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Islamabad : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Regulatory Reforms in ease of doing business

Top military brass warn against May 9-like unrest, vow decisive action

■ Corps Commanders' Conference reaffirms support for Kashmiris and security of Islam's holiest sites



STAFF REPORTER
RAWALPINDI

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) of Pakistan, chaired the 277th Corps Commanders' Conference at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, where military leaders reviewed the prevailing security environment, counter-terrorism efforts and operational preparedness.

The forum began by offering Fateha for the Shuhada of the Armed Forces, law enforcement agencies and civil society who lost their lives in service to the country. Participants paid tribute to their sacrifices and remembered those who laid down their lives for Pakistan.

The conference reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a high state of readiness amid the evolving security situation. It also underscored Pakistan's stated right to self-defence and targeted action against terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Security review

The forum held the Taliban leadership responsible for the consequences of facilitating terrorism, alleging that it was doing so on behalf of India. The remarks came as the military leadership reviewed security challenges and reiterated its resolve to counter threats to Pakistan's national security.

Participants appreciated the sustained intelligence-based counter-terrorism operations conducted by law enforcement agencies. However, the forum stressed that operational measures must be complemented by non-kinetic efforts to address the factors contributing to militancy and insecurity.

These measures include people-centred governance at the grassroots level, strategic engagement with the public, dismantling the terror-crime nexus allegedly operating under the patronage of vested interests.

7 Khwarij killed in intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan

■ Security forces conduct an intelligence-based operation in the Idak area: Several militant hideouts destroyed during operation: President, PM, Interior Minister laud security forces for North Waziristan operation

Staff Reporter
North Waziristan



Seven militants have been killed in an intelligence-based operation by security forces in the Idak area of district North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, According to security sources, the operation was carried out as part of the Azm-e-Istehkam vision against militant groups operating in the area. The forces pursued the militants and launched what the sources described as a decisive action against their positions.

The sources said militant hideouts were targeted and destroyed during the intelligence-based operation. They added that professional planning and military skills used by the security forces had reduced the militants' ability to operate in the area.

They said the operation was conducted with determination and that the forces remained focused on disrupting militant activity in North Waziristan.

Security sources said the security forces were committed to eliminating terrorism and establishing lasting peace in the region under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision.

The operation follows another intelligence-based operation reported in North Waziristan on September 24, in which eight militants were reported killed. According to the earlier report aired by the 24NewsHD TV channel, security forces had targeted militant positions and destroyed their hideouts.

Security sources had said a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and other equipment was recovered from the militants killed in that operation.

The sources had also alleged that the militants attempted to use a mosque as cover to avoid the security forces. They said the forces took care to respect the sanctity of the mosque while carrying out the operation and targeting the militants.

Two Pakistani civilians killed in Indian firing near Kasur border: sources

■ Two innocent Pakistani civilians were killed and another injured after India's BSF opened fire near the Pakistan-India international border in Kasur.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



Two innocent civilians have been killed and another injured after India's Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire near the Pakistan-India international border in Kasur, according to Pakistani security sources.

The sources said the three innocent men, residents of Ladhar village, had moved only a few steps beyond a border pillar when the BSF opened fire without warning. The deceased were identified as Azmat Rasool and Mohsin Jutt.

Security officials said the men were unarmed and had made no attempt to cross the international border or the border fence. They maintained that the firing was a violation of established border protocols.

The incident comes a day after Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry exposed India for staging what he described as another "false-flag" operation.

Addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi, the DG ISPR rejected Indian claims that former Pakistan Army Havaldar Muhammad Asif had been killed as a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Indian authorities and media had claimed that a militant identified as Mohammad Asif alias Musa had been killed during an operation in the Korag-Yousmarg area. Indian reports further claimed that the deceased had previously served in the Pakistan Army's Special Services Group (SSG).

However, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif presented Muhammad Asif before the media, saying he was alive and had retired from the SSG in 2023. Asif said he received calls from friends after Indian reports claimed he had been killed.

The military spokesman rejected the Indian claims and questioned the identity and circumstances surrounding the reported killing.



Four killed, five injured in Karak house explosion

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

WEB DESK
KARAK

At least four people were killed and five others injured when an explosion occurred at a house during gas connection work in the Alwargi Banda area near Spina in Karak late at night.

According to Rescue 1122, the blast caused part of the house to collapse. The deceased include two girls and two women, while five people sustained injuries in the incident.

Rescue officials said the injured were initially shifted to a hospital for medical treatment. However, due to their critical condition, they were later referred to Peshawar for further treatment.

The incident took place during the last hours of the night in Alwargi Banda near Spina, where work related to a gas connection was underway.

PM fuel scheme to be shelved after decline in int'l oil prices, IMF told



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has assured the visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission that the Prime Minister's fuel relief scheme is purely temporary and will be abolished as soon as the oil prices drop in the international markets,

This assurance was given by Pakistani officials to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during the ongoing negotiations.

According to sources, the IMF delegation was told that the targeted subsidy is being provided under the Fuel Relief Scheme.

Pakistan presented the IMF with a detailed breakdown of petrol prices and associated costs during the briefing.

The sources said imported petrol costs approximately Rs250 per litre, while the fuel is being sold to consumers at around Rs390 per litre.

The briefing showed that taxes account for approximately Rs110 per litre, while various margins on petrol collectively amount to around Rs27 per litre, the sources said.

Despite the IMF's reservations, the government is unlikely to prematurely end the three-month fuel compensation scheme for motorcyclists and small-car owners, officials said on condition of anonymity.

Opposition leaders meet after govt talks as PTI march looms

■ Opposition leaders review government talks as PTI's postponed Islamabad march remains central to negotiations and ongoing political tensions.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The first round of talks between the government and opposition concluded on Friday, with the two sides set to meet again at 2pm on Saturday in the National Assembly (NA) speaker's chamber, according to the NA Secretariat. The meeting, chaired by NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, included representatives of the government, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the opposition.

The negotiations come amid continued tensions following PTI's announcement of an Islamabad march. Although the protest was postponed from September 27 to October 4, the standoff between the federal and provincial governments remains unresolved.

According to the NA spokesperson, detailed discussions were held on the country's political situation, with the government, PPP and opposition apprising each other of their respective positions. Various matters were discussed in detail and with patience, the spokesperson said.

The second round of negotiations will be held at 2pm on Saturday in the speaker's chamber, the spokesperson added. The government and PPP stressed the need to resolve national issues with the opposition through negotiations.

According to the statement, the NA Speaker played a key role in facilitating negotiations between the government, PPP and the opposition.

Federal minister Amir Muqam, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry attended the meeting. Senator Sherry Rehman and NA members Naveed Qamar and Ijaz Hussain Jakhrani also participated.

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KP launches e-Fard portal and digital feedback system

- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has launched an e-Fard portal and digital feedback system to provide online land records, improve transparency and monitor citizens' satisfaction with revenue services

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has launched an e-Fard portal and a digital public feedback system aimed at modernising the province's land record services and providing faster and more transparent services to citizens.

Chief Minister Sohail Afridi formally inaugurated both initiatives, saying the government's top priority was to deliver transparent and efficient public services at people's doorsteps.

The chief minister said the new digital services would reduce the need for citizens to repeatedly visit revenue offices for land-related documents and services.

Under the e-Fard system, citizens will be able to obtain copies of their land records from home or through nearby service centres. The service will be accessible through the official website, NADRA e-Sahulat centres and the Dastak app. The system will also incorporate biometric verification through NADRA to help authenticate applicants and improve the security of land record transactions.

According to the details provided at the launch, citizens will be able to pay the applicable fee electronically through OneLink or Easypaisa. Once issued, the e-Fard will be stored in the user's account, while its authenticity can be verified online through a QR code.



Workers install drainage pipes along Ring Road as part of ongoing development work to improve the city's drainage system

Sor Range Coal Mine Accident: Investigation Finds Illegal Blasting Behind Deaths of 34 Miners

- The investigation found that the company had no licence to possess or use explosives and did not have a trained explosives expert to carry out or supervise blasting operations.

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

A Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) and other government departments have released an investigation report into the tragic Sor Range coal mine accident, which claimed the lives of 34 miners at Sardar Muhammad Usman Khan Jogezai Coal Company's Mine No. 1 two months ago.

The investigation report identified illegal use of explosives, violations of mining safety regulations and serious administrative negligence as major factors behind the deadly incident.

According to the report, evidence found at the accident site, including drill holes in hard rock, established that the disaster was caused by underground blasting.

The investigation found that the company had no licence to possess or use explosives and did not have a trained explosives expert to carry out or supervise blasting operations.

Serious Violations of Mining Safety Laws

The report found clear violations of Regulations 97 and 99 of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

Investigators said the mine owner, manager and mine sardar were aware of the use of explosives underground but failed to report the illegal practice to the relevant authorities.

The report described the failure to inform authorities as a serious lapse on the part of the mine administration.

Six Underage Miners Among Those Killed

The investigation also uncovered serious violations of the Mines Act, 1923, particularly Sections 26-A and 26-B concerning the employment of minors in mines.



According to identification documents examined by investigators, six of the deceased miners were under the age of 18, while two were below 17.

The deceased underage workers were identified as Ziaullah, 16 years and 3 months; Rehmat Ali, 16 years and 4 months; Abu Sufyan, 17 years and 2 months; Shabbirullah, 17 years and 3 months; Abu Zar, 17 years and 3 months; and Muti-ur-Rehman, 17 years and 7 months.

Rs2 Billion Worth of Coal Extracted in Three Years

The inquiry further revealed that the company had extracted coal worth more than Rs2 billion from the mine over the past three years.

Despite the significant volume of coal production, miners reportedly remained deprived of basic facilities, including clean drinking water, proper accommodation and EOBI registration.

The report also noted that safety concerns had been identified before the accident, including a severe shortage of timber supports inside the mine and the presence of hazardous coal dust.

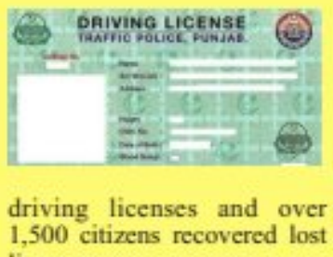
According to the investigation, these warnings were not adequately addressed by the mine owners.

