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Asim Munir meets Iranian president as Tehran demands US fulfil seven conditions

- Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi accompanied the army chief during his meeting with the Iranian president,

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in Tehran on Tuesday as Pakistan continued its efforts to mediate an agreement between Iran and the United States.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi accompanied the army chief during his meeting with the Iranian president,



according to Iranian state broadcaster Press TV, which released photographs of the meeting. Iran's official news agency IRNA also released a photograph of Munir's meeting with Qalibaf, during which the Iranian side expressed deep distrust of the United States and insisted that Washington fulfil seven conditions presented by Tehran in New York.Qalibaf said the United States could not regain Iran's trust without meeting those conditions."I clearly told the US vice president that the long history of negative actions taken by the US against Iran, both before and after the Islamic Revolution, has fostered deep distrust toward the US in our hearts," Qalibaf said, according to IRNA.

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'Not a suicide': Judicial Commission report calls for fresh Mir Raza murder probe

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

A judicial commission investigating the death of 25-year-old Mir Raza Ali has ruled that he was murdered, not that he died by suicide, describing the initial police investigation as an "epic failure" marked by serious negligence, procedural violations and compromised evidence.

The Sindh government released the report on Tuesday, recommending a fresh, intelligence-based investigation through a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) led by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Irfan Baloch. The commission also called for a high-level inquiry into the conduct of police officers involved in the first 10 days of the investigation, including whether evidence was concealed or manipulated.



PM Shehbaz's visit to Peshawar cancelled due to official commitments

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's scheduled visit to Peshawar on Tuesday has been cancelled due to his official engagements, according to sources.

The prime minister was expected to receive a briefing on the overall situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including law and order, administrative affairs and ongoing development projects.

Sources said a high-level meeting chaired by the prime minister was also planned at the Governor House in Peshawar to review key provincial challenges and recent developments.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi were also scheduled to accompany the prime minister during the visit.

PM ready to hold talks with all parties on counterterrorism: Rana Sanaullah

- Sanaullah said KP government had not been cooperating with the federal government over the province's terrorism situation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Senator Rana Sanaullah has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is ready to hold talks with all political parties on counterterrorism efforts.Speaking during a Senate session on Tuesday, Rana Sanaullah invited political parties to meet the prime minister and discuss ways to address the country's security challenges.

He said the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had not been cooperating with the federal government over the province's terrorism situation, while the Balochistan government was



extending full cooperation to the Centre. "The prime minister is ready to sit with all political parties to discuss this issue," Rana Sanaullah said, reiterating that the offer of dialogue remained open.

He also urged Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai to meet the prime minister, saying he had personally approached him and asked him to set aside his differences and engage in talks.

Rana Sanaullah said Achakzai had assumed the office of opposition leader after his appointment was signed by the National Assembly speaker, but had been reluctant to visit the speaker's chamber.

The adviser added that opposition representatives did not attend meetings of the apex committee, where security matters were discussed openly. He stressed that the country was confronting terrorism and referred to the recent martyrdom of an army major.He further alleged that some participants used meetings to direct abusive language at state institutions and build narratives against them. He said restrictions on meetings would be imposed in accordance with applicable rules and laws.



Security forces protect future generations with their blood: Abdul Aleem Khan

- Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to strengthen their security partnership and expand internal security cooperation during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Qatari counterpart.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Qatar have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in internal security and further strengthen their security partnership.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who also serves as commander of Qatar's Internal Security Force, in Doha.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to expand cooperation in areas related to internal security and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening ties between their respective ministries.

The discussions also covered the prevailing regional situation and matters concerning peace and stability in the region.

Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan and Qatar were working together to promote regional peace and stability.

He emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between the two countries.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, meanwhile, said Qatar attached great importance to its relations with Pakistan.

Both sides agreed to further reinforce their security partnership and continue working together on matters of mutual interest.

Russia offers mediation To help ease Pak-Afghan tensions



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Russia has offered to help ease tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Russian Ambassador Albert P Khureyev, while addressing the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad on the topic of Pakistan-Russia relations, said that he wants an early resolution of the border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the restoration of border crossings.

He expressed concern over reports of terrorist infiltration into Pakistan from Afghan territory and the impact of border closures on regional trade. Addressing the Insttute of Strategic Studies, Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Faisal Niaz Tirmizi has spoken of opportunities for cooperation between Islamabad and Moscow on counterterrorism and law enforcement in wake of Russian interior minister's recent visit to Pakistan.

He emphasised the need to translate growing political engagement into practical cooperation that supports trade, student mobility and regional connectivity. The envoy dilated at length on regional security and called for stronger economic, educational and people-to-people ties with Russia. Talking about trade and connectivity, Ambassador Tirmizi prioritised visa facilitation, direct flights and arrangements to address banking and payment constraints.

PHC seeks Centre's response over imposition of emergency, governor's rule in K-P

- Gohar says their mandate was snatched away, claiming that 12 party MNAs and 14 MPAs has been picked up

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday issued notices to the federal government, the attorney general, the advocate general and other relevant authorities on petitions challenging the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), after petitioners' counsel argued that the measures were unconstitutional and had been imposed without fulfilling the legal requirements.

A division bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Muhammad Faheem Wali heard the petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and National Democratic Movement (NDM) leaders,



including Mohsin Dawar.

During the hearing, the petitioners' counsel argued that the provincial government had not lost control of the province and that the imposition of emergency and governor's rule amounted to an attack on provincial autonomy and democracy.

Barrister Sameer Khosa, representing the petitioners, argued that no circumstances indicated the provincial government was unable to maintain control of the province. He said non-functional K-P chief minister Sohail Afridi and provincial assembly speaker Babar Saleem Swati were missing and their whereabouts were unknown.

Justice Anwar asked whether the petition sought their production before the court or their recovery. "Yes, we have made that request in the petition," Khosa replied.

Citing the Supreme Court's judgment in the Pir Sabir Shah case, Khosa argued that even if an emergency was imposed, the chief minister and cabinet would continue to function. In the present case, however, the chief minister, cabinet and advocate had been prevented from performing their duties and rendered inactive, he said.

Khosa urged the court to restore the provincial assembly and secure the release of Afridi and Swati.

Petitioners' counsel PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja argued that governor's rule and emergency had been imposed without fulfilling the legal requirements.

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Azma Bokhari wins defamation case against Moeen Qureshi

- Moeen Qureshi had alleged that Bokhari arranged for between 150 and 200 paid individuals to enter the assembly premises during KP CM visit



SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has won a defamation case against Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Moeen Qureshi, who has been ordered to pay her Rs84 million in damages.

Azma Bokhari had filed a defamation suit against Moeen Qureshi before the Defamation Tribunal in Lahore under the Defamation Act over remarks he made during a television programme.

Her lawyer, Ali Bokhari, presented arguments on her behalf during the proceedings.

The case stemmed from allegations made by Qureshi regarding an incident during a visit by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister to the Punjab Assembly.

Moeen Qureshi had alleged that Bokhari arranged for between 150 and 200 paid individuals to enter the assembly premises during the visit.

He had also claimed that journalists who questioned KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi were paid employees of the Punjab information minister.

Azma Bokhari challenged the allegations through a defamation suit, seeking Rs84 million in damages.



Spectators watch the cricket match between the England and Pakistan teams during the ODI Tri-Nation Series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

BISP Introduces Digital Wallet Interoperability for Nationwide Cash Withdrawals

- The six partner banks include HBL, Habib Microfinance, Bank Alfalah, Telenor Microfinance, Bank of Punjab and Mobilink/Jazz Bank.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



:Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid on Tuesday said women beneficiaries would be able to withdraw their funds from any authorized retailer of six partner banks in any city across Pakistan, on any day and at any time, following the introduction of interoperability in digital wallet payments.

She made these remarks while listening to the concerns of 28 callers during a live E-Kachehri held at BISP Headquarters, directing the relevant officials to resolve their complaints on a priority basis.

Senator Rubina Khalid said the interoperability feature would remove restrictions on beneficiaries withdrawing funds through a particular bank or within a specific city, providing them greater flexibility and convenience in accessing their payments.

The six partner banks include HBL, Habib Microfinance, Bank Alfalah, Telenor Microfinance, Bank of Punjab and Mobilink/Jazz Bank.

She said the digital wallet payment system had been introduced on the directives of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to ensure secure and transparent payments to women beneficiaries.

The chairperson advised beneficiaries to obtain their free Benazir SIMs exclusively from BISP offices.

They must bring their original Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) and personal mobile phones to collect the SIMs. Activation would be carried out by a representative of the relevant mobile network operator at the BISP office or designated site.

She also advised women beneficiaries to retain confirmation messages received after fund transfers and withdrawals for their records and cautioned them against handing over their mobile phones to retailers or agents during cash withdrawals.

She emphasized that an original CNIC and biometric verification would be mandatory for withdrawing funds.

Senator Rubina Khalid further urged women beneficiaries whose CNICs had expired to renew them through the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) without delay.

Clarifying the survey process, she said household eligibility was determined through the BISP survey and that a repeat survey could not be conducted until two years had elapsed since the previous survey.

Rs920m scam unearthed in KP education department

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Alleged financial irregularities amounting to Rs920 million have been reported in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Education Department during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, according to a report.

The alleged irregularities reportedly occurred during a one-year period when Shahram Khan Tarakai was serving as the provincial education minister.

According to the report, irregularities worth Rs374.3 million were identified in the provision of tablets to newly recruited teachers through district education officers.

The report further stated that tablets valued at Rs424.7 million were distributed among 15,000 individuals. A scrutiny committee was subsequently formed to investigate the matter and examine the distribution and return of the devices.

However, the committee's report found that only 1,779 tablets had been returned to the Directorate, while the remaining 13,221 tablets were reported missing.

