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CM praises security forces for eliminating key militant commander in Killa Saifullah operation

CITY REPORTER

QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has lauded the security forces for successfully eliminating a key commander of Fitna Al-Khawarij during an intelligence-based operation in Killa Saifullah, describing the achievement as a reflection of the forces' professionalism, courage and unwavering commitment to combating terrorism.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the chief minister said the successful operation underscored the capability and determination of security forces to counter terrorist threats and safeguard peace in the province. He termed the killing of the militant commander a significant development in ongoing efforts to dismantle terrorist networks operating in the region.Sarfraz Bugti paid tribute to the sacrifices and services rendered by security personnel in the fight against terrorism, saying that their dedication and bravery have played a pivotal role in maintaining national security and protecting innocent lives. The chief minister said that the ongoing actions being undertaken by security forces against terrorists under Operation Radd-ul-Fitan 3 in Balochistan reflect the state's firm resolve to eradicate terrorism in all its forms.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hands over Chromebooks and MiFi devices to brilliant students from madrassas and schools in Islamabad on 25 October 2026.

PM Shehbaz launches Chromebook scheme for 500,000 students across Pakistan

- PM Shehbaz said the programme would enable students to access online educational resources and electronic libraries from home

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has formally launched a nationwide initiative to provide 500,000 Chromebooks and internet facilities to talented students enrolled in schools and religious seminaries across Pakistan over the next two years.Addressing the launch ceremony, the prime minister said the programme aimed to empower talented students by equipping them with modern technology and digital skills, enabling them to compete at the international level. He stressed that intelligence and talent should not be limited by financial circumstances, adding that providing young people with access to modern technology was a shared responsibility.

Under the initiative, Chromebooks will be distributed strictly on merit, with each selected student also receiving a school bag and an internet device to facilitate digital learning.

PM Shehbaz said the programme would enable students to access online educational resources and electronic libraries from home, expanding their learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Recalling previous educational initiatives, the prime minister said 600,000 laptops had been distributed among students on merit over the past decade under a programme launched during former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's tenure. He appreciated the Tokyo Technology Care Foundation for its contribution to the Chromebook initiative and acknowledged overseas Pakistanis for donating towards the education and digital development of young people.

US may hit Iran today or reach a deal, says Trump



WEB DESK

WASHNGATION

President Donald Trump said the United States could strike Iran as soon as Sunday or reach an agreement with the Islamic Republic, adding he wanted a permanent solution to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Trump hinted at the possibility of renewed military action against Iran as early as Sunday, while keeping the door open to a diplomatic agreement.

"Do you really think I'm going to tell you if I'm going to do it?" Trump told reporters on Saturday after addressing an election rally at Guardian Centers in Perry, Georgia. "There's a possibility I will. There's also a possibility we'll have a nice big beautiful agreement."

Trump said Iranian leaders wanted a deal but questioned whether they would honour it. "They want to make a deal. But the problem is, will they hold the deal?"

He argued that ending the military campaign after B-2 bomber strikes would have left Iran able to rebuild its nuclear capabilities and eventually develop a bomb.

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CM takes notice of Karachi polio case, orders investigation



SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI

:Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday took serious notice of a newly confirmed polio case in Karachi and convened an emergency meeting, directing the Health Department to conduct a comprehensive investigation, identify the source of the virus and take immediate measures to prevent its further spread.

A six-month-old child has tested positive for poliovirus in Jamali Colony Union Council, District East, Karachi.

Expressing concern over the detection of the case despite sustained government efforts to eradicate the disease, the Chief Minister sought a detailed report on the circumstances surrounding the infection.

The emergency meeting was attended by Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and Secretary Health Tahir Sangi.

The CM Murad directed the Secretary Health and relevant authorities to investigate all aspects of the case, determine the possible source of the virus and establish how the infection occurred.He ordered immediate case-response measures in the affected area, including comprehensive sweeping, and stressed strict adherence to established polio eradication protocols.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned officials to take effective steps to contain the virus and prevent further transmission.



Prime Minister meets Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry's President Ali Hassam Asghar in Lahore: 25 October, 2026

Shirakat Foundation Hosts First Annual Conference on Strengthening Women's Agenda in Islamabad

Three-Day Conference Brings Together 20+ Organizations, Activists and Researchers to Advance Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Collective Advocacy

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

: Shirakat Foundation, in collaboration with Fondazione Pangea and Women Without Violence International Foundation (WWVIF), organized the First Annual Conference on Strengthening the Women's Agenda (CSWA) from 23 to 25 October 2026 at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, bringing together representatives from more than 20 organizations, civil society representatives, activists, researchers, and professionals to strengthen collective advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.The conference aimed to carry forward the ambition of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by connecting its commitments to the realities, challenges, and priorities facing women and girls today. It provided a platform for feminist voices from diverse backgrounds to exchange perspectives, reflect on progress, and identify priorities for advancing women's rights, particularly from the perspective of the Global South.More than 20 organizations participated in the conference, including Women Without Violence International Foundation (WWVIF), WUNRN – Women's UN Report Network, Sampark,Women for peace in the world, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Rozan, Balochistan Sustainable Development Initiatives, and Action for Girls' Empowerment, among others.Over the three-day conference, participants engaged in dialogue and knowledge-sharing on the continuing relevance of the Beijing Platform for Action more than three decades after its adoption. Discussions highlighted persistent gender inequalities, the importance of women's leadership and meaningful participation in decision-making, the prevention of violence against women and girls, and the need to strengthen advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.The conference sought to advance an advocacy agenda that carries the ambition of the 1995 Beijing Declaration into today's realities. It encouraged participants to examine emerging challenges, identify gaps in the implementation of existing commitments, and explore practical ways to make women's rights a stronger priority in policies, institutions, and development processes.Bringing together organizations and feminist voices from different contexts created opportunities to share experiences.



Minister warns of soaring inflation pressures due to global economic instability

CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has warned of soaring inflation pressures driven heavily by global economic instability and skyrocketing energy costs, implying that international conflicts could impact commodity prices in Pakistan, Speaking at a session on Pakistan's long-term economic reform agenda at LUMS in Lahore , Finance Minister Aurangzeb maintained that despite challenges Pakistan's journey of economic progress was moving forward.

The minister said that the government was putting together a plan to meet the energy needs for the winter. "The situation regarding supply of other energy needs including crude oil is satisfactory," he added.



WAPDA signs Rs133 billion accord for Diamer Bhasha Dam HM-1 contract

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has signed the agreement for HM-1 Contract of Diamer Basha Dam Project at a ceremony held at WAPDA House. The contract, worth Rs. 133.18 billion, has been awarded to Power China – IKAN Joint Venture (JV),

Diamer Basha Dam HM-1 Contract comprises hydro-mechanical equipment and hydraulic steel structures of the Project.

The work includes manufacturing, supply and installation of gates and steel structures to control water flows at the Dam.

The equipment will be installed at the flushing tunnels on both left and right banks, the power intakes and the outlets of the Dam.

It also includes steel lining, hoisting systems, pumping systems and allied electrical works.

Diamer Basha Dam is a priority project of the Federal Government for water, food and energy security of Pakistan. It is being constructed across the River Indus, 40-km downstream of Chilas town.

On completion, the Dam will have gross water storage of 8.1 MAF and installed power generation capacity of 4500 MW.

Tribal Elders Oppose Resolution to Abolish Sardari System, Demand Peace and Swift Justice in Balochistan

- Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani and Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai say individual misconduct should not be used to condemn the entire tribal system; urge government to ensure law and order and strengthen the judicial system.