33 Victims Belonged to Shangla

Of the 34 miners killed in the Sor Range coal mine accident, 33 belonged to Shangla district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Punjab records 34% rise in issuance of driving licences

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



A record 34 percent increase has been witnessed in driving licences issuance in Punjab,

According to a spokesperson, over 856,000 citizens in Punjab availed licensing services last month.

More than 139,000 citizens in Lahore were issued driving licences.

Over 441,000 citizens obtained learner's licences last month while over 200,000 citizens obtained regular driving licences.

Over 217,000 citizens renewed their learner's, regular, and international driving licenses and over 1,500 citizens recovered lost licenses.

International driving permits issued to over 3,600 citizens and over 280,000 citizens availed online licensing services.

Overall, 168 percent increase in the use of online licensing services was seen.

Over 400,000 citizens downloaded e-driving licenses app.



Lahore again ranks as world's most polluted city

Lahore again ranks as the world's most polluted city, with unhealthy air quality and dangerous PM2.5 levels recorded on Friday.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Lahore has once again topped the global list of cities with the worst air quality, with pollution levels falling in the "unhealthy" category, according to IQAir's live air quality tracker.Air pollution has emerged as a major environmental and public health concern in Pakistan, particularly during the winter season. Lahore and several other cities regularly experience smog, driven by factors including industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, crop-residue burning and weather conditions that limit the movement of polluted air.



According to IQAir data on Friday morning, Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 167, placing it first among the world's most polluted cities. Dhaka ranked second with an AQI of 164, while Cairo stood third at 158.

Lahore was the only Pakistani city among the top 30 most polluted cities. Karachi ranked 34th on the 125-city list, recording an AQI of 69.IQAir reported that the concentration of PM2.5 pollutants in Lahore was 15.2 times higher than the World Health Organisation's annual guideline level. PM2.5 consists of extremely small airborne particles that can penetrate deep into the respiratory system. Prolonged exposure to high concentrations can pose serious health risks.

Mob torches water tanker after it crushes man to death in Karachi

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI

An angry mob torched an oil tanker after a man lost his life, and another was seriously injured when the same tanker hit them severely in the Korangi area of Karachi on Friday,

The road accident occurred at Singer Chowrangi near Darul Aloom in Karachi. Later, an angry mob torched the water tanker. Soon after receiving the report, the Rescue 1122 team rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation to control the fire.

Rescue 1122 sources said that the dead and injured boy were father and son. They were later identified as Mahfooz and Qasim.

Rescue 1122 team shifted the dead and injured persons to Jinnah Hospital in Karachi for post-mortem and treatment.

Police, after registering a case against the driver of the water tanker, started an investigation.

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE/ANTITERRORISM JUDGE, ZIARAT

SECTION : 11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP

FIR NO. 21/2026 Police Station .CTD LORALAI

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me **Hanzala s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Accused Person** that has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section 11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP, punishable under section of the Pakistan penal code and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said that Cannot be found, and Whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said that **Hanzala s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Accused Person** have absconded.(or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrants.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said that me **Hanzala s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Terrorist** are required to appear before this court District and sessions Judge/Judge Anti-Terrorism Ziarat to answer the said compliant on the day **18.10.2026.**

Special Judge Anti-Terrorism/ Sessions Judge Ziarat

PRQ No.1695/2-10-2026

www.dpr.gob.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgprbalochistan

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE/ANTITERRORISM JUDGE, ZIARAT

SECTION: (1)7a-7(1)b-7(1)d-7(1)h-7(2)-7(1)i-11F(5)-11F(6)-1I-(H)-11I-11J-11K-11N

FIR NO. 18/2026 Police Station .CTD LORALAI

WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that **Naqeeb Ullah Iliyas Muhammad Khorasani Naveed Jamal S/o Unknown Resident of Zahri Town Hazargangi Tehsil & District Quetta** that has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section (1)7a-7(1)b-7(1)d-7(1)h-7(2)-7(1)i-11F(5)-11F(6)-1I-(H)-11I-11J-11K-11N,punishable under section of the Pakistan penal code and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said that Cannot be found, and Whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said that **Naqeeb Ullah Iliyas Muhammad Khorasani Naveed Jamal S/o Unknown Resident of Zahri Town Hazargangi Tehsil & District Quetta** have absconded.(or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrants.

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Naqeeb Ullah Iliyas Muhammad Khorasani Naveed Jamal S/o Unknown Resident of Zahri Town Hazargangi Tehsil & District Quetta** are required to appear before this court District and sessions Judge/Judge Anti-Terrorism Ziarat to answer the said compliant on the day **18.10.2026.**

Special Judge Anti-Terrorism/ Sessions Judge Ziarat

PRQ No.1705/2-10-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Director, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayyed Hospital,Quetta invites bids from eligible Bidders for supply of following items. **TSE-2627091201082 Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required. Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.** T/Fee 1,000 PKR

S.No	Class of Object	Bid Security
1	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (Total Item(s) Count: 1)	2 %

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** 03 Assignments of Similar Nature and Complexity Worth PKR. 15 Million each in Previous 3 Years Accumualted Turn over of at least PKR.12 Million in 3 Subsequent Previous Years Presence in Active Tax Payer List BRA Registration Certificate The bidding firm must not be currently blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Undertaking by firm that due to non-availability of funds or any other reasons the payment is delayed the firm shall run the services at least 04 months The firm financial flows must be audited by thirty party audit firm 2025-26 The services provider shall submit their work plan for each shit that ensure the affective operation & Maintenance of HAVC of hospital Agreement with all terms & conditions (Must unconditionally agree with the instructions, terms & conditions specified in the bidding documents & contract agreement The firm must have corporate office in Quetta city Provide paid challans or BRA clearance certificate **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from www.bppra.gob.pk **Issuance of tender Documents:** Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at www.bppra.gob.pk **Last Date of bid submission:** Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by 20 October, 2026till 10:45 AM through supplier dashboard. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at 11:45AM on EPPS System Address: ,Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayyed Hospital, Mastung Road Quetta

Phone no: 0812892160Fax no: 0812892181

Email: qa7871skbz@gmail.com

Executive Director, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayyed Hospital, Quetta

DPRQ/PRQ No.1664/2-10-2026

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Women busy in selecting and purchasing cloth pieces from vendor at cloth market road

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Kabul's Denial, Islamabad's Bill



Irtija Ahmad

The Global Terrorism Index just confirmed what Pakistan has argued since 2021: the threat crossed the border, and so did the bill.

For the past four years, officials in Islamabad have made the same argument at nearly every regional and multilateral forum. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan did not resurge on its own; it rebuilt itself in the space the Afghan Taliban left open when Kabul fell in August 2021. For most of that time, the discourse surrounding this abroad was of a state looking for someone else to blame. This year, the data caught up with it.

The 2026 Global terrorism Index, put together impartially by the Institute of Economics and Peace, now ranks Pakistan as the country hit hardest by terrorism in the world. The Index recorded 1,139 terrorism related deaths in 2025, a 6 per cent increase from the year before and the highest annual toll since 2013. A total of 1,045 attacks were recorded. Hostage-taking spiked from 101 cases in 2024 to 655 in 2025, driven largely by the Jaffar Express hijacking, in which more than 440 passengers were held. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, the two provinces that share Pakistan's western frontier, accounted for 74 per cent of all attacks and 67 per cent of all deaths.

Thebiggest contributor to that toll was the TTP. The group carried out 595 attacks in 2025, up 24 per cent from 481 recorded the year before. It was also responsible for 56 per cent of all terrorism deaths recorded in the country, making it the world's 3rd deadliest terrorist organisation.

The index's own analysis goes further than just the attack count. It states in plain terms that the Afghan Taliban's return to power has "*profoundly impacted*" Pakistan's security. For most of the previous decade, the TTPdid not have this kind of room to operate and hide. Now it does.

This is no longer Pakistan making its own case. An independent global index, run by an organisation with nothing to gain from Islamabad's diplomatic position, has now traced the deadliest single year of terrorism in over a decade to one specific cause: a hostile militant group operating out of sanctuary across an international border. That is a different order of evidence than a foreign ministry statement, and governments and commentators who have spent four years hedging on the sanctuary question should start treating it that way.

The timing gives Islamabad an opening it shouldn't waste. On August 4 and 5, Pakistani and American officials held . the fourth round of their counterterrorism dialogue in Washington, naming the TTP alongside ISIS-Khorasan, al-Qaeda and the Balochistan Liberation Army as threats that require deeper cooperation on border security and on the networks that finance them. A year earlier, in August 2025, the United States had already added the BLA and its Majeed Brigade to its foreign terrorist organisation list, a step Islamabad had been seeking for some time. Both moves matter. Neither, by itself, changes what the TTP can still do from inside Afghanistan.

The index should fulfill its purpose here. Designations and joint statements serve as diplomatic tools rather than operational measures. They don't cut off funding or shut down training camps, nor have they prompted the Afghan Taliban to act against a group it shows little interest in restraining. Pakistan's report on Anti-Terrorism Day, August 21, estimates the death toll at over 90,000 and economic losses exceeding $150 billion since the start of the war on terror, with 2025 being one of the deadliest years of this period. A country enduring such losses has the moral authority to request more than mere recognition from its partners; it has the right to seek enforcement.

None of this requires Pakistan to exaggerate its case, and it shouldn't. The GTI data clearly indicates what it shows and omits. It identifies the TTP as the primary cause of the 2025 increase and links that resurgence to conditions across the border, but it doesn't serve as a judgment on all sources of instability within Pakistan. Treating it as such would invite scrutiny that could weaken a strong argument. The key discipline here is to let the index do the work that Pakistani diplomacy alone cannotdemonstrating, through an external source neither Islamabad nor Kabul controls, that the sanctuary issue is real and worsening.

