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Singapore foreign minister calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

OUR CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI

Singapore's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, met Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, with discussions focusing on regional security, bilateral relations and opportunities to expand cooperation.According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday, the Singaporean foreign minister called on Field Marshal Asim Munir during his visit to GHQ.The meeting covered matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security dynamics, and avenues for enhancing cooperation between Pakistan and Singapore.Both sides exchanged views on regional peace and stability, highlighting the importance of sustained engagement and cooperation in areas of shared interest.During the meeting, Field Marshal Asim Munir reiterated Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its relations with Singapore.



CM Maryam launches PIVOT programme in Punjab

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday launched Punjab's first Innovation for Value, Opportunity and Transformation (PIVOT) programme,

Addressing the participants on this occasion in Lahore, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that innovative reforms have been introduced to bring the province into the digital age.

She said that Punjab plays a significant role in the national economy and makes a substantial contribution to the national GDP, and it is the government's responsibility to equip the youth with modern technology and contemporary education. The Chief Minister said that monitoring is essential to ensure that industrial operations are environmentally friendly; however, shutting down factories under the guise of environmental protection is wrong.



Ministry presents 16 private Hajj packages in National Assembly

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Religious Affairs has presented details of private Hajj packages in the National Assembly, announcing 16 different packages with prices ranging from Rs1.4 million to Rs3.75 million.

According to the ministry, three categories of packages have been introduced under the private Hajj scheme, including economy, standard and premium options.

The economy Hajj package has been set between Rs1.4 million and Rs1.75 million, while the standard package will cost between Rs1.84 million and Rs2.34 million.

Meanwhile, the premium Hajj package has been priced between Rs2.55 million and Rs3.75 million, according to the details presented by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

CM Sarfaraz Bugti Vows to Eliminate Terrorism from Balochistan

- Pays tribute to police sacrifices; says state doors remain open to those willing to lay down arms

PUBLIC NEWS

QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to eliminating terrorism from the province, declaring that a handful of terrorists would never be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs.

Addressing a passing-out parade at the National Police Academy in Islamabad on Friday, the chief minister paid rich tribute to the sacrifices and professional services of Balochistan Police in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that the police force was at the forefront of the battle against terrorism and continued to play a vital role in maintaining peace, protecting citizens and defending the state against militant threats.



He acknowledged the courage, dedication and sacrifices of police personnel who have been performing their duties under challenging circumstances. He said the sacrifices made by Balochistan Police in the line of duty would always be remembered and appreciated.

The chief minister maintained that the government remained determined to eliminate terrorism from every part of Balochistan and would not allow hostile elements to undermine peace, stability and development in the province.

He emphasized that the determination of security forces and law enforcement agencies remained crucial to confronting terrorist activities and ensuring the protection of the people.

Bugti also made it clear that the state would not surrender to the threats and activities of a small number of terrorists, reaffirming that their attempts to disrupt peace and create instability would not be allowed to succeed.

Iran says four oil tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz



WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Four tankers caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's armed forces said a day after the US military said it cleared key routes through the waterway.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a statement.

Another tanker had caught fire east of the strait, after hitting mines while "operating in a restricted and dangerous area",

The initial three vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said.

It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.

British maritime agency UKMTO, meanwhile, said late Thursday it had received a report of a vessel on fire about 25 nautical miles (46 kilometres) northeast of Khasab, Oman, in the Hormuz strait.

Hours later, UKMTO reported the fire was extinguished and the crew were safe.

The tanker was approached on the port side by a small boat which attached two explosive devices to the hull above the waterline, the maritime agency said.

Security forces shoot down five drones as attack on Kharan checkpost foiled

- Security forces shot down five drones targeting a checkpost in Kharan, Balochistan, foiling an attempted attack. No casualties or property damage were reported.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security forces have foiled an attempted drone attack on a security checkpost in Balochistan's Kharan district, shooting down five drones, according to security sources.

The sources said militants belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan attempted to target a checkpost located in the Albat area of Kharan using low-altitude drones.

However, security personnel responded promptly and effectively, destroying all five drones before they could strike the installation.

No casualties or damage to property were reported as a result of the incident.

Security sources said the timely response prevented the attempted attack from causing any harm.

Security forces have reiterated their commitment to eliminating terrorism from Balochistan and maintaining peace and security across the province.



A day earlier, security forces have a terrorist during an intelligence-based operation in Minaz, an area of Balochistan's Kech district, as part of the ongoing Operation Raddul Fitna 3, according to security sources.

Sources said the operation took place in the area after terrorists attempted to establish a blockade while taking two women with them.

Troops pursued the militants as they attempted to flee, leading to an exchange of fire. One militant was killed during the confrontation.

Anti-state remarks condemnable: Rana

- He maintained that recent statements by Maulana Fazlur Rehman had hurt public sentiments and that remarks concerning the state and martyrs should be made responsibly.

CITY REPORTER

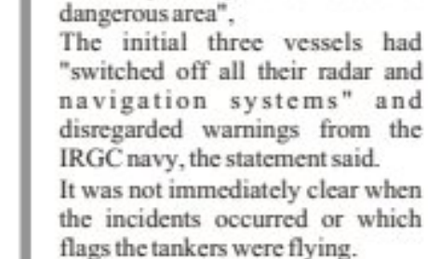
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah has said that the state holds the status of a mother and that derogatory remarks against it are condemnable, urging political leaders to exercise caution when speaking about state institutions and martyrs.

Speaking in the Senate, Sanaullah said Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman and Senator Kamran Murtaza were respected figures.

However, he maintained that recent statements by Maulana Fazlur Rehman had hurt public sentiments and that remarks concerning the state and martyrs should be made responsibly.

Referring to Senator Kamran Murtaza's remarks, Sanaullah said personal grievances should not be allowed to override collective interests.



He added that statements directed at the state were unacceptable given its status as a mother.

Discussing matters related to Noreen Niazi, the prime minister's adviser said the issues had been placed before the Supreme Court.

He stated that the facilities provided to her in jail had been communicated to the court by her lawyer and that the reports submitted to the court were consistent with the information provided to him.

Pakistan, Singapore lay focus on deepening trade, tech, education ties

STAFF REPORTER

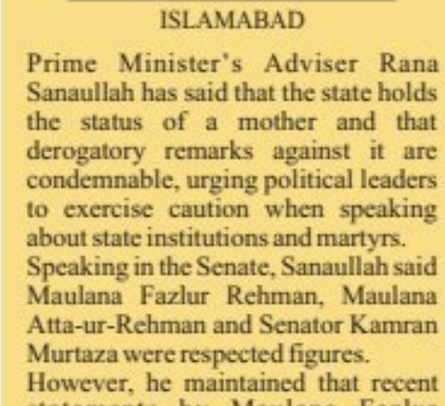
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Singapore on Friday emphasised further strengthening bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, particularly focusing on trade and investment, education, technology, culture, people-to-people contacts and disaster management.

The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed during the restricted meeting and delegation-level talks between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.

In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored the long-standing and friendly relations between the two nations, with Pakistan having been among the first countries to recognise Singapore's independence in 1965, and that Singapore's Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan was the first in over two decades.The deputy prime minister said that during the talks, both sides welcomed the growth in bilateral trade and agreed to encourage closer business-to-business engagement, leveraging chambers of commerce and business delegations.

He said both sides recognised the considerable untapped potential in



relations and stressed the importance of sustained engagement.

The two foreign ministers agreed to hold regular bilateral political consultations and promote high-level exchanges to strengthen cooperation between the two governments and institutions.Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that the reopening of Pakistan Trade and Investment Office at Pakistan High Commission in Singapore was a testament to the country's resolve to promote stronger B2B ties.

He said that beyond trade and investment, Pakistan and Singapore discussed expanding cooperation in education, research, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence, besides agreeing to deepen cooperation in human resource development, agriculture, and climate domains.

Scanned with CamScanner

Cop martyred, two terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat shootout

- The incident took place in Shehbazkhel Adda near Adil shop in Lakki Marwat. The deceased was later identified as Mumtaz.