SPECIAL REPORTER
Quetta

Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani, Sardars of Sarawan and tribal elder, and Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai have termed the move to abolish the Sardari and Nawabi systems through an assembly resolution incomprehensible, saying that tribal elders have played an important role in protecting people's lives and honour and resolving disputes through traditional jirgas.They said that if an individual commits an unlawful or objectionable act, responsibility should rest with that person rather than the entire system. Maintaining the writ of the state, ensuring public safety, restoring peace and providing speedy and affordable justice are the fundamental responsibilities of the government.They expressed these views while addressing a joint press conference following a tribal jirga held at Bangulzai House in Sariab on Sunday. Sardarzada Mir Ashraf Khan Satakzai, Sardar Muhammad Asim Sarparrah, Syed Ali Muhammad Shah and other tribal personalities were also present.Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani said the resolution presented in the assembly regarding the abolition of the Sardari and Nawabi systems was difficult to understand. He explained that the Sardari system was a centuries-old tribal tradition in which the head of a tribe held a hereditary and traditional position passed down through generations.He said tribal elders had contributed to resolving disputes, facilitating reconciliation between opposing parties and preventing further bloodshed through mutually agreed decisions. According to him, thousands of people had been saved from violent confrontations and loss of life through tribal jirgas.Shahwani maintained that all tribal chiefs could not be labelled oppressive. He said that if a sardar or one of his associates was involved in misconduct in an individual capacity, action should be taken against the person concerned in accordance with the law. However, he added, the actions of one or two individuals should not be used to condemn an entire traditional system.He further stated that the same principle applied to institutions, communities and other groups.





People buy blankets at a Landa Bazaar (second-hand goods market) as the weather turns colder

Minister claims evidence exits Sohail Afridi was supporting terrorists

- He says Afridi was in protective custody, saying he did not believe he was being held in a royal guest house, although he could be staying at another guest house.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik has alleged that KP dysfunctional CM Sohail Afridi was supporting terrorists, claiming that evidence is available to substantiate the allegations.

Speaking on the matter, Malik said the Constitution does not specify a particular time frame for 'lifting' emergency. He added that the law should take its course in Afridi's case.

The minister also claimed that Afridi was in protective custody. However, he said he did not believe Afridi was being held in a royal guest house, although he could be staying at another guest house.

Malik further stated that the relevant record concerning Afridi would be presented before the court.



Separately, the minister clarified that formal work on the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment had not yet begun, indicating that the legislative process had not entered its formal stage.

The allegations against Afridi remain attributed to Malik, with the minister saying supporting records would be presented in court.

Scanned with CamScanner

The Iranian -Zionist -American Existential war and the Decisive moment

By: Asmaa Elsayed Hassan Selim

Beyond the Deception of Diplomacy
Following the round of indirect negotiations in Genevadescribed as a "decisive test" to reveal the intentions of both partiesthe conflict shifted, through what is characterized as American deception, from brinkmanship diplomacy to a comprehensive military confrontation.
This confrontation is no longer an extension of the "Twelve-Day War" of May 2025, which was marked by limited strikes and understood rules of engagement. Rather, it represents the birth of an entirely new war, one classified as the most dangerous in the region's history. The fundamental difference lies in the declared objective of the AmericanZionist alliance, which has moved beyond deterrence or neutralizing capabilities to explicitly seeking "regime change" itself. At this point, the conflict transforms from a deterrence dispute or proxy struggle into an existential war in the fullest sense of the wordparticularly for Iran's ruling system. This fact that determines the nature of the upcoming battle: fierce, unrelenting, and without red lines. First: The Equation of Existence Objectives That Admit No Division It appears that both sides view this battle as a historic opportunity once in a lifetime that cannot be made up for, making the probability of retreat and The Israeli Prime Minister believes this war as a golden opportunity to reshape the Middle East according to his own vision. As For him, toppling the Iranian regime does not merely mean eliminating the "existential threat" he has long warned against; it also means eliminating the head of the resistance axis opposing Zionist-American dominance, thereby paralyzing the remaining pillars of that axis in Lebanon (Hezbollah), Palestine, Iraq, and Yemen.Success in this mission would render Israel the uncontested hegemonic power and grant Netanyahu a historic legacy that erases prior failures, elevating him symbolically to the rank of a king among the kings of Israel. 2. The United States (Trump): Manufacturing Peace from the Womb of Destruction President Trump seeks to market the war as a necessary step toward "making peace" and achieving regional security, as well as "liberating the Iranian people" (as he claims) from what he describes as an "oppressive regime." Eliminating Iran's nuclear and missile programs would be recorded as a major strategic accomplishment. However, Trump's calculations are also governed by domestic political considerations. Any prolonged war would negatively impact his popularity, particularly given broad American opposition to foreign wars. This explains his sharp rhetoric and his insistence on swift and decisive resolution. . Iran: A Battle for Survival The leadership in Tehranheaded by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khameneihas realized that the current strike targets the very "head" of the system, with an evidence by attacks on leadership offices and the Supreme Leader's residence. Accordingly, the leadership of the Islamic Republic understands that any retreat or collapse would signify its end. This explains Tehran's immediate declaration that there are now "no red lines," and that all American and Israeli interests in the region have become legitimate targets. It is an equation of Hit - and -Run tactics: either triumph or total obliteration. Second: Strategy of Confrontation A War Without Constraints Recognizing that the war may be prolonged, both parties are operating according to various strategies, all of which refers to a perilous escalation. . The AmericanIsraeli "Shock and intimidation" Strategy Targeting senior political and military leadership in order to paralyze Iran's decision-making capacity and command battle. Comprehensive Pressure: Destroying military infrastructure (missiles and drones) and nuclear facilities to permanently remove deterrent capabilities.Should the conflict extend in duration, both sides will likely escalate without precedent, potentially resorting to more destructive weaponry as options narrow and maneuvering space disappears. . Iran's Strategy: limitless War of Attrition Immediate and Painful Response: Iran's response was rapid and multi-front, targeting Israel and American bases in the Gulf to convey a clear message that the cost of aggression will be severe and prolonged.Expansion of the Battlefield: Recognizing the difficulty of defeating the United States in a conventional military confrontation, Iran will seek to convert the conflict into a regional war of attrition that imposes heavy financial and human costs. This includes activating allied fronts, targeting American interests, and disrupting maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea to increase global economic pressure and compel Washington to reconsider.Resilience: Successfully absorbing the initial strikes while maintaining state and military cohesionand preserving the capacity to retaliatewould shift the war from a rapid-decision phase to a prolonged attritional phase, which represents the most alarming scenario for the White House. Third: A Decisive Regional Variable The Intervention of Allies Iran's allies in Lebanon (Hezbollah), Iraq (the Popular Mobilization Forces), and Yemen (Ansar Allah) recognize that this battle is not merely about Tehran's victory or defeat, but about survival itself. The fall of the Iranian regime would mean the collapse of the resistance axis and the imposition of Zionist-American hegemony across the region.