The reported findings have raised questions about the procurement, distribution and accountability mechanisms within the provincial education department. Further investigation would be required to establish responsibility for the alleged irregularities and determine the whereabouts of the missing tablets.

During the year 22-23, irregularities worth Rs 48.7 million were reported in the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mardan in the purchase of paper.

The award of the contract to Manzoor Nazar firm in violation of government rules and regulations caused a loss of Rs 192 million to the treasury.

LHC restores defamation claim dismissed over limitation period

- LHC restores a defamation claim, ruling that citizens cannot lose legal rights because the government failed to establish a special tribunal on time.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi Bench has ruled that when a special tribunal is required by law to enforce a legal right, the government's failure to establish it within the prescribed period cannot deprive a citizen of that right.

The court set aside an order dismissing a defamation claim on limitation grounds and remanded the case to the relevant tribunal for a decision on merit.

A two-member bench comprising Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf and Justice Anwar Hussain announced the verdict while allowing an appeal filed by Muhammad Farooq Malik. The appellant had challenged an order issued by the Rawalpindi Defamation Tribunal on January 13, 2026, dismissing his claim as time-barred under the Punjab Defamation Act 2024.

According to the judgment, the appellant became aware of the alleged defamation in April 2025. Although the Punjab Defamation Act had already come into force, special tribunals to hear defamation cases had not yet been established.

The appellant approached a regular civil court on July 28, 2025, seeking damages. The judgment noted that the Punjab government subsequently established defamation tribunals through a notification dated September 22, 2025, and defined their territorial jurisdiction.

On November 6, 2025, the civil court returned the claim, directing the appellant to approach the competent forum. After obtaining a certified copy of the order, the appellant filed his claim before the Defamation Tribunal on November 13, 2025. However, the tribunal dismissed it on the grounds that the limitation period had expired.

The high court observed that when the appellant initially approached the civil court to protect his rights, the legally authorised special tribunal did not exist. Following the tribunal's establishment, he approached the relevant forum without unnecessary delay.

In these circumstances, the court held, dismissing the claim solely

LPG price skyrockets to historic high in Lahore

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) reached a historic high in Lahore as LPG is being sold from Rs550 to Rs580 per kilogram,

According to the details, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) fixed the LPG price at Rs279.34 per kilogram, but the shopkeepers are charging consumers an excessive amount on their own. The shopkeepers said that plant owners are responsible for the increase in LPG prices. One citizen said that the government should take effective action against the plant owners.

Another citizen complained that due to the non-availability of sui gas, consumers have no other choice except to purchase the LPG at a higher price. He appealed to the district administration and relevant departments to ensure the sale of LPG at fixed government prices.

WAPDA
Decade of Dams

Request for Bids (Through e-Bidding)

ICB No. MW-2/RFB/DBDC

1. Diamer Basha Development Company (Pvt.) Limited (DBDC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) the Employer, through Chief Engineer/PD Diamer Basha Dam Project, invites electronic bids from eligible Bidders.
2. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive bidding using Single-Stage Two Envelope Request for Proposal (RFP) and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Bidding Documents for the works **"Diamer Basha Dam Project Contract MW-2: Civil Works for Both Power Houses (Left & Right Bank) Including Headrace Tunnels, Surge Shafts & Tailrace Tunnels of Diamer Basha Dam"**. Detailed Evaluation and Qualification Criteria is mentioned under Section III of this Bidding Documents.
3. The electronic bids must be submitted using EPADS V 1.0 on or before **15 December, 2026 11:00 AM**. Manual bids are not accepted. Electronic Bids will be opened on same date at **11:30 AM** in the Office of Chief Engineer/PD Diamer Basha Dam Project, Chilas, Gilgit Baltistan in the presence of bidders' representatives who chose to attend.
4. E-Bidding documents as per regulations, containing detailed terms and conditions, specification, requirements and drawings etc. are available on PPRA E-PAD Portal at **https://www.eprocure.gov.pk**.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security amount to **"PKR. 4,000 Million"** or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Bidders in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled bank in Pakistan in favor of General Manager/Project Director, Diamer Basha Dam Project before the closing time and date. Electronic Bids submitted without Bid Security or after the specified deadline shall be declared non-responsive.
6. The Original Bid Security (only) must be delivered to the, O/o Chief Engineer / PD Diamer Basha Dam office, WAPDA House Lahore at Room # 173, Or WAPDA Colony Thor, Diamer, Gilgit Baltistan on or before the deadline.
7. The Advertisement is also available on WAPDA and PPRA's Website.

Chief Engineer / Project Director
Diamer Basha Dam Project, WAPDA
Tel: 05812- 920287, Email: gmceodbdo@gmail.com

PID(L)1835/26 PRD(L)/WAPDA/099(2026-27)

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشت گردی خضدار

اشتہار بحکم احضار شخص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ 1997ء
FIR نمبر 128/2026 CTD خضدار مسمی (1) ترجمان اختر ندیم عرف میجر
گہرام بلوچ ولد بخش قوم بلوچ سکنہ آواران (2) اللہ نذر ولد نبی بخش قوم محمد حسنی سکنہ مشکے جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (1) (a) (b) (i) -7 (2) 11G .11W-21(i) ATA کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان پر ارتکاب جرم کا شبہ ہے از روئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بطیق نالش جاری ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ ملزمان مذکورہ بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کئے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان (1) اختر ندیم ولد اعل بخش (2) اللہ نذر ولد نبی بخش کو لازم ہے بتاریخ 26-10-2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی خضدار بمقام خضدار میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائے۔

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اشتہار بحکم احضار شخص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ 1997ء
FIR نمبر 107/2026 پولیس تھانہ صدر مسمی (1) سفیر احمد عرف جیئد ولد
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NAB summons special assistant to dysfunctional CM Afridi in corruption inquiry

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR



The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has issued notices under Section 19 of the National Accountability Ordinance, 1999, as part of an ongoing inquiry involving Dr Amjad Ali, MPA and Special Assistant to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dysfunctional Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Housing.

The inquiry concerns allegations of possessing assets beyond known sources of income, corruption and corrupt practices.

NAB has summoned four witnesses, Bacha Syed, Muhammad Arif Shah, Siraj Ahmed and Naveed Ahmed, to record their statements and provide relevant documents between October 20 and 22.

The bureau has also sought records relating to the allotment, ownership and payments of plots associated with Islamabad's Eighteen Housing Society and the Jalozai Housing Scheme.Additionally, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Accounts Department has been directed to furnish records of Dr Amjad Ali's salary, allowances, incentives and travel expenses.

NAB has warned that legal action, including prosecution, may be initiated against the relevant individuals if the requested records are not provided.

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The Medal of Peace and the Yoke of Inflation



By: Aasi, Islamabad

The story begins with a strange contradiction. The president of the world's most powerful nation stands on the White House lawn calling Pakistan's army chief a "fantastic person." Islamabad is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Newspapers across the globe crown Pakistan the "unlikely peace broker." And at that very moment, on a street in that very city, a motorcyclist stands at a petrol pump doing the math — at three hundred and ten rupees a litre, how much fuel can he afford today and still make it home with something left in his pocket. Both scenes are unfolding in the same country, at the same time, under the same government. This contradiction is the real story of today's Pakistan.

Let's begin with the diplomatic triumph, because it is genuinely a remarkable tale. In February 2026, the United States and Israel launched a war on Iran. Lasting more than a hundred days, it shook the entire Middle East and threw global energy markets into turmoil. And in the middle of it, Pakistan did what no major power, no major global institution, had managed to do in five decades. On April 11 and 12, Islamabad hosted the first direct, high-level talks between the United States and Iran since 1979. A three-hundred-member American delegation led by Vice President JD Vance, alongside special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, sat across from a seventy-member Iranian delegation led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, for twenty-one hours of talks. The first round ended without a breakthrough — but it was a beginning, one that would later be called the "Islamabad Process."

Field Marshal Asim Munir made a flurry of calls to American officials in the hours before Trump's deadline for a strike on Iran expired, and out of that came a two-week ceasefire on April 8. That ceasefire nearly collapsed more than once, but Pakistani diplomats — Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar chief among them — kept shuttling between Washington and Tehran. Working quietly alongside Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and Egypt, with little public fanfare, they kept the process alive until, in June, Shehbaz Sharif announced on social media that the US and Iran had agreed on a final text. On June 17, Washington released the full fourteen-point agreement, and negotiations over its implementation continued at the Lake Lucerne Summit in Switzerland, mediated jointly by Pakistan and Qatar.

Why was Pakistan the country that could pull this off? The answer lies in its geography. On one side, a strategic defence pact with Saudi Arabia. On another, a five-hundred-and-sixty-mile border with Iran and deep religious and cultural ties. On a third, a long-standing military relationship with the United States. And on a fourth, a deepening strategic partnership with China. No other country stood at all four corners simultaneously. But behind this success lay something less often discussed in the glowing profiles: Pakistan's own desperation. Its economy was already struggling to stabilise, inflation was running high, and a prolonged war meant costlier oil, shrinking remittances from the Gulf, and millions of Pakistani workers' livelihoods at risk. The World Bank had cut its Middle East growth forecast for 2026 to just 1.8 percent. For Pakistan, mediation was never simply a matter of diplomatic prestige — it was a fight for economic survival. That is why Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar flew to Beijing on March 31 to present a five-point peace plan jointly with China, and why, that same month, Pakistan carried Iran's fifteen-point proposal to Washington. There is another layer to this story worth noting: Pakistan read Trump's psychology well. It nominated him for the Nobel Prize, joined his "Board of Peace," signed a deal with Washington to explore Pakistan's oil reserves, and struck a partnership with his crypto platform, World Liberty Financial. Former senator Mushahid Hussain Syed put it bluntly to the Washington Post: "We read him right." A decade earlier, this same Trump had accused Pakistan of "lies and deceit." Today, he hosts Field Marshal Asim Munir alone for lunch at the White House.

