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A high-level delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil, led by Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ)

Eliminating terrorism in KP top priority, says Governor Kundi

■ KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi makes counterterrorism the province's top priority as Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi pledges federal support to strengthen security forces and restore peace.

STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has declared the elimination of terrorism the province's top priority, while Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has pledged full federal support to restore peace and strengthen law enforcement agencies.

The statements came during a meeting of the provincial Apex Committee chaired by Governor Kundi, where participants discussed the law and order



situation, counterterrorism measures, the capacity of security institutions and development matters. Security and counterterrorism top priorities

Addressing the meeting, Kundi said managing the province's affairs responsibly and providing a safe and conducive environment for its people were the government's key responsibilities.

Govt left with no option but to impose emergency in KP, says Ishaq Dar

He said all institutions were on the same page regarding the restoration of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that the people wanted peace, development and prosperity. He stressed that all institutions must remain focused on their duties.

The governor said the capacity of law enforcement agencies would be enhanced and the requirements of the police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) had been met.

"We can sacrifice development, but not security," Kundi said, adding that the government's measures against terrorism would become clearly visible.

He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was rich in resources, but peace was essential to utilise its resources and development opportunities effectively.

Pakistan says over 20,000 militants are present in Afghanistan, including 6,000 TTP fighters

■ Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar claims over 20,000 militants, including 6,000 TTP fighters, are sheltering in Afghanistan and stresses regional peace.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

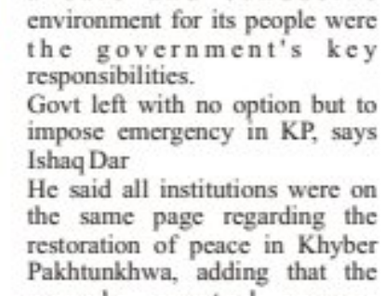
Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has claimed that more than 20,000 militants are present in Afghanistan, including over 6,000 fighters of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) who have taken shelter on Afghan soil.

Addressing a conference on the evolving counterterrorism landscape in Islamabad, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said Pakistan had repeatedly urged the Afghan government through various international and diplomatic forums to prevent militants from using its territory.

The information minister said militants were living in safe havens in Afghanistan and receiving different types of training there.

Tarar said Pakistan wanted to eliminate extremism and militancy in Afghanistan and would continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

He said Pakistan was currently facing a serious challenge from



militancy but had made unprecedented sacrifices in the fight against extremism, playing a significant role in safeguarding not only its own security but also that of the wider world.

The information minister claimed that Pakistan had made the greatest sacrifices in the war against militancy and suffered economic losses exceeding $100 billion.

Tarar said Pakistan was also confronting the challenge of extremism, adding that state institutions and the public remained determined to work together to counter the threat.

He further said Pakistan had also played a mediating role between the United States and Iran and continued its positive diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and stability.

Emphasising the importance of regional stability, the information minister said a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was in the interest of not only Pakistan but the entire region.

He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role in establishing lasting peace in the region.





PM forms 10-member committee to improve governance in KP

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has constituted a 10-member committee to provide policy guidelines for improving governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa following the imposition of governor's rule in the province, sources said.

The committee includes Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, Amir Muqam, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Representatives of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) will also be part of the committee.

According to sources, the committee will formulate policy guidelines aimed at improving governance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Iran says 'deeply concerned' over escalation between Houthis, Saudi Arabia

WEB DESK
TEHRAN

Iran said Monday it was "deeply concerned" by escalating attacks between Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthis and Saudi Arabia, after 14 people died in two days of strikes on Riyadh's airport.

"We are deeply concerned about the developments taking place in the Arabian Peninsula," foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei told a weekly press conference, adding that Tehran was ready "to help facilitate dialogue between the parties".A Houthi strike on Riyadh's international airport on Sunday killed one person and wounded 11 others, a day after 13 died in the deadliest strike on Saudi soil in more than a decade.

"We absolutely do not want hostilities and war to continue between two Islamic countries," Baqaei said, urging the parties to resolve the situation "through dialogue and engagement".



Two Pakistan Army pilots martyred as training aircraft crashes in Quetta: ISPR

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

WEB DESK
LAHORE

Two Pakistan Army pilots embraced martyrdom after a Mushshak training aircraft crashed due to a technical fault near Nawan Killi in Quetta, Balochistan, on Monday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

According to the military's media wing, the incident occurred around midday on October 12, 2026, when the Pakistan Army Aviation training aircraft developed a technical fault during flight and crashed.

The two pilots were identified as Major Husnain Shehzad Humayun, an instructor pilot, and Captain Abdul Samad, a student pilot. Both lost their lives in the unfortunate incident, ISPR said.

The aircraft had taken off from Quetta Cantonment Air Base before the crash.

Following the incident, security forces reached the crash site and cordoned off the area.

The cause of the crash was attributed to a technical fault, according to the initial information provided by ISPR.

Govt left with no option but to impose emergency in KP, says Ishaq Dar

■ Ishaq Dar says protests hurt Pakistan's economy, highlights over 90,000 sacrifices in the war on terror, and urges Afghanistan to prevent its territory from being used by militants.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has said the federal government was left with no option but to impose an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, describing it a "tough decision".

Addressing a seminar in Islamabad, Dar said protests and sit-in caused significant damage to the national economy.

Dar identified terrorism as one of the biggest challenges facing the region and the world. He said Pakistan had made immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and had confronted the threat with courage, determination and resilience.

He noted that the prolonged war against terrorism had inflicted severe economic



losses on Pakistan and stressed that the country's sacrifices must be acknowledged. Pakistan, he said, had faced tragic incidents, including the Jaffar Express tragedy and the abduction and killing of workers in Balochistan.

Dar said the government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had been working on a new strategy to eliminate terrorism. He added that law enforcement agencies were working around the clock to counter the threat.

He said Pakistan had sacrificed more than 90,000 lives in the war against terrorism.

He said Field Marshal Asim Munir remained committed to eliminating terrorism, adding that operations against militants were being conducted daily on his instructions.Dar also called on the Afghan authorities to ensure that their territory was not used for terrorist activities. He said Pakistan, China and Afghanistan had held a trilateral meeting in Kabul in August 2025, but Afghan authorities had regrettably failed to fulfil their commitments regarding terrorism. He warned that banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups operating from Afghanistan posed a threat to regional peace and security. The deputy prime minister said militants crossed the border to attack Pakistani security personnel and civilians. He added that Pakistan had installed a security fence along the Afghan border and had provided extensive assistance to Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds.

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CM Murad visits Three Gorges Dam in China

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday visited the Three Gorges Dam in China, Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Jam Khan Shoro, Sardar Mohammad Bukhsh Khan Mehr and other officials accompanied him.

On this occasion, Chinese officials briefed CM Murad Ali Shah on hydroelectric power generation and water storage at the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River.

Murad Ali Shah expressed interest in the dam's reservoir, flood control mechanisms, and monitoring systems.

He noted that Sindh faces monsoon floods and water shortages during dry spells due to climate change, adding that modern water projects could play a vital role in energy security and mitigating climate change impacts.

He pointed out that while the Indus River receives abundant water, the capacity to store surplus water remains limited.

Chinese officials state that the Three Gorges Dam has an installed power generation capacity of 22,500 megawatts.

Chinese officials briefed a delegation from Sindh, noting that the Three Gorges Dam generates over 100 terawatt-hours of electricity annually.

The briefing highlighted that, alongside clean energy generation, the Three Gorges Dam plays a vital role in flood control and inland navigation on the Yangtze River.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah showed keen interest in the dam's reservoir, floodwater management, and real-time water monitoring systems.

The Chief Minister noted that Sindh faces devastating monsoon floods and water shortages during dry spells due to climate change.

He said that effective water management is a strategic priority for Sindh.



A vendor prepares cotton candy for children on a street in Dari Mohalla

57 Advocate General Office officials removed after governor's rule in KP

KP's Advocate General's Office has removed 57 officers following the imposition of governor's rule, amid major administrative reshuffles and changes in the province.

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR



As many as 57 officers of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advocate General's Office have been removed from their positions following a major reshuffle in the bureaucracy and police department after the imposition of governor's rule in the province.

Additional Advocate General Shah Faisal Ilyas had already resigned in protest against the decision to impose governor's rule and an emergency in the province.

The decision to impose emergency and governor's rule was taken a day earlier, following which the president, on the advice of the prime minister, approved the measures under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Immediately after the decision, the federal government introduced several changes to the province's administrative structure.

The federal government removed KP Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah and appointed Grade-22 officer Dr Muhammad Fakhr Alam Irfan as the new chief secretary. Transfers and appointments of several bureaucrats and police officers were also carried out across the province.

The federal government also issued an order for the deployment of the Pakistan Army in the province under Article 245 of the Constitution. The troops will assist the civil administration and help protect citizens, public property and government installations.

According to Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, an 11-member advisory council has also been established to assist Governor Faisal Karim Kundi under the new provincial administrative arrangement.

In addition, a separate secretariat has been set up to oversee administrative affairs in 12 security-sensitive districts. The secretariat will function under the governor and the chief secretary.

Muhammad Yahya Akhunzada has been appointed additional chief secretary for the 12 sensitive districts. He has also been designated administrator of the districts where the emergency has been imposed. His appointment will take effect immediately.

According to a notification issued by the provincial Law Department, 26 officers holding the positions of additional advocate general have been removed. They include Naumanul Haq Kakakhel, Aqeel Hussain, M. Riaz Khan Painda Khel, Amir Zaib, Ayub Zaman, Abdul Rauf Afridi, Umair Azam Khan, Mudassir Ejaz, Nadeem Shah, Asad Jan Durrani, Taimoor Haider, Niaz Muhammad, M. Shehzad Nawaz, Alam Khan Adinzi, Mehreen Manwar/Mehrish Manwar, Naseeruddin Shah, Shah Faisal Ilyas, Altaf Khan, Muzammil Khan, Muhammad Bashar Naveed, Sardar Basharat Khan, Malik Amjad Inayat, Ghulam Muhammad Sapal, Haq Nawaz Khan, Mansoor Sadiq and Saifur Rehman.

