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Pakistan, Maldives sign 20 MoUs, target $200m in trade in two years

■ PM Shehbaz, President Muizzu, witness the ceremony as representatives from both sides exchange pre-signed documents

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the Maldives agreed to increase bilateral trade from $13.9 million to $200 million within the next two years, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on Wednesday, as the two countries signed 20 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to expand cooperation across several sectors.

The pacts were signed during the three-day state visit of the President of the Maldives, Dr Mohamed Muizzu, which is the first visit by the country's president in 11 years, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the bilateral diplomatic relations.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Prime Minister's House following the signing, PM Shehbaz said the trade target had been agreed with the "complete endorsement" of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who was on a three-day state visit to Pakistan.

"We will do our best jointly to raise this bilateral trade quantum from 13 million dollars to 200 million dollars in the next two years," he said.

PM Shehbaz said existing trade, valued at $13.9 million, represented only a fraction of the countries' economic potential.

PM Shehbaz said the two sides had held "very productive and very fruitful discussions" on economic and trade relations, strategic defence cooperation and training in policing, defence, education and health.

Highlighting existing cooperation in healthcare and education, he said a large number of Maldivian students had studied at Pakistani universities and colleges, particularly in healthcare.

"About 250 Pakistani doctors are serving the cause of suffering humanity along with Pakistani paramedics in Maldives and other places in your great country," he said, adding that Pakistan was willing to provide more professionals to meet the Maldives' needs.



Graft in KP's mineral sector during PTI govt caused loss of Rs16.94b

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Allegations of corruption during the last PTI government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) mineral sector have come to light, An official audit report has described it as an organized corruption, not just administrative failure. It has been learnt that these alleged corrupt practices caused a loss of over Rs16.94 billion to the provincial exchequer in just one year.

The report has alleged that a loss of over Rs8 billion was caused to the exchequer through illegal mining.

The report has recommended action against those responsible.

It has stated that illegal mining continued throughout the province despite the presence of checkpoints, inspectors and minerals department.



Mir Raza murder case: cabinet body to oversee commission's recommendations

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The Sindh cabinet has formed a sub-committee to oversee the implementation of judicial commission's report on the death of Mir Raza Ali and recommend further action to the provincial government.According to an official notification, the sub-committee will monitor the implementation of the commission's findings and submit its recommendations to the Sindh chief minister as soon as possible.

The provincial Minister for Interior, Law and Parliamentary Affairs will serve as convener of the committee, while Local Government and Housing Town Planning Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and Labour and Human Resources Minister Saeed Ghani will be its members.

Sindh Advocate General Jawad Dero will provide legal assistance to the sub-committee, while the Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department will extend secretariat support.

Pakistan again warns India against violating Indus Waters Treaty

■ PM Shehbaz Sharif says Islamabad would consider it an act of war: Pakistan, Maldives agree to raise bilateral trade to $200 million in two years: Both countries sign 20 agreements to boost bilateral ties

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again warned India that any violation of Indus Waters Treaty would be regarded as an act of war by Pakistan, "Water is a lifeline for humanity and more so for lower riparian," he said, adding that any violation in this regard would be regarded by Pakistan as an act of war.This PM Shehbaz Sharif said while addressing a joint press stakeout with Maldivian President Dr Mohamed Muizzu in Islamabad on Wednesday after signing a raft of accords between the two countries.

Both countries agreed to increase the volume of their bilateral trade from around $13.9 million to $200 million within the next two years, opening new avenues of shared prosperity for the peoples of the two countries.PM Shehbaz Sharif said the existing



trade volume represented only a fraction of the economic potential of the two brotherly countries and expressed the resolve to work jointly to achieve the target.Earlier the two sides also signed 20 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements to strengthen cooperation in multiple sectors.

The prime minister said both sides would make joint efforts to achieve the ambitious target through enhanced economic cooperation and the effective implementation of agreements signed during the visit. He said the 20 MoUs and agreements covered important areas of bilateral cooperation and assured that he would personally work with the Maldivian president to ensure their timely implementation.

Welcoming the Maldivian president to Pakistan on his first visit to the country in 11 years, the prime minister said the visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said the two sides had held productive discussions on trade, investment, strategic defence cooperation, education, health, policing and capacity building, besides exchanging views on regional and international issues.



Field Marshal Asim Munir discusses regional security with Maldives President

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

NEWS DESK
RAWALPINDI

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir met Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu in Islamabad on Wednesday to discuss bilateral cooperation and the regional security situation.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security and opportunities to strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and the Maldives.

Both sides emphasised the importance of enhancing defence cooperation, institutional linkages and professional exchanges.

Field Marshal Munir highlighted the longstanding and cordial relations between the two countries and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

He also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to promoting regional peace, stability and security through constructive engagement.

President Muizzu commended the professionalism of Pakistan's armed forces and appreciated the country's continued efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Interior Minister Naqvi says Kashmir Chowk underpass to open soon

■ Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi says Kashmir Chowk underpass will open soon as Islamabad upgrades traffic management, parks and Safe City surveillance.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said the Kashmir Chowk underpass will be opened to traffic soon. Speaking to the media in the federal capital, Naqvi said work was underway to improve traffic flow, renovate parks and expand the coverage of the Safe City project in Islamabad.

He said the Kashmir Chowk underpass would be among the projects completed in the shortest possible time and would soon be opened to traffic. All trees affected by the project had been relocated, he added, while various measures were also being taken to



improve traffic flow across the city.The interior minister said F-9 Park would be renovated to make Islamabad more attractive and comfortable for residents. He said the government aimed to develop more parks on the model of F-9 Park to provide better recreational facilities and make the capital a leading destination for leisure activities.

Naqvi said the government was taking several initiatives for young people and expanding the Safe City project in Islamabad. Measures were also being introduced to improve vehicle identification and make the city's surveillance system more effective.

He said government flats in Sector G-6 would be vacated by removing illegal occupants.Commenting on the case involving student Laiba, Naqvi described it as a sensitive matter and said the police would provide details.

The interior minister said the government was taking steps to address traffic problems, improve civic facilities, protect green spaces and expand recreational opportunities in Islamabad. .

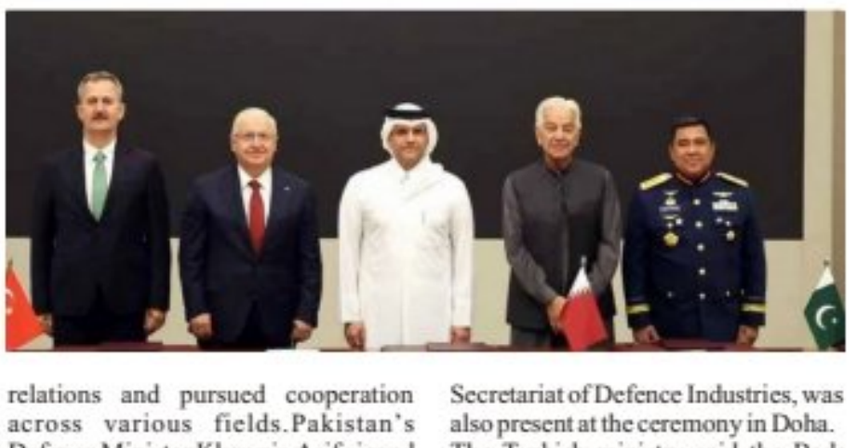
Pakistan, Qatar, Turkiye and Indonesia sign 'Badr' Defence Pact in Doha

■ Four nations outline plans for joint exercises, research and development

WEB DESK
DOHA

Pakistan, Qatar, Turkiye and Indonesia have signed a multilateral defence cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening their military capabilities and expanding collaboration in defence production.

The pact, titled the Badr Memorandum of Understanding, was signed in Qatar on Wednesday, with defence representatives from all four countries attending the ceremony. The agreement covers joint military exercises, training, research and development, as well as cooperation between the countries' respective defence industries, according to Turkiye's Ministry of National Defence. The development marks a new step in defence engagement among the four countries, which have maintained diplomatic



relations and pursued cooperation across various fields.Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif signed the agreement on behalf of Islamabad, according to photographs shared by the Turkish defence ministry. The other signatories were Turkish Defence Minister Yasar Güler, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman, and Indonesia's Deputy Minister of Defence Yusuf Jauhari. Haluk Görgün, head of Turkiye's Secretariat of Defence Industries, was also present at the ceremony in Doha.

The Turkish ministry said the Badr MoU was designed to promote defence cooperation and strengthen the participating countries' defensive capabilities. The agreement also provides for collaboration on military exercises and training programmes, alongside research and development initiatives intended to support improvements in their defence sectors.

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Asghar Khan Achakzai Arrested in Chaman Following Bail Cancellation; ANP Rejects Allegations



SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

Asghar Khan Achakzai, Provincial President of the Awami National Party (ANP) in Balochistan, was taken into police custody in Chaman on Wednesday after a local district and sessions court rejected his interim bail petition. Authorities executed the arrest in connection with an ongoing investigation into a criminal case registered against him.

Following the arrest, senior ANP provincial leaders—including Ubaidullah Abid and Zamrak Khan Achakzai—held an emergency press conference in Quetta to express grave concern over the judicial outcome and the police action.

Party leaders rejected the allegations against Achakzai, describing his inclusion in the case as a politically motivated attempt to target a prominent regional figure. Ubaidullah Abid claimed that the complainant in the case had previously submitted a sworn affidavit disassociating Achakzai from the alleged incident.

?Defending his record, ANP leaders emphasized Achakzai's long-standing role in resolving tribal disputes across Pashtun and Baloch areas and mediating local conflicts.