It is a diplomatic reversal so sharp that even Pakistani diplomats admit to being somewhat surprised by it.

But it would be unfair to present this success without its criticisms. US Senator Lindsey Graham said plainly he didn't trust Pakistan with the negotiations, calling its role "problematic" given its stance on Israel and the Abraham Accords. Chatham House's Chietigj Bajpaee notes that since Pakistan has no diplomatic relations with Israel, its leverage as a mediator was always going to be limited. The Stimson Center's analysis points out that Pakistan's own political vulnerabilities — including American overtures to Pakistan's opposition and calls for Imran Khan's release — complicated the mediation's early stages.

In other words, the story is not as tidy as the official narrative suggests. And yet, the fact remains: Pakistan achieved something that had eluded major powers and international institutions since the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and Nixon's opening to China.

Now to the other side of this contradiction — and here the tone of this column must change, because in the glow of diplomatic victory, the face of the ordinary citizen tends to disappear. On July 11, 2026 — the very week the world was praising Pakistan's diplomatic skill — the Petroleum Division issued a notification raising petrol prices by thirteen rupees eighteen paisas per litre.



By: Ehtsham Dar

Hormuz at the Centre of a Gathering Storm

A decisive move away from an unjust, exploitative bureaucratic model toward a social welfare service model — because injustice breeds only more injustice, impatience, and brutality, regardless of who is responsible."*



In the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, despite devolution of powers under the 18th Amendment and the constitutional guarantee of Article 10-A of the 1973 Constitution, the timely collection of standard evidence remains critically compromised. Due to the archaic, exploitative bureaucratic model enforced within the police, the criminal justice system is under severe strain. This is evident in a 73.41% ratio of under-trial prisoners, a dismal 12% conviction rate, an imbalanced police-to-population ratio of 1:517, rigid adherence to an "Elitistan" model, and a ranking of 130th out of 143 countries by a reputable international institution in justice delivery.

This severe strain on the social contract between the citizen and the state demands a living, realistic, robust, and sincere dialogue to transition from an archaic bureaucratic model to a modern, social welfare-oriented service model. Injustice breeds nothing but more injustice, impatience, and brutality — regardless of who is responsible.

While individuals within institutions are undoubtedly vital due to their academic, legal, and professional competence, coupled with sincerity and hard work, they are not indispensable. Institutions themselves are indispensable because of their foundational mandate, the

uninterrupted social benefits they deliver, and their capacity to adapt to changing realities. Change is the only constant. To date, no institution in Pakistan — especially the police — can claim immunity from this reality.

Grounded in Article 10-A of the 1973 Constitution, Pakistan's criminal justice system faces severe institutional challenges in delivering timely, non-discriminatory, and cost-free justice to uphold the rule of law. The system comprises the police, prosecution, judiciary, correctional centers, and prisons.

Operating with scarce resources and inadequate personnel, the police face systemic failures: investigations and challans are rarely completed within statutory timelines; duty hours are undefined; investigation funds are chronically delayed; and prosecution cooperation is lacking. Prisons suffer from extreme overcrowding. The judicial process is plagued by countless adjournments. There is a complete absence of comprehensive institutional accountability — from the junior-most to the senior-most ranks. As a result, performance has been reduced to a digital fluctuation of statistics, the burden of which is borne by both the ordinary citizen and the state. Consequently, citizens are left invoking historical metaphors — requiring the wealth of Croesus, the patience of Job, and the lifespan of Noah — merely to witness justice.

The Police: First Interface and the "Pro Max Elitistan" Model

The police are the first and most critical interface between the citizen and the state in ensuring the rule of law. The police service is meant to provide employees with a dignified livelihood to lead purposeful lives, guaranteeing the protection of life, property, and honor without compliance with the law.However, officers perform security, protocol, ceremonial, judicial, and administrative duties without fixed working hours.

prejudice and in full compliance with the law.However, officers perform security, protocol, ceremonial, judicial, and administrative duties without fixed working hours.

Originating from the same society, the police department also suffers from a societal "neuro-cardio disease" of extreme materialism, self-interest, sycophancy, backbiting, and social media-driven validation for immediate financial gain. In a capitalist system, the prescribed remedy is the "Pro Max Elitistan" model, which grants senior officers endless privileges, immunities, and vast discretionary powers.

Nurtured by capitalist educational institutions, this model prioritizes competitive grade-chasing over character-building and makes a luxurious lifestyle the ultimate goal. To achieve it, societal narratives erode the distinction between _halal_ and _haram_, fueling social intolerance.

Meanwhile, the physical and mental degradation of junior officers is even deeper. They live in continuous uncertainty, are alienated from their families, and face systemic humiliation while trying to preserve self-respect. This inflicts irreparable damage on their professional efficacy, well-being, and moral character.

Systemic Flaws and Structural Breakdown

The decay rests on three fundamental pillars:

1. The Criminal Procedure Code 1898: Designed for colonial subjugation, not citizen rights. Ostensibly adversarial, but in practice accused-centric.

2. Over-reliance on Oral Testimony: Approx. 90% of judicial decisions rely on verbal testimony. Forensic and digital evidence remain discretionary under Article 164 of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order 1984.

3. The "Pro Max Elitistan" Model: Prioritizes serving the elite over public welfare. Performance is reduced to a "digital depiction of figures." *Administrative and Constitutional Deficiencies*

1. Absence of a Provincial Police Service: Post-18th Amendment, law and order is a provincial subject, but no integrated provincial cadre from Constable to IG exists. Public Safety Commissions remain dysfunctional.

Current laws: Punjab Police Order 2002, KP Police Act 2017, Balochistan Police Act 2011, Sindh Police Act 2019.

2. Compromised Evidence: Due to severe resource shortages and lack of timely forensic support.

3. Normalization of Corruption: Bribery and misappropriation of operational resources are normalized.

4. No Victim Standing: The aggrieved party has no locus standi during bail, framing of charges, or sentencing. The prosecutor represents only the state. The "presumption of innocence," without scientific evidence, grants de facto impunity. *5. Budget Distortion*: A massive portion of the provincial police budget is consumed by salaries, pensions, protocol, VIP security, and judicial duties — leaving junior officers to bear operational shortfalls.*A. Under-Trial Overcrowding*: Per _The Express Tribune_, Jan 30, 2026, 72.5% to 73.41% of inmates in Punjab are under-trial. International standard: 27%. Example: Central Jail Gujranwala capacity 1,425; current population over 5,300 — a violation of Article 9.



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 summit addressed the aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, supported Palestinian and Arab causes, and elevated Pakistan's stature as a bridge among Islamic nations. From this unity flowed a shared mission that propelled the country forward.Throughout its history, Pakistan has answered

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 appreciation for its balanced diplomacy. Cooperation with Turkey has deepened through bilateral deals in defence and trade, while Kuwait and other regional states have expressed interest in similar partnerships. Pakistan's armed forces, with approximately

650,000–685,000 active 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.



Balochistan Home Minister Ziaullah Langove along with Shahid Rind and Additional Chief Secretary for Home Hamza Shafqat addressing a press conference regarding improvement of law and order situation in Quetta

Scanned with CamScanner

PM warns FBR officers against strikes, demands performance: sources

■ "Blackmailing by any officer is unacceptable. Focus on your work instead of going on strike," the prime minister said, according to sources.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has warned Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) officers against strikes and blackmailing tactics, saying only officials who deliver results will remain in the organization, sources told 24 News.

During a meeting on FBR affairs, the prime minister took notice of a recent strike call by FBR officers and directed them to focus on their responsibilities.

"Blackmailing by any officer is unacceptable. Focus on your work instead of going on strike," the prime minister said, according to sources.

Shehbaz Sharif said he expected results from the FBR and made it clear that officers failing to perform their duties would have no place in the organization.

He directed the FBR chairman and federal ministers to ensure that only performing officers continued to serve in the tax authority.

The prime minister questioned the performance of FBR officers despite the provision of new vehicles, facilities and substantial perks.



Commerce Minister Jam Kamal holds talks with US envoy Natalie Baker with focus on advancing bilateral trade agreement, expanding market access and investment cooperation, agri exports, minerals

FM Aurangzeb reviews macroeconomic performance with IMF officials

■ The finance minister highlighted improvements in the country's fiscal and external balances, revenue collection AND foreign exchange reserves

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The US dollar churned at the start of trading in Asia on Tuesday as a tepid recovery in investor confidence bolstered higher-yielding currencies, but growing political risk in Europe continued to test traders' nerves.

The euro was steady at $1.1216, while the British pound rose 0.1% to $1.3308. The Australian dollar was up 0.1% at $0.6986, while its New Zealand counterpart nudged 0.1% higher to $0.5668.

Against the ?yen , the US dollar was flat at 158.56 yen ahead of an ?auction of 20-year Japanese government bonds.



"FX markets reflected the improvement in risk appetite, with higher-carry currencies finding buyers," said Chris Weston, head of research ?at Pepperstone Group in Melbourne.

"Europe was less convincing," Weston said. "French sovereign risk is clearly being priced into European equities, but the euro's resilience suggests traders aren't yet treating it as a systemic European problem."

French authorities set curfews in several cities on Monday after nationwide anti-government ?protests plunged President Emmanuel Macron's final months in office into turmoil.

In Italy, the government ?said it will dispatch 500 troops after two days of unrest.

"The spread of French government bonds over ?Germany ?has come under renewed widening pressure against the backdrop of violent protests grabbing the headlines," ING analysts wrote in a client note.

"Tuesday will likely see more headlines around the 2027 budget, as (the French) Parliament is slated for a first formal ?vote on the revenue ?section of the ?finance bill."