SPECIAL REPORTER
Lakki Marwat

A policeman was martyred when unidentified armed assailants who were riding a motorcycle opened fire on him in District Lakki Marwat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday,

The incident took place in Shehbazkhel Adda near Adil shop in Lakki Marwat. The deceased was later identified as Mumtaz.

A police spokesman said that soon after receiving the report, a team of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and members of the Aman Committee under the supervision of District Police Officer (DPO) Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada chased the attackers

In the ensuing battle, two terrorists were killed. A search operation was under way in the area.

On October 22, 2026, four policemen, including two officials, were martyred and two terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district.



Women select and purchase second-hand clothes from a vendor at a local cloth market.

Punjab govt plans stricter laws for theatre and stage dramas

The proposed legislation aims to repeal the nearly 150-year-old Dramatic Performances Act 1876 and replace it with a modern regulatory and administrative system

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

The Punjab government has decided to introduce stricter regulations for stage dramas and theatre performances across the province, proposing a comprehensive legal framework to monitor and regulate theatrical activities.

The proposed Punjab Dramatic and Theatrical Performances Bill 2026 has surfaced and was presented during the ongoing session before being referred to the relevant committee for consideration.

The proposed legislation aims to repeal the nearly 150-year-old Dramatic Performances Act 1876 and replace it with a modern regulatory and administrative system.

Under the proposed law, obtaining a licence from the relevant secretary will be mandatory for staging dramas or theatrical performances at any public venue in Punjab. The proposed licence fee is Rs25,000, while scripts will require prior approval at a proposed fee of Rs35,000.

Facilitators of Fitna al-Hindustan announce disassociation from terrorist elements

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Facilitators of the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), referred to as Fitna al-Hindustan, have announced their disassociation from terrorist elements and made important revelations about their involvement with the militant organisation.

Muhammad Sohail Behram and Muhammad, alias Mehroan, who have left Fitna al-Hindustan and joined the national mainstream, confessed to their involvement and pledged loyalty to the state.

During a press conference, the two Turbat residents admitted that they had established contact through social media with Sabit, alias Kamandan, a terrorist associated with Fitna al-Hindustan, also known as the proscribed BLA. They said they had facilitated the terrorist organisation in carrying out attacks against security forces.

Expressing remorse over their actions, the former facilitators said they were deeply ashamed of betraying Pakistan and supporting terrorists. They pledged not to maintain any future contact with terrorist organisations and urged the younger generation to stay away from such groups.

The disassociation of Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists and their family members from terrorist organisations reflects growing discontent among the Baloch people over unrest and violence in the region.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
(PETROLEUM DIVISION)

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1. Complete bio data on prescribed Performa along with 02 recent passport size photograph should reach the undersigned within fifteen (15) days of the date of the publication of the advertisement.
2. Testimonials will be provided by the selected candidates at the time of interview.
3. Persons already in Government service should apply through proper channel.
4. General Age Relaxation is admissible as per rules of Government of Pakistan.
5. Name of the post for which applied should be mentioned at the right top of envelop.
6. Incomplete applications or received after the expiry date will not be entertained.
7. No TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview.
8. The candidates may also apply for the above-mentioned posts through National Jobs Portal (NJP) by visiting website www.njp.gov.pk/login.php.

Section Officer (Admin)
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The Section Officer (Admin),
Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division),
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Application for the post of _____

2 x Passport Size Photographs

APPLICATION FORM

Application Reference No. _____ (For official use only)	Eligible/Not Eligible

1. Name: _____ 2. Date of Birth & age in years: _____
3. Father's Name: _____ 4. E-mail: _____
5. Postal Address: _____
6. Permanent Address: _____
7. Religion: _____ 8. CNIC: _____
9. Gender: _____ 10. Marital Status: _____ 11. Domicile: _____
12. Province: _____ 13. Contact/Cell No. _____

1. Academic Record (Give exact Name in Education Column Starting from High School (e.g. Matric) onwards in Chronological Order

Qualification	Passing Year	Board/University	Marks			Division/ Grade/CGPA	Major Subject of Study
			Obtained	Total	Percentage		

2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Exact Name of Post	Organization Name	Duration	Job Description

3. TYPING / SHORTHAND SPEED WHERE APPLICABLE

4. COMPUTER / TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE DIPLOMA ETC.:

Certificate/Diploma	Grade	Name of Institute

Certified that the above information is correct. Attested copy of CNIC and 01 Photograph is attached herewith including the pasted one.

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

PID (I) 3987/26

KP brings 32 departments and institutions in merged districts under area development secretariats



SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to place the administrative affairs of directorates and major public institutions in the merged districts under the control of Area Development Secretariats (ADS).

The governor has approved a new administrative control and reporting system under which relevant officers will report to the secretaries of the Area Development Secretariats.

According to a notification, the new arrangement will not affect government employees' service status, seniority, pensions or other benefits. The transfer of officers and employees between the Area Development Secretariats and the provincial government will require approval from the chief secretary. The notification further states that institutions placed under the secretariats will continue using their existing offices, vehicles and other official facilities.

IHC orders release of Rs350 million funds for Bhong Interchange

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed the release of Rs350 million funds for the completion of the Bhong Interchange at the Multan-Sukkur Motorway,

Justice Mohammad Asif of the Islamabad High Court also issued a written order in this regard. In its order, the Islamabad High Court directed the Ministry of Communication, Planning and Finance Division to strengthen interaction with all stakeholders for completion of the project.

Additional Secretary Communications, Assistant Attorney General assured the court that it would extend full support for the project.

The court order stated that as per the report submitted in the Islamabad High Court stated that all court's instructions were implemented.

A meeting was held, which was presided over by the Secretary, Planning Division, on September 23, 2026.

The report revealed that the Ministry of Communication and National Highway Authority (NHA) should ensure availability of funds.

Four family members killed in gas cylinder explosion in AJK's Bagh

- The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the tragic incident

SPECIAL REPORTER
MUZAFFARABAD



At least four people, including three women, were killed and a 15-year-old girl was seriously injured in a gas cylinder explosion at a house in Pindi village of southern Bagh district in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

According to reports, the explosion occurred at the residence of a man identified as Shakdar, killing four members of his family on the spot.

The deceased were identified as his 80-year-old mother, 40-year-old wife Shazia, 11-year-old son Haris and eight-year-old daughter Malaika. His 15-year-old daughter, Aneeka, sustained serious injuries in the incident.

The injured girl was reported to be in critical condition.

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the tragic incident.

He also condemned attempts to give the incident a controversial interpretation and alleged propaganda circulating on social media, describing such actions as unfortunate and reprehensible.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson rejected social media reports portraying the incident differently, stating that investigations were underway to establish the facts surrounding the explosion.

Authorities are continuing their investigation to determine the circumstances that led to the deadly gas cylinder blast.

Scanned with CamScanner

Pakistan brings regional rivals together

Within days of the US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, officials from key Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, were already scrambling to assess the potential fallout.

As the bombing continued and it became increasingly clear that neither Iran's regime nor its core security structures were going to collapse, the focus among regional powers shifted to whatcould come next.The fear was simple: a wider regional conflagration that could engulf countries far beyond the immediate battlefield.



It was against this backdrop that the idea of Muslim countries joining hands to protect their collective interests began to take shape.

"In the current situation, we... Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye... will have to work together," a senior diplomat had told The Express Tribune several months ago, when discussions about what eventually became the Makkah defence arrangement were still in their infancy.

The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had also predicted that Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye would eventually have to speak to Iran together.

That prediction materialised on Monday when Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin travelled to Tehran for an unprecedented meeting with the Iranian leadership.

The gathering brought together the three members of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement and Iran at a time when the region remains on edge. The pact, signed in August by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, provides that an armed attack on one member would be treated as an attack on all.

But the significance of the Tehran meeting went beyond the formal defence arrangement.

