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Four police personnel martyred, two terrorists killed in Karak operation

CITY REPORTER

Karak

Four police personnel, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) from the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), were martyred and two suspected terrorists were killed during a search-and-strike operation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district.

According to a statement issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police on Thursday, the operation was launched at noon after terrorists allegedly set up a roadblock on Charpira Road, within the jurisdiction of Khurram Police Station, on Wednesday night.

The operation targeted suspected terrorists and their movements in the area. Police raided the house of alleged terrorist commander Qaiser Iqbal in Charpira, triggering an exchange of fire in which two terrorists were killed.

The martyred personnel were identified as CTD DSP Imranuddin Khan, Sub-Inspector Afzal Awan, CTD DSP's gunman Kazim and Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) official Amjad.



Govt, JI panels to hold talks on petroleum levy

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The negotiations committees of the government and the Jammat-e-Islami will hold talks in Islamabad on Friday (October 23) on the issue of petroleum levy slapped on petrol and diesel,

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal established telephonic contact with JI Deputy Amir Liaquat Baloch on Thursday and discuss the issue.

It was also decided that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and JI Amir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman will also hold a meeting.

Liaquat Baloch meanwhile said that the Jamaat will hold countrywide peaceful protest for elimination of petroleum levy on Friday.



All DCs delegated powers to improve governance: KP governor

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has delegated powers to all deputy commissioners across the province under Section 3(1) of the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance, 1960, to ensure timely and effective preventive measures amid the prevailing law and order situation.

In a statement posted on X, the governor said the decision would help reduce administrative delays, improve coordination with law enforcement agencies and enable authorities to take timely action at the district level.

Kundi stressed that the delegated powers must be exercised strictly in accordance with the Constitution and the law, warning that they must not be misused under any circumstances.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets members of the Area Representative and Development Council (ARDC) in Peshawar

PM Shehbaz vows to eliminate every terrorist from Pakistan

- Chairs Federal Apex Committee meeting in Peshawar: Mohsin Naqvi briefs participants on security situation in KP

CITY REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday defended the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), saying the measures had been necessitated by the deteriorating security situation, and vowed to restore peace, prosperity and development in the province.

Addressing a meeting of the apex committee on the National Action Plan at Governor House in Peshawar, the prime minister said the government had been compelled to take difficult decisions and pledged to work with the military leadership to address the province's security and development challenges.

PM Shehbaz said a political committee had been formed to negotiate a solution and that its members had worked for 48 hours. He also disclosed that he had consulted President Asif Ali Zardari twice before the government decided to impose emergency and governor's rule.

Defending the decision, he maintained that the Constitution and law empowered the government to take the measures implemented in K-P. He thanked the coalition partners for supporting the move, particularly President Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif.

The prime minister also announced that an advisory council comprising competent and honest individuals from different professional backgrounds had been established.

Imran's sisters detention: LHC summons Punjab home sec, Kot Lakhpat jail superintendent on Oct 28



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday summoned the Punjab home secretary and the superintendent of Kot Lakhpat jail in person on October 28 during the hearing of a plea seeking the recovery of the three sisters of jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan have remained in custody since last month under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance in connection with the PTI's anti-government protest.

Noreen and Uzma were detained for 30 days on September 21, shortly before the PTI's planned September 27 protest, which was subsequently moved to October 4. Aleema's detention had taken place a day earlier, on September 20. During the hearing today, the petitioner's counsel told the court that the detention orders for all three detained sisters had expired on October 19 and 20.

Justice Abher Gul Khan questioned the counsel about why the Lahore deputy commissioner had not been made a respondent in the petition.

Balochistan division imperative: Bugti

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has called for a review of the country's administrative structure, citing the province's vast geographical expanse and governance challenges.

He said additional administrative units, stronger local governments and a revised resource-sharing framework were needed to improve public service delivery in the province.

Speaking at a national dialogue on administrative reorganisation and the creation of new provinces in the country, the chief minister said governing a vast province like Balochistan solely from Quetta posed significant administrative challenges.

He called for a review of the country's administrative structure, governance models and the question of establishing new provinces.

Bugti welcomed the ongoing national debate on governance reforms, describing it as a positive development. However, he said discussions on such important issues should not remain confined to seminars and hotels but should be taken to parliament, where broader political consensus could be developed.The chief minister said it was necessary to assess whether the Westminster-style democratic system was delivering the desired results to citizens and whether existing administrative and territorial arrangements were creating obstacles to efficient governance and service delivery.He noted that some of the challenges attributed to governance systems may stem from the current administrative divisions themselves.

Highlighting the unique geographical realities of Balochistan, Bugti compared the province's vastness with other parts of the country.



Prove allegations or tender apology, Gandapur tells Salman Akram Raja

- He questions Akram Raja's statement about alleged undemocratic decision-makers and a conspiracy within the party

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has demanded an apology from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja over his remarks concerning alleged undemocratic decision-making and a group accused of influencing key party appointments.

Gandapur questioned Raja's statement about alleged undemocratic decision-makers and a conspiracy within the party, asking him to identify the individuals involved and clarify the basis for his allegations.

He also asked which members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were allegedly seeking to decide the provincial party president and the next chief minister without the approval of the party's political committee.

Raising questions about the appointment of Ali Asghar Khan as acting provincial president in the absence of Junaid Akbar, Gandapur asked whether an official notification had been issued and who had authorised the decision.

He stressed the need for a transparent review of the party leadership's performance, decisions and responsibilities, saying the KP parliamentary party wanted to resolve the ongoing crisis through constitutional and political consultation.

Opposition leaders criticise govt over stalled talks, restrictions on parliamentarians

- Salman Akram Raja says all-parties conference being planned within 10 days to discuss K-P political situation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

Opposition leaders Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Thursday criticised the government over stalled political negotiations and restrictions on parliamentarians, calling for meaningful dialogue and the protection of elected representatives' rights.

Speaking at a press conference outside Parliament House alongside opposition leaders, Gohar said the opposition had repeatedly engaged in negotiations with the government in good faith and without preconditions, but the process had failed to produce the desired results.



"Our government went away while we kept negotiating with the government," he said, referring to the opposition's attempts to pursue political dialogue.

Gohar also questioned the criteria used to assess political leaders' loyalty to the state, saying that despite nearly three years of the current parliament, he still did es first and the state comes first," he said.not understand the formula used to determine such allegiance. "We have always said that Pakistan comes first and the state comes first," he said.

"We are treated as though we are not loyal to the state. This perception must end," he added, calling for an end to questions about opposition politicians' commitment to Pakistan.

He also called for parliamentarians to be protected so they could represent their constituents freely and without fear.

Recalling an incident in September 2024, when opposition lawmakers were allegedly picked up, Gohar said the opposition leader had moved a resolution in the National Assembly in response.

He added that a special committee had also been constituted to address the issue of parliamentarians' protection.

Achakzai calls for complete recording of parliamentary speeches Speaking at the same press conference, Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai stressed that parliamentary speeches should be recorded in their entirety, arguing that the official record was essential to preserving the country's political history.

Scanned with CamScanner

CDA seals 58 buildings, targets 377 structures along Islamabad Expressway over violations

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has sealed 58 buildings and identified 377 structures, including 281 commercial buildings, for legal action as part of an enforcement drive against violations along the Islamabad Expressway.

The operation has so far generated recoveries of Rs250.59 million, while a further amount of around Rs3 billion remains payable under the relevant rules and regulations, according to the CDA.Of the structures identified for action, 124 between Sohan and Khanna Bridge have been marked for demolition, the authority said.

CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf reviewed the progress of the Islamabad Expressway Service Road East project during a visit on Thursday and directed the relevant officials to complete the scheme within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining construction quality and adhering to the approved design.

He was also briefed on action against illegal constructions, unauthorised commercial activities and violations of building control regulations along the expressway.

