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Pakistan reaffirms commitment to Saudi Arabia's security

■ Defence Minister Khawaja Asif says Pakistan will stand with Kingdom against any threat under Makkah defence agreement

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has reaffirmed the commitment to Saudi Arabia's security, saying Pakistan would stand with the Kingdom against any threat and declaring that "any enemy of Saudi Arabia is an enemy of Pakistan."

In an interview with foreign media outlet, Asif condemned the group's attacks on the Kingdom and said Islamabad had no doubt that the Houthis were committing aggression against Saudi Arabia.

"There is absolutely no doubt in our mind that Houthis are committing aggression against Saudi Arabia, and we are there to help Saudi Arabia in any conflict," Asif said, adding that Pakistan would respond to threats regardless of whether they originated from the Houthis, another country or any other organisation.

His comments came after renewed cross-border attacks and followed the signing of the Makkah trilateral agreement by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye on August 7.

The agreement, later referred to as the Makkah Defence Alliance, provides for collective security and defence cooperation, stipulating that an armed attack on one of the three countries would be treated as an attack on all.

The Houthis have carried out repeated missile and drone attacks against Saudi Arabia since announcing a naval blockade on the Kingdom in July. The group has also targeted Saudi-linked vessels in the Red Sea, as well as airports, energy facilities and other strategic infrastructure. Saudi air defence systems have intercepted many of the projectiles.

Asif said the agreement meant Pakistan would make its available resources accessible to Saudi Arabia if the Kingdom's security came under threat.

"We'll be there to defend them," he said, stressing that whatever means were available to Pakistan would also be available to Saudi Arabia under the arrangement.

Tarar says Pakistan will not allow India to weaponise water

■ On facing substantial losses, Taliban forces raised white flags, besides announcement of ceasefire: sources

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the Indus Waters Treaty is directly linked to Pakistan's survival and cannot be unilaterally suspended or put on hold.

Speaking at the launch of a special report examining the historical, legal and strategic dimensions of the treaty's suspension and the use of water as a weapon, Tarar said international agreements become binding on the parties once they are concluded.

He described the Indus Waters Treaty as more than a written agreement, stressing that its provisions cannot simply be suspended or terminated by one side. He also said international legal forums had issued decisions supporting Pakistan's position on the matter.

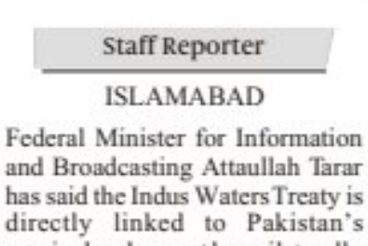
He said Pakistan has raised its concerns over the treaty through diplomatic channels and maintains that the agreement can neither be suspended nor placed in abeyance.

The minister said the treaty has historically served as a mechanism for regional peace and stability. He stressed that Pakistan would not accept the use of water as a means of exerting pressure, given its direct connection to the country's population, agriculture and economy.

Tarar also referred to Pakistan's losses in its fight against terrorism, saying the country had sacrificed thousands of lives and suffered billions of dollars in economic losses.

He alleged that Pakistan's eastern neighbour had made what he described as unfounded accusations of cross-border interference and subsequently announced keeping the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance on that basis.The information minister reiterated that Pakistan seeks peace but would not accept water being used as a weapon. He said decisions by international courts regarding the suspension or holding of the treaty had already provided clarity on the issue.

Pakistan, Turkiye, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan hold joint special forces exercise



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Special forces from Pakistan, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and another participating country have taken part in a multinational military exercise in Uzbekistan aimed at strengthening cooperation, coordination and professional capabilities.

The Eternal Brotherhood-5 exercise was held from 13 to 25 September 2026, with special forces contingents from five countries taking part. Kazakhstan participated as an observer country. The exercise focused on improving cooperation and coordination among the participating special forces and strengthening their professional skills. During the joint drills, the participating forces exchanged experience in modern military operations and combat tactics. They also shared practices for dealing with a range of security challenges. The exercise provided an opportunity for the participating forces to improve their coordination and develop greater understanding through joint training activities.

Eternal Brotherhood-5 also reflected growing defence and security cooperation among the participating countries, as well as efforts to strengthen mutual trust and military relations.



PTI limits October 4 long march to Swabi or Attock

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has finalized arrangements for its October 4 long march and decided to limit the protest to Swabi or Attock. A meeting chaired by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister reviewed preparations for the long march.

PTI Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai said the march would remain organized and peaceful. He said a tent city would be established at a suitable location in either Swabi or Attock.Yousafzai said instructions on when and at what time the march would move forward would be conveyed through the chain of command. All workers and organizers have been directed to remain prepared for possible situations.He stressed that patience, discipline and peaceful conduct would be maintained under all circumstances.



Mohsin Naqvi reviews immigration facilities at Karachi airport

Staff Reporter
KARACHI

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Jinnah International Airport in Karachi to review immigration arrangements and assess the procedures being followed for passengers travelling abroad.

During the visit, Naqvi inspected immigration counters and interacted with departing passengers to gather feedback about the immigration process and facilities available to them. He also examined the travel documents of some passengers and asked Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) officials to verify their credentials.

The interior minister expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the immigration team. He noted that deploying additional personnel at the counters had helped reduce lengthy queues and made the process more convenient for travellers.



Dar stresses need to translate SCO's shared vision into practical cooperation

■ DPM Ishaq Dar welcomed SCO national coordinators, reaffirming an inclusive chairmanship and urging practical cooperation under Pakistan's theme of connectivity, innovation and shared prosperity.

WEB DESK
LAHORE

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday addressed the National Coordinators of SCO Member States, along with senior representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat and SCO RATS, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Welcoming the National Coordinators to the first meeting of the Council of National Coordinators under Pakistan's Chairmanship, the DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to an open, inclusive, and constructive Chairmanship, guided by the 'Shanghai Spirit' of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, and common development.

He underlined the theme of Pakistan's Chairmanship, "Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation, and Shared Prosperity", and stressed the need to translate the SCO's shared vision into practical cooperation and tangible outcomes.

He also highlighted preparations to host the SCO Council of Heads of State in Islamabad in 2027, and called for close coordination among Member States to ensure a successful

Gohar reaffirms PTI's October 4 long march despite calls for delay

■ Speaking to reporters, Gohar said the long march would remain peaceful and that PTI was not planning to attack or storm any location

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has reaffirmed that the party's October 4 long march will go ahead, rejecting a call from PTI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Secretary Shaukat Yousafzai to postpone it further amid security concerns and fears of emergency rule,

Speaking to reporters, Gohar said the long march would remain peaceful and that PTI was not planning to attack or storm any location. He said the decision had been taken politically and the party would stand by it.

His remarks came after Yousafzai sent a letter to the PTI leadership urging it to further postpone the October 4 march, citing the security situation and increased terrorist activity. He also warned of the possibility of emergency rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Gohar said Yousafzai was entitled to express his opinion and that PTI respected his views. He described the matter as an internal party issue and said there was no resentment between the party and Yousafzai.

He said such letters continued to reach the party leadership and claimed that he had received around 180 letters from party members during the week.

Gohar also reiterated that Sohail Afridi would remain the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Referring to speculation about a possible change in the provincial leadership, he said PTI lawmakers should keep their CVs in their pockets. On political dialogue, Gohar said a meeting between the opposition leader and the prime minister was a constitutional matter and should take place.

He said Rana Sanaullah had also spoken to him, while his participation in any meeting would depend on Mahmood Khan Achakzai. Gohar added that contacts between the government and opposition were necessary, although no concrete progress had been made so far.

He described the lack of meaningful political contacts as unfortunate and said dialogue should take place to find a way forward.

Gohar also spoke about PTI founder Imran Khan, saying there had been no meeting with him since October 15, 2025, and questioned the continued lack of access.

Scanned with CamScanner

DIG Ali orders computerized Police station records, warns against delays

- He also ordered that case property (Mal-e-Muqadma) should be deposited in the Malkhana without unnecessary delay and proper record should be maintained.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem, along with SSP Investigation Suleman Zafar, on Wednesday held a meeting with readers of zonal SPs and Moharrars of police stations, directing them to ensure timely completion and computerization of police records.

An official told APP that the DIG Ali Waseem directed the readers and Moharrars to keep all police station records complete and up to date.

He also ordered that case property (Mal-e-Muqadma) should be deposited in the Malkhana without unnecessary delay and proper record should be maintained.

Ali directed officials to ensure that police station records were maintained through a modern computerized system to improve record keeping and make official work easier.

He warned that negligence or unnecessary delay in completing official records would not be tolerated.

The DIG Ali asked the concerned officials to perform their duties responsibly and ensure that records and case property were handled according to the prescribed rules.



An elderly vendor busy making traditional toothbrush "Miswak" at Clock Tower Chowk to earn livelihood for his family

Four terrorists killed in Balochistan, KP operations

- Security forces killed four terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, recovering weapons, ammunition and a motorcycle.

STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR



Security forces have killed three terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Mir Ali and surrounding areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Sources said security forces targeted hideouts of terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij in Mir Ali and its adjoining areas. Three militants were killed during the operation, while a large quantity of weapons and ammunition was recovered from their possession. Separately, security forces conducted an operation against militants described as Fitna al-Hindustan in Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. According to security sources, the operation was carried out near Mal Madrasa in Surab district following information about the presence of militants between Mal Madrasa and Batigo. One terrorist was killed during the operation, while weapons and a motorcycle were recovered from the site, the sources said.Security forces said they remain committed to maintaining peace and order in Balochistan and eliminating terrorism. Earlier, security forces killed seven terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

in Balochistan under Operation Radd-ul-Fitna 3. According to security sources, the operation was carried out near Mal Madrasa in Surab district following information about the presence of militants between Mal Madrasa and Batigo. One terrorist was killed during the operation, while weapons and a motorcycle were recovered from the site, the sources said.Security forces said they remain committed to maintaining peace and order in Balochistan and eliminating terrorism. Earlier, security forces killed seven terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Balochistan and eliminating terrorism. Earlier, security forces killed seven terrorists in separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, five militants linked to "Fitna al-Hindustan" were killed during an intelligence-based operation in Bara. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the militants, while their hideouts were destroyed during the operation, the sources said.

PMDC approves 1,400 seats in public medical, dental colleges

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) has clarified its position regarding the allocation of seats in medical and dental colleges, stating that approvals are granted in accordance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework,

According to the PMDC, around 1,400 seats have been approved in public-sector medical and dental colleges across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad.

The council said the decision aims to improve access to medical education for students from underserved and backward areas and help reduce the need for students to travel abroad for professional education.

The PMDC also rejected the impression that private medical colleges are being allocated more seats than public-sector institutions.

It said uniform regulatory standards are applicable to both public and private medical and dental colleges, with the objective of ensuring quality educational and clinical facilities.

The council maintained that there would be no compromise on patient safety or the quality of medical education.

The PMDC further said it is working to promote access to affordable and quality medical education in Pakistan and provide students with greater opportunities to pursue professional education within the country.

Swedish rights prize honours Pakistani human rights lawyer Jalila Haider

- The Sweden-based Right Livelihood Foundation honoured Jalila Haider for breaking barriers, as the first female lawyer from her Hazara community

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Human rights lawyer and activist Jalila Haider on Wednesday received the Right Livelihood prize, dubbed an "alternative Nobel".

The Sweden-based Right Livelihood Foundation honoured Haider "for breaking barriers, as the first female lawyer from her Hazara community, to challenge ethnic, state and patriarchal persecution, guided by the conviction that no human being is illegal."

According to the foundation's website, Haider in 2018 "led a seven-day hunger strike against the targeted killing of Hazaras" that led to direct negotiations between the army chief and Hazara women, "resulting in a sustained decrease in attacks against the community".

It added that Haider had combined legal work with street activism and community empowerment, securing "justice for thousands targeted or ignored by those in power, specifically ethnic, gender and religious minorities, as well as refugees".

"Her law firm has also helped restore freedom of movement for more than 600 political activists and human rights defenders," the Right Livelihood Foundation said.

Haider is a founding member of the Women's Democratic Front as well, the foundation said, adding that she "helped pioneer



Balochistan's first Women's March, a street mobilisation that sparked discussions on feminism across the deeply patriarchal region". Through her organisation 'We the Humans', Haider has "helped over 400 widows of terrorism victims gain financial independence", the foundation said. "Despite detention, cyber-harassment and death threats, she continues to work towards a world where, in her words, 'no human being is illegal'," the foundation said. The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980, when Swedish-German stamp collector Jakob von Uexkull sold part of his collection to fund it, after the foundation behind the Nobel Prizes refused to create new awards in the fields of environmental protection and international development.

A prominent US artificial intelligence researcher and two women-led rights groups were also recognised.

Punjab bans transfer of imported vehicles for one year

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Imported car buyers in Punjab may now have to wait one year for the transfer of ownership of their vehicles after registration, as per the new policy introduced by the provincial Excise and Taxation Department,

Earlier, imported vehicles brought into Punjab under the personal baggage, gift and residence categories could be transferred to another buyer immediately after registration. Under the new policy, however, imported vehicles will initially be registered only in the name of the person who imported them.

According to the Excise officials, buyers seeking to transfer ownership will have to wait one year from the date of registration. The department has also placed a system-level restriction to prevent ownership transfers before the completion of the mandatory period.Officials said imported vehicles account for around 20% of total vehicle registrations in Punjab on average. They added that the new policy could have a significant impact on the Excise Department's revenue, as imported vehicles previously generated additional revenue through immediate ownership transfers.



A vendor selling traditional sweet items at Bandar Road

Three Pakistanis among five crew members killed in Somalia ship recovery

- Five crew members, including three Pakistanis, were killed and four injured during a Somali security operation against pirates aboard Honor 25.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Five crew members, including three Pakistanis, were killed and four others injured during an operation by Puntland security forces against pirates aboard the hijacked vessel Honor 25 in Somalia.

Details of the incident emerged during a conversation between the ship's Second Engineer Hussain Yousaf and the chairperson of a charity organization. The Pakistani crew members killed in the operation were identified as Second Officer Kashif Umar, Third Engineer Mahmood Ansari and Oiler Rafiullah Khan.

The other two crew members killed were identified as Indian crew member Tanveer and the chief engineer from Myanmar. The vessel's crew included Indian, Myanmar, Indonesian and 10 Pakistani nationals.

According to Hussain Yousaf, Fourth Engineer Usman, Aqeel, Ameen and an Indonesian crew member were injured during the security operation. He said the injured crew members were in critical condition and urgently required medical treatment.

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A Thesis on TRUMPOLOGY: Power, Instinct, and the Global Political Arena



OPINION by TA'ZEEM HEJAZI

Morning does not always arrive with light. At times, it arrives with a question so vast that it unsettles the architecture of thought itself. What is this phenomenon that refuses to fit within the neat compartments of political science, that bends the language of leadership, that disrupts the grammar of governance? This inquiry is not casual, nor rhetorical. It is an attempt to define, examine, and interpret a living case study in contemporary power. This is Trumpology — the study of a political method where instinct overtakes ideology, perception rivals reality, and disruption transforms into a governing principle.There exists a Divine echo older than empires and more enduring than theories: "And they plan, and Allah plans. And Allah is the best of planners." (Qur'an 8:30). Between the visible strategies of human actors and the unseen orchestration of destiny unfolds a theatre where power performs its most revealing acts. Trumpology must be situated within this theatre — not as praise, not as condemnation — but as observation of a phenomenon that belongs unmistakably to our age. It is not merely about one figure; it is about a profound shift in the very mechanics of influence.Traditional political frameworks, whether articulated in the lecture halls of Europe or the analytical traditions of South Asia, rely on ideological consistency. Leaders are expected to stand upon defined principles — liberalism, conservatism, nationalism — each offering continuity and predictability. Yet Trumpology disrupts this expectation. The method does not operate from rigid ideological anchors. Instead, it reflects fluid instinct, adaptive positioning, and situational recalibration. Decisions emerge from opportunity rather than doctrine. Contradictions are not liabilities; they are absorbed into a broader narrative of immediacy. The guiding question shifts from what is philosophically correct to what is strategically effective in the moment. This reorientation challenges the foundational assumptions of political theory and demands a new lens of analysis — one that treats leadership as behavioral strategy rather than ideological commitment.In this framework, attention becomes the central currency. Trumpology recognizes that in the modern media environment, visibility is power. Norm-breaking statements are not accidental; they are instruments designed to fracture routine discourse and command focus. Language is simplified, repeated, and reinforced until it embeds itself within collective consciousness. Opponents are not merely debated; they are transformed into characters within an ongoing narrative, a continuous theatre where conflict sustains engagement. The media, often positioned as an adversary, becomes simultaneously an amplifier, its outrage feeding the very visibility it seeks to critique. In this dynamic, the boundaries between communication, performance, and strategy dissolve, giving rise to a new form of political engagement.A Western reflection holds that falsehood travels swiftly while truth struggles to keep pace. Trumpology extends this observation into a more complex terrain. It is not merely the speed of information that matters; it is the persistence of repetition. A claim, reiterated with confidence and frequency, acquires psychological legitimacy. It occupies space in public consciousness, not because it is universally accepted, but because it is continuously encountered. In this sense, perception does not replace reality; it competes with it, challenging the traditional hierarchy where facts alone define truth.The habits underlying this method reveal a structured pattern. Communication bypasses conventional institutional filters, speaking directly to audiences in a manner that feels immediate and unmediated. Emotional resonance takes precedence over empirical detail, shaping responses that are felt before they are analyzed. The world is framed in binaries — loyalty and betrayal, strength and weakness, victory and defeat. Such framing simplifies complexity, making political engagement accessible while simultaneously intensifying polarization. This is not accidental; it is a deliberate construction of an ecosystem where belief is reinforced through emotional alignment.Critics often describe this approach as shamelessness, yet Trumpology invites a more nuanced interpretation.



