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Saudi Arabia's newly appointed ambassador to Pakistan, Dr Rajeh Tamimi Al-Baghami, met Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi

DG ISPR says Makkah alliance has no aggressive intent, urges dialogue to resolve ME conflict

■ DG ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry says the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement reflects three nations' unity, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering commitment to Saudi Arabia's security.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has called for a negotiated settlement to the ongoing Middle East conflict, stressing that diplomacy is essential to prevent further military escalation.

In an interview with an Arab television channel, the military spokesperson said that if diplomatic efforts fail and military confrontation occurs, the collective deterrence mechanism of the Makkah Alliance would come into action.

Chaudhry described the Makkah joint defence agreement as a significant development achieved in a short period, saying it reflects the shared vision of three countries.

He reaffirmed that safeguarding Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the holy sites of Makkah and Madinah remains a top priority for Pakistan. He said Pakistan's position on protecting the holy sites was clear and unequivocal, adding that the country's political leadership and field marshal had already conveyed its stance.

The DG ISPR said attacks on holy sites had triggered strong anger among the public and political and military leadership. He warned that further escalation of tensions at any level would not benefit any country.

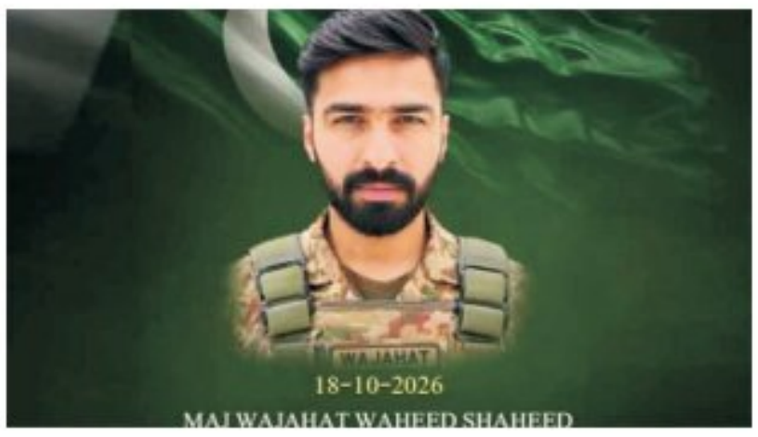
Emphasising the risks of a wider confrontation, Chaudhry said expanding the military conflict in the Middle East was not in anyone's interest. He reiterated that reaching a negotiated outcome was imperative to prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

He also stressed that the Makkah Alliance's leadership and approach were clearly defined, maintaining that the alliance had no aggressive intentions.

Major martyred, four terrorists eliminated in Kalat, Gwadar operations

■ The major identified as Wajahat Waheed embraced martyrdom in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion during a clearance operation in Tehsil Pasni of Gwadar district.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



.A major of Pakistan Army was martyred and four terrorists of Fitna al-Hindustan were eliminated during intelligence-based operations by security forces in the districts of Kalat and Gwadar of Balochistan.

The major identified as Wajahat Waheed embraced martyrdom in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion during a clearance operation in Tehsil Pasni of Gwadar district.

According to ISPR, intelligence agencies had reported the presence of several hideouts of Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists in Jattakabad area of Kalat district and the Shadi Kaur area of Pasni tehsil of Gwadar district, which posed a threat to the local population.

According to the ISPR, on October 18, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Jattakabad area of Kalat.

During the operation, the terrorist hideout was effectively targeted and after an intense exchange of fire, four terrorists were killed.

A large cache of arms and ammunitions were also recovered from the area.

According to a spokesman for the Pakistan Army, a clearance operation was underway to eliminate terrorists and secure the area in the Shadi Kaur area of Pasni Tehsil of Gwadar District, when a contingent of security forces was targeted with an improvised explosive device (IED).

As a result of the explosion, Major Wajahat Waheed, who led the squad, was martyred.

Major Wajahat Waheed, 34, was from Lahore.

Majority of members don't want Achakzai as Opposition leader: Tariq Fazal



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said that the mineral resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) belong to the people and will continue to remain their property.Commenting on the political situation, Chaudhry said the opposition was divided over the issue of Mahmood Achakzai, claiming that most opposition members did not want him to become opposition leader.

Speaking to the media here on Sunday, the federal minister said the primary objective of imposing a state of emergency in the province was to eliminate terrorism and improve the law and order situation in the 12 affected districts.

He said intelligence-based operations were being accelerated to eradicate terrorism, adding that there would be no displacement of residents from the affected districts.He also stressed that the provincial government's administrative authority would be established in these areas.

Chaudhry termed linking the emergency issue with mineral resources condemnable, reiterating that KP's minerals belonged to its people. He said transparent investigations would be conducted into the issuance of mineral licences and urged political stakeholders to support ongoing efforts to restore peace rather than undermine counterterrorism initiatives.



PTI Leaders Blame Sohail Afridi for Long March Failure

Staff Reporter
PESHAWAR

Differences have reportedly emerged within the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership over the failure of the party's long march, with several leaders questioning Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's role, according to sources familiar with the party's core committee meeting.

The meeting reportedly focused on the unsuccessful long march, the lack of progress in negotiations and the party's future political strategy. Participants exchanged views on the reasons behind the setback and the steps needed to move forward.



Dar to attend SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Qohir Rasulzoda, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, will lead Pakistan's delegation to the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG), to be held in Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, on 19–20 October 2026.

The prime ministers of Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Vice President of Iran and the External Affairs Minister of India will represent their respective countries at the CHG meetings, according to a press statement issued by the Foreign Office.



PM Shehbaz welcomes Gauth AI initiative to support students, teachers

■ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pledged full support for Daanish schools as Pakistan signed an MoU with Gauth AI, providing free subscriptions to teachers and students.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government would provide all possible resources and facilities to Daanish schools, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring quality education and creating new opportunities for students, teachers and the younger generation across the country through artificial intelligence (AI).

Addressing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Ministry of Education and Gauth AI, the prime minister termed the agreement a significant step towards expanding educational opportunities and welcomed the provision of free subscriptions by the technology company. He said the first 4,000 subscriptions being gifted by Gauth to Pakistan would help students and teachers benefit from modern educational tools. Of these, 1,000 subscriptions would be allocated to teachers associated with the government's Daanish schools initiative.The prime minister said the government had provided all possible facilities to students, adding that Daanish schools was a magnificent educational institution offering free education.

"There is no dearth of resources, and the government will provide all possible resources to the Daanish schools," he said, reiterating the government's resolve to support the institutions and their students.

CM Bugti stresses awareness, early detection and access to treatment in fight against

■ The chief minister called upon families, healthcare professionals, educational institutions and civil society organizations to play an active role in raising awareness and supporting breast cancer patients.

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has emphasized that awareness, early diagnosis and access to treatment are fundamental to an effective fight against breast cancer, stating that protecting women's health is a shared responsibility of both the government and society.

In his message issued from the Chief Minister's Secretariat on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the chief minister said that timely diagnosis significantly improves the chances of successful treatment. He urged women to prioritize their health and seek guidance from qualified medical professionals instead of ignoring any unusual changes or symptoms.



Mir Sarfraz Bugti noted that effective awareness campaigns are essential to eliminating fear, misconceptions and social stigma associated with breast cancer. He said such efforts would enable women to speak openly about their health concerns and seek timely medical advice without hesitation.

Highlighting the challenges faced by women in remote areas of the province, the chief minister stressed the need to expand access to breast cancer awareness, screening and treatment facilities across Balochistan. He said women living in far-flung regions should have equal opportunities for early diagnosis and appropriate medical care.

Sarfraz Bugti also underscored the importance of providing encouragement and social support to women affected by breast cancer. Rather than facing fear or isolation, patients should receive compassion and assistance from their families and communities, he said.

The chief minister called upon families, healthcare professionals, educational institutions and civil society organizations to play an active role in raising awareness and supporting breast cancer patients.

Scanned with CamScanner



Thick plumes of black smoke rise into the sky after a fire erupted in a factory at Site industrial area

Punjab approves industrial development and export promotion scheme

■ Punjab's cabinet has approved the features of an industrial development and export promotion scheme

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE



The Punjab cabinet has approved the features of an industrial development and export promotion scheme aimed at boosting manufacturing, promoting locally produced goods and expanding the province's export potential, Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari said on Monday.

Speaking to the media at the Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR), alongside Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan, Bokhari said the provincial government was focusing on increasing exports of products manufactured in Punjab.

She emphasised the need to establish a distinct Pakistani identity for locally manufactured goods, saying products made in the province should carry the "Made in Pakistan" label and be introduced to international markets under that identity.

The minister described the cabinet's approval as part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen industrial activity and promote exports.

However, she did not disclose the scheme's financial allocation, implementation timeline or specific incentives for manufacturers and exporters.The initiative is expected to support the government's efforts to improve the visibility of Pakistani products and encourage businesses to explore international markets. Its eventual impact will depend on the scheme's implementation, the support provided to industries and the ability of local manufacturers to compete internationally.Warning against unsubstantiated allegations

internationally.Warning against unsubstantiated allegations

During the media briefing, Bokhari also addressed the issue of allegations circulated on social media, saying individuals could not make accusations without accountability.