The chairman directed the concerned departments to ensure uniform enforcement of building control laws, land-use regulations and mandatory fire safety requirements.

He stressed that construction quality should not be compromised in the completion of development projects, saying timely execution and adherence to approved standards were essential for improving the capital's infrastructure.



MOU signing ceremony between UNICEF and Press Club

CASS Lahore Holds Seminar on Pakistan's Population Growth and Human Security Challenges

Experts call for coordinated population management, women's empowerment, sustainable urban planning and stronger federal-provincial cooperation to turn demographic pressures into opportunities for national development.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Managing Pakistan's Population Growth: Dissecting Demographic Pressures, Urbanisation and Human Security Challenges," on October 21, 2026. CASS Lahore organises academic events for scholars and practitioners interested in exploring the critical dimensions of security, technology, and policy within their broader context. Academics, intellectuals, and domain experts attended the event. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmad (Retd), a Director at CASS, Lahore, delivered the opening address.Mr Minhaj ul Haque, Chief Executive Officer of the Population Centre Pakistan, spoke on "Pakistan's Demographic Trends Driving Its Population Growth: Strategic Implications for the Country." He highlighted Pakistan's rapid population growth and its growing pressure on public services, natural resources and socioeconomic development. He urged stronger family planning, girls' education, women's empowerment, healthcare and skills development, emphasising coordinated population management and effective policies on education, employment and resource allocation for Pakistan's sustainable future.Dr Razia Safdar, Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Centre for Health Policy Innovation (CHPI) at SDPI, Islamabad, shared her insights on "Population Growth, Urbanisation and Human Security: Emerging Challenges for Pakistan." She highlighted how rapid population growth, urbanisation and climate change are intensifying pressure on Pakistan's health systems and essential resources. She stressed the importance of domestic health financing, integrated population management and women's empowerment, alongside adopting a One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health.Dr Shabana Haider, Member (Population) in the Planning Commission in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan expressed her thoughts on "Building a Resilient Pakistan: Way Forward for Managing Population Growth and Sustainable Urban Development." Dr Haider discussed the challenges of rapid population growth and urbanisation, calling for investment in healthcare, education, skills development and women's economic participation. She emphasised integrated population management, stronger governance, institutional coordination and sustainable urban planning to transform demographic pressures into opportunities for inclusive growth and a more resilient.

Cop dead, five injured as Elite force van overturns in Muridke

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



An Elite Force officer was killed and five others were injured when their vehicle overturned near the Qureshi Interchange here on Wednesday.

Rescue 1122 officials said the accident occurred after the vehicle suffered a tyre burst, causing the driver to lose control.

The Elite Force personnel were travelling from Jhelum to Lahore to perform security duties for a cricket match when the incident took place.

Following the accident, rescue teams reached the scene and shifted the deceased officer's body and the injured personnel to a nearby hospital for medical treatment.

Officials said four of the injured officers were in critical condition and were subsequently transferred to Lahore for further medical care.

The incident has raised concerns over the safety of personnel travelling for official duties. Further details about the deceased officer and the condition of the injured personnel were not immediately available.

FIA offloads three passengers at Multan Airport travelling illegally to Europe



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Federal Investigation Agency's Immigration Wing has foiled an alleged illegal attempt to travel to Europe via Azerbaijan and offloaded three passengers at Multan International Airport,

The three passengers were travelling from Multan to Azerbaijan via FlyDubai flight FZ-326.

After a suspicious travel profile emerged during immigration clearance, the three travellers were referred for further investigation and detailed interview.

The passengers were identified as Hafiz Muhammad Asif, Tariq Bashir and Muhammad Ilyas.

During the examination of the passengers' mobile phone messages and interrogation, their plan to illegally travel to Europe was revealed.

According to preliminary information, the passengers were to travel illegally to Serbia and other European countries after reaching Azerbaijan.

The passengers revealed that they had paid Rs600,000 to travel agents in Vehari for arranging visas and tickets.

According to the passengers, the remaining amount was to be paid after reaching the destination.

The passengers were handed over to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Multan for further legal action and investigation.

Punjab boards announce class 11 annual exam results 2026

Punjab boards announce Class 11 results for 2026, recording pass percentages of 60.03% and 54.23%, respectively, with girls outperforming boys in Rawalpindi.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Educational boards across Punjab, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur and Gujranwala, have announced the annual examination results for Intermediate Part-I (Class 11) 2026, with pass percentages varying across the boards.

According to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Lahore, the pass percentage in the Intermediate Part-I examinations stood at 60.03 per cent.A total of 165,245 candidates appeared in the examinations, of whom 99,191 passed, while around 66,000 candidates failed.

Rawalpindi Board

According to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi, 55,834 candidates appeared in the Class 11 examinations. Of these, 30,280 passed and 25,554 failed, taking the overall pass percentage to 54.23 per cent.

Female students outperformed male candidates, with girls recording a pass percentage of 62.13 per cent compared with 38.54 per cent for boys.

A total of 7,205 boys and 23,075 girls passed the examinations.

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Faisalabad also announced the results of the Class 11 annual examinations 2026.According to the board, 105,663 candidates appeared in the examinations, of whom 65,178 passed. The overall pass percentage stood at 61.68 per cent.

AUCTION NOTICE

1. The Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan North will be conducting public auction of **61 x old Government vehicles** of different models / make & type on **12 November 2026 (Thursday)** at 1200 hours in open auction at Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Quetta **(Location '15') nearby Chaman Housing Scheme**. Detail of vehicles is as under:-

Ser	Cat	Qty of vehs	Remarks
a.	Single Cabin	46	• 30 x Defender-110 • 9 x Defender-130 • 7 x Toyota Hilux
b.	Double Cabin	2	2 x Hilux D/Cab
c.	Ambulance	1	1 x Hiace Amb
d.	Trucks	7	• 3 x Hino 174LA • 3 x Isuzu NPR • 1 x Isuzu FSS
e.	Water Bowzer	2	1 x Hino 1 x NPS
f.	Water Trailor	2	2 x W/Tlr
g.	Trolley	1	1 x Trolley
	Total	61	

2. **Conditions**:-
   a. Auction on "As is Where is" basis.
   b. Each auctioneer will bring CDR or pay order of **Rs 250,000/-** (Rupees two hundred fifty thousand only) in favour of IGFC Balochistan North. No auctioneer will be allowed to enter auction area without CDR.
   c. Only 1 x person can enter into auction area on deposit of 1 x CDR.
   d. Successful bidders of auction will have to deposit 25% of the amount at the spot and 75% remaining payment alongwith auction tax (10% for filer and 20% for non-filer) within one week for taking the delivery of auctioned vehicles.
   e. If successful bidder failed to deposit of 75% remaining amount, 25% amount already deposited at the spot will be confiscated as per law.
   f. Queries if any will be resolved on Tel No 081-9201542-483 during working day.

Procurement Officer
for Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) PID(Q)139/26

Karachi mayor inspects uplift works, vows early completion

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited ongoing development projects across the city late at night to review the progress of construction and infrastructure improvement works here During the visit, the mayor inspected power block development work in Bhangoria Town, located in Karachi's Central District, and reviewed ongoing projects in other areas, including the Small Industrial Area.

Wahab said efforts were underway to complete the ongoing development projects as soon as possible, paving the way for the rehabilitation of another 140 roads across the city.

Commenting on criticism of the development initiatives, the mayor said some critics were unhappy with the pace and scale of work being carried out in Karachi.

He maintained that serving citizens and resolving their problems remained the top priority of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), adding that the city administration was working in line with the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The mayor further said measures were being taken to improve conditions in areas of the Central District that, according to him, had remained under the administration of previous rulers for an extended period.