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

From Hormuz to Kashmir: The Case for Courageous Diplomacy

The world breathed a collective sigh of relief when a potentially catastrophic confrontation in the Gulf was paused at the eleventh hour. Hundreds of millions across Iran and neighboring states were spared the horrors of imminent conflict, and billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and human livelihood were saved—at least for now—by a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran. Announced just minutes before the deadline on April 7, President Donald J. Trump's decision to suspend military action—following consultations with Pakistan's leadership and conditional upon the safe reopening of the Strait of Hormuz—demonstrated a critical truth: even at the brink of war, diplomacy can prevail over destruction. President Trump mentioned on Truth Social "Based on conversations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir, of Pakistan, and wherein they requested that I hold off the destructive force being sent tonight to Iran, and subject to the Islamic Republic of Iran agreeing to the COMPLETE, IMMEDIATE, and SAFE OPENING of the Strait of Hormuz, I agree to suspend the bombing and attack of Iran for a period of two weeks."

This moment offers a lesson that extends far beyond the Gulf. It underscores a principle too often ignored in global conflicts—that enduring solutions are not forged through military might, but through meaningful negotiation. Nowhere is this lesson more urgently needed than in Kashmir.

For nearly eight decades, the Kashmir dispute has remained one of the most dangerous unresolved conflicts in the world. It is not merely a territorial disagreement; it is a persistent flashpoint between two nuclear-armed states—India and Pakistan—whose tensions have repeatedly brought South Asia to the edge of catastrophe.

Despite its gravity, Kashmir has largely been relegated to the margins of international diplomacy. This neglect stands in stark contrast to earlier periods when global leaders recognized its urgency. In 1996, Senator Jesse Helms, then Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, advocated for American mediation on Kashmir with the same determination that had been applied to peace efforts in the Middle East. That sense of urgency appears to have faded, even as the risks have grown.

President Trump himself acknowledged the explosive potential of the Kashmir conflict. As early as 2016, he offered to mediate between India and Pakistan—a proposal he reiterated multiple times. Following heightened tensions in 2025 that brought both countries dangerously close to nuclear confrontation, the diplomatic engagement of President Trump helped secure a ceasefire on May 10, 2025. That moment could have been a turning point. Calls were made for structured dialogue, including a proposal by Marco Rubio, Secretary of State for the National Security Advisors of both countries to meet at a neutral venue to discuss all issues. Yet, in the months that followed, no meaningful progress materialized. The opportunity for sustained engagement slipped away, leaving the underlying conflict unresolved.

the underlying conflict unresolved.

The international community once spoke with clarity on Kashmir. United Nations Security Council Resolution 47, adopted on April 21, 1948, established that the future of the territory should be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. This was not a symbolic gesture. The resolution was negotiated with the explicit consent of both India and Pakistan, embedding it with legal and moral weight. It laid out a framework grounded in demilitarization, neutrality, and the unimpeded expression of the will of the Kashmiri people.

Even India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, publicly affirmed this principle, stating that India would accept the outcome of such a plebiscite—even if it went against its own interests. Over time, however, this commitment has faded into diplomatic obscurity.

Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani, an eminent jurist and President, Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) has said that UN Security Council Resolution 47 remains a cornerstone in the international legal framework governing the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The resolution is significant for formalizing the plebiscite machinery under international auspices. It mandated the appointment of a Plebiscite Administrator, nominated by the United Nations, who would oversee the process to ensure that the expression of the popular will was free, impartial, and unencumbered.

Dr. Gilani added that this provision transformed the Kashmir issue from a bilateral or internal matter into a question of international responsibility, embedding safeguards against manipulation. The insistence on demilitarization, neutrality of administration, and freedom from fear or pressure created a legal and procedural architecture designed to guarantee that the vote would reflect genuine consent.

The persistence of the Kashmir dispute has exacted a heavy toll—not only on the people of Kashmir but also on India and Pakistan themselves. It has fueled militarization, strained economic development, and entrenched hostility between two nations that share deep historical, cultural, and geographical ties.

For India, aspirations of global leadership are undermined by the existence of a long-standing unresolved dispute. For Pakistan, the conflict continues to remain source of uncertainty. For both, it represents a continuing source of instability and missed opportunity. History offers warnings that remain relevant today. During the UN Security Council debates in 1948, British representative Philip Noel-Baker described Kashmir as "the greatest and the gravest single issue in international affairs." Decades later, that assessment still resonates.

Trump may visit Pakistan for Iran peace dealThe question is no longer whether Kashmir requires resolution—it clearly does—but whether the international community has the will to act.

The recent de-escalation in the Gulf shows that even the most volatile crises can be managed when leaders choose restraint over escalation. It demonstrates that diplomacy, when pursued with urgency and sincerity, can avert disaster. Why should Kashmir be any different?

The path forward requires courage—political, moral, and diplomatic. It demands that global powers, including the United States, re-engage with the issue not as distant observers but as facilitators of dialogue. It calls for India and Pakistan to move beyond entrenched positions and for Kashmiri voices to be meaningfully included in any process. Peace in Kashmir is not an unattainable ideal. It is a deferred responsibility.

If the world can act decisively to prevent conflict in the Strait of Hormuz, it can—and must—summon the same resolve to address one of the longest-standing and most dangerous disputes of our time. The lesson is clear: when diplomacy is given a chance, it can save lives. The tragedy is that in Kashmir, that chance has been postponed for far too long.



(By Fatima Tayyab Singhanvi)

War or Peace Global Leadership Face to Face

On the horizon of global politics, there emerge moments that transcend ordinary diplomatic disagreements and instead evolve into profound collisions of civilizational narratives, ethical principles, and the mechanics of power politics. The recent Iran-related crisis has unfolded as precisely such an extraordinary episode, wherein the President of the world's most powerful nation, Donald Trump, appears firmly positioned with his characteristic assertive and confrontational strategic posture, while on the other side stands Pope Leo XIV of the Vatican, embodying a moral discourse that insists upon peace, reconciliation, and dialogue over the logic of war. This confrontation is not merely an exchange between two influential figures; rather, it reflects a deeper tension between power and morality, state interests and universal values, as well as militaristic strategy and religious ethics.

The escalating tensions surrounding Iran must be understood within a broader geo-political framework, one in which the intricate dynamics of the Middle East intersect with global power interests and ideological divisions. The United States, long accustomed to sustaining its global hegemony through both military and diplomatic instruments, continues to perceive the projection of force as an effective means of securing strategic objectives. President Trump's rhetoric is emblematic of this worldview, wherein national security, strategic dominance, and immediate results are prioritized even at the potential cost of military confrontation.

In stark contrast, Pope Leo XIV presents a fundamentally different moral architecture. For him, war is not merely a source of human tragedy; it is also a manifestation of ethical decay. Drawing upon the teachings of the Gospel, he articulates a vision in which the essence of religion lies in the upliftment of humanity and the cultivation of mutual harmony, rather than its instrumentalization as a tool for power. His assertion that "we are not politicians, but messengers of peace" underscores the Vatican's self-perception as not merely a religious institution, but a moral authority capable of awakening the global conscience.

A particularly critical dimension of this discourse lies in the attempt to invoke religion in support of militaristic narratives. The effort by President Trump and certain associates to provide theological justification for military action has not only unsettled religious circles but has also raised a fundamental question: should religion in modern politics serve as guidance or as justification? Pope Leo has firmly rejected such instrumentalization, emphasizing that employing the teachings of Jesus Christ to legitimize war is a profound distortion of the very essence of faith. This stance resonates not only within the Christian world but also offers a broader ethical framework applicable across religious traditions.

but also offers a broader ethical framework applicable across religious traditions.

Another significant aspect of this confrontation concerns the evolving role of global religious leadership. Historically, the Vatican has played a mediating role in several international conflicts; however, in an increasingly polarized and interest-driven global order, the effectiveness of moral voices has become a complex and contested question. Nevertheless, Pope Leo's consistent and unequivocal positioning demonstrates that ethical principles continue to retain relevance in global discourse, even if their immediate political acceptance remains limited.

On the other hand, the American leadership's criticism of the Pope, dismissing his statements as detrimental to foreign policy, reflects a mindset in which dissent is equated with weakness. President Trump's assertion that he disapproves of a Pope who disagrees with his policies reveals a broader tendency within contemporary global politics to favor unilateral perspectives over pluralistic dialogue. Yet this raises an essential question: does dissent truly weaken a state, or does it in fact serve as the foundation for balanced and responsible decision-making

The Iran crisis has further reignited the debate over the ethical boundaries of war. According to international law and the United Nations Charter, war is recognized only as a last resort; however, in practical geopolitics, these principles are frequently subordinated to strategic imperatives. In such a context, religious and moral leadership seeks to restore equilibrium by restraining the unbridled use of force.

and advocating for peaceful resolution mechanisms.