Diplomatic sources familiar with the discussions described the atmosphere as "very cordial and positive", saying Pakistan had played a key role in bringing the Makkah defence partners and Iran to the same table."This would not have been possible without Pakistan's effort," one source said.

While details of the discussions were kept closely guarded, the talks were described as having gone "very well". The decision to continue dialogue in the same format was seen as an important development, particularly given the competing interests of the four countries.

The Saudi decision to send its defence minister to Tehran was considered particularly significant.For Riyadh, the timing could hardly be more sensitive. The kingdom is facing growing security concerns linked to Yemen, where Houthi attacks have intensified. The issue has become one of the major concerns for Saudi Arabia and was expected to figure prominently in the discussions with Tehran.

Iran, meanwhile, has consistently argued for a regional security mechanism that does not depend on outside powers. Iranian officials have framed such efforts around the concept of "endogenous security" for the region. The Tehran meeting came amid renewed fears of another round of US military action against Iran and growing tensions across the Middle East.

For Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, the immediate challenge was therefore to establish a channel with Tehran before the situation spiralled further.

The discussions, according to the diplomatic sources, produced some understandings and commitments. But there was also recognition that reaching an understanding was only the beginning.

"The real test is implementation," one source cautioned.

The four countries, however, are coming to the table with very different concerns.

For Saudi Arabia, the immediate worry is Yemen and the threat posed by Houthi attacks. Riyadh wants greater security along its southern flank and has little interest in seeing the conflict in Yemen spill over again.

Iran, meanwhile, remains deeply wary of regional security arrangements involving Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, particularly when those arrangements are being backed by Pakistan and carry a collective-defence component.

That makes the Pakistani role somewhat unusual.

Islamabad has close defence ties with Riyadh and Ankara, but it has also maintained working relations with Tehran. Pakistan shares a border with Iran and has tried to keep communication channels open even during periods of serious tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Those relationships gave Islamabad some room to manoeuvre.The objective, according to the sources, was not to bring the four countries together around a common position on every regional dispute. It was to get them talking directly, particularly at a time when the possibility of another US-Iran confrontation is raising concerns across the region.

Education for All: Scholarships, Merit and HEC's Role in Shaping Pakistan's Future



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

The true measure of a nation's progress is not merely the strength of its economy, the size of its infrastructure or the abundance of its natural resources. It is the extent to which it enables its people—particularly its young generation—to realize their potential. For Pakistan, this principle carries exceptional importance. With a large and growing youth population, the country possesses an enormous reservoir of talent. Yet for thousands of capable students, the dream of higher education remains beyond reach simply because their families cannot afford the increasing cost of university education.

This is where merit- and need-based scholarships become far more than financial assistance. They represent an investment in human potential, an instrument of social mobility and, ultimately, a means of breaking the cycle of poverty.

The recently concluded two-day Stakeholder Feedback and Learning Session of the US-supported Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Programme provided an important opportunity to reflect on this journey. Vice Chancellors and representatives of 30 partner universities shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and recommendations. More importantly, the session reaffirmed the commitment to sustain financial assistance for deserving students and to build upon the lessons learned through the programme.

The scale of the initiative demonstrates its significance. According to the programme's latest figures, an investment of $33.1 million has supported 6,675 fully funded scholarships. In addition, career workshops have been organized for 5,000 students, while 1,500 university administrators have received professional training. These figures underline an important reality: a successful scholarship programme is not simply about paying a student's university fees. It is about creating an environment in which talented young people can complete their education, develop professional skills and prepare themselves for meaningful careers.

The Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Programme has sought to combine two principles that should remain at the heart of Pakistan's higher education policy: merit and financial need. Academic ability alone should not be rendered meaningless by poverty, while financial hardship should not become an automatic substitute for merit. The objective should be to identify capable students who have the determination and academic potential to succeed but lack the financial resources required to pursue higher education.

According to information provided by the Higher Education Commission, the USAID-funded Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Programme began supporting Pakistani students in 2004. During its initial phase, 1,807 scholarships were awarded at 11 universities, with an investment of $10.63 million. A second phase was launched in 2013, expanding the programme to 30 partner universities and providing broader opportunities, including significant participation by women.

The programme's importance also lies in its geographical and academic reach. Universities from different parts of Pakistan were included, while special attention was given to women's education. Scholarships supported students in fields ranging from agriculture and business to engineering, technology, medicine, nursing and the social sciences. This broad academic coverage recognized that Pakistan's development requires talent across virtually every sector of the economy and society.

The initiative also demonstrated that financial assistance should be accompanied by professional development. Career workshops for thousands of students and capacity-building for university administrators were valuable components of the programme. A university degree is increasingly only the beginning of a young person's professional journey. Students also need career guidance, exposure to employment opportunities, communication skills, professional networks and an understanding of the changing requirements of the labour market.

This is precisely why the role of Pakistan's Higher Education Commission is so important.

Over the years, HEC has developed and supported a range of scholarship programmes designed to expand access to higher education for talented students, including those facing financial difficulties. Its own Need-Based Scholarship Programme represents an important component of this effort. According to HEC, the programme was launched to enable academically capable students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue higher education. By April 2026, 46,824 students had benefited from the programme, while 3,946 scholarships were awarded during the academic year 2024–25.

These figures provide a strong indication of the scale of HEC's efforts to make higher education more accessible. The underlying principle is straightforward: a student should not be denied the opportunity to study simply because his or her family lacks the financial means to meet university expenses.

Under HEC's Need-Based Scholarship Programme, selected students receive financial support towards tuition fees as well as a monthly stipend, subject to the applicable programme conditions.

Asset Declarations Missing, ECP Suspends 18 Lawmakers



By: Amjad Rana

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken action to suspend the membership of 11 National Assembly members (MNAs) and 7 members of the Sindh Assembly for failing to submit their asset declarations as required by law. Among the suspended MNAs are Khurram Dastagir, Mohsin Nawaz Ranjha, Ishaq Khan, and Muhammad Ali. Similarly, Sindh including details of their spouses and dependent children. The suspension will remain in effect until these members provide the required asset details. The suspension of members of the National and Provincial Assemblies by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for failing to submit asset declarations can lead to several consequences. Suspended members lose their ability to attend and vote in the National Assembly or Provincial Assembly sessions. This can weaken the political representation of their constituencies and their ability to influence legislation or policy discussions. As long as the suspension is in place, members among constituents. Failure to submit asset declarations could raise questions about transparency and accountability, potentially damaging the public image of the suspended members. If the members fail to submit the required details even after suspension, there is a possibility that they could face further legal consequences, including disqualification from holding office, under Section 137 of the Elections Act, 2017. If a significant number of members from the same political party are suspended, it can reduce the party's strength in the assemblies, potentially impacting legislative votes and coalition dynamics. In summary, the suspension has both immediate practical effects and their spouses and dependent children. This is the quickest way to have their suspension lifted and resume parliamentary duties. Members should ensure that all financial information is accurately reported, including property, bank accounts, investments, and other assets. Parties can establish internal committees or processes to monitor compliance with legal obligations, such as asset declarations, to ensure members submit their details in time. Regular workshops or reminders can be provided to members about their legal responsibilities, particularly around submission deadlines. The ECP can improve its online submission system by offering user-friendly, digital portals for asset declaration submission. This will make it easier for members to file their documents on time without administrative delays.

A vendor roasts sweet potatoes on a griddle for sale near the Iron Market in provincial capital.

Scanned with CamScanner



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, addressing at the Monthly Development Update for October 2026.

PSX stays bullish, gains over 1,456 points

■ The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish momentum on Thursday, gaining 1,456.68 points

Special Correspondent
ISLAMABAD



:The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish momentum , gaining 1,456.68 points, a positive change of 0.88 percent, to close at 167,193.44 points against 165,736.76 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 816.834 million shares, compared to 578.124 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs 31.541 billion from Rs 26.203 billion.

Market capitalisation increased to Rs 18.492 trillion from Rs 18.329 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 499 companies that traded in the ready market, 232 posted gains, 232 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged.