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10% inflation splits rate call predictions

Pakistan's headline inflation is expected to rise to 10% in October 2026, driven by higher electricity charges, petrol prices and food costs, while persistent inflationary pressures could prompt the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to raise its policy rate by 50-100 basis points at its October 26 meeting, according to a Growth Securities report authored by Nasheed Malik, which projects the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) increasing by 1.5% month-on-month (MoM), compared with 6.2% year-on-year (YoY) and 1.7% MoM in October 2025.

Average inflation during the first four months of FY27 is expected to reach 10.2%, compared with 4.8% in the corresponding period of FY26, and the October projection is above the government's expected average of 8.9% for FY27, the report said.

The transport index is expected to rise by 0.15% to 0.20% MoM following a 5.5% monthly increase in the average petrol price to Rs396.06 per litre, up 48.3% YoY, while the housing index is also expected to increase on a monthly basis due to higher electricity charges and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices, which are projected to rise by 6.2% MoM. The food index is forecast to increase



by around 0.25% to 0.30% MoM, mainly due to price increases of 10% in wheat, 14% in chicken, 11% in pulse gram and 5% in garlic, according to the report.

Malik said real interest rates returned to positive territory in June 2026 and are projected to reach 1.5% in October, compared with 1.2% in September, and he expects inflation to remain in the 9% to 10% range until March 2027 if average fuel prices stay between Rs390 and Rs400 per litre, with average inflation for FY27 projected at 9% to 9.5%. He expects the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to raise the policy rate by 50-100 basis points at its October 26, 2026 meeting if fuel prices remain elevated.A separate assessment by AKD Securities Director Research Mohammed Awais Ashraf holds that Pakistan's improved external and fiscal position is strengthening the case for holding rates steady, with robust remittances, improving exports, record-high foreign exchange reserves and a contained current account position improving macroeconomic buffers and giving the SBP room to hold at its upcoming MPC meeting.

The successful issuance of a$3 billion Eurobond at record-low spreads had further supported external stability, and Ashraf wrote that a slowdown in large-scale manufacturing (LSM), coupled with a decline in fuel prices since the previous MPC meeting, was also expected to support a status quo decision.He raised his FY27 inflation forecast to 9.1% from an earlier projection, reflecting a higher oil-price assumption of $96.3 per barrel compared with $72.5 previously, maintained the FY28 forecast at 6%, and pushed back the assumed start of monetary easing to April 2027 from October 2026, citing prolonged higher oil prices and a larger-than-expected rise in wheat prices.

Dubai crude declined 15.5% since the previous MPC meeting, from $127 to $107 per barrel, reflecting improved flows through the Strait of Hormuz and the end of seasonal refinery maintenance, though renewed Houthi attacks on Saudi infrastructure, Red Sea disruption and declining US oil inventories continue to underpin prices.

Real interest rates are expected to average 3.4% over the next 12 months, assuming normal rupee depreciation and gradual normalisation of oil prices through February 2028, with fiscal discipline improving further.



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.

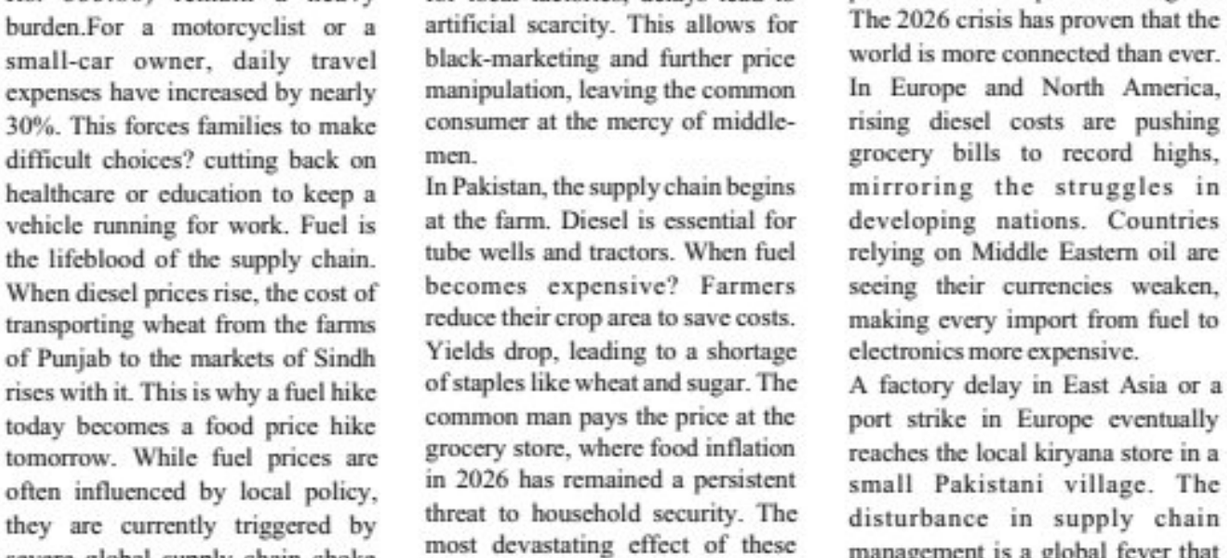
A factory delay in East Asia or a port strike in Europe eventually reaches the local kiryana store in a small Pakistani village. The disturbance in supply chain management is a global fever that every local economy feels.



By:Nadia Bibi

Wetland Destruction and Loss of Biodiversity

Wetlands are among the most productive and valuable ecosystems on Earth. They include marshes, swamps, bogs, floodplains, mangroves, and shallow water bodies that support a wide variety of plant and animal species. Wetlands play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by filtering water, reducing floods, storing carbon, and providing habitats for countless organisms. Despite their importance, wetlands across the world are rapidly disappearing due to human activities and climate change. The destruction of wetlands has become a major environmental issue because it directly contributes to the loss of biodiversity and threatens the survival of many species.Wetlands serve as natural homes for fish, amphibians, birds, reptiles, insects, and aquatic plants. Many migratory birds depend on wetlands for breeding, feeding, and resting during seasonal migrations. Wetlands also provide breeding grounds for numerous fish species and support food chains that maintain ecosystem stability. When wetlands are destroyed, these species lose their habitats, leading to population decline and in some cases extinction. Biodiversity loss weakens ecosystems and reduces their ability to recover from environmental disturbances.Human activities are the primary cause of wetland destruction. Rapid urbanization and industrial development have resulted in the drainage and filling of wetlands for housing projects, roads, factories, and agriculture. In many regions, wetlands are converted into farmland to meet increasing food demands. Pollution from industries, pesticides, fertilizers, and sewage further contaminates wetland ecosystems and damages aquatic life. Deforestation around wetland areas increases soil erosion and sedimentation, which affects water quality and destroys habitats for sensitive species.Climate change has also intensified wetland degradation. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, droughts, and sea-level rise negatively affect wetland ecosystems. Coastal wetlands such as mangroves are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and storms. Changes in water availability disturb the delicate balance required for wetland survival and reduce the ability of wetlands to support biodiversity. In many countries, prolonged droughts have caused wetlands to shrink significantly, threatening wildlife populations and local communities that depend on them.The destruction of wetlands has serious environmental consequences. One of the major impacts is the decline in biodiversity. Species that depend entirely on wetlands for survival are often unable to adapt to habitat loss. Amphibians, freshwater fish, migratory birds, and aquatic plants are among the most affected organisms. Wetland destruction also disrupts food webs and ecological interactions, leading to imbalances within ecosystems. The disappearance of predators, pollinators, and decomposers can affect surrounding terrestrial and aquatic environments.Wetlands also act as natural water filters by trapping pollutants and improving water quality. When wetlands are destroyed, polluted water flows directly into rivers, lakes, and oceans, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and harming aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, wetlands help control floods by absorbing excess rainwater and reducing the intensity of storms. Their destruction increases the risk of flooding, soil erosion, and damage to nearby communities. Wetlands are also important carbon sinks that store large amounts of carbon in vegetation and soil. Their destruction releases stored carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming and climate change.Many countries are now recognizing the importance of wetland conservation and are taking steps to protect these ecosystems. International agreements such as the Ramsar Convention encourage countries to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands. Governments and environmental organizations are working on wetland restoration projects, pollution control measures, and awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of wetlands. Reforestation, sustainable agriculture, controlled urban development, and proper waste management can help reduce wetland destruction and protect biodiversity.Public participation is also essential for wetland conservation. Communities can contribute by reducing pollution, conserving water resources, planting native vegetation, and supporting environmental protection programs. Educational institutions can play a major role in spreading awareness among students and society about the ecological value of wetlands and the importance of biodiversity conservation.In conclusion, wetlands are vital ecosystems that support biodiversity, regulate climate, improve water quality, and protect human communities from environmental disasters. However, human activities and climate change are causing rapid wetland destruction and the loss of countless species. Protecting wetlands is essential not only for wildlife but also for the survival and well-being of future generations. Immediate conservation efforts, strict environmental policies, and public awareness are necessary to preserve these valuable ecosystems and maintain the balance of nature.