By ASIF IQBAL

Middle East at the Brink: Power, Deception and a Changing World

Ramazan 2026 once again reminds us that decisions taken in the corridors of global power are never merely political. They often shape the destinies of nations and determine the course of history. Today, the Middle East appears to be standing once more at the edge of a potentially dangerous confrontation. On one side stands Iran, on the other Israel, with the United States positioned firmly in the background. At first glance, it may seem like a dispute among a few states. In reality, however, it reflects a deeper story one about the shifting balance of global power.
History shows that when a superpower confronts a comparatively weaker state, it often imagines a short, swift and decisive conflict. The expectation is usually of a limited operation that forces the adversary into submission within days or weeks. In the early stages of the current tensions, a similar narrative appeared to dominate the political discourse in Washington: that pressure on Iran would remain contained and that the outcome would be achieved quickly.
Yet wars rarely unfold according to the plans drawn on strategy tables. As time passes, the tone of official statements often begins to change. What is initially described as a brief operation gradually becomes a matter of weeks and sometimes evolves into the fear of a prolonged conflict. It is at this moment that the confidence of great powers begins to show signs of strain.
The issue, in fact, is not merely about a potential war. It is about the structure of global power itself. After the Second World War, an international system emerged in which the United States occupied a dominant position. During the Cold War, ideals such as democracy, human rights and freedom became central to its political narrative. At the same time, however, the world witnessed episodes of covert interventions, regime changes and strategic maneuvering in different parts of the globe.
In the 21st century, that global order is gradually evolving. The era when the world revolved around a single dominant power is slowly giving
way to a more complex and multipolar system, where multiple actors compete for influence and strategic space.
Iran must be understood within this broader context. Over the past few decades, it has built a political and security structure that does not rely solely on one individual or office. If a particular leader disappears from the scene, the system is capable of presenting another figure to maintain continuity. For this reason, strategies aimed at weakening Iran simply by targeting its leadership may not be as straightforward as they appear. In the United States itself, the question of who holds the authority to wage war has long been debated. Constitutionally, the power to declare war lies with Congress. Yet in practice, American presidents have often stretched those boundaries. From the Vietnam War to the invasion of Iraq, several conflicts began without a formal declaration of war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 was introduced in an attempt to limit presidential authority, but in reality, its effectiveness has remained constrained by political circumstances.
Another factor that constantly shapes Middle Eastern tensions is the status of Jerusalem and its sacred sites. The Al-Aqsa Mosque holds immense religious and historical significance for Muslims across the world. Any development connected to this sensitive location has the potential to trigger widespread international reaction.
The pressing question today is whether the world can afford another major conflict. The Middle East has already endured decades of instability and confrontation. The region, burdened by unresolved political disputes and humanitarian crises, can scarcely bear another prolonged war. Wars often begin with slogans and promise of decisive outcomes, yet they usually end ere are cities, communities and human lives at stake. Wherever wars occur, their consequences are most severely felt by developing countries and ordinary people. The global economy too is rarely insulated from such turmoil. Instability in the Gulf region, including disruptions to air routes and transport hubs, would not merely affect aviation but could slow the broader rhythm of international trade and economic activity.
Equally concerning is the humanitarian dimension. Under international law, targeting civilian populations during armed conflict constitutes a grave violation. Recent reports of attacks on civilian facilities including a girls' school in Iran where more than 180 children reportedly lost their lives, and strikes on hospitals have raised serious questions about the protection of non-combatants. Such incidents not only deepen human tragedy but also challenge the credibility of international norms designed to safeguard civilians during war.
The world therefore finds itself confronting a fundamental question: will the balance of power be shaped through war, or through diplomacy?
If wisdom fails to prevail, this crisis will not remain confined to missile exchanges or regional rivalries. Its consequences may spread through the arteries of the global economy and further destabilise an already fragile international order.
For Pakistan, the situation presents a delicate test of diplomacy. On one side lies neighbouring Iran; on the other, the Gulf states where millions of Pakistanis are employed and whose economies are closely linked with Pakistan's own. Navigating this landscape will require careful balance, prudence and a commitment to regional stability.
History repeatedly teaches that wars rarely solve the problems they claim to address. More often, they create new crises that last for generations. At this critical moment, the world would do well to return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy for peace remains the only durable foundation upon which a stable international order can be built.



Qaiser Nawab

China To Continue Anchoring Global Economic Growth

For the foreseeable future, China will continue to be the growth engine of the world," Erik Solheim, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations said.

According to a government work report submitted Thursday to China's top legislature for deliberation, the country targets an economic growth of 4.5 percent to 5 percent this year and will strive for better in practice.

This figure surpasses the IMF's growth projections of 3.3% for the global economy and 4.2% for emerging and developing economies in 2026. "Number is one thing, and quality is not to be overlooked. As China transitions toward high-quality development, it implies translating growth into tangible income gains, improved access to public services, and the widespread adoption of advanced technologies," Tianchen Xu, Senior Economist from the Economist Intelligence Unit said.

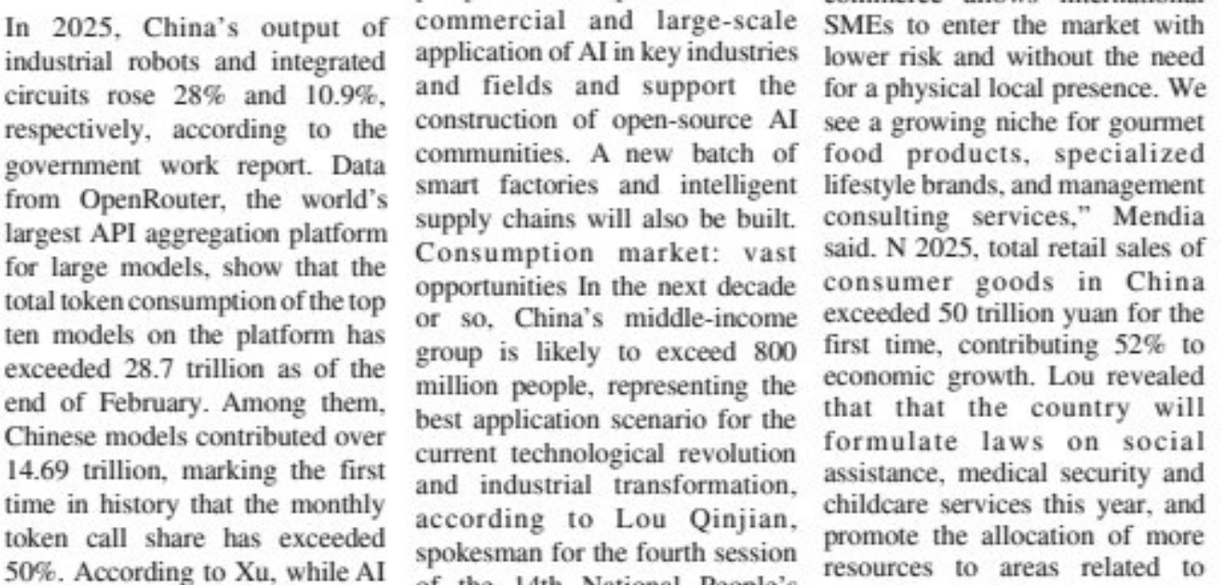
In 2025, China's output of industrial robots and integrated circuits rose 28% and 10.9%, respectively, according to the government work report. Data from OpenRouter, the world's largest API aggregation platform for large models, show that the total token consumption of the top ten models on the platform has exceeded 28.7 trillion as of the end of February. Among them, Chinese models contributed over 14.69 trillion, marking the first time in history that the monthly token call share has exceeded 50%. According to Xu, while AI has been a major consumer of power, China has been rapidly adequate electricity supply. Moreover, it is likely that China will be able to offer AI services to global users at a lower cost. With this advantage, China could potentially secure a dominant or even majority share of the global AI market. "Attracted by Chinese technologies, there has been a fundamental reassessment of Chinese asset over late 2024 and throughout 2025," Xu observed.

The MSCI China Index rose 31.4% in 2025, outperforming global markets. "Much of this rally was driven by innovation-led themes, particularly in technology and artificial intelligence. As China's innovation ecosystem now extends beyond AI into areas such as robotics, autonomous driving, next-generation mobility, and advanced manufacturing, the momentum would continue," according to Muhammad Faran Khan, Associate Director of KTrade Securities, Pakistan.

The government work report proposes to promote the commercial and large-scale application of AI in key industries and fields and support the construction of open-source AI communities. A new batch of smart factories and intelligent supply chains will also be built. Consumption market: vast opportunities In the next decade or so, China's middle-income group is likely to exceed 800 million people, representing the best application scenario for the current technological revolution and industrial transformation, according to Lou Qinjian, spokesman for the fourth session of the 14th National People's Congress at a press conference Wednesday.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC) highlighted enterprises' appetite for long-term integration into Chinese value chains."The engagement of Portuguese businesses with the Chinese market is undergoing a profound maturation. We are moving past the era of simple transactional trade into a phase defined by strategic industrial presence. While the readiness for partnership remains high, it has evolved from a general curiosity into a targeted search for technological and capital synergy. Portuguese companies increasingly recognize that to succeed in China, they must offer something truly worth buying—value that is competitive not just on price, but on specialized quality and innovation," he said.

"Beyond large corporations, the opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are expanding through digital channels. China is the world's largest e-commerce market, and cross-border e-commerce allows international SMEs to enter the market with lower risk and without the need for a physical local presence. We see a growing niche for gourmet food products, specialized lifestyle brands, and management consulting services," Mendia said. N 2025, total retail sales of consumer goods in China exceeded 50 trillion yuan for the first time, contributing 52% to economic growth. Lou revealed that that the country will formulate laws on social assistance, medical security and childcare services this year, and promote the allocation of more resources to areas related to people's livelihoods so that people are able, willing and confident to spend.



Doctors and paramedical staff examine patients and provide free medical tests and medicines during a free medical camp organised by Islamia Hospital Chiniot at Chak No. 150, Khokhrawala, in Tehsil Bhowana

Scanned with CamScanner



Islamabad, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with Mr. Sandeep Mahajan, Regional Practice Director for the MENAAP region, World Bank, alongside Ms. Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director, World Bank, and Mr. Simon Andrews, Division Director, IFC, to discuss Pakistan's economic reforms and priorities for investment-led growth.