KP PMS 2026 written examinations postponed

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission (KPPSC) has postponed the written examinations for Provincial Management Service (PMS) Officer (BPS-17) 2026, which were scheduled to be held from October 14 to October 31.

According to an official notification issued by the commission, new dates for the postponed examinations will be announced later.

Candidates have been advised to regularly visit the KPPSC's official website for the latest updates and the revised examination schedule.

The notification was issued by the Director of Examinations at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission.

Islamabad Police to act against false rape complaints under Anti-Rape Act



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Ali Waseem, has ordered strict legal action against individuals accused of filing false rape cases and misusing the law under the Anti-Rape Act, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Monday.

According to the directive, cases are to be registered against complainants and witnesses allegedly involved in seven false rape cases.

DIG Ali Waseem said action would also be taken against those who file false rape complaints and individuals who allegedly help secure the dismissal of cases by giving statements in favor of accused persons in exchange for large sums of money.

He said legal action would be pursued against those who misuse the law to serve personal interests by making false allegations involving a serious crime such as rape.

The DIG said the objective of action under the Anti-Rape Act was to discourage the misuse of the law and ensure the delivery of justice.

He added that ensuring justice for genuine victims and protecting the rights of women and citizens remained a top priority for Islamabad Police.

Federal Constitutional Court to hear police officers' promotion review petitions on Tuesday

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A two-member bench of the Federal Constitutional Court will hear review petitions on Tuesday filed by police officers challenging the cancellation of their promotions following a Supreme Court verdict.

The petitioners include DIG Akhtar Hayat Laleka, Umar Virk, Ijaz Shafi Dogar and SSP Karamat, among other officers.

The petitions seek a review of the Supreme Court's May 13, 2018, verdict, which revoked promotions and protections granted to the officers through various court and tribunal rulings.

The affected officers include those recruited as inspectors in 1993, 1995 and 1998 who subsequently rose to the rank of superintendent of police (SP).

The petitioners argue that their promotions were not out-of-turn but were granted on merit and as a legal right under the applicable service rules.

They maintain that the promotion process did not violate service rules or merit requirements.

The petitions state that the affected officers were not given an opportunity to present their position before the Supreme Court delivered its verdict.

The officers also argue that final judgments issued by the Service Tribunal and High Court cannot be reversed at the administrative level.

According to the petitions, the Supreme Court's May 13, 2018, decision violated their fundamental rights and the principles of natural justice.

The Punjab government, the inspector general of Punjab Police and others have been named as respondents.

The petitioners have requested the Federal Constitutional Court to review the Supreme Court's decision and grant relief against the cancellation of their promotions.

According to sources, the officers could face demotion if they fail to obtain relief from the Federal Constitutional Court.



Women browse and purchase books from a street vendor's cart in the Saddar area

Commissioners of six KP divisions changed in major reshuffle

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has reshuffled commissioners across six divisions, appointing new officials to key posts in Peshawar, Mardan, Bannu, Hazara and Malakand, while others were removed or reassigned.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has ordered a major reshuffle in the provincial bureaucracy, announcing transfers and new appointments for commissioners in six divisions.According to an official notification, Khalid Mahmood, previously serving as Bannu commissioner, has been appointed commissioner of Peshawar.

Ahmed Ali Shah, who was awaiting a new posting, has been appointed commissioner of Mardan.

Samiullah, former secretary of Dera Ismail Khan, has been appointed commissioner of Bannu, while Shakirullah, who was serving as additional home secretary, has been posted as commissioner of Hazara.

In another appointment, federal joint secretary Iqbal Hussain has been assigned the position of commissioner of Malakand.

The notification also announced changes to other administrative positions. Additional Secretary Agriculture Parvez Kashar has been removed from his post, while Peshawar Commissioner Riaz Khan Mahsud and Mardan Commissioner Habibullah have been designated officers on special duty (OSDs).

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Neutral ground in a burning region

The widening war in West Asia has thrust Pakistan into a familiar but perilous diplomatic terrain as it finds itself navigating between two gravitational poles of its foreign policy: the Gulf monarchies, particularly Saudi Arabia, with whom Pakistan has deep economic and strategic ties, and neighbouring Iran, bound to Pakistan by geography, history, commerce and shared religious identity. Rather than rushing headlong into one camp or another, Islamabad has attempted to maintain equilibrium. Pakistan has condemned both the US–Israeli attacks on Iran and Iran's strikes on Gulf countries while simultaneously urging restraint and renewed diplomacy. In a region where tempers run high and alliances harden overnight, Pakistan is attempting to keep its powder dry while keeping doors open.The deliberate dual-track diplomacy — part caution, part calculation — may well be the country's most valuable strategic asset in a crisis that shows no signs of cooling.

Economic lifelines at stake

The Gulf region is the economic oxygen mask of Pakistan's fragile economy. Remittances from Pakistani expatriates working across the Gulf exceed $40 billion annually, while Saudi-supplied oil remains a crucial energy lifeline. Any regional conflagration threatens both.

Pakistan's calls for de-escalation, therefore, carry an unmistakably practical logic.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, while condemning the "initiation of unwarranted attacks" against Iran, also condemned Iranian attacks against brotherly countries in the Gulf.

"Safety of our citizens in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf is our top priority," he maintained.

Remaining outside the battlefield allows Islamabad to play what diplomats often call the role of the "good sibling", maintaining cordial ties with all sides while avoiding the line of fire.

Defence commitments

Pakistan's strategic balancing act becomes more complex when security commitments enter the equation. In September 2025, Pakistan signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) with Saudi Arabia. The pact states that any attack on one party will be considered an attack on both, reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding role as a security partner to the Gulf.

However, Islamabad has been careful not to paint itself into a corner.

Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir's recent visit to Riyadh reviewed joint air-defence cooperation, reinforcing military coordination. At the same time, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar's public warning to Iran not to strike Saudi territory carried both diplomatic and strategic messaging.

In doing so, Dar was generating what scholars call "audience costs". By publicly signalling Pakistan's commitment, Islamabad raised expectations of support, making any future retreat politically costly. However, the wording of the defence pact leaves ample room for manoeuvre. There is no automatic invasion clause, no pre-programmed military response.The ambiguity appears deliberate. Pakistan signals solidarity with Saudi security in principle while reserving the right to calibrate its response in practice. Deterrence — missile defence cooperation, diplomatic pressure, strategic signalling — replaces the spectre of troop deployments.

Meanwhile, the stakes are not merely external. Pakistan's population of roughly 250 million includes a large Sunni majority alongside a substantial Shia minority estimated at 15–20 per cent. Relations with Iran's Shia leadership, therefore, resonate far beyond diplomacy.

The killing of Iran's Supreme Leader triggered protests within Pakistan, leaving dozens dead in a stark reminder that sectarian fault lines remain volatile. By condemning attacks on both Iran and Gulf states while advocating dialogue, Islamabad also seeks to calm domestic waters. The policy speaks simultaneously to Sunni sentiments of solidarity with Gulf allies and to Shia anxieties over hostility toward Iran. The multipolar chessboard Pakistan's diplomatic manoeuvre also reflects broader shifts in the international order.

China remains Pakistan's closest strategic partner — the largest investor in the country and the backbone of the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Beijing has openly praised Islamabad's de-escalatory stance and continues to explore alternative regional security frameworks.

Relations with the United States, meanwhile, have grown more ambiguous. Pakistan has also recently joined Donald Trump's eccentric "Board of Peace" alongside Israel, yet the unfolding war highlights a deeper truth: Washington may prioritise Israel's security over its commitments to Gulf partners.

In such a multipolar landscape, rigid alignment can become a liability. Pakistan's middle path — neither fully in Washington's orbit nor bound to Tehran — maximises its diplomatic options. Scholars term this strategy institutionalised hedging, a durable practice that preserves strategic autonomy and room for manoeuvre.

Islamabad is therefore attempting to keep several plates spinning at once: Chinese strategic cooperation, emerging Asian markets, economic ties with the United States, and pragmatic engagement with Iran.



(By Muhammad Mutahir Khan Singhanvi)

This Is a Game, Not a Battlefield!

The passion of the Pakistani and Indian people for cricket is rooted not merely in a love for sport, but in a complex interplay of psychology, society, and history. Ordinarily, games are played for recreation, mental relaxation, and physical fitness. Yet in Pakistan and India, cricket has transcended these bounds to become an element of collective consciousness and national identity. Its allure lies not simply in the charm of bat and ball, but in the stories, history, psychology, and political circumstances that have wrapped this sport in layers of meaning, transforming it into an emotional and national rivalry. For the Pakistani public, victory or defeat in cricket is not just a scoreline it is a matter of collective pride and national honor. The Indian public, too, regards it as a measure of national dignity and esteem.

Cricket came to the subcontinent during British colonial rule and gradually became woven into local culture. After independence, it emerged as a marker of national identity in both Pakistan and India. Hockey may have been declared the national sport, but in terms of mass appeal, enthusiasm, and emotional fervor, hockey fell into eclipse before cricket. One reason was accessibility cricket did not require elaborate resources. Children in alleys and streets could play it with a tennis ball, and it quickly gained mass popularity. In contrast, hockey and football required fields and facilities that were not as easily available to ordinary people.