The dialogue with Washington should be judged a year from now by what changes on the ground in Afghanistan, not by the language in the joint statement. Pakistan spent four years making an argument that was true well before anyone outside the country was willing to say so. It should spend the next one making sure the people who finally agree with the diagnosis don't stop agreeing and paying attention.

Irtija Ahmad is an Assistant Research Officer at theInstitute of Regional Studies, Islamabad. She holds an MSc in International Public Policy and Development from Royal Holloway,University of London (Distinction), and an MPA from Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, where she graduated as Gold Medallist of the Class of 2022. Her research interests sit at the intersection of counter terrorism policy, evolving threat landscapes, and evidence-based policy analysis.
All opinions expressed are those of the author and donot reflect the views or policies of the organisation.



Dr. Bilal Atiq Rph

The Silent Superbug Threat: Pakistan at a Critical Crossroads

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is no longer a distant or theoretical threat it is rapidly emerging as one of the most serious public health challenges facing Pakistan and the world. Antimicrobial medicines, particularly antibiotics, have transformed modern medicine and saved millions of lives from infectious diseases, but their irrational and excessive use is gradually reducing their effectiveness. When microorganisms develop the ability to survive medicines that were previously effective against them, infections become more difficult and sometimes impossible to treat. Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to this growing crisis because of several contributing factors, including inappropriate antibiotic prescribing, self-medication, unnecessary use of antibiotics, incomplete treatment courses, inadequate infection-control practices and limited public awareness. Antibiotics are also frequently used for viral illnesses such as the common cold and influenza, even though they have no therapeutic benefit against viruses. Such unnecessary exposure creates selective pressure that allows resistant bacteria to survive, multiply and spread within communities and healthcare settings. The consequences of AMR extend far beyond an individual patient.

Drug-resistant infections can result in prolonged hospital stays, increased healthcare costs, treatment failure, serious complications and preventable deaths. The problem can also threaten routine medical procedures such as major surgeries, cancer chemotherapy, organ transplantation and intensive-care treatment, all of which depend on effective antimicrobial medicines. Pakistan has recognized the seriousness of this challenge and has developed a National Action Plan for Antimicrobial Resistance 2.0 for 2024–2028, focusing on surveillance, infection prevention and control, antimicrobial stewardship, improved governance and coordinated action through a One Health approach. However, policies alone cannot overcome AMR unless they are effectively implemented at the community and healthcare levels. Pharmacists have a particularly important role in this fight because they are among the most accessible healthcare professionals and can promote rational medicine use, counsel patients about appropriate doses and treatment duration, discourage unnecessary self-medication, support antimicrobial stewardship programmes and contribute to public awareness. Doctors, pharmacists, nurses, laboratory professionals, veterinarians, policymakers and

the public must work together because AMR is not limited to human health, it is closely connected with animal health, agriculture and the environment. Pakistan also needs stronger diagnostic and laboratory services, reliable antimicrobial-resistance surveillance and evidence-based prescribing practices so that healthcare professionals can select appropriate treatment and avoid unnecessary antibiotic exposure. At the same time, public awareness must be strengthened so that people understand that antibiotics should never be taken casually, shared with others or saved for future illnesses without professional advice. The answer to AMR is not to stop using antibiotics altogether, because these medicines remain essential for patients who genuinely need them; rather, the goal must be to use the right antimicrobial for the right patient, at the right dose, for the right duration and, whenever possible, on the basis of appropriate clinical and laboratory evidence. Antimicrobial resistance may be described as a silent pandemic because its effects often develop gradually, but its long-term consequences can be devastating. Pakistan still has an opportunity to slow this crisis through responsible antibiotic use, stronger infection-control measures, improved surveillance, effective antimicrobial stewardship and sustained public education. Every unnecessary antibiotic prescription, every inappropriate purchase and every incomplete course contributes to a larger national and global problem, while every rational prescription, responsible dispensing decision and properly educated patient becomes part of the solution. Antimicrobial resistance is not merely a medical issue, it is a national public health challenge, and protecting the effectiveness of antimicrobial medicines today means protecting lives tomorrow.





BY: MINAHILADNAN

Should women breathe" Taliban rule and its Brutalities

For the past two decades we have heard of the cruelties of Taliban rule and its dangers to the civilians, yet there has not been made any conscious effort by the countries surrounding it to interfere. The "Taliban" which directly translates to The movement's founding nucleus—the word is Pashto for "students"—was composed of peasant farmers and men studying Islam in Afghan and Pakistani madrasas, or religious schools. And yet these small conspiring groups of men now have the control over the wellbeing of people in Afghanistan. The Taliban have proved themselves to be cruel and disgusting leaders that have been the way

for society to push women into slavery and oppression for the Afghani socialite.

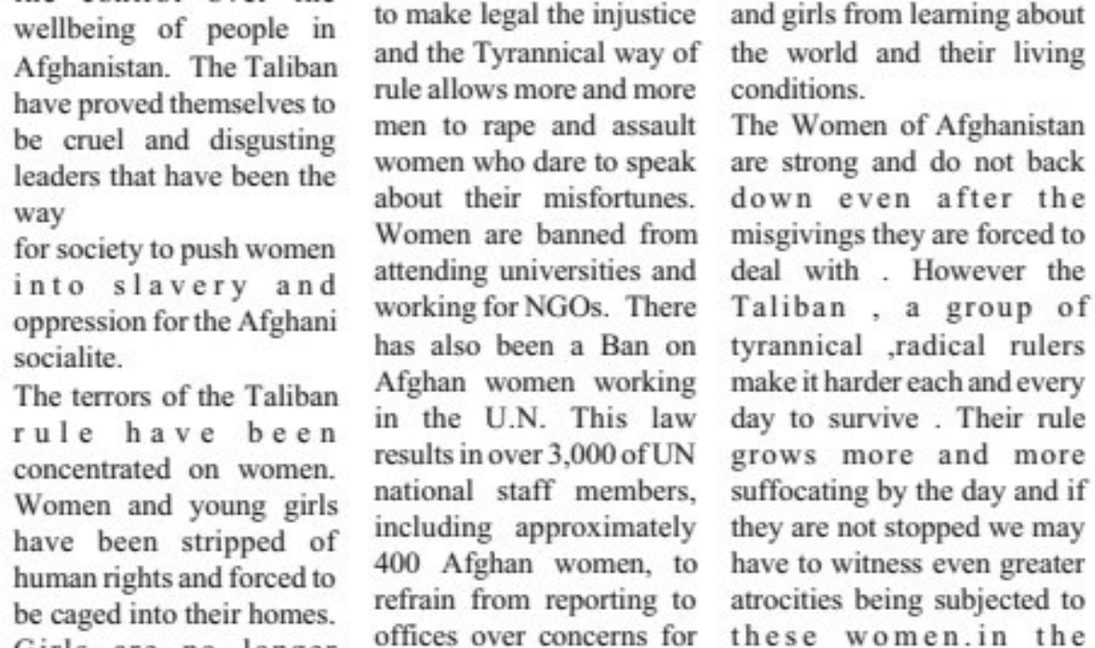
The terrors of the Taliban rule have been concentrated on women. Women and young girls have been stripped of human rights and forced to be caged into their homes. Girls are no longer allowed to get more than primary education (to induce submission and illiteracy so manipulation and injustice can be readily swallowed). Young teenage girls are readily allowed to be wed off as soon as they hit puberty and teenage pregnancies have been made common. The girls are wed off to old men to improve the sublime living conditions. The women are forced to wear Abayas and burkas outside of their homes, their bodily autonomy has been stolen. In order to access healthcare in hospitals the women are required to wear burkas and be covered from head to toe with a mesh fabric obstructing the face, this was made legal in November 2025.

Laws are being published to make legal the injustice and the Tyrannical way of rule allows more and more men to rape and assault women who dare to speak about their misfortunes. Women are banned from attending universities and working for NGOs. There has also been a Ban on Afghan women working in the U.N. This law results in over 3,000 of UN national staff members, including approximately 400 Afghan women, to refrain from reporting to offices over concerns for their safety (The Diplomat, 2023). Women e shutdown of internet for 48 hours In order to sedate and prevent women and girls from learning about the world and their living conditions.

Women e shutdown of internet for 48 hours In order to sedate and prevent women and girls from learning about the world and their living conditions.

doctors are banned from registering for the completion exam for specialization programmes. (EPRS, 2024). In august 2024 The Taliban published a new 'vice and virtue' law containing 35 articles., This includes a ban on women's and girls' voices being heard in public (EPRS, 2024).In September 2025 there was a nationwide shutdown of internet for 48 hours In order to sedate and prevent women and girls from learning about the world and their living conditions.

The Women of Afghanistan are strong and do not back down even after the misgivings they are forced to deal with . However the Taliban , a group of tyrannical ,radical rulers make it harder each and every day to survive . Their rule grows more and more suffocating by the day and if they are not stopped we may have to witness even greater atrocities being subjected to these women.in the upcoming years We as Pakistani civillians can only hope and pray that life gets easier for these women .



Secretary, Establishment Division, Barrister Nabeel A. Awan in a group photograph with participants during the passing-out ceremony of the 47th Mid-Career Management Course at NIPA

Scanned with CamScanner

PSX extends decline as KSE-100 falls over 700 points

■ PSX extended its decline on Friday as the KSE-100 index fell 703.71 points, or 0.42%, to 167,933.14 points before trading was suspended for Friday prayers.



Web DESK

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) extended losses on Friday amid selling pressure in the market.

During intraday trading, the KSE-100 index fell 703.71 points, or 0.42%. The index stood at 167,933.14 points when trading was suspended due to the Friday prayer break. It had opened from the previous close of 168,636.85 points.

During the session, the KSE-100 reached an intraday high of 168,854.46 points and a low of 167,685.42 points.

Trading volume stood at 67.51 million shares at the time of the suspension.

A day earlier, the KSE-100 Index also closed lower, losing 1,332.47 points, or 0.78%, to settle at 168,636.85 points compared with 169,969.33 points in the previous trading session.

The ready market recorded trading volume of 548.380 million shares on Thursday, down from 591.234 million shares in the preceding session. Traded value also declined to Rs17.053 billion from Rs20.191 billion.