Ultimately, this entire scenario underscores a defining crossroads in contemporary global history one path leading toward power, confrontation, and immediacy, and the other toward patience, dialogue, and enduring peace. The divergence between President Trump and Pope Leo XIV symbolizes these two opposing trajectories. One perspective maintains that problems are best resolved through force, while the other firmly believes that sustainable peace can only be achieved through dialogue and mutual respect.



Labourers are busy unloading luggage from a handcart in market at Raja Bazaar

Scanned with CamScanner

FBR moves to seal businesses not linked to electronic monitoring system

■FBR has amended Sales Tax Rules, making electronic monitoring mandatory for certain registered businesses and allowing non-compliant premises to be sealed until compliance.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has decided to take action against registered business premises that fail to connect with its monitoring system, issuing a notification for key amendments to the Sales Tax Rules, 2006.Under the new rules, the relevant businesses will be required to install production monitoring, video surveillance or a digital eye system and connect it with the FBR's monitoring system. Registered businesses that fail to establish the required connection will face action. According to the FBR, police assistance may also be sought, if required, to seal business premises, while the notification has laid down the procedure for sealing them.

Income tax return deadline ends today as FBR proposes heavier late-filing fines

Under the rules, an Assistant Commissioner Inland Revenue or an officer of a higher rank will submit a written report to the Commissioner Inland Revenue, on the basis of which proceedings may be initiated. The commissioner will forward the report to the Chief Commissioner after an inquiry, who will issue a written order on whether the business premises should be sealed.

The notification states that the entire business premises or a specific portion of it may be sealed. However, a copy of the order must be provided to the businessperson before the premises are sealed.



An elderly vendor is busy packing popcorn into plastic bags for sale on Kuuri Road

Income tax return deadline ends today as FBR proposes heavier late-filing fines

■ The deadline for filing Tax Year 2026 income tax returns ends today. FBR is considering higher late-filing penalties of up to Rs100,000 for companies.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The deadline for filing income tax returns for Tax Year 2026 expires today, September 30, with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) considering significantly higher penalties for taxpayers who file their returns after the due date.

According to sources, the proposed penalty for individuals filing returns late may be increased from Rs1,000 to Rs25,000, while the fine for late filers belonging to an association of persons may be raised from Rs10,000 to Rs50,000.

For companies, the proposed penalty may be increased from Rs20,000 to Rs100,000.



According to available data, 3,516,265 returns were filed last year, while the number has increased to 4,876,384 returns this year.

Tax collected through the returns filed this year has reached Rs19.217 billion. Salaried taxpayers filed more than 1.623 million returns and paid over Rs2.82 billion in taxes.

More than 3.206 million returns were filed by non-salaried taxpayers, from whom Rs13.43 billion was collected in taxes. Associations of persons contributed Rs1.41 billion, while companies paid Rs1.54 billion in taxes.

Under the Small Shopkeepers Scheme, 644 returns have been filed, generating more than Rs48.2 million in tax revenue.

The FBR has warned that taxpayers who fail to meet the deadline may face penalties under the law. The board's official tax schedule lists September 30 as the due date for individuals and associations of persons.

Govt plans to borrow Rs7.02 trillion to finance budget deficit

■ The federal government plans to borrow Rs7.02 trillion during the current fiscal year to finance the budget deficit and has finalised a three-year debt strategy for 2026-28.



Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has planned to borrow Rs7.02 trillion during the current fiscal year to finance the budget deficit, while the Ministry of Finance has issued its three-year debt management strategy for 2026 to 2028.

Under the borrowing plan, the government will raise Rs6.046 trillion from domestic sources and Rs813 billion from external sources, according to the Ministry of Finance.

The government has also finalised its Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy for 2026-28, aimed at managing borrowing needs while extending the maturity profile of government debt. The strategy focuses on increasing net issuance of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs), particularly fixed-rate and zero-coupon bonds, while limiting short-term and floating-rate borrowing.

According to the ministry's report, the government is estimated to receive Rs161 billion through privatisation during the current fiscal year. Within domestic borrowing, the government plans net borrowing of Rs4.58 trillion through Pakistan Investment Bonds, while Rs3.785 trillion is planned through Sukuk and other Islamic financing instruments.

The government's total external borrowing during the fiscal year is estimated at $13.378 billion, while repayments are expected to amount to $10.574 billion. This would leave net external financing of around $2.804 billion.

The government has set a target of issuing $2 billion in bonds during the current fiscal year, while a $3 billion Eurobond has already been issued.

Under the three-year debt strategy, the government will prioritise long-term fixed-rate and zero-coupon bonds, while keeping short-term and floating-rate borrowing limited. The Finance Ministry's strategy also focuses on extending debt maturities and reducing exposure to interest-rate and currency risks.

The government will give preference to concessional long-term financing, Shariah-compliant bonds and greater participation by investors other than banks.

According to the Ministry of Finance, implementation of the debt strategy will remain subject to global economic conditions, geopolitical developments and fiscal discipline.

Pakistan finalises mechanism for export of 200,000 metric tonnes of sugar

● Pakistan stocks opened higher, with the KSE-100 index gaining over 800 points. Asian markets also advanced as AI investment plans boosted chipmakers despite Middle East tensions.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Sugar Exports, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, has finalised the mechanism for exporting 200,000 metric tonnes of sugar.

According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, the meeting also approved the formation of a monitoring committee to regularly oversee domestic sugar prices.

Ishaq Dar directed the relevant ministries and departments to accelerate the implementation process and complete all pending regulatory formalities without delay. The deputy prime minister said the measures were aimed at supporting the sugar industry and sugarcane growers while increasing foreign exchange earnings and protecting the interests of domestic consumers.



The meeting reviewed arrangements for the export of sugar and discussed measures to ensure that exports do not adversely affect the local market.

The approved monitoring mechanism is intended to keep a regular check on sugar prices in the domestic market as the export process moves forward.

Dar instructed the relevant authorities to coordinate closely and ensure that the decisions taken by the committee were implemented within the required timeframe.

The government has maintained that the export mechanism seeks to balance the interests of sugar producers and farmers with the need to ensure adequate supplies for consumers in the domestic market.

The decision comes as the sugar sector remains an important part of Pakistan's agricultural and industrial economy. Sugarcane is a major cash crop and supports a large number of farmers and workers associated with the sugar industry.

According to the Foreign Office, the export decision is also expected to contribute to foreign exchange earnings by enabling the country to sell surplus sugar in international markets.

At the same time, the monitoring committee will oversee domestic prices to help safeguard consumers and keep track of market conditions during the export process.

The relevant ministries have been directed to complete the remaining regulatory requirements and expedite implementation of the export mechanism.

Dollar set for large rise in September, mainly at euro's expense

■ The dollar stayed near a yearly high against the euro, gaining 2.5% in September as strong US growth and rate expectations contrast with Europe's energy, debt and political concerns.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The dollar stood near this year's high versus the euro on Wednesday and was ?poised for the largest monthly rise against it in 14 months, powered by US growth and rising ?US interest rates in contrast to the energy and debt worries swirling in Europe.

On Tuesday the euro dipped to its lowest since May 2025, at $1.1312, and it traded nearby at $1.1339 in Asia on Wednesday. The euro is also testing support around 178 yen.

The dollar is up nearly 2.5% on the euro ?in September and it is set to notch a third straight quarterly rise.

The stronger greenback has also pushed the Australian ?dollar below 70 cents for the first time since early August, with the Aussie slipping to a ?nine-week low of $0.6959 after inflation data came in a fraction under forecasts.



"The US economy is running hot, Europe is losing the global ?AI race, and energy supplies and French politics remain big concerns for the euro," said Brent Donnelly, president of foreign exchange trading ?at analytics firm Spectra Markets.

Earlier this month benchmark European gas prices spiked to their highest since 2022.

French markets are under pressure from debt and political gridlock, ahead of next year's presidential election, and the spread with German yields has blown beyond 115 basis points to its widest since 2012.

A skew ?in options prices has tipped sharply in recent sessions to show traders favour buying protection against further euro falls — though Donnelly says ?the dollar probably needs strong US data to make headway from here.

The dollar also hit a 16-1/2-month top on the Swiss franc on Tuesday ?at 0.8358 ?francs. The franc has suffered, in part, because investors have gone looking for low-yielding alternatives to yen to sell in search of carry elsewhere.

The yen has fallen out of favour as a short against the dollar following US-Japan yen buying in July and August, which has been followed by warnings not to test their resolve, as well as a pickup in the pace of Japanese rate ?hikes.

The dollar has dropped 2% on ?the yen in September and ?almost 3.8% over the third quarter, touching a low of almost two weeks at 156.38 in Asia trade.

The Fed's preferred inflation yardstick, US core PCE, is due out later on Wednesday though ?the market is focused on Friday's US jobs report which, if strong, could reinforce expectations that ?US interest rates ?are on the rise.