In both Pakistan and India, cricket occupied a psychological space where people began to deposit their hopes, dreams, emotions, and collective pride. When Pakistan defeated England on its soil in 1954, the victory was perceived as a symbolic triumph over colonial subjugation. For India, the 1983 World Cup under Kapil Dev was a similarly defining moment, a national awakening through cricket. For Pakistan, 1992's World Cup, and for India, 2011's World Cup, were more than sporting victories they became luminous chapters of national history. Such moments entrenched the idea that cricket is not just a game, but an emblem of national pride.

Part of the fervor comes from

cricket's inherent unpredictability. The course of a match can shift in a

single moment a six, a wicket, a sudden collapse. This uncertainty resonates deeply with the public psyche in both nations, where uncertainty and volatility are constants of daily life. Thus, the game harmonizes with their lived reality, binding them emotionally.

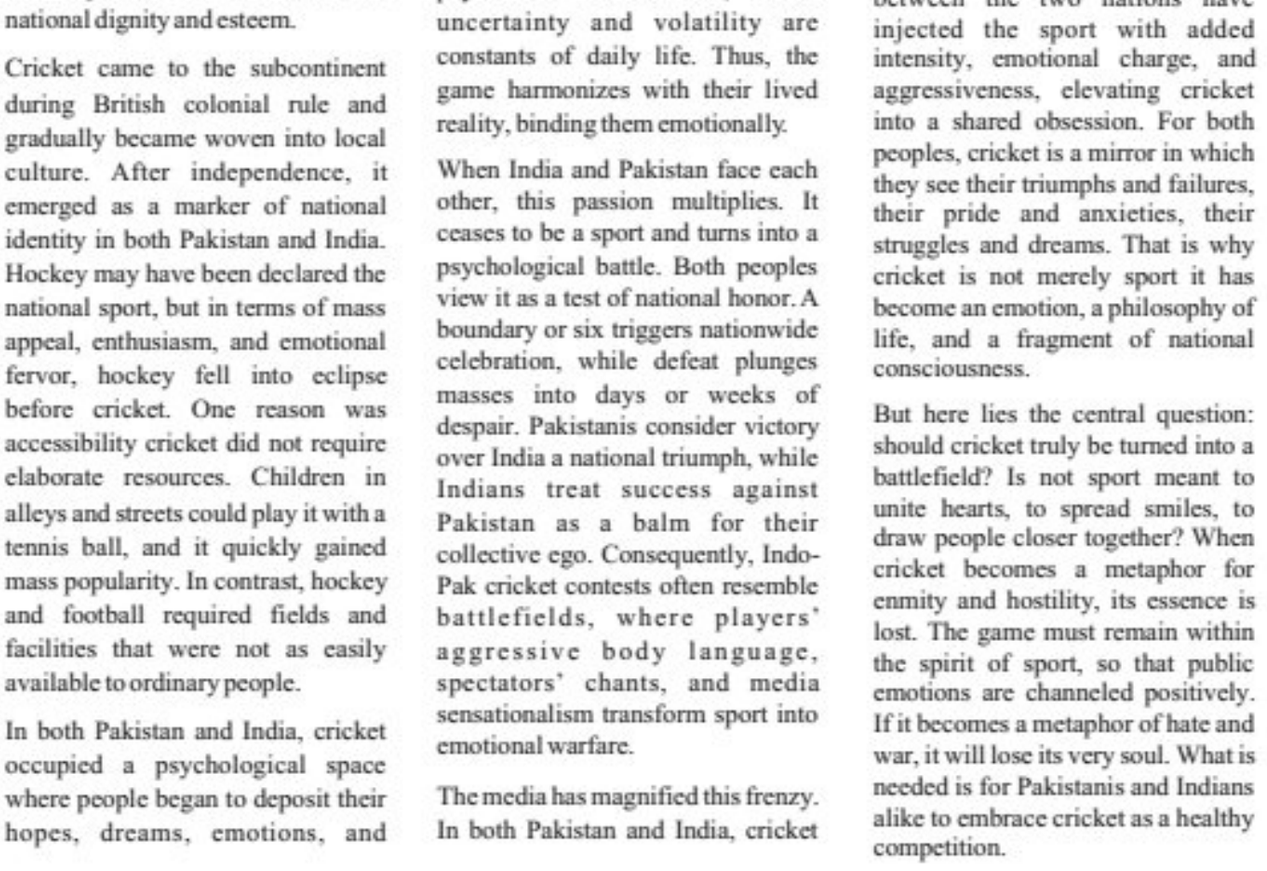
When India and Pakistan face each other, this passion multiplies. It ceases to be a sport and turns into a psychological battle. Both peoples view it as a test of national honor. A boundary or six triggers nationwide celebration, while defeat plunges masses into days or weeks of despair. Pakistanis consider victory over India a national triumph, while Indians treat success against Pakistan as a balm for their collective ego. Consequently, Indo-Pak cricket contests often resemble battlefields, where players' aggressive body language, spectators' chants, and media sensationalism transform sport into emotional warfare.

The media has magnified this frenzy. In both Pakistan and India, cricket crises, and social pressures, seek solace in cricket. Indians, too, find temporary relief from poverty, unemployment, and social inequalities through this sport. That is why the euphoria of victory and the gloom of defeat directly impact their everyday moods.

The colonial legacy lingers as well. The British introduced cricket as a symbol of elite culture, and today, we still tether it to our sense of national dignity. Both Pakistani and Indian publics, in many aspects of their culture, continue to embrace traditions inherited from colonial rule. Cricket is one such inheritance but instead of symbolizing subjugation, it has been reimagined as an emblem of independence and selfhood.

In truth, Pakistanis and Indians are fanatical about cricket because it represents their history, psychology, culture, and national pride. Matches between the two nations have injected the sport with added intensity, emotional charge, and aggressiveness, elevating cricket into a shared obsession. For both peoples, cricket is a mirror in which they see their triumphs and failures, their pride and anxieties, their struggles and dreams. That is why cricket is not merely sport it has become an emotion, a philosophy of life, and a fragment of national consciousness.

But here lies the central question: should cricket truly be turned into a battlefield? Is not sport meant to unite hearts, to spread smiles, to draw people closer together? When cricket becomes a metaphor for enmity and hostility, its essence is lost. The game must remain within the spirit of sport, so that public emotions are channeled positively. If it becomes a metaphor of hate and war, it will lose its very soul. What is needed is for Pakistanis and Indians alike to embrace cricket as a healthy competition.



Workers engage in road construction as part of ongoing development activities on Autobahn Road



By: Amjad Rana

Global Discontent Against Elite Rulers

The battle between common people and elite rulers is intensifying worldwide. If reforms are not made, unrest may escalate into revolutions, economic collapses or even global conflicts. The future depends on whether elites compromise or double down on control. Corruption among national leaders is a pervasive issue affecting numerous countries worldwide. Various reports and indices highlight nations where rulers and high-ranking officials are implicated in corrupt activities. The growing tension between common people and elite rulers requires solutions that address economic inequality, political corruption and systemic injustice while maintaining stability. The growing discontent among common people against elite rulers is a global phenomenon driven by economic inequality, political corruption and social injustices. The gap between the rich and the poor has widened significantly in many countries. Billionaires and multinational corporations accumulate massive wealth, while common people struggle with rising costs of living, stagnant wages and job insecurity. Many believe that economic policies favor the elite through tax breaks, bailouts and deregulation while the working class bears the burden of inflation, debt and austerity measures. Political elites are often seen as self-serving are using power to protect their interests rather than working for the public good.Corruption scandals,election rigging and manipulation of democratic institutions further erode trust in governments. Large corporations and wealthy individuals fund political campaigns influencing policy decisions that benefit them rather than the majority. Mainstream media controlled by a few powerful entities often suppress narratives that challenge elite rule and mislead the public with biased reporting. People are increasingly mobilizing

through protests, demonstrations and movements against economic hardship,political oppression and social injustices. Movements like the Yellow Vests in France Occupy Wall Street in the U.S and protests in countries like Pakistan, India and Brazil highlight public frustration. Disillusionment with traditional parties has led to the rise of populist leaders and alternative movements both on the left and right. While some leaders use anti-elite rhetoric to gain support.they may still serve elite interests once in power. The internet and social media have enabled people to share alternative perspectives and challenge mainstream narratives. However, governments and tech giants have increased censorship and surveillance to suppress dissenting voices. Many feel that global organizations (e.g Economic Forum) serve elite interests rather than addressing

real problems like poverty war and climate change. There is a growing belief that democracy in many places is controlled by the rich rather than by the people. Discontent may lead to more protests, political upheavals and alternative governance models. Some elites may push for greater control through surveillance censorship and authoritarian measures to maintain power.If systemic changes are not made,the gap between the rulers and the ruled will continue to widen potentially leading to more global instability. The growing discontent of common people against elite rulers can lead to significant global consequences are ranging from political upheavals to economic instability and social transformations. Disillusionment with traditional elites often leads to the rise of populist leaders who promise to fight for the common people. Examples include Donald Trump (U.S) Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil) Imran

Khan (Pakistan) and others. Some genuinely challenge the elite while others exploit public anger for power.Long-standing political systems may face collapse or major reforms due to loss of

public trust.Democratic institutions may weaken if people believe elections are rigged or manipulated by elites.Revolutions or military takeovers can occur in extreme cases (e.g Arab Spring coups in Myanmar,Sudan,Niger).Large-scale protests and movements (e.g.Occupy Wall Street, Yellow Vests,farmers' protests in India) can force governments to change policies.However authorities may respond with force leading to riots,crackdowns and state repression.Governments may be forced to introduce wealth taxes,minimum wage hikes and social welfare programs to appease public anger.Resistance from corporations and elites could lead to capital flight,economic instability or artificial recessions.Wealthy individuals and multinational corporations may move their money out of countries experiencing unrest are leading to stock market crashes or currency devaluation.Inflation unemployment and economic hardship can increase is making the situation worse for common people.Some governments might nationalize key industries (energy,transport,healthcare) to reduce elite control.Elites often fight back through legal challenges economic sabotage or foreign intervention.If elites resist change class divisions could deepen increasing resentment and potential for violent conflict.Strikes,protests and general distrust in authorities may become more common. To maintain control ruling elites might increase censorship,internet restrictions and mass surveillance (e.g China's Great Firewall, social credit systems).Free speech may be curtailed under the pretext of national security or misinformation control.