The spread between French and German 10-year government bonds widened 9.9 basis points on Monday to 147.3 basis points. ?The yield on the US 10-year Treasury bond was flat ?at 5.131%. The ?US dollar index , which measures the greenback's strength against six currencies, ended two days of loss on Monday, rising 0.2% to 101.98.

Against the Chinese yuan , the dollar was ?flat ?at 6.6811 yuan in offshore trade after the ?People's Bank of China kept interest rates on hold, in line with market expectations.

Sustainable economic growth remains government's key priority: Aurangzeb

■ FinMin Muhammad Aurangzeb stressed expanding Pakistan's tax base for sustainable growth, highlighting economic reforms, record remittances and foreign reserves covering over three months of imports.

Web Desk

ASHLAND

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Aurangzeb has emphasized that expanding the tax net is inevitable for Pakistan's economic growth, stressing that ongoing reforms are aimed at strengthening the taxation system, improving economic performance and ensuring long-term financial stability.

Addressing a workshop on tax system reforms organized by the Ministry of Finance in Islamabad on Tuesday, the finance minister said the government was continuing its efforts to improve the taxation framework and introduce further measures to bring more individuals and businesses into the tax net.

Aurangzeb highlighted the importance of broadening the tax base to support the country's economic development and improve the government's capacity to generate revenue. He indicated that reforms in the taxation system remained an important part of the government's wider economic agenda.

The minister said improvements in taxation had contributed to better economic performance, while broader structural reforms had helped strengthen growth and move Pakistan towards greater economic stability.Government Focuses on Tax Reforms and Revenue Generation

Aurangzeb said efforts to reform the tax system were continuing, with additional measures being considered to expand the number of taxpayers. Broadening the tax base is a key element of the government's strategy to improve revenue collection and support economic management.



relying on a relatively narrow pool of existing taxpayers.

He stressed that improving the taxation system was necessary to support Pakistan's economic needs and establish a stronger foundation for future growth.

The government has continued to highlight tax reforms as part of its broader efforts to improve fiscal management and strengthen the country's financial position.

Aurangzeb's comments at the workshop reflected the importance being attached to revenue collection and economic reforms.

Sustainable Growth Must Be Driven by Exports

The finance minister emphasized that Pakistan's future economic progress should be sustainable and driven by exports. He said the country needed to strengthen the foundations of its economy to support long-term growth and improve its economic position.

Export-led growth is considered important for generating foreign exchange, supporting productive economic activity and improving the country's ability to meet external financial obligations.

Aurangzeb's emphasis on exports highlighted the government's focus on strengthening the external sector rather than relying solely on short-term improvements in economic indicators. A sustainable growth strategy also requires continued attention to productivity, investment and the competitiveness of domestic industries.

Brent crude holds near five-month high on Middle East tension

● Oil prices rose as Houthi attacks on Saudi energy infrastructure and Gulf vessel incidents heightened supply fears, keeping Brent near $110 and WTI above $100 amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainty.

Web Desk

KARACHI

Oil prices advanced on Tuesday, with Brent hovering ?around a five-month high as traders priced in a geopolitical risk premium from Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure and reports of vessel attacks in the Gulf.

Brent crude futures climbed 55 cents, or 0.50%, to $110.10 a barrel by 0319 GMT, after rising as high as $110.70 a barrel in the previous session to their highest since May 20.

The US West ?Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) contract for November delivery , set to expire on Tuesday, was up 0.24% to $103.91. The ?more-active December contract rose 39 cents, or 0.40%, to $98.93.



"Oil prices remain well-supported ... This suggests ?the market is pricing in a significant risk premium, given the situation's volatility," ING analysts said in a ?note on Tuesday.

"However, if flows continue uninhibited despite the geopolitical environment, the risk premium would likely erode slowly. Clearly, ?there are no signs of this yet."

At least 18 vessels were reportedly attacked over two weeks, which keeps the risk premium intact, shiptracker Kpler said in a note on Monday.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Monday they launched several attacks ?on Saudi energy, airport and military targets, such as an Aramco (2222.SE), opens new tab site in Yanbu, the Shaybah oilfield, Riyadh's ?King Khalid International Airport and Abha airport.

Saudi authorities did not immediately confirm the claims and Reuters could not independently verify them.

Also ?on Monday, ?a Houthi attack on a training camp for government security forces in Yemen's Shabwa province killed 58 people with more than 200 injured.

The renewed attacks heightened fears about regional stability and underscored continuing risks to energy supply from the region, keeping oil prices above $100 a barrel.

In the US, crude oil stockpiles were expected to have fallen last ?week along with product inventories, ?a preliminary Reuters poll showed ?on Monday.

All resources to be utilised to redress business community's concerns: Governor Punjab

■ Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Monday said that all available resources would be utilized to redress concerns and issues of the business community.

News Desk

FAISALABAD

:Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that all available resources would be utilized to redress concerns and issues of the business community.

Addressing a meeting at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that Faisalabad played a significant role in Pakistan's exports and deserved modern infrastructure, business-friendly facilities and development projects capable of expanding industrial activity, attracting investment and creating new economic opportunities.

Recognizing the challenges confronting local entrepreneurs, he said that high taxes, expensive electricity and gas, and elevated interest rates were increasing production costs and making it difficult for Pakistani manufacturers to compete effectively in international markets.



He stressed the need to broaden tax base instead of imposing additional burdens on existing taxpayers. He said that the salaried class and businesses already contributing taxes were under considerable financial pressure. A fairer taxation system required bringing more people and businesses into the tax net, he added.

He said that energy prices needed to become more affordable and stable to enable industrialists to plan their operations, control production costs and expand their businesses.He assured the business community that its legitimate demands would be conveyed to President Asif Ali Zardari for early redressal of their genuine problems.He also announced that efforts would be made to arrange a meeting between the leadership and representatives of business community so that their concerns could be discussed at the highest level.Emphasizing the importance of promoting Pakistani products internationally, the Punjab governor said that goods manufactured in the country should be clearly identified as "Made in Pakistan" to strengthen national brand and improve export reputation of the country.He observed that several products originating in Pakistan were exported without a clear indication of their Pakistani origin, limiting opportunities to promote industrial capabilities and manufacturing standards of the country in international markets.

He urged the businessmen to give greater attention to establish a distinct identity for locally manufactured products.

The Governor Punjab also called for strong institutional links between universities and industrial sector, saying that academic research and technical expertise should be aligned with practical needs of businesses.

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Palestinian activist Mahmoud Khalil asks US Supreme Court to hear case seeking to avoid re-arrest



Web Desk

WASHINGTON/RIYADH

Columbia University graduate Mahmoud Khalil asked the US Supreme Court to overturn a ruling ?that opened the door for President Donald Trump's administration to re-arrest and deport the Palestinian activist.

Khalil's lawyers asked the justices to take up his case after the Philadelphia-based 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that federal immigration law barred a lower-court judge from ordering his release from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody.

Khalil was among the most prominent foreign ?students to be arrested last year as the Trump administration pursued a campaign to detain and deport noncitizens who engaged in pro-Palestinian activism on college campuses.

His lawyers say the Supreme Court should make clear immigration law does not prevent noncitizens from ?pursuing cases arguing they have been detained to punish them for speech that is protected by the US Constitution's First Amendment.

"If the Trump administration ?can punish someone for their pro-Palestine speech, this or any future administration can punish anyone for any speech,"

If the 3rd ?Circuit's decision is allowed to stand, Khalil faces the prospect of arrest and deportation, after the Board of Immigration Appeals in April rejected his challenge to an immigration judge's order that he be removed to Algeria or Syria.

A lower court order barring him from being re-detained remains in place for now until the Supreme Court rules. A separate ?appeal of the immigration judge's order remains pending.



Houthi attack on govt training camp in Yemen: Death toll rises to 58, over 200 reported injured

■ Houthi missile attack on Yemen's Shabwa training camp kills 58 and injures over 200, escalating conflict and worsening the country's humanitarian crisis.

WEB DESK

ADEN

Fifty-eight people were killed and more than 200 were injured after an attack on Monday by the Iran-aligned Houthis on a government security forces training ?camp in Yemen's Shabwa province, Governor Awad al-Wazir said, as fighting in the impoverished ?country intensifies.

Video verified by Reuters from Shabwa province showed injured people and bloodied bodies scattered across the ground. Wazir also said that 14 other people remained missing after the Houthi bombardment of the Al-Alam camp.

The Houthis and the internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition, ?have been trading attacks since the group advanced in September towards territory ?near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a shipping chokepoint at the mouth of the Red Sea.Local ?authority sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Houthis had launched three ballistic ?missiles at security forces during a training exercise.

Shabwa, an energy-rich province in south-central coastal Yemen overlooking the Gulf of Aden, is home to the Balhaf liquefied natural gas facility, Yemen's largest industrial investment.

Houthi military ?spokesperson Yahya Saree said on X that the group had targeted the training camp, which ?he said was run by Saudi forces. The Saudi authorities did not immediately respond to a request ?for ?comment.

Government forces this month began a campaign aimed at recapturing areas controlled by the Houthis, recovering ground near the strait, while the group besieges Taiz, the last major urban stronghold of anti-Houthi forces in the southern highland area of Yemen.

The conflict in Yemen has become another ?front line in the ?wider US-Israeli war on ?Iran as the Houthis have escalated their attacks on Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter, targeting Riyadh's international airport and the state ?oil company Saudi Aramco.



Russia, Iran have 'never' worked so closely, says Iran's FM Araghchi

Web DESK

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tuesday that Russia and Iran have "never" worked so closely, as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role in the Middle East war.

Araghchi hosted his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Iran on Monday, in his first visit since the outbreak of the conflict.

"We covered everything from Europe to West Asia, including Lebanon, Palestine, Ukraine and Yemen.Also focused on expansion of economic and nuclear cooperation," Araghchi wrote on X.

"Never in our history have Iran and Russia worked as closely as now."