Weekly inflation rises 0.65pc, annual rate reaches 11.85pc

■ The report showed that petrol prices increased by 44.17pc over the past year

Special Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's weekly inflation increased by 0.65 per cent, pushing the year-on-year inflation rate to 11.85 per cent, according to the latest report released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

The report showed that prices of 19 essential commodities increased during the week, while 12 items became cheaper and prices of 20 commodities remained unchanged.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) recorded the steepest weekly increase of 22.44pc, followed by chicken, which became 12.20pc more expensive. Onion prices



rose by 4.19pc, shirting fabric by 1.86pc and plain bread by 1.66pc. Flour prices also increased by 1pc, while garlic, firewood and ghee recorded further increases.

In contrast, tomato prices fell by 21.99pc during the week. Petrol became 3.63pc cheaper and diesel prices declined by 1.68pc. Banana prices decreased by 2.42pc, potatoes by 1.38pc and gram pulse by 0.93pc. Prices of eggs and powdered milk also recorded declines.

On a year-on-year basis, LPG prices surged by 107.12pc, while onion prices increased by 72.81pc and electricity tariffs rose by 58.59pc.

The report further showed that petrol prices increased by 44.17pc over the past year, while diesel became 41.56pc more expensive. Chicken prices rose by 38.99pc and flour by 36.49pc. Mutton prices increased by 14.66pc, beef by 12.10pc, plain bread by 10.82pc and prepared tea by 8.36pc.

However, some commodities recorded significant annual declines. Tomato prices fell by 71.72pc, potatoes by 40.75pc and sugar by 25pc. Egg prices also decreased by 22.14pc over the past year.

FBR unveils electronic auctions for seized goods

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

Business Reporter
KARACHI

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.



Gold prices drop for fifth day as global rates fall below $4,000

■ Ten-gram rate falls to Rs361,686

Web Desk
KARACHI

Gold prices in Pakistan continued to decline on Saturday, marking a fifth consecutive day of losses as international bullion prices slipped below the key $4,000-per-ounce level.

The sustained fall pushed gold in both domestic and international markets to a five-month low, according to the All Sarafa Association.

In local markets, the price of 24-carat gold fell by Rs2,500 per tola to Rs422,036. The price of 10 grams also declined, dropping by Rs2,144 to Rs361,686.

The latest reduction extends a period of persistent weakness in bullion prices, with the domestic market following the downward movement in international rates.

Global prices

International gold prices also recorded another decline, falling by $25 per ounce to $3,995. The move took bullion below the psychologically significant $4,000 threshold, adding to the pressure on local prices.

Gold has now registered five consecutive days of losses in global and domestic markets. The latest figures underline the extent of the recent retreat, with prices falling to their lowest levels in five months, according to the association.

International bullion movements are closely watched in Pakistan's jewellery markets, where changes in global prices influence local rates alongside currency movements and other market factors.

Silver falls

Silver prices also moved lower in domestic trading. The price of silver declined by Rs7 per tola to Rs5,858.

The simultaneous decline in gold and silver reflects the broader weakness recorded across the local precious metals market.



PSX plunges over 700 points amid selling pressure

Business Reporter
KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued to face selling pressure on with the benchmark KSE-100 index losing 714.26 points in early trading to reach 163,210.05.According to the latest market data provided, the benchmark index declined by 0.44% from the previous close of 163,924.31 points.

The index recorded an intraday high of 163,966.86 points before falling to 163,210.05.Trading volume stood at 15,732,608 shares as the market remained open, reflecting ongoing trading activity amid the downward movement.

The latest decline follows a difficult session on Thursday, when the benchmark index came under significant selling pressure and dropped below the 164,000-point level.

Punjab decides to discontinue 20kg flour bags to prevent smuggling

■ Punjab will replace 20kg flour bags with 10kg packs, tighten anti-smuggling checks, boost wheat cultivation, regulate food prices and develop market waste and produce dehydration projects.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The Punjab government has announced a series of measures to manage essential food supplies, regulate commodity prices and boost agricultural production, including a decision to discontinue 20-kilogram flour bags and make 10-kilogram packs the standard option in market.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has instructed authorities to tighten surveillance along provincial borders to prevent the unauthorised movement of wheat and flour.

She also directed deputy commissioners to meet district-level wheat sowing targets and ensure cultivation on government-owned land. Areas covered by the Numberdar system, the Ghori Pal scheme and the "Apna Khet, Apna Rozgar" initiative will also be used for wheat farming under the new instructions.To prepare for Ramazan, the chief minister ordered district



administrations to arrange sufficient supplies of bananas, apples and dates and ensure their sale at regulated prices.

Stocking arrangements are to be planned according to local requirements and available cold storage facilities.

Officials briefed the meeting on price comparisons covering 15 essential commodities, including pulses and vegetables.

The meeting also approved a new initiative titled "Transforming Market Waste into Wealth", aimed at putting market waste to productive use. A separate dehydration project under PAMRA received approval to support the supply of fruits and vegetables outside their usual seasons.

Pakistan, Canada medical colleges sign MoU for cooperation in education, training

■ The colleges signed the MoU aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation in post-graduate medical education, training, faculty capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in areas of mutual interest.

News Desk
OTTAWA

The High Commission of Pakistan in Ottawa hosted a special ceremony to welcome visiting delegations from the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), marking an important step towards strengthening bilateral cooperation in postgraduate medical education, professional training, and institutional development.

The ceremony brought together representatives of the two leading medical institutions, highlighting their shared commitment to promoting academic collaboration, enhancing professional standards, and fostering closer institutional ties between Pakistan and Canada.

A key highlight of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CPSP and RCPSC. The agreement aims to establish a framework for enhanced cooperation in postgraduate medical education, training, faculty capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in areas of mutual interest.

The MoU reflects the mutual desire of both institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration and benefit from each other's experience in medical education, professional development, and the advancement of healthcare



training standards.

The CPSP delegation was led by its President, Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, while the Canadian delegation was headed by Dr. Christopher Watling, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.The participation of senior leadership from both institutions underscored the importance attached to the agreement and the potential for closer engagement between Pakistan's postgraduate medical education system and Canada's established framework for specialist medical training.

Under the MoU, both institutions intend to strengthen institutional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, educational expertise, and effective training practices. Faculty capacity building is also a key area of focus, with collaboration expected to support professional learning and contribute to the continued development of medical educators and trainers.The exchange of best practices will provide an opportunity for both sides to learn from their respective experiences and explore approaches that could help improve postgraduate medical education. Such cooperation can also encourage professional dialogue, support institutional learning, and promote the development of training programmes responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

Scanned with CamScanner

Austria expels four Russian diplomats



Web DESK

Austria

Austria has ordered the expulsion of four Russian diplomats, accusing them of engaging in "activities incompatible" with their status, the foreign ministry said Friday. "Based on findings by the Austrian security authorities, the Austrian foreign ministry has taken measures against four Russian diplomats in Vienna," said a ministry statement.

Three diplomats at the Russian Embassy "engaged in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status", the ministry said.

Another from Russia's delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) "also engaged in activities incompatible with his status... (and) has likewise been declared persona non grata and ordered to leave Austrian territory," it added.

Several European countries have expelled Russian diplomats since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which has drawn heavy sanctions from Western governments. Hungary expelled 10 members of the Russian diplomatic mission in September under new Prime Minister Peter Magyar to protect the country's "security and sovereignty".



Doha, October 25, 2026: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan holds a bilateral meeting with Ms. Nan Li Collins, Head of the World Investment Forum, to discuss the evolving regional situation, Pakistan's constructive role in regional cooperation, and efforts to strengthen regional economic integration amid global challenges.

Thousands rally against Netanyahu ahead of vote, demand inquiry into October 7 failures

■ The latest opinion polls published before a blackout on political polling took effect late on Friday showed that neither bloc was projected to win a majority in Israel's 120-seat parliament

Web Desk

Tel Aviv



Thousands of people rallied in Tel Aviv against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, three days before a general election widely viewed as a referendum on his leadership.

The demonstration was organised by the October Council, a group founded by families of people killed or taken hostage during the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The group is demanding accountability for the security failures that allowed the attack to take place.

Israeli media reported that leaders of the four main opposition parties attended the rally, including former military chief Gadi Eisenkot, who is challenging Netanyahu and received a warm welcome from the crowd.

"Three days before the election, we will hold the culminating event marking three years of struggle to uncover the truth, demand accountability, and establish a state commission of inquiry," the October Council said on X ahead of the demonstration.