A technician repairs used batteries at a workshop to extend their service life

Governor Kundi links KP's development to peace

■ Governor Kundi reiterated that maintaining peace and ensuring law and order were his foremost priorities, adding that no compromise would be made on the issue.

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that peace is essential for the province's development, stressing that law and order remains the government's top priority.

He expressed these views during a meeting with Jamaat-e-Islami Deputy Ameer Professor Ibrahim at the party's headquarters in Peshawar.

The participants discussed the overall situation in the province, law and order, governance, ongoing development projects and public grievances. They also reviewed proposals to address the province's challenges, accelerate development and create employment opportunities for young people.

Governor Kundi reiterated that maintaining peace and ensuring law and order were his foremost priorities, adding that no compromise would be made on the issue.

Highlighting the importance of agriculture, he described the sector as the backbone of the national economy and said its development could help stabilize the economy and generate employment.

He noted that bringing the agricultural lands of the southern districts into productive use could help meet the province's agricultural needs and stimulate economic activity.

The governor also emphasized the potential of the information technology sector to create employment opportunities for youth, saying that promoting different sectors was necessary to harness young people's talent and support economic growth.

He further said that the welfare of police personnel and the families of police martyrs remained among his top priorities. He also referred to continued action against sanitation problems and encroachments across the province.

Kundi stressed the need for Jamaat-e-Islami's support and cooperation among political parties to resolve outstanding federal issues, secure the province's rights and address public concerns.

Nine killed, 36 injured as passenger bus overturns on Indus Highway near Rajanpur

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



At least nine passengers were killed and 36 others, including women and children, injured when a passenger bus collided with a road divider and overturned near Bangla Hidayat in Rajanpur on the Indus Highway.

According to rescue officials, the bus was travelling from Karachi to Dera Ghazi Khan when the accident occurred.

Rescue 1122 said emergency teams rushed to the scene after receiving information about the crash and launched operations to recover the bodies of the deceased and evacuate the injured.

The injured passengers were shifted to hospitals for medical treatment, while those who sustained minor injuries received first aid at the scene.

Panel seeks curbs on counterfeit cosmetics

■ Senate committee reviews amendments to proposed law

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Senate Standing Committee on Science and Technology Tuesday reviewed proposed amendments to the Pakistan General Cosmetics Bill, 2026, stressing the need for an effective regulatory framework to curb counterfeit cosmetic products, protect consumers and safeguard legitimate businesses.

The committee, which met under the chairmanship of Senator Kamil Ali Agha, considered the bill referred back by the House during its sitting on October 14, 2026, along with amendments moved by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla for reconsideration and report.

The meeting was attended by Senators Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Husna Bano, Dr Afnanullah Khan and Mandviwalla, Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi, Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, and senior officials of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

During the deliberations, Mandviwalla highlighted the importance of incorporating appropriate amendments to address the growing problem of counterfeit cosmetic products and strengthen regulatory oversight.He stressed that the proposed legislation should also take into account the concerns of importers and relevant industry associations.

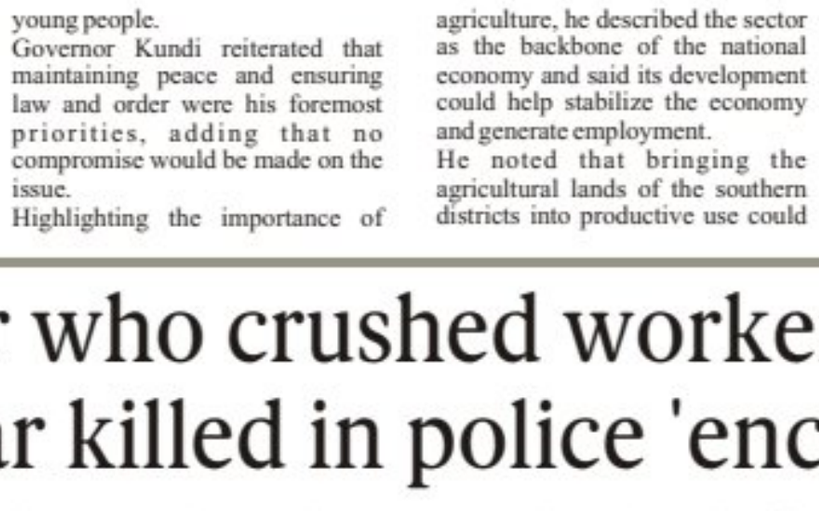
Representatives of the concerned association informed the committee that the sector had been operating for approximately 15 years but continued to face challenges due to counterfeit products.

They said several fake products were being marketed under the names of established brands, making effective regulation and enforcement essential to protect consumers and legitimate businesses.

Employer who crushed worker to death with car killed in police 'encounter'

■ The suspects tried to prove the murder was an accident, but videos from multiple CCTV cameras from different angles proved that it was not an accident but a brutal murder.

SPECIAL REPORTER
BAHAWALPUR



The suspect, who crushed an orphan to death with his car in Multan, was killed in an alleged police encounter.

The accused had crushed a 15-year-old boy identified as Waseem Abbas with a car on Monday. The orphaned child, Waseem Abbas, was fed up with alleged inhuman behaviour of the accused Tauqir and did not want to work.

According to District Officer CCD Irfan Akbar, after the incident, accused Tauqir Nazir was arrested and presented in the court and then the accused was handed over to the police on a four-day remand by the Judicial Magistrate from where he had fled.

The CCD officer said the police tried to stop two motorcyclists on the Northern Bypass Bahawalpur.

He said when the police stopped them, the accused opened fire while running away. During this, accused Tauqir was killed by the fire of his own accomplice, who later fled.

Read More: Contractor arrested for killing labourer by hitting him with car

It should be noted that the lawyers had also subjected the accused to torture during his appearance in the court.

Various CCTV footage of the killing of a 15-year-old orphan boy by being crushed under a car in a private housing society in Multan showed scenes of the boy being chased and then run over by a car.

The suspects tried to prove the murder was an accident, but videos from multiple CCTV cameras from different angles proved that it was not an accident but a brutal murder.

In the videos, the boy can be seen running away and the suspects chasing him.

Another CCTV camera video also captured the painful scene in which the suspects ran over the boy with a speeding car, killing him on the spot.

After the incident, the police took action and arrested an accused and registered a murder case against him. According to CPO Multan Akhtar Farooq, the deceased boy was staying in an NGO orphanage, from where he was sent to the accused Tauqeer 7 days ago to learn the work of an electrician.

PAKISTAN NAVY

DIRECTORATE OF PROCUREMENT (NAVY)
OPEN TENDER

DP (NAVY) NEAR SNID CENTER, CDA MARKET, AT NAVAL RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, E-8, ISLAMABAD

SEALED TENDERS ARE INVITED BY DP (NAVY) FOR PURCHASE OF FOLLOWING ITEMS:

S. #	IT.NO	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME	OPENING DATE &TIME
1	625002/R2610/ 330300 dated 15 Oct 26	Shoes Joggers for CPOs/ Sailors	05-11-2026 10:30 AM	05-11-2026 11:00 AM
2	625019/R2610/ 330300 dated 15 Oct 26	Cap Round White	05-11-2026 10:30 AM	05-11-2026 11:00 AM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

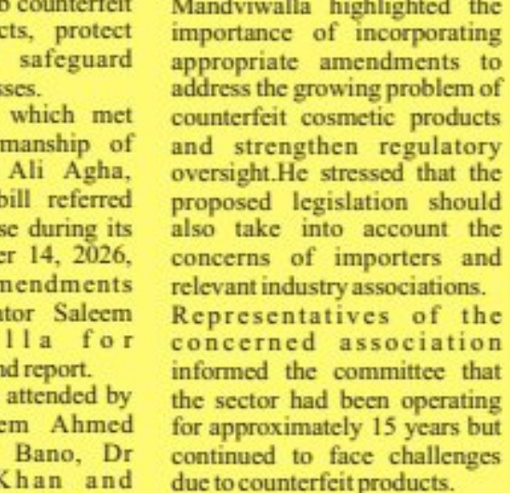
1. Complete details and specifications of the tender can be downloaded from PPRA website.
2. Only registered supplier on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR are eligible to participate in the Tender and submit quote.

PID(I)3635/26

Child dies, another hospitalised after taking 'contaminated' milk

■ Authorities said the exact cause of the children's death and illness would be determined after the medical reports and laboratory test results become available.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



A two-year-old child died and another was in a critical condition after allegedly consuming contaminated milk in Nishtar Colony here on Tuesday, police said.

According to SP Model Town Asad Ali, both children were taken to General Hospital for medical treatment.

However, two-year-old Faizan succumbed to his condition, while three-year-old Zain remains under treatment.

Police officials said the children's parents had purchased raw milk from a local vendor and fed it to the children. Following the incident, police took two milk sellers into custody and collected evidence for further investigation.

Forensic experts have been called in to assist with the investigation, while the Food Department is also being contacted to examine samples of the milk.

Scanned with CamScanner

IMF seeks Rs15.6tr tax target

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has suggested a Rs15.6 trillion new tax target and the withdrawal of sales tax exemptions on fuel and newly constructed homes, but the Pakistani authorities said that they had, thus far, not accepted any of these proposals.

The tax plan that the IMF suggested during the recently concluded round of staff-level talks would require at least Rs400 billion in additional revenue measures for the fiscal year 2026-27, starting from July, the sources said. The measures that the IMF proposed for the next fiscal year also included imposing sales tax on existing solar panel consumers who were earlier exempted from the new net billing regulations, according to the Pakistani authorities.

