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BERLIN (Dunya News) - A grand reception was held in honour of President Asif Ali Zardari at Germany's Ministry of Defence, where he was also presented with a guard of honour.



Ishaq Dar in Istanbul to attend R4-R4+ meetings

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar landed in Turkish city of Istanbul on Friday to participate in the R4 and the R4 Plus ministerial meetings. France, Germany, Italy, and United Kingdom are also members of R4 Plus. Upon arrival, Ishaq Dar was received by Ambassador Cihad Erginay, Director General at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires Shaiq Ahmed,Pakistan's Consul General in Istanbul Khawaja Khurram Naeem, Additional Secretary Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, and officers of the Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Istanbul.



President, First Lady pay tribute to Begum Nusrat Bhutto

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari and First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari have paid heartfelt tributes to Begum Nusrat Bhutto on her death anniversary observed on Friday,

In his message, the President said Begum Nusrat Bhutto's life reminds us of the extraordinary strength of a mother's heart and the courage in facing the deepest losses.

First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari in her message said Begum Nusrat Bhutto played a leading role in the struggle for the restoration of democracy during one of the most difficult periods in the country's history.

No let-up in campaign against Indian-sponsored terrorists: Field Marshal

■ CDF Asim Munir says Pakistan will crush terrorists and their ideology completely

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has declared that with the support of people Pakistan will definitely defeat terrorists and their misleading ideology completely,

According to an ISPR statement released on Friday, Field Marshal Asim Munir said this during his visit to the Peshawar Corps Headquarters where he was given a detailed on the security situation and counter-terrorism operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Chief of Defence Forces was also briefed on the border



arrangements, operational preparedness of formations deployed in the province.

During the detailed briefing, senior officers apprised him of the current threat environment, the progress of intelligence-based operations against terrorist networks, and the measures in place to strengthen border security along the western frontier. The briefing also covered the state of readiness of troops and the challenges posed by cross-border terrorism.

Speaking on the occasion, Field Marshal Asim Munir appreciated the high morale and professionalism of officers and men and directed them to maintain constant vigilance and highest standard of operational preparedness to effectively counter threats.Underscoring the military's resolve, he stated that the campaign against Indian-sponsored terrorist outfits would continue to the fullest, with forces prepared to hit them hard wherever they are found.

The Field Marshal also paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of the people of Pakistan, including the Shuhada and Ghazis of the security forces.



Seven militants killed as security forces foil attack on Gwadar camp

■ According to the sources, security forces have surrounded additional militants in the area.

WEB DESK

RAWALPINDI

Seven terrorists were sent to hell during a clearance operation following an attack on an unoccupied construction company camp in Gwadar, Security sources said the security forces personnel had surrounded several other suspected terrorists near a hotel, and a clearance operation was underway to thwart another attempted attack.

The construction camp that was targeted by terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Hindustan was empty at the time of the attack, and no casualties were reported.

However, the attackers set fire to several trucks parked along a nearby road, they added.

Officials denied reports of attacks on security forces, intelligence agencies and their camps, describing information circulating on social media as baseless, and urged the public not to treat unverified reports and claims circulated by terrorist organizations as facts.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, the Gwadar administration and police said reports circulating on social media about the security situation were inaccurate.

The law and order situation in the BP-250 area and its surroundings was under control following timely action by the security forces and relevant intelligence agencies, the statement said.

The statement urged the public not to pay heed to unverified reports or spread rumours, advising people to rely on authentic information issued by the police and relevant government institutions.

Makkah pact ratification completed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia: FO

■ Spokesperson says agreement has 16 articles, no hidden provisions; endorses text presented in the Turkish parliament

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Foreign Office confirmed on Friday that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have completed their ratification processes for the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA), while Türkiye is undertaking the requisite legal procedures for the agreement's ratification.

"Each country follows its own constitutional and legal procedures for the approval and



ratification of international agreements," Foreign Office Spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said during the question and answer session after the weekly press briefing held in Islamabad.

The spokesperson said Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had completed their ratification processes, while Türkiye was pursuing the requisite procedures in accordance with its legal framework.

Asked whether the agreement contained any undisclosed clauses, particularly in view of Pakistan's separate defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, the spokesperson said the MJDA comprised 16 articles and contained no hidden provisions."There are no hidden provisions; the agreement is explicit and clear in its provisions and articles," Khan stressed, adding that Pakistan endorsed the text released by the Turkish parliament in the media.

He further outlined that matters related to the agreement's ratification and operationalisation are deliberated through the trilateral Strategic Political and Defence Committee, whose latest meeting was held on October 5.

Emphasising the defensive nature of the MJDA, Khan said it was consistent with the United Nations Charter and aimed at promoting regional peace, security and stability.

Interior Minister Naqvi Warns against online fraud, cybercrime and blackmail



CITY REPORTER

LAHORE

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has warned citizens about growing threats from online fraud, cybercrime and blackmail, urging them not to share personal pictures and videos with unrelated individuals.

Addressing a press conference on cybercrime in the provincial capital, Naqvi said various forms of online fraud were emerging, including cases in which women and girls were tricked into sharing pictures and videos and subsequently blackmailed.

He urged citizens, particularly women, to exercise extreme caution when sharing personal images, warning that some individuals exploit pictures and videos for blackmail.

He made a special appeal to mothers and sisters not to share their private photographs with anyone.

Regarding online financial fraud, the interior minister advised citizens not to transfer money without verification, even when someone claimed to be ill and requested financial assistance online. He urged people to verify the identities of those seeking money and remain cautious of fake accounts.

Political parties not supporting fight against terrorism will be 'minus': PM's aide

■ No discussion has taken place on proposed 28th constitutional amendment, says Rana Sanaullah

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that political parties that do not join the agenda to eliminate terrorism from the country will be "minus", stressing that the entire nation should unite against the menace.

about the long-term political future of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and whether PTI would continue to play a role in the province or be considered "minus".

"Those who do not join the agenda to eliminate terrorism will be minus," the PML-N senator said.

His remarks come a day after PM Shehbaz chaired federal apex committee in Peshawar to review the security situation. The PM arrived in Peshawar for his first visit to the province since the governor's rule and the emergency imposed on October 11.

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, federal ministers and newly appointed provincial advisers attended the meeting.

Addressing the participants, the prime minister lashed out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over the worsening security situation in the province, saying the province had become a "cradle of peace" a few years ago.

He also vowed that the federal government, currently overseeing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under governor's rule, would make every possible effort to restore progress in the province.

However, speaking on Geo News



morning programme today, Sanaullah said the elimination of terrorism was the government's priority, adding that people's lives could not improve without ending the menace.

He said any political party that did not stand wholeheartedly with the security forces in the fight against terrorism would also be sidelined.

The PML-N leader added that the KP Governor Kundi had sought Rs160 billion, which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved immediately.

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FBR unveils electronic auctions for seized goods

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced an electronic auction system for the disposal of seized and confiscated goods, prescribing a minimum registration fee of Rs25,000 for bidders and a 72-hour online bidding period under amendments to the Sales Tax Rules, 2006,

According to SRO 1889(I)/2026, issued on October 22, the FBR has inserted a new chapter into the rules under powers granted by sections 50 and 40F of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, establishing procedures for electronic registration, valuation, bidding, payment and delivery of auctioned goods.

Under the new framework, individuals holding a valid Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) or National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) may register electronically through the FBR's auction platform after paying a one-time fee of not less than Rs25,000.

Successful applicants will receive a unique identification number, with registration details communicated through their registered email address or mobile number.

The authorised officer may verify registration particulars and reject applications on valid grounds recorded in writing, including non-compliance with relevant procurement rules.

The system will cover confiscated goods and seized goods that have been finalised for disposal under an adjudication order.

Custodians will be responsible for uploading inventories, photographs and supporting documents to the electronic platform, maintaining safe custody of goods and facilitating inspections by prospective bidders.

Before an auction begins, the authorised officer must verify the legal basis for disposal, including any judicial stay orders, available release or redemption options and applicable restrictions.



A Pakistan Air Force aircraft displayed along a road in Hayatabad as motorists pass by in the provincial capital

Court bars govt from arresting PTI leader Asad Qaiser



SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Friday barred authorities from arresting senior PTI leader and former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser in connection with Sangjani protest case, ATC judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain conducted the hearing and approved the PTI leader's application for interim bail until November 7.The judge also issued notice to the prosecution seeking a reply.

Following ATC judge's decision, the District and Sessions Court in Islamabad cancelled the arrest warrants issued earlier for the arrest of Asad Qaiser. Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Azhar Nadeem cancelled the warrants as Asad Qaiser appeared in the court along with his lawyer Ayesha Khalid.

The court had earlier issued the arrest warrants after Asad Qaider did not attend the hearing.

Pakistan plans Manhattan-style development in Islamabad, invites Saudi investors

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announces plans for a modern residential and recreational project in Islamabad, offering Saudi investors streamlined approvals and new investment opportunities

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan plans to develop a Manhattan-style residential and recreational project in Islamabad and has invited Saudi investors to explore investment opportunities in the country, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Friday.