Cnergyico PK led the volume chart with 184.011 million shares, followed by Pervez Ahmed Co with 81.146 million shares and K-Electric Ltd. with 46.827 million shares.

Among the top gainers, PIA Holding Company LimitedB surged by Rs 398.50 to close at Rs 13,950.00, while Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited advanced by Rs 150.98 to settle at Rs 25,851.20.

On the losing side, Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited declined by Rs 113.39 to close at Rs 1,020.47, while J.K. Spinning Mills Limited fell by Rs 44.55 to Rs 427.55.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 520.614 million shares with a traded value of Rs 23.050 billion, compared with 422.813 million shares worth Rs 17.391 billion in the previous session.

Of 313 companies traded in the DFC market, 167 advanced, 138 declined and 8 remained unchanged.

Oil prices drop as peace hopes for Middle East grow

■ Brent was at $114.50 a barrel, down 82 cents or 0.7%, while US WTI stood at $101.74, lower by $1.04 or 1.0%.

Staff Reporter
KARACHI

Crude oil prices retreated after gains a day earlier, as reports of renewed diplomatic efforts eased some concern about Middle East supply risks. Brent was at $114.50 a barrel, down 82 cents or 0.7%, while US WTI stood at $101.74, lower by $1.04 or 1.0%. US Vice-President JD Vance had sent a letter to Iran's security council chief in an effort to restart peace negotiations.

The oil price decline was limited by continuing Houthi attacks and fears of possible US action against Iran; the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted a missile headed towards the kingdom's east.

Separately, US energy firms reduced crude inventories by 1.9 million barrels in the week to October 23, although gasoline stocks increased by 3.9 million barrels.



Crypto platform Binance confirms $6.3 billion hack

■ The company later said on its X account for Latin America that "the total estimated impact is around $6.3 billion."

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Cryptocurrency platform Binance it had fallen victim to a major hack that hit around $6.3 billion in funds, with about half that amount frozen to prevent a massive theft.

The company -- the world's largest crypto exchange by daily trading volumes -- posted a series of sometimes contradictory messages on X, insisting that "user funds are completely safe" but also saying it would "cover all losses."

The company later said on its X account for Latin America that "the total estimated impact is around $6.3 billion."

"We have worked with blockchain partners to freeze the affected assets, with ~$3 billion frozen on-chain so far," it added. That would be four times the amount impacted in what had been the biggest-ever cyberattack of its kind to date: $1.5 billion taken in February last year from the Bybit platform -- which was attributed to hackers affiliated with North Korea.

At about 0030 GMT Friday, Binance said all deposits and withdrawals had been "temporarily suspended while our team conducts security checks, freezes funds and works with law enforcement."

"This figure may continue to increase as our teams work closely with law enforcement, issuers, blockchain intelligence firms and industry partners to trace and freeze additional assets," the company said.

The company's statement on X said an initial investigation suggested the hack involved a compromised laptop belonging to a "DevOps engineer," allowing the unauthorized party to access a "service container" and execute unauthorized withdrawal transactions.

"We have found no evidence of any private key leaks from wallets," Binance said.

"We will share a detailed technical post-mortem analysis once the investigation is complete and the facts are fully verified."

"It does look like a hack on Binance," said former Binance chief Changpeng Zhao, who no longer runs the group but remains a majority shareholder.

Paolo Ardoino, the boss of Tether -- a company that issues a cryptocurrency known as USDT -- said his firm froze about $1.6 billion "related to a potential Binance exchange hack."

Jeremy Allaire, who runs cryptocurrency platform Circle, said his company had frozen more than $800 million in USDC. USDT and USDC are both "stablecoins," or digital currencies whose value is linked to a traditional currency, the US dollar.

The US Department of Justice and the FBI did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

- Crypto prices tumble -

For several hours before Binance confirmed the attack, industry observers said hackers had managed to reach the platform.

The prices of most major cryptocurrencies fell on news of the cyberattack, except for the stablecoins, which by definition can only fluctuate within tight margins.



Govt moves to strengthen SME exports, improve access to export finance

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

:The government is working to address financing, regulatory and market-access challenges faced by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to boost their export potential, reduce the cost of doing business and strengthen their competitiveness in international markets.

Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani chaired a high-level consultative meeting at the Finance Division to discuss practical measures for enhancing SME exports, improving access to export finance and reviewing the effectiveness of existing support schemes.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, the meeting deliberated on the key challenges faced by exporting SMEs, explored practical and actionable solutions and sought feedback from exporters on the recently announced SME support measures of the government.

Pakistan, China sign agreement to operationalize green channel at sost-khunjerab border for agricultural

■ The Chinese delegation was headed by Ms. Li Qingua, Deputy Head of Urumqi Customs and Director of Tashkurgan Customs.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



An online signing ceremony for the operationalization of the Green Channel at the Sost-Khunjerab Border for agricultural and allied products was held today at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Headquarters, Islamabad, between the customs administrations of Pakistan and China, marking an important step towards facilitating bilateral trade between the two countries.

The Pakistani delegation was headed by Syed Shakeel Shah, Member (C-Ops), and comprised the Chief Collector of Customs, Peshawar, Collector of Customs, Gilgit-Baltistan; representatives of the Department of Plant Protection, NAFSA, Pakistan Single Window (PSW), and the Ministry of Commerce; and the Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan in China, said a release issued here on Thursday.The Chinese delegation was headed by Ms. Li Qingua, Deputy Head of Urumqi Customs and Director of Tashkurgan Customs.The agreement aims to establish a Green Channel for trade in an agreed list of agricultural products between the two countries.

Under the arrangement, the customs administrations of Pakistan and China will facilitate the movement of eligible consignments through priority processing and examination, while implementing risk-based controls to ensure effective customs oversight. The agreement also provides for enhanced exchange of information and risk alerts between the two customs administrations to strengthen coordination and improve the management of cross-border trade.

Recognizing the time-sensitive nature of agricultural trade, the arrangement further provides for priority handling of perishable consignments to minimize delays and facilitate their timely movement across the border.

The ceremony concluded with the signing of the agreement and concluding remarks by the heads of the two delegations, reaffirming the commitment of both sides to enhanced customs cooperation and trade facilitation.The operationalization of the Green Channel is expected to provide a more efficient and coordinated framework for trade in agreed agricultural products between Pakistan and China, while strengthening bilateral customs cooperation and facilitating the movement of time-sensitive consignments through the Sost-Khunjerab Border.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia agree to boost trade and investment

■ Aurangzeb thanked Saudi Arabia for its continued support for Pakistan and briefed the ambassador on recent economic developments

News Desk
ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb met Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Nasser bin Abdullah Al-Buqami to discuss ways to further strengthen economic cooperation, enhance bilateral trade and promote investment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Finance, the meeting focused on strengthening the longstanding friendship and brotherly relations between the two countries, which are rooted in shared faith, common history, mutual trust and respect. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening their strategic partnership and expanding cooperation across key economic sectors.

During the meeting, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed gratitude to the Saudi government for its continued support for Pakistan and acknowledged the importance of the close relationship between the two countries. He highlighted the significance of sustained bilateral engagement in promoting economic development, improving trade relations and creating new opportunities for investment.

Aurangzeb also briefed the Saudi ambassador on Pakistan's recent economic developments, highlighting improvements in macroeconomic stability, foreign exchange reserves and inflation. He further informed the ambassador about the improvement in Pakistan's international credit rating, which reflects developments in the country's economic position and its efforts to strengthen financial stability.

The finance minister emphasized that Pakistan remained committed to maintaining economic discipline, pursuing structural reforms and creating a stable and predictable environment for domestic and foreign investors. He underlined the importance of continued reforms to support sustainable economic growth, strengthen investor confidence and improve the country's position in international financial markets.

A key topic discussed during the meeting was Pakistan's planned issuance of $3 billion in Eurobonds and its efforts to regain access to international capital markets. The discussions also covered opportunities for Pakistan to access China's capital market as part of its broader efforts to diversify financing sources and expand its engagement with international investors.