The sources said that the IMF sought to increase the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax-to-GDP ratio to 11.3% for the next fiscal year, about 0.3% or Rs400 billion higher than this year's agreed targets. However, the tax authorities were not hopeful of collecting more than 10.7% of GDP, which leaves a wide gulf.

The Washington-based global lender asked the Pakistani authorities that the increase in the tax base should primarily come from revenue measures. Throughout these talks, spanning over one month, the tax authorities stated that the policy space had been fully exhausted and that people could not be overburdened any more, said the authorities.

Pakistan and the IMF last week reached a staff-level agreement, but its final endorsement from the executive board is linked to the FBR's ability to collect Rs322 billion from court cases that have already been decided in the government's favour. FBR officials said that the machinery has so far pooled about Rs280 billion from the court cases.

The IMF will launch another mission to Pakistan in early May to finalise the budget, including tax proposals for the next fiscal year. The sources said that the measures suggested by the IMF as part of its plan to increase the tax base may again come under discussion during the next round.

The FBR's tax base remains fluid, as it is highly unlikely that it would achieve the Rs13.98 trillion downward revised tax target. The tax machinery faces the prospect of missing its target by a huge margin, which would make it impossible to achieve the next fiscal year's 11.3% of GDP or Rs15.6 trillion. The sources said that the IMF wanted to set the new tax target at Rs15.6 trillion, while the tax machinery showed its inability to generate more than Rs15 trillion, that too depending upon this year's actual collection.They added that the IMF wanted Pakistan to withdraw or reduce sales tax exemptions on fuel and newly constructed homes. The government is already charging Rs106 per litre petroleum levy on petrol, which is equal to 37% of the landed price of the fuel.

The government is not in favour of imposing GST on fuel, as it would have to share the revenues with the provinces, unlike the petroleum levy that is fully retained by the federal government.

The sources said that imposing an asset-based tax on small and medium enterprises, including traders, was still part of the IMF toolkit. The FBR is resisting the proposal on the grounds that it does not have the wherewithal to determine the asset base of small-scale traders.

According to another politically sensitive proposal, the issue of imposing 18% sales tax on existing solar panel consumers came under discussion during these deliberations, the sources added. The government has recently changed the solar panel regulations by converting them from net metering to net billing of units.After hue and cry made by consumers and the media, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif instructed them to exempt existing consumers from the new regulations. The sources said that the proposal remained on the table for the May round of discussions with the IMF.

The government has also requested the IMF to allow a reduction in tax rates for various segments and businesses. The IMF's view was that any reduction in rates should be offset by new permanent tax policy measures, including the possibility of increasing the standard sales tax rate.

The IMF has taken the position that the next fiscal year's 2% of GDP primary budget surplus target will be sacrosanct and should be backed by permanent tax policy measures, mainly through sales tax and income tax collection from people who are already in the net.



By: Shabana Mehmood

From Port to Plates

The dual challenge of rising fuel prices and supply chain disruptions has become the defining economic crisis of early 2026. For the common man whether in the bustling markets of Karachi or the industrial hubs of Europe these are not just abstract macroeconomic terms. They are the forces that dictate the price of a loaf of bread, the feasibility of a daily commute, and the overall stability of a household's future.

In Pakistan, where the economy is particularly sensitive to energy shocks, the recent volatility has fundamentally altered the quality of life for millions?

In March 2026, Pakistan witnessed a historic surge in petroleum prices. Following intense regional tensions and a global supply crunch, petrol and diesel prices jumped by Rs. 55 per litter in a single notification on March 7. While Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently rejected further hikes as of March 28 to provide temporary relief, the existing rates (Petrol at Rs. 321.17 and Diesel at Rs. 335.86) remain a heavy burden.For a motorcyclist or a small-car owner, daily travel expenses have increased by nearly 30%. This forces families to make difficult choices? cutting back on healthcare or education to keep a vehicle running for work. Fuel is the lifeblood of the supply chain. When diesel prices rise, the cost of transporting wheat from the farms of Punjab to the markets of Sindh rises with it. This is why a fuel hike today becomes a food price hike tomorrow. While fuel prices are often influenced by local policy, they are currently triggered by severe global supply chain choke points. In March 2026, the effective disruption of the Strait of Hormuz through which 20 million barrels of oil pass daily has sent global oil prices toward $160 per barrel the slowing of major shipping lanes means that goods take longer to arrive and cost significantly more to ship. In Pakistan, inland freight costs have climbed by 15–25%? From life-saving medicines to raw materials for local factories, delays lead to artificial scarcity.

This allows for black-marketing and further price manipulation, leaving the common consumer at the mercy of middle-men.

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In Pakistan, the supply chain begins at the farm. Diesel is essential for tube wells and tractors. When fuel becomes expensive? Farmers reduce their crop area to save costs. Yields drop, leading to a shortage of staples like wheat and sugar. The common man pays the price at the grocery store, where food inflation in 2026 has remained a persistent threat to household security. The most devastating effect of these shifts is the erosion of purchasing power. In 2026, the gap between stagnant wages and rising costs has widened into a chasm.

shortage of staples like wheat and sugar. The common man pays the price at the grocery store, where food inflation in 2026 has remained a persistent threat to household security. The most devastating effect of these shifts is the erosion of purchasing power. In 2026, the gap between stagnant wages and rising costs has widened into a chasm.

Impact of 2026 Economic are really Shocking?Daily Wage Earners?Real income drops as transport consumes nearly 20% of daily earnings. Gig Workers?Delivery riders find it nearly impossible to maintain profit margins. Small Businesses? Higher operational costs and electricity bills lead to layoffs.

Students? Increased van and bus fares make education a luxury for many families. For the common man, the economy is not a graph on a screen? it is the physical weight of his shopping bag at the end of the week.

It is a mistake to think these problems are unique to one region. The 2026 crisis has proven that the world is more connected than ever. In Europe and North America, rising diesel costs are pushing grocery bills to record highs, mirroring the struggles in developing nations. Countries relying on Middle Eastern oil are seeing their currencies weaken, making every import from fuel to electronics more expensive.

A factory delay in East Asia or a port strike in Europe eventually reaches the local kiryana store in a small Pakistani village. The disturbance in supply chain management is a global fever that every local economy feels.

To survive this era of volatility, both the government and the individual must adapt some points? There is a growing push for CPEC 2.0 to focus on energy alternatives and trade route diversification to bypass vulnerable shipping lanes.

* Austerity and Efficiency: The government has urged a simplicity campaign, cutting development budgets to subsidize fuel costs. For the individual, carpooling and energy conservation have transitioned from green choices to survival strategies. 2026 has seen a surge in AI-powered logistics to reduce waste. If we cannot lower the price of fuel, we must make the movement of goods as lean as possible.

The increase in fuel prices and the fracturing of global supply chains are not just economic hurdles they are social challenges that test the resilience of the nation. For the common man in Pakistan, the struggle is immediate and visceral. While global markets may eventually stabilize, the economic pressure of 2026 lost savings, reduced opportunities, and constant inflation will require years of steady policy and collective effort to overcome.



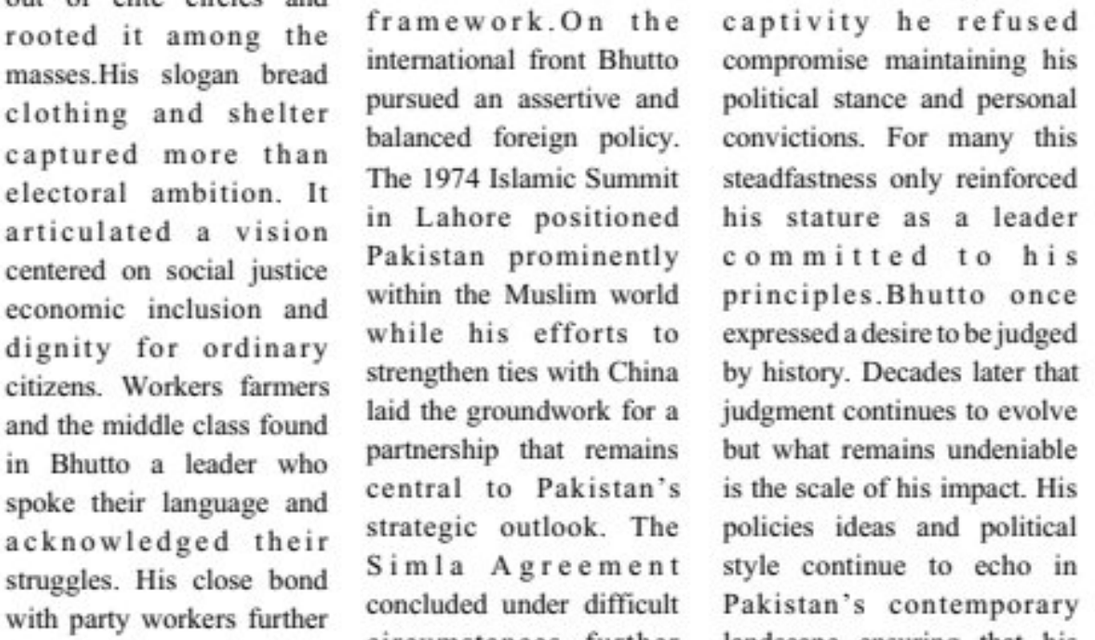
By: Ahmed Ghuman

A Leader Beyond His Tim eZulfikar Ali Bhutto's Enduring Political Legacy

Few figures in Pakistan's history have left as deep and lasting an imprint as Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. More than a politician Bhutto represented an era defined by ambition resilience and a reimagining of the relationship between the state and its people. His leadership particularly between 1971 and 1977 came at a moment of profound national crisis yet it also became a period of reconstruction and renewed direction.In the aftermath of the fall of Dhaka Pakistan stood isolated demoralized and politically fractured. Bhutto stepped into power at this critical juncture and sought to restore not only the state's authority but also the confidence of its people. His approach to politics was markedly different he brought political discourse out of elite circles and rooted it among the masses.His slogan bread clothing and shelter captured more than electoral ambition. It articulated a vision centered on social justice economic inclusion and dignity for ordinary citizens. Workers farmers and the middle class found in Bhutto a leader who spoke their language and acknowledged their struggles. His close bond with party workers further strengthened this connection creating a sense of shared purpose that defined his political movement.Bhutto's strategic decisions also reshaped Pakistan's long-