As trust in mainstream media declines people turn to alternative platforms independent journalists and encrypted communication to share dissenting

views. Governments might try to shut down these platforms, leading to a battle for information controlman-elite sentiment often leads to nationalism and anti-globalization movements weakening international alliances (e.g.Brexit).If elites feel threatened they may resort to harsher authoritarian measures martial law, mass arrests, propaganda and even wars to distract the public. In extreme cases, manufactured crises (pandemics, economic crashes or external conflicts) may be used to regain control. Implement progressive taxation on billionaires and multinational corporations.Strengthen labor unions to ensure fair wages and job security.Enforce strict anti-monopoly laws to break up powerful corporations.Stop government bailouts for billionaires and failing corporations.End dynastic politics and impose term limits for politicians.Establish strict accountability laws for politicians and public officials.

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FBR to use AI to detect tax return discrepancies, warns of heavy penalties

■ The FBR plans to use automated checks and AI to detect discrepancies in tax returns, with sources warning of heavy penalties and urging taxpayers to correct errors before October 15.



Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to impose penalties on taxpayers who provide incorrect information in income tax returns, conceal assets or tamper with financial records, according to sources.

Sources said the FBR had access to data on properties and assets owned by tax filers across the country, which would be used to verify the information declared in their income tax returns.

The FBR will automatically compare information provided in tax returns with its existing database to identify discrepancies. Artificial intelligence (AI) will also be used to verify information and detect possible irregularities, sources added.

According to sources, taxpayers found concealing assets or manipulating records could face heavy penalties. Salaried individuals who submit incorrect income tax returns could face penalties of up to 75 per cent of their salary, sources said.

An additional fine of Rs1,000 per day could also be imposed if a penalty is not paid within the prescribed period, they added.

Tax filers have been given an opportunity to correct errors in their income tax returns before October 15. Sources urged taxpayers to review the information declared in their returns, including income and asset details, and make any necessary corrections within the stipulated time.

The development comes as the FBR expands the use of automated systems and artificial intelligence to scrutinise tax returns and identify discrepancies between declared information and available records.



Federal Secretary for Commerce Jawad Paul presents Pakistani olive oil to Ms. Merlin Melles, Head of the visiting Dutch business delegation, as a token of goodwill and to promote the branding and international recognition of Pakistani products, during a business dinner hosted in Islamabad to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands

Pakistan sees growth above 4pc, looks to raise more than $1 billion from privatisation

■ Aurangzeb expects Pakistan's economy to grow over 4% this fiscal year and targets more than $1 billion from privatisation, amid talks on a proposed $10 billion US facility.

Staff Reporter

BANGKOK

Pakistan's economy is ?expected to grow by more than 4% this fiscal year despite elevated oil prices, as the government looks to ?push for the privatisation of five to six entities that could raise upwards of $1 billion, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb told Reuters on Monday.

Pakistan's economy is considered to be highly vulnerable to a prolonged Middle East conflict given its dependence on Gulf energy imports, remittances and financing support from the region, even as it remains reliant



?on external financing to bolster foreign exchange reserves and meet debt repayments.

The South Asian country of 255 million people ?has been able to procure adequate quantities of fuel, successfully avoiding any shortages, and critical sectors such as ?agriculture were holding up, Aurangzeb said.

"So I'm still quite clear that we should clock north of 4%," he said in an interview ?on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Bangkok.

"And on the inflation side, obviously, we ?are keeping a very close eye because it does have a knock-on impact in terms of the commodity prices."

Following a period of severe economic turmoil exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the cash-strapped economy has recovered some of its footing, supported by a $7 billion, 37-month IMF loan program known as the Extended Fund Facility ?signed in 2024 that includes some tough measures such as raising tax revenue on farm income.

TECNO Spark Go 3 Launched in Pakistan Bold Design and Reliable Performance

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

:TECNO Mobile has officially launched the **Spark Go 3** in Pakistan, designed specifically for the youth. The smartphone delivers **4-Year Lag-Free Performance**, durable build, and a bold, modern design at an accessible price.

The device is available in **four striking colors** Ink Black, Titanium Grey, Aurora Purple, and Galaxy Blue reflecting individuality and youthful energy. It features a **5000mAh battery with 15W fast charging**, **4GB + 4GB Extended RAM**, and **128GB storage** for smooth multitasking and ample space.

A **120Hz display** ensures ultra-smooth scrolling, while **IP64 water and dust resistance** and **1.2m drop protection** offer reliable durability. Powered by **TECNO AI**, Spark Go 3 also includes **Free Link with Flash Call** for low-signal areas and a **built-in IR remote** for home appliances.

The phone is available nationwide at **PKR 29,999**, PTA-approved, and comes with a **12+1 month official warranty**.

Yen under pressure after Takaichi report; Aussie higher on inflation

■ Yen near 2-week low after PM Sanae Takaichi reportedly questioned rate hikes, pressuring BOJ.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

A wobbly yen was pinned near a two-week low on Wednesday after a report that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi had told the central bank chief she had reservations about future rate hikes, while a steadily rising Chinese yuan kept pressure on the dollar.

Traders had an eye on President Donald Trump's State of the Union address in the Asia morning.

The Australian dollar rose 0.3% to $0.7074 after a pickup in inflation raised the risk of rate hikes - the sharpest gainer in an otherwise steady start to the session.

The euro hovered at $1.1776 and sterling sat at $1.35. The yen dropped 0.8% overnight to as weak as 156.28 to the dollar and was a fraction stronger than that at 155.88. Takaichi voiced concerns about additional interest rate hikes



during her meeting with Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda last week, the Mainichi daily reported on Tuesday, citing multiple unnamed sources.

If true, the report signals potential friction over monetary policy that could complicate the BOJ's plan to steadily raise rates and rekindle currency market concerns that Takaichi wants to run the economy hot with low interest rates and high government spending.

"Her 'tougher stance' was a surprise and adds to concerns about FX weakness and policy shifts being market-unfriendly," said Bob Savage, head of markets macro strategy at BNY.

"Intervention in tandem with the U.S. remains a brake against the 160 mark for JPY and against greater volatility," he said.

Separately, the Nikkei newspaper said on Tuesday the U.S. had led so-called "rate checks" in January that propped up the yen, raising some doubt over how deeply Japan is committed to shoring up its currency.

The yen has been sliding for years thanks to Japan's low interest rates and has been under pressure since Takaichi came to power in October on concerns that she would further strain a stretched national budget.

Elsewhere the New Zealand dollar inched higher to $0.5971, while China's yuan stood tall, having notched its sharpest one-day rise in nine months of 0.35% on Tuesday.

The U.S. Supreme Court's striking down of many of President Donald Trump's heaviest tariffs would likely lead to a lower overall rate on Chinese goods, analysts said, paving the way for further yuan appreciation.

NEPRA to decide on Rs1.78 tariff hike tomorrow

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is set to announce its final verdict tomorrow on a proposed increase in electricity tariffs, According to the report, the government has already put a request to NEPRA seeking to impose an additional financial burden on consumers across the country, including Karachi., following an application filed by the government seeking to impose an additional financial burden on consumers across the country, including Karachi.

Authorities have requested an increase of Rs1.78 per unit in power tariffs.

Under government guidelines, the monthly fuel price adjustment would also apply to K-Electric, the power distribution company serving Karachi.

A hearing on the proposed increase under the monthly fuel price adjustment mechanism is scheduled to take place at NEPRA tomorrow. As per the channel report, the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) has submitted a request to Nepra seeking a Rs1.78 per unit increase as part of the January 2026 fuel

IMF mission launches review talks at State Bank of Pakistan

■ According to sources, the SBP team briefed the IMF delegation about its policies and working.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission has arrived in Pakistan and without wasting any time held talks with a team of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP),

According to sources, the SBP team briefed the IMF delegation about its policies and working.

The IMF team, which will state in Pakistan until March 11, will kickstart formal review talks with the government in Islamabad from March 2.

The IMF delegation is in Pakistan for the third review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

The IMF mission started engagements in Karachi with the officials of the State Bank of Pakistan. The team is expected to



move to Islamabad next week for meetings with the government's economic managers.

The review will cover Pakistan's economic performance for July-December 2025. Mission will also hold negotiations for the release of the next tranche under EFF and RSF. Officials said the IMF team will review tax collection, energy sector reforms, and progress on the privatization programme.

Governance and anti-corruption measures are also on the agenda, including transparency in appointments at key institutions.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar presents a shield to Parliamentary Secretary Rabia Naseem Farooqi during the 3rd International Seerat Festival, themed "Building Bridges Among Nations," organized by the National Rahmatul-lil- Alameen wa Khatam-un-Nabiyyin Authority.

Scanned with CamScanner

Saudi, Iranian foreign ministers discuss regional escalation

■ Saudi and Iranian foreign ministers discussed regional escalation amid deadly Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, including a strike near Riyadh airport that killed one person and wounded several others.



