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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Federal Cabinet

President Zardari signs off on emergency rule in K-P

■ Govt appoints Yahya Akhunzada to K-P administration, names Dr Muhammad Fakhr Alam Irfan chief secretary

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday signed off on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recommendation of imposing emergency rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) amid a deteriorating security situation and the provincial government's deliberate disengagement from the fight against terrorism.

According to a post on X by the president of Pakistan, Zardari signed off on PM Shehbaz's advice under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

"Following the federal cabinet's decision, the prime minister's advice, reports from relevant institutions regarding the law and order situation, and the failure of negotiations with government delegations, the president has signed the summary," the post said.The announcement came shortly after the federal cabinet recommended imposing emergency rule in K-P amid the



prevailing security situation.

The cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of PM Shehbaz, reviewed the worsening law and order situation in the province and was briefed on the rising threat of terrorism.

In view of the gravity of the situation, the cabinet recommended that the prime minister advise President Zardari to invoke his constitutional powers under Articles 232 and 234 to impose emergency rule in the province.

The advice was then forwarded to the President's House.The developments follow a meeting between President Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Saturday,

Pakistan forces kill 12 Khwarij, Afghan Taliban in Kurram border infiltration attempt

■ Pakistan security forces killed 12 Khwarij and Afghan Taliban personnel while foiling an attempted infiltration in Kurram on October 10. A soldier was also martyred during clashes.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Security forces killed 12 Khwarij and Afghan Taliban personnel while foiling an infiltration attempt along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Kurram district according to a security statement.

The statement said security forces detected a group of Khwarij attempting to cross from Afghanistan into Pakistan along the international border. Troops effectively thwarted the



infiltration attempt, while Afghan Taliban posts opened fire to support the infiltrators.

Vigilant troops responded with precise engagement, killing 12 Khwarij and Afghan Taliban personnel. During the intense exchange of fire, Naib Subedar Hidayat Aman, 40, a resident of Ghizer district, fought gallantly and was martyred.

Security forces kill 18 terrorists in Balochistan, KP operations

The statement said the incident once again supported Pakistan's position that the Afghan Taliban regime had failed to prevent terrorist organisations from using Afghan soil and had instead facilitated and patronised cross-border terrorism. It added that the regime had consistently failed to fulfil its international counterterrorism obligations.

Security forces remain committed to defending the country's borders, the statement said, adding that a sanitisation operation was under way to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored Khwarij present in the area.

It further said the counterterrorism campaign under the vision of "Azm-e-Istehkam", approved by the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, would continue at full pace to eliminate foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

The statement said the sacrifices of security personnel further reinforced Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding the nation and its frontiers. .



Barrister Gohar urges federal government to reverse KP emergency

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has urged the federal government to reverse the emergency imposed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, calling it a serious political mistake and an undemocratic step,According to the report, Barrister Gohar said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would not accept any action that undermined their rights. He said the public mandate was a constitutional and legal right that should be respected.

He argued that peace could not be achieved by weakening provincial autonomy or silencing people in the name of the fight against terrorism. He said tackling terrorism required national unity and a joint strategy rather than decisions that could increase political tensions.



Federal govt appoints Dr Fakhr Alam as KP chief secretary after emergency

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The federal government has appointed Dr Muhammad Fakhr Alam Irfan as the chief secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, issuing the first notification following the imposition of an emergency in the province.

According to the notification issued on Sunday, Dr Fakhr Alam's appointment takes immediate effect and will remain in place until further orders.

Dr Fakhr Alam is a Grade-22 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS). Before his new assignment, he was serving as secretary in the Power Division of the federal Ministry of Energy.

He belongs to Mardan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The federal government issued the appointment notification on October 11, 2026.



PM Shehbaz presses KP govt to cooperate with Centre against terrorism

■ Prime minister said terrorist attacks were occurring daily n KP while the provincial government remained silent

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government not to remain a silent spectator to the deteriorating security situation, calling for joint efforts with the federal government to eliminate terrorism.

Addressing a crucial federal cabinet meeting on Sunday, the prime minister said terrorist attacks were occurring daily in KP while the provincial government remained silent. He described the provincial administration's alleged inaction as assistance to terrorism and urged it to play an active role in countering the threat. "We want the KP government to work with the federal government to eliminate terrorism, but it is not willing to support the Centre against terrorists," the prime minister said.

He also criticised the provincial government over what he described as its plan to march on Islamabad, saying ordinary citizens had been targeted in terrorist attacks over the past two years.

Referring to the security situation in the province, Shehbaz said attacks were taking place daily in Tank, Dera Ismail Khan and other areas, while the provincial government had failed to publicly condemn the incidents.

Sohail Afridi, Junaid Akbar arrested, claims PTI parliamentary leader

■ Shahid Khatak makes claims in message posted on X: Urges Peshawarites to come out and calls on people from across KP to gather in Peshawar

CITY REPORTER
PESHAWAR

A PTI parliamentary leader Shahid Khatak has claimed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, party leader Junaid Akbar and several other associates have been arrested after imposing governor's rule in the province.

In a message posted on social media platform X, the parliamentary leader said the arrests had taken place and urged people across Pakistan, particularly residents of Peshawar, to take to the streets in support of former prime minister and PTI

founder Imran Khan.

"People of Peshawar, now it is your turn. Come out of your homes for your beloved leader, Imran Khan, and for his soldier," he said in the message.

The leader said he was present in Peshawar and called on people from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to head to the city. He added that he would be wherever the gathering grew in size.

Naqvi says tried utmost to avert imposition of emergency in KP

■ Interior Minister visits Laiba's home, assures justice to family, says it's FIA duty to swiftly arrest involve in the fraud against Laiba

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that no room left to avert the imposition of an emergency in Khyber Paktunkhawa.

"You tell me how this situation can be averted", Mohsin Naqvi answer the query of a journalist. Naqvi told media that, "PTI's Barrister Gohar can tell what extent I tried to avoid this matter."

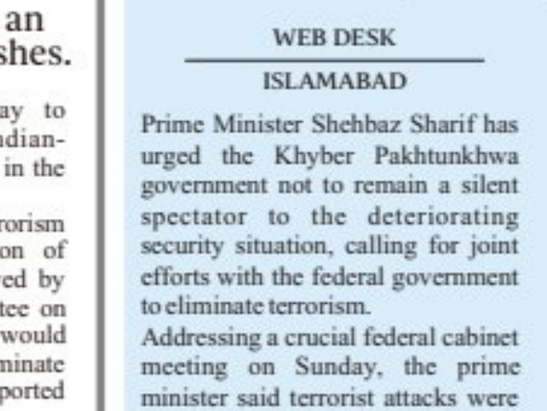
"I made every possible effort to avoid such a decision," says Mohsin Naqvi. "Now, there is no room left," says Mohsin Naqvi in an informal conversation.

Earlier, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the home of Laiba, a student of IIU, who committed suicide after losing huge amount for study visa, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel.

Interior Minister Naqvi met with student Laiba's father and offered his condolences. Naqvi expressed deep grief over the death of student.

Talking to media, Naqvi made it clear that whoever is involved in the incident will be arrested soon. He assured the family that the culprit who defrauded the female student will be apprehended as all agencies are mobilized to arrest the accused.

Naqvi said, "We will bring those involved to justice."



He said it was FIA duty to swiftly arrest those involved in the fraud against Laiba.

Naqvi said FIA was also investigating the case. The Prime Minister has issued directives to arrest the accused. Mohsin Naqvi said," we will ensure that such individuals are punished."

Naqvi said decisive action will be taken against such agents. He said the incidents of fraudulently sending people abroad have decreased. Naqvi said the government will dismantle gangs that send people abroad through fraud. Mohsin Naqvi told media that European Union has acknowledged a decline in visa fraud. He said NCCIA was operational, and 61 employees were working in Punjab. Naqvi said Prime Minister has also taken notice; complaints regarding such cases are being routed through the Pak-ID system. The Prime Minister summoned everyone a short while ago to discuss these cases.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan deploys army in KP under Article 245 after emergency decision

- Pakistan's Interior Ministry has issued a notification for deploying the army in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 245 of the Constitution to assist the civil administration and protect lives



SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

The federal government has issued a notification for the deployment of the Pakistan Army in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 245 of the Constitution, tasking troops with assisting the civil administration and protecting citizens and public installations following the imposition of an emergency in the province.

According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Interior, the army will perform security duties and support civilian authorities in maintaining law and order and safeguarding public and government property.

The deployment will remain in place for the duration of the emergency, which took effect on October 11, 2026, the notification stated.