term trajectory. The initiation of the nuclear programme in 1972 in response to the vulnerabilities exposed by the 1971 war reflected a determination to secure the country's defence through self-reliance. Equally significant was the 1973 Constitution a rare consensus document that continues to underpin Pakistan's democratic framework.On the international front Bhutto pursued an assertive and balanced foreign policy. The 1974 Islamic Summit in Lahore positioned Pakistan prominently within the Muslim world while his efforts to strengthen ties with China laid the groundwork for a partnership that remains central to Pakistan's strategic outlook. The Simla Agreement concluded under difficult circumstances further illustrated his ability to navigate complex diplomatic challenges.Bhutto also understood the economic potential of overseas employment encouraging the migration of Pakistani labour to the Middle East a policy that would later become a vital source of remittances.Yet his political journey was cut short. The imposition of martial law in 1977 marked the beginning of a prolonged period of authoritarian rule. Bhutto's imprisonment and subsequent execution in 1979 following a controversial trial remain among the most debated and painful chapters in Pakistan's history.Even in captivity he refused compromise maintaining his political stance and personal convictions. For many this steadfastness only reinforced his stature as a leader committed to his principles.Bhutto once expressed a desire to be judged by history. Decades later that judgment continues to evolve but what remains undeniable is the scale of his impact. His policies ideas and political style continue to echo in Pakistan's contemporary landscape ensuring that his legacy endures well beyond his time.



ISLAMABAD:-IESCO staffers repairing the electric wires, in the Federal Capital.

Scanned with CamScanner

Govt ensures adequate fertilizer availability and price stability for Rabi Season: Rana Tanveer



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

:Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain stressed that artificial shortages, hoarding, and unjustified price increases would not be tolerated, and that appropriate action must be taken against those involved in market manipulation.

The minister chaired a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee to assess fertilizer availability, market prices, distribution arrangements, and supply requirements for the ongoing Rabi cropping season.

The meeting was attended by senior ministry officials and stakeholders from the fertilizer industry.

During the meeting, the Federal Minister emphasized that ensuring the timely availability of fertilizers, particularly urea and DAP, remains a key government priority.He expressed satisfaction over the overall fertilizer supply situation and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining sufficient stocks to meet farmers' requirements throughout the Rabi season.

The Committee reviewed the prevailing stock position, domestic production, supply chain arrangements, and anticipated fertilizer demand during the wheat sowing season. Officials briefed the meeting on measures being undertaken to maintain a balanced supply across the country and ensure the smooth movement of fertilizers to agricultural markets.Rana Tanveer Hussain directed the concerned authorities to strengthen market surveillance and maintain close coordination with relevant departments and fertilizer manufacturers to prevent supply disruptions.



Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Wakamatsu Shigeomi inaugurates the newly constructed Tharnol Girls Model Primary School i na suburban area of Tarnol, built with support from the Government of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)

Pakistan borrows Rs1,514bn in first quarter of FY2026-27

■ Pakistan borrowed Rs1.514 trillion in the first quarter of FY2026-27, including Rs1.037 trillion in September, and received $5.44 billion in foreign loans and grants; $3bn in bonds

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



The government borrowed a total of Rs1,514 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2026-27, from July to September, including Rs1,037 billion in September alone, according to documents from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The documents show that the government borrowed approximately Rs913 billion more in September 2026 than in September 2025.

According to the documents, the government issued bonds worth $3 billion in September. Of these, $1.75 billion in bonds carry an interest rate of 7.5%, while the remaining $1.25 billion carry an interest rate of 7.9%. The bonds will mature in 2036.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs said the proceeds from the $3 billion bond issuance could be used for budget support, with the Ministry of Finance serving as the executing agency. The amount is equivalent to approximately Rs818 billion when converted into local currency.

In addition to the bonds, the government borrowed Rs17 billion under non-project financing, which includes budget support and short-term loans.

The documents further revealed that the government received a total of $5.44 billion in foreign loans and grants between July and September. This was $3.63 billion more than the $1.81 billion received during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

During the first quarter, the government also secured a medium-term loan facility worth $300 million from an international commercial bank.

According to the Economic Affairs Division, funds raised through Naya Pakistan Certificates increased significantly during the first quarter of the current fiscal year. Naya Pakistan Certificates worth $942.7 million were issued during the period.

Pak food exports rise 25pc as rice shipments to Philippines surge

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

Web Desk

KARACHI

Pakistan's food exports rose more than 25 percent to $1.39 billion in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, driven largely by higher rice shipments, including a sharp increase in sales to the Philippines, according to official data and market analysts.

The growth in July-September came as Pakistan sought to expand its agricultural exports beyond traditional markets in the Middle East and Europe. Rice accounted for much of the increase, with exporters and analysts attributing the surge in Philippine orders to competitive prices, government incentives and a shift in demand away from rival suppliers.

"Pakistan's food exports grew by 25 percent in 1QFY27, mainly due to higher rice exports," Abdul Azeem, head of research at AL Habib Capital Markets, told Arab News.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country's food exports increased from $1.11 billion in the corresponding quarter last year, with rice export earnings jumping 56 percent to $652.4 million from $418.5 million.

Basmati rice exports rose 86 percent to $276.3 million, while non-Basmati shipments increased 39 percent to $376.1 million.

"On a quarterly basis, the Philippines is the relatively faster growing market, contributing an additional $124 million in 1QFY27," Shankar Talreja, head of research at Karachi-based brokerage Topline Securities, said.

Pakistan Customs data showed rice exports to the Philippines surged to approximately $118 million in July-September from just $160,000 a year earlier, with shipment volumes climbing to 282,725 tons from 130 tons.

The bulk of the exports comprised non-Basmati rice, with shipments totaling 266,491 tons worth $112 million, followed by 16,126 tons of broken rice valued at $5.78 million.

The increase marked a significant expansion into a market traditionally supplied by Vietnam and other major Asian rice exporters.

Dollar on back foot as US yields, crude prices dip; Aussie buoyed by hawkish RBA

■ The US dollar remained near a three-week low as Treasury yields and oil prices fell, while the Australian dollar strengthened amid inflation concerns and expectations of possible rate hikes.

Web Desk

TOKYO



The US dollar remained under pressure on Wednesday after slipping to a three-week low in the previous session, as a dip in Treasury yields and crude oil prices reduced the currency's appeal.

The ?Australian dollar hovered close to a three-week high against the greenback with Reserve Bank of Australia Deputy Governor Andrew Hauser saying at a Citi conference that the inflation outlook looked "materially worse", leaving him unsure whether the central bank would need to further raise its policy interest rate next month.

The Aussie rose 0.1% to $0.7013, just below the previous day's high of $0.7017.

The US dollar index , ?which measures the currency against six peers, was steady at 101.78 after declining 0.2% on Tuesday.

Investors have turned to the greenback as an investment haven amid market volatility brought about by war in the ?Middle East and AI frenzy, partly due to the currency's energy independence.

Oil prices eased overnight after touching a five-month high ?as traders weighed a meeting between the Iranian president and Pakistan's army chief, a US-Iran mediator, against continued Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure and reports of vessel attacks in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Wall Street posted a solid session as technology earnings season got underway with SpaceX (SPCX.O) ?results. Japan's Nikkei and South Korea's KOSPI rallied on Wednesday.

"With equity market sentiment and the growth outlook closely tied ?to the performance of the major tech firms, their earnings results can have a large bearing on the USD," Carol Kong, economist ?and ?currency strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, wrote in a client note.

Amid a "mixed" performance among traditional haven assets this year, "the USD has been the clear standout," she said. "Safe haven demand for the USD is likely to fade once the Middle East conflict ends and energy prices retreat. However, we expect the USD to trend modestly higher in coming months ?as foreign capital inflows into ?US markets increase."

The greenback was ?little changed at 158.33 yen , and was steady at $1.1229 per euro and $1.33735 versus sterling .

Still, traders remained wary of the euro as France tackles widespread anti-government protests and a worsening fiscal picture.

France will reinforce police with troops and mount a huge security operation for ?more protests planned on Saturday, the government said on Tuesday, acknowledging failures in its response to violence last weekend.

Among central banks, the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of Japan announce policy decisions on consecutive days starting next Wednesday.

India's Jio IPO opens for public bids in record $3.2 billion sale

■ Jio Platforms launches its $3.2 billion IPO, attracting global investors as Mukesh Ambani's telecom giant targets a $108.3 billion valuation.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Public bidding for the $3.2 billion IPO of Jio Platforms (JIOP.NS) opens on Wednesday, testing the appetite for India's largest share sale to date and the first from billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance (RELI.NS) conglomerate in two decades.

The Jio Platforms IPO will be a major test of global appetite for new share offerings at a time when investors have sharpened their scrutiny of ?AI-related companies, which some analysts say could see them pivoting away from the technology.