Some of those expectations took a hit overnight when influential New York Fed President John Williams said there is "no need for urgency" in raising rates. Two-year Treasury yields fell about 3.5 basis points and Fed funds futures pricing for a rate hike next ?month dialled ?back to 50% from 71%.

Scanned with CamScanner

How the US controls Iraq's oil revenues

■ Iraq's oil revenues remain held at the US Federal Reserve Bank of New York, giving Washington significant leverage over Baghdad's finances despite the withdrawal of



Web Desk

DUBAI

US forces are set to withdraw on Wednesday from their last bases in Iraq, a departure celebrated as a victory by Iran and its allies, which have deep influence in the country where 4,500 Americans died during more than two decades of war.

Still, since its 2003 ?invasion of Iraq, the US has held effective control of the country's oil revenue dollars, giving Washington extraordinary leverage over Baghdad's ?affairs, with implications for regional dynamics involving Iran.

This stems primarily from the management of Iraq's oil income through the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.After the 2003 invasion, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), led by the US, set up the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), held at the New York Fed, and designed to collect ?the oil revenues for use in reconstruction and development efforts.

The Fund also aimed to protect the Iraqi oil revenues from lawsuits and claims ?relating to Saddam Hussein's rule.

An executive order by then president George W. Bush to set up the arrangement has ?been renewed by every president since. The DFI eventually became an account of the Central Bank of Iraq at the New York Federal Reserve, as ?it remains today.

WHAT LEVERAGE DOES THIS GIVE THE US OVER IRAQ?

Oil is Iraq's most important revenue source, making up about 90% of the state budget. This gives ?Washington significant sway over the country's economic and political stability.

When the Iraqi government asked US troops to leave in 2020, Washington reportedly threatened to cut Iraq's access to the New York Federal Reserve funds, with Baghdad ultimately backing down.

While Iraq has gained more control over its financial affairs since the early years of the occupation, the link highlights the ?enduring influence of the US on the economic landscape of Iraq, even as the latter seeks to assert sovereignty and independence.

The system helped anchor Iraq's financial stability and safeguards state finances, government officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

It boosts international confidence in the management of oil ?income, eases ?access to US dollars needed for trade and imports, and protects revenues from external claims and financial shocks, including claims by creditors and lawsuits, they said. The arrangement supports exchange-rate stability and underpins confidence in the Iraqi economy, while working to strengthen domestic financial institutions and assert greater economic sovereignty, they added.

Israel-bound flight diverted to Saudi Arabia after brawl between pilots, Israeli official says



WEB DESK

JERUSALEM

A flight bound for Israel from the United Arab Emirates diverted to ?Saudi Arabia after transmitting emergency signals following a fight between the pilots rather ?than a hijacking, an Israeli official said on Wednesday.Flydubai Flight FZ1073 from Dubai to TelAviv diverted over Jordanian airspace towards Saudi Arabia, transmitting a general emergency signal before transmitting another emergency signal that ?indicated a possible unlawful interference several minutes later, according to flight-tracking website Flightradar24.

The ?Boeing 737 plane then again transmitted the general emergency signal before landing ?at Tabuk airport in northwestern Saudi Arabia, the website said.

The incident was not believed to ?have been a hijacking, a spokesperson for the Israeli prime minister's office said.

An airline spokesperson ?said the flydubai flight experienced an "incident" en route to TelAviv and diverted to Tabuk, where it landed safely. All passengers were safe and accounted for, the spokesperson said, without providing any further details.

An ?Israeli official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Reuters the pilots had transmitted the ?emergency signals after getting into a physical altercation with each other.

It was not immediately clear if either ?pilot ?had intentionally transmitted the signal.

Yasmin Abu Kasis, whose daughter Miriam was on the flight, said that her daughter had told her that she had heard screaming and that a man took a knife, put the pilot on the floor, and that there was blood everywhere.

Israeli ?Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ?held consultations over the ?incident, which his office said in a statement was "under control," adding that all efforts were being made to bring the Israeli passengers ?back to Israel, which has no official diplomatic relations with Saudi ?Arabia.



Spain announces ban on evictions after protests over 87-year-old woman's removal from flat

▪ Health Minister Mónica García said they would bring relief to more than five million people - but opposition politician Míriam Nogueras said the agreement left "small landlords out in the cold".

Web DESK

CAIRO

Spain's coalition government has approved new housing measures following protests over the country's housing crisis, sparked by the eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her home in Madrid last week.

Ministers met on Tuesday to discuss the proposals, which include a ban on evictions until 2030. Announcing the measures, Health Minister Mónica García said they would bring relief to more than five million people - but opposition politician Míriam Nogueras said the agreement left "small landlords out in the cold".

The proposals - which have been presented in the form of two decrees - come into effect immediately, but must be approved by Congress within a month, although the government hopes to hold the vote as soon as this Friday.

Pedro Sánchez's leftist coalition government lacks a majority in parliament and has struggled to get right-leaning parties to approve previous decrees. In April, a decree seeking to roll over rental contracts was blocked by right-leaning parties.

García, of the Sumar alliance, said other measures agreed upon on Tuesday included the rolling over of contracts until 2028; stricter regulation of short-term and room rentals; and banning the purchase of housing by investment firms.

"It is time to intervene in the speculative housing market and start striking a balance between ordinary citizens and vulture funds," García said.eferencing the protests, she added: "Thanks to the mobilisations and the encampments. Without you, this would not have been possible."

But Nogueras, spokeswoman for the centre-right Catalan nationalists of Junts party, said: "We all agreed that evictions - where the property is owned by a fund, a vulture fund, run by someone managing millions of euros - obviously need to be stopped.

"Lumping together in this category those who have invested their savings in a flat, a restaurant or a property - putting them all in the same basket - is a mistake," she told Spanish public broadcaster RTVE.

Fatima Zahra named Morocco's first female prime minister

WEB DESK

New Delhi



King Mohammed VI appointed Fatima Ezzahra El Mansouri on Tuesday as Morocco's first woman prime minister after her liberal-centrist party came out on top in a September 23 parliamentary election, the royal palace said.

The king asked El Mansouri to form a new government, the palace said in a statement.

El Mansouri's Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) was created in 2008 by an adviser to the king and has since positioned itself as ?a counterweight to the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) by advocating social modernisation and secular-leaning views.

Morocco is a ?constitutional monarchy where the king retains sweeping powers over foreign policy, defence and other key portfolios.

Under Morocco's constitution, the king appoints the head of government from the political party that wins the largest number of seats in the House of Representatives. PAM, which was the second-largest member in the outgoing coalition, moved up to ?the top spot.

One third of world population exposed to harmful air pollution: monitor

■ When heat and sunlight react with airborne emissions from wildfires, vehicles and industry, they create ground-level ozone pollution

WEB DESK

Spain



Heatwaves and wildfires combined with human-caused emissions this year combined to expose one third of the world's population to extremely high levels of ozone pollution, a European Union report said on Wednesday.

In a new analysis covering the first eight months of 2026, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Atmosphere Monitoring Service (Cams) highlighted the close relationship between climate change and air pollution.

When heat and sunlight react with airborne emissions from wildfires, vehicles and industry, they create ground-level ozone pollution, which can damage lung tissue, cause breathing problems, trigger asthma attacks and lead to other health issues.

Despite progress in cutting the most harmful air pollutants in recent decades, ozone has proved more difficult to tackle as climate change fuels the conditions that favour its formation.

This year's ozone pollution was driven in part by record-breaking heatwaves and wildfires that seared Europe and North America and sent smoke well beyond their borders. Indonesia has experienced major wildfires, while the warming El Nino weather pattern, which started in June and is due to peak later this year, could drive more fires in southeast Asia, according to the analysis. "Air pollution does not stop at borders. It can travel thousands of kilometres, crossing continents and oceans and affecting air quality far from its source," Cams director Laurence Rouil said in the Atmosphere Watch report.

Qatari prime minister calls Netanyahu 'war criminal,' vows to continue mediation efforts

■ Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani accused Netanyahu of attacking Qatar politically to deflect attention from his own conduct and that of his government.

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL

Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a "war criminal", while stressing that Doha would continue its mediation efforts despite heightened regional tensions.

Asked in an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan whether he considered Netanyahu a war criminal, Sheikh Mohammed said: "Of course. What's been committed in Gaza is war crimes, and whoever is responsible for this is a war criminal."

"Hospitals have been targeted, schools have been targeted. Whatever the justifications and the arguments, nothing is justifying this," he added.

He also accused Netanyahu of attacking Qatar politically to deflect attention from his own conduct and that of his government.

Sheikh Mohammed renewed his condemnation of Israel's Sept. 9, 2025 strike on Doha, which targeted Hamas officials while Qatar was engaged in mediation efforts. The strike killed five Hamas members and a Qatari security officer.

"We were attacked by Israel while we were mediating," he said, describing the strike as an unprecedented attack on a mediator. "Netanyahu has crossed the line like he has crossed other lines before that."

