجداری پاکستان ہمراہ دفعہ (10) 19 ، انسداد دہشتگردی بمقام ڈھاڈر

ATC نمبر 38/26 FIR نمبر 33/26 سرکار بنام :۔ میر حسن وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 11EE (4) ATA سیوی CTD

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمیان (1) میر حسن (2) عبدالسلام پسران عبدالمجید اقوام بالہ ساکن کنھن تحصیل سنی یولان (3) ثناءاللہ ولد گل بہار قوم شیرزئی جتوئی سکنہ سنی یولان (4) امداد علی عرف امان اللہ ولد علم دین (5) محمد صلاح ولد محمود خان اقوام ابڑو سکنہ بھاگ جرم بالا کے جس کی سزا مذکورہ بالا دفعات میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا ان کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے رپٹ ہذا یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بہ طبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران بالا دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکوران بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران کو لازم ہے کہ وہ بتاریخ 27-10-2026 عدالت ہذا بمقام ڈھاڈر نالش مذکورہ کی قلمبندی کیلئے حاضر ہوں مفرور ملزمان کی جانب سے مسٹر خیر محمد مری ایڈووکیٹ کو کونسل مقرر کیا جاتا ہے۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

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Punjab forms high Powered committee to review Hina Javed murder case



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Punjab government has constituted a high-powered committee to review the investigation into the murder of Hina Javed on the directives of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

According to sources, the committee will be headed by CCD chief Sohail Zafar Chattha. Lahore DIG Shoaib Khurram and Rawalpindi SSP Investigation Saifullah are also part of the committee.The committee will conduct a fresh review of the investigation and is expected to visit Rawalpindi this week. During the visit, its members will inspect the crime scene and examine the progress made in the case so far.

Sources said the Rawalpindi police had received forensic reports related to the case, including the final post-mortem report.

The committee has also contacted Hina Javed's family as part of its review.

FinMin Aurangzeb kicks off talks with IMF mission for EFF, RSF reviews

● IMF mission briefed on digitised asset declaration scheme covering 10,000 federal govt employees, says report

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday held an opening meeting with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission as part of the negotiations for the fourth review of Pakistan's $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and climate programme.

The IMF mission, led by Iva Petrova, is in Islamabad for the fourth review of Pakistan's EFF arrangement and the third review of the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), the Ministry of Finance said in a statement.

During the meeting, Aurangzeb and the IMF delegation held preliminary discussions on key issues related to the ongoing reviews.

The successful review of IMF talks will result in a recommendation to the board for the release of $1.2 billion worth of two tranches under EFF and RSF. In May this year, Pakistan received $1.32 billion from the IMF after its Executive Board completed the third review under the EFF, the central bank had said.



Pakistan's 37-month EFF arrangement was approved on September 25, 2024, and is aimed at building resilience and enabling sustainable growth. Key priorities include entrenching macroeconomic stability through sound policy implementation, rebuilding foreign exchange reserves, and broadening the tax base.

Meanwhile. the IMF review mission reached the federal capital after spending the last week in Karachi, where it discussed monetary policy, inflation and the exchange rate with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) high-ups, In Islamabad, the review mission was briefed on the digitisation of the Asset Declaration Scheme, under which 10,000 federal government employees are bound to declare their assets by October 30, the report added.

The mission was briefed by the Establishment Division and the FBR high-ups on the digitisation of the Asset Declaration Scheme under Section 15-A of the Civil Servant Act 1973. The Fund was informed that as many as 10,000 federal civil servants would declare their assets under this mandatory scheme. It will be mandatory for civil servants to declare their assets. These digitised asset declarations will be published by December 2026 or January 2027.

Public servants belonging to provincial services are not part of the scheme at this stage.On the revenue collection front, the FBR high-ups briefed the review mission about the projected revenue collection for the July-September period of the current fiscal year.

It was argued that the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz led to a fuel price hike and slowdown in economic activities in Pakistan, impacting sales tax and income tax. According to the FBR's rough estimates, the ongoing war has caused revenue losses of Rs144 billion.However, the FBR high-ups claimed that they would achieve the first quarter's revenue collection target of Rs3.053 trillion by the end of September 30. Tax collection might touch Rs1,330 billion against the desired target of Rs1,343 billion, but this figure will help the tax machinery to touch the July-September target of Rs3.053 trillion by the end of the ongoing month, the report stated, citing sources.

Foreign woman records statement before court in Lahore rape case

● A foreign woman identified as Diana recorded a statement under Section 164, alleging she was sexually assaulted by three men in Lahore after being taken to an apartment.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

A foreign woman, identified as Diana, has recorded her statement before a Lahore court under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in connection with an alleged sexual assault case.

According to the court record, the investigating officer presented Diana before the court, where she confirmed her identity and said she understood why she had been brought before the judge.

The court informed her that the statement could later be used as evidence against her. Diana nevertheless expressed her willingness to proceed. The court then recorded her statement after determining that she was giving it voluntarily and without pressure, threats or inducement.