Web Desk

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah received a phone call from Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi.
The two ministers discussed the recent escalation in the region and efforts to address it.
The discussion comes amid attacks by Houthi in Saudi Arabia. On Sunday, one person was killed and nearly a dozen hurt in a new attack Riyadh's international airport, Saudi authorities reported, a day after a strike claimed by Yemen's Houthis that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300.
Saudi-led coalition forces in Yemen said an unidentified projectile had targeted Riyadh's international airport Terminal 4 on Sunday, causing a fire. Eleven people were wounded in addition to the fatality, the Saudi civil aviation authority said.
Coalition forces also said Saudi air defences had intercepted a cruise missile in the vicinity of King Khalid International Airport. They later added that a drone had been intercepted and destroyed in the country's Eastern Province, and a ballistic missile launched towards Khamis Mushait had been intercepted. Emergency alerts were also issued in Abha, in the south, early on Monday but the danger had since passed, the Saudi Civil Defense said.
The strikes have exposed vulnerabilities in Saudi defence capabilities as the kingdom wages an air campaign against the Houthis, who are fighting a ground war in Yemen against the Saudi-backed Yemeni government.
Footage released by Saudi state television of the Saturday attack on the Riyadh airport showed scores ?of religious pilgrims lined up at a gate as they prepared to travel to Islam's two holiest sites. A bright orange flash sent people running in panic, while parts of the roof appeared to cave in.
The airport was closed after the attack, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade. .



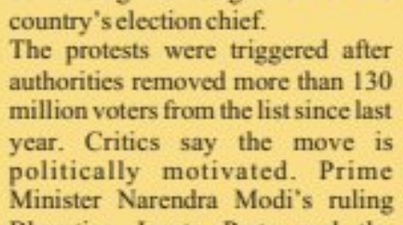
India's 'Cockroach' protest movement leaders freed from detention, vow to continue

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI

. Leaders of a popular Indian youth movement vowed to continue protests Sunday after being released from detention, a day after police cracked down on demonstrations against a controversial revision of voter lists. The movement is demanding the resignation of the country's election chief.
The protests were triggered after authorities removed more than 130 million voters from the list since last year. Critics say the move is politically motivated. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission deny manipulation allegations.
The Cockroach Janata Party's three leaders — Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka — were freed on condition that they commit "no breach of peace for one year," Ratna Singh, the movement's legal director, said in a social media post.
It was unclear what the condition meant or whether it would restrict their participation in protests.
Police boarded the leaders' flight from Mumbai after it landed in New Delhi on Saturday and took them into custody as they prepared to lead a demonstration in New Delhi.
After his release, Dipke called Modi "an embarrassment to India."
"Never has this country seen a bigger coward and bully," he wrote on X.
Das, a spokesperson for the movement, urged supporters to take to the streets. "A situation has been created where the state is at war with its own citizens," he told reporters Sunday.
Following Saturday's protests, authorities launched a sweeping security crackdown in the capital, detaining more than 2,000 protesters, including several opposition lawmakers. Train services to the capital were canceled, metro stations closed and mobile internet suspended in parts of the city.

US judge orders halt to taxpayer-funded ads featuring Trump



WEB DESK

NEW DELHI

A US judge on Sunday blocked the Trump administration from using taxpayer money to pay for political ?advertisements, after publicly funded television ads glorifying US President Donald Trump began airing ?in late September and sparked a bipartisan backlash.
Manhattan-based US District Judge Jennifer Rochon temporarily barred the advertisements after plaintiffs including watchdog group Common Cause brought a lawsuit alleging the ads were ?political propaganda designed to help Republican candidates in the November 3 midterm elections, not public service announcements.
The Trump administration was already planning to stop ?running the ads before Rochon's order, according to a separate statement filed with ?the court on Saturday.
The decision caps days of controversy over the taxpayer-funded advertisements, which were aired in the final weeks before the midterm elections.
"We won't stop until this administration is held fully accountable, and no president from any party can waste and abuse taxpayer funds ?for propaganda ever again," said Common Cause President and CEO Virginia Kase Solomón.
Trump ?on Monday said he considered the ads to be a "positive promotion for our great U.S.A." but ?that ?they would no longer be funded by taxpayers, and the White House said this week that the president's political action committee, MAGA PAC, would fund the ads going forward.



Riyadh airport hit by fresh Houthi strike day after deadly attack

■ The group claimed multiple attacks over the last 24 hours, including on the airport, and threatened to keep targeting the kingdom's transit hubs

Web DESK

RIYADH

A fresh Houthi strike hit Riyadh's international airport on Sunday, a day after another attack claimed by the Yemeni group killed at least a dozen people and forced authorities to suspend operations at the facility.
Saturday's attack, the deadliest on Saudi soil in more than a decade, was a sharp escalation in the Yemen war, where Riyadh backs the internationally recognised government against the Houthis.
The group on Sunday claimed multiple attacks over the last 24 hours, including on the airport, and threatened to keep targeting the kingdom's transit hubs, calling them "a theatre of operations for our forces".
Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group "carried out four qualitative operations in the past 24 hours using ballistic and cruise missiles and drones".
Saree said they targeted the Riyadh airport multiple times, as well as the Dammam airport and two facilities belonging to the Saudi state oil company Aramco.
Hours later, the Saudi coalition fighting the group reported that a projectile struck King Khalid International Airport, sparking a fire. Air defences also intercepted a missile nearby, it added.
The civil aviation authority said the attack caused an unspecified number of injuries, and that a damage assessment was underway.
AFP journalists and locals reported hearing the sound of multiple blasts in the Saudi capital on Sunday.
"The birds went into a frenzy after the sound. The whole house shook," said one resident of the Al-Aarid neighbourhood in the north of the city.
'Full-fledged war crime'
The Houthis have stepped up their attacks on the Riyadh airport — where three people were also killed on Thursday — as well as on other key targets in the world's top crude oil exporter.And although Saudi Arabia has poured billions into its military, Houthi attacks continue to slip through."Saudi air defences have been able to intercept some Houthi missile and drone attacks, but Saudi Arabia is so large that it's simply impossible for them to consistently defend themselves against Houthi attacks," said Thomas Juneau.

Trump says Russia and Ukraine reached 'energy ceasefire'

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON



US President Donald Trump said that Ukraine and Russia had agreed to ?what he described as an "energy ceasefire."
Trump, in a social media post, said the energy ceasefire was taking effect immediately, but did ?not elaborate further.
There was no immediate confirmation from Kyiv ?or Moscow.
Earlier, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul restated Berlin's support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Sunday following US President Donald Trump's call for his removal and urged more pressure to be put on Russia to resume peace talks.
Wadephul said Germany remained by the side of Ukraine and its government "and fully support the President as he carries out his difficult duties."
The comments, at a leadership meeting of Chancellor ?Friedrich Merz's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), followed Trump's call on Saturday for Zelenskiy to be replaced and underlined Berlin's growing rift with Washington.
Trump, who last week announced a diesel supply deal with Russia, called for Ukraine to replace Zelenskiy and railed against Ukraine's attacks on Russian oil infrastructure.

Spain, France battle wildfires as intense heat grips Southern Europe

WEB DESK

Spain

AirAsia (AIRG.KL) co-founder Tony Fernandes met with officials from ?Malaysia's finance ministry two weeks ago to discuss potential government support for Southeast Asia's largest low-cost airline, said three people with knowledge of the matter.
The talks reflect growing government ?concerns about the financial health of the country's largest domestic carrier following a spike in jet fuel prices, the people said.
Discussions centred on the prospect of the government backing AirAsia's fundraising efforts provided the airline agreed to proposed conditions, which remain under discussion, two of the people said. Reuters could not immediately determine details of the proposed conditions.
Fernandes, speaking for the airline as its co-founder and adviser, told Reuters in an exclusive interview on Friday that he had met with officials from Malaysia's finance ?and transport ministries during the week starting



September 28 at his request.
He said the discussions focused on aviation-related costs such as airport charges and fuel, not financial assistance.
"Obviously, like every airline in ?the world, we are telling government that this is a tough period," he said.
"There have been no discussions on financial assistance with the government," Fernandes added. "I meet ?with government officials all the time...just because I meet them doesn't mean we're talking about financial assistance."
He said he had not approached the government for help, and the government had not raised concerns with him ?about AirAsia's funding or offered support.
Fernandes said he was "100%" confident AirAsia could navigate the situation without state assistance, as it had during the pandemic.
But Fernandes said AirAsia would not turn away help if offered from any government ?in the countries where it operates, including Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. "We will never say no to it. We would be foolish to do so," he said.
He added that he had previously asked the government to help the airline secure loans from Malaysian banks rather than borrowing overseas, and still sought such support as he preferred local-currency loans with better interest rates and terms.
Representatives from Alton Aviation Consultancy, which Reuters previously reported the finance ministry has hired to assess loss-making AirAsia's funding needs, also ?attended the meeting, two of the people with knowledge of the discussions said.

India's 'cockroach' leaders vow to keep up election protests

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI

Leaders of India's youth-led "cockroach" movement on Sunday pledged to press on with protests against the country's election commissioner, hours after they were released from detention, as authorities sought to thwart major demonstrations in New Delhi.
The rallies in the capital come after weeks of opposition mobilization following allegations of misconduct during a nationwide voter roll revision that critics say could benefit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party.
The Election Commission of India, which oversees the voting process in the world's most populous nation, has denied wrongdoing.
Abhijeet Dipke, founder of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), and two other leaders were



released Sunday, one day after they were detained when they landed in New Delhi to take part in a protest at the Jantar Mantar site in the heart of the city.
Thousands of protesters have been detained since Saturday, according to the group and media reports.
"We will not back down," Saurav Das, another top CJP leader, told reporters after his release.
"We urge people to come out and carry out peaceful protests," he added, vowing to continue until Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resigns.
Smaller rallies took place in Delhi on Sunday. Dozens of protesters were detained near Jantar Mantar, which remained blocked off, AFP journalists witnessed.
Police have not commented on the detentions.
Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said at least 16 journalists had also been detained, calling the police actions "unacceptable."
"Covering events of public interest is not a crime," RSF said in a statement. "It is their job."
In July, protests organized by the CJP over exam irregularities forced the resignation of the education minister, marking a rare climbdown by Modi's administration. "

Scanned with CamScanner



Hareem Farooq stuns in classic attire with fierce twist

■ She shared a post with the caption: "Tum apni karni kar guzro, Jo hoga dekha jaayega

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Renowned Pakistani actress Hareem Farooq stole hearts as she stunned in a yellow traditional outfit. Taking to her Instagram, Hareem shared a carousel of pics of herself, showing off yellow three-piece frock very elegantly embroidered. She shared a post with the caption: "Tum apni karni kar guzro, Jo hoga dekha jaayega

Which translate to "Do what you must, whatever happens, we will see" a quote by Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

Hareem gave off very classy vibes as she flaunted her loose hair, her Jhumkas and light makeup in the photo.