Despite the tensions, Sheikh Mohammed said Qatar would continue prioritizing diplomacy, arguing that behind-the-scenes engagement remained the most effective way to make progress."We are trying to do our best to give the best advice to the US government on how to reach a solution, as well as to the Iranians," he said.

On the wider regional conflict, he said three issues needed to be addressed to defuse the war: Iran's nuclear program and sanctions, freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, and regional security arrangements involving Iran and Gulf Cooperation Council states.



Scanned with CamScanner

Taylor Swift makes VMAs history and dedicates award to Dolly Parton

■ Taylor Swift won three MTV VMAs, including Video of the Year for "The Fate of Ophelia," bringing her career total to a record 33 awards as she honored Dolly Parton.



News Desk
LOS ANGELES

Actress Momina Iqbal has raised concerns over online shopping fraud after sharing her experience on social media, using her platform to warn fans during the holy month of Ramazan.

Taking to her Instagram account, the actress revealed that she had fallen victim to what appears to be a misleading online purchase.

While she maintained that the financial loss estimated between Rs5,000 to Rs10,000 was not significant for her personally, she emphasized the importance of spreading awareness to protect others from similar incidents.

According to details shared in her posts, Momina had placed an order for a branded cosmetic item, specifically a Sheglam glitter makeup kit.

However, upon receiving the parcel, she discovered a completely different product inside. Instead of the expected beauty kit, the package contained a low quality set of makeup brushes, raising immediate concerns about the authenticity of the seller. The actress highlighted the mismatch by showing both the shipping label and the product received, pointing out the clear difference between what was advertised and what was delivered.The parcel, handled by courier service, included sender details as well.Momina expressed disappointment over the incident, especially as it occurred during Ramadan, a time often associated with trust, generosity, and ethical conduct.Despite her frustration, she chose to focus on educating her followers rather than dwelling on the loss.She urged people to be cautious when ordering from unfamiliar online pages and to verify sellers before making payments. Online shopping scams have become increasingly common, particularly on social media platforms where unverified businesses often advertise high end products at attractive prices.

A frequent tactic involves listing premium items on invoices while delivering inexpensive or unrelated goods, leaving customers with little recourse after payment.

By speaking out, Momina Iqbal joined a growing number of public figures using their influence to highlight digital fraud and consumer awareness.

Momina Iqbal is a popular Pakistani actress and model known for her roles in television dramas such as Ehd-e-Wafa and Khuda Aur Muhabbat 3.

Zara Noor Abbas calls for new approach to Pakistani cinema

■ A video circulating online shows Zara discussing the long-standing call to "support Pakistani cinema" and questioning whether that appeal alone can persuade modern audiences to head to theatres.

Web desk
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas has sparked a fresh conversation around the future of local cinema, arguing that audiences should not be expected to watch Pakistani films simply because they are Pakistani.

A video circulating online shows Zara discussing the long-standing call to "support Pakistani cinema" and questioning whether that appeal alone can persuade modern audiences to head to theatres.

"The statement asking people to



'support Pakistani cinema' is a very outdated one," Zara said, arguing that if audiences are going to watch a local film, there needs to be a genuine reason beyond national loyalty.

She stressed that filmmakers also have a responsibility to tions. continuously improve and prove themselves, particularly at a time when Pakistani viewers have easy access to major international productions.

"We also have to improve ourselves and prove ourselves time and again as filmmakers," she explained.

Using the example of the Spider-Man franchise, Zara pointed out how established international films have built a level of audience confidence that encourages people to buy tickets even before knowing whether every instalment will be perfect.

"When Spider-Man releases, everyone runs to watch it and dresses up like Spider-Man. This niche has already been built," she remarked.Zara argued that Pakistani filmmakers need to create similar confidence and excitement around local franchises and productions so audiences feel that their money will be well spent.

"We need to build those franchises and create that level of confidence in people so that if someone is spending 1,500 or 2,000 rupees on a single ticket, for a single seat, they actually get a movie of that caliber in return.



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

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

Bushra Ansari urges end to Nadia Khan's trolling over Parishae Adnan row

■ Speaking about Parishae's recent success, Bushra stressed that the designer's achievement should not get overshadowed by the controversy.

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Veteran Pakistani actress Bushra Ansari has finally weighed in on the controversy surrounding host Nadia Khan and fashion designer Parishae Adnan, making it clear that while Parishae's international achievement deserves the spotlight, the intense trolling directed at Nadia should also have its limits.

A video circulating online features Bushra discussing the controversy, in which she appeared to defend Nadia against the wave of criticism that followed her interview with Parishae, while also acknowledging that there were several things she would personally want to ask the host when they meet.

Speaking about Parishae's recent success, Bushra stressed that the designer's achievement should not get overshadowed by the controversy.

"Our focus should not be anywhere other than Parishae's achievement, and that is her style. She is doing unique work with a unique style. She is not an ordinary clothing designer," Bushra said. She went on to point out that Parishae has intentionally chosen a distinctive



path in fashion, suggesting that her individuality should be respected.

However, Bushra then addressed the backlash Nadia has been facing since the interview and argued that the trolling has gone too far.

"I have many things that I will ask Nadia when we meet. She is younger [than me], and there should be a limit to the trolling of Nadia that I am seeing now," she remarked.

Bushra further suggested that people can sometimes say things spontaneously or in the flow of a conversation, and that such moments should not necessarily lead to prolonged online attacks.

"Sometimes, things just slip out in the heat of the moment," she said, before turning her attention to what she described as the growing culture of online criticism.

The veteran actress questioned the trend of people increasingly presenting themselves as critics simply because they have access to a microphone or podcast platform.

"Now this new trend has started everyone has become a critic. Whether they know anything about drama or not, or whether they belong to this field or not, just because they have a couple of mics, they sit down with a podcast and criticize everyone. Anyone can say absolutely anything to anyone," Bushra stated.The controversy erupted after Parishae Adnan, daughter of renowned designer Amir Adnan, appeared on the morning show Rise and Shine, co-hosted by Nadia Khan and Zohaib Hassan.

Parishae had recently returned to Pakistan following a major international fashion milestone, having showcased her sustainable collection 'Second Skin' at New York Fashion Week and closed the Flying Solo showcase.

The interview, however, attracted criticism after Nadia's questions shifted towards Parishae's personal choices, including her gym outfits, workout videos and whether her parents approved of her dressing style.

'My opinion is my voice', Saba Faisal responds to trolling over her views

Web Desk
KARACHI

Veteran Pakistani actress Saba Faisal has responded to the criticism surrounding her public views with a powerful and poetic message about tradition, independence and personal choice, describing herself as the new voice of old civilization.Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a video featuring herself reciting a deeply personal piece reflecting her connection to her mother, cultural roots and traditional values while also asserting her right to dream, make her own decisions and build an independent identity.

"I am the next chapter of my mother's unfinished story. I am the



new voice of an old civilization. Rooted in my origins, yet looking towards the sky. I need a pen along with my bangles, and wings along with my anklets. My eyes need kajal, but they also need big dreams. I need the prayers of my elders, but I also need the freedom to make my own decisions. I want to hold someone's hand, but only after I have learned to stand firmly on my own feet. I am my mother's unfinished story."

Daughter of Pakistani celebrity couple Nida Yasir and Yasir Nawaz, Silah Yasir has spoken out against the unauthorized filming of her mother, calling on clothing brands and strangers to respect the family's privacy and seek consent before recording or sharing their footage online.

More dream sleep may lower risk of dozens of diseases

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Getting enough quality sleep may have implications for long-term health beyond simply helping the body and mind recover, with a new study finding that higher levels of dream sleep, or Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, were associated with a lower risk of 83 diseases.

The study, published in the medical journal PLOS Medicine, analyzed sleep and health data from 95,559 adults in the UK. Researchers also found that higher levels of deep sleep were associated with a lower risk of seven diseases.

The findings add to previous research linking poor sleep with a range of health problems, while providing a more detailed look at how different stages and patterns of sleep may be associated with disease risk.

Researchers track sleep more

accurately

Unlike studies that rely on participants to recall how long they slept, the researchers used wrist-worn devices to monitor participants' physical activity and estimate their sleep patterns.

Participants wore the devices for one week, allowing researchers to assess total sleep duration as well as the amount of time spent in different sleep stages, including light, deep and REM sleep.

The participants had an average age of 56.2 years and were followed for an average of 8.9 years, with researchers monitoring them for disease diagnoses and death.

REM sleep linked to lower disease risk

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Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman among stars in ILT20 season 5 auction

● Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and other international stars feature in the ILT20 season five auction scheduled for October 1.





Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

The player auction list for the fifth season of the DP World International League T20 (ILT20) has been released, featuring Pakistan stars Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and several internationally renowned cricketers.

The auction will be held on October 1 at the ICC Academy in Dubai, with more than 200 cricketers from 23 countries set to participate.

Players have been divided into three base-price categories of $80,000, $40,000 and $10,000.