Access to international capital markets is an important consideration for Pakistan as it seeks to meet its financing requirements, strengthen external-sector stability and support its economic reform agenda. The planned Eurobond issuance was discussed in the context of the country's efforts to re-establish its presence in global debt markets and

Scanned with CamScanner

Clashes resume in southern Yemen's Taiz

■ Houthi ballistic missile targeting eastern Saudi Arabia intercepted: Coalition



Web DESK

Yemen

Clashes have resumed between Yemeni government forces and the Houthi group on several fronts south of Taiz,

The channel said fighting had resumed on the Al-Aqroudh and Al-Masrakh fronts, as well as in Al-Rahn village in the Sabir al-Mawadim district.

In a related development, Aden International Airport resumed flights.

The airport and nearby areas were targeted by missile attacks following Houthi threats to strike the facility.

On Wednesday, a missile landed at Al-Nasr Camp, adjacent to the airport, where Yemeni Coast Guard forces and Interior Ministry headquarters are located, eyewitnesses told Anadolu.

Houthi ballistic missile targeting eastern Saudi Arabia intercepted: Coalition

Saudi air defences intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthi group toward the kingdom's Eastern Province early on Thursday, the Saudi-led coalition said.



Saudi Ambassador Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy calls on Federal Minister Dr. Musadik Masood Malik.

South Korean special counsel seeks death penalty for ex-President Yoon over marital law declaration

■ Lower court sentenced Yoon in February to life imprisonment for attempting to impose martial law in 2024

Web Desk

South Korea

A special counsel team on Thursday again sought the death penalty for former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in his appeal trial on insurrection charges stemming from his failed attempt to impose martial law, local media reported.

The team, led by Special Counsel Cho Eun-suk, requested the sentence at the Seoul High Court, where Yoon is appealing his life imprisonment sentence,

Yoon was sentenced to life imprisonment in February for leading an insurrection through his failed martial law bid in December 2024, which lasted only a few hours before it was successfully blocked and overturned by the National Assembly.



Prosecutors first sought the death penalty in January of this year.

Yoon faces a total of eight trials in connection with his martial law attempt, his wife's alleged corruption and the 2023 death of a marine officer.

He was formally removed from office in April 2025 after the Constitutional Court unanimously upheld his impeachment over his December 3, 2024 martial law declaration, triggering a snap presidential election.

Yoon apologised in February for his short-lived declaration of martial law in December 2024, a day after a Seoul court sentenced him to life in prison for masterminding an insurrection.

In a statement released by his lawyers, Yoon said that while he was sorry for the "frustration and hardship" brought upon the people by his martial law decree, he stood behind the "sincerity and purpose" behind his actions.

The Seoul Central District Court's decision to hand him a life sentence on Thursday was "predetermined," he said, adding that the verdict against him was political retaliation.

US fires top army general in latest ouster

■ No reason was given for Sylvia's departure and no replacement has been named, The Atlantic said.

Web Desk

WASHNGATION

The United States has fired its top military planner, The Atlantic reported Wednesday, in a surprise shake-up as President Donald Trump appears to be preparing to resume large-scale strikes against Iran.

Army Lieutenant General Brett Sylvia was removed this week from his role as head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the magazine reported, citing unidentified defense department officials.

Sylvia's ouster would be the latest in a series of high-profile departures from the military since Trump returned to power a year ago. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth said last month that the United States has slashed the number of its generals and admirals by 20 percent, in a move he said is aimed at "accountability."



He suggested the cuts targeted officers who failed to get on board with his efforts to ensure the military is focused on war-fighting rather than the "woke" policies of previous administrations, describing the reductions as an "accomplishment."

No reason was given for Sylvia's departure and no replacement has been named, The Atlantic said.

AFP has contacted the Pentagon for comment.The reported sacking comes as Trump is widely considered to be weighing fresh strikes against Iran after the US midterm elections on November 3.

North Korea fires 'around a dozen' ballistic missiles into East Sea

● North Korea has tested a slew of weapons recently, including a new precision-guided torpedo system and an intermediate-range hypersonic missile, both of which were said to employ AI technology.

Web Desk

North Korea

North Korea fired "around a dozen" short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Thursday, Seoul's defence ministry said, less than a week after South Korea proposed talks over a growing border row.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said its military detected "around a dozen short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Wonsan area of North Korea towards the East Sea", the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

"Our military has stepped up surveillance and vigilance against possible additional launches," it added in its statement.



The Japan Coast Guard separately said that "an object that appears to be a ballistic missile launched from North Korea seems to have already fallen", urging ships to be vigilant.

North Korea has tested a slew of weapons recently, including a new precision-guided torpedo system and an intermediate-range hypersonic missile, both of which were said to employ AI technology.

Thursday's flurry of missiles comes against the backdrop of growing tensions over a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border between the two Koreas that saw three South Korean soldiers wounded.

A joint Seoul-UN investigation earlier this month concluded that North Korea planted the landmines over a year ago.

Next round of Ukraine talks depends on Middle East, other factors, Kremlin aide says

Web Desk

MOSCOW

The timing of the next round of three-way talks on a settlement of the Ukraine conflict is linked to the conflict in the Middle East, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov was quoted as saying , casting doubt on whether the talks will take place next month as initially proposed.

Ushakov, quoted by Russian news agencies, said Moscow had not yet proposed a specific date for the talks. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Wednesday he hoped that a meeting would take place in Abu ?Dhabi between November 6 and November 10. "It will also depend on the situation on the battlefield and the situation in general. You can see the situation now in the Middle East. It just doesn't allow us to hold it in the near future. That's my assumption," Ushakov told journalists, referring to the regional fallout from the US-Israeli war on Iran.



Vance outreach to Iran related to medical supplies, says Trump

Web Desk

WASHINGTON



US President Donald Trump said that Vice President JD Vance's outreach to Iran was about helping the country get medical supplies, after US media reported Vance had written to Tehran's top security official to revive peace talks.

Tehran has received a letter from Vance but it has not responded to it yet, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Thursday.

Vance sent the letter to Iranian Security Council chief Mohsen Rezaei in a bid to revive peace negotiations, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times reported on Wednesday, citing US officials and people familiar with the matter. Reuters could not immediately verify the reports.

The Wall Street Journal ?reported that Vance sent the letter at Trump's direction. When asked by reporters later on Wednesday if he directed Vance to reach out to Iran to restart peace negotiations, Trump said: "No."

US plans to ban Chinese telecom firms from direct access to US phone numbers

■ The US FCC plans to restrict Chinese telecom firms' direct access to US phone numbers over national security concerns, targeting robocalls and potential cyber threats.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

The United States plans to soon ban Chinese telecom firms from direct access to US phone numbers on national security grounds — a measure designed to prevent scam-related robocalls.

The US Federal Communications Commission said that it will vote on November 19 on a proposal to ban China Mobile (600941.SS), China Telecom (601728.SS) and China Unicom (0762.HK) and other IP-enabled service providers ?from direct access.

For telecom firms providing Voice over Internet Protocol — technology that converts voice into digital data and transmits it over broadband connections — direct access is a much cheaper option and makes it easier to offer advanced features.

"With this decision, the FCC will ?be strengthening our first line of defense against bad actors and illegal robocallers," FCC Chair Brendan Carr said in a statement.

The Chinese Embassy did not immediately comment.

The FCC also said on Thursday that it plans ?to bar IP-enabled service providers that use equipment from companies on the FCC's list that ?pose national security risks, including Huawei or ZTE (000063.SZ).

The agency added that it would ban all Chinese labs from ?testing ?US electronics in December 2028 and may also revoke direct number authorizations for Chinese companies that it deems to pose national security risks.



The FCC has previously barred China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom from providing international telecommunications services to the United States.

Other measures under consideration include ?barring them from connecting to ?US networks and from operating their data centers in the US.

Concerns about the potential for spying and other harms to arise from Chinese access to US telecom data ?and infrastructure have grown in recent years.