She said journalists making baseless allegations would be sent notices, underscoring the government's stated position on addressing what it considers misinformation.

Her remarks highlighted the continuing debate over social media content, journalistic responsibility and the need to distinguish substantiated reporting from unverified claims.

Hajj 2026: One day left for pilgrims to deposit second installment



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Only one day remains for pilgrims registered under Pakistan's government Hajj scheme to pay the second instalment of their Hajj dues, the Ministry of Religious Affairs has announced.

According to the ministry's spokesperson, government-scheme pilgrims must complete their payments by October 20 to avoid cancellation of their Hajj applications.

Pilgrims can pay the outstanding amount through the National Information Technology Board's Hajj portal or the Pak Hajj mobile application. The online portal offers payment options through bank cards, One Link and manual bank challans.

The ministry has urged all applicants to meet the deadline and complete the required formalities within the stipulated period.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has also reminded pilgrims that obtaining and submitting a verified medical fitness certificate is mandatory.

Applicants must download the prescribed certificate from the Hajj portal, have it verified by a doctor and upload the signed document to the portal.

The ministry has advised pilgrims to complete both the payment process and medical documentation requirements on time to avoid complications with their Hajj applications.

Studies, business go hand in hand at Lahore govt school

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



District Education Authority Lahore's incompetence spoke volumes as administration of a government school in the provincial capital was found to be imparting education as well as doing business at the same time,

The administration people were making additional money by renting out the school classrooms to labourers.

A classroom in Government Primary School Gope Rai No. 2 at Thokar has been on rented out for six months and the tenants were over the moon as they did not have to pay the utility bills.

Ultimately, the school's utility bills have started increasing due to excessive use of electricity and water.

The school administration has rented out a nursery classroom to a mason and a labourer for Rs5,000 each.

The condition of the primary school is already very pooras the windowpanes are broken while the wood on the benches is also rotten.

The whiteboards of various classes are no longer usable due to cracks in them and the signboard at the main gate of the school is also missing.

The boundary wall of the school along with the main gate were also in ruins.

Sources also informed the TV channel that school administration has also forwarded "increased" number of students to the Education Authority using fake enrollments.

Grand anti-encroachment operation launched in Peshawar

News Desk

PESHAWAR

he Khyber Pakhtunkhwa authorities have launched a grand crackdown against encroachments to address commuting difficulties faced by citizens, keep roads clear, and improve the flow of traffic in Peshawar,

The district administration in collaboration with Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) carried out a grand anti-encroachment operation at Garhi Qamar Din area along the Ring Road.

During the operation, illegal structures, comprising dozens of shops, were demolished with the help of heavy machinery. The objective of this initiative is to remove encroachments along the Ring Road and its adjacent areas, restore the designated road boundaries, improve traffic flow, and provide better commuting facilities for the public. Throughout the operation, relevant departmental personnel,



supported by heavy machinery, are taking concrete steps to remove these encroachments.

The newly posted Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Afaq Wazir, has stated that the operation to completely remove encroachments along the Ring Road and its adjacent areas will continue, and no negligence in this regard will be tolerated.

The DC directed the relevant departments to carry out the operation effectively and to ensure that no illegal structures are re-established once the encroachments have been cleared.

The Peshawar District Administration has appealed to citizens and shopkeepers to refrain from constructing illegal structures or creating encroachments on roads, footpaths, and public thoroughfares, and to cooperate with the administration.



Tahir Ashrafi welcomes Iranian President's support for defence deal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has welcomed the Iranian President's support for Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, describing it as a positive development for strengthening cooperation and unity among Muslim countries.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Ashrafi said the Iranian leadership's announcement of disassociation from the Houthis was an important step in the right direction. He expressed hope that the defence agreement would also include other Islamic countries, adding that such an initiative could play a significant role in promoting unity, solidarity and mutual cooperation across the Muslim world.



FCC rejects Benazir University's appeal against woman lecturer

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has rejected an appeal filed by Peshawar's Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University against a woman lecturer for remaining on long leave, A two-member FCC bench headed by Justice Hassan Rizvi disposed of the plea on Monday against Syeda Laila.

During the hearing of the case, Justice Hassan Rizvi said that the teacher worked in the University for three years after completing her PhD.

The judge further remarked that despite fulfilling the requirement of three years, the university administration continued to harass the teacher.



Five killed in high-speed car crash on Multan's Bosan Road

News Desk

MULTAN

Five people were killed in a road accident on Bosan Road in Multan after a speeding car went out of control and crashed into a divider before hitting the wall of a vacant plot, rescue officials said.

According to rescue authorities, the car first struck the road divider and then collided with the wall of the plot. All five occupants of the vehicle died at the scene. Rescue personnel shifted the bodies to Nishtar Hospital in Multan.

Officials confirmed that all five victims belonged to Shujaabad.

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Graphic Health Warnings: A Powerful Message for a Healthier Future

By: Alishba Asif

Graphic Health Warnings (GHWs) are one of the most visible and effective ways of communicating the dangers of tobacco use. Found on cigarette packs and other tobacco products, these warnings combine clear text with powerful images to show the real health consequences associated with tobacco consumption.

Their purpose is simple: to inform people, remind users of the risks, discourage young people from starting, and encourage current users to consider quitting.

Tobacco use remains a major public health concern around the world. Many people begin using tobacco without fully understanding the long-term consequences.

Countering Attractive Packaging

Because tobacco products are often packaged in attractive designs and promoted in ways that can make them appear less harmful than they really are, health warnings provide an important counter-message. Every time a person reaches for a cigarette, the warning on the package can serve as a direct reminder of what tobacco can do to the body.

Unlike advertisements, which are designed to attract attention and create positive associations, graphic health warnings communicate an entirely different reality. Images showing damaged lungs, diseased organs, or other consequences of tobacco use can make health risks more understandable and immediate.

For people who may not respond to written information alone, visual messages can be particularly powerful.

Reaching People with Limited Access to Health Information

GHWs also play an important role in reaching people who may have limited access to health information. A health warning printed directly on a tobacco package travels wherever the product goes.

It does not require a person to attend a seminar, read a brochure, visit a health facility, or search for information online. The message is repeatedly displayed to the consumer and can also be seen by family members, friends, and others around them.

Influencing Young People's Perceptions

Another important benefit of GHWs is their ability to influence young people's perceptions of tobacco. Young people are particularly vulnerable to messages



that make tobacco products appear fashionable, modern, or socially desirable.

Strong health warnings can help challenge these perceptions by presenting tobacco use in the context of its genuine health consequences. When warnings are clear, prominent, and visually compelling, they can help prevent tobacco use from being viewed as harmless or normal.

Encouraging Current Users to Reflect

For current tobacco users, repeated exposure to health warnings can also encourage reflection. Quitting tobacco is not always easy, particularly because nicotine is addictive.

However, awareness is an important first step. A warning on a cigarette pack may prompt someone to think about their health, their family, their future, or the financial and emotional costs associated with continued tobacco use.

Even when a person does not quit immediately, the message can contribute to greater awareness and future motivation to quit.

The effectiveness of GHWs depends greatly on how they are designed and displayed. Warnings that are large, clear, understandable, and placed prominently on packaging are more likely to attract attention.

The use of appropriate images can make complex health information easier to understand. Regularly changing or rotating warnings can also help prevent people from becoming accustomed to the same message.

Bridging the Gap Left by Delayed Symptoms

GHWs are especially important because tobacco-related diseases often develop over many years. A person may not experience immediate symptoms after beginning to smoke, which can create a false sense of security.



By: Shabana Mehmood

The Natural Beauty of Pakistan

Pakistan is a land of immense geographic and climatic diversity, stretching from the towering peaks of the Karakoram and Himalayas in the north to the fertile plains of the Indus River, and culminating in the rugged plateaus of Balochistan and the Arabian Sea coast. This varied topography and complex geological framework bless the country with a wealth of natural resources. Among these, minerals and agricultural crops stand out as two of the most vital pillars of the nation's economy and its potential for future development. While agriculture has historically been the backbone of Pakistan's economy feeding its population and driving its export markets its vast, largely untapped mineral reserves offer a massive pathway to significant industrial and economic progress. This article explores the rich mineral deposits hidden beneath the earth and the diverse crops cultivated across the fertile plains of Pakistan. Pakistan is endowed with a vast array of mineral resources. The Geological Survey of Pakistan has identified over 50 different minerals that are currently being extracted. The province of Balochistan is the undisputed leader in this sector, housing an estimated 80% to 85% of the country's total mineral deposits. It is followed by significant reserves of distinct minerals in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Punjab. Pakistan boasts substantial reserves of metallic minerals, which are crucial for industrial manufacturing and generating foreign exchange. The Chagai district in Balochistan, particularly the Reko Diq and Saindak areas, is home to some of the world's largest unexploited copper and gold deposits. The Reko Diq project alone is estimated to yield billions of dollars in revenue over its lifespan, positioning Pakistan as a major future player in global copper and gold markets. Essential for the steel industry, iron ore is found in various regions, including Kalabagh in Punjab and Dilband in Balochistan. Though historically underutilized, recent discoveries and investments are paving the way for greater extraction to meet domestic industrial