CHAIRMAN SENATE, SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI IN A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES, DR MOHAMED MUIZZU, IN ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 22, 2026.

Scanned with CamScanner



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan witnesses the signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and Physicians Revenue Group (PRG), Pakistan at the Prime Minister's Office

Real Estate Expo aims at boosting Pakistan-Saudi ties: Gohar Ejaz

■ Gohar Ejaz expressed these views while addressing the participants of the Saudi-Pakistan Real Estate Exhibition in Lahore.

Business Reporter

KARACHI

Former caretaker interior minister Dr Gohar Ejaz on Wednesday said that Saudi-Pakistan Real Estate Exhibition will help to strengthen trade relations between the two countries,

Gohar Ejaz expressed these views while addressing the participants of the Saudi-Pakistan Real Estate Exhibition in Lahore.

Gohar Ejaz said that it is the desire of every Pakistani to visit the Two Holy Mosques in Saudi Arabia.

He said that the real estate sector will start a new era in Pakistan-Saudi ties.

Gohar Ejaz said that "We invited Saudi investors to avail investment opportunities for 250 million people.

Gohar Ejaz said that the huge population needs homes for accommodation.

Oil prices rise on Middle East supply risks

■ Attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz and on Saudi energy facilities added to worries about regional oil flows.

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Crude oil prices climbed on Thursday as concerns over Middle East supply disruptions kept markets on edge.

Attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz and on Saudi energy facilities added to worries about regional oil flows.

Brent crude futures gained 1.22% to $110.13 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude rose 1.11% to $98.92 a barrel. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Tuesday that naval mines had prevented three tankers from passing through the Strait of Hormuz on routes Tehran considered unauthorized.



In a statement published on its official Sepah News website, the IRGC said two oil tankers were set ablaze and halted after mines exploded at what it described as an illegal crossing point in the southern part of the strait.

Separately, Yemen's Houthi militants claimed responsibility Monday for strikes targeting Saudi Aramco facilities in Yanbu, the Shaybah oilfield, and airports in Riyadh and Abha.

Oil shipping costs have also risen. Goldman Sachs said in a report published Tuesday that the global average crude freight rate had climbed above $20 per barrel, compared with $3 a year earlier. Although rates had eased slightly in recent days, they remained about seven times higher than a year ago.

Goldman estimated that war-risk premiums for Strait of Hormuz crossings accounted for about $7 of the $20 year-on-year increase in average crude freight rates, while ship-to-ship transfers outside the Persian Gulf added another $4. The bank said high freight costs could widen differences between crude grades, pressure refiners' margins and lift refined fuel prices.



SX maintains upward trend as KSE-100 gains 250 points

■ The Pakistan Stock Exchange opened in positive territory, with the KSE-100 Index gaining 250 points to reach 166,180, following a 779-point rise in the previous session.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

– The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened in positive territory on the fourth trading day of the business week, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 250 points at the start of trading.

Following the initial rise, the index reached 166,180 points, reflecting continued positive momentum in the stock market.

The upward trend follows the previous trading session, during which the market maintained its positive performance. At the close of business, the KSE-100 Index had gained 779 points to settle at 165,930 points.



Gold price plunges by Rs3,600 per tola in Pakistan

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The prices of gold declined in the local market , with the 24-karat per-tola rate falling by Rs3,600 to Rs435,436, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs3,086 to Rs373,316, while the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs2,829 to Rs342,218.

In the international market, the price of gold fell by $36 to $4,129 per ounce, the association reported.

Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola remained unchanged at Rs6,234, while the price of 10 grams of silver also stayed stable at Rs5,344.

The price of silver in the international market remained unchanged at $57.56 per ounce, the association added.

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

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The government of Pakistan borrowed a total of Rs1,514 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal year 2026-27, covering the period from July to September, as borrowing increased significantly in September, according to documents from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The documents show that the government borrowed Rs1,037 billion in September alone, reflecting a substantial increase compared with the corresponding month of the previous fiscal year. Government borrowing in September 2026 was approximately Rs913 billion higher than in September 2025, highlighting the significant rise in financing secured during the month.

The increase in borrowing coincided with the issuance of $3 billion worth of government bonds in international financial markets. The bond issuance accounted for a substantial portion of the funds raised during September and was intended to provide financial resources that could be used to support the federal budget.

According to the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the proceeds from the bond issuance could be utilised for budget



support, with the Ministry of Finance designated as the executing agency. The $3 billion raised through the bonds is equivalent to approximately Rs818 billion in local currency.

Government Issues $3 Billion in International Bonds

According to the documents, the government issued two categories of bonds with different interest rates as part of the $3 billion transaction.

Of the total amount, $1.75 billion in bonds carry an interest rate of 7.5 per cent, while the remaining $1.25 billion carry an interest rate of 7.9 per cent. Both categories of bonds are scheduled to mature in 2036.

The issuance provides the government with additional financing to meet its budgetary requirements. However, the bonds also create future repayment obligations, including the payment of interest over their term and the repayment of the principal amount at maturity, subject to the terms of the instruments.

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

■ According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country's food exports increased from $1.11 billion in the corresponding quarter last year

Commerce Reporter

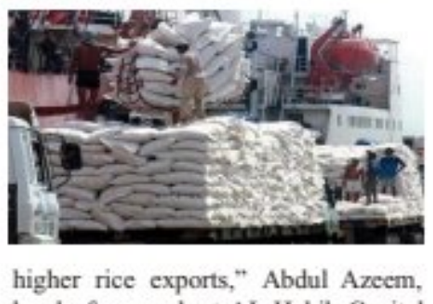
KARACHI

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.

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.

News Desk

MUMBAI

Public bidding for the $3.2 billion IPO of Jio Platforms (JIOP.NS) opens , 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

What you need to know about the 2026 US midterm elections

■ Held in the middle of each four-year presidential term, the midterms by definition do not involve the president



Web DESK

Washngation

Early voting has been underway for weeks ahead of the November 3, 2026, midterm elections, when US voters will elect members of the House of Representatives and Senate and governors in states across the country.

Held in the middle of each four-year presidential term, the midterms by definition do not involve the president. But for anyone who thinks they lack drama or importance this year, consider these two statistics: More than 100 million people likely will cast ballots in this year's midterm voting, if turnout is anything like the previous midterm in 2022; and as of October 12, a record $3.8 billion had been spent on political advertisements that have been aired so far. Top spending is in battleground US Senate races in Texas, Ohio and Michigan, according to AdImpact, which tracks the activities.

Elon Musk alone has spent about $366m to support Republicans, according to campaign finance records.

Still, midterms generally attract fewer voters than the higher-profile presidential races.



Islamabad : Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with President of the Republic of Maldives Dr Mohamed Muizzu.