The outfit features a sleeveless choli adorned with intricate gold mirror work and embellishments, paired with a matching dupatta.

She completed the look with statement golden jhumka earrings and soft, voluminous waves, creating a romantic and ethereal aesthetic.

Fans quickly flooded the comments, praising Hareem's elegant styling, radiant smile and graceful presence, making the post an instant hit on social media. Hareem Farooq continues to shine in entertainment industry as an actress, producer, and fashion icon.

She is currently starring in the hit drama Shar Pasand alongside Affan Waheed, following her acclaimed role in Bismil, which earned her award nominations.

On the big screen, Hareem is set to appear in the upcoming film Mango Jutt and has other projects lined up with IRK Films.

Beyond acting, Hareem has been vocal about women's well-being in the industry, speaking against crash diets and sharing how she mentored actress Hania Aamir early in her career.

Fawad Khan's new look sparks cosmetic treatment speculation

■ Fawad Khan's latest photos have sparked online speculation about cosmetic treatment, though neither the actor nor his team has commented on the rumours circulating on social media.

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Fawad Khan has once again become the center of attention on social media after his latest photos and videos sparked widespread discussion over his changed appearance.

Fawad is currently filming a new movie alongside actor Ayeza Khan, in which he plays a security forces officer. For the role, he has adopted a much shorter hairstyle, which many fans believe is the main reason behind his noticeably different look.

Speculation intensified after viral photos showed the actor with a



well-known cosmetic surgeon in Lahore, prompting social media users to question whether he had undergone any aesthetic or cosmetic procedures.

However, neither Fawad Khan nor his team has issued any statement regarding the rumours, and there has been no confirmation that he has received any cosmetic treatment.

While some users claimed to notice subtle facial changes and speculated about procedures such as Botox or fillers, many fans dismissed the claims, saying the transformation could simply be the result of his new hairstyle, weight loss and improved fitness.

Some social media users also jokingly asked the actor to reveal the name of his cosmetic surgeon, while others commented on possible facelift or filler procedures.

Several fans additionally pointed out Fawad Khan's apparent weight loss, with some speculating that he may have used weight-loss medication such as Ozempic. However, there is no verified information or official confirmation to support those claims.



Aag Lagay Basti Mein hits Rs101 crore worldwide

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani film Aag Lagay Basti Mein has achieved a major box-office milestone, crossing the Rs100 crore mark worldwide and reaching a reported global collection of Rs101.06 crore.

The makers celebrated the achievement by calling the film a "historic blockbuster" and a global box-office triumph.

They also thanked audiences for their love, support and continued presence in cinemas.The film has attracted considerable attention with its star-studded cast, featuring Fahad Mustafa, Mahira Khan and Tabish Hashmi in prominent roles.

The combination of popular stars and the film's commercial appeal has helped it draw audiences to theatres.

The Rs101.06 crore milestone places Aag Lagay Basti Mein among the films making a strong commercial impact and gives further momentum to the local film industry.

Limiting sugar before age two may benefit brain health later in life

■ Researchers explore link between early sugar intake and dementia risk

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Reducing sugar intake during the first two years of life may be linked to better brain health and a lower risk of dementia in later years, according to a new study. However, researchers and independent experts caution that the findings show an association rather than proving that sugar directly causes the disease.

The study examined a unique period in the United Kingdom following the end of post-World War II sugar rationing in September 1953. After rationing ended, average daily sugar consumption nearly doubled from about 41 grams to 80 grams, allowing researchers to compare the long-term health outcomes of people exposed to different levels of sugar early in life.

Researchers from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology analysed health data from nearly 65,000 participants in the UK Biobank.

They found that individuals who spent their first two years of life during the sugar rationing period had a 23% lower risk of



developing dementia compared with those born after restrictions ended.

Among participants who later developed dementia, the condition was diagnosed an average of 2.5 years later in those who experienced lower sugar exposure during infancy. The findings were published in the journal Neurology.

Lead researcher Jiaxin Zheng said the results suggest that limiting sugar intake during early childhood could have long-term benefits for brain health. However, Zheng emphasised that further research is needed to determine whether sugar itself is responsible for the observed differences.

Independent experts echoed that caution.

Rachel Richardson, a researcher affiliated with Cochrane, said the study was observational and could not establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship. She also noted that researchers were unable to measure each participant's actual sugar intake.

Professor Ian Maidment of Aston University said the findings should be interpreted carefully because people born in the 1940s and 1950s experienced very different diets, lifestyles and healthcare conditions from those of modern populations.

Dr Sarah Rodriguez of Alzheimer's Research UK described the research as a valuable contribution but said it does not demonstrate that reducing sugar alone can prevent dementia.

She added that maintaining a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle remains one of the best-supported ways to promote long-term brain health.

Researchers highlighted that the first 1,000 days of life—from pregnancy until around a child's second birthday—are widely recognised as a critical period for brain and physical development.

Bushra Ansari pens special birthday wish for daughter Nariman

Web Desk

KARACHI



Terrifically talented actress Bushra Ansari has shared a heartfelt birthday tribute for her daughter Nariman Ansari, and calling her "my ladli beti" (My beloved daughter) and "my Janu" (My soul).In her messages, Bushra prayed for Nariman's happiness, good health, strength and peace, while expressing her deep love for her daughter.

She also wished her a long and blessed life, writing, "Jeo hazaron saal!" (Live thousand years).

Bushra's emotional words highlighted the close bond she shares with Nariman, she described her not only as her daughter but also as a dear friend and sweetheart.

Bushra Ansari is one of Pakistan's most respected actresses, writers and comedians, with a career spanning several decades.

She rose to fame through television and comedy and has appeared in numerous popular dramas and stage productions.

Bushra Ansari is known for her versatility and her great comic timing as well.

The legend also remains one of

'Shaidai' finale leaves fans in tears as loyalty changes everything

■ Pakistani drama Shaidai has wrapped up with an emotional and action packed finale that left viewers praising its powerful ending.

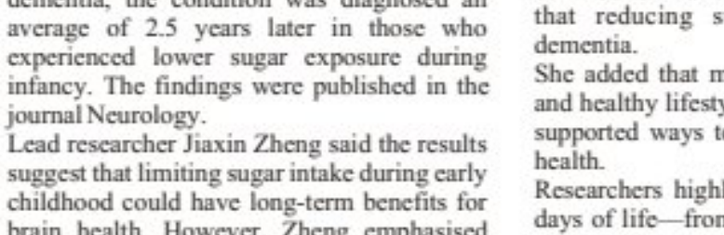
WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani drama Shaidai has wrapped up with an emotional and action-packed finale that left viewers praising its powerful ending.

Blending intense confrontations, heartbreaking sacrifices, and a satisfying happy ending, the final episode earned widespread appreciation as fans applauded its message that true love, loyalty and family ultimately triumph over revenge.

The finale begins with Miraal, played by Sahar Hashmi, visiting Aeliya, portrayed by Nawal Saeed, to share the joyful news that she and Ali, played by Feroze Khan, have begun a happy married life together. However, the celebration quickly turns into a nightmare as the news pushes Aeliya deeper into jealousy and Unable to accept Ali's happiness, Aeliya kidnaps Miraal, ties her up, and holds her at gunpoint. Nawal Saeed delivers a gripping performance as Aeliya plots to kill Miraal in front of Ali, hoping to leave him with a lifetime of grief.The situation changes when



Aeliya briefly leaves the room to answer a phone call from her brother, Malik Sahab, played by Mahmood Aslam. Seizing the opportunity, Miraal unties herself and desperately tries to escape.At the same time, Ali arrives at the mansion with his trusted companion Yaqoob, portrayed by Haddy Firdousi, along with his men. A fierce gunfight soon breaks out, delivering one of the finale's most intense and suspenseful moments.

The episode's most heartbreaking scene belongs to Yaqoob. As one of Aeliya's men aims a gun at Ali, Yaqoob fearlessly steps in front of the bullet to save him. Ali immediately shoots the attacker, but Yaqoob's selfless sacrifice leaves a lasting emotional impact.Throughout the drama, viewers admired the bond between Ali and Yaqoob, whose relationship grew far beyond that of employer and employee, becoming one of brotherhood, trust, and unwavering loyalty.

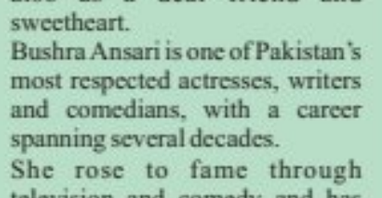
When Ali finally confronts Aeliya, he chooses forgiveness over revenge. Instead of taking her life, he walks away with Miraal, leaving Aeliya to face the consequences of her actions. Unable to cope with losing everything, Aeliya later takes her own life.