Addressing the Saudi Real Estate Expo, Naqvi said the proposed development would feature residential and other facilities arranged around a central park, forming part of plans to introduce modern urban development in the federal capital.

He said the government also intended to improve Islamabad's safari park by increasing the number of animals and expanding recreational facilities to attract more visitors.

Naqvi said Pakistan offered considerable opportunities for investment in the recreational and real estate sectors, urging Saudi investors to participate in projects aimed at expanding the country's urban infrastructure and leisure facilities.

One-window operation to accelerate investment



The interior minister said the government would introduce a one-window operation to simplify the investment process and facilitate project approvals.

Under the proposed arrangement, the authorities would seek to complete approvals and related formalities within days rather than weeks or months, reducing delays for investors.

The initiative is intended to make investment procedures more efficient and improve the ease of doing business for domestic and foreign investors.

Naqvi said the government was taking steps to facilitate investors and accelerate the approval process for development projects.

Efficient regulatory procedures are particularly important for large-scale real estate developments, which often require multiple approvals and coordination among government departments.

A streamlined system could help investors navigate administrative requirements more easily, although the practical impact would depend on the implementation of the proposed mechanism.

Manhattan-style vision for Islamabad The proposed Manhattan-style project represents an ambition to develop a modern urban destination in Islamabad, with residential facilities and other amenities centred around a major park. However, details regarding the project's location, total area, investment requirements, development timeline and financing arrangements were not provided in the announcement.

Further information on the project's planning, land use and infrastructure requirements would be necessary to assess its potential scale and economic impact.

The development could create opportunities for real estate developers, construction companies, service providers and other businesses if it progresses to implementation.

Large-scale urban projects can also stimulate economic activity through construction, employment generation and demand for supporting services.

Lahore ranks world's most polluted major city with AQI of 344

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Lahore topped the ranking of the world's most polluted major cities on Friday, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 344, as doctors advised residents to wear masks to protect themselves from hazardous air pollution.

According to data recorded at around 8am, Swiss air quality monitoring platform IQAir ranked Lahore first, with air quality falling in the hazardous category.

IQAir identified fine particulate matter PM2.5, which is associated with cancer and other serious health conditions, as the city's main pollutant. Its concentration was recorded at 57 times the World Health Organisation's annual guideline.

These microscopic particles can enter the bloodstream, increasing the risk of stroke, heart disease, lung cancer and severe chronic respiratory illnesses.

Man arrested for brutally assaulting scooter-riding woman in Lahore

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Police have arrested a man accused of brutally assaulting a woman riding a scooter in Lahore's Mozang area, leaving her with a fractured nose and facial injuries.

The incident was captured on CCTV footage, which shows the suspect stopping the woman, pulling her to the ground and assaulting her before bystanders intervened to rescue her.

According to police, Mozang police reached the scene after receiving an emergency call on Police Emergency Helpline 15.

A case was initially registered against an unidentified suspect on the complaint of the victim's father.

Lahore Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Operations took notice of the incident and directed police to ensure the immediate arrest of the accused.

The CCTV footage shows a motorcyclist overtaking the woman's scooter and blocking her way. He then gets off his motorcycle, grabs the woman and throws her to the ground.

The suspect is also seen pulling her hair, verbally abusing her and harassing her before people nearby step in.

According to the first information report (FIR), the suspect also snatched the woman's bag and threw it to the ground, damaging a laptop reportedly worth around Rs85,000.

The woman sustained a fracture to her nasal bone and other facial injuries during the assault. The suspect fled after abandoning his motorcycle at the scene, where people present handed him over to the police.

Police officials said a special team was formed under the supervision of Civil Lines Superintendent of Police Maniza Karamat.

Three terrorists of banned organizations arrested in Karachi

According to details, these terrorists were planning to target a sensitive location in the City but it was thwarted due to timely action by the security forces.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



In a joint operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) and an intelligence agency, a terrorist plot was foiled, and three terrorists of banned organizations were arrested in Karachi,According to details, these terrorists were planning to target a sensitive location in the City but it was thwarted due to timely action by the security forces.

Two arrested terrorists are members of the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and one is from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A large quantity of IEDs, hand grenades, and weapons were recovered from the possession of the arrested terrorists.

The arrested terrorists were later identified as Rahim Fazal and Balach Baloch.

Earlier on October 13, 2026, the Counter-Terrorism Department arrested three suspected terrorists belonging to the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan Libera-tion Army (BLA) in separate raids in Karachi.

According to a CTD spokesperson, two hand grenades and an improvised explosive device (IED) were recovered from their custody.

He said that the CTD, along with an intelligence agency, carried out a raid near Lasbela Chowk and arrested two suspected BLA terrorists. They were identified as Sajid Yusuf and Shaukat Ali alias Shoki.

The held suspects were in constant touch with their handlers and were planning to carry out bomb attacks on sensitive installations and law enforcement agencies, the spokesperson added. .



Artisans are hand-embroidering wedding attire at a workshop near Lakshmi Chowk

President, PM condole loss of lives in China earthquake

President Zardari also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in the earthquake.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in a devastating earthquake that struck Nagqu City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region President Zardari, who is in Germany for a three-day visit, in a statement, extended his heartfelt condolences to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the bereaved families, and the people of China who lost their loved ones in the calamity. Reaffirming Pakistan's complete solidarity with China, he said that Pakistan stood firmly with its Chinese brothers and sisters during this difficult time. President Zardari also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in the earthquake.

According to Chinese Xinhua news agency, sixteen people were killed and 32 others injured after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Baqen County of Nagqu City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep sadness over the tragic loss of precious lives and injuries caused by a devastating earthquake in Nagqu city of Xizang Autonomous Region of China.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt condolences to President Xi Jinping, and our Chinese brothers and sisters, especially the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

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Pakistan-Turkiye Strategic Defence Partnership Enters a New Era



By: Izmi Herlani

The strategic partnership between Pakistan and Turkiye has entered a decisive new chapter following the recent visit of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, to Turkiye. Far more than a routine diplomatic engagement, the visit reflected the growing strategic alignment between the two brotherly nations at a time when the global security environment is rapidly evolving and modern warfare is being reshaped by technology, innovation and multi-domain operations. Over the past few years, Pakistan and Turkiye have steadily expanded cooperation across defence, aerospace and emerging technologies. The Air Chief's high-level engagements in Ankara highlighted not only the depth of existing ties, but also the shared ambition of both countries to build a future-oriented strategic partnership capable of addressing tomorrow's challenges together.

The visit began on a historic and symbolic note at the Turkish Air Force Headquarters, where Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu was received by General Ziya Cemal









Kadioglu, Commander Turkish Air Force. In a gesture reflecting the exceptional warmth and mutual respect shared between the two nations, a smartly turned-out contingent of the Turkish Air Force presented a Guard of Honour to the visiting Air Chief. While the ceremonial welcome carried strong symbolism, the real significance of the visit lay in the substance of the discussions that followed. Both Air Chiefs held extensive talks aimed at strengthening operational cooperation and enhancing interoperability between Pakistan Air Force and Turkish Air Force. Their discussions focused on expanding bilateral military exercises, professional exchange programmes, advanced training initiatives and collaborative operational frameworks to prepare both Air Forces for emerging combat realities. One particularly notable aspect of the interaction was the Turkish Air Chief's appreciation for Pakistan Air Force's longstanding support in the training of Turkish pilots. The acknowledgment underscored the professional standing and operational credibility that the PAF enjoys internationally, while also highlighting the deep institutional trust that now exists between the two Air Forces. Defence observers believe that this expanding military cooperation could eventually translate into greater joint operational capability in areas such as aerial warfare, electronic warfare, integrated air operations and network-centric combat systems. As both countries continue to modernize their forces, the emphasis is increasingly shifting from traditional defence cooperation towards integrated strategic coordination.

The strategic importance of the visit became even more evident during the Air Chief's meeting with Turkiye's Minister of National Defence. Discussions reportedly covered a wide spectrum of issues including defence collaboration, aerospace cooperation,
capacity building and future-oriented military partnerships. During the meeting, the Air Chief emphasized the historic relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye; a bond rooted in shared faith, mutual trust, common strategic interests and decades of unwavering support for one another. The Turkish leadership, in turn, appreciated the modernization and transformation initiatives undertaken by the Pakistan Air Force under its current leadership and expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation across multiple defence domains. Analysts are viewing these engagements as part of a broader strategic convergence between Islamabad and Ankara. Both nations are increasingly focused on strengthening indigenous defence capabilities, reducing reliance on external security frameworks and investing in technological self-reliance. This shared vision has brought the two countries closer than ever before in the fields of defence production, aerospace innovation and advanced military technologies.Perhaps the most consequential engagement of the visit was the Air Chief's meeting with Chief Technology Officer of Baykar Technologies; the company that has emerged as a global symbol of Turkiye's rapid rise in unmanned aerial systems and drone warfare technologies. The meeting focused on next-generation aerospace innovation, unmanned combat systems and emerging technologies that are redefining the future battlefield. As drone warfare, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems become increasingly central to modern military strategy, cooperation in these areas carries immense significance for both countries. Turkiye's remarkable success in developing indigenous drone technologies has already transformed its defence profile globally. Pakistan Air Force, meanwhile, is aggressively pursuing modernization and technological advancement under its current leadership within its own aerospace ecosystem. Defence experts believe that enhanced collaboration between the two sides could open new avenues for joint development, technology sharing and future cooperation in advanced unmanned systems. Such partnerships are expected to strengthen Pakistan's future warfighting capabilities while accelerating the induction of cutting-edge technologies into the country's defence architecture. More importantly, they signal a shift towards a more technologically integrated partnership between the two countries.