US envoy Witkoff to meet Putin, Trump presses Kyiv to settle

■ S envoy Steve Witkoff will meet Putin after constructive talks with Zelenskiy in Norway, as Trump urges Ukraine to end the war amid tensions over military aid and Russian attacks.

Web Desk

SEOUL



US envoy Steve Witkoff will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin after what a US official called "constructive" talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in Norway, as President Donald Trump said it was time for Ukraine to end the war.

The US official said Ukraine brought forward new ideas and proposals to the Oslo talks, which also involved the leaders of Norway and Finland and ?European and NATO representatives, and that participants made "meaningful progress" toward a coordinated approach to engaging Russia.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the talks covered "key elements of a comprehensive peace framework," including security guarantees for Ukraine, a post-war economic plan and a broader European security architecture.

Witkoff would aim to "create a pathway toward direct trilateral and broader multilateral negotiations," the official said.

Zelenskiy travelled to Oslo seeking to repair relations with Washington, which have sunk to new lows as Trump has courted Moscow. Kyiv has complained that Washington has withheld vital military support and intelligence.

Zelenskiy told a news ?conference after the Oslo meeting and an earlier phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio that Ukraine was again receiving early warnings of Russian missile attacks.

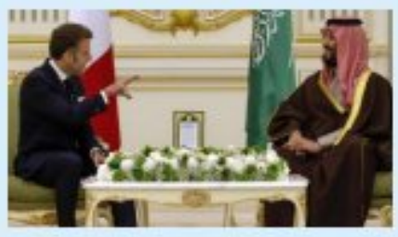
"Now it works, it's great," he said, adding he and Rubio had ?discussed supplies of Patriot missile interceptors as well as the satellite-based Starlink system, which Kyiv complained had stopped working when mounted on fast-moving objects such as drones.

France's Macron lands in Riyadh on surprise 'solidarity' visit

■ The unannounced trip sends a strong signal to his oil-rich Saudi ally as Riyadh comes under near-

Web Desk

RIYADH



French President Emmanuel Macron landed in Riyadh in a surprise "solidarity" visit, making him the first Western leader to touch down in the kingdom since Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis intensified their attacks this month.

The unannounced trip sends a strong signal to his oil-rich Saudi ally as Riyadh comes under near-daily attack.

It was part of a Gulf tour to secure oil and diesel and bring down prices in France, following a weekend of violent protests over soaring living costs.

Faced with criticism of his Gulf tour in France, Macron told reporters he was just "doing his job" in a bid to "ease tensions" over gas prices, one of the causes of social unrest in France.

"There must be no sign of febrility," he said. "I am fulfilling my role. I am at my post."

The presidential jet landed in Riyadh, an AFP journalist saw, where he was set to meet Saudi de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman.

"The president of the republic is travelling to Saudi Arabia this afternoon to meet with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman," a statement from the presidency said earlier.

The visit aimed to "demonstrate France's solidarity with the kingdom in the face of the attacks carried out by the Houthis against its territory, and to continue efforts undertaken on securing and diversifying hydrocarbon supplies", it added.

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 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 ic services.

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.

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

Web Desk

ANKARA/TORONTO

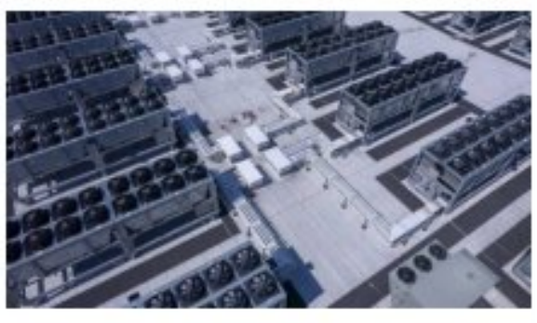


NATO allies Canada and Turkey are expected to sign a joint declaration aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in four areas, including defence and energy, during Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit later this week, a person briefed on the matter said.

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.

Trump urges data center firms to pay communities 'dividend'



Web Desk

Washngation

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that companies that operate data centers should pay a "dividend" to communities to make the facilities popular, adding that more should be built.

Trump has backed the construction of data centers to secure US dominance in artificial intelligence -- though projects have met local opposition in parts of the country, with concerns raised over energy and water use."If companies want to make their Data Centers popular, pay the community, and/or individuals within the community, a 'dividend,'" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"I have watched the process closely, and Data Centers that were highly unpopular in a certain area, have become extremely popular when a financial deal is struck.

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

■ 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 y, 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 Makkah 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.



The agreement also envisages close cooperation on defence industry, intelligence sharing, logistical support and the fight against "all means of terrorism," including at the operational level.Parliamentary ratification is required for Turkiye to formally approve the agreement.

Parliament Speaker Numan Kurtulmus, currently visiting Kyrgyzstan, will refer the agreement to parliament's foreign affairs commission upon his return, two of the sources said. The contents and details of the agreement are expected to become public once it is submitted to the commission.

Scanned with CamScanner

Why does Hareem Farooq ignore public opinion?

■ Speaking about her approach to negative comments, Hareem said she had spent nearly a decade training herself not to react to everything people say about her.



News Desk

New York

Actress and producer Hareem Farooq has opened up about learning to ignore public criticism, explaining how years of experience have helped her protect her peace and focus on her work.

Speaking about her approach to negative comments, Hareem said she had spent nearly a decade training herself not to react to everything people say about her.

She explained that constantly worrying about opinions from film critics, social media users and online trolls would leave her with little time or energy to get work done. According to Hareem, opinions are an unavoidable part of public life. Even if one group chooses not to comment, others will always have something to say, making it impossible to satisfy everyone.

The actress also revealed that she avoids reading comments on her own social media posts and those of other people.

Although discussions about her may still reach her, she chooses not to give them unnecessary attention.

Hareem further noted that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and added that what a person says about someone else can often reveal more about the speaker than the person being discussed. Hareem Farooq is a Pakistani actress and film producer known for projects including Diyar-e-Dil, Sanam and the film Parchi.

She has also produced films such as Janaan and Heer Maan Ja.

Speaking about her approach to negative comments, Hareem said she had spent nearly a decade training herself not to react to everything people say about her.

She explained that constantly worrying about opinions from film critics, social media users and online trolls would leave her with little time or energy to get work done.

Tiger Shroff shooting probe reveals recce of Ranbir Kapoor's residence

■ Police told a court that the attack on Tiger Shroff was allegedly carried out at the behest of Anil Pandit, a suspected associate of the Bishnoi gang

Web desk

ISLAMABAD





Suspects arrested in connection with the firing incident involving Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff had also conducted reconnaissance of actor Ranbir Kapoor's residence in Mumbai's Bandra area, Indian media reported on Thursday.

Mumbai Police have expanded their investigation to determine whether other Bollywood actors were also potential targets. Investigators are additionally examining an alleged arms procurement and supply network linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

According to Indian media reports, police told a court that the attack on Tiger Shroff was allegedly carried out at the behest of Anil Pandit, a suspected associate of the Bishnoi gang. Eight people have been arrested so far in connection with the case.

Police sources said the suspects had initially planned to target actor Salman Khan and had conducted reconnaissance of his Mumbai residence. However, they allegedly abandoned the plan after noticing police personnel stationed outside his home.

Investigators also found that the suspects had used social media posts shared by fans to learn about Shroff's routine. The posts reportedly indicated that the actor visited a football ground in Mumbai's Juhu area every Sunday, where his security was comparatively less stringent. The suspects allegedly used this information to plan the attack.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai Crime Branch brought three key suspects — Rehan, alias Sikka; Ritik Kurmi, alias Roshan; and Phool Singh — from Kota in Rajasthan to Mumbai for court proceedings. The court remanded all three in police custody until October 31.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Raj Tilak Roshan said five more people had been detained in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in connection with the alleged arms procurement and supply network.

According to police, two suspects travelled to Amritsar to obtain weapons, while two women allegedly transported the firearms to Mumbai by train and handed them over to the attackers. Another suspect allegedly remained in Mumbai to provide local assistance and logistical support.