The strength of the troops to be deployed will be determined by the governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in consultation with General Headquarters (GHQ), according to the order.

Matters relating to troop numbers and deployment arrangements will be finalised in coordination with the Military Operations Directorate to ensure that adequate personnel are available to support the civil administration and meet security requirements.



People purchase tomatoes and ginger from vendors stall at the Aabpara weekly Bazaar in the Federal Capital

NORI stresses early detection at its Breast cancer awareness seminar

- The Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), one of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's (PAEC) Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals, organised a breast cancer awareness seminar to highlight the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis and comprehensive cancer care.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), one of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's (PAEC) Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals, organised a breast cancer awareness seminar to highlight the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis and comprehensive cancer care.

Held under the theme "Every Story is Unique, Every Journey Matters," the seminar brought together medical professionals, cancer survivors and other participants to promote breast cancer awareness and encourage timely medical consultation.

Begum Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar attended the seminar as the chief guest. In her address, she paid tribute to the doctors and healthcare professionals serving PAEC's network of 21 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals for their dedication in treating cancer patients, even at advanced stages of the disease and making cancer care accessible to those in need.

Sharing a personal account, she recalled how a close friend who had been diagnosed with stage IV cancer six years ago received treatment at NORI and is now leading a healthy life. She appreciated the hospital's commitment in improving the lives of patients and their families.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shabana Saeed, Director General, Nuclear Medicine and Oncology (NM&O), emphasised that it was high time to break the silence surrounding breast cancer and encourage open conversations about the disease.

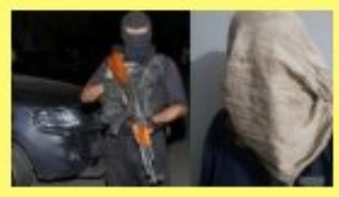
She urged the participants to carry forward the message of awareness they had received and share it with other women in their families and communities to promote early detection and timely treatment.

Earlier, while welcoming the participants, Dr. Humera Mahmood, Director, AECH-NORI, underscored the importance of public awareness, early diagnosis and timely treatment. She highlighted the burden of breast cancer in Pakistan and urged women to seek medical advice without delay.

CTD arrests terrorist linked to Fitanah al-Hindustan in Karachi

- The officials further alleged that Khan had received training for terrorist activities in a neighbouring country.

SPECIAL REPORTER
Karachi



The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), working with an intelligence agency, has arrested a man allegedly linked to the banned Fitanah al-Hindustan group in Karachi, According to the CTD spokesperson, the suspect has been identified as Fazal Haq Khan and he is associated with the banned Fitanah al-Hindustan group, also known as the Baloch Republican Guards (BRG).

CTD officials said the suspect was allegedly planning attacks on sensitive locations in Karachi and offices of law enforcement agencies. A hand grenade was recovered from his possession, they added.

The officials further alleged that Khan had received training for terrorist activities in a neighbouring country.

Investigations are continuing to identify and arrest his alleged foreign handlers, associates, facilitators and financial backers, the CTD said.

A case, numbered 94/2026, has been registered against the suspect at the CTD Operations Karachi police station.

The case has been filed under relevant provisions of the Explosive Substances Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act, according to officials.

Senior officials have also announced certificates of appreciation and cash rewards for the team that took part in the operation, the CTD said.

Sindh proposes $9.15m floating farming project for 100 villages

- The Sindh government has proposed a $9.15 million climate-resilient floating agriculture project to develop 400 hectares of flood resilient cropland across 100 waterlogged and flood prone villages in lower Sindh by 2029, aiming to improve food security by 30%, train 10,000 farmers and strengthen the livelihoods of communities vulnerable to floods and prolonged waterlogging.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



:The Sindh government has proposed a $9.15 million climate-resilient floating agriculture project to develop 400 hectares of flood resilient cropland across 100 waterlogged and flood prone villages in lower Sindh by 2029, aiming to improve food security by 30%, train 10,000 farmers and strengthen the livelihoods of communities vulnerable to floods and prolonged waterlogging.

According to official documents available with Wealth Pakistan, the project, titled Climate Resilient Floating Agriculture Systems for Waterlogged and Flood Prone Areas of Lower Sindh, seeks to introduce floating farming techniques using organic rafts to grow vegetables, herbs and grains in areas where conventional cultivation is constrained by excessive water.

The proposed initiative is expected to benefit 12,500 people directly and 50,000 indirectly, offering an alternative farming model to communities facing recurring agricultural losses and livelihood disruptions due to floods and waterlogged land.

Under the programme, 10,000 farmers would receive training in floating agriculture and climate-l smart, flood resilient farming techniques, while women are expected to make up 20% to 30% of the targeted trainees.The project also envisages supporting women-led farmer groups through training and seed capital to expand livelihood opportunities and strengthen household food security.

Two rescued after car catches fire on Sialkot-Lahore Motorway

SPECIAL REPORTER
Lahore



Two people escaped unharmed after a car suddenly caught fire on the Sialkot-Lahore Motorway, with motorway police rescuing both occupants in a timely operation,

According to a spokesman for the motorway police, the fire was apparently caused by a short circuit. Officers quickly removed the two people from the vehicle and began efforts to control the flames.

Motorway police used fire extinguishers and a special fire blanket to put out the fire. Sub-Inspectors Rameez Khan and Aamir Sajjad took part in the immediate rescue operation.

The fire caused severe damage to the car, but no loss of life was reported. Motorway police also called Rescue 1122 to the scene, while the relevant officers remained present to oversee the response.



A woman is selecting and purchasing shoes from a stall in Sunday Bazaar at Peshawar Mor in the Federal Capital

Govt forms 11-member advisory council for KP after emergency to assist governor

- KP governor will conduct the affairs of the provincial government on behalf of the federal government, with the assistance of an 11-member advisory council

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The federal government has constituted an 11-member Advisory Council in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following the declaration of emergency in the province under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution.

A notification was issued establishing a new administrative framework for the conduct of government affairs in KP.

According to details of the order, the directive was issued in light of a constitutional proclamation dated October 11, 2026, outlining a revised mechanism for managing provincial administrative affairs following the imposition of emergency rule.

Under the order, the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will conduct the affairs of the provincial government on behalf of the federal government, with the assistance of an 11-member Advisory Council.

11-Member Advisory Council Formed

The following individuals have been named to the Advisory Council:

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Shabbir Shah Bail Refusal Shows Kashmir's Legal Crackdown on Dissent



By Sardar Naveed Anjum Advocate

The refusal to grant bail to veteran Kashmir leader Shabbir Ahmad Shah in a case dating back nearly three decades is not a mere judicial anomaly; it is a symptom of a calculated political strategy. In Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the machinery of the state—investigative agencies, prosecutorial zeal, and a dense web of anti-terror laws—is increasingly deployed not to secure justice, but to stifle political dissent.

The history of Kashmiri leadership is marked by this systemic targeting. The 1984 execution of Maqbool Ahmed Bhat served as a watershed moment, hardening political resolve across generations. Decades later, the 2022 life sentence of Yasin Malik for terror funding and conspiracy is viewed by observers not as a dispassionate legal outcome, but as an attempt to criminalize political advocacy. The subsequent efforts by the NIA to seek capital punishment and the filing of additional murder charges in May 2026 further illustrate a drive for total neutralization rather than legal resolution.

This net of suppression extends to women and grassroots organizers. Asiya Andrabi, founder of Dukhtaran-e-Millat, has faced repeated detentions and criminal proceedings. Her experience suggests a troubling trend: when female leadership emerges, the state responds with securitized suppression rather than democratic engagement. Similarly, the trajectory of Masarat Alam Butt—characterized by a cycle of arrests and releases—demonstrates how overlapping cases are used to keep leaders under a perpetual judicial shadow, exhausting their energy and disrupting their organizational capacity.

A generation of leaders and activists—including Nayeem Ahmed Khan, Mahraj u din Kalwal, Dr. Hameed Fayaz, Ayaz Akbar, Amir Hamza, Bilal Ahmed Saddique, Peer Saifullah, Farooq Ahmed Dar, Zahoor Ahmad Butt, Muhammad Yasin Butt, Molvi Bashir Irfani, Zaffar Akbar Butt and others—now find themselves mired in under-trial detention. For these individuals and their families, the nightmare is not necessarily a final conviction, but the truncation of life through prolonged pretrial incarceration.

This systemic use of detention as a tool of political control has been highlighted by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In its landmark 2018-2019 reports on the situation of human rights in Kashmir, the OHCHR expressed deep concern over the "excessive use of preventive detention" and the "arbitrary nature" of arrests targeting political activists and human rights defenders. The reports noted that such detentions often lack a legal basis and serve to stifle the exercise of fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly.