Market capitalisation decreased to Rs18.776 trillion from Rs18.927 trillion a day earlier.



A worker is busy stitching quilt for customers at his workplace G-7 Sector in the Federal Capital

IMF seeks more data on Pakistan's new auto policy draft

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

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could not reach full agreement on the draft Auto Policy 2026-31 during economic review talks, with the Fund seeking additional data on the proposed framework.

According to sources, the new auto policy will now require IMF approval before being presented to the federal cabinet. The IMF delegation was briefed that a 1% sales tax would be imposed on electric vehicles, while the sales tax on other hybrid vehicles would be increased to 18%.

During a briefing on vehicle exports, discussions were also held on setting a target of taking auto sector exports to more than $3 billion.



According to reliable sources, the IMF has yet to agree to the draft auto policy and further discussions will be held on it. The draft includes a provision under which the manufacturing company would be responsible if the price of a vehicle increases after booking, while manufacturers would also be required to provide customers with a delivery date at the time of booking.

The final draft was scheduled to be discussed with the IMF during the economic review talks. According to sources, the proposed Auto Policy 2026-31 aims to reduce vehicle prices, increase exports and promote electric vehicles.

The Ministry of Industries and Production has prepared the final draft of the Automotive and Auto Parts Manufacturing Policy 2026-31, under which vehicle prices would be reduced, manufacturing quality improved and exports linked with global markets. Six principles have been set for the new policy, which would have to be fully implemented.

Pakistan inflation rises 1.27% in September

■ Pakistan's inflation rose 1.27% in September, with annual inflation reaching 10.26% and electricity and fuel prices registering notable increases.

Web Desk

ASHLAND

Pakistan's Inflation Rises 10.26% in September as Food, Electricity and Fuel Prices Push Costs Higher

Pakistan's inflation rate accelerated during September 2026, with consumer prices rising 10.26% compared with the same month last year, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The latest figures show that inflation remained elevated at the start of the new fiscal quarter, with the average inflation rate for July–September 2026 reaching 10.20%. On a month-on-month basis, prices increased by 1.27% in September, indicating renewed pressure on household budgets despite declines in several major food items.

According to the PBS data, inflation increased by 1.31% in urban areas during September, while prices in rural areas rose by 1.23%. The figures highlight continuing differences in price movements between cities and rural markets, although both areas experienced higher costs during the month.

Food prices show mixed trend

Food prices recorded significant movements in both directions during September.

The sharpest monthly increase was recorded in onion prices, which rose 29.17%. Wheat prices also increased by 3.86%, while flour became 2.28% more expensive. Prices of masoor pulse rose 1.56%, while dry fruits increased by 1.27%.

However, several food items became cheaper during the month. Tomato prices fell 24.68%, providing some relief to consumers. Chicken prices declined 8.14%, while eggs dropped 5.92%. Potato prices fell 4.19%, while moong pulse declined 2.09%.

The mixed movement in food prices



means that consumers experienced sharply different price changes depending on the products they purchased. The substantial fall in tomato prices, for example, contrasted with the steep increase in onion prices.

Electricity and fuel costs add pressure

Non-food costs also contributed to the monthly increase in inflation.

In urban areas, electricity prices increased 15.28% during September, while motor fuel prices rose 10.76%. Medicine prices also increased by 0.98%.

Rural consumers faced similar increases. Electricity prices rose 15.28%, while motor fuel became 11.13% more expensive.

The increases in electricity and fuel prices are particularly significant because energy costs can affect the broader prices of goods and services through transportation, production and distribution expenses.

Rural food prices also fluctuate

In rural areas, gram pulse prices increased 2.42%, while wheat flour rose 1.72% and wheat prices increased 1%. Vegetable prices were up 0.87%.

At the same time, rural consumers saw declines in several food categories. Tomato prices dropped 27.87%, chicken prices fell 7.57%, and egg prices declined 2.92%. Fruit prices decreased 2.56%, potatoes fell 2.30%, and sugar prices declined 1.70%.

The rural figures therefore also reflect a combination of substantial increases in selected essential commodities and decreases in others.

Gold slips before US payrolls data, set for second weekly loss

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

Web Desk

KARACHI

Gold prices fell on Friday ?and were on track for a second straight weekly decline, pressured by ?a firmer US dollar and elevated Treasury yields, while investors awaited key US payrolls data for clues on the Federal Reserve's policy path.

Spot gold fell 0.6% to $4,154.78 per ounce by 0205 GMT ?and was down more than 3% for the week so far. US gold ?futures lost 0.4% to $4,184.00.

The US dollar was headed for a weekly ?gain, making greenback-priced metals more expensive for holders of other currencies, while yields on ?10- and 30-year Treasuries hit their highest levels since 2002 on Thursday.



"Market participants are ?watching US interest rate expectations and geopolitical developments in the Middle East," said Kyle Rodda, senior financial market analyst at Capital.com.

"US nonfarm payroll data will be critical for rate expectations. If it comes ?in hot, it may increase the chances of rate hikes from the Fed. ?That would potentially weigh even further on gold prices."

Two Fed policymakers this week staked out an unusually clear ?case ?for taking in more data before deciding about another rate hike.

The September US nonfarm payrolls report is due at 1230 GMT. Data on Wednesday showed US inflation increased less than expected in August and price pressures were more moderate in the prior month ?than previously reported.

Traders are ?pricing in only ?about a 25% chance of a rate hike this month, versus about 70% earlier in the week. They still see a 79% ?chance of a rate increase in December.

Higher borrowing costs typically ?diminish gold's ?attractiveness, given that it pays no interest.

Elsewhere, Iran is preparing a broader and more forceful response if the United States resumes large-scale military attacks, sources said, while continuing a diplomatic push ?that ?Iranian officials privately see as unlikely to succeed.

Spot silver ?fell 0.5% to $60.53, platinum slipped 0.4% to $1,716.93 and palladium rose 0.1% to $1,172.80. All three metals were poised ?for weekly losses.

Dollar at 17-month high as global bond rout hits euro

■ Dollar heads for a third straight weekly gain at a 17-month high as global bond yields surge, oil tops $100 and concerns over inflation, fiscal risks and Europe weigh on markets.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The US dollar headed for its third straight week of gains on Friday, perched at a 17-month high as a bond ?market rout pushed borrowing costs across the globe to multi-decade peaks in the face of inflationary fears over higher oil ?prices.

Investors were reeling from a steep global bond sell-off on Thursday that sent yields on benchmark US 10-year Treasuries to 5.344%, their highest since 2002, ahead of a US jobs report that could influence the near-term policy outlook.

The 10-year yield was last at 5.249% in early trading on Friday while the rest of the bond market also steadied.

The euro was at $1.1237, hugging its ?lowest level since May 2025, dragged by worries around France's fiscal health. The yen was steady at 158 per US dollar ?after data showed annual core inflation in Tokyo accelerated in September at the fastest pace in 10 months.



The dollar index , ?which measures the US currency against six rivals, was at 102.08, set for a 1% gain this week, its third consecutive weekly gain, ?a run it last had in May 2025.

Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo, said investors are confronting the uncomfortable mix of sticky inflation, heavy ?government borrowing and large bond supply.

"The fact that long-end yields are pushing higher even as expectations for an immediate Fed hike have eased suggests this is increasingly about the term premium and fiscal risk, not just the next Fed decision," she said.

Data on Wednesday showed US consumer prices rose less than expected in August, along with downward revisions ?to July's figure, leading traders to rein in wagers of a rate hike from the Federal Reserve later this month.Two of the Fed's top policymakers ?this week staked out an unusually clear case for taking in more data before deciding about another hike.

That has sharpened the focus on the US payroll report ?due ?later in the day, with data likely to show that job growth slowed in September and the unemployment rate is forecast to have been 4.1% for a third straight month.

"With the Fed now myopically focused on inflation and price pressures, a hot wages print could prove particularly influential for US rates, Treasuries and the USD," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone.

Brent crude futures were back above $100 per barrel as traders kept an ?eye on the stalled talks between ?US and Iran to end the ?conflict in the Middle East.

Sterling was at $1.3187 while the Australian dollar was 0.18% softer at $0.6918, both hovering around their three-month lows. The New Zealand dollar slipped 0.22% to $0.5591, hitting its lowest level since November 2025.

"Clearly the market ?is not pricing for a hawkish Fed," said Prashant Newnaha, senior rates strategist at TD Securities. "This is a ?flight-to-safety move spurred ?on by developments in Europe. In this scenario expect the dollar index and the yen to strengthen at the same time."

Much of the dollar's recent strength has come at the expense of the euro as the rising political risk in Europe and the energy shock from the seven-month-long war in the Middle ?East dented ?sentiment on the single currency.

The euro has also struggled against the yen and the ?Swiss franc , while yields on French debt have surged to a 14-year high as worries about France's shaky finances swirl.

Scanned with CamScanner

US tells France and Germany to release diesel stocks or face US export ban, sources say

■ The Trump administration has told Germany and France to draw down emergency diesel inventories to help ease soaring global fuel prices or face a US diesel export ban.



Web Desk

WASHINGTON/RIYADH

The Trump administration has told Germany and France to draw down emergency diesel inventories to help ease soaring global fuel prices or ?face a potential US diesel export ban, according to three people close to the discussions.

The warning marks an escalation in pressure on Europe as US President Donald Trump considers a potential ban to help bring down US fuel prices ahead of November's midterm elections.

Europe's relationship with Washington has soured under Trump due to tariff disputes and disagreements over military spending.

For the EU, releasing more stocks would represent ?a dilemma as it needs to balance the need to bring down fuel prices at home with maintaining high stocks for a possible worsening of the ?fuel crisis should Trump and Iran not reach a peace deal.

The EU's energy taskforce — made up of the European Commission and the ?27 EU member countries — will hold a call on Friday morning to discuss the situation, a Commission spokesperson said.

The Commission, Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Ireland already held ?a call on Thursday to discuss the possible need to release diesel stocks, two EU officials told Reuters.

The International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog, has not yet asked Germany ?to release stocks, Germany's economy ministry said. It was not clear when the IEA might meet next.