With backing from Meta, ?Google and institutional investors, Jio Platforms is home to India's biggest telecom company with more ?than 500 million subscribers, making it the world's second-largest telecom operator in a single country after China Mobile.

The IPO ?values Jio Platforms at up to $108.3 billion, potentially making it one of India's biggest companies by market capitalisation when ?trading starts on October 28, with around a third of the shares on offer reserved for retail investors.Jio Platforms this week allotted shares worth $853 million to global and domestic investors including Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and BlackRock after the reserved portion for such investors drew ?bids totalling more than $25 billion.Retail investors, employees and shareholders of Reliance will get to participate in the ?offering that closes on Friday and has a price range set at 1,065 to 1,119 rupees per share.

The IPO is the first ?from ?Reliance since 2006 and is bigger than previous major listings such as Hyundai Motor India (HYUN.NS), opens new tab and National Stock Exchange (NSEI.BO).

Ambani first promised a listing within five years in 2019, and the plans were also delayed in 2025. A filing for as early as March was pushed back after the Iran war dampened IPO appetite.

Jio Platforms' telecom business, led by Ambani's son ?Akash, began in 2016 with ?a bet that Indians ?would use the internet far more if it cost almost nothing.

It rapidly took market share from rivals such as Bharti Airtel (BRTI.NS), opens new tab and Vodafone Idea (VODA.NS), opens new tab by offering cheap data ?and free voice calls.

Jio Platforms is pitching its IPO during an ongoing Hindu festive ?season, which is ?considered auspicious for purchases, but when Indian markets have remained subdued in recent weeks.

Reliance paid its more than 400,000 employees their salaries about 15 days early this month, and the company helped facilitate share account opening services in recent weeks ?to those ?interested in applying for the IPO, a person in the industry ?with direct knowledge of the situation said.

Scanned with CamScanner

Canada, Turkey to agree during Carney visit to deepen defence and energy ties, source says

■ Canada and Turkey plan a joint declaration to strengthen defence, energy, trade, investment, and diplomatic cooperation during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit.



Web Desk

ANKARA/TORONTO

NATO allies Canada and Turkey are expected to sign a joint declaration aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in four areas, including defence and energy, during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit later this week, a person briefed on the matter said.

The declaration is also expected to encompass the economy, looking to advance bilateral free trade talks, while boosting social and diplomatic ties. The countries would establish committees in all ?of the areas to draft action plans, the person said.

Carney will be the first Canadian prime minister to make a dedicated bilateral visit ?to Turkey. He is set to meet with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Thursday and then with Turkish ?business leaders in Istanbul on Friday.

The visit is part of Carney's efforts to reduce trade dependence on the United States and strengthen partnerships with regional ?powers amid a damaging trade war with Washington and an increasingly adversarial relationship with President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly questioned Canada's sovereignty.

At a Canadian government ?briefing on Tuesday, officials declined to confirm what specific declarations, agreements or deals might be signed during the trip.

Carney will meet Erdogan "to advance cooperation in trade and investment, energy, defense and security and people-to-people ties," said a Canadian government official.

The meetings with Turkish companies on Friday are meant "to promote the strengthening of bilateral trade and investment and to foster new ?opportunities for commercial collaboration," the official said, adding that Ottawa is most interested in Turkey's aerospace, defence, energy, mining, high-tech and agriculture sectors.

Turkey's presidency and the ?Foreign Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar told the Kanal 7 broadcaster on Sunday that energy, namely nuclear ?power, would ?be among the top agenda items during Carney's visit.

Ankara anticipates that energy discussions will also include potential purchases by Turkey of liquefied natural gas from Canada as well as critical minerals, according to the person briefed on the matter. A working group is expected to be created to study the feasibility of a bid by Canada's CANDU to build a planned nuclear plant on Turkey's Black Sea coast.

Trump promises cash for fraud tips as he awards right-wing YouTuber



WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would reward tipsters who uncover fraud in US government programs, launching the initiative by announcing a cash prize for a conservative online influencer.

Speaking from the White House Oval Office, Trump said a new Fraud Whistleblower Incentive Program would award people an unlimited 1% commission on the fraud reported.

The Justice Department described the program differently, saying it would ?award $10,000 to $30,000 for tips that lead to criminal charges. It said the Treasury Department ?is committing $25 million toward the program and that the Justice Department would ?issue the awards in its "sole discretion."

The first recipient was Nick Shirley. Senior administration officials have amplified ?and credited the 24-year-old pro-Trump YouTuber's viral video alleging some childcare centers in Minnesota were fraudulent ?as the basis for plans to cut some federal funding to the state.The Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families disputed some of those claims as misleading and exaggerated. But one Minneapolis woman whose childcare center ?Shirley profiled later pleaded guilty to fraud charges.

"There's never been an incentive for anyone to ?ever expose fraud," Shirley said at the White House. "When you expose fraud, you help save America."

Vice President JD ?Vance, ?who leads the president's anti-fraud task force, said Shirley had "done more than anybody that I've met recently as a citizen journalist to uncover the fraud" and that "Nick is going to get a financial reward for doing so."

A White House official told media outlets that Shirley would get $10,000.

It ?was not immediately clear ?how Shirley was ?selected for the prize. The White House, Justice Department and Treasury Department did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment, and Shirley ?could not immediately be reached.



Pakistan, Turkiye, Qatar, and Indonesia to ink defence industry pact

■ Agreement to be signed in Doha aims to strengthen cooperation in joint production, technology transfer, supply chain

Web DESK

CAIRO

Pakistan, Turkiye, Qatar, and Indonesia will sign a new memorandum of understanding on Wednesday (today) in Doha to strengthen defence industry cooperation, Turkiye's Defence Industries Secretariat (SSB) announced.

The memorandum will build on existing defence projects among the four countries, marking a new step in Turkiye's approach to multilateral cooperation.

Efforts coordinated by the secretariat focus on moving beyond the supply of military platforms to joint production, technology transfer, interoperability, and the integration of supply chains.

In a statement, the secretariat said defence industry partnerships pursued with the support of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are among the strategic elements supporting Turkiye's foreign policy. It added that efforts focused on mass production and exports have gained momentum under Haluk Gorgun, the secretariat's head.

More than 55% of defense exports since 2012 took place in last 4 years

According to the Defence and Aerospace Industry Exporters' Association, Turkiye's defence and aerospace sector saw approximately $54 billion in exports from 2012 through the first nine months of 2026. More than $30 billion of that total took place in 2023-2026, meaning the last four years accounted for more than 55% of the sector's exports over the period.Defence and aerospace exports rose 48% year-on-year in 2025 to top $10 billion, while exports over the latest 12-month period surpassed $11 billion for the first time. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Turkiye boosted its arms exports 122% over the last five years, becoming the world's 11th-largest arms supplier. NATO allies account for 56% of Turkiye's defence and aerospace exports.

Joint production and technology transfer with Qatar Qatar, one of the parties to the planned memorandum, has a longstanding defence industry partnership with Turkiye.

Saudi coalition says five drones destroyed near Madinah, eastern regions

WEB DESK

RIYADH



The Saudi-led military coalition has claimed that five drones heading towards Madinah and eastern regions of Saudi Arabia were destroyed before reaching their targets.According to the coalition spokesperson, the drones were intercepted during a defensive operation. Further details about possible damage resulting from the reported incident were not provided. Meanwhile, Yemen's military has claimed that 200 Houthi fighters were killed during the ongoing operation, "Fajr Al-Yemen," against the group.Yemeni military spokesperson said forces carried out 744 attacks against the Houthis over a 24-hour period. He stated that the strikes targeted Houthi command centres, fighters and weapons depots.According to the spokesperson, Yemeni forces also halted a Houthi advance in Taiz province.

In a separate development, King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh has resumed limited air traffic under strict conditions after being temporarily closed on October 10 following recent Houthi attacks.

Makkah pact aims to strengthen collective deterrence among Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye

■ Turkey submits a mutual defence pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for parliamentary approval, strengthening military cooperation, intelligence sharing, and regional security.

WEB DESK

ANKARA



Turkiye has submitted a defence ?pact with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to parliament for ratification, three parliamentary sources said on Tuesday, moving NATO's second-largest army closer to a formal mutual defence pledge with Riyadh as it faces Houthi attacks.

The three countries signed the Mecca Joint Defence Agreement in August, under which an armed attack on one member is considered an attack on all.

The ?agreement's first article says the parties shall use "all necessary means" to eliminate threats to one another's territorial integrity, sovereignty or internationally recognised borders, according to a text seen by Reuters.

"In the event one of the parties is subjected to an armed ?attack or military aggression by another country or group of countries, the parties shall immediately provide assistance to the party under attack, utilising the ?full range of mutual assistance measures available to them," Article 2 of the agreement says.

The provision, similar to NATO's Article 5, refers to Article ?51 of the UN Charter, which covers the individual or collective right of states to self-defence against armed attack.

The three countries "will decide on the scope and nature of the support to be provided following an objective assessment of the assistance required" and will cooperate within their available resources, including military capabilities and resources, the same article says.

At an emergency meeting of the alliance in Riyadh earlier this month, the three countries agreed to ensure the "rapid deployment" of military forces and capabilities in Saudi ?Arabia.

Turkiye, which has a robust defence industry, has condemned Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, expressed willingness to help meet Riyadh's military technology needs and agreed to join ?a Saudi-led ?coalition to ensure navigational safety in the Red Sea.

France to deploy troops, admits to failures over weekend unrest

■ France will deploy troops alongside police for Saturday's protests after deadly unrest, while targeted curfews helped restore calm and authorities launched investigations into rioting and looting.