The latest opinion polls published before a blackout on political polling took effect late on Friday showed that neither bloc was projected to win a majority in Israel's 120-seat parliament.

A poll published by public broadcaster KAN projected 52 seats for Eisenkot's bloc and 50 for Netanyahu's, with the remaining seats going to parties outside the two blocs, including Arab parties.

An AFP reporter saw thousands of demonstrators marching from Rabin Square towards Hostages Square, a focal point of previous protests demanding the release of people held captive in Gaza.

"Whoever has been leading us for the past four years has done such a terrible job," Hadas Feuershtein, 68, told AFP shortly before the rally began, referring to Netanyahu's government, which took office in late 2022.

"Israel has never been in a situation as it is now," she added.

Taiwan shuts down ahead of Typhoon Champi, hundreds of flights cancelled

■ One person was killed and 94 were injured in Taiwan, where the government said almost 1,300 people had been evacuated from mountainous areas

Web Desk

YILAN, Taiwan



Almost all of Taiwan shut down on Friday ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Champi, which is forecast to bring strong winds and torrential rain, and though the storm is weakening it could still make direct landfall on the island.

At one point a super typhoon and one of the strongest storms in the Pacific this year, Champi was still packing gusts of around 191 kph (119 mph) near its centre, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Administration (CWA).

The storm was about 320 km (198 miles) east of Taiwan's southern tip, the CWA said. The storm's forecast track shows it will pass just off northeastern Taiwan, turn north toward the Chinese coast and eventually move into southern Japan.

One person was killed and 94 were injured in Taiwan, where the government said almost 1,300 people had been evacuated from mountainous areas.

CWA forecaster Liu Pei-teng told Reuters that landfall could not be ruled out if it "stalls, loops, or wobbles from side to side" on approach to Taiwan.

"The storm's wind radius is quite large, among the bigger ones in recent years," Liu said. "If the storm slows down, the strong winds will affect Taiwan for longer."

Violence flares in Paris after largely peaceful protests across France

● The Interior Ministry said 410,000 people took part in protests nationwide, though unions said the true figure was twice as high

Web Desk

PARIS



Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched in France , with largely peaceful rallies giving way to clashes in Paris and Marseille as night fell despite a huge security operation aimed at preventing a repeat of last week's unrest.

The Interior Ministry said 410,000 people took part in protests nationwide, though unions said the true figure was twice as high.

The main demonstration took place on the southeastern fringes of Paris, where at least 110,000 people turned out to denounce rising living costs and growing inequality.

The atmosphere deteriorated sharply after the rally ended. Riot police fired tear gas and water cannon at a group of around 500 hooded youths before they eventually dispersed on a cold, rainy evening.

In France's second city, Marseille, youths set fire to rubbish bins to block roads, and hurled rocks and bottles at security forces. Police said several stores, including two jewellery shops, were ransacked.

Clashes also flared in Lyon, Bordeaux, Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand, Lille, Rennes, Nantes and Toulouse.

"In almost every march we saw the formation of these high-risk groups. They broke away from the main body and sought to commit acts of ?violence," said Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, accusing far-left activists and criminal gangs of seeking to foment trouble.

Authorities deployed 70,000 police officers and gendarmes, 10,000 more than a week earlier, after conceding they had underestimated the scale of the unrest on October 17.

Nunez told reporters the violence was less intense than a week ago, when looters and vandals went on the rampage. "What changed was anticipation," he said.

He also said far-right activists had sought confrontations with leftist groups in the southern cities of Nice and Montpellier, opening a potential new front in the disturbances.

Much of central Paris took on the appearance of a city under lockdown, with shopkeepers boarding up storefronts, museums closing their doors and more than 20 metro stations shut.

British HC Jane Marriott visits Lahore's historic Fakir Khana Museum

NEWS DESK

LAHORE



British High Commissioner Jane Marriott visited the historic Fakir Khana Museum in Lahore's Walled City, where she viewed historical artefacts and praised the city's rich heritage,

During her visit, Marriott viewed the objects displayed at the museum, which reflect different aspects of the region's history and culture. She appreciated the historical heritage preserved at the site.

She also expressed a desire to explore more of the historic area in the future.

Located in Lahore's Walled City, Fakir Khana Museum is a notable cultural landmark that offers visitors a glimpse into the region's past through its collection of historical objects.

Lockheed, US Pentagon strike initial deal to produce 850 F-35 jets



Web Desk

Washngation

Lockheed Martin has entered an initial production and sustainment agreement with the United States Department of Defence for at least 850 F-35 Lightning II fighter jets over the next 10 years,

The defence contractor will self-fund at least $7 billion in initiatives that support the F-35 programme, the department said in a statement.

The F-35, built with stealth technology that allows it to evade enemy detection, is considered the world's most advanced fighter jet and is at the core of Lockheed's aeronautics division that forms close to 40 per cent of its quarterly revenue.

Under the agreement with the Department of Defence, which US President Donald Trump calls the Department of War, Lockheed aims to maintain annual production at 156 aircraft.

Russian missiles pound Kyiv as Moscow says over 800 Ukrainian drones downed

■ Zelenskyy says only a meeting of leaders can end the deadlock.

Web Desk

KYIV, Ukraine



Russia bombarded Kyiv with ballistic missiles in an hourslong nighttime barrage, while the Russian military air defenses intercepted over 800 drones fired by Ukraine at Moscow and other cities. At least four people were killed in Ukraine and dozens of others were wounded, officials said, in the attacks that began only hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed "in principle" on Wednesday to resume three-way negotiations between Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

"Russia has not changed the way it wages this war, and it is taking no steps that would signal a genuine desire to end it," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the latest large-scale barrage.

Putin's consent came in talks in St. Petersburg with U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, who had spoken of a "new momentum" toward peace after meeting Tuesday with Zelenskyy in Norway. No date was set for the tripartite talks.

Representatives of the three countries held rounds of "technical" talks in the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland reported little progress beyond in January and February, seeking to lay the groundwork for detailed negotiations. But they reported little progress beyond exchanges of prisoners of war. Russia and Ukraine remain far apart in their terms for stopping the fighting despite U.S. efforts.

Zelenskyy says only a meeting of leaders can end the deadlock.

Russia's aerial attacks hit 12 regions of Ukraine overnight, killing at least four people and wounding scores of others, including five children,

Two women aged 50 and 60 were killed and dozens of others wounded in a Russian strike on a market in Lozova, in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, said Oleh Syniehubov, head of the regional military administration. Another person was killed in other strikes on Kharkiv, the State Emergency Service said.

The Ukrainian capital endured a noisy night as 21 ballistic missiles came in three waves, Zelenskyy said, smashing apartment buildings, energy facilities, a railway station and the Kyiv subway system, shopping malls and businesses. One person was killed in Kyiv.

The Russian attack on Kyiv included three ballistic missiles carrying cluster munitions — bombs that open in the air and release scores of smaller bomblets, Zelenskyy said.

Scanned with CamScanner



Twin power! Aiman and Minal Khan celebrate sisterhood moment in style

■ Pakistani actresses Aiman Khan and Minal Khan delighted fans after sharing a heartwarming video celebrating sisterhood and success.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actresses Aiman Khan and Minal Khan delighted fans after sharing a heartwarming video celebrating sisterhood and success.

The twin stars posted the clip on Instagram with the caption, "Sisterhood: where success is shared and celebrated."

The video, set to a viral motivational audio clip, quickly gained attention for its uplifting message and stylish yet casual vibe. Both sisters were seen wearing dark-colored tops paired with minimalist jewelry, keeping their look simple and elegant.

Aiman opted for a black high-collar zip-up jacket layered over a white top with red trim, while Minal kept it chic in a casual dark ensemble.

The background audio featured a famous viral dialogue by actress Tiffany Haddish, originally from a red carpet interaction. Though often used as background "music" in Instagram reels and TikTok videos, the clip has evolved into a popular motivational trend.

The line, widely remembered as "I woke up today, I'm winning," has become a symbol of gratitude and self-affirmation across social media platforms.

Fans praised Aiman and Minal for highlighting positivity, unity and shared success, reinforcing why the sisters remain among Pakistan's most loved celebrities online.