In late 2024, Washington said ?a Chinese ?state-sponsored cyber espionage group known as Salt Typhoon stole consumers' call records, US call data and infiltrated US telecommunications and telecom infrastructure firms.

The FBI said this year that threats from Salt Typhoon are "still ?very ?much ongoing."

In July, the FCC added California-based Digitalsystem Technology to ?a list of companies posing risks to US national security, citing links to Chinese telecom firms and its ownership ?by a Chinese national.

China has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

Scanned with CamScanner



Nadia Khan adulates Sana Javed's screen comeback as 'Ansa'

■ Mujy Sana Javed itni pyari lagti hai. I love her, I love her acting the way she speaks.

News Desk
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Sana Javed is winning hearts with her much talked about return to television in the drama serial 'Bas Tera Saath Ho', as senior stars Nadia Khan openly applauded her performance and screen presence during a discussion on 'Kya Drama Hai' on 24NewsHD.

During the candid conversation, Nadia Khan expressed immense admiration for Sana and shared how happy she was to see the actress back on screen after a long gap. She stated:

"Mujy Sana Javed itni pyari lagti hai. I love her, I love her acting the way she



speaks. Aur mein usko jab bhi in person mili hoon uski ankhon mein bhi waqai bulb hain. Itni pyari skin, her hairs and she's very nice, very polite, bari achy sy hamari ghup shup hoti hai jab bhi hum n milty hain. To mujy acha laga kitny gap ky baad to see Sana Javed on screen, aur character apna wo boht mazy sy kar rhi hai, boht hi achi tarha, to wo mujy full suit kr rhi hai. I'm enjoying Sana Javed's performance a lot in this serial." (I find Sana Javed so lovely. I love her, her acting, and the way she speaks. Whenever I've met her in person, there's truly a spark in her eyes. She has beautiful skin, gorgeous hair, and she is very sweet and polite. We always have lovely conversations whenever we meet. I really liked seeing Sana Javed back on screen after such a long break, and she is performing her character beautifully and effortlessly. The role suits her perfectly and I'm truly enjoying her performance in this serial).

Sajal Aly wows fans with new short haircut

■ Celebrities and peers also reacted enthusiastically.

Web desk
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Sajal Aly has once again captured social media attention with her bold and unique new hairstyle.

The actress shared photos on Instagram showcasing a short bob haircut paired with a high-collar outfit, captioning the post simply: "11:11 Hi" and tagging her sister, Saboor Aly.

In addition, Sajal posted mirror selfies without makeup on her Instagram Stories, which drew praise from fans for her natural



and confident appearance.

Many followers described her as a "main character," admiring the unexpected yet stunning transformation.

Celebrities and peers also reacted enthusiastically. Saboor Aly commented,

"This is exactly what I wanted," while actress Ushna Shah hinted at something exciting ahead.

Other showbiz personalities, including Umar Khan and Saadia Ghafar, shared their admiration for Sajal's fresh look.

Fans called the new style both surprising and remarkable, with some viewing it as the sta rt of a new chapter in her career.

Sajal Aly has once again proven her versatility in presenting herself confidently and making waves on social media with her style choices.



Salma Zafar receives massive love for cherished bond with disabled brother

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Salma Zafar is receiving immense love on social media after sharing a heartwarming glimpse into her beautiful bond with her special brother.

Taking to Instagram, she posted a touching video featuring a carousel of memorable family pictures. The photos captured several emotional moments between the siblings, including celebrations from her brother's birthday and joyful family events.

Alongside the post, Salma wrote an emotional caption saying, "Mera Bhai Meri Jaan, Allah Pak Salamet Rakhey Ameen," expressing deep love and prayers for her brother's health and happiness.

The heartfelt words instantly connected with fans, who praised the actress for proudly celebrating her sibling bond in such a genuine and emotional way.

Known for her natural acting style and powerful screen presence, Salma Zafar has earned recognition through dramas like Pamaal, Qarz-e-Jaan, and Namak Haram.

Fans flooded the comment section with prayers and admiration for the actress and her family.

One user wrote, "Allah will reward you for this beautiful love."

Another commented, "Brothers are truly the life of their sisters."

Scientists decode why mosquitoes prefer certain people

■ Research reveals why mosquitoes prefer biting some people more

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Scientists are making new progress in understanding why mosquitoes seem to prefer biting certain people over others, uncovering a complex mix of chemical, physical, and behavioural factors behind their choices.

Experts say it is not a myth that mosquitoes show preference, but they also stress that humans are not constant "mosquito magnets."

According to researchers, female mosquitoes—responsible for biting—use highly sensitive receptors to detect carbon dioxide, body odour, heat, and humidity when selecting a target.

Studies show that carbon dioxide exhaled by humans is the first major signal mosquitoes detect from a distance. As they get closer, body scent and temperature play a stronger role in attracting them.

Researchers also found that around 300 to 1,000 different odorous compounds are released by the human body, and only some of these influence mosquito behaviour. A recent study identified 27 key compounds linked to attraction, with variations in skin chemistry



and microbiota making some individuals more appealing than others.

Popular beliefs such as blood type or physical appearance influencing mosquito preference have been dismissed by scientists, who say there is no solid evidence supporting these claims.

In controlled experiments, researchers observed that even small changes in a compound called 1-octen-3-ol can significantly increase mosquito attraction, highlighting how sensitive their detection system is.

Alcohol consumption has also been linked to higher mosquito attraction. Studies show that drinking beer can raise body temperature, increase carbon dioxide output, and alter skin odour, making individuals more noticeable to mosquitoes. In one study, participants who had consumed beer were significantly more attractive to malaria-carrying mosquitoes compared to when they drank water.

With climate change expanding mosquito habitats, scientists warn that diseases like dengue, yellow fever, and chikungunya could spread more widely in the future. Experts recommend preventive measures such as wearing protective clothing, using repellents, and limiting alcohol intake to reduce mosquito bites.

'Peechay peechay turdi ay fame': Feroze flaunts luxury ride as 'Shaidai' fever grows

Web Desk
KARACHI



Pakistani actor Feroze Khan has shared a stylish new picture that perfectly reflects the growing popularity of his latest drama serial Shaidai. The actor posted a photo on Instagram alongside his close friend and forex mentor Anas Ali while sitting inside a luxury sports car. Along with the picture, Feroze added a playful caption that quickly grabbed fans' attention.

"Peechay peechay turdi ay fame aj kal," he wrote, hinting that fame has been constantly following him lately. In the same post, the actor also appreciated Anas Ali, calling him his mentor in the forex trading world.

The stylish picture showed Feroze Khan seated inside a high-end white sports vehicle, dressed casually in a grey shirt while sporting his signature look.

Meanwhile, Anas Ali could be seen sitting behind the steering wheel beside the actor. The two have often been seen interacting online, especially regarding business and trading discussions.

The viral post comes at a time when Feroze Khan is enjoying massive success for his lead role as Ali Khan in the hit drama serial Shaidai. Airing on Geo Entertainment, the drama has become one of the most talked-about television projects of the season.



Pakistani actress Amar Khan has defended her character Zareena in drama Mitti De Baway, questioning why some viewers struggle to accept a woman expressing anger and setting boundaries.

Age is given more importance than talent in Bollywood: Tabu

WEB DESK
NEW DELHI



Renowned Indian actress Tabu has spoken about the challenges faced by women in Bollywood and the strong impact of age on actresses' careers in the industry.

Known for her powerful performances, the 54-year-old actress said in a recent interview that in Bollywood, more focus is placed on an actress's age rather than her talent and abilities.

Tabu said people are often more concerned about her age than she is herself, adding that others try to "hold a mirror" to her age as if she is unaware of it. She remarked that ageing is a natural process that happens gradually, not overnight.

She further said that women in the industry are often advised to be diplomatic in conversations and interactions.

The actress added that she is often told not to give direct reasons if she does not want to take up a film role, and instead to use scheduling excuses, but she does not follow this practice and prefers honesty if she does not like a story.