By Muhammad Mohsin Khan (Rajput)

K-Electric: A Chronicle of Illumination Transformation, and Endurance

Among the institutions that have indelibly shaped the economic and civic landscape of Karachi the commercial nucleus of Pakistan and one of South Asia's most consequential metropolitan centres few possess a historical significance



comparable to that of the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation. Known in contemporary times as K-Electric, this entity transcends the conventional definition of a utility provider; it constitutes an indispensable pillar underpinning industrial productivity, commercial vitality, and the quotidian functioning of millions of inhabitants. Its century-long evolution, extending from the colonial era through nationalization and eventual privatization, mirrors the broader trajectory of Karachi itself. The history of this institution is therefore not merely a corporate narrative but an integral chapter in the developmental saga of the city it serves.

The origins of the organization may be traced to the year 1913, when Karachi, then a rapidly expanding port city within British India, required a more dependable electrical infrastructure to sustain its growing urban and commercial aspirations. To address this necessity, the British administration established the Karachi Electric Supply Company as a publicly listed enterprise. Although its initial operational ambit was relatively modest, the company progressively expanded in tandem with Karachi's transformation into a major industrial and mercantile hub. In many respects, the availability of reliable electricity became one of the foundational prerequisites for the

city's subsequent economic ascendancy.

Following the emergence of Pakistan as an independent state, the company entered a new phase of institutional development. In 1952, during the administration of Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin, the government assumed ownership of the enterprise and incorporated it into the public sector. Consequent to this transition, the organization was reconstituted as the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC). For several decades thereafter, it functioned as a wholly state-owned utility, bearing primary responsibility for the generation and distribution of electricity throughout Karachi and its adjoining regions.

By the closing years of the twentieth century, however, mounting economic pressures, operational inefficiencies, and recurring energy-sector challenges generated increasing calls for structural reform. These circumstances culminated in one of Pakistan's most consequential privatization initiatives. In 2005, KESC was transferred to private ownership, thereby inaugurating an entirely new chapter in its corporate history.

Central to this transformation was the establishment of KES Power, a specially constituted private consortium created for the acquisition of the corporation's controlling interest. The consortium comprised several prominent international investors, including Saudi Arabia's Al-Jomaih Group and Kuwait's National Industries Group, among others. Through the privatization transaction concluded in July 2005, KES Power acquired approximately 66.4 percent of the company's shares, thereby assuming effective managerial control. The Government of Pakistan retained a substantial minority holding amounting to 24.36 percent of the corporation's equity.

company's shares, thereby assuming effective managerial control. The Government of Pakistan retained a substantial minority holding amounting to 24.36 percent of the corporation's equity.A further milestone was reached in 2014 when the organization adopted the name "K-Electric," reflecting both a modernized corporate identity and its evolution into a publicly listed, profit-oriented utility enterprise. Today, K-Electric ranks among Pakistan's most significant corporate entities. In 2023, the company reported annual revenues of approximately PKR 519 billion, underscoring its considerable economic scale and strategic importance. At present, the organization is chaired by Shahryar Arshad Chishti, while Syed Muhammad Talha serves as its Chief Executive Officer.

K-Electric occupies a distinctive position within Pakistan's energy sector by virtue of being the country's sole vertically integrated utility. Unlike many power-sector entities that perform only a single segment of the electricity value chain, K-Electric undertakes generation, transmission, and distribution functions within a unified operational framework. Its service territory extends across roughly 6,500 square kilometres, encompassing Karachi as well as the Sindh localities of Dhabeji and Gharo, in addition to the Balochistan regions of Uthal, Winder, and Bela. The company presently supplies electricity to more than 3.7 million consumers and employs in excess of 9,000 personnel. Despite its historical significance and operational reach, K-Electric's journey has not been devoid of formidable challenges. Recurring concerns relating to power outages, aging infrastructure, disputed meter readings, and electricity theft have frequently subjected the company to public criticism and scrutiny. Financial performance has likewise presented difficulties. During 2023, the corporation reportedly sustained losses exceeding PKR 30 billion, highlighting the persistent structural and regulatory pressures confronting the utility.

The year 2025 proved particularly consequential and illustrated the intricate relationship between regulatory intervention and corporate viability. Initially, on 23 September 2025, the company announced a profit of approximately PKR 4.13 billion for the financial year 2024. This performance corresponded to a return on equity of 3.56 percent and a return on property and equipment of 0.87 percent, while access to transmission capacity had reached approximately 3,550 megawatts.

Subsequently, however, the financial landscape changed dramatically. In October 2025, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) reduced the applicable tariff by PKR 7.6 per unit, bringing it down to PKR 32.37 per unit. According to the company's leadership, this regulatory adjustment effectively transformed the previously declared profitability into a projected net loss of approximately PKR 80 billion. Concurrently, the corporation was reported to be carrying debt obligations amounting to roughly PKR 260 billion.Independent assessments further suggested that the annual financial shortfall could reach approximately PKR 79 billion. Analysts projected a loss of around PKR 2.2 per share for the fiscal year 2025 and warned that, should prevailing conditions persist without substantial corrective measures, cumulative losses could exceed PKR 600 billion by the year 2030.



By Sawaira Safeer

When Climate Change Becomes a Health Crisis

Climate change is no longer a distant environmental concern. It has become an escalating public health emergency that affects lives, livelihoods, and healthcare systems across the globe. While discussions about global warming often focus on melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and ecological disruption, one of its most immediate and dangerous consequences is extreme heat — a growing threat to human health.

Heatwaves are becoming more frequent, intense, and prolonged worldwide. What was once considered an occasional weather event is now emerging as a persistent public health hazard.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 489,000 heat-related deaths occur globally each year, making heat one of the deadliest weather-related hazards. The organization also reports that heat-related mortality among people over the age of 65 increased by nearly 85 percent between 2000–2004 and 2017–2021.

Extreme heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and life-threatening heatstroke, while also aggravating cardiovascular, respiratory, and kidney diseases. The danger is not limited to record-breaking temperatures alone; prolonged exposure to high heat places continuous stress on the human body, increasing illness and mortality even when temperatures remain below extreme thresholds. Human beings are biologically adapted to function within a narrow temperature range. When environmental temperatures rise beyond the body's capacity to cool itself, natural mechanisms such as sweating become less effective. As a result, cardiovascular strain intensifies, vital organs work harder, and the risk of severe health complications increases. Older adults, infants, outdoor workers, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable. Increasingly warmer nights further compound the problem by denying the body the recovery time it needs after daytime heat exposure.

Urban populations face additional risks due to the well-documented urban heat island effect. Dense concentrations of concrete, asphalt, and buildings absorb and retain heat, while limited vegetation reduces natural cooling. Consequently, cities often record significantly higher temperatures than surrounding
rural areas, exposing millions of residents to elevated heat stress during both day and night.

The health impacts of climate change extend far beyond heat-related illnesses. Rising



temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are altering the distribution of infectious diseases. Mosquito-borne illnesses such as dengue fever and malaria are expanding into new geographic areas as warmer conditions create more favourable environments for disease vectors. At the same time, worsening air quality linked to higher temperatures contributes to respiratory illnesses, while climate-related disruptions to agriculture and water resources threaten food security and nutrition.

Scientific evidence increasingly points to the scale of the threat. The latest assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that climate-related health risks are appearing faster and becoming more severe than previously projected. The report estimates that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, while mortality rates from extreme weather events in the most vulnerable regions are significantly higher than in wealthier and more resilient areas.

Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this crisis is its unequal burden. Communities that have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions often face the greatest risks. In many developing countries, limited healthcare infrastructure, inadequate housing, poor access to clean water, and the absence of reliable cooling systems increase vulnerability to climate-related health threats. Climate change is therefore not only an environmental challenge but also a matter of public health equity and social justice.

Pakistan offers a clear example of this growing challenge. The country has experienced increasingly severe heatwaves in recent years, with temperatures in , and environmental degradation have further intensified the impact of rising temperatures in major cities.

parts of Sindh exceeding 52°C during the 2024 heatwave. Reports indicated hundreds of heat-related deaths and thousands of hospitalisations as healthcare facilities struggled to cope with the surge in patients. Rapid urbanisation, population growth, and environmental degradation have further intensified the impact of rising temperatures in major cities.