Lavrov said ahead of the visit that Moscow's efforts "aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war," with talks stalled between the United States and Iran.

His visit came after Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian this month 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.

The Middle East war erupted in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. A ceasefire in April and a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June have failed to stop fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

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

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

The Russian foreign ministry said ahead of Lavrov's visit to Iran that discussions were expected to focus on "ways to resolve the acute international crisis triggered by the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel" against the Islamic republic.

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."

US envoy heading to Europe for Ukraine, Russia talks

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

US envoy Steve Witkoff is traveling to Europe to meet with the leaders of Ukraine and Russia this week,

"The talks will bring together Ukraine, European allies and the US as they seek to develop a peace proposal to present to Russia," the report said, citing an anonymous US official.

Witkoff is expected to first visit Oslo, Norway, to hold talks Tuesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, the official told Axios.

Representatives from the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Poland, as well as NATO and other European leaders, will also attend.

Witkoff then plans to travel to Russia, "where he hopes to meet with President Vladimir Putin and present ideas", the official said.

The White House did not immediately respond to an AFP request for confirmation.



Trump slams Nato allies for not helping Washington during Iran war

■ Trump criticised NATO allies for refusing to support the US in its war on Iran, warned Washington could leave Europe, and claimed Iran's military had been severely weakened.

WEB DESK

Spain

US President Donald Trump has hit out at the Nato allies, saying they "weren't there to help" Washington during its war on Iran.

"We stand with Europe despite its flaws, its weaknesses…But if they don't soon find their way, and they have to find their way, we will have no choice but to leave," he said while addressing an election rally in Kansas.

"We spend hundreds of billions of dollars a year on Nato protecting them, but when we said, 'Would you like to help?' 'No, thank you.' 'Oh, no thank you?' What does that mean, 'No, thank you'?"

US President Donald Trump has said Washington could withdraw from the war against Iran soon, reiterating that Tehran must not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons.

Trump claimed that Iran's military capabilities and leadership had suffered extensive damage. He said the country's navy, air force, radar networks and air defence systems had been destroyed.

Trump also claimed that 229 Iranian fighter aircraft had been destroyed on runways and that senior figures in the country's first and second leadership tiers had been eliminated. He further alleged that Iranian leaders had sought assurances that they would not be targeted in the same manner as their predecessors.

Referring to Iran policy during his first presidential term, Trump mentioned the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani. He also claimed that 75,000 protesters had been killed in Iran over the past eight months.



Seoul vows 'resolute punishment' after North Korea threatens new border measures

■ Seoul's Defence Ministry expressed grave concern over Pyongyang's threats to deploy additional tactical strike weapons along the border

WEB DESK

SEOUL

South Korea on Tuesday vowed a stern response if North Korea acts on threats to strengthen its military posture along the border, which have fueled tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

In a statement, Seoul's Defence Ministry expressed grave concern over Pyongyang's threats to deploy additional tactical strike weapons along the border and resume loudspeaker broadcasts towards the South.

The escalation and exchange of threats has raised the possibility of clashes along the heavily armed border and undercuts diplomatic gains made by South Korean President Lee Jae Myung soon after he took office.

The ministry said South Korea's broadcasts and warning shots ?near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) were a "legitimate defensive measure" aimed at preventing incursions and forcing North Korean troops who crossed the line to withdraw.

"If North Korea uses our legitimate measures as a pretext to carry out further provocations, we will punish it resolutely," the ministry said. It urged Pyongyang to stop making what it called groundless claims, halt incursions across the MDL and respond to efforts to resolve differences between the two sides over the line.Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Jin Young-seung reviewed military readiness while visiting a frontline army command, and ordered operations aimed at strengthening Seoul's initiative in the Demilitarized Zone, its military said in a separate statement.

"We cannot tolerate North Korea falsely characterising our legitimate operational measures as provocations and shifting responsibility for heightened military tensions onto our military," Jin said.He said North Korea was ?responsible for planting landmines south of the MDL that seriously wounded South Korean soldiers last month, calling the incident "a clear provocation" and a violation of the armistice agreement.The warnings from Seoul came after North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, accused the South Korean military of endangering North Korean soldiers by firing warning shots during Pyongyang's work to fortify the border.



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Iqra Aziz Shares Heartfelt Glimpse Into Real Life

■ Actor Iqra Aziz Opens Up About Family Life And Motherhood Moments

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Celebrated actress Iqra Aziz has touched hearts by sharing an intimate glimpse into her personal life, blending family moments, motherhood, and the demands of a busy career. Posting on Instagram with the caption "That's what they call life," she offered fans a candid look at her everyday experiences.

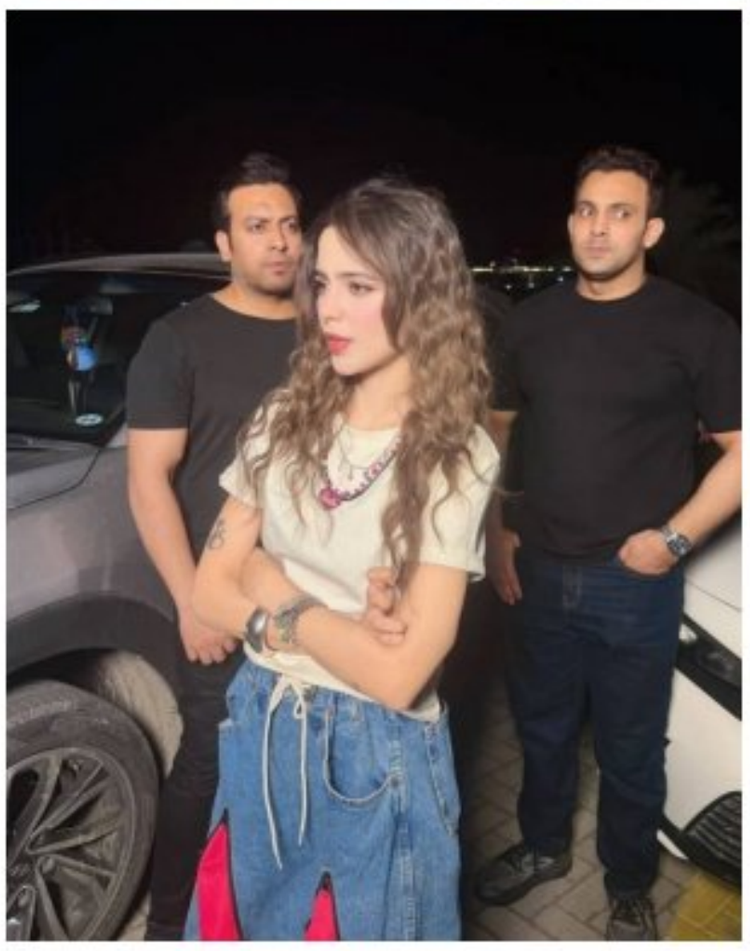
The post featured a mix of real and unfiltered moments, including a snapshot from an airplane showing the exhaustion of travel, where she appeared in a simple look embracing a no-glam lifestyle. In another heartfelt image, she shared a romantic moment with her husband Yasir Hussain, highlighting their close bond.

Adding warmth to the post, Yasir was also seen preparing a special meal for the family during Eid, a gesture that resonated with fans. Emotional family moments were also included, such as Iqra's mother Asiya Aziz holding her newborn granddaughter Sophia, with a nostalgic note suggesting the baby resembles her mother.

In a deeply personal touch, Iqra spoke about her motherhood journey, sharing a glimpse of breastfeeding and describing it as a humbling experience—contributing to wider ry. conversations around maternal realities. The post also captured playful scenes of her son Kabir, adding a lively and joyful dimension to her story.

Fans responded with admiration, praising her authenticity and ability to balance fame with family life. Yasir Hussain also expressed his appreciation, calling her a "superstar" and a "supermom."

Known for hit dramas like Suno Chanda and Ranjha Ranjha Kardi, Iqra Aziz continues to connect with audiences not only through her performances but also through her honest and relatable presence off screen.



'Sister goals': Aima Baig's sweet nod to Komal Baig steals the spotlight

■ Pakistani singer Aima Baig has once again captured fans' attention, not just for her bold style but for a heartwarming moment with her sister Komal Baig that quickly went viral.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani singer Aima Baig has once again captured fans' attention, not just for her bold style but for a heartwarming moment with her sister Komal Baig that quickly went viral.

Taking to Instagram, Aima shared a series of photos showcasing her bold aesthetic, pairing visible tattoos with voluminous wavy hair that added a dramatic flair to her overall appearance.

She captioned the post, "Felt cute but might delete later @komalbaig3 said so I thought why not." A simple mention of her sister in her Instagram post turned into a sweet exchange between the two, with Komal's loving response adding a personal touch that resonated widely, turning a casual post into a trending "sister goals" moment on social media. Her sister, Komal Baig, showed her support by commenting, "best my pretty baby," highlighting their close bond. Aima responded with affectionate emojis, while fans flooded the post with compliments. One user wrote, "aimooo chocolate lag rahi ho," a local expression used to describe someone as looking especially sweet and attractive, adding to the cheerful and admiring tone of the conversation.

Hania Aamir's pajama look wins hearts, Amar Khan wants it too

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Hania Aamir has once again captured attention online with a bold and playful street-style look that quickly won over fans and fellow celebrity Amar Khan, turning a simple fashion moment into a social media frenzy. The buzz began when Hania shared a lively carousel of photos and clips on Instagram, offering a mix of fun moments, skincare snippets, and glimpses from her shoot routine.

Alongside the visuals, she also added a reflective caption, writing, "realised I stopped smiling in photos," giving the post a more personal and introspective touch.

The line hints at a subtle emotional shift, making the content feel more genuine and relatable to her audience.