demands. Mined primarily in the Muslim Bagh area of Balochistan, chromite is a major export mineral for Pakistan. It is a critical component in the production of stainless steel and is heavily sought after internationally. The non-metallic mineral sector is highly active, providing essential raw materials for construction, agriculture, and energy. Pakistan is world-renowned for its pink Himalayan salt, mined primarily from the Khewra Salt Mine in Punjab. As one of the oldest and largest salt mines globally, Khewra produces hundreds of thousands of tons of salt annually, serving both as a major export commodity and a popular tourist attraction. The country possesses massive coal reserves, particularly in the Thar Desert of Sindh. The Thar coalfield is one of the largest lignite deposits in the world. To reduce its reliance on imported fuels, Pakistan is increasingly turning to these domestic coal reserves to fuel power generation. These materials form the foundation of Pakistan's robust cement industry. Found abundantly across all provinces, particularly in KPK and Punjab, limestone and gypsum are extracted in large quantities to satisfy both domestic construction demands and export markets. Natural gas has been a cornerstone of Pakistan's energy mix since the monumental discovery of the Sui gas field in Balochistan in the 1950s. The mountainous terrain of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan harbors a glittering treasure trove of precious and semi-precious stones. Pakistan is known for producing high-quality emeralds, rubies, sapphires, aquamarines, topaz, and tourmaline. Despite the immense value of these gems, the sector remains largely informal, requiring modernization in mining techniques, cutting, and polishing to realize its full economic potential. Agriculture is the lifeblood of Pakistan's economy. The sector contributes roughly 19% to 23% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs nearly 40% of the national Labor force. The vast Indus River system, supporting one of the world's largest contiguous irrigation networks, transforms the arid plains of Punjab and Sindh into highly productive agricultural lands. Pakistan's agricultural output is broadly categorized into staple food crops and cash crops. Ensuring food security for a population of over 240 million relies heavily on the successful harvest of key staples. As

the primary dietary staple, wheat is the most extensively cultivated crop in Pakistan. Sown in the winter (Rabi season) and harvested in the spring, it occupies the largest share of the country's arable land. Pakistan is a major global exporter of rice, particularly the highly aromatic Basmati variety, which commands a premium price in international markets. Grown during the summer (Kharif season), rice requires abundant water, making the irrigated plains of Punjab and Sindh the ideal cultivation zones. Serving dual purposes as food for human consumption and fodder for livestock and poultry, maize is an increasingly important crop. Advancements in hybrid seeds have significantly boosted maize yields in recent years. Cash crops are the engine of Pakistan's export economy and domestic industrial sector. Often referred to as "white gold," cotton is the most critical cash crop in Pakistan. It provides the raw material for the nation's massive textile industry, which accounts for more than half of the country's total export earnings. However, the crop is highly sensitive to climate change, unseasonal rains, and pest attacks, leading to fluctuations in annual yields. Pakistan consistently ranks among the top global producers of sugarcane. Cultivated primarily in Punjab and Sindh, it feeds the expansive domestic sugar industry. The crop is incredibly water-intensive, which often sparks debates regarding sustainable agricultural practices in a water-stressed environment. Beyond the major staples, Pakistan's diverse climate allows for the cultivation of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. The country is globally recognized for its mangoes (especially the Chaunsa and Sindhri varieties) and kinnows (mandarin oranges), which are major export items. Other significant horticultural products include apples, cherries, peaches, dates, and a comprehensive array of seasonal vegetables. Despite the abundance of natural wealth, Pakistan faces significant hurdles in maximizing the utility of both its mineral and agricultural sectors.

In the mineral sector, challenges include a lack of large-scale foreign investment, outdated extraction technologies, infrastructural deficits, and complex regulatory frameworks. Mining safety remains a critical issue, particularly in rudimentary coal mines where accidents are unfortunately common. To unlock this wealth, Pakistan requires transparent policies, modern technology transfer, and improved infrastructure in remote mining regions. The agricultural sector faces the pressing threats of climate change, water scarcity, and outdated farming techniques. The country suffers from a significant yield gap compared to global averages. Modernizing agriculture through precision farming, adopting high-yield and climate-resilient hybrid seeds, improving water management via drip irrigation, and expanding farm mechanization are crucial steps for the future. Pakistan's soil holds extraordinary promise, both on its surface and deep below. The golden wheat fields of Punjab, the snowy cotton belts of Sindh, the ancient salt mines of Khewra, and the multi-billion-dollar copper reserves of Balochistan all tell the story of a land blessed with immense natural resources. By embracing modern technologies, encouraging sustainable resource management, and creating investor-friendly policies, Pakistan has the absolute potential to transform its raw minerals and agricultural crops into a driving force for enduring economic prosperity and national stability. Pakistan Zindabad



By: Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The Fortress Endures: Pakistan and the Vision of Islamic Solidarity

Pakistan stands as a living testament to an enduring spiritual and ideological conviction. From its very inception, the rallying cry that unified millions were both simple and profound: "What does Pakistan mean? La ilaha illallah." Under this banner of faith in the Oneness of Allah, the nation emerged on the world map in 14 August 1947, as a homeland for Muslims of the Subcontinent, guided by the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the philosophical foresight of Allama Iqbal. It was not merely a political endeavour but the realisation of a distinct national identity rooted in Islamic ideals of justice, sovereignty, and unity. Yet the path was fraught with peril. Even before the new state could draw breath, formidable obstacles arose—economic collapse, mass migrations, and external scepticism. Many predicted that its borders would soon dissolve under pressure, but divine will ordained otherwise. Like a ship battling turbulent seas, Pakistan endured and reached the shores of stability through resilience and faith.As the country gained its footing, a landmark gathering in Lahore in February 1974 marked a turning point. The Second Islamic Summit Conference brought together leaders from 38 Muslim nations, including King Faisal of Saudi Arabia,Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and Muammar Gaddafi. Hosted by Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, this assembly transformed individual aspirations into collective strength. Muslims, like fingers joining to form a mighty fist, stood united on a common platform. The calls for global security and the stability of the Islamic world. It earned the honourable distinction of the Fortress of Islam, particularly through its longstanding commitment to safeguarding the Haramain Sharifain. Pakistani troops have served in Saudi Arabia since the 1970s, with deployments in training, advisory, and protective roles—often numbering over 10,000 at peaks, including during the 1990-91 Gulf War. This sacred duty reflects not mere strategy but a religious obligation deeply felt by the nation. Adversaries, notably neighbouring India, seized every opportunity to portray Pakistan as a failing state. Yet at moments of trial, unseen help arrived. In May 2025, Pakistan demonstrated military prowess that astonished observers, restoring its lost prestige through resolute leadership that honoured the divine trust placed upon it. A landmark Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, signed on 17 September 2025 in Riyadh by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, formalised decades of brotherhood. This pact declares that any aggression against one is an aggression against both, encompassing comprehensive cooperation in defence, training, technology, and joint deterrence. Reports suggest potential deployment of up to thousands of Pakistani personnel and assets, including JF-17 aircraft, underscoring Pakistan's role as a steadfast guardian. Building upon this success, Pakistan has played a constructive mediating role in Gulf tensions, earning widespread personnel—one of the world's largest standing armies—alongside an estimated hundreds of nuclear warheads and modern platforms like JF-17 fighters and advanced missiles, provide credible strength to these endeavours. Looking to the future, Pakistan's perspective remains one of hope anchored in unity and good intentions. The day is not distant when an alliance of Islamic countries, forged through mutual respect and shared values, may emerge—bearing precedents in the European Union or NATO yet rooted firmly in Islamic principles of solidarity. Such a framework would face formidable obstacles: historical differences, external influences, and economic disparities. Yet with the spirit that carried Pakistan through partition, the 1971 trials, and recent triumphs, it remains achievable. Pakistan, with its strategic location, military capability, and diplomatic bridges—linking South Asia, the Gulf, and beyond—can serve as a pivotal node in this vision. It continues to champion economic cooperation within the OIC, advocate for peace with justice on issues like Palestine and Kashmir, and promote connectivity that benefits the wider ummah.Pakistan's journey, from ideological birth to its current resurgence.

, exemplifies faith sustained against the odds. As it advances, the nation carries not only the aspirations of its 250 million people but the hopes of many who see in its endurance a beacon for the Muslim world.



Pakistani artists perform a classical dance during a special cultural programme hosted by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in honor of the visiting Bangladesh cultural troupe

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SME financing rises 33pc to Rs943bn in Pakistan

- SME financing in Pakistan rose 33% to Rs943 billion in June 2026, while the infection ratio fell to 11.7%, according to State Bank data.

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan has increased significantly, with outstanding loans reaching Rs943 billion in the second quarter of 2026, marking a 33% rise compared with the same period last year.

According to financing data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the government has set a financing target of Rs1.5 trillion for SMEs to expand credit availability and meet the financial needs of businesses.

The increase is being viewed as an important development in efforts to improve access to loans for small and medium-sized businesses and support their financial requirements.

According to the report, the improvement in SME financing has also been accompanied by a significant decline in the sector's infection ratio, which measures the proportion of non-performing loans.

State Bank data shows that the infection ratio fell from 23% to 11.7%, indicating an improvement in the overall loan repayment profile. However, the volume of non-performing loans among SMEs remained within a range of Rs80 billion to Rs125 billion.