The drama ends on a heartwarming note as Ali, Miraal, Dadi, played by Bushra Ansari, Yaqoob, and the family's loyal household staff gather around the dinner table. The final scene symbolises peace, healing, and a fresh beginning after a long journey filled with pain, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Sangeeta reveals Moammar Rana's fee for Mukho

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Veteran filmmaker and actress Sangeeta has clarified that actor Moammar Rana is being paid Rs 5 lakh per day for her upcoming Punjabi film Mukho, and that puts his fee at around Rs 40 lakh for eight days of work.

Speaking about the actor, Sangeeta said Moammar Rana is like a son to her and that she would never offer him an amount below what she believes he deserves.

She also praised his past work, particularly his blockbuster Choorian and expressed hope that Mukho will help mark his comeback to the big screen.

The film recently came under discussion after a behind-the-scenes rehearsal clip featuring Sangeeta and Moammar Rana circulated on social media.

The footage showed the two rehearsing an intimate sequence from the film, which prompted mixed reactions from viewers.

Mukho is an upcoming Punjabi-language film directed by Sangeeta and is being produced under a Punjab government initiative aimed at supporting regional cinema.

Saima Noor will play the titular role, while Moammar Rana, Meera, Amina Roy, Nasir Chinioti, Momi and Talash Shah are also part of the cast.

The film is currently expected to hit cinemas in December 2026 and is being closely watched as a major new project for Punjabi cinema.

Scanned with CamScanner

Nizar Nayani leads Pakistani runners at Chicago Marathon 2026

■ "Chicago Marathon is always very close to my heart, no matter the results, no matter the conditions," says Nayani

Web Desk

KARACHI

US-based Nizar Nayani was the prominent Pakistani runner at the Chicago Marathon 2026, completing the 42.195-kilometre race in 3 hours and 45 seconds, as runners representing Pakistan and members of the Pakistani diaspora participated in one of the world's most prestigious marathons.

Nayani, who lives in Tomball, Texas, narrowly missed the sub-three-hour marathon mark by just 46 seconds, leading the Pakistani contingent in the race.Karachi-based Mustafa was the second-fastest Pakistani runner, finishing in 3:29:18, while Brooklyn-based Basherri Anjum finished as the most prominent Pakistani woman and third-fastest overall among the Pakistani runners identified, clocking 3:31:01.

Abu-Bakr Mohammad Afzal followed with 3:32:39, while Pakistani-American Babar Ghias completed the marathon in 3:42:44.



An analysis of Nayani's splits showed that he maintained a strong pace during the first half of the race, reaching the 5km mark in 20 minutes and 16 seconds and completing the first 10km in 40:22.

He crossed the halfway point in 1:25:41, putting him on course for a finish comfortably inside three hours. However, his pace slowed during the second half as he reached 30km in 2:03:49 and 40km in 2:50:24, eventually crossing the finish line in 3:00:45.

eventually crossing the finish line in 3:00:45.

Speaking after the race, Nayani described Chicago as a special event for him, regardless of his finishing time.

"Chicago Marathon is always very close to my heart, no matter the results, no matter the conditions. I will keep coming back as long as Allah allows me to, and if I'm in shape," he said.

"Today was not ideal conditions, but this is what 26.2 miles does to you. It brings every single grit out of you," he added. Nayani also expressed pride in the Pakistani running community, saying he was glad to be part of the Pakistani team and proud of his fellow runners.

Meanwhile, Basherri Anjum produced a strong performance in the women's field, covering the first 5km in 23:49 and reaching the 10km mark in 47:35.

She completed the half marathon in 1:41:34 before slowing during the latter stages of the race, reaching 30km in 2:26:35 and 40km in 3:19:43. She eventually finished in 3:31:01.

Her performance placed her ahead of the other Pakistani women whose results were available, including Sara Rathore, Zara Ordonez and British-Pakistani Wardah Mir.

Among other runners, Riyadh-based Ibrahim Abdul Khaliq finished in 3:44:01, followed by Lahore's Hamid Butt, a six-star finisher competing in the 65–69 age category, who completed the marathon in 3:49:48.

Abhishek, Arshdeep guide India to T20 win over West Indies

● "It was wonderful to see the bowlers being confident," India captain Shreyas Iyer said.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

Abhishek Sharma struck a quick 69 before Arshdeep Singh's three wickets helped India to a 14-run win over the West Indies in the third T20 international . Opener Abhishek's 30-ball assault guided India to 223 all out, a total their bowlers defended by restricting West Indies to 209-7 in Indore, giving them a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

"It was wonderful to see the bowlers being confident," India captain Shreyas Iyer said.

"The clarity was very much visible when I was interacting. They were ready to take up the challenge and that's what we want."

The previous two games had been won by the team batting second, as the West Indies knocked off a target of 250 to level the series on Friday, pulling off the second-highest successful chase in T20Is.



Abhishek handed India a quick start as he put on 108 runs with fellow left-hander Ishan Kishan, who made 37, after India were put in to bat.

Sanju Samson fell for just three before India's batters responded with regular boundaries, Abhishek reaching his fifty off 18 balls.

Spinner Roston Chase broke the stand as he removed Kishan and then dismissed Iyer for one in the same over.

Pace bowler Shamar Springer cut short Abhishek's knock, which featured six fours and five sixes, as India began to wobble.

- 'Little margins' -

Tilak Varma (28) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (21) kept the score ticking over as wickets continued to fall.

Lower-order contributions from Axar Patel, who hit 20, and Prince Yadav, who made an unbeaten 13 off six balls, boosted the total.

"Probably with the ball, we could've executed a little bit better," said West Indies skipper Shai Hope. "So those little margins would be the deciding factor come the end of the game."

In reply, West Indies Hope, who made an unbeaten 102 in the previous series-levelling win, for five off left-arm quick Arshdeep before Shimron Hetmyer hit the same bowler for a six and three fours in a 19-run over.

Hetmyer made 43 off 26 balls before being dismissed by Naman Dhir, and Rovman Powell fell for five as West Indies slipped in their chase.

Dhir struck again to send back opener Kamil Pooran, who hit a 27-ball 42, to reduce the opposition to 105-4 in the 11th over.

Zheng beats Andreeva to become first home player to win China Open

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Zheng Qinwen became the first home winner of the China Open on Sunday as she beat Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva 7-5, 6-4.

The former world number four and current Olympic champion was a wildcard entry in Beijing, having struggled with form and fitness after elbow surgery in 2025.

It was the 54th-ranked Zheng's first title in nearly two years, and tears filled her eyes as she fell to the court in celebration.

"The feeling was incredible to win here in Beijing... in front of my home crowd is one of my dreams," she said during the trophy ceremony.

"I've been through a very, very tough year," she added.

She congratulated Andreeva on her French Open win from earlier this year before serenading the crowd with a song about chasing the "light of dreams".

Zheng, 24, is the first Chinese player to win the prestigious tournament since its inception in 2004. Andreeva, ranked five, was more consistent to start with, but Zheng grabbed back a break and stayed with her 19-year-old opponent as they battled on the baseline.

Zheng saved three set points to level at 5-5 and won every single point after that, sending down an ace to take the first set.

A crowd desperate to see their homegrown talent crowned champion was at times disruptive as cheers erupted before points ended and shouts for Zheng punctuated serves on both sides of the net.

But the players kept their focus, holding serve until Zheng found a way through in the ninth game of the second set, firing brilliantly against the line to break and go up 5-4. A double-fault threatened to derail an imminent triumph until Zheng, defiant, sent down an ace to win on her first match point.

It is Zheng's first trophy since October 2024 when she beat Sofia Kenin in Tokyo, and her first-ever title at the WTA1000 level.



Australia take control of 1st Test against South Africa

■ The Australian bowlers applied relentless pressure on an easy-paced pitch and a succession of South African batsmen contributed to their own dismissals by playing poor shots.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Steve Smith broke the Test record for the most catches by a fielder as Australia took a 106-run first innings lead on the third day of the first Test against South Africa at Kingsmead.

Smith held four catches to take his career total to 223, more than any other outfielder, as South Africa were bowled out for 284 in reply to Australia's first innings of 390.

The Australian bowlers applied relentless pressure on an easy-paced pitch and a succession of South African batsmen contributed to their own dismissals by playing poor shots.

Six Protea batters reached 30 but David Bedingham's 49 was the top score.

Smith started the day on 219 catches, one behind Joe Root of England.

He equalled the record when he caught South African captain Temba Bavuma. Standing at slip, he anticipated Bavuma's reverse sweep against off-spinner Nathan Lyon and moved to his right with Bavuma's mistimed shot going straight to him.

Smith, playing in his 126th Test, broke the record when he lunged to his left from second slip to hold a sharp edge from Bedingham off Australian captain Pat Cummins.

Smith thought he had taken another catch when he held a low edge from Wiaan Mulder at slip in the over before lunch. Mulder started walking off the field but the umpires reviewed the incident and decided the ball had not carried.

But Smith was in the action again with a spectacular catch to dismiss Kyle Verreynne, again anticipating well at slip as the South African wicketkeeper made good contact with a reverse sweep which Smith held in an outstretched right hand.

His fourth catch was from an edge to slip by last man Anrich Nortje off the bowling of Beau Webster.

Smith's career haul of 223 catches exceeds the total of all but 11 specialist wicketkeepers.

Australia, first innings, 390

South Africa, first innings, 284 (A. Markram 37, D Bedingham 49, T. Stubbs 32, W. Mulder 30, S. Hermer 35 not out, K. Maharaj 34; M. Starc 2-63, J. Hazlewood 2-54, P. Cummins 3-54, N. Lyon 2-58)



Rizwan recalls Maaz Sadaqat's dream after youngster shines for Pakistan

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has expressed happiness at seeing young cricketer Maaz Sadaqat fulfil his dream of representing Pakistan, recalling the day the youngster visited his home in Peshawar with his brother, Haroon.