The strategy is clear: the filing of new FIRs as old ones conclude and the layering of investigations by different agencies serve to neutralize political agency. This "churn" of litigation ensures that activists remain trapped in a legal limbo where bail is nearly impossible and a full defense is arduous.

This chilling effect is facilitated by a draconian legal framework. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) severely restricts bail and extends investigative timelines, while the Public Safety Act (PSA) allows for preventive detention without trial for months. Furthermore, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) grants sweeping immunities to security forces. The UN Special Procedures—including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and various Special Rapporteurs—have repeatedly communicated these concerns to the Government of India. In multiple communications, these experts have cautioned that the UAPA and PSA are frequently used to bypass fair trial guarantees, effectively transforming the judicial process into a mechanism of punishment prior to conviction. The Special Procedures have urged India to ensure that anti-terror legislation is not used to criminalize the peaceful exercise of the right to self-determination or political dissent.

The proliferation of agencies—the NIA, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the State Investigation Agency (SIA)—allows the state to launch parallel criminal, financial, and administrative probes against the same individual. This converts political activism into a series of enforceable offenses, overwhelming the dissident through sheer institutional volume.

Beyond Legal Technicalities

This is not merely a debate over law; it is a crisis of legitimacy. The question of Jammu and Kashmir's political status and the right to self-determination have been central to UN deliberations for decades. When democratic aspirations are met with detention and intimidation, the state erodes any remaining consent for the prevailing political order.

While states have a duty to maintain law and order, legitimacy requires proportionality and transparency. Charging leaders under anti-terror laws without credible evidence of violence transforms the law into a blunt instrument of control. The multiplex use of agencies suggests an intent to crush dissent rather than a holistic pursuit of justice.



By: Shabana Mahmood

Mental Performance and Health of Employees in Organizations

The progress, stability, and success of any organization directly depend on the performance and dedication of its employees. In today's fast-paced and competitive corporate era where technology and modern administrative structures have elevated targets a dangerous increase in employee workload and mental stress has been observed. Unfortunately, organizations in our region traditionally focused for a long time only on physical attendance and mechanical productivity rates, while continuously neglecting the primary driver of this capacity the needs and health of the human mind. It is an established fact that only a healthy and peaceful mind can make sound decisions, overcome new challenges, and foster innovative thinking to play a key role in achieving organizational goals. From an administrative and economic standpoint, ignoring employee mental health causes a silent yet massive financial loss for organizations. When an employee suffers from mental exhaustion and stress, their focus degrades, the likelihood of errors increases, and absenteeism rises. Furthermore, an unhealthy work environment forces talented and capable employees to leave, requiring significant time and capital to recruit, train, and get projects back on track. Given this scenario, it is imperative for modern organizations to implement concrete, comprehensive, and actionable measures to improve employee mental performance and well-being.

Management must acknowledge that an employee is a human being with a personal life, family, and social obligations not a machine. Sending emails, messages, or phone calls after office hours, late at night, or during holidays should be strictly avoided. Granting employees the flexibility to manage various aspects of their lives significantly reduces stress, allowing them to return to work refreshed. A favorable office culture enables employees to express opinions, ideas, and concerns without fear or hesitation. A lack of communication and an atmosphere of fear between management and staff breed mental confusion. When employees feel that their suggestions and genuine grievances will be heard with empathy rather than retaliation, their trust in the organization strengthens. Regular interactive sessions should replace one-sided orders to encourage constructive two-way dialogue. Unequal work distribution is a major cause of stress. Organizations must continuously monitor workloads; burdening a single employee beyond their capacity ruins performance. Management should set project deadlines considering ground realities and human limitations. Promoting transparency and meritocracy prevents feelings of deprivation or exploitation. Human psychology naturally craves recognition for effort and dedication. When an employee gives their all to benefit the organization, a monthly salary alone is not complete compensation. Certificates of appreciation, bonuses, career growth opportunities, or words of praise in front of peers boost mental energy. Conversely, unacknowledged hard work and constant criticism push employees into despair and detachment. Changing market trends, evolving job roles, and the pressure to adapt to new technology induce anxiety. To mitigate this, organizations should invest regularly in professional training. Equipping staff with modern tools and training turns daunting challenges into manageable opportunities. Clear, transparent career paths instill mental peace and a sense of future security. Corporate sectors must implement structured psychological wellness programs. Engaging psychologists or wellness coaches allows employees to discuss personal or professional issues confidentially. Modern organizations are also introducing "mental health leave" granting time off for severe mental fatigue just as they would for physical illness. This sends a clear signal that the organization values their well-being. The ultimate success of all these initiatives relies on the attitude of leaders and managers. An effective leader goes beyond demanding output; they understand and empathize with their team's mental, emotional, and psychological state. Providing moral and practical support during illness or personal hardship fosters long-term loyalty. Avoiding micromanagement and granting autonomy is the hallmark of a healthy corporate culture. It must be recognized at every level that an organization's most valuable asset is not its impressive building, advanced machinery, or bank balance it is its people. Investing in employee mental health, peace of mind, and performance is not an unnecessary expense; it is the single greatest guarantee of a stable, prosperous, and profitable future. When organizations prioritize mental well-being and cultivate a compassionate environment, employees respond with complete dedication, creativity, and integrity to drive the organization to new heights. The need of the hour is to transform workplaces from stress centers into supportive environments where fulfilling responsibilities feels less like a burden and more like a rewarding, meaningful journey.



Endangered Shina Literature and the Cultural Message of Naeem's Poetic Voice

Silent revolution is unfolding across the digital landscape, reshaping how information is created and consumed;for millennia, language evolved slowly through human migration, cultural exchange, and societal shifts. However at the moment, a new linguistic force has emerged in the form of synthetic language;generated totally by artificial intelligence, this machine produced text is no longer just a novelty, butit is quickly becoming a dominant thread in the fabric of global communication.This phenomenoncomprehensible,but to comprehend one must look at how artificial intelligence constructs words. Contrasting humans, who rely on lived experiences, emotions, and consciousness to express ideas, Large Language Models treat language as a game of mathematical probabilities;by analyzing vast oceans of digitized human text, these systems learn the statistical likelihood of which word should follow another;the result is a highly polished, grammatically flawless output that mimics human prose with astonishing accuracy.

This technological leap has unlocked unprecedented productivity, newsrooms use artificial intelligence to draft financial reports and sports summaries instantly, andbusinesses deploy it to craft marketing campaigns, respond to customer inquiries, and localize content across dozens of languages in seconds. Synthetic language acts as anuntiring collaboratorfor individual authors by breaking the barriers of author's block and democratizing the ability to produce structured, coherent content.

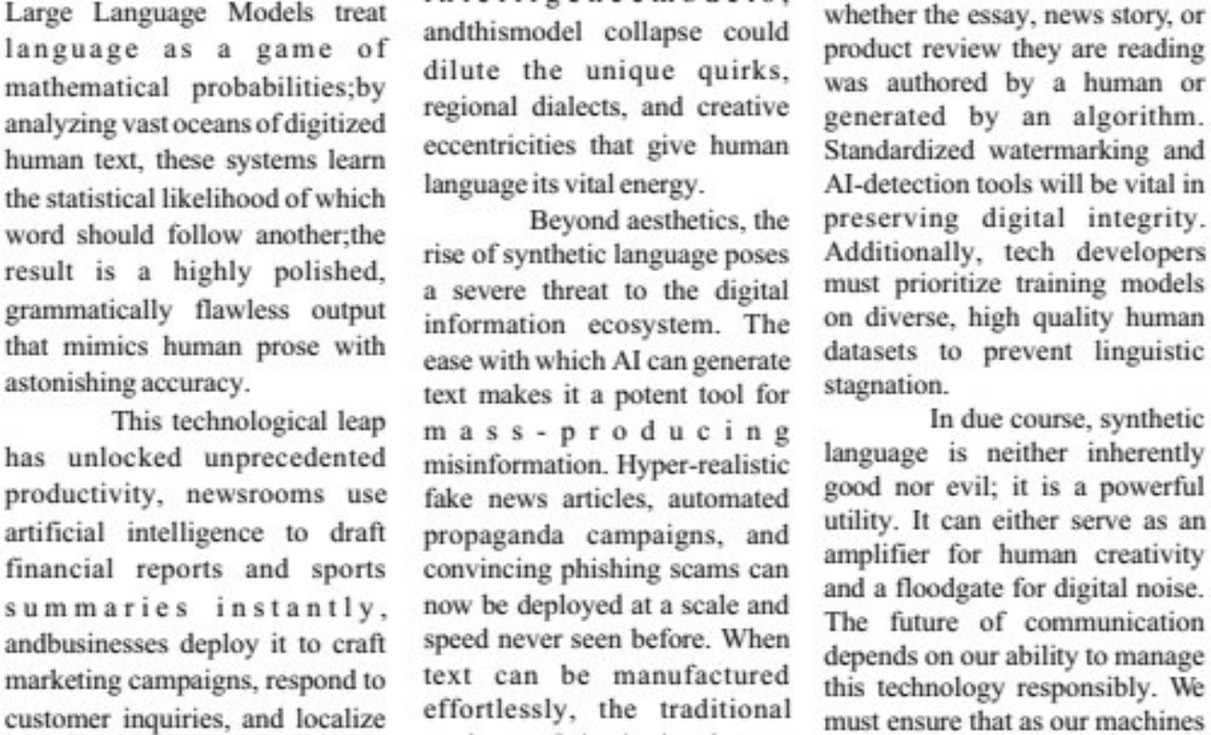
However, this rapid propagationfamiliarizesa subtle but profound challenge of the homogenization of human expression. Artificial intelligence models are trained on existing data, meaning they reflect the averages of what has already been written. They lean heavily on predictable structures, familiar idioms, and safe, consensus driven perspectives. When the internet becomes flooded with synthetic text, we risk entering a feedback loop. Imminentartificial intelligence models will inevitably be trained on text generated by current artificial intelligencemodels, andthismodel collapse could dilute the unique quirks, regional dialects, and creative eccentricities that give human language its vital energy.