Experts say increased financing for SMEs could help promote business activity, encourage investment and create new employment opportunities. However, they emphasise that access to loans on easier terms and improved availability of financial facilities will be important to achieving the financing target.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses MOU exchange between Ministry of Education and Federal Training and Gauth AI- based learning Platform in Islamabad on October 19, 2026.

Dollar firmer, euro weakens as French protests turn violent

- The dollar edged higher as unrest in France weakened the euro, while investors awaited US and European central bank meetings and key Chinese economic data.

SPECIAL REPORTER
SINGAPORE



The dollar edged up from near its lowest levels of the month at the start of trading in Asia on Monday as violent protests in France ?put pressure on the euro.

The euro fell 0.1% at $1.1225 as trading began in Asia. ?The biggest weighting in the dollar index , the common currency's drop helped steady the greenback, which traded level at 101.83.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned on Sunday "shocking" scenes of violence on the sidelines of protests over the cost ?of living in a televised address to the nation, a day after France suffered one ?of its worst days of unrest in years.

"The weekend unrest matters for the euro ?mainly through French bonds rather than directly," said Kieran Williams, head of Asia FX at ?InTouch Capital Markets in London.

Against the yen , the US dollar was flat at 158.00 yen as Bank ?of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said on Monday underlying inflation is "quite close" to the central bank's 2% target.

The US dollar was flat at 6.6842 yuan in offshore trade ahead of the release of Chinese GDP data for the ?third quarter. China's economy is expected to have sped up slightly in the period from a more ?than three-year low.

In emerging market Asia, much of the focus will be on the Indonesian rupiah following a ?threat from ?MSCI to downgrade the country's stock market to "standalone" status last week, which triggered a 11.6% collapse in equities. The rupiah hit its weakest level in almost three months on Friday, closing at 18,000 against the dollar.

The Australian dollar appreciated 0.3% to $0.6965, while its kiwi counterpart was flat at $0.5656. ?The British pound was flat ?at $1.3329.

Oil prices slipped ?as trading resumed in Asia on Monday, with Brent crude futures down 1.7% at $108.02, after US President Donald Trump waived sanctions and tariffs on Russia that ?may lead to more Russian fuel exports.

Fed funds futures are pricing an ?implied 84% ?probability that the Federal Reserve stays on hold at its next two-day meeting on October 28, little changed from Friday, according to the CME Group's FedWatch tool.

PSX starts week with modest gain of 137 points

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened in positive territory on Monday, with the benchmark KSE-100 index rising 137.15 points to reach 166,556.86 during the trading session.

The index opened the session with a previous close of 166,419.71 points and moved between an intraday high of 166,698.46 and a low of 165,918.34.

Trading volume stood at 51,912,244 shares, reflecting market activity during the session.

In previous session, the benchmark KSE-100 Index gained 233.55 points, a positive change of 0.14 percent, to close at 166,419.72 points against 166,186.17 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 396.904 million shares, compared to 517.601 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value stood at Rs 18.679 billion against Rs 23.571 billion.

Market capitalisation advanced to Rs 18.479 trillion from Rs 18.475 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 498 companies that traded in the ready market, 211 posted gains, 254 suffered losses, while 33 remained unchanged.

Oil tumbles as Trump's Russia sanctions waiver may lead to more fuel supplies

- Oil prices fell after Trump waived key sanctions on Russia, raising hopes of increased fuel supplies, while Middle East tensions continued to threaten global energy shipments.

SPECIAL REPORTER
SINGAPORE

Oil prices slipped on Monday after US President Donald Trump waived ?sanctions and tariffs on Russia that may lead to more Russian fuel exports.

Brent crude futures fell $1.94, or 1.77%, to $107.92 a barrel by 0227 GMT after settling at its highest since May 19 on Friday.

US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $100.58 a ?barrel, down 83 cents, or 0.82%, after closing at its highest since September 17 on Friday.

Trump ?signed an executive order on Friday waiving key sanctions and tariffs under the law ?known as the Graham Act, which he signed last month at the urging of lawmakers who wanted to pressure ?Moscow over its war in Ukraine.

However, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the president will use up to ?60 days to assess the economic impact of the sanctions and tariffs on the global economy.

The move comes after Trump struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to export diesel to the United States and other countries — starting at about 2.3 million barrels ?this month before rising to about 7.6 million barrels monthly, according to Trump's announcement. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy ?said these US actions will hurt Ukraine.



Brent crude oil briefly touched $110 a barrel on Friday for the first time since ?May as ?tensions and security threats in the Middle East raised concerns over the safety of shipping and tighter global energy supplies.

"The combination of a softer tone around sanctions and some profit-taking after recent gains is helping to cap the upside in the near term," KCM Trade chief analyst Tim Waterer said. While the ?US waiver on Russian sanctions ?could potentially lead to ?higher Russian fuel exports, the mixed messaging has created uncertainty, he added.

"Until the details and duration are clearer, the market is unlikely to fully price in ?a sustained increase in supply," he said.

Intensified attacks on commercial vessels cut ?Gulf crude flows ?sharply to about 8.5 million barrels per day on a seven-day average last week from more than 20 million bpd the week before, analytics firm Kpler said in a note on Friday. At least 10 confirmed incidents ?involving commercial ?vessels were reported last week, it added.

'Punjab's livestock exports rise by 43 percent'



SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said making the province a hub of livestock in the region is her government's goal. In a statement, she said the Punjab Government wants to link the livestock farmers with national exporters and international websites

Meanwhile, four hundred thousand cattle were raised in one year, earning livestock farmers a profit of one billion rupees. Through the Chief Minister's Livestock Card, every farmer is getting a profit of twenty-seven thousand rupees per animal.

Livestock exports from Punjab have risen by forty-three percent as nearly one hundred thirty thousand cattle were exported through the Livestock Card.



Dushanbe: 19 October, 2026 - Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar calling on the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda, in Dushanbe.

Oil prices fall sharply in global markets

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



International crude oil prices fell sharply intraday during Asian trading on Monday. WTI crude fell below $99 a barrel, down more than 0.8% on the day; Brent crude futures fell nearly 1%, losing the $109-a-barrel threshold.

The pullback in oil prices followed a strong rally the previous week. November crude futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) settled Friday up $3.44, or 3.5%, at $101.41 a barrel; front-month Brent crude on the European ICE Futures Exchange rose $3.94, or 3.7%, to settle at $109.86 a barrel. For the full week, NYMEX crude gained 10.4% cumulatively and Brent rose 4.9%.

Oil prices slipped but both main contracts held above $100. The latest dip came on the back of signs that supplies continue to leave the Middle East despite Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthis on key Saudi Arabian crude sites.

Meanwhile, Asian stocks mostly fell Monday as traders tracked a tech-heavy selloff on Wall Street that was fuelled by growing worries over the AI investment boom. Chipmakers and other firms linked to artificial intelligence were once again under pressure owing to concerns about surging inflation, rising costs and questions about when the vast sums pumped into the sector in recent years would see a return.

Scanned with CamScanner

Russian FM to visit Iran as Moscow looks to mediate in war



Web Desk

MASCOW

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was due to arrive in Iran on Monday in his first visit since the outbreak of the Middle East war, as Russia seeks to play a mediating role.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei confirmed the trip on Sunday, saying in a statement that the two sides will discuss "regional and international developments".

Lavrov, who is scheduled to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, said Moscow's efforts are "aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war", with talks stalled between Tehran and Washington.

The visit comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in early October that Moscow was prepared to contribute to mediation efforts.

Russia and Iran, two of the most heavily sanctioned nations in the world, maintain close ties. Their military and economic cooperation has only increased since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The Middle East war began in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Despite a ceasefire in April, followed by a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June, hostilities in and around the Strait of Hormuz have not stopped.

Iran claims control over the strategic waterway -- through which one-fifth of the world's hydrocarbons pass in normal times -- and regularly targets vessels that cross without its authorisation.

In response, Washington has been maintaining a naval counter-blockade on Iranian ports.

Russia's foreign ministry said discussions during Lavrov's visit were expected to focus on "ways to resolve the acute international crisis triggered by the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel against Iran".

The ministry said the war had been a blow to stability and security "not only in the near and Middle East, but also on a global scale" .

Putin proposes summit with Trump and Xi to discuss Ukraine deal, WSJ says



WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

Russian President Vladimir Putin has proposed a summit next month with US ?President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to negotiate an ?end to the four-year-old Ukraine conflict that would favour Moscow, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the discussions.

The proposed summit comes amid warming ties ?between Trump and Putin especially after the US President announced a deal to ?buy Russian diesel and signed an order on Friday waiving key sanctions on Moscow.Citing ?a former Russian intelligence officer briefed on the matter, the paper said ?that Putin's suggestion came in an October 9 telephone call with Trump that ?also yielded the diesel deal between the two countries.

The White House did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment, while the Kremlin could not be immediately reached outside ?regular business hours. The Russian and Chinese embassies in Washington did not immediately ?reply to requests for comment.

The Kremlin has suggested holding the trilateral dialogue on the sidelines ?of ?the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, the WSJ report said, citing people familiar with the discussions. That summit is set to take place on November 18 to 19 in Shenzhen.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed to the Journal that discussions were taking place over ?a potential meeting.