The consequences extend beyond immediate health emergencies. Heat stress reduces labour productivity, threatens food security, increases pressure on already strained healthcare systems, and disproportionately affects low-income communities that lack access to cooling infrastructure. As climate change accelerates, these impacts are expected to intensify.

Despite these challenges, the future is not predetermined. Effective adaptation and mitigation strategies can significantly reduce health risks. Expanding urban green spaces, strengthening heatwave early warning systems, improving public awareness, and enhancing healthcare preparedness are practical measures that can save lives. Equally important is the long-term transition towards cleaner energy sources and reduced dependence on fossil fuels, which remains essential for slowing global warming and protecting future generations.

A heating planet is no longer a prediction confined to scientific reports. Its consequences are already visible in hospitals, workplaces, communities, and households around the world. The true cost of climate change is measured not only in rising temperatures but also in the growing number of lives placed at risk.

The debate is no longer about whether the planet is warming. The more urgent question is whether societies can afford to delay meaningful action while the health consequences of climate change continue to intensify.

The writer is a final-semester student of Media Studies at National University of Modern Languages with an interest in climate communication, public health, and environmental journalism.

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A worker boils sugarcane juice in a large pan while another tends the furnace fire to prepare traditional gur (jaggery) at a roadside setup in the city

Petroleum Division urges OGRA to act against suspected LPG hoarding

■ **Petroleum Division has asked OGRA to take legal and administrative action over fears of LPG hoarding and artificial shortages despite imports meeting domestic demand.**

Special Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

The Petroleum Division has urged the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) to take action against suspected liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) hoarding amid concerns that irregular supplies could trigger artificial shortages and price increases in the domestic market.

In a letter to OGRA, the Petroleum Division said LPG imports were being maintained according to domestic demand. However, reports indicated that imported supplies were not being lifted regularly from terminals, raising



concerns about possible stockpiling.

The division warned that the situation could create an artificial shortage in the local market and push up prices despite the availability of imported LPG.

It asked OGRA to take appropriate measures to prevent hoarding and ensure the regular movement of LPG from import terminals to areas where the fuel is needed.

The letter also called for necessary legal and administrative action to maintain uninterrupted supplies and protect consumers from artificial shortages.

The Petroleum Division highlighted the importance of LPG for people living in mountainous and remote areas, as well as regions not connected to the national gas network.

It stressed that preventing supply disruptions and unjustified price increases was essential to ensuring that consumers in these areas continued to have access to the fuel.



Oil prices rise as Middle East supply concerns linger

Staff Reporter
KARACHI

Crude oil prices rose on Friday after Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia stoked concerns of further disruption to energy supplies from the Middle East.

Brent crude futures climbed 58 cents, or 0.5%, to $113.75 a barrel as of 0439 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 66 cents, or 0.7%, to $100.13.On a weekly basis, Brent, which settled at its highest since May 4 on Thursday, is set to close higher for a third successive week, while WTI is on track to finish lower, following two weeks of gains.Saudi Aramco on Thursday ordered the evacuation of its ?headquarters in Dhahran on the Gulf near Bahrain. "Markets are increasingly worried about renewed escalation in the Persian Gulf, a scenario that could threaten oil flows that have so far remained remarkably resilient," ING analysts said in a note on Friday."Re-escalation seems the most likely path. Even if tensions don't re-escalate, the mere possibility is likely to keep ?a sizeable geopolitical risk premium embedded in prices.""The key factors to monitor now ?are the extent of actual disruption and the time needed to restore operations, as these will ultimately determine how much of a supply risk premium the market is willing to pay.



Qaiser Sheikh calls for regional trade, investment reforms to accelerate growth

Commerce Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Thursday stressed the need for facilitating businesses, reforming regulations and strengthening regional trade to attract investment, boost exports and accelerate economic growth.Addressing the CEO summit, the minister said Pakistan needed to improve its investment climate by simplifying regulatory procedures and developing a facilitation-oriented approach to encourage both domestic and foreign investors.

He said Pakistanis living abroad had substantial financial resources and investment potential, which could be tapped by addressing regulatory concerns and creating a more business-friendly environment.

Referring to the experiences of China and South Korea, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh emphasized that human resource development, technology transfer, education and effective economic planning were essential for sustainable growth.

He said Pakistan also needed to improve access to financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the agriculture sector, noting that these sectors accounted for a major share of employment but received only around seven per cent of total bank lending.

The minister said limited access to affordable credit forced many small businesses to borrow from informal sources at interest rates as high as 40 to 50 per cent, restricting their ability to expand and contribute to economic growth.Highlighting the importance of regional connectivity, he said sustained economic growth was difficult without regional trade, citing Southeast Asia, where around 70 per cent of trade takes place within the region.

He observed that restrictions on trade with neighbouring countries had constrained Pakistan's ability to exploit its geographical position as a gateway to Central Asia and other regional markets. The minister called for dialogue among relevant stakeholders to address regional trade barriers and facilitate cross-border business cooperation, saying stronger regional connectivity was vital for attracting investment and expanding export markets.

He said Pakistan's exports remained around $30 billion, while greater access to regional markets could help local industries expand their international presence.



Pakistan must build sustainable growth model around agriculture, textiles, IT: Muhammad Ali

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatization Muhammad Ali on Thursday stressed the need for sustainable economic growth through structural reforms, private-sector investment and export-led development, identifying agriculture, textiles and information technology (IT) as key sectors that could help Pakistan strengthen its economy.

Addressing the CEO Summit, he said Pakistan needed to learn from countries such as China, South Korea, Vietnam and Bangladesh, which had built their economies by focusing on existing strengths and developing them consistently over time.

He said Pakistan had faced severe economic challenges during 2022 and 2023, including fiscal constraints, low productivity, production curtailments, high inflation and elevated interest rates, which had slowed economic activity.

"We cannot go through that sort of test again. So we need to do something to avoid it in the future," he said, emphasizing the importance of perseverance, patience, focus and coordinated policymaking in navigating economic difficulties.

The adviser said the key question was how to build an economy resilient enough to withstand future challenges while maintaining a higher and sustainable growth trajectory.

Citing international examples, he said China had initially built on its agricultural strengths after launching economic reforms in 1978, South Korea had developed industries such as textiles and plywood during the 1960s, while Vietnam had transformed itself from a rice importer into a major exporter.

Bangladesh, he added, had also developed its garment industry by capitalizing on its existing strengths.

"These countries did not try to do everything at once. They started from what they could already do well and built upon it," he said, adding that sustained efforts and policy continuity had enabled them to achieve long-term economic progress.Presenting a framework called "TRUST" for Pakistan's economic growth, Muhammad Ali said it focused on targeting sectors where the country had competitive strengths, implementing sustainable reforms, unlocking private

Jam Kamal reviews exporters concerns, seeks measures to boost exports

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

:Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Thursday reviewed issues hampering Pakistan's exports and discussed practical measures to improve competitiveness, reduce the cost of doing business and expand access to international markets.

He chaired a follow-up consultative meeting with leading exporters and senior government officials to assess progress on issues raised during an earlier meeting and identify solutions requiring policy intervention, said a news release.

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Bilal Azhar Kayani, senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce and representatives of relevant ministries and departments attended the meeting, while exporters participated both in person and virtually.

At the outset, a consolidated presentation was made on concerns raised by exporters and responses provided by relevant government departments. The ensuing discussion focused on outstanding issues related to energy costs, taxation, financing constraints, regulatory procedures and international market access.

Jam Kamal Khan said the government was pursuing improved access to international markets through sustained diplomatic and trade engagements.



Pakistan was also reviewing existing trade arrangements and seeking enhanced preferential access with major trading partners, including China, South Korea, Türkiye, Japan and Vietnam.

Regarding China, he said Pakistan had been advocating greater tariff concessions in line with preferential treatment available to other countries. Discussions on preferential trade arrangements with South Korea were also progressing, while engagement with other trading partners continued through diplomatic missions, trade offices and bilateral consultations.

On market access for Pakistani tyre exports to Türkiye, officials informed the meeting that certain tyre categories already benefited from concessions under the bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement. Exporters were encouraged to submit specific product details and HS codes to enable the Ministry to pursue outstanding issues with Turkish counterparts.

The meeting also reviewed industrial energy costs, particularly the gas levy and its implications for export competitiveness.