Beyond aesthetics, the rise of synthetic language poses a severe threat to the digital information ecosystem. The ease with which AI can generate text makes it a potent tool for mass-producing misinformation. Hyper-realistic fake news articles, automated propaganda campaigns, and convincing phishing scams can now be deployed at a scale and speed never seen before. When text can be manufactured effortlessly, the traditional markers of institutional trust begin to erode. If consumers can no longer distinguish between a deeply researched investigative report and a machine-generated fabrication, the foundational shared truth required for healthy public discourse begins to fracture.

In addition, this shift raises deep philosophical questions about meaning and intent;when a human writes, every word carries the weight of intent, emotion, and personal accountability. In contrast synthetic language, is entirelydisconnected from intent, because a machine does not know what it is saying; it merely predicts patterns. This detaches the act of communication from the presence of a conscious mind;we are left interacting with a mirror of our own collective vocabulary, lacking any genuine human spark.

As we navigate this transition, society must establish new boundaries. Transparency is the first critical step. Readers have a fundamental right to know whether the essay, news story, or product review they are reading was authored by a human or generated by an algorithm. Standardized watermarking and AI-detection tools will be vital in preserving digital integrity. Additionally, tech developers must prioritize training models on diverse, high quality human datasets to prevent linguistic stagnation.

In due course, synthetic language is neither inherently good nor evil; it is a powerful utility. It can either serve as an amplifier for human creativity and a floodgate for digital noise. The future of communication depends on our ability to manage this technology responsibly. We must ensure that as our machines grow more articulate, we do not lose the authentic, messy, and uniquely human voices that gave birth to language in the first place.



Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam leading a rally marking the formal launch of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bachao Tehreek.

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SM Tanveer nominated for FPCCI presidency, wins Gohar Ejaz's support

■ SM Tanveer says if elected, he would work for the welfare of the business community.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Dr Gohar Ejaz, patron-in-chief of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), has backed SM Tanveer's nomination for the presidency of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh and other office-bearers met Dr Gohar Ejaz to discuss the upcoming FPCCI elections.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr Gohar Ejaz said all chambers in Sindh had nominated SM Tanveer, head of the United Business Group (UBG), as their candidate for the FPCCI presidency.

He welcomed the nomination, describing it as a good choice, and expressed hope that it would be accepted.

"It would be a matter of great pleasure if this nomination is accepted. Insha'Allah, SM Tanveer will serve the business community as president of the Federation," Dr Gohar Ejaz said.

He also announced the establishment of the Federation Education Foundation, saying it would take over one school in each of Pakistan's 170 districts.

SM Tanveer, the presidential nominee, said that if elected, he would work for the welfare of the business community.

The meeting was also attended by Aamir Ata Bajwa, Qurratulain Abdul Rauf, Mukhtar and Momin Ali Malik.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal addresses a book launch ceremony at the Quaid-e-Azam Library.

Ali Pervaiz Malik departs for Saudi Arabia for World Petroleum Congress

■ The World Petroleum Congress will bring together energy ministers, policymakers and senior oil industry executives from around the world

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik has departed for Saudi Arabia to attend the World Petroleum Congress, scheduled to take place from October 11 to 15,

The visit comes amid disruptions in global energy supplies and uncertainty in international oil markets, prompting countries to focus on securing reliable supplies of petroleum products and gas.

The World Petroleum Congress will bring together energy ministers, policymakers and senior oil industry executives from around the world to discuss key developments, emerging challenges and the future of the global energy sector.

During his visit, Malik is expected to hold bilateral meetings with Saudi officials and other counterparts to discuss energy cooperation and Pakistan's petroleum requirements, the official said.

Discussions are also expected to focus on arrangements to ensure adequate liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies for Pakistan during the upcoming winter season, when demand for gas typically rises.

Ensuring the availability of LNG and other petroleum products remains an important consideration for Pakistan as it prepares to meet domestic energy needs. Any supply constraints could add to the challenges of managing energy demand during the colder months.

The petroleum minister's participation in the international gathering is expected to provide an opportunity to engage with key energy-sector stakeholders and discuss matters related to supply security and bilateral cooperation.

Pakistan has been seeking to maintain reliable supplies of petroleum products and natural gas amid fluctuations in international energy markets.

Govt plans new electricity, gas subsidy system from 2027

■ Pakistan plans to replace existing electricity and gas subsidy systems with targeted assistance for verified low-income consumers from 2027, as part of energy sector reforms.



Web Desk

ASHLAND

Pakistan has accelerated reforms in the energy sector to implement International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions and directives, with the government preparing to overhaul the existing electricity and gas slab and cross-subsidy systems.

According to sources, the proposed system aims to restrict electricity and gas subsidies to genuinely deserving and low-income consumers.

Under the plan, a new electricity subsidy mechanism will be introduced in January 2027, while the revised system for gas consumers is expected to take effect on July 1, 2027.

To improve transparency and efficiency, the Power Division has started work on a dedicated socioeconomic registry of eligible consumers with support from the World Bank.

Sources said the government plans to complete the registration of eligible consumers by November this year.

After data collection and verification, the information will be linked to the core records of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), enabling authorities to identify those genuinely entitled to financial assistance and subsidies.

According to the plan, the existing tariff differential subsidy and cross-subsidy system for electricity will be phased out by January 2027, while gas consumers will be linked to the same database from July 1, 2027.

The restructuring of the subsidy framework is aimed at easing the long-standing burden of circular debt on the energy sector.

Sources said electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) had also submitted formal applications for adjustments to the base electricity tariff.

Meanwhile, the government has briefed the IMF on preparations for the privatisation of power distribution companies and administrative reforms. The measures are intended to help achieve the goals of permanently eliminating circular debt and improving the energy sector.

Pakistan ranks 11th in poultry production, but exports remain below $4m: Aurangzeb

● Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb urges measures to boost Pakistan's poultry exports Highlighting the sector's production capacity, limited exports and need to curb sales tax evasion.

Web Desk

KARACHI



Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has called for measures to increase Pakistan's poultry exports, saying the country ranks 11th globally in poultry production but its exports remain limited despite the sector's considerable potential.

Addressing the International Poultry Expo in Lahore, Aurangzeb said exhibitions of this kind strengthen connections between the business community and investors. He said the government was working to address challenges facing the poultry industry so the country could make better use of the sector's potential.

According to the finance minister, around 1.5 million families are associated with Pakistan's poultry industry, which produces approximately 2.5 billion kilogrammes of meat and 28 million eggs annually. Despite this production capacity, the country's poultry exports do not exceed $4 million, while the global poultry market is valued at $45 billion.Aurangzeb said poultry accounts for a limited share of meat exports in Central and South Asia, highlighting the need to expand the sector's presence in international markets.He said the development of the poultry industry could help strengthen the national economy and create further opportunities to increase exports. The government, he added, was working to resolve the sector's problems and encourage business activity. The finance minister also stressed the need to prevent sales tax evasion across the country, saying the issue required immediate action. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also monitoring measures aimed at curbing sales tax evasion.