The highest-priced category includes Babar Azam, Phil Salt, Tom Banton, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Wanindu Hasaranga, Faf du Plessis, Liam Livingstone, Alzarri Joseph, Fakhar Zaman, Naseem Shah, Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Alex Hales and Chris Woakes.

The $40,000 category features Shadab Khan, Ibrahim Zadran, Jayden Seales, Tabraiz Shamsi, Sharaf Islam, Kusal Perera and Gulbadin Naib, among other notable players.Reeza Hendricks, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, George Munsey, Ish Sodhi and Matthew Potts are among those listed in the $10,000 category.

All players from the UAE, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will enter the auction at a base price of $10,000.

Each franchise will also have a right-to-match option for one former UAE player. Teams must complete squads of at least 18 and a maximum of 23 players.

The playing XI for every match must include at least two UAE players, two Afghan players and one player from another associate nation.

Each franchise has been allocated a separate auction purse, with MI Emirates entering the auction with the largest budget.

'No limits': Marathon world record holder Sawe chasing history

● Sabastian Sawe, the first man to run the marathon in under two hours, believes even faster times are on the horizon both for him and the sport.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

Sabastian Sawe, the first man to run the marathon in under two hours, believes even faster times are on the horizon both for him and the sport.

In April the 31-year-old Kenyan clocked 1:59:30 in London, shattering the two-hour barrier many felt was untouchable.

"I know it's possible to run under 1:59," Sawe told AFP in an interview in Berlin, adding "it is hard to predict how fast I will be but (it's possible) if we've got nice weather, good pacing and I am in good shape".

Sawe said further records will fall as running's popularity skyrockets and technology improves.



"We don't know about the years in front of us because maybe other people will come along and do something great. There are no limits for now."

- 'Something special' -

Even Sawe was shocked by his exploits in London.

"I was not expecting to run under two hours," he said. "I wanted to retain my title. When I saw (the time) with my eyes as I was almost finishing the race, it was something surprising for me and I was so happy and grateful." The 2025 Berlin winner was set to run in the German capital again on Sunday, but missed out with a fractured leg."It was hard, but I had to accept it because injuries are part of running."

Sawe hopes to return for London in 2027 but has his eye on doing "something special" at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "Now I'm getting to be someone bigger in athletics, I've learned a lot and I've learned patience is important and recovery is important to make you feel fast and strong."

Sawe was speaking in Berlin just one day after a brutal injury crushed Tigst Assefa's shot at the women's record.

Cruising on world record pace until the 35-kilometre mark, Assefa ruptured her achilles tendon.

Running the last two kilometres without an Achilles, the Ethiopian somehow crossed the finish line first, recording the third best women's mark and a course record before collapsing.

"When I saw what happened I was shocked because she was running a good race this year in Berlin. Everything was perfect for her... She was running to achieve everything she had worked for." Sawe backed the 29-year-old Assefa to chase down the world mark."For sure she will because Tigst is a very strong woman and her mentality is something else. She always has the courage to push her limits. She's always been a winner."

The brutal injury not only snatched Assefa's shot at history; it stole a chance to overcome a record many believe is tainted.

Man City's leadership cannot continue, says former chairman

■ Former Manchester City chairman David Bernstein calls for the club's directors to step down after an independent commission found City guilty of serious financial breaches.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Manchester City's directors should step down after an independent commission found the Premier League club guilty of serious financial breaches, said former chairman David Bernstein, who described ?the situation as "beyond awful".

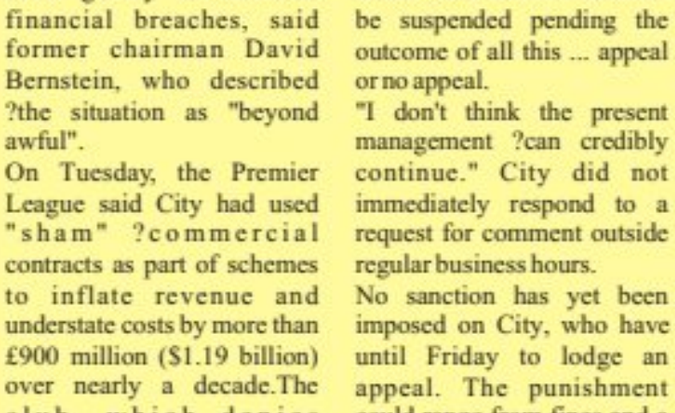
On Tuesday, the Premier League said City had used "sham" ?commercial contracts as part of schemes to inflate revenue and understate costs by more than £900 million ($1.19 billion) over nearly a decade.The club, which denies wrongdoing, said in a statement it would appeal ?the ruling."I can't think of a penalty strong enough for this, really. ?I mean, this is absolutely terrible. I want to raise another question, and that is the position of the board of directors," Bernstein told talkSPORT after the announcement. "Because the directors of the club, including the chief executive, who's been there ?for years and went through this through this period, are responsible for the running of the club in every respect.

"And again, if this was a public company of some sort, I think ?the directors with something as serious as this, would have to stand down or be suspended pending the outcome of all this ... appeal or no appeal.

"I don't think the present management ?can credibly continue." City did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside regular business hours.

No sanction has yet been imposed on City, who have until Friday to lodge an appeal. The punishment could range from fines and a points deduction to relegation, ?but the saga ?could last for several ?more months.

"If it drags on for a year or two, heaven forbid, that would be the worst thing for everybody," said ?Bernstein, a lifelong City fan who was chairman from 1998 ?to 2003 ?and oversaw their return to the Premier League from the third tier of English soccer.





Pakistan Hockey League set for official launch in Islamabad on October 14

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is set to take a major step towards restructuring and modernising its national sport with the official launch of the Pakistan Hockey League scheduled to take place in Islamabad on October 14. The inaugural season of the proposed franchise-based competition is expected to begin in 2027, marking a new chapter in the country's efforts to revive hockey and establish a commercially sustainable domestic structure.

The first edition of the league is expected to feature between six and eight franchise teams. The organisers are working on a model that would bring together Pakistani hockey talent, international players, private investors, corporate sponsors and other stakeholders associated with the sports industry.

A major feature of the proposed competition will be the participation of foreign players alongside Pakistani professionals. The inclusion of internationally experienced hockey players is expected to provide local athletes with greater exposure to different styles of play, modern techniques and international standards of competition.

For Pakistan's emerging players, the league could provide an opportunity to share the field and training environment with experienced international athletes. The proposed system is also expected to create opportunities for coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, analysts and other hockey professionals to gain experience by working with international experts.

The Pakistan Hockey League is being developed with reference to established international competitions, including the FIH Hockey Pro League and franchise-based hockey competitions in the region. The organisers intend to introduce a more commercially driven and professionally managed structure to domestic hockey while creating a platform capable of attracting long-term investment.

The proposed franchise system is expected to play an important role in connecting hockey with Pakistan's private sector. Franchise owners and corporate sponsors will be central to the league's commercial structure, with investment expected to support team operations, player development, marketing, broadcasting and other aspects of the competition.

The league's proposed commercial ecosystem is not limited to matches. Organisers are also looking to create opportunities in television and digital broadcasting, online content, merchandising, advertising and sponsorship.



NCCIA summons Mohammad Rizwan again in cybercrime inquiry

Web Desk

LAHORE

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Lahore has summoned Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Rizwan again in connection with a cybercrime inquiry, issuing him a second notice to appear before the agency on October 2.

According to the notice, Rizwan has been directed to appear at the NCCIA Lahore office at 3:00 pm on October 2. The notice states that in case of non-appearance, it will be considered that the accused has nothing to present in his defence. It further warns that failure to comply with the notice may lead to legal action.The development comes as the NCCIA inquiry involving Rizwan continues. The Lahore High Court has directed the cricketer to join and cooperate with the inquiry while instructing the agency to conduct the proceedings in accordance with the law.



Pakistan, Bangladesh to clash in Asian Games Cricket semifinal tomorrow

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Bangladesh will face each other in the semifinal of the Asian Games cricket event on Thursday, with the match scheduled to begin at 5:00 a.m. Pakistan time in Nisshin, Japan.

As in the quarterfinals, Pakistan will qualify for the final on the basis of its superior ranking if rain prevents the semifinal from being played. Bangladesh also advanced to the last four after its quarterfinal against Malaysia was abandoned due to rain.However, favorable weather and sunshine are forecast for match day, raising hopes of a full contest between the two sides.

Bangladesh will enter the semifinal with confidence after showing consistent form in recent matches. Tanzid Hasan could play an important role with the bat, while Towhid Hridoy has also been in good form. The team will rely on a strong top order led by captain Litton Das.

For Pakistan, captain Sahibzada Farhan will look to provide a strong start to the innings, while Hasan Nawaz and Usman Khan are available to provide aggressive batting in the middle and lower order.

Muaz Sadaqat, Saim Ayub and Arafat Minhas could also make valuable contributions with the bat.

Bangladesh have an experienced bowling unit, with Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Mehidy Hasan and Mosaddek Hossain expected to handle the spin department.