Participants were informed that the

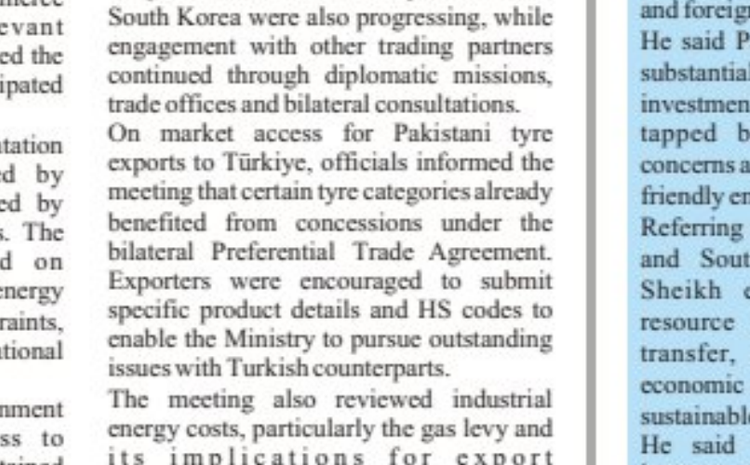
Pakistan's inflation expected to rise to 8.2pc in FY2026-27: World Bank

■ **World Bank reports 3.7% economic growth in Pakistan for FY2025-26, while inflation averaged 7.1%. Growth is projected at 3.8% and inflation at 8.2% for FY2026-27.**

Web Desk
NEW YORK

The World Bank has released its 2026 economic report on Pakistan's development outlook, reporting that the country's economy grew by 3.7 per cent in fiscal year 2025-26, while inflationary pressures intensified amid rising energy prices.

According to the World Bank, international credit rating agencies S&P and Moody's upgraded Pakistan's credit ratings. Pakistan also issued Eurobonds worth $750 million and $3 billion in the international market.



The report stated that the agriculture sector recorded growth of 2.9 per cent, with livestock playing a significant role, while the services sector expanded by 4.1 per cent. e the Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves reached $19.7 billion, while the overall fiscal deficit declined to 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

According to the World Bank, average headline inflation stood at 7.1 per cent in fiscal year 2025-26, while the State Bank of Pakistan raised its policy interest rate to 11.5 per cent.

Economic growth is expected to reach 3.8 per cent in fiscal year 2026-27, while inflation is projected to rise to 8.2 per cent during the current fiscal year.

The report noted that average inflation increased from 4.5 per cent in fiscal year 2024-25 to 7.1 per cent in the following fiscal year. Rising energy prices amid the Middle East conflict intensified inflationary pressures.

According to the World Bank, average inflation stood at 10.2 per cent between March and June 2026, reaching a peak of 11.7 per cent in May 2026.

During fiscal year 2025-26, average food inflation in urban areas was recorded at 4.3 per cent, compared with 5.4 per cent in rural areas. Higher prices of wheat and perishable food items contributed to the increase in food inflation.

The report stated that food items remained the largest contributors to inflation in both urban and rural areas through August 2026.

It further reported that between February and June 2026, petrol prices increased by approximately 36 per cent, high-speed diesel prices rose by 31 per cent, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices climbed by around 46 per cent.

Scanned with CamScanner

China slams 'Cold War mentality' after new EU Arctic plan



Web DESK

BEIJING

China opposed on Thursday "using Cold War mentality" to stoke conflict over the Arctic, after the European Union linked Beijing's cooperation with Russia in the region to security concerns.

The EU unveiled on Tuesday a push to boost Arctic surveillance and expand icebreaker fleets, alluding to China's growing "strategic ambitions... as it deepens its partnership with Russia".

Europe, China, Russia and the United States are jostling for influence in the polar region that is seen as an important trade route.

This summer, a Chinese shipowner began a weekly container service through the Arctic on an express route to Europe, prompting concerns over vessels warming polar ice.

Beijing and Moscow agreed this week to "expand cooperation" in Arctic shipping, including increasing the number of routes between Russian and Chinese ports, according to a joint communique released after a meeting between their prime ministers.

Asked about the new EU strategy and calls from foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas to bolster the bloc's defences in the Arctic, China denounced what it called a "Cold War mentality".

"China's activities in the Arctic are aimed at promoting the Arctic's peaceful, stable and sustainable development, and are in accordance with international law," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said during a regular news conference.



Karachi: October 23, 2026: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, inaugurates the upgraded Central Plant Quarantine Laboratory and Federal Pesticides Testing and Reference Laboratory (FPTRL) to strengthen agricultural biosecurity, pesticide quality testing and international trade standards.

Injuries in China's Tibet rise to 65 after earthquake, death toll remains at 16

■ A magnitude 7 earthquake in Tibet has injured 65 people and killed 16, with more than 12,000 residents relocated as rescue teams respond to the disaster.

Web Desk

BEIJING

The number of people injured in a magnitude 7 earthquake that struck the southwestern region of China's Tibet has risen to 65, local government said in a social media post on Friday, while the death count remained unchanged at 16.

The quake, with an epicentre in Nagqu, a sparsely populated, high-altitude city in northern Tibet, is the strongest to hit ?China since January 2024.

More than 300 police officers including traffic and community police personnel were sent to the epicentre to carry out rescue and emergency relief work, the Nagqu ?police department said in a separate post on messaging app WeChat early on Friday.



Officers sent to the region checked for damage to homes and helped people relocate to safer locations, the Nagqu police also said in the WeChat post.

A video the police posted, opens new tab on TikTok sister app Douyin showed officers packing supplies in a truck in the dark and inspecting a building and rubble with flashlights.

More than 12,000 people have been safely relocated, state media outlet Xinhua reported.

Videos previously released by local official media showed people leaving their homes and seeking shelter outside or in their cars parked on the street. One resident reported being awakened by the strong quake and hearing the house squeaking during the tremor.

The China Earthquake Networks Center said in a post that 413 aftershocks had been recorded.

In 2010, a magnitude 7.1 tremor struck Yushu in neighbouring Qinghai province, killing at least 2,698 people and leaving nearly 300 people missing.

Man with disability killed by Israeli fire in Syria

Web Desk

Syria

A man with a disability was killed Thursday by Israeli army fire during an incursion in southern Syria, where it has stepped up operations, Syria's state news agency said.

Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad in December 2024 and an Islamist coalition's rise to power, the Israeli army has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria and regular incursions into its territory.

"A civilian with a disability was killed Thursday by fire from the Israeli occupation forces during their incursion into the village of Jamla" in Deraa province, SANA news agency said.

Israeli forces deployed in one neighbourhood of the village and placed snipers on the rooftops after bombing the area late on Wednesday, the report said.

After Ahmed al-Sharaa came to power in Damascus in late 2024, Israel launched hundreds of strikes against Syria.



The IDF also carried out incursions into Syria's south and deployed troops in the UN-monitored buffer zone separating Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights.

In recent days, Israeli forces have also uprooted vast olive groves in Quneitra province, near Deraa, according to the agency.

Trees were destroyed across an area of about 1.3 hectares by the village of Saida, SANA said. The village faces the buffer zone where the Israeli army has been building fortifications.

"Tanks entered my land without any warning," Mohammad Ali al-Chaghla, 58, the owner of the field, told AFP. "They cut down and destroyed some 400 trees during their incursion."

Macron slams 'stupid comments' from world leaders after Trump blames France unrest on migrants

● Emmanuel Macron criticizes Donald Trump and foreign leaders for spreading misinformation about France's nationwide protests, rejecting claims that migrants are fueling unrest.

Web Desk

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron has slammed what he called "stupid comments" from some foreign leaders over protests sweeping the country, after his US counterpart Donald Trump claimed migrants were fueling the unrest.

"We've had people claiming that we were invaded by hordes of migrants and Islamists, which is completely false,"

during a tour of Arab states in the Persian Gulf region. "The fact is that all those speaking ill of our country right now are people who don't love our country. And those people irritate me."

Trump claimed without evidence



that France was being "conquered, looted and burned to the ground by migrants, jihadists and communists who hate Christianity" and "the Western civilization itself."

What started out in September as protests over the state of education and cost of living in the country has since spiraled into nationwide violence and rioting, with more than 2,000 people arrested this past weekend alone.

French authorities have imposed localized curfews and promised a "massive" police presence for more protests expected Saturday, as authorities come under pressure to quell the worst flare-up of rioting in years.

However, Macron continued, "there has been foreign manipulation of information, which has led to unacceptable and stupid comments from many people, including foreign leaders."

Alongside Trump, Vice President JD Vance has also suggested migrants were behind the unrest. "Western liberals imported the third world into France and other countries in the name of diversity and compassion," he wrote Monday on X. "They ignored fundamental questions of assimilation and compatibility."

Trump referred approvingly to Vance's comments in the Oval while claiming that concerns about education or costs were not fueling the protests.

"It's not about education. It's about immigration," he said. "It's about illegal people coming in who basically hate France. They hate the people. They hate everything."

In Europe, too, Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar has linked the violence to immigration policies, also without providing evidence. On Sunday, he posted on social media: "In the face of this senseless destruction and unjustified violence, perhaps it is now clear to everyone why Hungary advocates the strictest possible approach to migration."

Iran's Guards threaten to hit US bases in retaliation for Hormuz escorts

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Thursday threatened to strike American bases across the Middle East if the US military continues to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

"The US military must know that if this trend continues, the conflict will extend to its bases in the region," the Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement on their Sepah News website. "This is a serious warning," they added.