The US administration has been particularly frustrated with France and Germany, which US officials believe have not fully followed through on earlier commitments to release emergency oil and petroleum product stocks, Reuters has reported previously.

"It is in Europe's best interest to work with the United States as we pursue multiple pathways ?to boost the supply of refined products and lower costs for consumers," one of the sources, a US official, told Reuters.

A second source, based in a European capital, said ?that the US has asked the EU to release 120 million barrels of diesel over the next six months.

Europe has become increasingly dependent on US fuel after banning Russian imports over Russia's ?invasion of ?Ukraine and after the US-Israeli war against Iran disrupted supplies from the Middle East.

Taiwan receives new F-16V fighter jets from US to tackle China threat



WEB DESK

TAITUNG, Taiwan

The first two of a batch of 66 new F-16V fighter jets ?ordered in 2019 will arrive in Taiwan on Friday after months of delays, helping to strengthen an air force that has to scramble almost daily to shadow China's military.

Taiwan faces a rising military threat from Beijing, which claims the democratically governed island as its ?own territory. Taipei has complained of repeated delays to weapons ordered from the United States, its ?most important international backer and arms supplier.The delivery, to the Taitung air base on the ?island's mountainous east coast, comes amid growing concern in Taiwan about the Trump administration's commitment to arming Taipei, despite ?Washington saying there has been no change in policy.

Speaking to reporters at parliament in Taipei, Defence Minister Wellington Koo said ?there would be other new F-16Vs arriving soon, though he did not give details.

"Of course we won't only have delivered these two by year-end," he said.

The United States in 2019 approved an $8 billion sale of Lockheed Martin (LMT.N), opens new tab F-16V fighter jets to Taiwan, a ?deal that would take the island's F-16 fleet to more than 200 jets. But delivery of the planes has ?been hit by issues including software problems.

The arrival of the first two aircraft will come almost exactly a week after US ?President Donald Trump ?met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing.

Trump said in May, after meeting Xi in Beijing, that he was holding a new $14 billion package for Taiwan in abeyance, though he did approve one worth $11 billion in December 2025.

The F-16Vs have advanced avionics, weapons and radar systems to better face down the Chinese air force, including its stealthy J-20 fighters.

An ?upgrade programme for Taiwan's existing ?F-16s was completed in ?2023.

The United States is bound by law to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, but the two have no formal diplomatic relations.



Russia will use 'all weapons' if Kaliningrad comes under attack, Putin warns West

■ President Vladimir Putin has warned the West against escalating the war in Ukraine, saying Moscow will use "all weapons" in its arsenal if its Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad comes under attack.

Web DESK

KREMLIN

President Vladimir Putin has warned the West against escalating the war in Ukraine, saying Moscow will use "all weapons" in its arsenal if its Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad comes under attack.

Speaking at the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow on Thursday, the Russian leader said he had no plans to attack any European country but was prepared to respond to Western aggression if necessary and referenced the Russian territory sandwiched between NATO members Poland and Lithuania.

His warning follows recent military drills by NATO near Kaliningrad that the bloc has described as defensive exercises to strengthen deterrence. Those exercises have prompted strong concerns from Moscow, which warned in late September it would retaliate if NATO attempted to blockade the exclave by air or sea.

"The drills in the Baltic Sea, following one another … Then the attempts to arrest our ships and vessels. All this is an escalation. And then we began to hear statements regarding the Kaliningrad region," Putin said.

"If it comes to direct attack against the Russian Federation, in this case on Kaliningrad and possibly some other territories, of course the issue of using all weapons in our country's arsenal will inevitably and unavoidably emerge on the agenda. This is unavoidable," he cautioned.

NATO, several European countries and the United Kingdom have accused Russia of conducting hybrid warfare against them, including cyberattacks, sabotage and espionage attempts, aimed at breaking their support for Ukraine.

Russia's war in Ukraine, dubbed by Moscow as a "special military operation," is now in its fifth year, but Putin shows no sign of slowing his offensive and has instead intensified strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure and its capital city of Kyiv ahead of an anticipated bitterly cold winter.

US sends Patriots to Saudi, Qatar amid possible renewed Iran war: report

WEB DESK

New Delhi



The US military has sent two additional Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia and Qatar in recent weeks to protect key oil and gas facilities amid the possibility of renewed US military operations against Iran, Axios reported, citing two US officials and a regional source.

One Patriot battery was deployed to Saudi Arabia to protect a key oil facility, while another was sent to Qatar to defend a natural gas facility, according to the report.

Axios said the deployments were intended to reassure the two US allies that Washington would help protect their energy infrastructure if President Donald Trump decides to resume major combat operations against Iran.

Saudi and Qatari leaders had urged Trump in August not to launch strikes targeting Iranian energy infrastructure, fearing Tehran could retaliate against their own oil and gas facilities, the report said. US officials told Axios those concerns were a key factor in Trump opting at the time for an economic pressure campaign instead.

Trump vows to hit Iran 'very hard' if linked to flydubai attack

■ Trump said Iran may be involved in an alleged attack on a flydubai flight and warned Tehran would be 'hit very hard' if responsible, while leaving open renewed US strikes.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Thursday that Tehran was likely involved in an attack by a pilot on a flydubai flight to Israel and that Iran would be "hit very hard" if it was.

The co-pilot allegedly assaulted the captain before passengers managed to save the plane from crashing. Israel's prime minister said the man had undergone "Islamist radical indoctrination."

"I would say the answer, based on what I'm hearing, is yes but we're working on it right now," Trump said when asked by reporters at the White House whether Iran was involved in the incident on the flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv.



On whether the United States would retaliate against Iran if it was responsible for the attack, Trump replied: "Oh, they'll be hit very hard, don't worry."

The US leader's threat of retaliation came as he took a harsher tone on the stalled Iran war overall.

Trump was quoted as saying in a Time magazine interview published Thursday that it was "possible" he may resume bombing Iran after US midterm elections next month. Republicans fear they could lose control of Congress in the November 3 election, with Trump's approval ratings at near-record lows over the Iran war and a surge in the cost of living fueled by high oil prices.

He also reiterated the threat to "annihilate" Iran that he made in his speech to the UN General Assembly last week, despite having previously cast himself as the "president of peace."

"Yeah, I would do that. It's possible," Trump told Time. "Because by annihilating Iran, we've created peace in the world. With Iran, I don't think you could ever have peace."

Iran readies harder retaliation if attacked as diplomacy faces long odds

■ As diplomatic push for a ceasefire between Iran and the US seems to be failing, Iran is preparing a broader and more forceful response if the US resumes large-scale military attacks.

WEB DESK

DUBAI

Iran is preparing a broader and more forceful response if the United States resumes large-scale military attacks, sources said, while continuing a diplomatic push that Iranian officials privately see as unlikely to succeed.

The planning reflects a conviction within Iran's ?leadership that any renewed US campaign must be met with a stronger response than before, even as Tehran seeks to avert escalation through talks.

Senior commanders are reviewing plans to expand potential targets ?beyond US-linked assets to countries that support US military operations and possibly to locations outside the Middle East, according to three senior Iranian officials and an insider familiar with the discussions.

Since President Masoud Pezeshkian returned from New York last week, commanders and senior officials have focused on the scope and timing of any response if Washington strikes again.

No final decision has been made, but planning has intensified as neither side shows signs of willingness to compromise.

The deliberations follow seven months of conflict that began with US-Israeli attacks on February 28. Although an April ?8 ceasefire ended the 40-day war, hostilities have continued sporadically since then.

Hamidreza Azizi, a senior Iran analyst at the International Crisis Group, said Tehran remained uncertain whether President Donald Trump would launch another major campaign ?or opt for more limited attacks, such as strikes on nuclear facilities.

"But they seem determined not to respond symbolically to a symbolic move and instead to escalate in the ?hope of reestablishing deterrence," Azizi said.

Tehran is also weighing the political risks for Trump of a prolonged conflict. Polls show the war has been unpopular with Americans, while higher fuel prices remain a concern ahead of the midterm elections.

Two of the ?officials said Tehran had instructed allied groups in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq to be ready to support Iran in the event of a renewed large-scale US

Scanned with CamScanner

Saba Qamar breaks silence on social media absence, reveals breathing difficulty

■ The Baaghi star then explained that she is asthmatic and has recently been experiencing some breathing difficulty due to the air quality in Lahore.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani showbiz star Saba Qamar has reassured her devoted fan base about her wellbeing after her absence from social media, revealing that Lahore's air quality has been making it somewhat difficult for her to breathe.

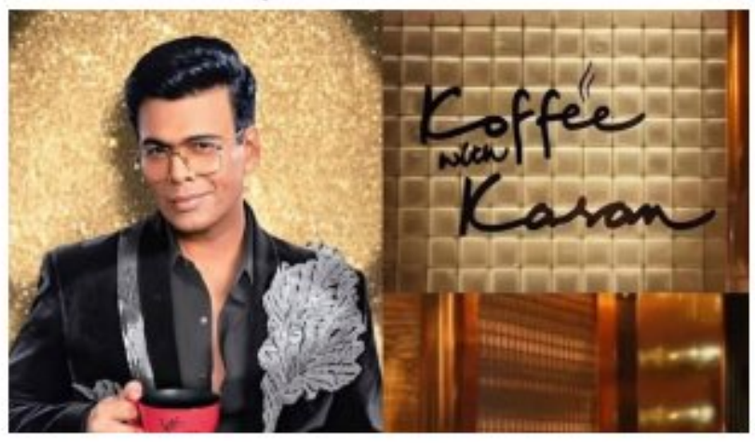
Taking to her Instagram handle, the actress shared a story featuring herself and directly addressed fans who had been concerned about her sudden lack of activity online.

Expressing gratitude for their continued love and concern, Saba wrote: "My dearest fans, thank you so much for all your love, care, and concern."The Baaghi star then explained that she is asthmatic and has recently been experiencing some breathing difficulty due to the air quality in Lahore. "Since I'm asthmatic, the air quality in Lahore has been making it a little difficult for me to breathe properly. Otherwise, I'm absolutely fine, Alhamdulillah," she clarified.