The Khan twins are entertainment industry veterans. Aiman made her debut in 2013 and quickly won audiences with hit dramas like Meri Beti and Mann Mayal, and her performances in Khaali Haath and Ishq Tamasha earned award nominations too.

Minal likewise built her career on memorable serials – from the family saga Hassad, to the acclaimed drama Nand, and the controversial thriller Jalan. Both sisters have taken long breaks from acting after marriage, but remain household names, while fans eagerly await their return.

Hackers steal medical details of 15 million in France

■ The France 2 television channel, which revealed the medical hack, said top politicians were among the millions affected and that the details were now visible online.

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

The announcement came only days after officials warned that the details of 1.2 million French bank accounts had been hacked using the credentials of an official.

The France 2 television channel, which revealed the medical hack, said top politicians were among the millions affected and that the details were now visible online.

It said that some of the information hacked and since seen online included details on whether a patient was homosexual or had AIDS.

The health ministry said the hack, carried in late 2025, involved information from about 1,500 medical practices who had used software made by the Cegedim Sante company.

The data breach primarily involved patients' names, phone numbers, and postal addresses, but for 169,000 patients there were doctors' notes "some of which may be sensitive data", the ministry said.

It insisted however that no prescriptions or results of biological examinations had been involved.

The ministry said the hack had been claimed but gave no details on the group. Cegedim Sante made a criminal complaint over



the hack in October 2025. Cegedim said the breach involved about 1,500 doctors out of some 3,800 who used the software.

Cegedim said it was "supporting its clients and their patients as much as possible" and would "fully cooperate with the authorities".

The hack involved "15.8 million administrative files (...) among g which 165,000 contain a personal annotation by the doctor relating to sensitive information", it said.

Gerome Billois, a cybersecurity expert at the Wavestone consultancy, said the leak could be "the biggest in France" in the health sector and could have "irreparable consequences".

"Once health information that says: 'You have AIDS' or 'You have such and such a disease' is released, you can never go back," Billois told AFP.

The French finance ministry announced on February 18 that a hacker had gained access to a national bank database and consulted information on 1.2 million accounts.



Ayeza Khan shares hilarious 'blindfolded' creamy fruit chaat recipe

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Ayeza Khan is giving fans a taste of her kitchen antics this Ramadan. The actress shared a fun and entertaining video on Instagram, showing herself making a creamy fruit chaat for iftari blindfolded.

In the post, Ayeza captioned: "Taking you guys behind the scenes of my iftari making the creamy fruit chaat, which was supposed to be so easy that my family pushed me to do it blindfolded.

I don't recommend you guys do it blindfolded hahaha. I'll leave the recipe below, add it as per your liking because I am no professional chef but I try hehhehe." The simple yet delicious recipe includes yogurt, cream, condensed milk, a splash of milk, and literally any fruit you like. Ayeza added bananas, strawberries, pineapple, apple, kiwi, chikoo, and blueberries but encouraged fans to mix and match as they please.

The video captures the actress hilariously gathering ingredients while blindfolded, proving that even in the kitchen, Ayeza Khan's charm and sense of humor shine through. Fans have been loving the fun-filled, relatable post, with many trying the recipe themselves this Ramadan.

India moves closer to dengue vaccine as final trials underway

■ Hoping to stem the global epidemic, Panacea Biotec has begun final Phase III trials of its vaccine, DengiAll, which has been pursuing for nearly 15 years.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

As dengue surges globally, an Indian vaccine candidate has entered the final stage of testing, raising hopes for one of the world's first single-dose shots against the deadly mosquito-borne disease. Dengue, which causes severe flu-like symptoms and debilitating body aches, has exploded globally, fuelled by rising temperatures and densely populated cities.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that almost half the world's population is now at risk, with 100–400 million infections every year. India alone has recorded over one million cases and at least 1,500 deaths since 2021. Hoping to stem the global epidemic, Panacea Biotec has begun final Phase III trials of its vaccine, DengiAll, which has been pursuing for nearly 15 years.

More than 10,000 volunteers across the country are enrolled in the study, overseen by the Indian Council of Medical Research, with the vaccine on track for rollout as early as next



year if the trial results are favourable.

"We will try to get this vaccine out there as soon as possible," Syed Khalid Ali, chief scientific officer of Panacea, told AFPin New Delhi. Doctor Ekta Gupta, professor of clinical virology at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in New Delhi, said dengue was now considered hyperendemic in India, with all four virus serotypes circulating simultaneously.

"This vaccine is very much needed right now to control the occurrence of these cases, or at least prevent the severity."

Monsoon outbreaks regularly push Indian hospitals to their limits, crowding urban wards and leaving rural regions grappling with late diagnoses and poor access to care.

Higher temperatures and changing rainfall patterns create ideal conditions for Aedes mosquitoes -- the vectors of dengue -- to reproduce and spread the virus.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the more severe form, called dengue hemorrhagic fever, as they are more likely to suffer low platelet counts and shock.

Participants in Phase III trials, which started in 2024, were randomly assigned to receive either the vaccine or a placebo, with the results expected later this year. Vaccines against all four dengue serotypes have long posed a scientific challenge. Immunity to one strain does not protect against others, and secondary infections can be more severe.

Most existing candidates require multiple doses. If approved, DengiAll would become one of the world's first single-dose dengue vaccines, following Brazil's approval of a similar shot last year. It would also be the first such vaccine available in India, where no dengue shot is currently licensed for public use."We will be the second (single-dose) vaccine to come out... But in India and several lower-middle-income countries, we will be the first ones to roll out the dengue vaccine.

Jawad Ahmad storms out after tense confrontation with anchor

Web Desk

MUMBAI



Pakistani singer and politician Jawad Ahmad made headlines after a heated interview went off the rails. Tensions escalated rapidly between him and the anchor, culminating in Jawad asking the journalist to leave the set. During the exchange, Jawad reportedly told the anchor, "You came here for my interview, not the other way around. Sit quietly and listen.

First, hear me out before you speak." When the anchor assured him he would, Jawad angrily responded, "Who do you think you are to listen to me? You are not a proper journalist. Show respect when asking for my time." The confrontation intensified when political questions about Imran Khan came up. Jawad accused the anchor of being disrespectful and interrupted, shouting, "Get out of here. I will not give you any interview. Leave right now."

According to reports, Jawad's team intervened to escort the anchor off the set, while the anchor pushed back, calling Ahmad's behavior unbecoming of a public figure. Eyewitnesses say the argument turned physical at one point, with Ahmad allegedly threatening the journalist.



Actress Nadia Afgan has confirmed that the much-anticipated third installment of Suno Chanda was all set to go on floors this year, but production has now been pushed to next year due to Iqra Aziz's pregnancy.

Ayeza Khan wows in show-stopping glamorous look

Staff Reporter

KARACHI



Pakistan's top television actress, Ayeza Khan, is once again raising the bar for fashion enthusiasts.She shared a carousel of pictures showcasing her elegance in a bespoke pre-draped ruffled saree, leaving fans mesmerized.

In her caption, Ayeza revealed, "Sometimes your wardrobe surprises you. I found this saree hidden in my closet. I think it's beautiful…", giving followers a peek into her personal style discoveries. The photoshoot wasn't just about the outfit. Stylist Aneela ensured everything was flawless while also preparing for another engagement, makeup artist Omayr worked his magic, and Shahbaz handled last-minute camera adjustments to capture the look perfectly."We also wanted a picture together… who knows when we'll be all dressed up at the same time again," Ayeza shared. The ensemble, designed by Ridhi Mehra, is part of the signature "Chloe" collection. Ayeza wore an intricately embroidered ivory peplum-style top with a V-neckline and dramatic lantern sleeves. The pre-draped chiffon and organza saree featured multiple cascading ruffle tiers along the hemline and pallu, perfectly accentuated by a matching waist belt.

Statement earrings completed the glamorous look, making the outfit both elegant and modern.

Fans flooded the comments with admiration, praising her radiant looks and festive styling.

Scanned with CamScanner

'Unbelievable' Shadab Khan leaves fans in awe after England heroics

● All-rounder smashes unbeaten 113 as Pakistan pull off remarkable one-wicket victory

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE



Shadab Khan produced a sensational unbeaten century against England on Sunday, pulling Pakistan back from the brink of defeat and triggering an outpouring of praise from cricket fans on social media.