"There is ?no clear understanding ?yet regarding the meeting itself or its potential agenda, although all three parties acknowledge the hypothetical possibility of such ?a meeting taking place," he told the Wall Street Journal.

A ?senior US ?official told the Journal that Trump had not agreed to such a summit, but he could be receptive to the idea.

Trump's diesel deal with Putin and the ?executive ?order waiving sanctions on Moscow have drawn criticism ?from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who has warned it would embolden Putin and prolong the war.



Six Saudi citizens injured, houses damaged in Houthi missile attack

- Oil supertanker carrying two million barrels of crude 'hit a mine' off Oman

Web DESK

Saudi

Six Saudi citizens were injured and three homes and three vehicles were damaged after a Houthi projectile fell in a residential area in Najran A spokesman for the Civil Defence said attempts to target civilian objects constitute a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, and that the established procedures for such incidents have been implemented.

The agency issued alerts of potential danger in the city earlier on Sunday afternoon but then said that the danger had passed.

Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reported that another supertanker, carrying about two million barrels of crude, hit a mine.

The Guards claimed the unnamed ship was sailing an "unauthorised" route with its tracking systems off.

The IRGC framed the explosion and engine room fire as enforcement against ships ignoring new transit rules imposed after the US-Israeli conflict began in late February.

The latest claim follows an earlier Iranian report of a similar tanker incident. Iranian state media described two tankers catching fire after mine strikes.

In the latest incident, the vessel's name, flag, ownership, crew status and the extent of any environmental damage were not disclosed in the initial reports.

The incidents come amid escalating maritime insecurity since the US and Israel began their war against Iran on February 28.

The Strait of Hormuz is a critical route for global oil shipments, and attacks on commercial vessels have heightened concerns over energy supplies, shipping costs and insurance premiums. The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) has separately reported multiple attacks on vessels in and around the strait.

The competing claims over transit rules reflect a wider dispute over control of the waterway. Iran says vessels must follow routes approved by Tehran, while the US has rejected Iran's restrictions and maintained that international shipping must be protected.–

Oct 20 is last date for submitting second installment of Hajj dues

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Only one day has left to submit the second installment of Hajj expenditure 2027, as the last date is October 20, 2026,

The Ministry of Religious Affairs reminded the Hajj pilgrims to clear their second installment before October 20, 2026. The Ministry further advised that Hajj pilgrims should use the IT Board's Hajj Portal or Pak Haj App.Hajj pilgrims can submit their second installment through a bank card, Onelink, or through manual challan forms.

The Ministry advised the Hajj pilgrims to ensure timely deposit of their second installment to avoid suspension of the Hajj application.

It is mandatory to download the medical fitness certificate available on the Hajj portal, have it verified by a doctor, and upload it to the Hajj portal.

Earlier on October 8, 2026, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Religious Affairs stated that the collection of the second installment of Hajj dues under the Government Hajj Scheme is underway, with 39,200 pilgrims having deposited the amount so far.

Iran urges US to accept proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz

- Iranian Foreign Minister Araqchi says Tehran's offer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within six days remains open, but progress depends on US acceptance of its seven conditions, including sanctions rel

WEB DESK

DUBAI

Iran's offer to the United States to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days is still on ?the table, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told Iranian media ?outlets on Sunday.

Iran presented its proposal in mid-September after an interim ceasefire collapsed. Tehran later acknowledged receiving a US response but Iran's security chief said last week negotiations ?have stalled because Washington failed to address all seven conditions for reopening the strait.

"Our situation is clear and based on ?the seven-days proposal presented to the US. They shared comments which ?we are reviewing, but our proposal is still on the table ?and if there is any honesty on the US part, which there isn't, the way to reopening the Strait of Hormuz is obvious," Araqchi said while in ?Baghdad for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.



Iran's ?conditions include, among other demands, the lifting of the US blockade on its ports, ?the ?lifting of US sanctions on its oil exports as well as ending hostilities on all regional fronts.

If Washington accepts Tehran's conditions, the strait could reopen within six days, with talks resuming the following day, ?Araqchi said.

A central ?point of ?disagreement has been Washington's insistence on addressing Iran's nuclear programme from the outset.

US Vice President JD Vance said ?earlier this month that Iran must make a "meaningful" reduction ?in ?its uranium enrichment capacity to satisfy US demands and end the countries' eight-month war.

Tehran says negotiations should initially focus on reopening the Strait of ?Hormuz, ?which before the war carried about a ?fifth of the global trade in oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG), and restoring security ?in the waterway.

Macron urges calm as France counts cost Of worst unrest in years

- French President Macron urged calm after nationwide riots over rising living costs and declining public services left shops looted, buildings damaged and thousands arrested.

WEB DESK

PARIS/LIMOGES

President Emmanuel Macron appealed for calm on Sunday, a day after France suffered one of its worst days of unrest in years, with thousands arrested and shops looted or damaged after protests over high prices and declining public services.

Fresh clashes broke out in Paris and Marseille, where riot police intervened to prevent attempts to ransack businesses.

Nationwide demonstrations had erupted into riots on Saturday, with a town hall torched, shops pillaged and buildings covered in graffiti as violent groups clashed with police in cities across the country.

"Looking at these images, we have all asked ourselves: What was going ?through their minds? How can French people do this to France?" Macron said in a televised address to the nation.

"Nothing justifies it, nothing explains it, nothing excuses it. Tonight, ?we all feel anger and shame."

Saturday's unrest laid bare the deep anger at Macron, who leaves office in 2027 after a decade in



power ?that has increasingly become defined by social discontent, a weak economy and ballooning debt.

Macron said those protesting peacefully had legitimate grievances and their actions should not be confused with those seeking to wreak ?havoc.

Advertisement · Scroll to continue

He stopped short of declaring a state of emergency, as demanded by some right-wing politicians, but said the government would act to allow prefects to ban protests if necessary to protect public buildings ?and local businesses.

The government has blamed the violence on what it said were ultra-left groups, as well as criminals it said had instigated the looting.

One protester died on Saturday after suffering a cardiac arrest during demonstrations in Paris.

Police made 2,400 arrests across France, while nearly 1,000 officers were injured, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said.

Police again clashed with protesters and fired tear gas at Place de la Republique on Sunday afternoon, ?and protesters had set fire to piles of bicycles. A Reuters witness said there appeared to be several hundred protesters in the area. A massive clean-up operation took place in cities from Lille ?in the north to Marseille in the south and from Strasbourg in the east to Bordeaux in the southwest, where a masked mob invaded the residence of the local prefect.

Scanned with CamScanner

Yumna Zaidi turns heads with her sunshine yellow saree look

■ Taking to Instagram, Yumna shared a series of pictures showcasing her graceful ensemble, simply captioning the post, "Hain na."

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Pakistani actress Yumna Zaidi has captured the spotlight with her latest traditional look, proving that understated elegance can make just as powerful a statement as elaborate styling. The actress looked radiant in a striking yellow saree that beautifully balanced classic charm with a contemporary, minimalist aesthetic.

Taking to Instagram, Yumna shared a series of pictures showcasing her graceful ensemble, simply captioning the post, "Hain na."

For the occasion, the Sinfe Aahan star opted for a vibrant monochrome yellow saree featuring delicate tonal embroidery. The fabric was adorned with subtle floral motifs and vertical geometric detailing running across the saree and pallu, adding texture and dimension while maintaining the outfit's sophisticated appeal.

Yumna kept the styling refreshingly simple, allowing the vivid colour and intricate detailing of the saree to remain the focal point. Her glossy dark-brown hair was left open with a relaxed centre part, cascading naturally over her shoulders and lending an effortless finish to the look.Sticking to a modern and pared-back approach, the actress skipped elaborate traditional jewellery. Instead, she accessorised with a sleek metallic wristwatch and a delicate bracelet, complementing the ensemble without taking attention away from the saree.



Atif Aslam Carpool Karaoke Moment Leaves Fans Completely Delighted

■ In the photos, Alizeh kept it casual yet eye-catching, wearing a fitted orange short-sleeved V-neck T-shirt paired with light-wash denim bottoms.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani singer Atif Aslam has given fans a moment straight out of a dream. A viral video capturing his impromptu Atif Aslam carpool karaoke has taken social media by storm, with countless people calling it the most heartwarming celebrity encounter of the year.

The clip shows a group of excited fans singing one of Atif's most loved songs while sitting in their car. What they didn't expect was for the singer himself to be riding in a nearby vehicle at that very moment.

As soon as Atif noticed the fans belting out his lyrics, he didn't just wave or smile from a distance. He rolled down his window and joined right in, turning an ordinary traffic moment into a memory nobody in that car will forget.

The short video quickly spread across platforms, racking up thousands of shares, likes and comments within hours. Many users described it as proof that Atif remains one of the most humble and approachable stars in the music industry today.

Fans in the comments couldn't stop gushing about how real and unscripted the moment felt. Several people said it reminded them exactly why they fell in love with his music in the first place.