Saba also assured her followers that she has no major health concern and intends to remain connected with them whenever she feels better. "I'll still be connected with you through my stories and will keep posting whenever I feel a little better," she added.Concluding her heartfelt message, the actress thanked her fans for standing by her and sending her constant love, writing: "Thank you for always being there and sending me so much love.

Karan Johar Confirms Final Season of Koffee With Karan

■ 'Koffee With Karan' to End After 22 Years, Johar Confirms



WEB DESK

MUMBAI

Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar's long-running celebrity chat show Koffee With Karan is set to conclude after its ninth season, bringing an end to a 22-year run marked by candid conversations, viral moments and controversies.

According to Filmfare, actors Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan are currently filming an episode for the upcoming season. The couple is expected to bring its familiar on-screen chemistry and candid conversations to the programme's final instalment.

The ninth season is scheduled to begin streaming on JioHotstar from October 14, according to the report. Since its debut in 2004, Koffee With Karan has featured some of the biggest names in Bollywood and Indian sports. Hosted by Johar, the show became known for its questions about relationships, friendships, marriages, careers and rivalries, often generating headlines and viral clips.

The programme has completed 161 episodes across its first eight seasons.Karan Johar Opens Up About Ending the Show

Speaking to Variety, Johar reflected on the show's importance to his identity in the entertainment industry. He described hosting the programme as a rewarding experience but said he now wanted to devote more time to other creative projects.

"I want to spend the next decade of my life directing more movies… telling many more stories," Johar said, explaining his decision to make the ninth season his last.

The filmmaker described the decision as an emotional and personal one while expressing hope that the show's legacy would endure.

"This will be the last time I will be on a couch that has been synonymous with conversations, candour and well… controversies," he said.

From Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol to Bollywood's Biggest Stars

The show debuted in 2004 with Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol as its first guests. Its early episodes also featured prominent personalities, including Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai and filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Over the years, actors, directors, athletes and other public figures appeared on the programme. Kajol and Kareena Kapoor were among its recurring guests, while Johar's conversational style helped establish the show as a prominent part of Bollywood's celebrity.

Stop it! Faizan Sheikh takes aim at online 'trolling culture'

■ "Paish-e-khidmat hai, humara naya National Sport, Trolling," he wrote.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actor and host Faizan Sheikh has raised his voice against the growing culture of cyberbullying and online trolling, calling out social media users for turning personal attacks into what he sarcastically described as the country's new national sport.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Faizan shared a graphic urging people to "Stop Online Harassment" and penned a strongly worded message about the damaging impact of digital abuse.

"Paish-e-khidmat hai, humara naya National Sport, Trolling," he wrote.

Faizan went on to highlight how virtually everyone in the public eye can become a target of online ridicule, regardless of their experience or achievements.

"Newcomer ko bhi TROLL kardo… seasoned actor ko bhi troll kardo… national hero ko bhi troll kardo… kapray troll kardo… shaklain troll kardo… bas TROLL kardo!" he added.

The actor then shifted from sarcasm to a serious warning about the consequences of such behaviour, emphasizing that online mockery should not be mistaken for harmless humour.

"Trolling isn't clever banter, it's cruelty disguising as humor. Behind every handle is a real person and constant online toxicity takes a very real toll on mental health," Faizan wrote.

He pointed to anxiety, isolation and self-doubt as some of the consequences that can arise from prolonged online hostility, urging users to think about the person on the receiving end before posting hurtful comments.

"It takes zero effort to tear someone down for a brief dopamine hit. It takes character to choose empathy instead. Before you hit send, remember that your words land on human hearts," he continued.

Faizan concluded his message with a simple but

Ahad Raza Mir announces break from showbiz

■ Pakistani actor Ahad Raza Mir announces a showbiz break next year, plans to spend time with family and stay away from Instagram.



SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Pakistani actor Ahad Raza Mir has announced that he will take a break from the showbiz industry, prompting various speculations on social media about the reason behind his decision.

A video from one of Ahad Raza Mir's live sessions is circulating on social media, in which the actor revealed that he plans to take a break from showbiz next year.

Speaking to his fans, Ahad said he would be taking time off next year and decided to inform his followers in advance so they could be prepared for his absence.

According to the actor, he will completely disappear from the public eye during the break, spend time with his family and stay away from Instagram. He described his decision as a form of "semi-retirement."

Following Ahad's announcement, social media users have been sharing various theories. Some fans believe the actor may be planning to get married, while others say he may simply want a break after working continuously for the past two years.

Some fans expressed hope that Ahad would return to showbiz after his break, while others discussed possible future on-screen pairings between the actor and various actresses.

Ahad Raza Mir is among Pakistan's well-known actors. He has appeared in several popular dramas, including Yakeen Ka Safar, Ahd-e-Wafa, Yeh Dil Mera, Mere Humsafar and Hum Tum.

The actor recently played Haroon Malik in Green TV's drama Ek Mohabbat Aur, earning appreciation from viewers and critics. He is currently also busy shooting for his upcoming drama Kaif-e-Firaq alongside Yumna Zaidi.

Durefishan Saleem Praises Fatima Amjed's Mesmerising 'Alfaaz' Performance



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Durefishan Saleem has praised semi-classical dancer and choreographer Fatima Amjed for her captivating performance to the soulful Punjabi song 'Alfaaz'.

Fatima recently shared a video on Instagram featuring graceful dance movements, expressive gestures and a traditional Punjabi aesthetic, blending the emotions of love and longing through music and choreography.

The performance featured poetic lyrics from 'Alfaaz' by Zain Zohaib, including the line, "Main te chumm lawaan ona raawan nu, jithon ik waari kadi langya tu," which expresses the desire to cherish the paths once walked by a beloved.Fatima's delicate expressions, fluid movements and artistic presentation gave the video a dreamy atmosphere, complementing the song's romantic poetry. The performance caught the attention of Durefishan Saleem, who expressed her admiration in the comments section, writing, "It issss. It is fire."

Other public figures and content creators also praised the video, appreciating its enchanting visuals, poetic mood and graceful choreography.

Ahad Raza Mir announces break from showbiz

■ The AI company allegedly used Rautela's identity and personal content without obtaining her consent

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Bollywood actress Urvashi Rautela's team has initiated legal proceedings against a Los Angeles-based artificial intelligence company, alleging that her name, images, videos and other personal material were used without her permission. According to a statement issued by the actress's team, the company allegedly used Rautela's identity and personal content without obtaining her consent. The team said it has taken legal steps over the alleged unauthorised use and is seeking damages estimated at Rs7,000 crore.

The statement stressed that an individual's name, image or likeness should not be used for commercial purposes without obtaining the person's permission.

Rautela's team said the legal action is aimed at protecting the actress's identity and personal rights amid growing concerns over the use of artificial intelligence to create or reproduce digital content involving public figures.

Mahira Khan cheers Aena Khan and Fazal Hussain in 'Mitti de Baway'

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani superstar Mahira Khan has heaped heartfelt praise on rising actors Aena Khan and Fazal Hussain after being deeply impressed by their emotional performance in the latest episode of 'Mitti De Baway'.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Mahira shared a glimpse of the latest episode and highlighted a particularly emotional sequence featuring the young actors, who have taken on the challenging task of portraying younger versions of two beloved characters.

Praising their performance, the actress penned: "You both! I have no words. but I want to say so so much. Raw, brilliant. Justice to possibly my top fav scenes of this entire serial. Onwards and upwards baby's!"

Aena Khan and Fazal Hussain portray the younger, flashback versions of Bilqees Bano, fondly known as Billo, and Iqbal Channan, also known as Baala. The characters are portrayed in their adult years by Mahira herself and WahajAli.

Mahira's appreciation carries particular significance as she herself plays the older version of Billo, allowing her to witness the younger portrayal of the character from a unique perspective. Her reaction also reflects the emotional impact of the flashback sequence, which has become an important part of the drama's unfolding narrative.

The screenshot shared by Mahira featured a scene from Mitti De Baway, showcasing Aena and Fazal in an emotionally charged moment. Their performances have brought a youthful dimension to the central love story while maintaining the emotional essence of the characters portrayed by Mahira and Wahaj. Written by Faiza Iftikhar and directed by Syed Wajahat Hussain, Mitti De Baway has attracted attention for its layered storytelling, period-inspired setting and emotionally driven characters.

Mahira's public endorsement has further spotlighted the young performers, with her describing their acting as raw and brilliant while placing the sequence among her favourite scenes from the serial.

With her encouraging message, Mahira also wished the two rising stars continued success, celebrating their performances and urging them to keep moving onwards and upwards.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan bow out of FIFA ASEAN Cup after fighting 4-2 defeat to Vietnam

● Mohibullah and Kaleemullah score as Pakistan fight back but finish bottom of Group B

SPORTS DESK
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's FIFA ASEAN Cup campaign ended with a 4-2 defeat to Vietnam on Friday, but the Greenshirts showed they could compete against higher-ranked opponents.

Nolberto Solano's men had dug deep to come from two goals down to salvage a 2-2 draw against the Philippines in their previous Division I Group 'B' match and gave a good account of themselves against Vietnam, a side ranked 99 places above them in the FIFA rankings and took the lead through Mohibullah's superb first-half goal.

Goals by Long Hai Nguyen, Duc Hoang Nguyen and Bac Dinh Nguyen however, saw Vietnam take a 3-1 lead and even though Kaleemullah Khan replied for Pakistan, Hoang Minh Williams got their fourth and they held on to take second place in the group behind Thailand. The Philippines finished third, with Pakistan ending with one point in their maiden campaign at a FIFAcompetition.



In the opening minutes, a delightful one-two with Abdul Samad Shahzad sent Ali Akbar Khan into the box, only for his effort to be blocked.

As early as the fifth minute, Pakistan had their first shot with Shayek Dost heading wide after more good work in the midfield.

Pakistan were enjoying plenty of possession early on but Vietnam grew into the game and at the other end, Yousuf Butt had to be alert to turn away a deflected shot.

But Pakistan were back to doing what was working with Ali Akbar andAbdul Samad running through the channels on either flank to cause Vietnam problems.