WEB DESK

PARIS

France will reinforce police with troops and mount a huge security operation for more protests planned , the government said on Tuesday, acknowledging failures in its response to last weekend's violence.

"The deployment next Saturday will be massive," Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu ?said, adding that the immediate priority was to restore order after rioting and looting swept Paris, Marseille, Lyon and other cities on October 17. In a sometimes rowdy debate, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said the military would be deployed alongside police, while the government pledged to overhaul tactics after widespread criticism that city centres had been left vulnerable.

Framing the crisis as a choice "between violence and the Republic", Lecornu blamed the unrest on far-left groups, who ?in turn have accused the government of underestimating public anger over high living costs and declining public services.

The turmoil shocked France because of both its scale and the apparent inability of ?police to contain it, inflaming tensions ahead of presidential elections next year with candidates from the far right and hard left performing strongly in polls.

Protests ?in other European countries, including Italy and Albania, have added to concerns that anger over living standards risks spreading around the continent at a time when many nations, including France, are struggling with budget woes.



A ?night of relative calm in France followed targeted curfews imposed in several areas affected by the chaos, which the government said had helped reassert control. The localised curfews, some directed at children and teenagers under ?age 18, were extended to Tuesday night, police said.

Lecornu acknowledged shortcomings in the state's response at the weekend, saying there had been intelligence failures, while police deployments had been too static and authorities had erred by not cancelling planned police leave.

Nunez apologised for the mistakes. "I deeply regret what happened. I accept my share of responsibility," he said.Parliament is setting up a commission of inquiry to establish the causes of the unrest, ?while authorities have assigned 200 investigators to identify and track down those involved in the street violence. Police arrested on Tuesday a man suspected of starting a blaze that destroyed a historic town hall ?in the central city of Limoges during the rioting. Officials said he had been on a security watch list and belonged to an ultra-left group.

Sylvain Maillard, a Renaissance deputy for Paris, told Reuters some apps had become "a ?walkie-talkie system ?for rioters and looters".

Underscoring the broad impact of the crisis, French borrowing costs rose further on Tuesday as investors fretted about the prospect of more unrest, with the yield on benchmark 10-year government bonds touching its highest level in 24 years.

Supermarket chain Carrefour said it had lost tens of millions of euros through theft and damage, warning that it faced an "unprecedented situation" because of the disorder.

France's main student union UNEF has called for further protests on Saturday, pledging to maintain pressure on Macron's government over what it says is a deteriorating and underfunded education system. "We carry on," it said on social media.

Scanned with CamScanner

Yashma Gill turns heads with breezy coastal charm

■ Celebrated actress Yashma Gill has once again captured the attention of fans and fashion enthusiasts with her latest Instagram photoshoot, effortlessly blending contemporary minimalism with classic charm.

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Complementing her outfit, Yashma styled her hair in glossy, voluminous waves with soft, face framing bangs, while her dewy makeup and soft pink lip color echoed the embroidery, giving the overall look a refined, "clean girl" festive vibe perfect for a summer evening. The shoot was set against an impressive urban coastal backdrop, likely overlooking the Arabian Sea in Karachi's upscale areas.

Yashma stood on a balcony adorned with white railings and lush green turf, which created a striking contrast against the deep indigo sky of the blue hour. In the background, towering high rise buildings under construction, complete with cranes, added a dynamic, modern energy that mirrored the city's rapid growth, while the vast expanse of the ocean lent a serene and sophisticated atmosphere. Fans and followers quickly took to the comments, showering Yashma with praise for her effortless beauty and style.

Admirers wrote messages like "Soo prettyyyy" and "You are so beautiful pyariiii," expressing their admiration and appreciation for her poised elegance. Beyond just fashion, the photoshoot highlighted Yashma's ability to merge traditional motifs with contemporary silhouettes.



Meera serves 'FIERCE GLAM' in bold red outfit

■ Veteran actress Meera set social media ablaze with her latest striking appearance, unveiling a bold red look that instantly grabbed attention.

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Veteran actress Meera set social media ablaze with her latest striking appearance, unveiling a bold red look that instantly grabbed attention.

Taking to Instagram, the star shared a glimpse of her powerful transformation, leaving fans intrigued not only by her style but also by what's next in her career. In the photos, Meera draped in a vivid red ensemble, embraced a commanding monochrome aesthetic that blended classic sophistication with modern flair.

She styled a structured peacoat featuring a rounded collar and statement buttons over a sleek black turtleneck, creating a sharp contrast that enhanced the overall look. Her beauty choices complemented the outfit seamlessly, with a bold red lip, matching nails, and statement silver accessories adding a glamorous edge.

A neatly styled high bun further highlighted her defined features, giving the appearance a polished and confident finish.

Captioning the post actress wrote "Every phase shape you.
Intensity teaches you depth.
Silence teaches you control.
Time teaches your perspective.
Coming soon #psycho

An actor evolves the same way. Entering a new phase with focus and intention."

Meera hinted at a new phase in her journey while teasing her role in Psycho. The film, which she stars in alongside Shaan Shahid and Sonya Hussyn, is shaping up to be a major cinematic release. The crime thriller, helmed by Shaan Shahid, is expected to explore intense psychological themes and layered storytelling.

The project also features a strong supporting cast including Javed Sheikh, Shabbir Jan, and Nayyer Ejaz, promising a powerful on-screen lineup.

Backed by Redlipstick and Geo Films, Psycho is already being viewed as one of the most anticipated Pakistani films of 2026.

Fans quickly flooded the comments section, praising Meera's bold style and timeless appeal, proving once again that the actress knows how to command attention both on and off screen.

Danish Taimoor's viral drama clip gets hilarious twist from Rabia Anum

■ However, what truly amplified the moment was a witty Instagram story shared by Rabia Anum Obaid, who added her own playful take to the scene.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani television star Danish Taimoor and journalist-host Rabia Anum Obaid caught fans' attention online as a viral drama clip sparked humor, nostalgia, and conversations bringing together their on-screen and real life media presence in an unexpected way.

However, what truly amplified the moment was a witty Instagram story shared by Rabia Anum Obaid, who added her own playful take to the scene. The clip, reportedly from the drama Ishq Hai, shows Hiba's character portrayed as a doctor tending to Danish's injured hand in a hospital setting.

While the scene carries emotional undertones, it is the playful dialogue about "Money" that has turned it into a social media moment.

With humorous Roman Urdu captions layered onto the clip, audiences found themselves relating to the banter, transforming a dramatic interaction into meme worthy content.

Joining the trend, Rabia Anum tagged Danish Taimoor with a cheeky caption urging him to "Return the money,".

Interestingly, both Danish Taimoor and Rabia Anum share another strong connection apart from these moments. They are prominent faces of Ramzan transmissions.

Over the years, Danish has transitioned into hosting special Ramzan shows, bringing a calm and engaging presence to spiritual and entertainment programming.

His ability to balance acting with hosting has strengthened his position as a versatile figure in the industry.

Rabia Anum, on the other hand, has long been associated with morning shows and Ramzan transmissions, known for her articulate hosting style.





IHC Restores Interim Bail for Dr Fazeela Abbasi in Money Laundering Case

■ The case continues to draw significant public attention as proceedings move forward in the trial court.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday restored interim bail for Dr Fazeela Abbasi, a prominent dermatologist and sister of actor Hamza Ali Abbasi, in a high-profile money laundering case.

Justice Muhammad Azam Khan granted bail against a surety bond of Rs100,000 and directed the accused to approach the trial court for further proceedings.

Dr Abbasi appeared before the court along with her counsel Naeem Bukhari, who informed the bench that she had attended three previous hearings and missed one due to medical reasons, for which a certificate had been submitted. Her interim bail had earlier been cancelled following the absence.

According to investigators, the case involves transactions worth Rs25 billion allegedly deposited across 22 bank accounts in Dr Abbasi's name, which were later transferred to the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Sohail Ahmed addresses controversy over viral clip on Yazid



WEB DESK

LAHORE

Renowned actor and comedian Sohail Ahmed has clarified his remarks after a clip of his speech went viral on social media, sparking public debate.

In the incomplete clip, Ahmed is heard saying that "Hussain is as popular as Yazid," a statement that circulated widely without proper context. Ahmed emphasized that his words were part of a moral lesson and not intended to be political, urging the public to consider the full context before forming opinions.

In the video message, Ahmed stated that a sentence he had spoken is being circulated out of context.He explained that during his talk, he mentioned that "popularity is not such a big deal, and even Hussain is as popular as Yazid." He emphasized that he was teaching children about the importance of joining the Hussaini path rather than the Yazidi one, and that his words were meant as a moral lesson, not a political statement.

Just Minutes Of Vigorous Activity Boost Health

■ Short Daily Bursts Of Intense Activity Reduce Major Disease Risk

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Just a few minutes of vigorous movement each day — such as climbing stairs, brisk walking, or short bursts of running — may significantly reduce the risk of serious illnesses, including dementia, diabetes, and heart disease, according to a new study.

The research, published in the European Heart Journal, tracked nearly 96,000 adults over seven years to examine whether short, intense periods of activity embedded in daily life could protect against major health conditions, even without structured exercise routines.

Participants' physical activity was monitored for one week, and their health outcomes were followed over seven years. Researchers recorded the onset of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, inflammatory disorders, liver and kidney disease, respiratory illnesses, and dementia, among other conditions.



The study found that even brief bursts of vigorous activity were associated with significantly lower risks of developing chronic illnesses and premature death. Specifically, researchers reported a 63% to a reduction in dementia risk, a 60% lower risk of diabetes, and up to a 46% decrease in the risk of early death.