This isn't the first time Atif has shown love for his supporters in public settings. Over the years, he has built a reputation for being warm, down to earth and genuinely connected with the people who follow his career closely.What makes this video special is its spontaneity. There was no camera crew, no planned event and no publicity stunt involved. It was simply two cars, one favorite song and a shared moment of pure joy.

Finneas O'Connell Marries Longtime Girlfriend Claudia Sulewski

■ Billie Eilish Officiates Brother Finneas' Wedding To Claudia Sulewski

SHOWBIZ DESK

SANTA BARBARA





Musician and songwriter Finneas O'Connell has married his longtime girlfriend, YouTuber Claudia Sulewski, in a star-studded ceremony at the San Ysidro Ranch in Santa Barbara, California.

The couple exchanged vows on Saturday during an outdoor wedding attended by several high-profile celebrities.

Finneas' sister, singer Billie Eilish, reportedly officiated the ceremony. Among the guests were Justin Bieber and Hailey Bieber, Dax Shepard, Kristen Bell, Nina Dobrev, Emma Chamberlain, Jason Sudeikis, Carter Gregory, Stassie Karanikolaou and Rachel Sennott.

Eilish's boyfriend, actor Nat Wolff, was also present at the celebration.

Claudia Sulewski's Wedding Looks

Sulewski wore several Oscar de la Renta creations throughout the wedding weekend.

Her standout look was an elegant off-the-shoulder ball gown featuring a drop-waist bodice. She completed the sophisticated ensemble with a scarf-style neckpiece.

During a final fitting ahead of the ceremony, Eilish shared her emotional reaction to the gown in an interview with Vogue, describing the dress as one that demanded a moment of silence.

A Love Story That Inspired Music

Finneas, 29, and Sulewski, 30, first connected on a dating app in 2018. The relationship quickly inspired the musician, who revealed in a 2019 BuzzFeed Celeb interview that he wrote the song "Claudia" just hours after meeting her in person.

Sulewski later became the inspiration behind another of Finneas' songs, "Mona Lisa, Mona Lisa," released in 2022. She also appeared in its music video.

The couple announced their engagement in September 2025 following a romantic mountaintop date.

Sharing the news on social media, they posted the message "forever and ever 9.22", marking another milestone in their relationship.



Minal Khan turns nostalgic as niece Amal Muneeb marks her 7th birthday

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Pakistani actress Minal Khan has melted hearts with a nostalgic birthday tribute to her niece Amal Muneeb, celebrating the little girl's seventh birthday while recreating a cherished memory from five years ago.

Taking to Instagram, Minal shared an adorable video featuring herself holding Amal, the daughter of celebrity couple Muneeb Butt and Aiman Khan, in her lap. The heartfelt post captured the actress reflecting on how quickly her niece has grown.

The video featured the text, "Amal at her 2nd birthday… How big is she now?" It also highlighted Minal wearing the same floral top she had worn in an older photograph, adding a sentimental touch to the celebration.

Minal accompanied the post with an affectionate birthday message, writing: "Can you believe this little girl is all grown up? She's kind, she's smart and she's mine.

Iqra Kanwal gets custom 'Best YouTuber' necklace from supportive husband Areeb



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Popular Pakistani YouTuber Iqra Kanwal was left disappointed after missing out on an official trophy at a recent award ceremony, but her husband, Areeb Pervaiz, stepped in to save the night with a heartwarming gesture.

Taking to her official Instagram account, Iqra shared photos of herself holding the unique jewellery while holding back emotional tears. Showing deep appreciation for her husband, Iqra posted the complete, heartwarming caption,"There is no better love than the love of your family. Thank you Areeb Pervaiz for this beautiful surprise. You've stood by me through every high and low supported every dream and believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. Having you by my side is truly my biggest blessing. Forever grateful for you."

Social media users and fans are swooning over the gesture, widely praising Areeb as the ultimate supportive partner for ensuring his wife felt like a winner regardless of the official results.

A viral post that instantly prompted her sisters and fellow digital creators to flood the comment section with supportive messages, including her sister Hira Faisal dropping ", Rabia Faisal proudly commenting "Best sister also ",

Rajab Butt Introduces Sumaiyya Bukhsh as New Heroine

● Rajab Butt Unveils Sumaiyya Bukhsh as New Heroine on Set

Showbiz Desk

ISLAMABAD



Social media personality Rajab Butt has introduced actress Sumaiyya Bukhsh on the set of his upcoming film, referring to her as the project's "new heroine" and giving fans a glimpse into the lighthearted atmosphere surrounding the shoot.

Rajab welcomed Sumaiyya to the team and shared a playful conversation with her about her first day on set. The actress revealed that she had arrived around 8am and remained on location until approximately 4:30pm.

Joking about the demanding schedule, Rajab told her that she would have to become accustomed to long filming hours. When Sumaiyya asked whether the routine would remain similar, members of the team indicated that the timings would generally be the same.

Sumaiyya responded humorously that she would adjust to the schedule. Rajab continued the banter, joking that the team sometimes followed its own routine and could even end up facing a scolding from Shazi's father.

The actress also discussed director Syed Faisal Bukhari, explaining that she had arrived according to the timing initially communicated to her. Rajab encouraged her to continue being punctual, despite the team's occasionally unpredictable working hours.

The relaxed conversation continued as Shazi joked that the director was effectively the boss and could not easily be reprimanded by anyone.

Rajab later asked Sumaiyya about her career in the entertainment industry. She said she had been working for nearly seven years but revealed that the upcoming project would mark her film debut.

Rajab jokingly described casting her as a risk, while Sumaiyya confidently responded that audiences should wait and see what she could deliver.

The discussion also touched on fellow cast member Dogar. Sumaiyya said she had seen his character and appearance after arriving on set and believed the role had the potential to become popular. Rajab then jokingly asked her to keep an eye on Shazi as well.

Sonya Hussyn bags International best actor award for 'Deemak'

■ Reflecting on the significance of the award, Sonya wrote that the recognition was "not the end of the journey", but rather a reminder to continue telling stories that matter.

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Sonya Hussyn has basking in a career defining achievement after being honoured with the International Best Actor Achievement Award for 'DEEMAK', a recognition she says feels even more special after receiving the honour on home soil.

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a carousel of pictures and clips from the award ceremony, giving fans a glimpse of her memorable evening and glamorous red carpet appearance.

For the occasion, Sonya embraced a sophisticated fusion of vintage Hollywood glamour and modern Eastern elegance. She looked radiant in an ice-blue ensemble intricately adorned with geometric mirror work, metallic sequins and delicate crystal beadwork, creating a dazzling effect under the lights.She elevated the cool toned outfit with a bold berry magenta lip, complemented by flushed pink cheeks and a luminous, dewy complexion. Soft elongated eyeliner, subtle inner corner shimmer and her polished styling completed the sophisticated look. Alongside the pictures, Sonya penned a heartfelt note celebrating her achievement and acknowledging the people who helped bring DEEMAK to life."International Best Actor Achievement Award. DEEMAK," she wrote, describing the international recognition as an extraordinary honour while expressing how meaningful it was to receive the appreciation at home.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan face stern England test

● Hosts aim to build on opening victory against Sri Lanka in the ODI tri-series

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI



Pakistan will look to build on their solid performance in the opening match when they take on England in the second show of the ODI tri-series at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday

Led by Shaheen Shah Afridi, Pakistan made a bright start to the series on Sunday, making a strong comeback to beat Sri Lanka by 37 runs.

Chasing a target of 306, Sri Lanka were well-placed at 253-5 at one stage. However, Haris Rauf dismissed Janith Liyanage 96), triggering a collapse as the visitors lost their last five wickets for just 15 runs.

Shaheen led from the front with figures of 3-55, while Haris, Faheem Ashraf and Naseem Shah supported him well, taking two wickets each.

Earlier, Salman Ali Agha struck a superb 107, his fourth ODI century, to help Pakistan post 305 all out.

akistan were struggling at 118-4 when Agha and Hasan Nawaz, who scored 37, put together a 97-run partnership for the fifth wicket to boost the total.

After losing their openers cheaply, Babar Azam, who scored 45, and debutant wicket-keeper batsman Saad Baig, who made 39, added 74 runs for the third wicket to steady the innings.

However, the subsequent loss of wickets put the hosts under pressure before Agha produced a special knock to strengthen Pakistan's position.

England will pose a tough challenge for Pakistan. The two sides will meet in an ODI for the first time in almost three years.

Their last ODI encounter took place on November 11, 2023, at Eden Gardens d secured a 93-run victory.

in Kolkata during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, when England secured a 93-run victory.

The two teams have played 92 ODIs against each other, with England winning 57 matches and Pakistan claiming 32 victories. Three matches ended without a result.

England have enjoyed a strong run in recent times, performing well in the subcontinent. They beat Sri Lanka 2-1 in an away series and also recorded 2-1 series victories over India and Sri Lanka at home.

A major boost for England is the return of premier leg-spinner Adil Rashid, who has rejoined the squad after a hand injury ruled him out of their recent 2-1 ODI series victory over Sri Lanka.

Sam Curran has also returned after recovering from a groin injury.

However, premier fast bowler Jofra Archer has been rested for the tour, while Jos Buttler has been ruled out because of a hamstring injury sustained against Sri Lanka.