Iran claims control over Hormuz, a strategic shipping route through



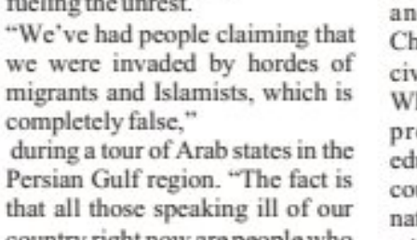
which one-fifth of the world's oil supplies passed before war broke out in February.

It regularly attacks ships that attempt to navigate the strait without its authorisation. But the US military has been escorting vessels through the waterway in increasing numbers, with Iran responding by stepping up attacks.Four ships were hit in the area overnight as they attempted to pass through the wider Gulf, Iranian forces said on Thursday.

Iran threatens to target US data centres, undersea internet cables if war breaks out

Web Desk

TEHRAN



Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei on Thursday said negotiations with the United States have been suspended, warning that undersea internet cables, data centres and AI facilities could be targeted by Iran if war breaks out, IRNA reports.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that it had targeted four ships in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf that it said were transferring oil cargoes from one vessel to another.

The IRGC's naval forces said in a statement that "fires were still burning on the targeted ships." It added that the four vessels had been spotted transferring oil between ships and were targeted simultaneously for sailing along "unauthorised routes."

Russia frees retired US schoolteacher in goodwill gesture as Putin meets Witkoff

■ Russia freed retired US teacher Stephen Hubbard after Putin agreed to Trump's request. The release followed talks with US envoy Steve Witkoff as efforts to end the Ukraine war continued.

Web Desk

ST PETERSBURG, Russia

Russia freed Stephen Hubbard, a retired US schoolteacher in custody since 2022, from prison on Wednesday and took him to St Petersburg to fly back to the US, after talks that Washington said were a step toward ending the war in Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made the announcement at a meeting in St Petersburg with US envoy ?Steve Witkoff, who later said the talks will continue toward planned technical-level discussions involving the US, Russia and Ukraine.

Witkoff called Putin a "humanitarian" in thanking him for the move, a remark that drew sharp rebuke from Republican and Democratic lawmakers given Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The prisoner release comes as



President Donald Trump's recent gestures toward Moscow, including a deal to buy Russian diesel and a waiver of new sanctions, have already sparked bipartisan pushback in the US Congress and worry in European capitals.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry ?Peskov, said Putin had freed Hubbard, 74, at Trump's request, and that he had also taken into account the American's poor health. Trump later confirmed he had asked Putin on a call in ?recent days, and Putin agreed.

"The president sends his thanks, our whole nation sends their thanks, because of Stephen Hubbard," Witkoff told Putin in the meeting shown on Russian state TV. "Because of you he's going home to his family."

In a video shared with Reuters, Hubbard, wearing a dark fleece and clean-shaven, is seen in an undisclosed location in Russia shaking Witkoff's hand and thanking him.

Later, Trump posted a picture of Hubbard appearing inside a plane with others and holding an American flag. Trump told reporters late on Wednesday that Hubbard had landed and that he would be visiting the White House "over the ?next day or so."

Hubbard's son, Joseph Coleman, told Reuters earlier in a voice message that he spoke briefly by phone with his father before he boarded the airplane in Russia.

"Today he seemed light in his step, a sense of happiness in his voice", Coleman said.Witkoff called the talks with Putin "constructive" and said in a post on X that he had also met Ukrainian and European leaders in Oslo to advance Trump's mission to end the war.

Scanned with CamScanner

Ayeza Khan's New Outfit Sparks Social Media Debate

■ Social Media Divided Over Ayeza Khan's Fashion Choice

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress and model Ayeza Khan has become the subject of online discussion after sharing new photos and a video on social media featuring a different fashion choice than she had previously spoken about in interviews.

The actress recently posted images on Instagram showing herself in a sleeveless pink halter-neck dress while posing against scenic backdrops, including ocean views, cliffside landscapes and artistic installations.

The post quickly attracted attention from fans and social media users, with some pointing to comments Ayeza had reportedly made in earlier interviews about preferring modest clothing and avoiding sleeveless outfits due to family preferences.

As a result, some users questioned the apparent contrast between her eactions online, reflecting differing past remarks and her latest fashion appearance, while others defended her right to make personal style choices. The discussion generated mixed reactions online, reflecting differing opinions among followers regarding celebrity fashion, personal expression and public expectations.

Born Kanza Khan, Ayeza is regarded as one of Pakistan's most prominent television stars. She began her career in modeling after finishing as a runner-up in the Pantene Shine Princess competition and later entered the television industry with a supporting role in the drama serial Tum Jo Miley in 2009.



Dr Zee Khan and Laila's Bollywood reel leaves fans amused



Dua Lipa Marries Callum Turner in London

■ Dua Lipa Marries Callum Turner in London

WEB DESK

LONDON

Beaming Dua Lipa leaves a register office with new husband Callum Turner — after wrong-footing fans with a surprise low-key wedding yesterday.

The loved-up singer, 30, and actor Callum, 36, tied the knot in central London in front of just eight guests.

They are to have a second lavish bash in Italy later this week.

Hollywood actor Callum wept with joy as he married the pop superstar in a surprise wedding ceremony yesterday.

Sources revealed the 36-year-old became emotional as he wed The One Kiss singer in front of a handful of family and friends — at a register office that has been a hot-spot for celebrity nuptials.

The understated affair, which saw the glamorous couple covered in confetti, came ahead of their second wedding — a lavish three-day event in Sicily which starts later this week.

Dua wore a wide-rimmed hat, custom-made off-white skirt and blazer from designer Schiaparelli paired with Louboutin heels.

Meanwhile Callum — who has been linked with becoming the next actor to play James Bond — looked suave in a navy suit.

An insider confirmed to The Sun that Callum had become emotional during the service at seeing his stunning bride.

They said: "He was in tears and shaky."

Dua's parents Dugi and Anesa, her sister Rina and brother Gjin were all beaming as they threw confetti over the happy couple as they exited Old Marylebone Town Hall, in central London, after the ceremony.

Caught between candlelight and quiet thoughts, Amar Khan charms fans



SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Popular Pakistani actress Amar Khan has captivated social media with her impeccable sense of style, treating fans to a series of stunning photographs and videos that perfectly blended elegance with understated glamour. The actress's latest Instagram post showcased her effortlessly chic fashion aesthetic, leaving admirers swooning over her sophisticated look.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Amar shared a carousel of pictures and clips accompanied by the caption:

"Caught between candlelight and quiet thoughts."

The post featured the actress in a stylish black co-ord set adorned with eye-catching glittery silver detailing that added just the right amount of sparkle to the ensemble.

The outfit struck a perfect balance between contemporary fashion and timeless elegance, making it a standout style statement.

Keeping the look polished and seamless, Amar paired the ensemble with classic black closed-toe heels.

She completed her appearance with a voluminous blowout hairstyle that added softness and glamour, perfectly complementing the monochrome outfit.

As expected, fans flooded the comments section with admiration and compliments for the actress.

Once a heroine always a heroine, Saima Noor turns head with dance moves



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Veteran Pakistani film star and actress Saima Noor has captivated fanatic with her behind the scene dance shoot. A viral video surfaced on Internet, captured Saima Noor performing classical dance sequence on soulful Pakistani track 'Ki Jana Mein Kon'.

In the video, Saima is seen wearing heavy flared floor length Anarkali in deep charcoal black adorned with intricate with golden tilla around the border. The hem of the skirt is detailed with classic Kalka motifs that amplify the dress's fluid spin during the performance.

She opted for traditional gold bridal jewellery along with choker and elegant maang tika on her forehead.

According to the reports, the behind the scene footage was filmed during the shoot of her upcoming drama 'Bulleh Shah'. Directed and produced by Sangeeta, the project serves as a biopic of the legendary 18th-century Sufi poet and features Saima Noor and Talat Shah in the lead roles.Lately, Saima Noor seen performing on the recreated version of her iconic song 'Majajan' in drama serial 'Mein Manto Nahi Hoon'.

It is worthy to mention that Saima Noor served Pakistani entertainment industry since 1987 approximately 39 years of her life while continuing wining the hearts of audience.