Pakistan, India likely to be placed in same group for 2027 World Cup

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Traditional rivals Pakistan and India are likely to be placed in the same group for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2027, according to media reports, with the highly anticipated fixture expected to be part of the group stage once again.

Despite Pakistan's unimpressive record against India in World Cup matches, the two teams are expected to be drawn into the same group. Media reports said commercial partners have also made the Pakistan-India fixture a requirement for the group stage.

Pakistan-India encounters remain a major attraction in ICC events and are considered important by broadcasters because of the widespread interest surrounding the rivalry.

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2027 will feature 14 teams and will be played across South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Under the format announced by the ICC, 12 teams will compete in the main round, divided into two groups of six, with the top teams progressing to the Super 7 stage.

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SSP Safe City Reviews development projects, seeks progress update from FWO

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Safe City Operations Shehzada Umar Abbas on Wednesday held a meeting with representatives of the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) to review progress on ongoing development projects at Safe City Islamabad and discuss future technical work.

An official told APP that Director IT Atif Abbas and Director Systems Faraz Memon also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, FWO representatives gave a progress update on the development projects currently underway at Safe City Islamabad.

The participants also discussed upcoming development and technical work, its timely completion and the future course of action.

The meeting stressed close coordination to ensure that the ongoing projects were completed on time and according to the required standards.

US response reaches Iran through Qatar as talks focus on deal sequence

● Araghchi receives US response during meeting with mediators in Doha: Contents of US response have not been made public: Qatar proposes two-page deal as US-Iran talks remain deadlocked

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



There has been a fresh development in indirect talks between the United States and Iran, with Washington's response to an Iranian proposal reaching Tehran through Qatari mediators,

According to Reuters, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi received the US response during a meeting with Qatari mediators in Doha.

He is expected to return to Tehran and consult the Iranian leadership on Washington's position.

According to an official briefed on the talks, the main disagreement between the two sides concerns the sequence in which the proposed steps would be implemented.

The contents of the US response have not been made public.

The discussions centre on an Iranian seven-day trust-building proposal that includes steps towards reopening the Strait of Hormuz and restoring normal maritime passage, subject to certain conditions.

Qatar has continued its mediation efforts in an attempt to narrow the differences between Washington and Tehran.

The latest exchange comes after both sides resumed indirect contacts through Qatari mediation, with the proposed arrangement focusing on reciprocal steps rather than an immediate comprehensive settlement.

Earlier today, the TV channel reported that Qatar has proposed a two-page agreement aimed at resolving the dispute between the United States and Iran. The proposal comes as indirect contacts between Washington and Tehran continue through regional mediators. Recent reports said the two sides remained divided over the terms of a possible agreement, including the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, sanctions and Iran's nuclear programme.

According to US media reports cited by 24NewsHD, no major progress had been made in the negotiations, raising concerns about further military action after the US midterm elections.

Iran is seeking an end to the blockade and concessions on nuclear issues. Recent diplomatic efforts have focused on linking the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz with measures by Washington and concessions from Tehran over its nuclear activities.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei said during a meeting with Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister that the US president had been placed in a difficult position in which, according to him, Washington could neither negotiate nor wage war.

Rezaei said that, after facing difficulties in the military conflict, the United States had resorted to an aerial blockade.

He also said Iran was prepared to contribute to peace in the Caucasus and maintained that the United States had no future in the region.

Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman met UAE Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Riyadh on Tuesday. Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman also attended the meeting. The leaders discussed relations between Saudi Arabia and the UAE and developments in the region.

CM Maryam approves 10-day Basant festival in Lahore

● Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz approves 10-day Basant celebrations in Lahore from January 29 to February 7, with a break on Kashmir Day.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has announced a major festive initiative for the people of Lahore, approving a 10-day Basant festival to mark the arrival of the new year 2027.

According to the announcement, Basant celebrations will be held across Lahore from January 29 to February 7, 2027.

However, the celebrations will be suspended for one day on February 5 to observe Kashmir Day.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed the authorities to make arrangements for the 10-day festival, saying the event would provide Lahoris with an opportunity to celebrate the arrival of the new year while promoting Punjab's cultural heritage.

She said the 10-day Basant festival would help showcase Punjab's cultural traditions and Lahore's centuries-old heritage to the world.

The chief minister also directed the administration to ensure better arrangements for the safety and convenience of citizens than those made during the previous Basant celebrations.Maryam Nawaz urged the public to demonstrate responsibility, civic sense and a strong commitment to protecting human lives during the festivities.

She appealed to citizens to follow safety measures and help set another positive example, as they did during the previous Basant celebrations.

Basant returned to Lahore earlier this year after a 25-year hiatus, with celebrations held from February 6 to 8, 2026.

Punjab intensifies anti-smog operations as Lahore AQI reaches 158

■ Punjab has intensified anti-smog operations after Lahore's AQI reached 158, inspecting industrial units, brick kilns and smoke sources while expanding measures to control dust and crop burning.

Staff Reporter

LAHORE



The Punjab government has intensified anti-smog operations after Lahore's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 158, activating a coordinated system of field enforcement, monitoring and prevention against local sources of pollution.

The operation has been launched on the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, with drone, night and Hawk Eye field squads also mobilised to monitor and control pollution sources.

According to the government, 269 industrial units were inspected during the past 24 hours. Eleven units were sealed, a case was registered against one unit and fines amounting to Rs1.2 million were imposed.

In a crackdown on brick kilns, 431 kilns were inspected, five were demolished, nine were sealed and nine cases were registered, while fines of Rs1.4 million were imposed.

Authorities also inspected 309 locations over the use of substandard plastic. Seventeen locations were sealed, 1,297 kilograms of plastic was confiscated and fines of Rs148,000 were imposed.

As part of action against major local sources of smoke, 245 barbecue and commercial cooking points were inspected. Suction hoods were installed at 55 locations, while 34 sites were sealed.

To control dust pollution, water was sprayed over 1,178 kilometres of roads. Arrangements were made to cover exposed construction material at 44 locations, while nine measures were taken to repair road shoulders.

The government said more than 215,000 farmers across Punjab had been contacted to prevent the burning of crop residue, while more than 431,000 farmers had so far been trained on measures to prevent stubble burning.

PML-N, PPP finalise candidates for four vacant AJK Council seats

■ PML-N has nominated three candidates and PPP one for four vacant AJK Council seats. Nomination papers will be filed on October 1, with polling scheduled for October 12.

WEB DESK

MUZAFFARABAD



Nomination papers for elections to four vacant seats of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Council will be submitted on October 1, with polling scheduled for October 12, 2026.Candidates will submit their nomination papers to the secretary of the AJK Election Commission between 9am and 2pm on October 1, according to the election schedule.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided to field candidates for three of the four vacant council seats, according to party sources.

The party has nominated Chaudhry Manzoor Ahmed from Muzaffarabad, Chaudhry Saeed from Mirpur and Mushtaq Ahmed Minhas from Bagh for the elections. Recent reports have also confirmed the three PML-N nominations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has nominated Chaudhry Latif Akbar for the fourth seat.

Polling for all four seats will be held at the AJK Legislative Assembly Hall from 10am to 1pm on October 12, followed by counting and announcement of results.The scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted on October 2, while candidates can file appeals against rejection on October 5. Appeals will be heard and decided on October 6, while candidates can withdraw their nomination papers by October 7. The final list of candidates will be issued on October 9.



Pakistan Navy locates K2 Airways cargo aircraft black box at 3,200m depth

■ Move comes in the wake of heightened tensions following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

The Pakistan Navy has located the wreckage and black box of a K2 Airways Cargo Boeing 737-400 at a depth of approximately 3,200 metres in the Arabian Sea, following an extensive underwater search operation.

The search was launched after the K2 Airways cargo aircraft accident in July, with Pakistan Navy teams conducting continuous underwater operations for the past two months to locate the aircraft and recover key evidence.

The operation was carried out under extremely challenging and complex underwater conditions, with naval vessels deploying specialised equipment developed by the National Engineering and Scientific Commission (NESCOM) to identify and locate the aircraft wreckage.

After extensive efforts, the search teams successfully identified the aircraft's black box at a depth of 3,200 metres beneath the surface of the Arabian Sea.

The discovery is expected to provide important information for the ongoing investigation into the circumstances surrounding the aircraft accident.

Details regarding the successful identification of the black box have been shared with the Bureau of Air Safety Investigation (BASI), which is responsible for investigating aircraft accidents and incidents.

The Pakistan Navy said locating an aircraft black box at such a depth represents a first-of-its-kind operation for the service, highlighting the scale and technical complexity of the underwater search.

The recovery and examination of the black box could provide investigators with crucial flight data and other information needed to establish the sequence of events leading to the July accident.

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Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Pakistan, Mr. Emin Cohodarevic, calls on Federal Secretary MoST, Shahid Iqbal Baloch, at the Ministry. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in science, technology and innovation, including metrology and technical collaboration

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