Glamorgan leg-spinner Mason Crane, who is yet to make his ODI debut, has been called up to the squad. He returns to the England setup eight years after his previous international appearance, in the fifth men's Ashes Test in Sydney in 2018. Crane also played two T20 internationals in 2017.

Uncapped Sussex players James Coles and Henry Crocombe, who were both part of England's white-ball squads this summer, have also been included.

"This will be a massive challenge to play against two really good teams in different conditions," England captain Harry Brook said at a pre-series news conference.

"We want to be a team that adapts to conditions and can find different ways to win, and this series provides a perfect opportunity to try and do that."

Brook said England had demonstrated their ability to adapt in recent series, winning in Sri Lanka before beating India and Sri Lanka at home.

Monaco fall at Lorient as last-gasp Sinayoko snatches win for Paris FC

● Rennes dropped to fifth, a point behind, despite forward Esteban Lepaul's hat-trick of penalties in Paris.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Noah Cadiou's second-half penalty for Lorient prevented Monaco returning to the top of Ligue 1 as the principality outfit fell to a 1-0 defeat in Brittany .

Monaco are one of four teams level on points at the top of the table as they were joined by Paris FC, who edged Rennes 4-3 thanks to Lassine Sinayoko's injury-time penalty winner.

Rennes dropped to fifth, a point behind, despite forward Esteban Lepaul's hat-trick of penalties in Paris.

That left champions Paris Saint-Germain, who beat Strasbourg 3-1 on Saturday, top on goals scored ahead of their cross-town rivals and Lille, with Monaco just behind on goal difference.

Wing back Dembo Sylla earned the penalty on the hour mark at the Stade du Moustoir as he was felled by Monaco captain Denis Zakaria.

Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky dived the right way, but Cadiou placed his spot-kick into the corner.

In Paris, Maxime Lopez twice gave the hosts the lead, only for Lepaul, who earned his first France cap in the recent international window, to equalise from the spot.

Lassine Sinayoko looked to have given PFC the victory 15 minutes from time, only for Brazilian substitute Otavio's clumsy handball to hand Lepaul the chance to level up a third time.

But Sinayoko had the last word, drilling home his penalty after VAR intervened to punish Valentin Rongier's shirt tug on the Mali forward.

Marseille picked up a much-needed win as they thumped Angers 5-2 to pull away from the relegation zone.

Lilian Raolisoa gave Angers the lead but Marseille replied with goals before half-time from Himad Abdelli and Nouhoum Kamissoko.

Amine Gouiri scored his fifth goal of the season for Marseille when he tucked home the rebound after his penalty was saved by Anthony Lopes.Amine El Ouazzani struck from the spot to pull a goal back for Angers but late efforts from Amine Harit and Igor Paixao wrapped up just a third win in seven league matches for Marseille.

Bruno Genesio's side began the weekend above the relegation play-off spot only on goal difference, having also lost their first two games in the Europa League.

Le Havre remain rooted to the foot of the table as Cameroon forward Danny Namaso's brace helped Auxerre come away from Normandy with a 3-1 victory.

Salman Ali Agha registers name on Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium Honours board



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha made a brilliant comeback to international cricket by scoring a century against Sri Lanka in the ongoing tri-nation ODI series, registering his name on the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium's honour board, Salman scored 107 off 90 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six. It was his fourth century in ODIs.

The century was particularly significant as it marked Salman's first match since being sent back to Pakistan following the team's defeat in the Lord's Test against England inAugust.

The former Pakistan Test captain was among seven players sent home after the defeat.

He was dropped for the second match against England and sent back before the third Test.

His impressive knock against Sri Lanka provided a strong response on his return to action and helped Pakistan make a positive start to the tri-nation series.

Pakistan will face England in the second match of the tournament on October 20 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



Babar Azam becomes fifth Pakistani to score 16,000 international runs

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Babar Azam has achieved another major milestone in his career, becoming the fifth Pakistani batter to complete 16,000 runs in international cricket.Babar reached the landmark during Pakistan's ODI match against Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

However, despite the achievement, the right-handed batter failed to convert his innings into a big score, departing for 45 runs against the visitors. Babar has been a key figure in Pakistan's batting line-up for several years, representing the country in all three formats of the game — Tests, One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).The 16,000-run milestone reflects his cumulative performance across the three formats of international cricket, adding another significant achievement to his career.

New cricket format 'test twenty' to debut in Colombo in November



SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE

Cricket is set to introduce a new format, "Test Twenty", in which boys and girls will play separate innings but contribute to a single team score in a tournament scheduled to take place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from November 14 to 29, 2026.

According to the organisers, the inaugural tournament will feature 160 young cricketers aged between 13 and 21, divided into four continental teams. Each team will comprise 20 boys and 20 girls.

Under the format, boys will compete against boys and girls against girls, but the combined scores of both sides will determine the overall winner. Each match will consist of 80 overs, divided into two 40-over sessions.

The first 40 overs will be played during daylight using a red ball, with players wearing traditional white clothing. The remaining 40 overs will take place under floodlights, using a white ball and coloured kits.

The tournament's advisory board includes former South African captain AB de Villiers, former Australian batter Matthew Hayden and former West Indies captain Sir Clive Lloyd. Rajkumar Sharma, known for coaching Indian star Virat Kohli during his early years, will head the Global Selection Committee.

The matches will be held at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), with the final scheduled for November 29.

Pakistan-China hockey ties grow as Guangdong team lands in Islamabad

■ Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) officials welcomed the visiting delegation upon arrival, presenting team members with traditional flower garlands and bouquets.

SPORTS DESK

COPENHAGEN



China's Guangdong men's hockey team arrived in Pakistan on Monday for a 13-day tour that includes matches against leading departmental sides and a Pakistan under-18 team, offering domestic players valuable exposure to international competition.

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) officials welcomed the visiting delegation upon arrival, presenting team members with traditional flower garlands and bouquets.

The tour features matches against MPCL, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Customs, Pakistan Rangers and Pakistan Police, as well as a fixture against a Pakistan under-18 side in Gojra.

Guangdong will begin its competitive engagements against MPCL at MPCL Hockey Stadium in Rawalpindi on Tuesday, followed by a match against Pakistan Army on Wednesday at GHQ Stadium, Rawalpindi.

After a rest day, the Chinese side will face Pakistan Navy at Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium in Islamabad on October 23.

The team will then travel to Lahore to play Pakistan Customs at DHA Hockey Stadium on October 25, before taking on Pakistan Rangers at the Sports Complex in Narowal on October 26.

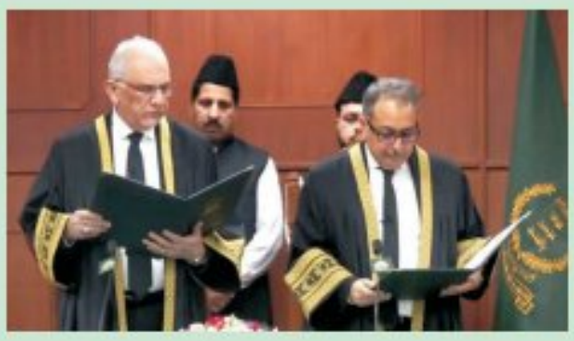
Following another rest day on October 27, Guangdong will meet the Pakistan under-18 side at National Hockey Stadium in Gojra on October 28. The visitors will play their final match against Pakistan Police at DHA Hockey Stadium, Lahore, on October 29, before departing Pakistan on October 30.

The tour will give Pakistan's leading departmental sides an opportunity to assess their match readiness against international opposition, while allowing coaches to evaluate tactical discipline, defensive organisation and attacking efficiency.

The fixture against the under-18 side in Gojra will expose emerging players to a different style of hockey and help identify promising talent and areas for improvement ahead of future competitions.

The matches will help strengthen hockey ties between Pakistan and China and support efforts to revive the national game through regular international competitions.

Scanned with CamScanner



Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi takes oath as acting CJ of FCC

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi has taken oath as the acting chief justice of the Federal Constitutional Court. Justice Aamer Farooq administered the oath during a ceremony held at the Federal Constitutional Court. Judges, judicial officers, court staff and law officers attended the ceremony.

Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi will perform the duties of acting chief justice in the absence of Chief Justice Justice Aminuddin Khan, who is visiting Azerbaijan from October 19 to 22.

According to the information provided, Justice Aminuddin Khan is attending a conference of constitutional courts and institutions exercising constitutional jurisdiction from across the Turkic world.Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi will oversee the responsibilities of the chief justice during his absence.

Pakistan kept Iran-US dialogue alive despite rising tensions, says Mohsin Naqvi

● Interior minister highlights 16-hour discussions involving Pakistani and Qatari leaders

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan made every possible diplomatic effort to ease tensions between Iran and the United States and keep negotiations alive despite repeated setbacks, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said.

He also praised Qatar for consistently prioritising dialogue and supporting diplomatic initiatives to reduce regional tensions.

Addressing the Global Security Forum in Doha, Naqvi highlighted the role of Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in opening channels of communication between Tehran and Washington. He said Pakistan's diplomatic engagement aimed to prevent further escalation and avert a wider conflict in the region.

Naqvi said Pakistan remained committed to resolving disputes through negotiations and diplomacy, even when tensions threatened to derail discussions. He credited Asim Munir with playing a significant role in establishing contacts with international leaders and creating opportunities for dialogue between the two sides.