The investigation is continuing as police examine the alleged network and whether other Bollywood personalities were also under threat.



Halle Berry Opens Up About Daughter Starting College

WEB DESK

LOS ANGELES

Hollywood actress Halle Berry has opened up about the mix of pride and concern she feels as her 18-year-old daughter, Nahla Ariela Aubry, begins college away from home.

Berry, who shares Nahla with her former partner Gabriel Aubry, also has a 12-year-old son, Maceo Robert Martinez, with her ex-husband Olivier Martinez.

Speaking at the Create & Cultivate Festival, Berry told People that watching her daughter start college has been an emotional experience and admitted that the transition is "a little worrisome."

Berry said Nahla is the first of her children to leave home for college, making the milestone particularly emotional for her as a mother.

The actress said she feels proud of her daughter but also has some fears now that Nahla is living independently in another state. She added that she and Nahla's father hope they have raised her well and that she will make good decisions while making the most of her college experience.

Meanwhile, Berry revealed that her younger son has been experiencing mixed feelings about his sister's absence. Although Maceo now feels somewhat like an only child, he has also been enjoying some of the perks of having Nahla away.

Nadia Khan Reveals Regret Over Rejecting Shoaib Mansoor's Bol

■ Nadia Khan Opens Up About Regret Over Rejecting Bol Role

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Actress and television host Nadia Khan has opened up about a career opportunity she still regrets missing, revealing that she once turned down a role in Shoaib Mansoor's acclaimed film Bol.

Speaking on the television show Kya Drama Hai, Nadia recalled that Shoaib Mansoor personally approached her and made efforts to persuade her to join the project.

Nadia said she genuinely wanted to work in Bol, but circumstances within her family made it difficult for her to accept the offer. She revealed that a dispute arose at home after she received the role and that her former husband ultimately did not allow her to appear in the film.

"I regret refusing Bol to Shoaib Mansoor," Nadia said, acknowledging that she felt she had let the filmmaker down after he had made significant efforts to bring her on board.

Looking back, Nadia said she had wanted the opportunity and now believes she should have



accepted the role.

The character was eventually played by Humaima Malick, who portrayed Zainab in the 2011 film. Nadia had previously spoken about being approached for the part, explaining that opposition from her husband and family prevented her from taking it.

During the recent discussion, Nadia said she was not in a position at the time to make the decision independently. She specifically identified her former husband as the person who stopped her from accepting the project.

Fellow panelist Atiqa Odho responded to Nadia's revelation by suggesting that she should have stood up for her own career at that point in her life.

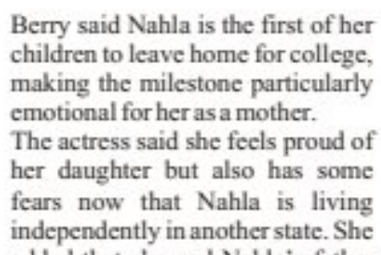
Mukarram Kaleem also highlighted the irony of the situation, pointing out that the film was titled Bol, meaning "speak up," and suggesting that Nadia should have spoken up for her professional ambitions.

Nadia's comments have once again revived discussion about the role she could have played in Bol. Written and directed by Shoaib Mansoor, the 2011 film became a prominent title in Pakistani cinema, while Humaima Malick gained significant recognition for her portrayal of Zainab.

Atif Aslam pens heartfelt birthday note for wife Sarah Bharwana

Web Desk

KARACHI



Singer Atif Aslam celebrated his wife Sarah Bharwana's birthday with a heartfelt Instagram post, expressing that a single day was not enough to celebrate the woman he lovingly calls his queen.

In his Instagram post, the singer expressed his love and admiration, writing, "Happy Sarah Day, Week, Month, because one day could never be enough to celebrate you. I'm obsessed with your strength, your heart, and everything you are, my Queen."

The post featured a collection of photographs capturing moments the couple have shared, including travel memories, dinner dates and selfies, offering fans a glimpse into their life together away from the spotlight.

Known for his soulful voice and romantic songs, Aslam has occasionally shared affectionate messages for Sarah on social media. His latest tribute highlighted his admiration for her strength and character, alongside his birthday wishes.

Federal Constitutional Court adjourns Meesha Shafi, Ali Zafar case indefinitely

Mahira Khan gets emotional ahead of 'Mitti De Baway' premiere

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Actor Mahira Khan has penned an emotional note to director Wajahat Hussain ahead of the premiere of 'Mitti De Baway', thanking him for his work on the drama and for shaping her character Billo.

The show, written by Faiza Iftikhar and directed by Hussain, marks Mahira and Wahaj Ali's first on-screen pairing.

Sharing a behind-the-scenes photo from the set, taken alongside Hussain and Ali, Mahira addressed her director directly, writing, "You believed in Billo and knew her more than I ever could." The actor signed off with a personal note reading, "Love alwayssss, your Billo."

The director reshared Mahira's note to his own Instagram story, replying that it had "truly touched" his heart. Hussain also described the duo's collaboration as "a memorable journey I'll always cherish."

Actor Yumna Zaidi wished the best of luck to the Mitti De Baway team, sharing the drama's premiere poster and writing that "beautiful things come from hard work and perseverance." Mitti De Baway is set in rural Punjab in 1999.

The story follows Billo and Baala through a romance that unravels into separation: Baala is imprisoned on an undisclosed charge, while Billo, by the time the story resumes in 2002, has transformed into a pir, or spiritual guide, with a following of her own.

Scanned with CamScanner

Harry Brook's 202 sets new record for highest ODI score in Pakistan

● England captain becomes quickest to score ODI double ton, also breaks multiple records

SPORTS REPORTER

Rawalpindi



England captain Harry Brook smashed the fastest double century in One-Day International (ODI) cricket history against Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Thursday, scoring a sensational 202 off 116 deliveries to power his side to a record-breaking 429 for four in the third match of the tri-nation series.

Brook became the first England batter to score an ODI double century, hitting 21 fours and 10 sixes in an extraordinary innings that helped England set Sri Lanka a daunting target of 430 runs.

England's total of 429 for four in 50 overs also established a new record for the highest ODI total on Pakistani soil, surpassing Pakistan's previous record of 375 for three against Zimbabwe in 2015.

The innings marked the first time a team had crossed the 400-run barrier in an ODI at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, where Pakistan's 375 for three had previously stood as the highest team total.

Brook also became the first batter to score an ODI double century at the venue, surpassing South Africa's Gary Kirsten, who scored an unbeaten 188 in 1996, and Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, who struck an unbeaten 180 in 2023.

Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis's decision to field first after winning the toss backfired as England's batters dominated the bowling attack and piled up runs throughout the innings.

England openers Tom Banton and Ben Duckett provided a solid start, putting together a 74-run partnership before Sri Lankan spinner Dunith Wellalage dismissed both batters in successive overs.

Banton scored 50 off 51 deliveries, striking nine boundaries, while Duckett contributed 29 off 39 balls before being dismissed.

Following the two dismissals, Brook joined experienced batter Joe Root to rebuild the innings. The pair added 159 runs for the third wicket, putting England in a commanding position as both batters completed their half-centuries.

Root played a valuable supporting role, scoring 69 off 66 deliveries with eight boundaries before Asitha Fernando broke the partnership on the first delivery of the 38th over. Root also completed 8000 ODI runs in the process.

Brook continued to dominate Sri Lanka's bowling attack and accelerated sharply during the closing overs, finding regular boundaries and clearing the ropes to keep the scoreboard moving.



Australia's Schutt handed two-match ban

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Australia fast bowler Megan Schutt has been suspended for two matches for failing to comply with requirements relating to the use of prescription medication, Cricket Australia .

The 33-year-old will miss the third and final Twenty20 against New Zealand at North Sydney Oval on Thursday, as well as Adelaide Strikers' Women's Big Bash League opener against Melbourne Stars on October 31.