Among the highlights was her standout outfit a streetwear inspired look featuring custom designed jogger style sweatpants with artistic floral patterns, paired with a sleek black cropped zip-up hoodie/

Adding an unexpected twist, she styled the look with bright red ballet flats, creating a striking contrast between comfort and high-fashion flair. Her accessories, including minimal gold jewelry and black sunglasses, completed what many fans are calling an "elevated loungewear" look, blending relaxed clothing with a polished, fashion-forward aesthetic.

The outfit reflects a growing trend where comfort meets bold styling.

What truly amplified the moment was Amar Khan's playful reaction. She took to the comments section, writing, "Mere ko bhi ye pyjama chaiye @haniaheheofficial," which translates to "I want these pyjamas too."

The lighthearted remark added a relatable and humorous touch, showing admiration in a fun and friendly way that fans loved.



Hania's post also featured a quirky digital artwork that added another layer to her creative expression. The image showed a stylized "grey alien" figure with a glamorous twist, set against a vibrant neon background. The caption, "I WILL SUCCEED BECAUSE I'M WHIMSICAL (AND INSANE)," offered a playful and ironic take on self-belief, celebrating individuality and creativity over conventional norms.



Ahad Raza Mir Wins Fans With Humorous Post

■ Areeba Habib Impresses Fans With Elegant Festive Style Statement

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Ahad Raza Mir won over social media with humor, sharing a candid moment that showcased his playful side. Posting on Instagram, he captioned his photo, "He's a weird one," poking fun at himself and sparking a wave of reactions from fans and fellow celebrities.

The image captured him relaxing in a patterned armchair by a sunlit window, dressed in a striped robe and tinted sunglasses, exuding effortless style. The warm lighting and vintage-style date stamp added an artistic feel to the shot, enhancing its laid-back charm.

Celebrities quickly joined in the fun, including Mahira Khan, who praised his self-awareness, and Maya Ali, whose playful comment added to the lighthearted exchange and amused fans.Alongside the buzz, excitement is building for Ahad's upcoming drama Aik Aur Mohabbat, where he will star opposite Maya Ali.

Iqra Kanwal captures love and 'little moments' in Skardu getaway



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Famous Youtuber and influencer Iqra Kanwal has offered fans a glimpse into a deeply personal chapter of her life, blending the joys of motherhood with the serenity of nature. Taking to Instagram, the popular content creator shared a series of picturesque moments from her northern getaway, featuring her husband Areeb Pervaiz and their daughter, Anaviya.

She captioned the post with "Motherhood changed me, mountains healed me"

The post beautifully captures a balance between family bonding and self reflection, set against the breathtaking landscapes of Skardu.

In one adorable moment, Iqra is seen joyfully lifting baby Anaviya into the air. The little one, dressed warmly in a navy blue cherry patterned onesie with bright red socks, perfectly complements the cozy mountain vibe.

Another heartwarming snapshot shows the family enjoying a peaceful boat ride on the iconic Satpara Lake surrounded by serene waters and towering peaks.

Can watermelon cause death Experts explain risks

■ In Mumbai, mysterious death of four family members sparks questions

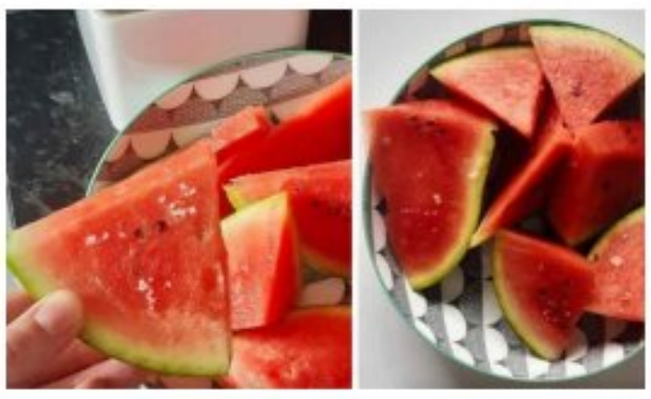
WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

In Mumbai, the mysterious death of four family members has sparked questions about whether something as common as watermelon can turn deadly. Health experts say the risk, while rare, is real under certain conditions. According to Indian media reports, 40-year-old Abdullah Abdul Qadir, his 35-year-old wife Nasreen, and their daughters Ayesha (16) and Zainab (13) died after their health suddenly deteriorated.

The family had eaten biryani on Saturday night. Later, around 1am, they consumed watermelon. Within hours, all four reportedly fell seriously ill, raising suspicions of food poisoning.

Authorities suspect the deaths may be linked to contaminated food, though investigations are ongoing.



Can watermelon really cause food poisoning

Health experts say watermelon itself is not dangerous—but contamination can make it harmful.

Due to its high water and natural sugar content, watermelon can become a breeding ground for bacteria if not handled properly. If the fruit is exposed to harmful microorganisms, it may lead to food poisoning. Experts warn that in severe cases, such contamination can result in dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain. In extreme situations, it may lead to systemic infections like sepsis, which can be fatal without timely medical treatment.

Risks linked to artificial sweetening practices

Health professionals also point to reports suggesting that some vendors may inject glucose or sugar solutions into watermelon to enhance sweetness or improve appearance.

If such practices involve contaminated substances, they can significantly increase bacterial growth inside the fruit. This raises the risk of severe health complications, especially for children and vulnerable individuals.

6 easy ways to maintain joint flexibility with age

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

As people age, joint stiffness and discomfort often become a part of daily life. Health experts say this is largely due to a decline in the substances that keep joints lubricated.

However, simple lifestyle changes can help maintain flexibility and prevent long-term issues.

Medical experts explain that joints play a crucial role in connecting bones and enabling smooth movement. Over time, reduced lubrication in the joints can cause bones to rub against each other.

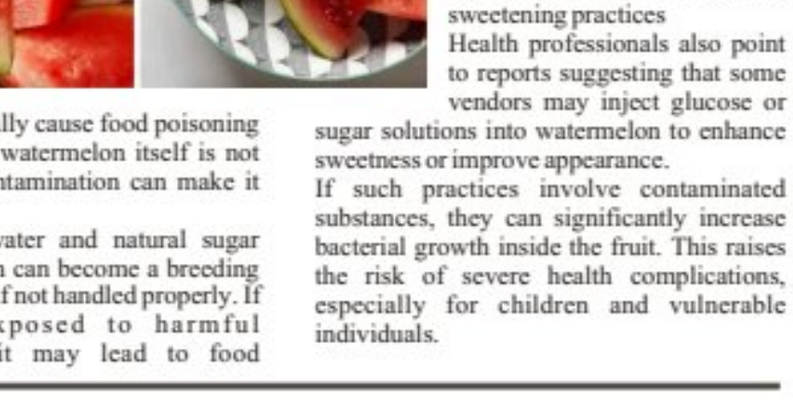
This friction may lead to pain, swelling, and limited mobility. If ignored, it can increase the risk of conditions such as arthritis.

Factors like a sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, dehydration, and obesity further accelerate joint deterioration.

Experts share 6 key tips for healthy joints

Experts recommend staying active through exercises like walking, swimming, or cycling.

At least 150 minutes of physical activity per week can significantly improve joint flexibility and overall mobility.



Excess body weight puts added pressure on joints, especially the knees and hips.

Maintaining a balanced diet and managing weight can reduce stress on joints and improve their performance.

Stay hydrated Water plays a vital role in maintaining joint lubrication.

Drinking enough water throughout the day helps keep joints flexible and reduces stiffness. Include Omega-3 rich foods

Experts emphasize adding omega-3 fatty acids to the diet.

These nutrients are known to support joint health and help reduce inflammation.

Prepare before exercise

Starting exercise without preparation can increase the risk of muscle strain or injury.

Light stretching and warm-up exercises help prepare joints for movement and improve flexibility. Correct sitting and standing posture can prevent unnecessary strain on joints. Good posture supports joint alignment and reduces the risk of long-term discomfort.

Scanned with CamScanner

Arafat Minhas stars as Pakistan thrash England by 87 runs in ODI tri-series

● All-rounder takes six wickets after scoring valuable half-century; chasing 303, England bowled out for 215

SPORTS REPORTER

Rawalpindi

Arafat Minhas delivered an all-round performance to help Pakistan defeat England by 87 runs, securing their second win in the ongoing ODI tri-series at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 303, England were bowled out for 215 in 38.4 overs despite a strong start from openers Tom Banton and Ben Duckett.

The duo stitched together a 91-run opening partnership, finding boundaries with ease as they took the attack to Pakistan's bowlers during the early stages of the chase.

However, Haris Rauf broke the stand in the 15th over by dismissing Duckett, who fell five runs short of his half-century after scoring 45 off 46 deliveries, including eight boundaries.

Banton continued to bat sensibly, building a steady partnership with Harry Brook to take England past the 100-run mark. During the stand, Banton also brought up his third ODI half-century.



The right-handed batter eventually fell to Arafat Minhas in the 19th over after scoring a fighting 57 off 53 deliveries, including five boundaries and two sixes. His dismissal left England at 120-2 in 18.3 overs.

In the 21st over, Minhas struck again to remove England captain Brook, who managed just five off seven deliveries.

Sam Curran and Joe Root then attempted to revive the chase, building a partnership that took England past the 150-run mark.

However, Naseem Shah provided Pakistan with a crucial breakthrough by bowling Root for 33 off 35 deliveries, including five boundaries. England were reduced to 165-4 in 28.5 overs.

Pakistan continued to tighten their grip on the contest as Rauf struck again, dismissing Curran for 27 off 39 deliveries, including a six, to put England under further pressure.

England continued to lose wickets at regular intervals as Minhas claimed his third wicket by dismissing Jordan Cox for 18 off 16 deliveries, including a boundary and a six. The visitors were left struggling at 197-6 in 34.5 overs.

left struggling at 197-6 in 34.5 overs.