The all-rounder struck an unbeaten 113 off just 96 deliveries, smashing 13 fours and five sixes as Pakistan chased down a 242-run target by one wicket in a dramatic ODI tri-series encounter at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

Shadab walked into a difficult situation after Pakistan's top order had faltered and continued to fight even as wickets fell around him.

The hosts eventually slipped to 154-9, leaving Shadab and Haris Rauf with the daunting task of scoring the remaining 88 runs for victory.

Shadab kept his composure under immense pressure, bringing up his maiden ODI century before Rauf scored the winning runs as Pakistan completed the chase in the 48th over and booked their place in the tri-series final. His extraordinary rescue act quickly became the talk of social media, with fans showering the all-rounder with praise.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) led the celebrations, declaring: "SHADAB SUPERSTAR KHAN! WHAT A KNOCK!" One fan described the contest as "DRAMA IN LAHORE!" and said "Shadab Khan apology forms should be out now" after Pakistan pulled off the unlikely victory.

Another called Shadab's innings "unbelievable", marvelling at Pakistan's recovery from 154-9 to successfully chase 242. Another fan summed up the mood by writing: "What an absolute thriller," praising the "unbelievable effort and outstanding performance" from Shadab and Rauf to pull off the victory.

Some fans compared Shadab's heroics with former Pakistan stars, with one posting a picture of Abdul Razzaq alongside the words: "Shadab Khan: Abdul Razzaq."

Messi receives top Spanish award from heir to throne

● Dozens of fans wearing Argentina football shirts cheered and chanted Messi's name as he arrived to the sound of bagpipes and drums at the ceremony

Sports Desk

MADRID



Lionel Messi received Spain's most prestigious sports award in recognition of his glittering career and his work for disadvantaged children's access to health and education.

The Argentine forward, 39, was named winner of the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports in June, with the jury hailing "the most successful footballer of all time" and his social work.

Dozens of fans wearing Argentina football shirts cheered and chanted Messi's name as he arrived to the sound of bagpipes and drums at the ceremony in Oviedo, capital of the northern Spanish region of Asturias.

Messi collected a formal roll of parchment from Princess Leonor, the heir to the Spanish throne after whom the awards are named, who lauded his "unique career".

"He turned the extraordinary into routine by reading the game and deciding on the most effective option in fractions of a second, while respecting the collective essence above ego," Leonor said.

One of the greatest footballers of all time, Messi has won eight Ballon d'Or titles, a World Cup and dozens of trophies at club level.

He spent 21 years at Barcelona where he played in a side that dominated Spain and Europe under Pep Guardiola and Luis Enrique.

After leaving the Catalan club in 2021, Messi spent two years at French giants Paris Saint-Germain and currently plays for Inter Miami in MLS.

Argentina's all-time top goalscorer, assist provider and caps holder called time on his international career earlier this year after losing the World Cup final to Spain in New Jersey.

"The most important thing is to know how to lose and how to win," Messi told an event with children in Oviedo, saying that attitude was "fundamental" in football.

Founded in 1981, the Princess of Asturias Awards are the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world and come with prize money of 50,000 euros ($56,000).

They encompass the arts, sciences and sports and are handed out annually in honour of efforts to improve human coexistence, solidarity and global cooperation.

British author Julian Barnes, trailblazing US astronaut Christina Koch and punk star Patti Smith were among the other winners who received their prize.

Previous winners of the sports award include tennis greats Serena Williams and Rafael Nadal, marathon record-breaker Eliud Kipchoge and US skier Lindsey Vonn.

Pakistan lose Sultan Of Johor Cup final to Malaysia in shootout after thrilling fight

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan missed out on the Sultan of Johor Junior Hockey Cup 2026 title after losing to hosts Malaysia in a penalty shootout following a thrilling 2-2 draw in the final in Johor Bahru,

Pakistan made a strong start and took a two-goal lead in the second quarter.

Rana Waleed opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a penalty-corner goal, while Muhammad Usman doubled the lead in the 23rd minute.

Malaysia fought back quickly, with Muhammad Adam Johari scoring from a penalty corner in the 25th minute to reduce the deficit to 2-1 before half-time.

The hosts increased the pressure in the third quarter and won several penalty corners, but Pakistan's defence managed to protect the lead.

Malaysia finally equalised in the 49th minute when Dhirsh Ganesalin scored from a penalty corner.

Neither side managed another goal, sending the match into a shootout.

Malaysia scored its first two attempts, while Pakistan's Hamza Fayyaz missed his opening effort.

Hamza Ali then scored for Pakistan, followed by two successful attempts from Rana Waleed, bringing the score level at 3-3.

However, Malaysia's A. Afiralsyah scored the decisive goal to put the hosts ahead 4-3, while Muhammad Imad missed Pakistan's final attempt, handing Malaysia the title.

Pakistan had reached the final of the tournament after a gap of 10 years, securing the silver medal.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation praised the players and coaching staff for their performance, describing the team's run to the final as an encouraging achievement for junior hockey. Despite the defeat, the team's overall performance was seen as a positive sign for the future of Pakistan hockey.



Babar Azam to lead Pakistan in two-Test series against Sri Lanka



WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a 14-member national squad for the upcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka, with experienced batter Babar Azam named captain as Pakistan prepare for an important home assignment.

Alongside the Test squad, the PCB has also unveiled a 13-member Patron's XI for a three-day warm-up match against Sri Lanka, scheduled to take place at Islamabad Club from November 4 to 6.

The practice fixture will provide an opportunity for emerging players and fast bowlers to demonstrate their abilities ahead of the Test series.

The selection announcement has attracted attention due to the inclusion of three players who have received their first Test call-ups: Sameer Minhas, Muhammad Taha and Muhammad Suleman. Their selection reflects the opportunity being provided to emerging talent as Pakistan prepare to face Sri Lanka in the longer format of the game.

According to the announced plans, two additional fast bowlers will be selected from the Patron's XI squad for the Test squad after the warm-up match concludes. Their performances during the three-day fixture are therefore expected to play an important role in determining the final pace-bowling options available to the national team.

Three Players Earn Maiden Test Call-Ups

One of the major highlights of the squad announcement is the selection of Sameer Minhas, Muhammad Taha and Muhammad Suleman for Pakistan's Test squad for the first time.

The inclusion of the three uncapped players provides them with an opportunity to establish themselves at the highest level of domestic and international cricket. A Test call-up represents a significant milestone for any player, particularly in a format that demands patience, discipline, concentration and technical consistency over several days.

Their selection also adds an element of freshness to the squad as Pakistan prepare for the challenge posed by Sri Lanka. The upcoming series could provide valuable exposure for the young players, although their participation in the playing XI will depend on the team's final selection decisions.

The squad also features Abdullah Fazal, Arafat Minhas, Azaan Owais, Mohammad Abbas, Razaullah and Saud Shakeel. These players will be part of Pakistan's preparations as the team looks to build a competitive combination for the two-Test contest.



Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars to begin in Qatar from Nov 19, schedule released

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has released the schedule for the Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars, taking place in Qatar from November 19 to 29.

According to the schedule, eight teams will participate in the tournament. These teams have been divided into two groups.

Pakistan A, India A, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been placed in Group B setting up an eagerly anticipated clash between Pakistan A and India A during the group stage.

Group A consists of Sri Lanka A, Bangladesh A, Afghanistan A and Hong Kong. The competition will provide participating teams with an opportunity to test their strength against regional opponents and showcase emerging cricketing talent.

According to the announced schedule Pakistan A will begin its campaign against the UAE on November 20. The team will then face arch-rivals India A on November 22 before taking on Nepal on November 23. The Pakistan A versus India A fixture is expected to attract considerable attention from cricket fans given the rivalry between the two countries.



US gymnast Richard wins floor exercise gold at worlds

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

American Frederick Richard won the floor exercise title at the world gymnastics championships in Rotterdam , finishing ahead of Britain's Jake Jarman and Israel's Artem Dolgopyat.

With US gymnastics great Simone Biles looking on as a spectator in the Netherlands, the 22-year-old Richard secured his first world title, edging out Jarman by 0.333 points.

Richard, who won bronze in the all-around event at the 2021 world championships in Antwerp, also took third place in the team event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In the pommel horse, Armenian Hamlet Manukyan took the gold finishing ahead of Italy's Gabriele Targhetta and compatriot Mamikon Khachatryan. Having topped the qualifying round last Sunday, the 19-year-old maintained his form in the final, scoring a total of 15,300 to edge Targhetta by 0.67. A pommel horse specialist, he had placed fourth at the World Championships in Jakarta a year ago on his senior debut.