You need treatment, Fazila Qazi's 'brutal dig' at Iqrar Ul Hassan

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Veteran Pakistani actress Fazila Qazi has sparked a heated debate on social media after sharing a strongly worded video message aimed at former television host and journalist Iqrar Ul Hassan. The actress openly criticized what she described as Iqrar's obsession, questioning his tone, remarks, and repeated while urging people to acknowledge both a person's achievements and shortcomings fairly.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Fazila expressed disappointment and admitted that she had misjudged Iqrar's personality: "Mujh sy bari galti hoi Iqrar ko pehchanany mein, us insaan ki zubaan mein sun sun ky pareshan ho gai hu aap itna obsessed hain kisi ek shaks sy, aap Imran Khan saab sy itna obsessed hain. Arey bhai agar aapky koi, theek hai mei kisi



siyasi jamat sy nahi hu mein logon ki zubaany dekh k pareshan hun. Mujy Imran khan saab ki political cheezon sy lakh ikhtalaf hai lekin behrehal wo hamary mulk ka sarmaya hai, hmary kiye world cup ly kar aye wo. Unhon ny 'Shaukat Khanam' bnaya, boht saary loug ilaaj karwa rahy hain. Kisi ki achai to jany na. mein maanti hu Imran Khan boht bary leader hain lekin I think wo boht bury politician hai he don't know politics. Aur isi wjah sy wo ye sab suffer kar rahy hain. Kyun ky boht saary logon ko hum pehchan nahi paaty. Mein bhi boht buri politician banu agar kabhi Khuda na kawasta ban gai to. Kyun ky mein bhi logon ko pehchan nahi paati." (I made a huge mistake in recognizing Iqrar. I have become tired of listening to that person's words. You are so obsessed with one individual. you are incredibly obsessed with Imran Khan.

Look, even if someone supports a political party, that's fine, but I am not affiliated with any political party. I am simply disturbed by the way people speak. I may disagree with many of Imran Khan's political decisions, but regardless of that, he is an asset to our country. He brought us the World Cup. He established Shaukat Khanum, where countless people receive treatment. At least acknowledge someone's good deeds as well. I admit that Imran Khan is a great leader, but I think he is a very poor politician.

Chinese scientists create world's first lab-grown heart pacemaker

■ Sino-atrial (SA) node is often referred to as the heart's natural pacemaker

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

Chinese researchers have achieved a major milestone in cardiovascular science by successfully creating the world's first laboratory-grown sino-atrial node — the tiny part of the heart responsible for regulating its rhythm.

The breakthrough could pave the way for more advanced heart disease research, improved drug testing, and the development of biological alternatives to traditional pacemakers in the future.

What is sino-atrial node?

The sino-atrial (SA) node is often referred to as the heart's natural pacemaker. Located in the right atrium, it generates the electrical impulses that keep the heart beating continuously and regularly.

These electrical signals are regulated by the nervous system and direct the heart's upper and lower chambers to contract and relax in a coordinated sequence. This process ensures blood circulates efficiently throughout the body.

Because of its critical role, any malfunction in the sino-atrial node can have serious consequences.

When the heart's natural pacemaker stops working properly, the heartbeat can become abnormally slow or, in severe cases, stop altogether. Such conditions can be life-threatening and often require medical intervention.



Scientists have long sought ways to better understand how the sino-atrial node functions and how its disorders can be treated. To address this challenge, Chinese researchers created a three-dimensional laboratory model of the sino-atrial node using human pluripotent stem cells.

The lab-grown structure closely mimics the behavior of the natural node and is capable of generating its own rhythmic beats without external stimulation.

According to the research, the model functions similarly to the heart's natural pacemaker, offering scientists a new way to study cardiac rhythm disorders in a controlled environment.

The development is expected to significantly

Scanned with CamScanner

Top-ranked Rybakina into Ningbo quarter-finals on return from

● Openers Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh set the stage with a blistering 250-run partnership



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

World number one Elena Rybakina reached the quarter-finals of the Ningbo Open her return from injury when opponent Polina Kudermetova retired.The top seed and defending champion was cruising 5-0 in eastern China when the world number 105 from Uzbekistan called it quits because of injury.

Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina will face Poland's unseeded Katarzyna Kawa in the last eight.

Rybakina, 27, won the US Open for her third Grand Slam crown in September and usurped Aryna Sabalenka as world number one in New York.

She was then stunned in the second round in Beijing at the start of this month, and pulled out of the Wuhan Open citing a foot injury.

"Definitely not the way I wanted to finish the match," Rybakina, also the reigning Australian Open champion, said of the injury to Kudermetova.

"There is always room to improve and we'll see how the next one is going to go."

She added: "I'm just happy being here in Ningbo again, remembering the previous memories, and hoping that I can finish the year strong and be at my best."

Alexandra Eala crashed out in the last 16 as the Philippine history-maker suffered a battling straight-sets defeat to Diana Shnaider.

The Russian world number 13 won 7-5, 6-4 and will face the talented American teenager Iva Jovic in the quarter-finals.

The 21-year-old Eala in August became the first player from the Philippines to win a WTAtitle and is typically followed by a throng of fans from her country.

But after beating France's Diane Parry in straight sets in the previous round in Ningbo, the world number 20 came up against a far sterner test in Shnaider.

The 22-year-old Russian, who is seeking to win a sixth WTA singles title, used her superior power to take the first set in just over 50 minutes.

The second set was closer as Eala fought for survival.

Shnaider put the Eala serve under severe pressure in the ninth game before breaking for 5-4, then doggedly held to seal victory in one hour and 55 minutes.

The 18-year-old Jovic defeated two-time Grand Slam finalist Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-4, 6-3.

PSL 12 player auction to be held on January 23

● The PCB has announced a January 23 player auction for PSL 12, with the tournament scheduled from March 18 to May 2 across five to six cities.

Sports Desk

LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced key decisions for the 12th edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL), including a player auction on January 23 and plans to hold the tournament from March 18 to May 2 across five to six cities.

The decisions were made at a meeting of the PSL Governing Council chaired by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi. PSL CEO Salman Naseer, franchise representatives and other officials also attended the meeting.



The council decided that direct signings for PSL 12 will take place from October 23 to November 23. Each franchise will be allowed to directly sign one marquee player, provided the player did not participate in either of the previous two PSL seasons.

A cricket workshop for the HBL PSL will be held next week, while the gold and silver events of the National T20 Cup will also take place before the league.

Mohsin Naqvi said the HBL PSL was the biggest stage for cricket in Pakistan. He noted that the 11th edition concluded with a record number of spectators and said the PCB would build on that momentum.

He added that the league would be taken to more cities this time.

PSL CEO Salman Naseer said the race to assemble the best squads for PSL 12 had begun for all franchises.

Maradona death trial verdict set for December 22



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

The verdict in the trial over the 2020 death of Argentine football legend Diego Maradona will be delivered on December 22, the court announced Thursday, after six months of hearings.

The trial of seven healthcare professionals accused of negligence in the star's death concluded Thursday with brief statements from Maradona's daughter and some of the defendants.

"I hope my father receives the justice he deserves...like anyone else," said Dalma Maradona, her voice breaking with emotion.

The main defendant in the case, Leopoldo Luque, Maradona's primary doctor, declared: "I am innocent."

Maradona died at age 60 from heart failure coupled with pulmonary edema.

The larger-than-life star, who had a history of substance abuse, was found dead in his bed on November 25, 2020.

He was at his residence in Tigre, north of Buenos Aires, rented for his convalescence following minor neurosurgery.

His death plunged the country into mourning in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

-'Scapegoat'-

The trial, which began in April, included testimony from more than 70 witnesses.

Prosecutors requested prison sentences ranging from four to twelve years for six of the seven defendants, with the heaviest sentence -- 12 years -- sought for Luque.

In closing arguments on Wednesday, Luque's defense attorneys rejected the prosecution's argument that Maradona's death was foreseeable, calling their client a "scapegoat" in the case.

Throughout the trial, Luque was by far the most combative defendant, speaking several times when he felt he was being implicated.

His legal team played audio recordings, presented scientific articles and even a video of Maradona's autopsy, provoking the anger of the footballer's daughters.

"It's easy to attack me because I'm the one who had the most contact with Maradona," Luque said in court, asserting that "the only one who would defend me would be Diego."

"I cared deeply for him, I loved him, he was my idol and my friend," he said.

Trump slams NBA's LeBron James for national anthem actions

■ "LeBron James should apologize to all of those Great American Warriors and Heroes who died for the American Flag, and all that our Country stands for!" he wrote.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

US President Donald Trump lashed out at NBA superstar LeBron James on Thursday for what he called disrespectful behavior during the playing of the national anthem.

Trump posted a video of the basketball legend doing apparent warm-up movements while lined up with his Philadelphia 76ers teammates before their season opener against the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

"While listening to our National Anthem, LeBron James disrespects our Country! I said right from the beginning that he's no good, a TOTAL DISGRACE," Trump wrote on his Truth Social network.

"LeBron James should apologize to all of those Great American Warriors and Heroes who died for the American Flag, and all that our Country stands for!" he wrote.

The video used by Trump had an internal caption that read: "LeBron working on his golf swing pregame." It showed him doing lateral swing motions and basketball shooting movements.

Trump, speaking at a campaign rally in Iowa on Thursday night, renewed the attack, calling James's actions "a big scandal kind of a story."

Trump and James have traded barbs before, and the NBA's all-time leading scorer shrugged off the president's latest criticism.

"It must be a slow news day at the office," he said after the Sixers completed an epic comeback to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 114-106 in Philadelphia. "Slow news day at the office."

James, 41, is entering a record-extending 24th NBA season with his fourth team.

Sixers coach Nick Nurse said Trump's comments were the kind of distractions he was schooling his team to tune out.