Minhas continued his impressive spell, claiming his fourth wicket by dismissing Jamie Overton for one off four deliveries to leave England reeling at 198-7.

The all-rounder then struck twice in consecutive deliveries during his ninth over, dismissing Will Jacks for 19 before removing Adil Rashid for a first-ball duck to complete his second five-wicket haul in ODIs.

Minhas capped off his outstanding performance by running out Gus Atkinson following a mix-up, bowling England out and sealing an emphatic victory for Pakistan.

Arafat Minhas spearheaded Pakistan's bowling attack with impressive figures of 6/40 in 8.4 overs. Haris Rauf claimed two wickets, while Naseem Shah chipped in with one.



ICC fines Pakistan and Sri Lanka for slow over-rates

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

Pakistan have been fined 10 per cent of their match fee and Sri Lanka have been fined five per cent of their match fee for maintaining slow over-rates during the opening match of the Pakistan ODI Tri-Series in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanctions after Pakistan were ruled to be two overs short and Sri Lanka were ruled to be one over short after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Captains Shaheen Shah Afridi of Pakistan and Kusal Mendis of Sri Lanka pled guilty and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for formal hearings.On-field umpires Asif Yaqoob and Wayne Knights, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Faisal Afridi levelled the charges.

Ronaldo handed 30-day suspension after walking out on Portugal

● Ronaldo apologised to supporters earlier in October, adding he would accept any punishment that was imposed.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

Cristiano Ronaldo has been handed a 30-day suspension for leaving the Portuguese national team camp, the country's football federation (FPF) announced The 41-year-old abruptly left the Portugal camp on September 30 during the UEFA Nations League, before accusing coach Jorge Jesus of breaking his word about giving him game time.

Ronaldo apologised to supporters earlier in October, adding he would accept any punishment that was imposed.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid star, who will also have to pay a fine of 255 euros ($286), has received the minimum penalty provided for in the federation's regulations, which stipulate suspensions of between one and six months for leaving the national team.



Ronaldo left Portugal's squad after first being made to warm up as a substitute against Norway on September 27 and not being brought on, and then finding out he would not start against Denmark in the match on October 1.

Ronaldo's suspension takes effect from the day of the Denmark match, meaning he has already served 19 days of his ban and will complete it by the end of October.

The FPF disciplinary committee said it took into account "the remorse shown in the statement" issued by Ronaldo on October 6, in which he admitted his mistake and expressed his willingness to accept a punishment.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner is Portugal's all-time top goalscorer and record appearance-maker in men's international football.

But in his absence, Portugal won all four of their Nations League matches and qualified for the quarter-finals with two games to spare.

Portugal host Denmark on November 14 and then travel to face Wales on November 17 in their final two Nations League Group A4 matches -- by which time Ronaldo will have served his suspension.

In a social media post shortly after his walk-out, Ronaldo accused Portugal boss Jesus of breaking his word about giving him game time in Nations League matches but insisted he was not retiring from international duty.

"I will be available, as I have always been until today, to compete and win for our national team," Ronaldo posted.

He said Jesus had gone back on his word about bringing him on against Norway, and then in a press conference before the Denmark match had not said a series of points they had agreed upon during a conversation beforehand.



Bangladesh appoints Nahida Akter as women's T20I captain

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Bangladesh has appointed left-arm spinner Nahida Akter as the new captain of its women's T20 International team.

Nahida will replace Nigar Sultana, who decided to step down from the role. Nahida will lead the team for one year. Nigar captained Bangladesh in 82 T20 International matches, securing 32 victories during her tenure. However, she stepped down following disappointing results in the Asia Cup and Asian Games. Middle-order batter Shobhana has been appointed vice-captain. She recently made headlines by scoring a historic century in a One-Day International against Australia.

The 25-year-old Nahida made her international debut in September 2015. She is Bangladesh's leading wicket-taker in women's T20 International cricket.

She has taken 132 wickets at an average of 17.38, with her best bowling figures being five wickets for eight runs. She has also claimed 81 wickets in One-Day Internationals.

Juan Martin del Potro tops list of '27 Hall of Fame candidates

■ The Argentine experienced international glory in 2016 when he led his country to its first Davis Cup championship

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open men's singles champion, heads the list of player nominees for the 2027 International Tennis Hall of Fame class.

del Potro, of Argentina, was joined on the ballot by former WTA stars Ash Barty of Australia and Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, the Hall announced Monday.

del Potro won 22 times on the ATP Tour, with his most notable triumph coming 17 years ago in Flushing Meadows. He took down Rafael Nadal in the semifinals and then Roger Federer ?in the final for his lone Grand Slam title. Against Federer, del Potro rallied from two sets to one down to dethrone the five-time defending champion.

The Argentine experienced international glory in 2016 when he led his country to its first Davis Cup championship. He also earned a silver medal in singles at the Rio Olympics that year.

Barty won three majors and stood atop the WTA rankings for 121 weeks in her career. She won the French Open women's singles title ?in 2019, the Wimbledon singles title in 2021 and the Australian Open women's title in 2022. Her international resume included a bronze medal in mixed doubles at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Kuznetsova won two majors each in singles (2004 U.S. Open, 2009 French Open) and ?doubles (2005 and 2012 Australian Open). She won 18 singles titles and 16 doubles titles on tour. She was ranked as high as No. 2 in singles and No. 3 ?in doubles.

Fans can vote on the nominees through Oct. 25. The results will be applied as bonus points to the voting percentages produced by the Hall's ?Official Voting Group, a panel composed of tennis journalists, historians and Hall of Famers.



Boland sets pace as South Africa struggle

■ Boland took four for 31 as South Africa limped to 97 for five at the close. Captain Temba Bavuma stood firm for the hosts, scoring 41 not out.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Scott Boland bowled Australia into a strong position after a lengthy rain delay on the second day of the second Test against South Africa at St George's Park on Monday.

Boland took four for 31 as South Africa limped to 97 for five at the close. Captain Temba Bavuma stood firm for the hosts, scoring 41 not out.

Boland came into the team when Australia opted for an all-pace bowling attack, and he followed up his two wickets on the rain-ruined first day by striking in the third over on Monday and again shortly before the close.

Only five runs were added to the overnight 20 for two before Boland struck in his second over of the day.

New cap Marques Ackerman was caught behind by wicketkeeper Alex Carey for six, with the left-hander edging a ball bowled from around the wicket which seamed away off the pitch.

Matthew Breetzke, who together with Ackerman was brought into the side to strengthen the batting, made only four before he provided Carey with a third catch when he played a loose shot against Mitchell Starc.

South Africa seemed to be clawing their way back into the contest as Ryan Rickelton (31) added 52 for the fifth wicket with Bavuma but Rickelton fell to a sensational one-handed catch at first slip by Matt Renshaw when Boland was brought back into the attack shortly before the close.

Play started six hours after the scheduled start on Monday after more than 60mm of rain fell overnight and into the morning.

The sun was shining brightly by the time the outfield had dried enough for play to start and batting conditions were expected to ease.

But Boland's relentless accuracy left world Test champions South Africa in a precarious position as they sought to play their way back into the three-match series after losing the first Test in Durban by 214 runs.

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood did not take the field on Tuesday because of illness but was expected to be available on Tuesday.



Shastri urges India to use Bumrah sparingly ahead of ODI World Cup

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

India should keep Jasprit Bumrah fresh for next year's one-day international World Cup by selecting him mainly for test cricket and using the pace spearhead sparingly in other formats, former coach Ravi Shastri said.

Bumrah was recalled to India's test squad for their two-match series in New Zealand last week, but will not play in the five ODIs and five Twenty20 internationals that precede the tests.

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشت گردی خضدار

اشتہار بحکم اعضار محض ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ 1997ء

FIR نمبر 182/026 پولیس تھانہ سٹی خضدار مسمی (1) عبدالخالق ولد جمعہ خان قوم شاہوانی سکنہ کٹاہانی خضدار (2) عبدالغفار ولد رحیم خان قوم زرکزئی سکنہ انجیرہ حال خضدار (3) عبدالسنان ولد شادی خان قوم زرکزئی سکنہ نزد علی ہسپتال خضدار جرم زیر دفعہ / 337 A- 365 ,506 ,34 ت پ AF کے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں یا ان پر ارتکاب جرم کا شبہ ہے از روئے کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری جو بہ طبق نالش جاری ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ ملزمان مذکورہ بالا فرار ہو گئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ گرفتاری کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کئے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان (1) عبدالخالق (2) عبدالغفار (3) عبدالسنان کو لازم ہے بتاریخ 26-10-2026 کو عدالت انسداد دہشتگردی خضدار بمقام خضدار میں جواب دہی نالش کیلئے حاضر ہو جائے۔

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Govt Hajjscheme 2027: Second instalment payment deadline Falls today

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has called on all intending pilgrims registered under the government's Hajj Scheme 2027 to pay their second instalment by October 20, the final day for submitting the dues.

The ministry has urged pilgrims to complete their payments by the deadline to avoid cancellation of their Hajj applications.

According to the ministry's spokesperson, around 97,000 pilgrims have deposited the second instalment so far, with total receipts through the National Information Technology Board's (NITB) digital Hajj portal reaching Rs61 billion.

Of these, 45,245 pilgrims made payments through One Link, while 3,685 used debit or credit cards. Another 47,563 deposited their dues through bank challans.Pilgrims who have not yet paid have been advised to use the NITB's Hajj portal or the Pak Hajj mobile application to complete the process.

The ministry has also made medical examinations mandatory for all intending pilgrims.

PHC seeks AG's response on PTI petitions against governor's rule, emergency in KP

● The bench issued a notice to the Attorney General's Office and adjourned further proceedings until November 10

WEB DESK

PESHAWAR

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) sought a response from the attorney general on petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

A two-member bench, comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Faheem Wali, heard separate petitions filed by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and Advocate Salman Khan. The petitioners have asked the court to declare the measures unconstitutional and strike them down.