Pakistan to wear Pink kits against England to raise breast cancer awareness

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan cricket team will wear special pink kits during its one-day international against England in Lahore on October 25 to raise awareness about breast cancer among women,

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has dedicated the match to the awareness campaign in collaboration with Pink Ribbon, aiming to highlight the importance of early detection and treatment of the disease.

As part of the campaign, the PCB has also announced an auction of specially signed fan shirts featuring the signatures of Pakistan captain Shaheen Afridi and star batter Babar Azam.

The money raised through the auction will be used to support the treatment of women suffering from breast cancer, particularly those who cannot afford medical expenses.

Scanned with CamScanner



Mohsin Naqvi orders action against absent NADRA staffers

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday paid a surprise visit to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) mega center in Sanda, Lahore, where he expressed strong displeasure over the absence of most staff members from duty, During the visit, the minister was incensed to find that most of the staff members were not present at their designated positions. Taking serious notice of the situation, he termed the absence of employees from duty a clear instance of negligence and expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of staff availability at the public service facility.

Mohsin Naqvi said that employees working in public institutions were responsible for performing their duties diligently and ensuring that citizens received timely and efficient services. He emphasized that negligence on the part of government employees would not be tolerated, particularly at institutions directly responsible for providing essential documentation and registration services to the public.

Pakistan rejects Kabul's allegations, says Afghan soil must not be used for terrorism

- Islamabad invokes UN, US reports to press Kabul for action against TTP, BLA

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan urged the Afghan Taliban regime to take clear and verifiable action against terrorist groups operating from Afghan soil, rejecting Kabul's accusations that Islamabad was blaming Afghanistan for its own security failures,

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Saturday, Pakistan described the Afghan Taliban's allegations as "diversionary" and said they did not address Islamabad's long-standing security concerns.

"Blaming Pakistan's security institutions does not absolve the regime of its responsibility to prevent Afghan territory from being used for terrorism against Pakistan," the ministry said.

Pakistan called on the Afghan Taliban to end any support, facilitation or tolerance of groups such as the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and their affiliates. It also urged Kabul to ensure that Afghan territory was not used to plan or launch attacks against Pakistan.



The ministry said Pakistan's concerns were backed by international reports, including the United Nations Security Council's 16th report on sanctions monitoring and a US report on Operation Enduring Sentinel covering January to March 2026.

According to the ministry, the US report stated that the Afghan Taliban continued to allow the TTP to operate from Afghanistan. It also said the group had gained greater freedom and support, contributing to an increase in attacks against Pakistan. The report estimated the TTP had between 4,000 and 6,000 fighters.

The statement also referred to repeated attempts by armed militants to cross the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, the recovery of foreign-made weapons from militant groups and the deaths of Afghan nationals and militants during Pakistan's counterterrorism operations.

Pakistan further raised concerns over the alleged facilitation of terrorist groups by Afghan Taliban officials, including those in Kandahar.

"Such concerns cannot be dismissed through blanket denials; they require credible explanations and verifiable action," the ministry said.

It stressed that Pakistan's security measures were aimed at protecting its people from terrorist threats, not targeting the Afghan population. The ministry said peace and stability in both countries were closely linked and that ordinary Afghans would benefit equally from a region free of terrorism.

Pakistan also rejected attempts to portray its security concerns as hostility towards Afghanistan, saying it would continue taking all necessary steps to protect its citizens, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

However, Islamabad said it remained open to responsible engagement with Kabul based on mutual respect, clear commitments and practical action against terrorist networks and cross-border infiltration.

The statement came a day after Afghan Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid rejected Pakistan's accusations and blamed Pakistani security agencies for failing to maintain peace at home.



Operation Shaban-II: Major Security Operation in Shaban, 33 Terrorists Killed

23 bodies recovered, multiple hideouts destroyed, and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition seized during the operation conducted from September 25 to 30.

Ziarat: Security forces conducted a large-scale operation, code-named Operation Shaban-II, in Ziarat and its adjoining areas to counter terrorism, kidnapping for ransom, and attacks targeting security personnel and government officials. During the operation, 33 terrorists were reportedly killed, while the bodies of 23 terrorists were recovered.

During the operation, security forces recovered a large quantity of foreign-made weapons and ammunition, literature associated with Fitna al-Khawarij, motorcycles, and vehicles from the possession of the terrorists.

The primary objective of Operation Shaban-II was to dismantle the organized networks of terrorist elements, target their hideouts and movement routes, restore law and order, and ensure the protection of the lives and property of the local population.

According to sources, security has been further tightened in Ziarat and its adjoining areas following the operation. It has also been decided to continue search-and-clearance operations against suspected terrorist elements and their facilitators.

Counterterrorism operations aim to establish lasting peace in the sensitive areas of Balochistan, uphold the writ of the state, and provide a safe environment for the public.







The operation was launched following incidents of firing at Customs personnel at Ziarat Cross and an attack targeting Frontier Corps (FC) personnel and the convoy of the Deputy Commissioner of Duki at Kach Mor. In response to kidnapping-for-ransom activities in Ziarat and its surrounding areas, as well as to avenge the martyrs of Hanna Urak, security forces intensified operations against terrorist elements.

Operation Shaban-II continued from September 25 to 30 under the command of Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North), Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba. During the operation, security forces carried out search, clearance, and targeted operations in difficult and sensitive terrain. Several alleged hideouts linked to Fitna al-Khawarij were targeted and destroyed.

Multiple clandestine centres and shelters associated with Fitna al-Khawarij were cleared, while search operations continued at suspected locations across the area.









Pakistan Railways declares three-month emergency amid rising accidents

- Hanif Abbasi said the emergency, effective from October 24, would remain in place until deficiencies in passenger coaches were addressed

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Railways has declared an emergency until December 31 following a series of train accidents and derailments, ordering officers to cancel holidays and urgently address operational shortcomings to improve passenger safety and ensure the secure transportation of goods across the country.

The decision comes after several recent railway accidents, including the derailment of the Rehman Baba Express near Multan on October 13, which resulted in multiple casualties.

Announcing the measures on Saturday, Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi said the emergency, effective from October 24, would remain in place until deficiencies in passenger coaches, freight wagons, locomotives, signalling systems and other railway infrastructure were addressed.

He warned that officers in the operations department, including himself, would not be allowed to take Saturdays, Sundays or other public holidays off until the shortcomings were resolved. All types of leave, except medical leave, have been suspended for officers and officials under the emergency arrangements.

Railway personnel have also been directed to monitor train operations in the field, while chief engineers of the civil and mechanical departments must submit daily progress reports to the ministry. The head of the safety department has likewise been instructed to provide daily updates.

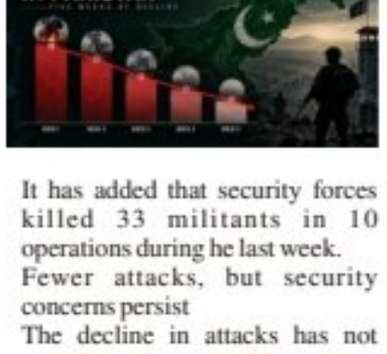
Pakistan Railways has reported several accidents and derailments in recent months, including seven incidents in July alone.

The major factors identified as contributing to accidents include deteriorating railway tracks, defective coaches and wagons, the manual points system, human error, inadequate maintenance and shortages of resources.

Terrorist attacks in Pakistan Fall 66% in five weeks

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Marked reduction has been noticed in terrorist attacks in KP and Balochistan during the past five weeks courtesy successful operations carried out by the security forces personnel,

According to a new report by Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, during the past five weeks, terrorist attacks came down by 66 percent.

As many as 61 attacks were carried out between September 18 and September 24, while 21 attacks were reported between October 16 and October 22.

Compared with last week, attacks by terrorists have come down by 38 percent, says the report.

It has added that security forces killed 33 militants in 10 operations during he last week.

Fewer attacks, but security concerns persist

The decline in attacks has not produced an equally sharp reduction in deaths. During 16–22 October, militant violence killed 22 people, compared with 23 the previous week, while injuries fell from 20 to 11. More troublingly, abductions rose from 24 to 41, with almost all reported in Balochistan.

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