Aurangzeb expressed hope that greater investment, stronger business connections and efforts to promote exports would enable Pakistan to increase its share of the international poultry market.

Flour prices surge by up to Rs400 per 20kg bag as weekly inflation rises

■ The price of a 20kg flour bag reached around Rs3,400 in Karachi, Islamabad and Peshawar, according to the report.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Flour prices have surged by as much as Rs400 per 20-kilogramme bag in a week, with consumers in Karachi, Peshawar and Islamabad facing some of the highest prices, as Pakistan's weekly inflation increased by 0.57%, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Annual inflation rose to 11.97%, reflecting continued pressure on household budgets amid rising prices of essential food items and energy.

According to the PBS data, prices of 20 essential commodities increased during the week, while six items became cheaper and 25 remained unchanged.

Flour prices rose by 5.69% during the week, followed by chicken at 4.93%, gram pulse at 3.99% and tomatoes at 2.40%. Petrol prices also increased by 2.40%, while lentils, tea and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) became more expensive.

The price of a 20kg flour bag reached around Rs3,400 in Karachi, Islamabad and Peshawar, according to the report.

Rawalpindi recorded a significant increase of Rs347, taking the price to Rs3,333 per bag. In Sialkot, the price rose by Rs333 to Rs3,133.

In Sukkur, a 20kg bag became Rs300 more expensive, reaching Rs3,060, while prices in Hyderabad increased by Rs200 to Rs3,200.

Quetta recorded an increase of Rs70, taking the price to Rs3,030 per bag. In Multan, the price rose by Rs66 to Rs2,866.

In contrast, flour prices remained unchanged at Rs2,300 per 20kg bag in Lahore and Rs2,200 in Faisalabad.

The sharp rise in flour prices is likely to put additional pressure on lower- and middle-income households, for whom flour is a staple food.

Some commodities become cheaper

The PBS data showed that banana prices declined by 2.81% during the week, while diesel became 1.37% cheaper. Potato prices fell by 0.89% and sugar prices by 0.37%.

Scanned with CamScanner

Hurricane Simon strengthens to Category 4 off Mexico coast

■ The NHC urged residents in the warning area, which also includes the Islas Marias archipelago offshore, to rush preparations to protect life and property



WEB DESK

MANZANILLO, Mexico

Hurricane Simon strengthened into a powerful Category 4 storm off Mexico's Pacific coast on Saturday, threatening destructive winds, storm surges and potentially deadly flooding as it approaches landfall.

The US National Hurricane Center said Simon was located about 115 miles (185 km) south-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, on Saturday morning, packing maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (240 kph) as it moved northward.

Simon is expected to approach the west-central coast of Mexico as a major hurricane late on Saturday or early Sunday, and some additional strengthening remains possible before landfall, the NHC said.

A hurricane warning was in effect for portions of Mexico's Pacific coast south of the beach resort of Puerto Vallarta, including the area around Manzanillo, Mexico's largest Pacific port. ?A tropical storm watch was in effect farther south toward Lazaro Cardenas.

The NHC urged residents in the warning area, which also includes the Islas Marias archipelago offshore, to rush preparations to protect life and property."Simon has strengthened incredibly quickly, and that's what makes storms like this so dangerous," said AccuWeather meteorologist Dan Pydynowski."Strong winds could damage homes and businesses, while flooding and mudslides could wash out roads and make it difficult for emergency crews to reach some communities. Even after the storm passes, power outages and damaged infrastructure could make recovery challenging."In the early afternoon on Saturday in Manzanillo, residents appeared largely calm despite the approaching storm, with little sign of panic buying at supermarkets, according to a Reuters reporter on the ground. Some stores had begun boarding up their windows, while businesses were closing and streets were relatively empty.



US plans three-day strikes against Iran, NYT reports

■ Iranian energy infrastructure and command centres belonging to IRGC could also be among the potential targets

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

The US military is planning a three-day campaign of intensive strikes against Iran, although President Donald Trump has yet to make a final decision on launching fresh attacks, according to a report by The New York Times.

The proposed operation would target Iran's stockpiles of missiles and drones. Iranian energy infrastructure and command centres belonging to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) could also be among the potential targets, the newspaper reported.

According to the report, Trump has rejected five proposals for military strikes against Iran and Yemen's Houthis over the past several months, reflecting continued uncertainty over the administration's approach to the region.

Also Read: Trump clarifies comment that Iran could 'take out' Los Angeles

The newspaper also reported that Iran has rebuilt and strengthened its missile and drone capabilities since the end of the war.

This has reportedly made it increasingly difficult for the United States to protect its military bases across the region from potential Iranian attacks.

The report further claimed that Iran had targeted 13 ships since September, while Washington had refrained from responding to those incidents.

The reported military planning comes amid continuing concerns over regional security and the risk of further escalation. .



Houthi strike on Riyadh Airport kills 12, wounds 309 as Saudi Arabia vows response

■ Two strikes hit King Khalid International Airport, killing a Saudia pilot and prompting PIA, Lufthansa and Indian airlines to suspend flights.

WEB DESK

Riyadh

The deadliest strike on Saudi soil in more than a decade killed 12 people at Riyadh's international airport and wounded hundreds, prompting the Saudi-led coalition to vow on Sunday a decisive response against Yemen's Houthis.

The coalition blamed the Iran-backed group for the strike on King Khalid International Airport, describing it as a "full-fledged war crime" that a diplomatic source attributed to a missile.

The attack came during an unprecedented wave of Houthi strikes on the kingdom since a truce in the group's long-running war with Yemen's Riyadh-backed government unravelled in July.The spiralling violence has raised the possibility of a wider escalation, with US President Donald Trump signalling Washington could join military action against the fighters.

One passenger told AFP they witnessed a strike in the airport's domestic terminal.

"I was on gate 403," the witness said. "I saw 401 hit, I saw injured in front of my eyes. Everyone was running."

Four Saudi citizens were among the dead in the attack, as well as two Bangladeshis, one US citizen, one Egyptian, one Jordanian, one Syrian, one Palestinian and one Sudanese, the kingdom's civil aviation authority said in a statement.

It said some of the 309 wounded were in serious condition.

Operations at the airport were suspended following the attack and authorities said damage assessments were continuing.

The attack prompted health officials to activate a rare mass call-up of doctors to deal with the "serious emergency situation", a medical source said.

Two doctors told AFP that several pilgrims headed to Mecca had been among the wounded.Foreign embassies warned their citizens to avoid the airport.

Coalition spokesman Major General Turki al-Malki described the strike as a "cowardly terrorist attack" against a civilian facility. "The cowardly terrorist attack by the Terrorist Houthi Militia... which resulted in deaths and injuries among civilian passengers and airport staff, constitutes a full-fledged war crime," he said in a statement on X.

Earlier, the coalition said it had intercepted missiles targeting Saudi Arabia and destroyed launch platforms.

The Houthis claimed a series of strikes targeting the airport on Thursday that killed three people and damaged a plane, though they did not immediately take responsibility for any new attacks on Saturday.

Malaysia Schools Closed Haze Crisis Hits Kuala Lumpur and Other States

■ Thick smoke from Indonesian fires has covered towns for over a month, and eaders from both countries are now talking about a joint response.

WEB DESK

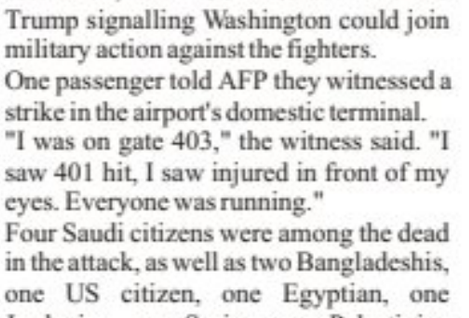
JADAH

Here is the latest on Malaysia schools closed haze: classes were stopped in many areas on Friday because thick smoke from fires in Indonesia made the air unsafe to breathe.

Kuala Lumpur and several other parts of the country were hit hard. The smoke has been drifting across the region for more than a month. It comes from burning peatland and forest.

Doctors say more people are now coming in with breathing problems. Towns and cities across the region have been wrapped in grey smoke for weeks.

On Friday, the air in Kuala Lumpur got



even worse. The city reached a reading of about 224 on the IQAir index. This pushed the Malaysian capital past Singapore, and IQAir named it the most polluted major city in the world.