"I think that goes right in with other outside noise we've already had," Nurse said. "I keep saying the same thing.





USA to host women's football Club World Cup in 2028 - FIFA

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

The United States will host the inaugural women's football Club World Cup in 2028, FIFA announced Thursday."The decision was taken in view of its experience in organising FIFA tournaments, the maturity of its infrastructure and services and the level of stakeholder interest in women's football in the country," world football's governing body said.

The competition will be staged from January 5-30, 2028.It will bring together 16 top-tier clubs from all six continental confederations.

FIFA said the introduction of the tournament marked "a major milestone for the professionalisation and global expansion of the women's club game, giving elite club sides a true world stage to compete on every four years".

Initially slated for 2026, FIFA pushed the inaugural tournament back by two years so it enjoys a clear window following the 2027 women's World Cup and ahead of the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

The US has a proven track record of hosting large sporting events, notably staging the men's World Cup earlier this year.



MIT Solutions' dream year continues as they qualify for President's Trophy Grade-I final

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Markhor IT Solutions, who qualified for President's Trophy Grade-I from Grade-II tournament earlier this year, will compete in the final of the departmental first-class tournament against State Bank of Pakistan from 25 to 29 October at the SBP Sports Complex in Karachi.

The final and seventh round of the President's Trophy Grade-I concluded on Thursday with Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) avoiding relegation after edging Khan Research Laboratories by four wickets in Rawalpindi.

On the points table SBP was the only team to breach the three-figure mark as they gathered 107 points, while MIT Solutions accumulated 96. Both teams had two wins each but SBP did not lose a single game.

Kingsmen Academy and Ghani – the joint-third position holders on the table – finished with 89 points each, while KRL had 83 points.

Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) will be relegated to the President's Trophy Grade-II tournament after they finished at the bottom of the eight-team table with 72 points to their name.

Pakistan Television were safe from relegation by two points and SNGPL by four as they finished with 74 and 76, respectively.



Ex-Yankees player Matsui to become head coach of Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, NHK reports

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Former New York Yankees player Hideki Matsui will become head coach of the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, Japanese public broadcaster NHK reported on Friday.

The Japanese slugger, nicknamed "Godzilla", won World Series MVP honours in 2009, his last year with the Yankees. Before moving to the United States, he played for the Giants for 10 years, helping the club win three Japan Series titles.

The Japanese baseball team did not immediately respond to Reuters' email queries on the NHK report.

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LHC seeks reports from Lahore, Sheikhupura DCs on PTI workers' detention

WEB DESK

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has sought reports from the deputy commissioners of Lahore and Sheikhupura on petitions challenging the detention of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers.

Justice Abhar Gul Khan heard petitions filed by Rao Shahzad and others.

During the hearing, lawyer Irfan Kalar said PTI workers, including Rashid and Javed Iqbal, had been detained and were not released even after their detention periods expired. He said the deputy commissioners of Lahore and Sheikhupura had issued fresh detention orders.

The lawyer argued that keeping the workers in detention without stating a reason was unconstitutional. He requested the court to declare the detention orders unlawful and direct the authorities to release the workers.

The court sought reports from the deputy commissioners of Lahore and Sheikhupura on the petitions.

PM Shehbaz orders merit-based overhaul of livestock board, time-bound plan to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease

● Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday approved the restructuring of the Livestock and Dairy Development Board and directed that the selection of its chairman and members be carried out transparently and strictly on merit. T

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



:Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday approved the restructuring of the Livestock and Dairy Development Board and directed that the selection of its chairman and members be carried out transparently and strictly on merit.

The prime minister chairing a review meeting on reforms in the livestock sector, said the board should be made an effective and active institution by inducting capable and experienced professionals from the private sector, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to present a comprehensive action plan for the complete eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, with clear targets, measurable results and a fixed timeframe.

He announced that the federal government was establishing a plant in Islamabad for the production of modern and effective livestock vaccines, using its own resources.

The prime minister also directed that world-class consultants be engaged for the development of the livestock and dairy sector, and that the experiences of countries with expertise in the field be drawn upon. He called for partnerships with such countries to be promoted.

Noting that Pakistan possessed vast potential in the livestock sector, the prime minister stressed that it should be harnessed for exports and economic growth. He said improvements in animal health, breeding, production and the value chain would help the country fully realise its export potential, while also boosting the rural economy and creating employment opportunities.

The meeting was given a briefing on the restructuring of the board, animal disease surveillance, vaccination, animal identification and traceability, and measures to increase exports of meat and dairy products.

Federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahad Khan Cheema, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Dr Musadik Malik and Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, and senior officials of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

Centre assures Rs160 billion in funds for KP, says Governor Faisal Kundi

● KP governer announced that a special compensation package had been approved for the families of martyrs

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said the federal government has assured the province of Rs160 billion in funding, adding that additional funds would also be provided if the provincial government makes a further request.

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar alongside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Samar Haroon Bilour, Kundi described Thursday as a significant day in the province's history, referring to a national Apex Committee meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the field marshal and federal ministers, while the provincial chief secretary briefed participants on the overall situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the governor said.

Kundi added that the meeting discussed the province's challenges, wheat-related issues and other key matters. He said transparency would be ensured in government postings and transfers, while a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted against corruption.

The governor also announced that a special compensation package had been approved for the families of martyrs. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the field marshal, saying the government aimed to build a stronger and more developed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Commenting on the performance of government employees, Kundi said officials drawing salaries without performing their duties would be required to fulfil their responsibilities. He stressed that the government must ensure public servants deliver work in return for their salaries.

The governor also highlighted traffic and vehicle registration issues in Peshawar, saying the city had approximately 100,000 rickshaws, of which only 30,000 were registered.

President, PM condole loss of lives in China earthquake

■ President Zardari also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in the earthquake.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep grief over the loss of lives in a devastating earthquake that struck Nagqu City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, President Zardari, who is in Germany for a three-day visit, in a statement, extended his heartfelt condolences to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the bereaved families, and the people of China who lost their loved ones in the calamity.

Reaffirming Pakistan's complete solidarity with China, he said that Pakistan stood firmly with its Chinese brothers and sisters during this difficult time.

President Zardari also prayed for the swift and complete recovery of those injured in the arthquake.

According to Chinese Xinhua news agency, sixteen people were killed and 32 others injured after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Baqen County of Nagqu City in southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep sadness over the tragic loss of precious lives and injuries caused by a devastating earthquake in Nagqu city of Xizang Autonomous Region of China.

"On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt condolences to President Xi Jinping, and our Chinese brothers and sisters, especially the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Reaffirming solidarity with China during this difficult time, the prime minister said that Pakistan stood in support of its Chinese brothers and sisters and was ready to extend every possible assistance.



CM Maryam orders ban on sale of 20kg wheat flour bags across Punjab

■ Says only 10kg flour bags will be brought to market: Orders strict monitoring of borders to curb wheat smuggling: Directs framing measures to regulate sale of loose milk

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday reviewed the fluctuation of prices of daily commodities in Lahore and ordered to ban 20kg wheat flour bags across the province, saying only 10-kilogram bags will be brought into the market,

CM Maryam issued the order while presiding over a special meeting in Lahore to review the prices of edible goods. All commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link.

During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the chief minister about the fluctuation of prices of daily commodities.

The chief minister directed that 10-kilogram flour bags be sold in the in the market and that the sale of 20kg bags should be halted.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed strict monitoring of inter-provincial borders to curb smuggling of wheat.

All the deputy commissioners were directed to meet the wheat-sowing target, and orders have been issued to ensure the cultivation of wheat on government land.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz stated that under the 'Numberdar', 'Mare-rearing', and 'Own Farm, Own Livelihood' schemes, wheat will be cultivated on all the designated land.

She also issued directives for effective measures to regulate the sale of loose milk in accordance with hygiene and safety standards.

The chief minister also issued directives for taking measures to ensure availability of bananas, apples, and dates at controlled prices during the holy month of Ramadan

"Every deputy commissioner will ensure storage of bananas, apples, and dates in cold storage as per requirements in their respective areas," she added.

Pakistan ends issuance of machine-readable passports, switches to e-passports

■ Pakistan has switched to issuing only e-passports nationwide, ending the issuance of machine-readable passports while allowing existing ones to remain valid until expiry.

WEB DESK

LAHORE

Pakistan has ended its 22-year practice of issuing machine-readable passports, with authorities set to issue only e-passports to citizens across the country from today.

According to officials, machine-readable passports issued previously will remain valid until their expiry dates. However, they will not be eligible for renewal once their validity expires.

The issuance of e-passports in Pakistan began in March 2022, initially for diplomats and residents of Islamabad.

In August 2023, all Pakistani citizens were given the option to obtain either a machine-readable passport or an e-passport.

Before the introduction of machine-readable passports, Pakistan had been issuing handwritten passports since the country's independence.



Police official ride their motorcycles against the flow of traffic without wearing safety helmets at Rawal Dam Chowk which sheer violation of traffic rules

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