Tabu also mentioned that her recent film "Bhoot Bangla" has already been released, and she is preparing for upcoming projects including shooting for Naga Chaitanya Akkineni's 100th film "King100".

Scanned with CamScanner

Abbas Afridi's blitz powers Pakistan to sink India in Hong Kong Sixes

● Chasing a target of 89 runs, Pakistan got off to a blistering start, smashing 31 runs without losing a wicket in the very first over.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan registered a dominant victory over India in their Hong Kong Sixes 2026 encounter after producing a sensational batting performance at the Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok on Friday, Chasing a target of 89 runs, Pakistan got off to a blistering start, smashing 31 runs without losing a wicket in the very first over.

Batting first, India managed to post 88 runs in their allotted six overs. The Men in Blue looked to put up a competitive total in the fast-paced six-a-side format, but their efforts with the bat were overshadowed by Pakistan's incredible response.

However, Pakistan came out all guns blazing during their run chase. The Men in Green got off to a sensational start, smashing 31 runs without losing a wicket in the very first over.

Abbas Afridi took charge of the proceedings and went after Krunal Pandya, dispatching the Indian captain for five sixes in the over. The onslaught



put India under immediate pressure as Pakistan raced towards the target easily.

As usual, India captain Krunal Pandya avoided the customary handshake with Pakistan skipper Abbas Afridi at the toss ahead of their Hong Kong Sixes 2026 Group C encounter on Friday.

The moment caught attention as the two teams renewed their rivalry at the Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok, Hong Kong. Krunal, who is leading the Indian side in the six-a-side tournament, did not exchange the traditional pre-match greeting with Afridi during the toss proceedings.

The incident comes amid India's continued stance of avoiding handshakes with Pakistan players in recent cricketing encounters.

A blazing batting display from Abbas Afridi was not enough to save Pakistan from a dramatic opening defeat as defending champions lost to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by one wicket in their Group C clash at the Hong Kong Sixes at Mission Road Ground on Friday.

After winning the toss and elected to bat, Pakistan posted 106-3 in their allotted six overs, with captain Abbas Afridi leading the charge through an explosive innings.

Afridi smashed 53 off just 13 deliveries, hitting one four and eight sixes, while Abdul Samad provided strong support with an unbeaten 39 off 15 balls.

Chasing 107, the UAE mounted an aggressive response, reaching 109-5 in six overs to seal a thrilling one-wicket victory.

UAE captain Khalid Shah led the chase with a stunning 71 off 20 deliveries, including three fours and nine sixes. Zahid Ali also made a valuable contribution, scoring 22 off just eight balls.

For Pakistan, Abbas Afridi, Abdul Samad and Irfan Khan claimed one wicket each, but their efforts could not prevent the defeat.



Kumar Sangakkara alleges discriminatory treatment by Ryanair staff at Dublin Airport

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Former Sri Lanka captain and wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Sangakkara has expressed anger over the alleged inappropriate and discriminatory behaviour of Ryanair staff at Dublin Airport.

The 48-year-old former cricketer shared his experience on X, saying he was disappointed by the conduct of the airline's gate staff while travelling with his family.

Has anyone experienced discriminatory gate personnel @Ryanair in Dublin ? I with my family just did and it was shocking. The tone of address and the mishandling of procedure and threatening behavior. Unacceptable for any passenger. First bad experience in Dublin

According to Sangakkara, the staff's manner of communication, procedural irregularities and threatening behaviour were unacceptable towards any passenger.

Eyman Fatima's breezy 39-ball 88* gives Warriors five-wicket win



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Eyman Fatima struck a blazing 88 not out as Warriorrs overhauled the 165-run target on the penultimate ball of the match against Champions in the second match of the PCB Women's Super-3 T20 Tournament here at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad on Thursday.

Champions, who began the tournament with a win against Incredibles on Wednesday, posted a total of 164-4 in 20 overs on the back of Shawaal Zulfiqar's 40 and unbeaten thirties from Najiha Alvi and Saira Jabeen.

Tuba Hassan-led Champions failed to defend the total as Eyman took the chase by storm after walking in to bat at 48-3, while none of the batters from her team crossed the 20-run mark.

Warriors will now face Incredibles on Friday at the same venue with the first ball expected to be bowled at 10am PKT.

In the chase, Warriors' top four batters stuttered with Sadaf Shamas (20, 19b, 2x4s), in at no.3, and Ravail Farhan (16, 14b, 3x4s) both getting run out. Muneeba Ali could only score 11 off 10 before getting castled by Tasmia Rubab and Gull Rukh departed for just four as Warriors slipped to 58-4.

Eyman continued to pace the chase with timely boundaries as she struck five fours and eight sixes in her brilliant knock bringing her National Women's T20 form to this tournament as well. She shared a 35-run stand with Rameen Shamim (13, 18b, 1x4) and a match-winning unbeaten 75-run stand with Hafsa Khalid (10 not out, 10b, 1x4).

Warriors needed 72 off 28 balls and Eyman was 24 off balls before she started taking the charge. She first struck Saira Jabeen for a six to close the 16th over, hit Tania Saeed for two sixes in the subsequent over and a four and six to Momina Riasat to take the score to 131-5, completing her fifty off 30 balls.

Tania again suffered Eyman onslaught in the 19th over as the left-arm wrist-spinner was belted for a series of 6,4,6 in the first three balls and a six to round off a 24-run over. Warriors needed 10 off the last over and five off last three balls when Eyman finished the game with consecutive fours.

MIT three wickets away from dream title-win after gripping day's play sees SBP stumble

● SBP require another 72 runs to win with Mubasir Khan and Muhammad Abbas on the crease | Abbas registered his 60th first-class five-for taking 5-70 in 18 overs

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Markhor IT Solutions needed three wickets, and State Bank of Pakistan another 72 runs after stumps were drawn on day three of the five-day President's Trophy Grade-I final at Bagh-e-Jinnah Cricket Ground, Lahore, Thursday.

SBP, set a target of 237 to win, were cruising at 119-2 in 39.5 overs before chaos set in, and they closed the day at 165-7 in 59.4 overs.

They lost five for 46 in an MIT-dominated 19.5-over passage of play, as Kamran Ghulam (16, 37b, 3x4s), skipper Rameez Aziz, Ali Shan, the well-set Hasan Raza and Shahid Aziz departed, and SBP slipped to 147-7 in 55.4 overs.

At the start of the chase, Hasan Raza (73, 136b, 8x4s) and Abdullah Fazal (25, 68b, 3x4s) grafted a 49-run opening stand in 19.5 overs before the latter was castled by Salman Aslam. 10 overs later, Faham-ul-Haq (13, 35b, 2x4s) fell to Mohammad Ismail.

A 41-run stand between Hasan and Kamran put SBP in a strong position, with only 119 runs left



and seven wickets in hand. At this juncture, Aamir Jamal, who scored 73 off 32 in the first innings, played a major part in SBP managing a slim lead, striking to break the stand and removing Kamran.

Rameez and Shahid Aziz became victims of MIT Solutions skipper Khalid Usman's left-arm spin, and between their fall were sandwiched the wickets of Ali Shan and Hasan. The latter had eked out 73 off 135 balls but was bowled by Mohammad Imran Jnr. Wicketkeeper-batter Ali was run out via a brilliant throw by Atiq-ur-Rehman.

PSL franchises agree on retention rules, auction terms, squad structures

■ Retentions deadline of 13 January 2027 set to run alongside live National T20 cricket

News Reporter

LAHORE

All eight HBL Pakistan Super League franchises convened at the Gaddafi Stadium Lahore on Thursday for a landmark tournament operations workshop that produced unanimous agreement on the core framework governing squads, player movement and the upcoming Player Auction for HBL PSL 12,

The workshop was led by PSL CEO Salman Naseer and marked the most substantive collective session between the league and its franchise partners in the current cycle.

Discussions were open, candid and wide-ranging - covering Direct Signings, Player Retentions, Trade Windows, Squad Sizes and Salary Caps. By its conclusion, all eight franchises had reached full agreement on every major operational parameter for the season.