Singapore was not far behind. Its reading touched 209 in the afternoon, which falls in the "very unhealthy" range.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek ordered full school closures in four states and two federal territories. One state, Pahang, will see only some schools shut. Three districts in Perak State also closed their schools on Friday.

The ministry has not yet said whether schools will open again on Monday. Officials could not be reached for comment.

Fadhlina said parents will get more notice in the future. She promised that any decision to close schools will be shared early, so families have time to plan.

The King also stepped in. Sultan Ibrahim said on Thursday that schools should close when the Air Pollutant Index reaches 150 or higher. He asked the ministries to protect students, older people and patients with lung problems.

Under Malaysian rules, a reading above 100 is unhealthy. Above 200 is very unhealthy, and above 300 is hazardous. A



Pakistan, Ethiopia Reaffirm Commitment to Strengthen Cooperation in Education and Skills Development.

US Sanctions Hit Indian, UAE, Turkish Firms Over Iran Oil

■ Washington targets 10 entities, six people and five ships in a new push to cut Iran's oil and petrochemical income.

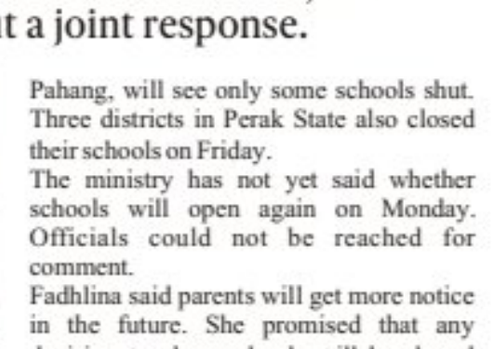
WEB DESK

Dubai

New US sanctions were announced on Thursday against 10 entities, six individuals and five vessels. The State Department says they were involved in trading Iranian oil, petroleum products and petrochemicals.

The action covers people and companies linked to India, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Iran and the United Kingdom.

Five Indian nationals are on the list. Dhwani Nisarg Vora and Nisarg Samir Vora are directors of SSPL Solutions, an India-based company. Washington says the firm imported about $2 million worth of Iranian petrochemical products between February and July 2025.Three more Indian nationals were also named. They are Ketan Manohar Kochikar, Bhupendrasingh Dhalsingh Sahu and Harishyam Hariharan Chundakattil. All three direct Samudra Marine Services, an



Indian customs broker. The US says the broker helped bring Iranian petrochemical products into India.

In Türkiye, the US targeted Noorzad Petrokimya and its director and chief executive, Said Ahmad Noorzad. Officials say the company bought about $3.8 million worth of Iranian petrochemical products between January and July 2024.

The UAE also features in the announcement. ArabianPro Materials FZCO was sanctioned for exporting about $2 million worth of Iranian petrochemical products between February and July 2025.

Scanned with CamScanner

Faysal Quraishi says parents should stand by their children even after marriage

■ Quraishi revisited his earlier remarks opposing the notion that a married daughter should return to her parents' home only after her death

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Pakistani actor Faysal Quraishi believes parents should continue to support their children after marriage, stressing that sons and daughters deserve equal importance and protection.

Speaking on a private TV channel show, Quraishi revisited his earlier remarks opposing the notion that a married daughter should return to er parents' home only after her death.

The actor criticised parents who believe their daughters can return home only for their funerals, questioning why they would abandon their children when they needed support.

"Is she not your child?" Quraishi asked, adding that parents who had raised their daughters should stand by them, particularly when they faced violence or abuse.

He questioned how parents could allow their daughters to suffer mistreatment without intervening, emphasising that their responsibility did not end with marriage.Quraishi also observed that attitudes towards parental support were gradually changing, particularly in the entertainment industry, where television dramas increasingly portrayed fathers who defended and supported their daughters. He recalled watching a drama featuring Shamyl Khan as a supportive father to Mawra Hocane, referring to their relationship as an example of the kind of bond he appreciated.

Saba Faisal reacts to Mahelaqa Khan's heartwarming childhood memories

■ Saba Faisal shared the reel and commented, "These memories are our ASASA," and expressed how precious such childhood experiences remain even after years have passed.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Veteran gorgeous actress Saba Faisal has shared Mahelaqa Khan's reel featuring sweet childhood memories with grandparents, describing these moments as their "asasa" (heritage or treasured legacy).

Saba Faisal shared the reel and commented, "These memories are our ASASA," and expressed how precious such childhood experiences remain even after years have passed.

In the reel, Mahelaqa Khan takes a nostalgic trip down memory lane and looked back on the special moments she spent with her grandparents and the family traditions that made her childhood memorable.

She remembered sleeping on a mattress placed beneath her Badi Ammi's (Grandma) bed and waking up to the sound of her grandmother reciting the Holy Quran.

She also recalled enjoying almonds and walnuts while listening to her grandmother's familiar voice.

Mahelaqa shared another fond memory of her maternal grandfather, who would draw a watch on each child's wrist using his teeth.

Winter visits to Badi Ammi's house were equally special with kinnows (oranges) lined up and squeezed in a machine to prepare fresh juice.

She also remembered her Nani's love for sweets, who would sprinkle sugar over roti whenever nothing sweet was available after a meal.

Reflecting on these memories, Mahelaqa wondered what kind of memories children today would carry of their grandparents when they grow up.



Coffee, sugary drinks show different links to depression

■ Sugary drinks linked to more depression symptoms: study

WEB DESK

KARACHI

A new study has found that the type and amount of beverages people consume may be associated with their mental health, with higher coffee intake linked to fewer depression symptoms while sugary and artificially sweetened drinks were associated with poorer outcomes.

The comprehensive review, published in August in the medical journal Depression and Anxiety, examined 59 studies involving more than 2 million people across 22 countries.

Researchers found that people who consumed higher amounts of coffee had about a 13% lower likelihood of depression symptoms compared with those who drank little or no coffee.

However, experts cautioned that the findings do not prove that drinking coffee prevents or treats depression. The research identified an association between beverage consumption and mental health rather than a cause-and-effect relationship.

How can sugary drinks affect mood?

Several studies have linked high consumption of sugar-sweetened and artificially sweetened beverages with mental health problems and more symptoms of depression.

Nutrition expert Jennifer Pallian said consuming large amounts of sugar may increase inflammation in the body, potentially affecting parts of the brain involved in anxiety and stress responses.

High sugar intake can also cause fluctuations in blood glucose levels and contribute to insulin resistance, which may affect levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and communication between brain cells.

BDNF plays an important role in the growth and maintenance of brain cells, while lower levels have been associated with an increased risk of depression.

Experts also say excessive sugar consumption may interfere with the body's normal cortisol system, while diets high in sugar and foods with a high glycemic index have been associated with inflammation and oxidative stress.Is there a safe amount of sugar for mental health There is currently no specific amount of sugar that experts can identify as a universally safe limit specifically for mental health.



Rowan Atkinson to Return to the Stage After 40 Years

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

World-renowned comedian Rowan Atkinson, best known for his iconic character Mr Bean, is set to return to the stage after 40 years.

The actor will headline his first West End comedy sketch show in four decades, featuring a mix of new material as well as some of his most popular comedy sketches and characters.

Hira Soomro Calls Out Senior Actresses Over Age Comments

The show will be staged at London's Gillian Lynne Theatre next year, with Atkinson set to reunite with Blackadder co-writers Richard Curtis and Ben Elton, along with composer Howard Goodall.

Atkinson will perform only 30 shows as part of the limited stage run. The production is scheduled to run at the Gillian Lynne Theatre from February 8 to March 13..

Five exercises to help ease screenrelated neck strain

■ Looking down at screens can put heavy strain on your neck

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Spending long hours looking down at a mobile phone or computer can place significant strain on the neck, with the mechanical load on the neck reportedly increasing sharply when the head is tilted forward.

According to a BBC report citing NHS neurosurgeon Anthony Ghosh of London's Queen's Hospital, the mechanical load on the neck is around 5.4kg when the head is held in a normal upright position.

However, when the head is tilted forward while looking down at a phone or laptop, the load can increase to around 27kg, according to Ghosh.

The increasing use of digital devices has made prolonged periods of poor posture common, potentially contributing to neck stiffness, discomfort and reduced mobility.

Why screen use can strain the neck

As people lean towards their screens, the upper back can become more rounded while the head and chin move forward instead of remaining aligned above the shoulders.

This position can place additional stress on the muscles and joints in the neck and upper spine.

Neck problems can also develop naturally with age. The tissues supporting the neck may become less flexible, while the discs between the vertebrae can gradually wear down and the joints at the back of the neck may become stiffer.