Abdul Samad had a shot saved before Pakistan took the lead in the 31st.

Mohibullah's pressing was on point and once he dispossessed the Vietnam centre-back, he kept his composure to tuck the ball under Patrik Glang Le to score.

Vietnam tried coming back with Hoang Minh Williams shooting into the side netting at the end of the first half.

Hoping to build on his team's superb first half display, Solano brought on Alamgir Ghazi and Umer Nawaz in place of AliAgha and Shayek.

But it was Vietnam who turned the game around in the second half.

They levelled in the 50th when Long Hai Nguyen got on the end of a through ball down the left, and he cut inside before planting a shot past Yousuf.

WTA reduces 2027 schedule for world's top 50

● The measure comes in response to recurring criticism about tennis' overloaded schedule.

Sports Desk
MONTREAL

The WTA announced Thursday that it has reduced the number of tournaments that top-ranked players are required to play in 2027.

The measure comes in response to recurring criticism about tennis' overloaded schedule.

Under the current system, the world's top 50-ranked players are obligated to play the four Grand Slam tournaments, 10 WTA 1000 events and six 500 events each year.

In 2027, they will be required to play only four WTA 500 tournaments instead of six, the women's tour announced in a statement released Thursday.

In addition, they will be able to substitute points earned at a WTA1000 tournament with those earned at a WTA500 or WTA250 tournament.



In other words, a player who chooses not to compete in a mandatory WTA 1000 event could still include the points earned at a less prestigious tournament in her ranking -- whereas she currently risks earning zero points.

The WTA will assess the impact of these measures to decide whether or not to extend them into 2028.

In January, the ATP announced a similar measure, reducing the number of mandatory 500-level tournaments for the world's top 30 players from five to four, starting this season.

The WTA press release issued Thursday also announced that, for the first time, the prize money for "combined" WTA 1000 tournaments will be identical to that of the corresponding men's ATP events.

While the WTA and Masters 1000 tournaments in Indian Wells, Miami and Madrid already offered equal prize money, this was not yet the case for the tournaments in Rome, Canada and Cincinnati.

Gambhir rues batting-friendly pitches after India's record ODI chase

■ India overhauled West Indies' 405-7 with an eight-wicket victory to seal the series, but Gambhir said the run-fest underlined the need for a fairer contest between bat and ball



SPORTS Desk
GUWAHATI

India coach Gautam Gambhir said the batting-friendly pitch in Guwahati was unfair on bowlers after his side completed the second-highest successful chase in one-day international history

India overhauled West Indies' 405-7 with an eight-wicket victory to seal the series, but Gambhir said the run-fest underlined the need for a fairer contest between bat and ball.

"There has to be a bit more of a contest between bat and ball, because I think you talk about cricket but this is not cricket, this is only batting," Gambhir told Star Sports.

"Imagine a young bowler bowling on this wicket, and the opposition getting 400 and then we go on to chase 400.

"For the records it's outstanding, for the crowd it's outstanding, for the broadcaster it's outstanding, but as a genuine cricket fan and as a coach, I have to have sympathy for the bowlers as well." The 44-year-old said bowlers should not be judged solely by their figures on surfaces that provide virtually no assistance.

"When you bowl on this kind of a wicket, it's not fair for the bowlers. So we've got to give something to the bowlers so there's at least something which the bowlers can work with," he said."You can't be hard on bowlers, because sometimes bowling figures are such that they haven't bowled as poorly as their figures suggest."

Gambhir added that bowlers already operate under pressure in modern ODI cricket because of fielding restrictions, two new balls and increasingly aggressive batting, making balanced surfaces even more important.

Looking ahead to next year's 50-over World Cup, Gambhir said India had limited time to settle on their combinations, with the Indian Premier League and bilateral commitments reducing the window for experimentation.

"Right now is the time for us to try different options," he said.

"Just like Auqib (Nabi) got an opportunity, we will similarly try, at least until the Zimbabwe series, to give other people an opportunity and see what they can offer us in this format." India lead the three-match series 2-0, with the final ODI scheduled for New Chandigarh on Saturday.

Joy for Germany as Ronaldo-less Portugal win in Denmark

■ Germany beat Serbia 2-0 for Jurgen Klopp's first win as coach, while Portugal defeated Denmark 4-2 without Cristiano Ronaldo and the Netherlands rallied to draw 2-2 with Greece.

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Germany claimed a first win under new coach Juergen Klopp on Thursday with ?a 2-0 Nations League victory over Serbia, while Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo ?in Denmark and the Netherlands came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Greece.

Klopp selected a completely new starting XI from the side that lost to Greece last time out, handing debuts to goalkeeper Jonas Urbig and winger Derry Scherhant.

Germany attacked the Serbia goal in ?waves but it took until the 39th minute to take the lead as Florian Wirtz picked out ?Tom Bischof to score his first senior national team goal in his second cap.After Nick ?Woltemade missed a sitter at the back post, Wirtz scored the second just past the hour-mark with a neat ?finish from the edge of the box.There will be relief for Klopp to get a win at the third attempt ?on his return to coaching, and his side were full value for their victory.



"We played great against the ball and played wonderful football with the ball. I am really happy. This performance must now be the baseline," he said.

Greece were close to making it three wins ?from three but conceded a late equaliser at home to the Netherlands.

Fotis Ioannidis and Georgios Masouras scored first-half goals ?for the home side, before Virgil van Dijk halved the deficit just before the hour-mark.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

S. No.	Designation	No. of Posts	Max Age Limit	Contract Duration	Qualification/Experience
1	ICAP (Trainee Programme)	10	28	Appointment duration will be 2.5-3 years (aligned with ICAP's prescribed training period)	Completion of CAF level or equivalent and completed hands-on training requirements from ICAP

Miscellaneous Information:
1. Selection will be made on merit, competency, and relevance to the TOR.
2. Monthly stipend: Rs. 50,000/- at the start of internship.
3. Internee shall have Balochistan Domicile/Local.
4. The Department reserves the right to defer/cancel recruitment at any stage.
5. Internship governed by ICAP Training Regulations and Guidelines.

Applications with CV, attested documents, CNIC, and 3 recent photographs must be submitted to: **Room 04, First Floor Bloc No. 05, Finance Department, Civil Secretariat, Zarghoon Road Quetta** or via email: **drimufinancedepartment@gmail.com** within 15 days of advertisement, before 16:00 hrs.
No TA/DA admissible; only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.

**Section Officer (Admn.)
Finance Department**
PRQ No.1677/02-10-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan



Pakistan, India drawn in same group for World Cup 2027

Web Desk
CAPE TOWN

Arch rivals Pakistan and India have been placed in the same group alongside defending champions Australia for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027, which will be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The 14-team tournament will feature a new three-stage format designed to produce more competitive matches, with greater importance attached to results from the opening stages.

The tournament will begin with a Super Series involving Teams 12, 13 and 14 in a round-robin format. Only the top team will progress to the second round.The second round will comprise two groups of six teams each. The top three teams from both groups, along with the highest-ranked remaining team across the two groups, will advance to the Super Seven stage. The top four teams from the Super Seven will qualify for the semi-finals, with the winners progressing to the final.



Ireland game interrupted twice by Gaza protests

Web Desk
ISLAMABAD

The Nations League football match between Ireland and Austria in Dublin on Thursday was twice briefly interrupted by demonstrations in support of Palestine. In the 19th minute, spectators threw tennis balls covered in Palestinian flag stickers onto the field.

The players left the pitch for a few minutes before the match resumed.

In the 35th minute, a man ran onto the pitch waving a Palestinian flag, briefly interrupting the match again.

The game ended in a 2–2 draw.

Ireland's Icelandic coach Heimir Hallgrimsson said afterwards that "you are never happy with this (protests), but understand it and respect it".

The incidents follow the controversy surrounding Sunday's Nations League match between Ireland and Israel.After lengthy discussions about a boycott, in protest against the war in Gaza, the Irish players finally decided to play the match, which took place in Hungary in a virtually empty stadium.

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE/ANTITERRORISM JUDGE, ZIARAT

SECTION:11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP
FIR NO. 21/2026 Police Station .CTD LORALAI
WHEREAS complaint has been made before me **Sanaullah Iliyas Khalid s/o Shafia Resident of Mohalla Jalal Abad Tehsil & District Harnai** that has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section 11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP,punishable under section of the Pakistan penal code and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said that Cannot be found, and Whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said that that me **Sanaullah Iliyas Khalid s/o Shafia Resident of Mohalla Jalal Abad Tehsil & District Harnai** have absconded.(or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrants.
Proclamation is hereby made that the said that me **Sanaullah Iliyas Khalid s/o Shafia Resident of Mohalla Jalal Abad Tehsil & District Harnai** are required to appear before this court District and sessions Judge/Judge Anti-Terrorism Ziarat to answer the said compliant on the day **18.10.2026.**

Special Judge Anti-Terrorism/ Sessions Judge Ziarat
PRQ No.1690/2-10-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE/ANTITERRORISM JUDGE, ZIARAT

SECTION : 11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP
FIR NO. 21/2026 Police Station .CTD LORALAI
WHEREAS complaint has been made before me **Haris s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Accused Person** that has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under Section 11F(5),11F(6),11H,11I,11J,11K,11N,7(1)d-7(1)FF,3-4EXP, punishable under section of the Pakistan penal code and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said that Cannot be found, and Whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said that **Haris s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Accused Person** have absconded.(or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrants.
Proclamation is hereby made that the said that me **Haris s/o Unknown Resident, Unknown Accused Person** are required to appear before this court District and sessions Judge/Judge Anti-Terrorism Ziarat to answer the said compliant on the day **18.10.2026.**

Special Judge Anti-Terrorism/ Sessions Judge Ziarat
PRQ No.1699/2-10-2026
www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgpr.balochistan

Scanned with CamScanner



10 Afghans arrested in Karachi crackdowns on illegal nationals

WEB DESK

KARACHI

District South Police have arrested more than 10 Afghan nationals during ongoing operations against individuals allegedly residing illegally in Karachi.