The protective effects were particularly strong for inflammation-related conditions, severe cardiovascular events like heart attacks and strokes, and neurodegenerative diseases such as dementia. Certain conditions, such as joint-related inflammatory disorders, appeared to benefit especially from short, high-intensity movement.

These findings underscore that incorporating small amounts of vigorous activity into everyday life can provide substantial health benefits, even for people who do not follow formal exercise programs.

Rahim Yar Khan Launches Large-Scale Miyawaki Tree Plantation Drive

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

Environmental pollution and climate change are among the most serious challenges of our time. To address these issues, tree plantation has emerged as an effective and sustainable solution. The Government of Punjab, in line with the vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, is actively working to bring about a green revolution across the province. To translate this vision into reality, a large-scale and well-organized tree plantation campaign is underway in District Rahim Yar Khan under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa, where modern techniques and public participation are being given central importance.

As a recent development, the district has initiated plantation using the Miyawaki method, a modern and highly effective technique for growing dense forests rapidly. In this regard, an urban forest has been inaugurated near Khanpur Adda Overhead Bridge along the Sadiq Branch Canal, where approximately 2,600 saplings of various species are being planted.

This project is not only a significant step toward environmental improvement but also reflects the promotion of greenery in urban areas. Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa, this plantation campaign is progressing with a comprehensive strategy. Clear targets have been assigned to all government departments. The district administration has set a target of planting over 800,000 saplings, and more than 1,100 acres of land have been allocated for this purpose.

Additionally, land preparation has been completed on a large scale in areas such as Abbasia Forest and Qasimwala to maximize plantation efforts.

A key feature of this campaign is that it is not limited to a government initiative but is being transformed into a public movement. Educational institutions, civil society, the private sector, and ordinary citizens are actively being involved. Various events, walks, seminars, and awareness campaigns are being conducted to highlight the importance of tree plantation among the public.

The Miyawaki plantation project stands out

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Pakistan overtakes Australia in ICC ODI rankings

● Green Shirts secure fourth rank with 103 rating points after registering emphatic 87-run victory over England in tri-series

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan have climbed to fourth place in the ICC Men's ODI team rankings, overtaking Australia following consecutive victories against Sri Lanka and England in the ongoing ODI tri-series at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

The latest rise reflects Pakistan's impressive performances in the tournament, with the team demonstrating resilience with the bat and effectiveness with the ball. Pakistan now have 103 rating points, just one point behind third-placed South Africa, who sit on 104 points.

India continue to lead the ICC Men's ODI rankings with 115 rating points, while New Zealand occupy second place with 109 points. Pakistan's progress to fourth place represents a positive development for the national side as it seeks to build consistency and strengthen its position among the leading ODI teams in international cricket.

Pakistan's latest achievement came after an emphatic 87-run victory over England on Tuesday. The win extended their winning streak in the tri-series and highlighted the team's growing confidence ahead of their remaining fixtures. Arafat Minhas Delivers a Match-Winning All-Round Performance All-rounder Arafat Minhas emerged as the standout performer in the match, producing an outstanding display with both bat and ball to lead Pakistan to a convincing victory.

Minhas scored a valuable 59 runs off 58 deliveries, helping Pakistan recover from a difficult position and build a competitive total. He then delivered a remarkable bowling performance, claiming career-best figures of six wickets for 40 runs to dismantle England's batting line-up.

His contribution proved decisive in determining the outcome of the contest. Minhas not only helped Pakistan strengthen their innings but also played a central role in restricting England well below the target.

The all-rounder continued to trouble England's batters during the chase, taking important wickets at crucial stages of the innings. He dismissed Will Jacks and Adil Rashid on successive deliveries, further damaging England's hopes of mounting a recovery.

Minhas later ran out Gus Atkinson, completing a memorable performance that underlined his value to the Pakistan side. His six-wicket haul and half-century made him the defining figure of the match. Hasan Nawaz Leads Pakistan's Recovery With the Bat

Pakistan's innings did not begin smoothly, as England's bowlers managed to put the home side under pressure during the early stages of the contest.Pakistan slipped to 81 for four, leaving the team in danger of posting a below-par total. However, the middle and lower order responded positively, helping the hosts recover through a series of important partnerships .

Pakistan decide not to participate in Over-50s Cricket World Cup 2027 in India

● Pakistan will miss the 2027 Over-50 Cricket World Cup in India after the government denied permission, preventing the defending champions from competing in Hyderabad from January 23 to February 7.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Defending champions Pakistan have decided not to participate in the Over-50 Cricket World Cup 2027, scheduled to be held in Hyderabad Deccan, India, from January 23 to February 7, after the government declined to grant permission for the national veterans team to travel across the border.

The decision was confirmed by Fawad Ejaz Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association (PVCA), who said the association would respect the government's position and would not send the team to India for the international tournament.

Pakistan were due to enter the competition as defending champions after winning the previous edition of the Over-50 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka in 2025. The withdrawal means the reigning champions will be unable to defend their title at the global event.

Government Refuses Permission for Pakistan's Participation

According to PVCA chairman Fawad Ejaz Khan, the association had approached the relevant government departments to seek official clearance for the team's participation in the tournament.

The association submitted its request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, seeking permission for the Pakistani veterans squad to travel to India and represent the country in the competition.

However, the request was not approved. Khan said Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi subsequently informed the association that the government would not permit the team to participate in the event.

Following the communication, the PVCA decided to withdraw from the tournament rather than proceed without the necessary government approval.

The association said it would comply with the government's decision, bringing an end to its hopes of competing in the 2027 edition.

Indian Organisers Had Assured Visa and Security Arrangements

Khan said Indian veterans cricket officials had assured the Pakistani association that visa arrangements would be facilitated for the visiting team and that high-level security would be provided throughout the tournament.

Swiatek pulls out of Ningbo Open

■ The six-time Grand Slam champion cites a persistent left thigh problem

SPORTS Desk

WUHAN

Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek has withdrawn from the Ningbo Open because of an ongoing left thigh injury, dealing a setback to her bid to qualify for the season-ending WTAFinals.

Tournament organisers announced the withdrawal on Tuesday, confirming that the six-time Grand Slam champion would not compete in this week's WTA500 event in China. Swiatek had entered the tournament hoping to collect valuable ranking points and strengthen her position in the race for the final qualifying place at the prestigious year-end championships.

The 25-year-old was ranked ninth in the WTA Finals race ahead of the Ningbo Open, putting her in contention for one of the eight available spots. However, her decision to withdraw means she will miss an important opportunity to improve her position as the qualification battle enters a crucial stage of the season.

Swiatek Prioritises Recovery

In a statement released by the tournament organisers, Swiatek explained that she had been dealing with the thigh problem for several weeks and had decided that rest and recovery were necessary.

"After careful consideration, I've decided to withdraw from the tournament," Swiatek said."I've been experiencing an ongoing problem with my left thigh over the past weeks and I feel that giving myself the time to rest and recover is the right decision."

Her statement indicated that the injury had continued to affect her during recent competitions, prompting her to avoid further physical demands at Ningbo.





Pakistan, Bangladesh seek closer football ties through sports diplomacy

PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani said football has the power to bring nations closer, unite young people and build lasting friendships beyond borders.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Bangladesh are exploring new avenues to strengthen football ties, promote sports diplomacy and create greater opportunities for young talent, reflecting a shared commitment to cooperation and football development in South Asia.

A meeting between Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) President Syed Mohsen Gilani and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Md. Iqbal Hossain Khan provided an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen football relations and explore avenues for future cooperation between the two countries.

PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani said football has the power to bring nations closer, unite young people and build lasting friendships beyond borders. He said closer engagement between the football communities of Pakistan and Bangladesh could create new opportunities for youth development, exchange of expertise, friendly matches and the promotion of football at grassroots and professional levels.

"Football offers a powerful platform to bring people and nations closer. Pakistan is keen to strengthen its football ties with Bangladesh and explore opportunities that can benefit players, coaches and young talent in both countries," Mohsen Gilani said.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Md. Iqbal Hossain Khan also highlighted the importance of sports diplomacy in fostering friendship and understanding between nations.

"Sports provide a unique opportunity to strengthen people-to-people connections and promote goodwill between countries. Football, with its immense popularity among young people, can play an important role in bringing Pakistan and Bangladesh closer," the High Commissioner said.



Pakistan crush India by 7 wickets in Veterans Cricket World Cup

Web Desk

ISLAMABDA

Pakistani 'Shaheens' shattered Indian pride in a match of Veterans Cricket World Cup played in Guyana, crushing their rivals by seven wickets,

Batting first, India scored 143 runs by losing all their wickets. In response, Pakistan chased down the target for the loss of only three wickets, securing a seven-wicket victory.

For Pakistan, Adnan Akmal and Shehryar Ghani were the top scorers, each contributing 63 runs.

In the bowling department for Pakistan, Mohammad Khalil took three wickets, while Mian Irfan and Fahad Jabbar claimed two wickets each.



Arafat Minhas achieves ODI milestone with all-round show against England

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan all-rounder Arafat Minhas has achieved a notable milestone in One Day International (ODI) cricket after playing a decisive role in his team's victory over England in the second match of the tri-nation series. Batting first in Rawalpindi after England won the toss and elected to field, Pakistan scored 302 for nine in their allotted 50 overs. England were subsequently bowled out for 215 in the 39th over.Minhas delivered an impressive all-round performance, scoring 59 runs during Pakistan's innings before claiming six wickets for 40 runs to dismantle the English batting lineup.



New Zealand ditches plans to launch team in Major League Cricket

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said it has ended its bid to launch a Major League Cricket franchise in the 2027 season, stepping back from its partnership with True North Sports Ventures to focus on investing closer to home.