According to Ghosh, changes in the spine can be seen on MRI scans in almost every person over the age of 40, although such changes do not necessarily mean that a person will experience pain.

Research suggests that around 60% to 80% of people experience neck pain at some point in their lives, while some may experience recurring or persistent symptoms.

Movement may be more important than equipment

Experts cited in the report suggest that staying active and taking regular breaks from screens may be more useful than relying solely on expensive chairs or other equipment.

Netflix working on Bridgerton prequel following matriarch Violet Bridgerton's past



WEB DESK

NEW YORK

New Bridgerton limited television series centred on a younger version of Violet Bridgerton is in the works, Netflix and Shondaland announced on Instagram

"The time has come for us to turn our attention to the Matriarch of our beloved Bridgertons," the social media post said, referring to Violet ?Bridgerton, who has been portrayed by English actress Ruth Gemmell across the first four seasons of the Netflix series.

"A new series, chronicling the romance of a young Violet and Viscount Edmund Bridgerton, is underway," the post added.

The not-yet-titled limited series marks the latest spin-off in the Bridgerton universe.

Shonda Rhimes and Nicholas Nardini, a ?producer on the previous Bridgerton spin-off series Queen Charlotte, will serve as showrunners, writers and executive producers on the new show.

The Regency-era romance franchise is based on the Bridgerton books by ?Julia Quinn, with each instalment focusing on a different Bridgerton sibling's romance.

Season 5 of Bridgerton is currently in production in ?London and will centre on Francesca Bridgerton, played by Hannah Dodd, and Michaela Stirling, played by ?Masali Baduza.

Bridgerton became a global phenomenon when it debuted in 2020 and won praise for its diverse cast..



The Russian Centre for Science, Education and Culture in Lahore organised a Russian film show, Attracting Russian families living in the city as well as other distinguished guests,

Scanned with CamScanner

University of Balochistan Wins Youth Cricket League Quetta

● FC Balochistan (North) Organizes Youth Cricket League to Promote Sportsmanship, Teamwork, and Positive Activities Among Youth

Sports Desk

QUETTA

A Youth Cricket League was organized in Quetta from October 1 to 11 under the auspices of FC Balochistan (North), in which teams from various educational institutions participated. A total of 16 matches, including the league and semi-finals, were played during the tournament, in which the young players demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, discipline and sportsmanship.The grand final of the tournament was played between *BUITEMS University and University of Balochistan* at Chagai Stadium, Quetta Cantt. After a brilliant competition, University of Balochistan won the grand final and champion trophy of Youth Cricket League Quetta, The special guest of the final ceremony was Commander





12 Corps, Lieutenant General Inayat Hussain, who awarded the winner trophy to the winning team of Youth Cricket League Quetta, University of Balochistan and distributed prizes among the teams and players who showed outstanding performance. The details of the best performing players are as follows.1. Best Batsman of the Tournament, Yasin from University of Balochistan 2. Best Bowler of the Tournament, Dilawar Khan from University of Balochistan 3. Best Wicketkeeper of the Tournament, Sajid from University of BalochistanThe aim of the Youth Cricket League is to promote sports in Balochistan, provide opportunities for healthy and positive activities to the youth and promote mutual harmony, teamwork and healthy competition between educational institutions

Ronaldo provisionally suspended after national team walkout, media reports say

● Cristiano Ronaldo faces a provisional suspension after Portugal's football federation opened disciplinary proceedings over his departure from the national team camp.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

ristiano Ronaldo has been provisionally suspended by the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) after disciplinary proceedings were opened over the forward's departure ?from the national team camp, Portuguese media reported on Saturday.

The 41-year-old ?left the squad's base in Copenhagen before Portugal's Nations League match against Denmark last week, after a rift with head coach Jorge Jesus.

Ronaldo, an unused substitute against Norway, accused ?Jesus of twice breaking his word regarding his role in the team.

After Portugal's 2-1 win, Jesus denied



he had made any ?agreement with the player but left the door open for his return.

According ?to Portuguese newspaper A Bola, the FPF confirmed that disciplinary proceedings had ?been opened against Ronaldo.

"Without prejudice to the automatic preventive suspension to which he was subject until the date of initiation, a non-automatic preventive suspension of the player was determined, and ?the proceedings were given urgent status," the federation was quoted as ?saying.

FPF president Pedro Proenca said everyone within the federation wanted Ronaldo to return to the ?national ?team once the matter was resolved.

"The Portuguese Football Federation and its president, in this spirit of tranquility, speaking with all parties, who have already publicly demonstrated their desire to have the captain back with us, there ?is an expressed wish ?from everyone," ?he was quoted as saying by A Bola.

"This includes the federation, the FPF president, the national team coach, the captain and the players."

Regarding Ronaldo's disciplinary process, Proenca added: "That ?will depend ?solely on the Disciplinary Committee, which is an autonomous body, and it will do its job."

Ronaldo apologised on Tuesday for failing to acknowledge supporters after ?the ?Norway game and for leaving his teammates, adding ?that he would remain available for selection after serving any punishment arising from the incident.

Djokovic crashes out of Shanghai Masters in his first match



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Novak Djokovic went down in straight sets to Hubert Hurkacz on Friday, exiting the Shanghai Masters in his first match after memorably winning the China Open this week.

Big-serving Hurkacz, the 2023 champion in Shanghai, won 6-4, 6-3 as the 39-year-old former world number one faltered against an opponent a decade his junior.

"I didn't feel myself on the court," the Serbian veteran said afterwards.

"It's a super-quick surface, completely different from Beijing. If you lose your serve, it's enough to lose a match."Djokovic was playing three days after winning the title in Beijing, where he has still never lost a match on the professional Tour.

He hunched over and squatted down between points on a cool evening in Shanghai while a lively Hurkacz refused to give much away. Djokovic was broken in the fourth game of the second set as he double-faulted to give Hurkacz a 3-1 lead. The Pole held his serve to see out the win and will face either Italy's Lorenzo Musetti or Chinese wildcard Zhou Yi in the third round.

"It's very difficult to return his serve, almost impossible," Djokovic said of his opponent, who sent down 13 aces across the one-hour-and-28-minute match.

"I didn't adjust, and it was a really tough draw for me to play him in the first match-up."

Hurkacz had advanced to the Beijing semi-finals but ended his match early due to a strained muscle.

It was his first-ever victory against Djokovic in nine meetings on the Tour.

"It was a challenging match, always," Hurkacz said. "I was pleased with how I performed, how I received in important moments."

Zverev survives scare

Earlier, top seed Alexander Zverev churned out a win over Chinese wildcard Wu Yibing 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), and will next play Quentin Halys of France.

A dive left the German world number two grimacing and grabbing his left ankle during the 11th game of the second set, with Wu, ranked 113th, going 6-5 up.

Russell goes fastest in practice for smoggy Singapore GP

■ Leclerc trails the Mercedes driver by 0.198 seconds, with Norris third

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

George Russell in a Mercedes topped the timesheets Friday in the only practice session for the Singapore Grand Prix at a Marina Bay Circuit enveloped in smoky haze caused by fires in Indonesia.

Charles Leclerc's Ferrari was second on a dusty surface with the McLaren of Lando Norris third as drivers and teams had just one hour-long session to maximise their set-ups before sprint qualifying later on Friday.Singapore is featuring a sprint race for the first time and the only practice session took place before sunset, not ideal preparation for the Marina Bay Circuit's night race on Sunday.

Russell will start from the back of the grid for Sunday's race after taking a penalty for using too many engine components, but he can still compete for pole postion in Saturday's sprint race.

The Englishman went round in 1min 32.274sec, 0.198sec ahead of Leclerc as the top five times were all set on the soft compound tyre, with Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton fourth and the second McLaren of Oscar Piastri fifth.

Max Verstappen, who won for the first time this season in Malaysia last weekend, was the fastest of the medium-compound runners in sixth, 0.732sec slower than Russell but half a second ahead of the other Mercedes of championship leader Kimi Antonelli.

Isack Hadjar of Red Bull was seventh fastest, followed by Pierre Gasly of Alpine and Liam Lawson in an RB who rounded out the top 10.

Verstappen has never won in Singapore, where extremes of heat and humidity play a part in the most physically attritional race of the season on a circuit notoriously difficult for overtaking.Drivers can shed up to 3kg (6lb) during the race from sweating alone and the race has been declared a "heat hazard" by organisers.

That means drivers can opt to wear cooling vests because the heat index is predicted to exceed 31C during either the sprint or the race.