"This (breach) relates to a single incidence which occurred while out of competition and was not for performance enhancing purposes," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

Schutt said in ?the statement that she accepted the sanction and apologised ?for failing to meet the standards.

Jansen, Rabada put South Africa in sight of win over Australia

▪ They were still 170 runs short of making South Africa bat again.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada bowled South Africa to within sight of a series-levelling victory over Australia on the fourth day of the second Test at St George's Park .The visitors were 156 for four as they followed on for the first time since 2019 after being shot out for 99 earlier in the day.

They were still 170 runs short of making South Africa bat again.

"We knew because of the first two days, with the rain and everything, we were going to have to bowl them out as quickly as possible in either the first or second innings," Jansen said.

"I'm just happy we could capitalise on the wicket and the new ball.

"The guys bowled really well. But it's one thing to bowl a certain way but it's another to be backed up by your fielders as well."

Travis Head survived an early chance and was unbeaten on 87.

Steve Smith did not come out to bat in the second innings after appearing to be struggling with a neck injury while battling to the top score of 28 in Australia's first innings.

Smith was seen later in the players' area wearing a neck brace.

"Travis (Head) is still there and we know he can hit a hundred off 50 balls," added Jansen.

"We know there is a possibility we will have to bat again but we're going to put all our focus and effort on making sure that doesn't happen."

Jansen took five for 33 as the away side crashed to their fourth-lowest total



against South Africa and Rabada made two crucial breakthroughs in the second innings.

All-rounder Jansen had also scored a crucial 85 as the Proteas recovered from 110-6 to 425-9 declared on the third day of the rain-hit game, when captain Temba Bavuma made a career-best 179.

- Maddinson falls cheaply again -

"It's only a week ago we were a really good team," Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said after his side claimed a 214-run victory in the first Test."I'm not going to hang anyone out to dry."

However, McDonald said Josh Inglis and Cameron Green, who missed the first two Tests, would both be available for selection for the third Test in Cape Town.

Rabada dismissed the tourists' opening batsman Nic Maddinson cheaply for the second time in the match and later bowled Matt Renshaw, who was man of the match in Australia's first Test win.

With a first-innings lead of 326 runs, South Africa enforced the follow-on despite fast bowler Anrich Nortje being out of action with a groin injury.

Nortje dismissed Marnus Labuschagne in the first innings but bowled only 3.3 overs before pulling up injured.



MotoGP bids farewell to Phillip Island

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Seven-time world champion Marc Marquez admits it will be "emotional" this weekend as one of MotoGP's most iconic circuits at Phillip Island hosts its last race after nearly three decades.

The picturesque and often windswtrack, some two hours outside of Melbourne, has been a staple on the calendar since 1997 and a favourite among the riders given its waterfront location and demanding layout.

But its contract expires this year.

Promoter MotoGP Sports Entertainment wanted to broaden its appeal and shift it to Melbourne's Albert Park, which hosts the Australian Formula One.

The Victorian state government was adamant it should remain at Phillip Island.

With negotiations breaking down, South Australia stepped in and secured the race for six years from 2027 in Adelaide -- the first MotoGP to be held in a city-centre location.

"Phillip Island is an extraordinary circuit. Racing here for the last time will be emotional," said Ducati's Marquez, who heads into the weekend two points behind Aprilia's Jorge Martin in the championship standings. "It is a track with a unique, breathtaking layout. Here I won one of my first races with Ducati and we are motivated to do well, ready to fight right away for the positions that matter."

The venue has seen some of the Spaniard's most impressive rides -- he is a four-time winner -- and also some of his worst moments including a huge high-speed crash with Johann Zarco in 2018.

Maradona doctor was made 'scapegoat' for his death, court told



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

A lawyer for Leopoldo Luque, a doctor charged in the 2020 death of Argentine football legend Diego Maradona, said in closing arguments Wednesday that his client was innocent and had been made a "scapegoat."

Attorney Roberto Rallin rejected the prosecution's argument that Maradona's November 2020 death was foreseeable, while another defense attorney, Francisco Oneto, maintained that his death resulted from an "acute and unpredictable" heart attack.

"There was absolutely no possibility of predicting this fatal outcome," Oneto insisted.

Prosecutors have requested a 12-year prison sentence for Luque, a neurosurgeon considered a key decision-maker for Maradona at the time of his death.

"We are here to proclaim Luque's innocence, not with television slogans, but with the evidence that supports it," Rallin said. "Leopoldo Luque has been the scapegoat."

Maradona died at age 60 from a cardiorespiratory crisis coupled with pulmonary edema.

He was found dead in his bed at a residence in Tigre, north of Buenos Aires, rented for his convalescence, following surgery for a subdural hematoma.

The death of Argentina's favorite son plunged the country into mourning in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tens of thousands of people defied social distancing rules to bid farewell to him as he lay in state at the presidential palace.

A total of seven health-care professionals have been on trial since April for potential negligence leading to the star's death during his two weeks of convalescence.

Prosecutors have requested sentences ranging from four to 12 years for six of the seven defendants.

In its closing arguments, the prosecution condemned Luque's "inaction," saying his attitude "was always to do nothing" in the face of the warning signs that Maradona was exhibiting.

- Contested medical history -

Luque's lawyers particularly attacked the conclusions of the interdisciplinary medical commission, which had been established by the court in 2021 to provide an opinion on the star's death.

The commission, which based its findings on the autopsy and other things, said Maradona had a history of heart problems that should have been taken into account, a conclusion the prosecution emphasized.

Man Utd thrashed by Como in Champions League horror show

▪ Nico Paz's brilliant double inspired debutants Como to a famous win, with Tasos Douvikas and Jacobo Ramon also on target for the Italians.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Manchester United's struggles deepened with a dismal 4-1 Champions League defeat at Como on Wednesday, piling further pressure on under-fire manager Michael Carrick.

Nico Paz's brilliant double inspired debutants Como to a famous win, with Tasos Douvikas and Jacobo Ramon also on target for the Italians.

Only a late Joshua Zirkzee goal spared United from suffering their joint-heaviest defeat in the competition as the crisis-hit visitors' winless run extended to seven games.

United boss Carrick faced mounting pressure after a poor run of three draws and three defeats in all competitions sealed their worst start to a league campaign for 40 years.

But a lacklustre Red Devils team failed to muster a response in the wind and rain of northern Italy as they were thoroughly outclassed to remain on three points in the Champions League.

Cesc Fabregas's side have enjoyed a fairytale rise from Serie B to Europe's elite club competition over the last three years, but their dismantling of the three-time European champions will go down as one of the greatest results in club history.

Argentina international Paz lit up the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia with superb solo efforts either side of Douvikas's accomplished finish, before Ramon's header completed the rout as Como claimed their second win of the league phase to move up to six points.

With both sides facing a string of injuries, there was one major surprise in Carrick's team as defender Matthijs de Ligt returned for his first appearance in 11 months following injury, replacing the suspended Leny Yoro.

Diogo Dalot had an early sight at goal when his shot curled inches wide of the far post, but Como immediately went up the other end and showed superior cutting edge. Familiar flaws exposed

Paz received the ball on the edge of the box, shifted it onto his favoured left foot and guided a finish home to give the hosts a dream start inside two minutes.

It exposed familiar flaws for United, who conceded inside the opening minute in their 2-0 defeat to Atletico Madrid last week and have now kept one clean sheet in 11 games this season in all competitions.

Como's confidence grew with the lead as they dominated possession and restricted rudderless United to having no shots on target before half-time, while threatening themselves through Douvikas and Martin Baturina.