NZC announced an agreement with the US company in April last year and had said it was looking at cities including Toronto and Atlanta to base a team in the American league, with the possibility of adding a second team in 2031.

CORRIGENDUM AND EXTENSION IN DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER

It is submitted that an NIT was uploaded TSE # 2627101205453 by this Procuring Agency on authority's website and published in print media vide PRQ No. 1797 dated 07.10.2026 (Daily newspapers on 08.10.2026) for wider publicity. It is informed to all concerned that missing ID of the Project may be read as Z2026.4126. The date of submission & opening of said tender has also been extended and will be opened on 29th October 2026 at already given time.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Maintenance, CWPP&H
Department District-Quetta
Phone: 081-9202438

PRQ No.1985/21-10-2026

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NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION

The procuring agency, in exercise of powers conferred under Rule-38 of the Balochistan Public Procurement Rule, 2014, as amended upto date, hereby cancel the bidding process (RFP) for Consultancy Services for Google Mapping, Satellite G.I.S Town Dera Murad Jamali (5050-Acre Land) TSE-2627101208484 due to unavoidable circumstances, for which RFP were published in daily newspapers under PRQ No.1544/24-09-2026.

Deputy Commissioner,
Naseerabad

PRQ No.1987/21-10-2026

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Pakistan extends Hajj dues payment deadline by one day

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The deadline for depositing the second instalment under Pakistan's government Hajj scheme has been extended by one day, allowing intending pilgrims to pay their outstanding dues until midnight tonight.

According to a spokesperson for the Ministry of Religious Affairs, 1,200 intending pilgrims had not deposited the second instalment by the original deadline. Individual messages are also being sent to remind them to complete their payments.

The spokesperson said today is the final opportunity for the remaining intending pilgrims to deposit their dues. Those who fail to pay the second instalment by the stipulated deadline will have their Hajj applications cancelled.

According to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the first instalment will be refunded to pilgrims whose applications are cancelled.

Integrated pest management vital for Pakistan's food security: Dr Sajid

● Chief Scientist Agriculture (Research), Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman, has stressed the need to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to protect crops, reduce losses and strengthen Pakistan's food security.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

:Chief Scientist Agriculture (Research), Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman, has stressed the need to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to protect crops, reduce losses and strengthen Pakistan's food security.

Addressing the Annual Programme of Research Work for Rabi 2026-27 of the Entomological Research Institute, Faisalabad, he said modern pest control methods and scientific guidance could help farmers improve crop production and protect their crops from harmful insects.

The meeting was held at the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad, where agricultural scientists presented their latest research findings and discussed new methods to control crop pests.

Sajid said better crop care, reduced post-harvest losses and timely advice to farmers were essential for increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.



He emphasized that research institutions should focus on practical and environment-friendly solutions to help farmers protect their crops while reducing unnecessary use of pesticides.

Dr Ghulam Sarwar, Additional Chief Scientist at the Vegetable Research Institute, Faisalabad, discussed the role of genetics in developing effective insect pest control strategies and managing pesticide resistance.

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr Waseem Akram, Chairman of the Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, who appreciated the efforts of agricultural scientists in promoting sustainable crop protection.

During the meeting, scientists presented 26 new research initiatives and 44 research findings, focusing on modern pesticides and environment-friendly pest management methods for Rabi crops.

The discussions also covered the protection and management of honeybees and the control of major crop pests, including whitefly, jassid, fall armyworm, fruit fly and citrus psylla.

Among those who presented their research work were Dr. Asifa Hameed, Dr Dilbar Hussain, Muhammad Rizwan, Imran Nadeem, Misbah Ashraf, Humaira Malik, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Syed Waqar Hussain Shah, Dr Muhammad Saleem, Ayesha Iftikhar and NajafAwais.

At the conclusion, Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman appreciated the efforts of Dr Asif Ali, Muhammad Rizwan, Dr Muhammad Jawad Saleem and other staff members for successfully organizing the meeting.

ECP orders Islamabad local government elections under 2015 law

● The ECP has ordered local government elections in Islamabad under the 2015 law, directing relevant authorities to issue the election schedule today after a hearing chaired by Sikandar

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has ordered local government elections in the federal capital under the 2015 local government law and directed the relevant authorities to issue the election schedule on the same day.

A five-member commission, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, held a hearing on local government elections in Islamabad. Interior Secretary and ECP officials appeared before the commission.

During the hearing, ECP Special Secretary Zafar Iqbal Malik briefed the commission that



delimitation had been carried out six times in Islamabad, while the election schedule had been announced four times. The last election programme was issued on October 9, 2026, under which polling was scheduled to take place in February 2026.

The commission was informed that the presidential order issued by the government had expired on September 6, while the final delimitations were published on October 14. The Ministry of Interior had also been sent reminder letters twice regarding the expiry of the presidential order.

The ECP special secretary maintained that the Islamabad local government rules had not yet been provided and that the Ministry of Law had also refused to approve them. He said the federal government had not introduced a new local government law, while the 2015 law remained in force, making it possible to hold elections under the existing legislation.

During the hearing, the interior secretary acknowledged the facts presented by the ECP but argued that holding elections under the 2015 law would require the proceedings carried out so far to be scrapped.

In response, Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja remarked that holding elections under the 2015 law would not affect the delimitation process.

The chief election commissioner said the interior minister, interior secretary, chief commissioner and a committee of ministers had given several assurances, but these had not been implemented. He remarked that it appeared the government did not want to hold local government elections in Islamabad.

FCC reinstates three ATC judges sacked by Sindh government

■ Federal Constitutional Court accepts Muhammad Yamin's appeal, strikes down his removal as an ATC judge and rules the 2025 age limit cannot apply retrospectively to judges.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court has accepted the appeal of Muhammad Yamin, declaring invalid the Sindh government's notification removing anti-terrorism court (ATC) judges from their posts and setting aside a Sindh High Court ruling that had upheld the government's decision.

The court also annulled the Sindh High Court's December 22, 2025, judgment. Justice Muhammad Karim Khan Agha issued the written verdict in the case.

According to the written judgment, the new upper age limit of 65 years does not apply to judges appointed for a fixed term before



amendments were made to the Anti-Terrorism Act. The court held that a right lawfully acquired in the past cannot be taken away without clear legislative provisions.

The Federal Constitutional Court ruled that judges appointed before the amendment would remain in office until the completion of their respective terms. It further held that the Sindh Anti-Terrorism Amendment Act 2025 could not be applied retrospectively.

Under the verdict, petitioner Muhammad Yamin will complete his two-and-a-half-year tenure as a judge of Anti-Terrorism Court-IV in Karachi.

Yamin was appointed as a judge of ATC-IV Karachi on September 19, 2024, for a period of two-and-a-half years under the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997. He was approximately 70 years old at the time of his appointment. However, the relevant law then did not prescribe an upper age limit for the appointment of an ATC judge.

Subsequently, the Sindh Anti-Terrorism Amendment Act 2025 introduced a maximum age limit of 65 years for the appointment and continuation of judges in office.

Hospital sealed in Karachi for spreading monkeypox virus

● The infant reportedly contracted the infection after circumcision was performed using contaminated scissors at the said quackery outlet in Malir15, in the limit of Saudabad Police Station.



WEB DESK

KARACHI

The Sindh Healthcare Commission (SHCC) has sealed Ibn-e-Hassan Hospital following a report received from the District Health Officer (DHO), Korangi, about a laboratory-confirmed case of monkeypox (mpox) in a 20-day-old infant,

The infant reportedly contracted the infection after circumcision was performed using contaminated scissors at the said quackery outlet in Malir15, in the limit of Saudabad Police Station.

The sample was tested at Dow Laboratory, where it reportedly returned positive for mpox. Following the report, SHCC officials, with the support of the DHO Korangi and the SSP Korangi, took immediate action and sealed the hospital.

The quack resisted the SHCC officials and called his supporters to prevent them from carrying out their official duties. However, with the support of the SP Korangi, the situation was brought under control, and the SHCC team subsequently sealed the facility.

The action was taken over poor hygiene, inadequate infection prevention and control (IPC) measures.



Political differences must not affect war against terror: Gohar

■ Barrister Gohar reiterated that PTI remained in favour of implementing the National Action Plan and urged that political disagreements should not undermine efforts to combat terrorism.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has expressed disappointment over the outcome of negotiations with the government, stressing that the ongoing war against terrorism must not be affected by political differences.

Speaking to the media at Dahgal Checkpoint on Adiala Road in Rawalpindi, Barrister Gohar said PTI opposed all forms of terrorism and remained committed to the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP).

He said the party had participated in negotiations with the government unconditionally and questioned why the talks were initiated if the government lacked the authority to address the issues under discussion. He maintained that the negotiation process should have continued rather than being abandoned.

Barrister Gohar said PTI's key demands included access to the party's founder, provision of medical treatment for him, and permission for him to speak to his children by telephone.

He added that the government had expressed a desire to discuss terrorism and provincial issues with him, but stressed that dialogue should not have been discontinued.

The PTI chairman also rejected the impression that the party's negotiating committee was receiving instructions from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, calling the claim false.

Commenting on Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Barrister Gohar said PTI had never questioned his position as opposition leader.

Regarding Mashal Yousafzai, he said she had crossed the line and that a notice would be issued to her. He described her statements as baseless and denied that there was any truth in them.

Barrister Gohar reiterated that PTI remained in favour of implementing the National Action Plan and urged that political disagreements should not undermine efforts to combat terrorism



A massive traffic jam on the Islamabad Expressway during office hours causes inconvenience to commuters and delays their arrival at destinations

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