According to Diana's statement, she arrived in Islamabad from Istanbul on September 13 and stayed in Faisalabad for five days before travelling to Lahore. She said she had planned to visit Skardu but contacted two women, identified as Nimra and Muskan, to meet in Lahore.



Diana told the court that she went to a café at around 11pm, where Muskan met her and later took her to Bahria Town, saying Nimra was waiting there.

She alleged that a white vehicle arrived at around 2am carrying two men, identified as Ahmed and Mohsin. Diana said she accompanied them to an apartment, where two additional men later arrived. She identified one as Ali Zain but said she did not know the other man's name.

Diana alleged that Nimra and Mohsin spoke separately and that Nimra received between Rs20,000 and Rs30,000 from Mohsin, which she said was described as money for a party.

According to her statement, Diana said she did not want money or alcohol and wanted to leave. She alleged that Mohsin attempted to touch her and that she was taken into a separate room.

She further alleged that she was told she could not leave because her friend had taken money. Diana said she offered to pay Rs30,000 herself but alleged that Ali Zain threatened and blackmailed her, telling her to drink alcohol before she could leave.

Diana subsequently alleged that Mohsin, Ahmed and Ali Zain sexually assaulted her.

LHC CJ Alia Neelum fumes over police investigation system

■ During proceedings on Tuesday, the CJ expressed anger over lack of formal compliance in double murder case.

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Alia Neelum has expressed displeasure over dysfunctional police investigation system, During proceedings on Tuesday, the CJ expressed anger over lack of formal compliance in double murder case.

Hearing the bail plea of ??an accused who murdered his sister and brother-in-law over an inheritance dispute, Chief Justice remarked "If this is the standard of compliance, what must the standard of investigation be?"



Chief Justice Aalia Neelum further inquired that what kind of investigation do you conduct? If this is the level of thinking, how do you handle investigations?

The plaintiff cannot be made to comply with his brother, Chief Justice remarked.

Lahore CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana assured improvement of the police investigation system.

"We will exercise caution in the future," CCPO assured the court.

Counsel for the accused, Muhammad Waqar, withdrew the bail plea in the double murder case.

CCPO Bilal Siddique Kamyana and other police officers appear before the Lahore High Court.

A double murder case against the accused, Muhammad Waqar, is registered at the City Raiwind Police Station.



Cath labs to be established in eight Punjab districts by November: Maryam Nawaz

■ The chief minister stressed the importance of preventive measures and healthier lifestyles to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced that cardiac catheterisation laboratories (cath labs) will be established in eight districts of the province by November, with facilities planned in seven more districts by February.

Speaking on World Heart Day, the chief minister stressed the importance of preventive measures and healthier lifestyles to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Maryam Nawaz reiterated her government's plan to establish cath labs and cardiology centres at all district headquarters hospitals across Punjab.

According to the chief minister, 7,294 cardiac patients have so far undergone successful procedures at cath labs in six districts. The facilities in Jhelum, Jhang, Vehari, Kasur, Mianwali and Bahawalnagar have performed 4,448 angiographies and 2,763 angioplasties.

She said two patients had also successfully received temporary pacemakers at the cath lab of District Headquarters Hospital Kasur.Maryam Nawaz said state-of-the-art cardiac centres would also be established in every division of Punjab.

She directed authorities to ensure the provision of free medicines at all cardiac hospitals, including the Punjab Institute of Cardiology. She said free medicines, stents and bypass surgeries were being provided to heart patients.

The chief minister added that free blood pressure and diabetes screening was being conducted through Clinics on Wheels and field hospitals.

She urged students to avoid junk food and smoking and directed the launch of awareness programmes in schools focusing on heart health and physical activity.

Maryam Nawaz also called for a dedicated awareness campaign on cardiovascular diseases among women.

She said the provincial government was committed to providing every citizen of Punjab with access to a healthier life and protection against heart diseases.

Punjab imposes 30-day ban on flying drones outdoor over security concerns

WEB DESK

LAHORE



The Punjab Home Department has imposed a 30-day ban on outdoor drone flights across the province under Section 144, citing security concerns.

Under the notification, drones will not be permitted for outdoor use during the restriction period. However, limited use of small drones for covering events inside halls and marquees will be allowed, with event organisers responsible for ensuring their safe operation.

Intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been exempted from the restriction.

The Home Department has also established district-level Safe Drone Usage Committees to issue written permissions for approved drone operations.

The committees will consider requests involving safe drone use for agricultural, irrigation and research-related activities.

Drone operations covered by written permission from the relevant committee will remain exempt from the restrictions.

The ban has been imposed by the Punjab Home Secretary under Section 144(6) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. Provincial authorities and police have been directed to ensure full implementation of the order across Punjab.



Ms. Wang Gaofei, Deputy Director, International Communication Department, China News Service (CNS) in a group photograph with Acting Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan, Sabeen Usman Khattak and senior officials, during her visit to APP Headquarters

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