According to police, the crackdown is being carried out on the instructions of South SSP Mahzoor Ali as part of efforts to identify and take action against foreign nationals living in the district without valid legal documentation.

Police officials said the detained Afghan nationals were found to be residing in the city without the required documents.

Following their detention, authorities initiated the process of verifying their identities and checking their available travel and residency documents.

The police said that after completion of the identification and document-verification process, the detained individuals were transferred to a transit camp.

Officials added that operations against illegally residing foreign nationals are continuing in different areas of District South as part of the ongoing enforcement drive.

No classification for terrorism, whoever commits it is a terrorist: Maryam Nawaz

● Maryam Nawaz said terrorism has no classification, stressed policy continuity and claimed Punjab had improved security, governance and public welfare.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that terrorism has no classification, stressing that anyone involved in terrorism is a terrorist regardless of where they come from.

Addressing participants of a leadership course, Maryam Nawaz said she was pleased to meet them and urged government officers to work with honesty and dedication. She said their services should be improved for the development of Pakistan and service to the people.

She said Pakistan had given a strong response to India in the war, while the armed forces were effectively fighting terrorism. She added that a new image of Pakistan was emerging in the world.

Maryam Nawaz said internal security would remain at risk until the internal system was put in order. "First of all, we are all Pakistanis," she said, adding that some things were clear and required attention. She said the country's decline began when continuity was lost, and that Pakistan could not progress without continuity in policies.

The chief minister said the writ of the state had been restored in the riverine areas. She said terrorists had damaged the beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that the situation in the province could be seen in comparison with its past. She said development was not possible without improvements in governance, performance and institutions.

She said the "dacoit culture" had been eliminated from Punjab and claimed that the crime rate in the province had declined by up to 70 percent. She reiterated that there would be no space for such a culture in Punjab.

Referring to Afghanistan, Maryam Nawaz said it was a neighbouring country, but if a neighbouring country used its territory or Pakistani territory against Pakistan, it could not be ignored.

The chief minister said there was a different mindset across the four provinces. She said terrorism was still not seen in Punjab in the same way, adding that the province had strengthened its security institutions and was monitoring them.

She said no one could claim that nothing could happen, adding that whenever reforms were introduced, it was necessary to explain their ideology. She said the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab was working effectively and that she regularly held meetings with inspectors general.

Maryam Nawaz said some people believed such work was not the chief minister's responsibility, but for her, there was no no-go area. She said she took top-level decisions and that if leaders were afraid of making decisions, the country could not move forward.

She said the mafia culture and the culture in which people with money had influence had entered Punjab, but such a culture would no longer be visible in the province. She again claimed that crime in Punjab had declined by up to 70 percent.

The chief minister said that when she took the oath of office, Ramadan had arrived and she decided to provide a Ramadan package to poor people. She said she discovered that there was only one available database, which also contained the names of wealthy people.

Pakistan rejects India's claims on Indus Waters Treaty

● FO says Court of Arbitration had unanimously and firmly affirmed that the treaty remained in full force and binding on both parties

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its commitment to dialogue and diplomacy for resolving regional disputes, while rejecting India's attempts to cast doubt on the recent Court of Arbitration award on the Indus Waters Treaty.

Addressing media at the weekly news briefing here, Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan remained committed to a rules-based international system and maintained that dialogue and diplomacy were the only viable means of ensuring peace and stability in the region.

On the Indus Waters Treaty, he strongly rejected India's characterization of the Court of Arbitration as "illegally constituted," saying the Court had unanimously and firmly affirmed that the treaty remained in full force and binding on both parties.

He said the Court had also affirmed that India was required to observe its treaty obligations concerning the design and operation of hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

The spokesperson said the Court had imposed measures prohibiting India from concreting specified portions of the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project until 90 days after the Neutral Expert's final decision, expected around July 2027, besides imposing a reporting measure concerning the project.

Jamshoro Irrigation Dept voices concerns over deteriorating water quality of Indus River

■ Torrential downpours caused severe urban flooding in Islamabad, Pindi

Staff Reporter

JAMSHORO

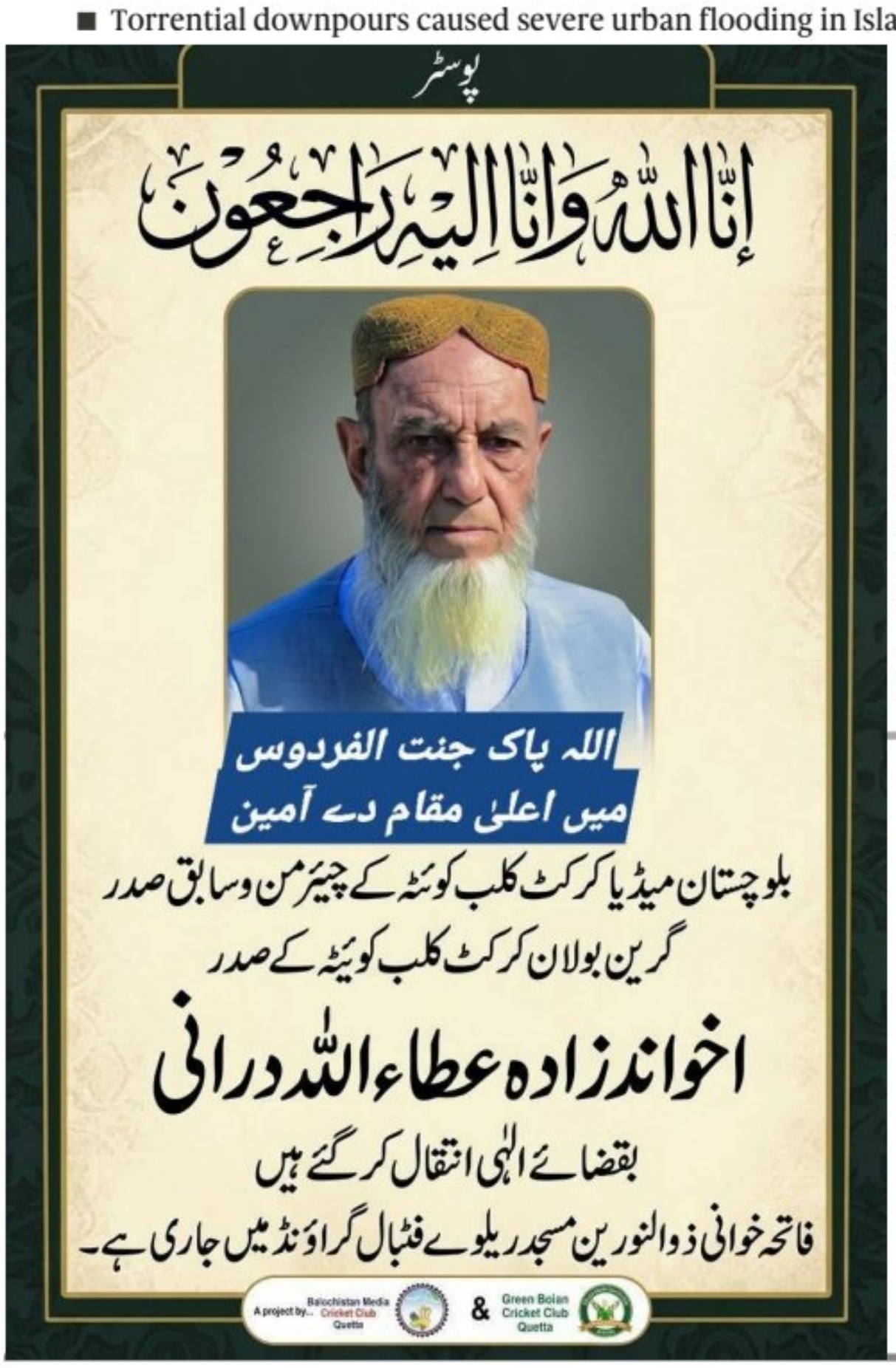
The Irrigation Department has raised concerns over the deteriorating quality of water in the Indus River, with the Executive Engineer of Kotri Barrage warning that the water has become unfit for drinking.

According to the department, toxic water from Manchhar Lake and chemically contaminated discharge from Matiari Sugar Mills are entering the Indus River.

The Superintendent Engineer of the Kalri Baghdar Division has also been informed of the situation in writing.

Officials warned that consuming contaminated water could increase the risk of health problems, including kidney-related illnesses, hepatitis, skin conditions and stomach diseases.

They recommended stopping the use of the water if total dissolved solids (TDS) levels remain excessively high.





Pakistan joins Muslim world to denounce Houthis' attack on Madinah grid station

■ Islamabad expresses full support to Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, security

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan joined the world on Friday to strongly condemn a drone attack by the Houthi militia on the Taibah power distribution station in Madinah,

The Saudi-led coalition said a drone struck Madinah's Taibah electricity distribution station, which provides power to the Prophet's Mosque. In a statement issued in Islamabad on Friday morning, the Pakistan Foreign Office said "This reprehensible attack against civilian infrastructure supplying electricity to the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque is a grave provocation and a matter of deep concern and anguish for millions of Muslims worldwide. The sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques and the safety of worshippers and pilgrims must be respected under all circumstances."

The statement said "We call for an immediate and unconditional end of such reckless actions that also constitute a grave threat to regional peace and security."

"Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and expresses its full support for the Kingdom's sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. We stand firmly with Saudi Arabia in its efforts to safeguard the Two Holy Mosques, protect its people and ensure the safety of pilgrims," the FO said and added "Pakistan has been and will continue to make all efforts for achieving lasting peace and stability in the region."

Earlier, Gulf states condemned the Houthi drone attack on a power distribution station in Madinah that supplies electricity to the Prophet's Mosque, reiterating their solidarity with Saudi Arabia amid renewed attacks on the Kingdom.The UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait issued separate statements denouncing the attack on the power distribution station, which Saudi authorities said was carried out by the Iran-backed Houthis.

Jasem Albudaiwi, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said the targeting of an electricity station serving the Prophet's Mosque represented a serious escalation.



Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Australian High Commissioner To Pakistan Timothy Kane, At Parliament House

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