The federal government imposed governor's rule and an emergency in KP on October 11, citing an increase in terrorist incidents and the provincial government's alleged lack of cooperation in counterterrorism efforts.

Following the move, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assumed responsibility for running the province on behalf of the federal government, with the assistance of an 11-member technocratic advisory council.



During Tuesday's hearing, Barrister Gohar told the court that governor's rule and the emergency were imposed simultaneously, along with the establishment of the advisory council and the transfer of 38 deputy commissioners.

He also alleged that 12 PTI members of the National Assembly and 13 members of the provincial assembly had been abducted. The PTI chairman further claimed that his party's offices had been demolished and plaques commemorating development projects had been damaged, alleging discriminatory treatment of the party.

Earlier, the petitioners' counsel argued that a constitutional emergency could be imposed in circumstances involving war or external aggression, neither of which, he maintained, existed in the province.

The lawyer said the provincial government had the authority to address terrorism and questioned why emergency measures had not been introduced during previous periods when terrorism was at its peak.

Referring to Article 234 of the Constitution, the counsel argued that the provision could be invoked only when a provincial government was unable to function.

He maintained that both the provincial government and assembly remained operational, with no constitutional breakdown to justify the imposition of emergency measures.

After hearing the arguments, Justice Ijaz Anwar said the court would seek the attorney general's response.

The bench subsequently issued a notice to the Attorney General's Office and adjourned further proceedings until November 10.

Houthi missiles kill 53 soldiers at Yemen government base

● Riyadh's airport remains closed following attacks: Iran blacklists 122 vessels, says it acted against 40

WEB DESK

YEMEN

The Middle East war entered another tense phase on Tuesday after Houthi ballistic missile strikes killed at least 53 soldiers and wounded more than 200 recruits at a Yemeni military camp, the deadliest attack since the Iran-aligned group resumed large-scale operations in July.

Houthi rebels struck Yemeni government forces with ballistic missiles at a camp in Shabwa province, killing at least 53 soldiers and wounding 200 recruits, according to military officials and the provincial government.

The BBC reported that three



ballistic missiles hit the Martyr Ahmed al-Sulaimani Training Centre at Al-Alam camp, where new internal-security recruits were training.

Riyadh's airport remains closed following deadly attacks, while US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has made an unannounced visit to the region.

The prolonged closure of Riyadh's airport after a series of fatal attacks has exposed the risks confronting Saudi Arabia's drive to shift its international image, disrupting businesses, airlines and residents more than a week after flights were grounded.

Deadly strikes by Yemen's Houthis in recent weeks have dealt a blow to the kingdom, forcing the airport to close until further notice and a slate of events to be postponed or cancelled including its flagship investment forum dubbed "Davos in the desert".

Government agencies in the Saudi capital have also told employees to work from home starting Monday, one worker and two consultants told AFP, as has the 99-storey Kingdom Centre skyscraper in downtown Riyadh housing the regional office of the International Monetary Fund.

Senate passes bill to allow ex-lawmakers to have blue passports with incomplete tenure

■ The Senate on Monday passed a bill allowing former lawmakers to retain their official blue passports even if they left office before completing a full term.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Senate on Monday passed a bill allowing former lawmakers to retain their official blue passports even if they left office before completing a full term.

However, a separate bill seeking to extend the facility to their dependent children under 28 was withdrawn after objections from treasury members. The amendment to the Passports Act, 1974, covers former members of the National Assembly and Senate who took the oath of office but did not serve out their full term. The bill must now be approved by the National Assembly before it can become law.



Official blue passports are issued to designated constitutional office-holders, government and judicial officials, senior bureaucrats and their eligible dependents.

They provide visa-free access to 55 countries, including 22 in Europe, according to the report. Both bills were moved by Senator Abdul Qadir. The approved legislation proposes inserting a new Section 3-A into the Passports Act, allowing a former parliamentarian to retain and use a gratis official passport after leaving office, whether they served a full term or completed only the remainder of another member's tenure.

Under the existing rules, National Assembly members become eligible for blue passports after taking the oath, while senators must complete their six-year term to qualify. The amendment seeks to remove that disparity by allowing former lawmakers from either House to retain their official passports even if they leave office before completing a full term.The proposed provision states that "a retired parliamentarian who has taken oath as a Member of the National Assembly (MNA) or the Senate, whether for a full term or for the remainder of the term of another member, shall, on such terms and conditions .



Punjab CM Maryam approves Khushhal Dehat Act 2026 for model villages

■ Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz approves Khushhal Dehat Act 2026, launching a pilot project in 120 villages with local committees and infrastructure improvements.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved a project aimed at transforming villages across the province into model communities.

A special meeting chaired by the chief minister was held to review a detailed briefing on the project to develop model villages across Punjab.

During the meeting, the provincial government decided to introduce the Khushhal Dehat Act 2026, which was formally approved by Maryam Nawaz.

It was agreed that a pilot project would immediately be launched in 120 villages across the province. Village committees will also be established in consultation with public representatives. The chief minister directed officials to form the committees promptly and submit a comprehensive implementation plan.

Under the project, the relevant assistant commissioner will head each village committee, while the deputy commissioner will oversee all committees and supervise the overall initiative. Each committee will comprise four public representatives and four government representatives, including a headteacher, a union council secretary and a doctor from a health clinic.

The meeting was informed that sewerage systems, drainage facilities and paved streets would be developed in every village under the initiative.

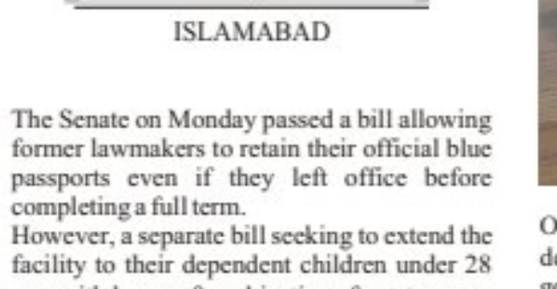
Maryam Nawaz said her commitment to transforming villages into model communities remained unwavering. She added that development would no longer be confined to major cities, but its benefits would reach every village in Punjab.

The chief minister said local residents would be consulted during village development projects and that quality and transparency would be ensured at all stages.

She expressed confidence that every village in Punjab would eventually become a model community, adding that members of the provincial assembly and party ticket-holders would act as custodians of development in their respective villages.

Pakistan announces new date for implementing e-passport policy

■ Pakistan will introduce mandatory e-passport issuance from October 23, 2026. Machine-readable passports will remain available until October 22, while existing MRPs remain valid until expiry.



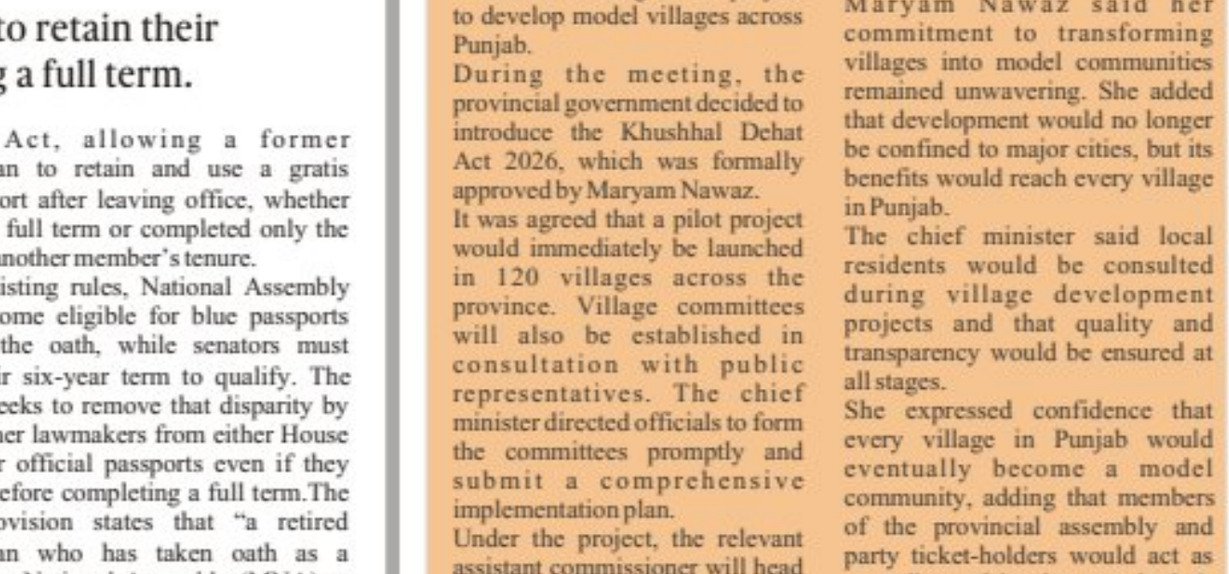
WEB DESK

LAHORE

The Directorate General of Immigration and Passports has revised the implementation date for Pakistan's transition to an e-passport-only issuance system, setting October 23, 2026, as the new deadline.

The policy will apply to passport offices throughout the country as well as Pakistani diplomatic missions operating abroad. From the effective date, new passport applicants will be issued electronic passports instead of machine-readable passports.

According to the revised schedule, the issuance and renewal of machine-readable passports will remain available until October 22. The mandatory transition had previously been scheduled to begin on October 15. Officials have confirmed that machine-readable passports issued before October 23 will continue to be accepted as valid travel documents until their expiry. Holders of unexpired MRPs will not be required to replace them early under the new policy.



Dushanbe: 20 October, 2026 - Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar calling on the President of Tajikistan, H.E. Emomali Rahmon, in Dushanbe.

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