In a message shared on social media platform X, Rizwan said it felt like only yesterday that a young boy had come to meet him with the dream of playing for Pakistan.

He recalled that the youngster had hope in his eyes and determination in his heart, adding that seeing the same boy wearing Pakistan's national shirt had brought him immense happiness.

Rizwan expressed hope that the moment would mark the beginning of a successful journey for Maaz and prayed for the youngster's continued progress.

Encouraging young people to pursue their ambitions, Rizwan said that whether the dream was to wear Pakistan's shirt or achieve something else in life, hard work, patience and faith in Allah were essential.

The wicketkeeper-batter also congratulated Sahibzada Farhan and the Pakistan team on winning their home T20I series against Sri Lanka.

Maaz recently delivered an impressive performance in the second T20I against Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, scoring 96 runs off 51 balls, including six fours and seven sixes.



Kipchoge wins first marathon in three years in Melbourne

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

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.



UK PM Burnham to release details of dealings with Manchester City

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he would publish details of his dealings with Manchester City, after opposition politicians criticised his response to a ruling that found the club guilty of serious breaches of the Premier League's financial rules.City appealed the independent commission's ruling earlier this month as the club seeks to overturn the verdict and avoid potentially severe sanctions.The Premier ?League said City had used "sham" commercial contracts as part of ?schemes to inflate revenue and understate costs by more than £900 ?million ($1.19 billion).

City have denied wrongdoing throughout the case and said the commission's ?opinion contains "clear material errors". The UK's Liberal Democrats earlier this month urged Burnham to ?disclose any meetings he had held with Manchester City's owners, Abu Dhabi representatives or related entities. Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has also called on the British government to ?release details of meetings between Burnham and senior City figures.

Scanned with CamScanner



PHC moved against imposition of emergency, governor's rule in KP

WEB DESK

PESHAWAR

A petition has been filed in the Peshawar High Court challenging the imposition of an emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The petition was filed by Advocate Salman, who has named the President of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, and the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as respondents.

The petitioner argued that the imposition of an emergency and governor's rule in the province is unconstitutional, illegal, and based on mala fide intentions. He further maintained that the measures violate fundamental rights and undermine the democratic mandate of the people.

The petition requests the Peshawar High Court to declare the imposition of the emergency and governor's rule null and void and unlawful.

It also seeks the suspension of the notification imposing governor's rule until the court delivers its final decision on the petition.

CM Maryam launches 65 doorstep mobile health units for workers in Punjab

● The program will initially cover Lahore, Kasur and Sheikhupura, providing healthcare services to more than 4.6 million industrial workers and their family members.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched a Social Security Mobile Health Program comprising 65 mobile healthcare units to provide medical facilities to industrial workers and their families at their workplaces and doorsteps

The program will initially cover Lahore, Kasur and Sheikhupura, providing healthcare services to more than 4.6 million industrial workers and their family members. The provincial government aims to expand the initiative to 12 more districts by March 2027.

The mobile healthcare fleet includes 10 mobile hospitals, 5 mobile clinics, a mobile dental hospital, a mobile cardiac unit, 40 motorcycles and 10 scooters. These units will provide medical consultations, basic medicines, first aid, diagnostic services, telemedicine and health awareness facilities.

During the inauguration, Maryam Nawaz inspected the mobile hospitals, dental facilities, motorcycles and scooters. She also received a briefing on the medicines and medical



equipment available on the mobile bikes and checked her temperature using a device installed on one of the motorcycles.

Officials briefed the chief minister that mobile hospitals would be equipped with doctors, female doctors, radiologists, nurses, laboratory and X-ray technicians, outpatient departments, radiology facilities and pathology laboratories. The mobile dental hospital will provide dental treatment, dental X-rays, intraoral camera systems and telemedicine services.

Under the program, a mobile rheumatic heart disease (RHD) screening initiative will also be launched to facilitate the early detection of heart conditions. The screening units will visit 29,845 factories, industrial units and other establishments across Lahore, Sheikhupura and Kasur.

The mobile healthcare units will also be used to screen 54,000 children studying at workers' welfare schools across Punjab for heart diseases. The mobile cardiac unit will provide initial screening and medical consultations to industrial workers and their families.

All mobile units will be connected to a digital hub at the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) headquarters to ensure real-time monitoring of their locations, routes and field operations.

Speaking at the launch, Maryam Nawaz said the program marked a significant milestone in extending healthcare services to registered workers at their workplaces and providing medical facilities to their families at their doorsteps.

ATC orders jail meetings for Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali Chattha with lawyers

● An Islamabad ATC orders lawyers to meet Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in jail in a terrorism case, adjourning further proceedings until October 14.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad has ordered that lawyers be allowed to meet Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in jail in a terrorism case related to the removal of security barriers.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the case, during which Dr Shireen Mazari appeared along with Advocate Riasat Ali Azad and Advocate Aimal Khan.

The court directed that Riasat Ali Azad, Zainab Janjua and Aimal Khan be allowed to meet Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in jail.

During the hearing, Riasat Ali Azad argued that the case could



not proceed without meetings between the lawyers and their clients.

Judge Sipra observed that the anti-terrorism law required trials to be conducted on a day-to-day basis. He asked the prosecution how many witnesses remained to be examined, to which the prosecutor replied that nine witnesses were yet to be presented.

The judge directed the prosecution to ensure that the accused were given access to their lawyers, stressing that such meetings had to be facilitated.

During the proceedings, Hadi Ali Chattha questioned why he and Imaan Mazari were not being produced before the court, saying that the situation was contrary to the principles of a fair trial. He said he had been in jail for eight months and did not understand how he could effectively pursue his case under the circumstances.

Chattha also raised concerns about meetings with lawyers being held in areas equipped with cameras, questioning how confidential communication between a lawyer and a client could take place in such conditions.

He maintained that the court should decide whether he and Mazari were guilty of the charges and urged that they be produced before it.

The court adjourned further proceedings until October 14.

The case concerns allegations linked to the removal of security barriers during the visit of an international cricket team. In earlier proceedings, the court formally framed charges against Mazari and Chattha despite defence objections over access to legal counsel and copies of case documents. .



Pakistan stands shoulder to shoulder with Saudi Arabia: Minister

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Monday said that the government of Pakistan stood shoulder to shoulder with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this moment of trial, He said this while addressing plenary session title Investment and Trade in Sustainable Energy Solutions: Making Energy Clean, Accessible and Affordable at the 17th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The minister attended the event at the invitation of Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Energy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said a news release received in Islamabad.

He said his participation in the meeting was a manifestation of Pakistan's solidarity with the Kingdom, on the personal instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks by the Houthi militia on Saudi soil, the Minister said, while offering condolences over the precious lives lost.

The minister highlighted that the global energy sector was entering a new investment cycle in which energy security, affordability and sustainability must advance together.

He emphasized that investment was needed not only in renewable energy but also in hydrocarbons, critical minerals and essential infrastructure, including grids and pipelines.

Referring to the unprecedented global energy supply shock of 2026, the minister noted that the crisis extended beyond oil and gas to shipping and insurance.

Despite its heavy dependence on imported energy, Pakistan had navigated the crisis without resorting to rationing of major energy sources, supported by the Government's response and cooperation from brotherly countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait.

He thanked Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman for personally steering cooperation with Pakistan.

The minister said Pakistan was working to strengthen its long-term energy security architecture through the development of strategic reserves, a world-class bonded reserves scheme, greater indigenous energy production, critical infrastructure including refineries and tank farms.

Azma Bokhari accuses PTI of using old videos to misrepresent protests in Peshawar, Islamabad

■ Azma Bokhari accuses PTI of sharing misleading protest videos from Jamshoro and Jantar Mantar, while defending emergency rule and criticising the party's KP governance.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of circulating fake videos linked to protests in Peshawar and Islamabad, claiming that footage from unrelated incidents was presented as scenes from the demonstrations.

In a post on social media platform X, Bokhari said an old video of a boiler in Jamshoro had been falsely attributed to the protest in Peshawar. She also claimed that Indian national Ashok Swain had linked footage of a protest at Jantar Mantar to the demonstration in Islamabad.

Criticising PTI over the alleged use of misleading footage, Bokhari said the party had a "fake leadership, fake revolution and



fake protests". In a sarcastic remark, she added that the party should hold a rally on the moon next time and use a video from NASA.

Bokhari further defended the imposition of emergency rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, saying that emergency measures were necessary in a province where, according to her, militants were safe under the provincial government, police were unarmed and the public had been left at their mercy.

She also criticised the provincial chief minister, alleging a lack of respect for the national anthem and flag, and described such conduct as hateful.

Questioning PTI's performance during its 13 years in power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Bokhari asked what the party had delivered to the province. She said the PTI government's treatment of the people of KP was evident.

Islamabad returns to normal as authorities begin removing roadside containers



WEB DESK

LAHORE

Business and social activities in the federal capital have returned to normal, with the district administration beginning to remove containers from main roads and entry and exit points following the imposition of emergency measures and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. containers have been removed from Faizabad, 26 Number Chowk and Park Road, helping to restore movement in these areas.

The removal work is also under way near Serena Hotel in the Islamabad's Red Zone.

Containers placed around the Jinnah Convention Centre have also been cleared, while barriers remain at D-Chowk and China Chowk.

District administration officials said the remaining containers would be removed from roads across Islamabad by today evening.

According to the administration, containers had been placed around 125 entry and exit points in the capital. The authorities are now removing them as part of efforts to restore normal traffic movement and daily activities.



The Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB), Punjab, and the Ministry of Human Rights, in collaboration with UNICEF Pakistan and UNFPA Pakistan, organised a national policy dialogue on online child protection, calling for stronger safeguards against cyberbullying, online harassment and digital grooming.

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