TENDER NOTICE

The Balochistan Education Endowment Fund invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items.**TSE-2627091198532** **Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.** Tender Fee Not required

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	Financial and Insurance Services (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 3 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 1 Million each in Previous 2 Years Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.1 Million in 2 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Should be present in the list of registered firm Should be at-least in the Category B of State Bank of Pakistan's Panel of Auditors Must not have conducted audit of BEEF in previous 10 years **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 08 October, 2026till 11:30 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 12:30 PM on EPPS System Address: House # 116/40 A- Near Jama masjid Jinnah Town Samungli road Quetta Phone no: 0812870015 Email: khalidmandia82@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer
Balochistan Education Endowment Fund

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Anmol Pinky seeks acquittal in two drug recovery cases

NEWS DESK

KARACHI

Anmol, alias Pinky, has filed an acquittal application in two drug recovery cases pending against her in Karachi. A court in Karachi heard three drug recovery cases against the accused, who appeared before the court via video link.

During the hearing, statements of three witnesses, including the investigation officer, were recorded. The defence counsel sought time to cross-examine the witnesses.

The court adjourned further hearings in the cases until October 31.

Meanwhile, an application seeking Anmol Pinky's acquittal in two of the cases was filed, requesting the court to discharge her from the charges.

According to the court proceedings, Anmol Pinky has already been acquitted in five of the 22

Three foreign workers dead in attacks on Saudi airport, oil facility

● 10 including a Pakistani national also injured in attacks on King Fahd Airport in Dammam and Aramco's Shaybah oil field

WEB DESK

Saudi Arabia

Three foreign workers were killed and 10 injured after separate attacks on an international airport and oil facility in Saudi Arabia's Easter Province.

Falling debris from the successful interception of a drone targeting a processing facility at Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field killed two people and injured two others, the Kingdom's energy ministry said.

An attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam on Wednesday killed an expatriate and left eight others injured, ranging from minor to severe. The injured were immediately transported to hospitals to receive the necessary medical care, the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation said early Thursday.

GACA confirmed that the attack also caused material damage, which is currently being assessed, adding that further updates would be announced as they become available.

The Energy Ministry, in a statement, said: "The attempted attack resulted in the deaths of two individuals, a Filipino and a Nepali, and injuries to two others."



The Shaybah incident resulted in a fire in a vehicle belonging to a contractor operating at the oil field, outside the facility's perimeter, the ministry said. Operations were unaffected, it added.

A Pakistani and an Indian resident were also injured in the incident at the oil facility.

Separately, four drones were shot down over Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen said early on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the coalition said it intercepted seven drones launched toward the Kingdom, including in the Madinah region home to the Prophet's Mosque. "Four drones launched towards the Kingdom have been intercepted and destroyed," coalition spokesman Maj. Gen. Turki Al-Maliki posted on X, adding in a second post that the interceptions took place in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, as well as Madinah.

Al-Maliki later said another drone had been intercepted, also in the Eastern Province.

On Wednesday evening, the coalition announced it had intercepted a sixth drone launched by the Houthis toward the southern region and a seventh drone toward the Eastern Province.–Agencies

CM Punjab orders strict action against use of smart glasses, spy devices

● CM Punjab orders strict enforcement of a ban on smart glasses and hidden-camera devices amid concerns over illegal surveillance, harassment and privacy violations

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has directed authorities to strictly enforce a province-wide ban on camera-equipped glasses and other spying devices amid concerns over unlawful surveillance and the misuse of recording technology.

The provincial government had decided earlier to prohibit spying equipment, including glasses, pens, watches and other everyday items fitted with concealed cameras or recording devices.

A spokesperson for the Punjab Home Department said strict legal action would be taken against the use, purchase and sale of such equipment.



The spokesperson said the measure aimed to safeguard citizens' privacy and personal information, with particular emphasis on protecting women and children.

Authorities have received complaints involving illegal surveillance, harassment and blackmail carried out through hidden recording devices, the spokesperson added.

The department reiterated that the provincial government was committed to protecting citizens' fundamental rights and ensuring the security of their personal information. Those found illegally using ordinary items fitted with hidden cameras would face strict penalties, the spokesperson said.

The decision comes amid growing international concern over smart glasses being used to secretly record women and girls.

Smart glasses allow users to take photographs, record videos, listen to music, make calls, translate text and interact with artificial intelligence assistants.

Concerns intensified in Europe, particularly in Britain, where media reports highlighted the alleged misuse of smart glasses for secretly recording people. Reports that Meta was developing a facial-recognition feature for the devices also raised privacy concerns.

Tahir Ashrafi says Muslims united to protect Two Holy Mosques

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council Allama Tahir Ashrafi has said that the entire Muslim Ummah stands united for the protection of the Two Holy Mosques, adding that Pakistan would have responded to any threat to Saudi Arabia even in the absence of a formal defence agreement.

Addressing the Tazeem Haramain Conference here on Wednesday, Ashrafi reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the protection of the Two Holy Mosques and called for unity and solidarity among Muslim countries to address common challenges.



He said Islamic countries should adopt a joint strategy to tackle regional and international challenges, stressing that mutual cooperation was essential for the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

Referring to the Houthi militia's reported missile launch towards Saudi Arabia, Ashrafi said there should be no leniency or concession regarding such incidents.

He maintained that Pakistan's position on defending Saudi Arabia was based on principle and that the country would have responded in its defence even without a formal agreement.

Welcoming the Iranian president's statement, Ashrafi urged Muslim countries to set aside differences and strengthen cooperation, saying unity among Muslim nations was the need of the hour.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continued joint efforts for the protection of the Two Holy Mosques and the promotion of unity across the Muslim Ummah.



Govt decides to form JIT On judicial commission's findings in Mir Raza case

■ Sindh govt decided to form another investigative team in addition to JIT to identify negligence of teams that conducted initial investigation of case.

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

The Sindh government has decided to form a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in the Mir Raza case on the recommendations of the Judicial Commission, the notification of which will be issued within 24 hours.

Members of the cabinet sub-committee established regarding the Mir Raza case met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The committee includes provincial ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Saeed Ghani and Advocate General Sindh Jawad Dero.

After reviewing the recommendations of the Judicial Commission in detail, the committee members informed the Sindh Chief Minister about the first review meeting held on the report and the progress made.

The briefing was informed that initial recommendations have been formulated on the report of the Judicial Commission in the review meeting. The committee members submitted these recommendations to the Chief Minister of Sindh.

On the recommendations of the Judicial Commission, the Sindh government has also decided to form another investigative team in addition to the JIT, which will identify the negligence and carelessness of the teams that conducted the initial investigation of the case.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed for ensuring full implementation of all the recommendations of the committee, saying that the recommendations of the Judicial Commission would be implemented. Members of the cabinet sub-committee established regarding the Mir Raza case met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The committee includes provincial ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Saeed Ghani and Advocate General Sindh Jawad Dero.

SC restores Controller General of Accounts recruitment rules

■ The court further stated that on January 1, 2021, Tariq Khan had been promoted from junior to senior auditor.



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Restoring Controller General of Accounts' Recruitment Rules, 2014, the Supreme Court on Thursday declared the Federal Service Tribunal's decision of 2022 null and void,

In a 10-page verdict authored by Justice Ayesha A. Malik, the apex court said that the services tribunal had declared the recruitment rules framed on July 15, 2014 null and void. "This was despite the fact that the tribunal did not have the powers to do so," the SC said, and added that the tribunal should not have gone beyond its jurisdiction. "The tribunal cannot act as an executive."

The court further stated that on January 1, 2021, Tariq Khan had been promoted from junior to senior auditor. "The employee had been promoted under the 2014 rules and later challenged the same rules," the SC said, adding that there was no justification for direct promotion from the junior auditor to the assistant accounts officer.

The court noted that the government had a complete authority to amend the service structure and recruitment rules in accordance with administrative needs.



Acting MD, Associated Press of Pakistan(APP), Sabeen Usman Khattak presenting a souvenir to Executive Director Higher Education Commission, Pro Dr Zia Ul Haq during his visit to APP Headquarters

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