The interior minister said he had accompanied the field marshal on visits to Iran and participated in meetings with senior Iranian officials. These engagements, he added, formed part of Pakistan's efforts to maintain communication and create conditions conducive to negotiations.

According to Naqvi, the diplomatic process encountered several moments of extreme tension. However, Pakistan continued its engagement and ensured that communication channels remained open.

He said the central objective was to prevent the conflict from spreading and protect the region from a potentially devastating escalation.

Naqvi also referred to Pakistan's hosting of negotiations in Islamabad in April. He said the United States and Iran signed an Islamabad memorandum of understanding in June, highlighting the diplomatic efforts undertaken to bring the two sides closer.

He further recalled a 16-hour negotiating process in Switzerland involving Pakistani and Qatari leaders, underscoring the sustained engagement between the two countries over efforts to address the dispute.

Praising Doha's diplomatic approach, Naqvi said Pakistan valued Qatar's contribution to efforts to resolve the Iran-US conflict. He noted that Qatar had consistently favoured continuing negotiations and supported diplomatic initiatives intended to reduce tensions across the region.

He stressed that Pakistan and its partners were not seeking credit for diplomatic achievements. Instead, their priority was to prevent further confrontation and protect innocent lives.Naqvi said Pakistan wanted a future in which disagreements could be resolved through dialogue before they developed into wars, adding that diplomatic channels must remain open even during periods of heightened tension.

The minister also highlighted the Makkah joint defence agreement involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, describing it as significant for regional security.

He said the agreement was defensive in nature and intended to strengthen security and defence cooperation rather than promote military action.

Naqvi also called for stronger cooperation against terrorism, emphasising the need to improve intelligence-sharing arrangements and make joint efforts more effective.

President Zardari, PM Shehbaz urge women to seek timely medical advice on breast cancer

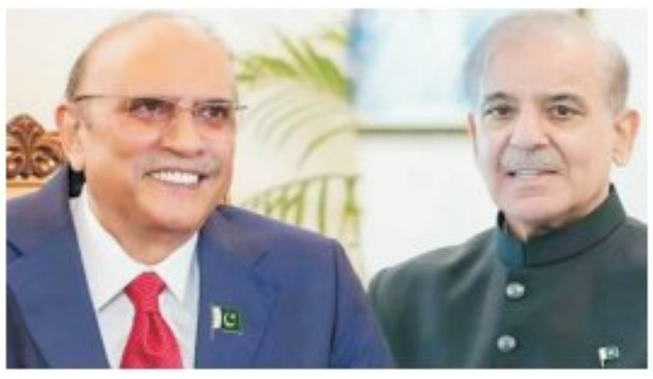
● President Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif and First Lady Aseefa Bhutto urge women to seek timely breast cancer advice, stressing early detection, treatment and support.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari, First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have urged women to seek timely medical advice if they have any concerns about their health on Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

In his message, President Asif Ali Zardari said breast cancer affected thousands of Pakistani families, with its consequences extending beyond patients to affect the social and emotional lives of entire families. He encouraged women to pay attention to changes in their health and seek appropriate medical advice.

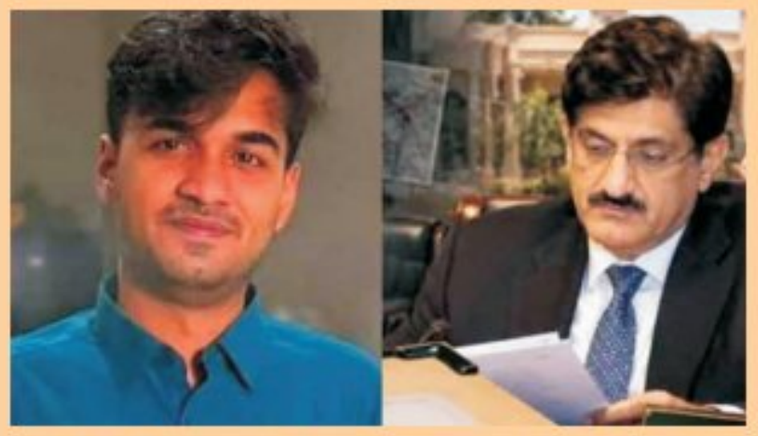


The president said families and society should create an environment in which women could openly discuss health concerns and access medical facilities without fear or hesitation. He also stressed the need to provide emotional, social and family support to women living with breast cancer and those who had completed treatment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said breast cancer awareness, early detection, quality treatment and continued care were important concerns. He said the government was committed to ensuring that no Pakistani woman was deprived of timely and quality treatment because of her location or financial circumstances.

The prime minister said the government was working with relevant federal, provincial and local institutions to improve access to primary healthcare services and specialised cancer treatment. He emphasised the need to pay particular attention to women in rural and underserved areas, where access to healthcare facilities remained limited.

He said lady health workers were playing an important role in raising awareness among women about breast cancer symptoms, self-examination, timely medical advice and the need to visit healthcare facilities. Special training was also being provided to strengthen the capacity of primary healthcare staff in early detection.



CM Murad receives judicial commission's inquiry report on Mir Raza case

■ This report is being considered important regarding the Mir Raza case, as the points and recommendations it contains can play an important role in determining the future course of action.

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has received a sealed report regarding the Mir Raza case.

The provincial cabinet will also take a final decision regarding the implementation of the report's recommendations.

According to the spokesperson for the Chief Minister of Sindh, the Sindh cabinet meeting will be held at the Chief Minister's House, where the sealed report will be opened and placed before the cabinet.After reviewing the report, the provincial cabinet will take the final decision regarding its implementation.

This report is being considered important regarding the Mir Raza case, as the points and recommendations it contains can play an important role in determining the future course of action.However, the contents of the report have not yet been released, so it is not clear what aspects it highlights and what actions are recommended.

Earlier, the judicial commission investigating the death of Mir Raza has submitted its inquiry report to the Sindh government, leaving the provincial administration to decide whether the findings should be made public.

Additional Secretary of the Sindh Home Department Javed Abro received the report, which comprises four volumes and was submitted in a sealed envelope, according to sources. The report and its covering letter are addressed to Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah.

Speaking after receiving the report, Abro said the commission's findings had been handed over to the government and that any further action would be decided by the provincial administration. He added that although the commission's proceedings were held in open court, the report itself had been delivered in a sealed envelope.

According to details of the inquiry, statements from 49 people were recorded as part of the proceedings. The commission held 15 hearings and recorded two statements through video link.

People of KP reject politics of chaos, protests: Amir Muqam

■ Minister said the lack of public support for PTI's protest call demonstrated that the people of the province preferred development over political confrontation.

Staff Reporter

SWAT

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Amir Muqam has claimed that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have rejected what he described as "politics of chaos" and expressed their desire for peace, development and prosperity.

Addressing a rally in Swat, Muqam said the lack of public support for PTI's protest call demonstrated that the people of the province preferred development over political confrontation.

He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were politically aware and had made their



priorities clear. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not anyone's personal property," he said, adding that the public wanted progress rather than unrest.

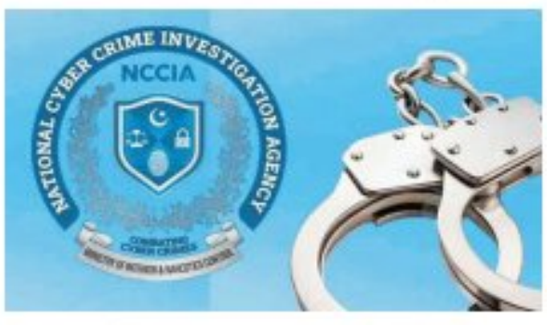
Criticising PTI, the federal minister said the party had been given the mandate to govern the province three times but had failed to meet public expectations. He alleged that corruption and mismanagement had prevailed during PTI's tenure, claiming that the province had suffered over the past 13 years.

Muqam also said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were welcoming the initiatives taken by the federal government.

He highlighted the sacrifices made by the province's residents in the fight against terrorism, saying their contributions should not be overlooked.

The minister maintained that the people of the province wanted lasting peace, economic development and prosperity instead of protests and political unrest.

NCCIA arrests 1,129 suspects in nationwide cybercrime crackdown



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has arrested 1,129 suspects in nationwide operations against cybercriminals over the course of one month, while recovering Rs105.3 million and returning the amount to victims.

According to the agency's monthly performance report, issued after Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi assumed charge as NCCIA director general, the agency received 5,176 complaints during the previous month. The complaints led to the registration of 4,491 inquiries, while 272 cases were registered against individuals allegedly involved in cybercrime following the completion of investigations. The report highlighted the agency's enforcement efforts against cybercriminal activities and its measures to recover money for affected individuals.

NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said protecting citizens in the digital space remained the agency's top priority. He added that the agency would continue to strictly implement a zero-tolerance policy against cybercrime.

Rizvi further stated that as the digital world had become an integral part of national life, protecting citizens, institutions and digital infrastructure was not merely the responsibility of law enforcement agencies but also a critical national need.



Aiwan-e-Sadr illuminated in pink to mark Pinktober, the annual breast cancer awareness campaign

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