The teams also have to contend with the smoggy haze, which saw Singapore's air quality plunge to an "unhealthy" 205 on Friday according to the IQAir tracking website.

Schools were shut in neighbouring Malaysia because of pollution from the wildfires raging in nearby Indonesia.Readings above 150 are classified as unhealthy, while levels above 300 are considered hazardous. Motorsport's governing body said the race was not under threat from the haze. "Air quality levels are being monitored by the relevant local authorities and appropriate contingency measures are in place should conditions worsen," the FIA said in a statement to AFP.The FIA added that some off-track activities and entertainment could be affected.





Kipchoge wins first marathon in three years in Melbourne

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

Kenya's twice Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge won the Melbourne Marathon in a course record of 2 hours, 9 minutes and 10 seconds on Sunday, claiming ?his 17th win over ?the distance at age 41.

Kipchoge is ?attempting to run a ?marathon on all seven continents over ?two years, having launched his continental campaign at the Cape Town Marathon in May.

Sunday's win was his first in three years, after he won Berlin ?in ?2023 for a record 11th title at the majors.

Australian Thomas Do Canto finished second behind Kipchoge at 2:10:35 while ?compatriot Reece Edwards was third at 2:14:33.

New Zealand's ?Camille French won the ?women's ?race in 2:28:25, followed by Australian Sinead Diver at 2:28:49 ?and ?Nichola Sheridan of ?Ireland at 2:29:13.



Pakistan-India pair clinches ITF Junior Tennis Doubles crown

Web Desk

DJIBOUTI

Pakistan's Muhammad Yahya and India's Amrit Vats have clinched the doubles title at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J30 tournament in Djibouti, defeating their opponents in straight sets in the final.

The Pakistan-India combination overcame Thailand's David Avayou and Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Bahaa Sarouji 6-2, 6-4 to secure the championship, delivering a composed performance against their international rivals.

Yahya and Vats displayed impressive coordination, consistency and teamwork throughout the final, controlling the contest to seal the title in two sets.

The victory marks a significant achievement for the young players, who combined forces to claim an international junior tennis crown.

Their success also highlights the competitive potential of emerging tennis talent from the region.

Also Read: Five modern padel tennis courts open in Lahore to boost emerging sport



South Africa's Pieter Coetze breaks men's 50m backstroke short-course world record

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

South Africa's Pieter Coetze set a 50m backstroke short-course world record on Friday with a time of 22.09 seconds at a World Aquatics World Cup meet in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The previous record of 22.11 was set by Russia's Kliment Kolesnikov in Kazan in 2022. Kolesnikov also holds the long-course record of 23.55.

The record was a career first for 100m backstroke world champion Coetze, 22, after coming close to breaking the 100m world record at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last July.

"Seeing that time on the board, it didn't even click that it was a world record, said the South African. "And then, like, a second later, I was like the world record was 22.1. So not many words to describe that. It's crazy."

Kolesnikov was also in Friday's race but finished sixth in 22.88, with compatriot Egor Kornev — who tied Australian Kyle Chalmers' 2021 100m freestyle short course world record of 44.84 in Baku last week — second in 22.29 after mis-timing his finish.

"I don't think it changes much," Coetze said of his record. "My mindset normally stays the same, no matter what the race is, because at this level everyone is always close. The world-record holder was there, and look how close it was. So, no, you can never get too comfortable."

The 50m backstroke will be making its Olympic debut at the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

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Light rain, cool winds make Lahore weather pleasant; more showers expected

WEB DESK

LAHORE

Light rain and cool winds have made the weather pleasant in Lahore, with the Pakistan Meteorological Department forecasting more rainfall in the city over the next 24 hours.

Light rain and drizzle continued in several areas of the provincial capital, including Garhi Shahu, Abbott Road, Mall Road, MAO College, Chuburji, Ferozepur Road, Gulberg and Model Town, bringing relief and pleasant weather.

Cool winds accompanied the rainfall in different parts of the city, prompting residents to head to breakfast spots to enjoy the pleasant conditions.

According to the Meteorological Department, Lahore's maximum temperature is expected to reach 29 degrees Celsius, while the minimum is likely to remain at 22 degrees Celsius. Winds are blowing at a speed of 8 kilometres per hour.



A vendor displaying fish to attract the customers at his roadside setup

Pakistan reaffirms commitment to Saudi Arabia's sovereignty after airport attack

● Foreign Office described the targeting of a civilian airport as a heinous act of terrorism

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) y condemned a fresh wave of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, reiterating Islamabad's "firm and unshakeable" commitment to the kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement.

The statement followed an attack on Riyadh's international airport on Saturday that reportedly killed at least 12 people and injured 309 others.

In a statement posted on X, the Foreign Office described the targeting of a civilian airport as "a heinous act of terrorism, a flagrant violation of international law and



a grave threat to regional peace and security".

The FO expressed concern over the casualties, extended condolences to the bereaved families and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

It said the continued targeting of civilians and critical infrastructure by the Houthi militia was unacceptable and called for unequivocal condemnation by the international community.

"Such brazen and indiscriminate acts of aggression cannot be justified under any circumstances and must cease immediately," the statement said.

Reaffirming Pakistan's solidarity with the Saudi leadership, the Foreign Office said Islamabad remained committed to the kingdom's security and defence under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. It also referred to a decision taken by the agreement's Strategic, Political and Defence Committee on October 5, when member states agreed to the rapid deployment of military forces and capabilities in Saudi Arabia.

The FO expressed support for Riyadh's right to defend itself against threats and acts of aggression. It also urged Yemen's Houthi movement to stop its attacks and called on the international community to adopt a firm stance against them.



KP governor warns of Strict action against those disrupting law and order

■ KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi says the province's people want peace and stability, urging citizens to avoid violence and warning of strict legal action against lawbreakers.

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has warned that strict legal action will be taken against those who disrupt law and order or take the law into their own hands.

In an important message to the people of the province, Kundi said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa welcomed the presidential proclamation and wanted peace, stability, development and prosperity.

He said the people had made up their minds not to support Fitna al-Khawarij any further.

Federal govt appoints Dr Fakhr Alam as KP chief secretary after emergency

The governor said the people would stand alongside security institutions and continue fighting terrorists until the last breath. He added that the public wanted a peaceful and prosperous future instead of unrest and disorder.

Kundi said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also sought friendly relations and mutual cooperation with other provinces. Through shared experiences and joint efforts, he said, they wanted to promote development and prosperity across the province.

He added that the public wanted democratic values to flourish and the benefits of development to reach ordinary citizens.

The governor maintained that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were peace-loving and did not support terrorism or violent activities. He urged citizens to avoid all forms of lawbreaking, provocation and rioting.

Kundi warned that anyone attempting to disturb peace or take the law into their own hands would face strict action in accordance with the law.

In an important message to the people of the province, Kundi said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa welcomed the presidential proclamation and wanted peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Pakistan foils terror bid, seizes arms smuggled from Afghanistan

■ Forces seize vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition in Saranan. Pishin: Haul includes three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, four light machine guns, grenades and rockets

Staff Reporter

QUETTA

FC Balochistan and security forces have foiled an attempt to smuggle weapons and ammunition from Afghanistan during a joint operation under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3, According to security sources, forces raided a warehouse in Saranan, an area of Pishin district, and seized a vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition.

The recovered items included three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, four light machine guns, a machine gun, hand grenades, rockets and a large quantity of ammunition, the sources said.

Security forces said the intelligence-based



operation had disrupted a plan to transport ammunition from Afghanistan into the area.

A search operation was continuing after the raid to check for the possible presence of militant elements nearby.

Security forces and law enforcement agencies remain committed to maintaining peace and stability in Balochistan and eliminating terrorism, according to the statement.

KP police on high alert for possible protests



WEB DESK

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Hameed has placed district police on alert for possible violent protests and sabotage in the event of the federal government imposing an emergency in the province, directing officers to prioritise public safety and exercise extreme caution in the use of force.

A notification issued by the inspector general's office laid down operational guidelines for managing demonstrations, warning that miscreants and anti-state elements could exploit protests to trigger violence, damage public property and carry out sabotage activities.

Under the directives, district police officers (DPOs), sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs) and station house officers (SHOs) have been instructed to personally supervise protests within their respective jurisdictions and ensure adequate deployment of personnel to maintain law and order.

The deployment plan includes anti-riot squads equipped with protective gear, verified supplies of tear gas guns and shells, and special unarmed teams tasked with identifying and apprehending violent protesters. Plainclothes personnel are also to be deployed to identify suspected troublemakers and saboteurs.



Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Turkiye, Ambassador Amna Baloch, called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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