The deadline for franchise player retentions has been set for 13th January 2027, ten days before the Player Auction. The timing is deliberate. It falls after the completion of the National T20 Silver tournament and during the National T20 Gold - meaning franchises will make their final retention calls with a full set of Silver results behind them and live Gold performances unfolding in front of them.

A domestic player in form on 13 January could force his way into franchise thinking in real time. This is what the pathway from national circuit cricket into HBL PSL looks like in practice: not a theoretical ambition, but a live, data-driven link between the two competitions.

Each franchise may retain a maximum of seven players, inclusive of their Direct Signing. As a condition of exercising maximum retentions, any franchise retaining seven players must return one player from the highest price tier of the last auction to the general player pool, ensuring the HBL PSL 12 Auction features elite-level talent available to all franchises.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627101218053 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. The Executive Engineer PHE Division Quetta invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	SUPPLY AND INSTALLTION OF SOLAR SYSTEM FOR WSS AT AIR PORT ROAD QUETTA	9,776,866

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,843,806 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is EE11(ii) (Solar Energy). **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 16 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 16 November, 2026till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM **Address:** executive engineer phe division quetta Phone no: 0819201431Fax no: 819201431 Email: xenphequetta@gmail.com

Executive Engineer PHE Division Quetta

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Hesson confident of Pakistan's strong performance in final against Sri Lanka

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson believes his side have yet to produce their best cricket in the ongoing ODI tri-series and is hopeful of a strong performance when the hosts take on Sri Lanka in the final at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore .

The final will begin at 1pm local time, with the toss scheduled for 12.30pm.

Pakistan were the first team to qualify for the final of the tri-series involving Sri Lanka and England after registering three consecutive wins. The hosts began their campaign with a 37-run win over Sri Lanka before defeating matches played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

In their third outing, which was also the first match of the series at the Gaddafi Stadium, Pakistan secured a thrilling one-wicket win on the back of Shadab Khan's maiden ODI century. The hosts however suffered an eight-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in their final league fixture at the same venue.

Following a day's rest, the Pakistan squad returned to training at the LCCA Ground in Lahore as preparations



continued for Saturday's title clash.

Speaking exclusively to PCB Digital on the sidelines of the training session, Hesson expressed satisfaction with the team's performances in the tournament while acknowledging that there was still room for improvement.

Mike Hesson said: "It's been a pretty good couple of weeks. We have played some decent cricket without being perfect. To get three wins in a row without contributions from a few of our key players is a good sign. I still don't think we have played our best game yet. Hopefully, we are saving that for the final."

best game yet. Hopefully, we are saving that for the final."

Since Hesson took charge as Pakistan's white-ball head coach last year, the national side have registered 12 wins in 19 ODIs, losing seven matches. During this time, Pakistan have also recorded ODI series wins over Australia, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Scanned with CamScanner



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ishaq Dar, Singaporean FM discuss bilateral ties, regional developments

● Dar and Singaporean foreign minister are expected to exchange views on regional and international developments of mutual interest

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan arrived in Islamabad on Friday for an official visit and held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, with both sides agreeing to maintain bilateral political consultations.

Balakrishnan was received by Ishaq Dar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the two foreign ministers held a bilateral meeting followed by delegation-level talks.

During the discussions, the two sides reviewed Pakistan-Singapore relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual interest.



Speaking during the meeting, Ishaq Dar welcomed his Singaporean counterpart and expressed pleasure over his visit. He noted that Pakistan was among the first countries to recognise Singapore following its independence.

Dar also highlighted that Balakrishnan's visit marks the first visit by a Singaporean foreign minister to Pakistan in nearly two decades.

The two foreign ministers agreed to continue regular bilateral political consultations to strengthen engagement and expand cooperation between the two countries.

Dar further revealed that the Trade and Investment Office at Pakistan's High Commission in Singapore had been reopened, describing it as an important step towards enhancing trade and investment ties.

The visit holds particular significance as Pakistan and Singapore are marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. It also comes ahead of Singapore assuming the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2027.

Mohsin Naqvi reviews Kashmir Chowk Underpass as 78pc work completed in 20 days

■ Kashmir Chowk Underpass is 78% complete in 20 days, with Naqvi directing timely completion and announcing plans to plant 6,000 trees and install decorative lighting.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Kashmir Chowk Underpass project to review construction progress, where 78 percent of the work has been completed in 20 days.

The project has entered its final stages, and the minister directed the concerned authorities to complete the remaining work as soon as possible and ensure the project is finished within the scheduled timeframe of 30 days.

During the visit, Naqvi said 6,000 trees would be planted around the Kashmir Chowk Underpass to increase green space



and improve the area's appearance. He also directed the installation of decorative lighting around the project.

Mohsin Naqvi reviews Kashmir Chowk Underpass as 78% work completed in 20 days The interior minister said the underpass would provide relief to citizens travelling towards Murree and Muzaffarabad. He added that the project would make travel between Rawalpindi and Islamabad easier.

Naqvi also said steps were being taken to address traffic congestion on the Expressway. He stressed the need to complete the remaining construction work at Kashmir Chowk within the stipulated period.

During the visit, the minister received a detailed briefing on the ongoing construction activities, progress achieved so far and the timeline for completion.

Officials informed him that horticulture, road construction and asphalt work were progressing at the site. They also briefed the minister on the installation of light poles and the ongoing work to fit lights around the project.

National Assembly passes four bills by majority vote

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Lower House of the Parliament, the National Assembly, on Friday passed four government bills by majority vote after clause-by-clause consideration,

The bills included the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology Multan (Amendment) Bill, 2026; the National Textile University (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the National Rahmatul-Lil-Aalameen Wa Khatamun Nabiyyin Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

The House was informed that due to the Middle East situation, gas supply was affected, causing two urea plants in the country to remain temporarily closed, resulting in a shortfall of over 200,000 tons of fertilizer availability and creating shortage issues in the market.

During Question Hour, Parliamentary Secretary Shaista Khan told the House that agricultural production depends on fertilizer availability, therefore any increase or decrease in fertilizer prices and supply is a matter of concern for the government. The government is also relying on imports to meet fertilizer requirements, with about 50% of the country's needs being met from abroad. Due to the Middle East crisis, fertilizer prices have also increased in the international market.

She said the Ministry of National Food Security and Research gives priority to farmers' needs and various projects are being launched to solve their problems, including provision of easy loans to farmers so they can meet their agricultural needs.

In reply to a supplementary question, the Parliamentary Secretary said that on the issue of adulteration of wheat with sand and soil in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the concerned minister has taken action and planning has been done to take action against those involved in supply of substandard wheat.

She further said that work is underway at NARC for development and research of new seed varieties. To cope with climate change challenges, research is being conducted on seeds compatible with wheat and water scarcity conditions to enable Pakistan's agriculture sector to combat effects of climate change.

PPP invites opposition to join parliamentary committee on electoral reforms

■ PPP invites opposition parties to join the electoral reforms committee, seeking joint proposals from political stakeholders to ensure transparent, free and fair elections in Pakistan.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has invited opposition parties to join the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, urging the government and opposition to develop joint proposals to ensure free, fair and transparent elections.

In connection with the formation of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, a PPP delegation met Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai.

During the meetings, the PPP delegation invited opposition parties to become part of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms.

The delegation also called for joint recommendations from the government and opposition to ensure transparent, free and fair elections. PPP senior leader Sherry Rehman said the party aimed to establish an electoral system that enjoyed the confidence of all political parties.

She urged opposition parties to present their proposals before the electoral reforms committee, adding that repeated questions over the electoral process affected the credibility of parliament.

She said transparent, free and fair elections were essential for protecting voters' rights and strengthening democratic institutions.

Rehman further said that, on the proposal of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, a resolution had been passed for the formation of an electoral reforms committee comprising members of the National Assembly and Senate.

She added that the committee would present its recommendations before parliament for approval.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas agreed with the PPP delegation's proposal to improve transparency in elections.

The PPP delegation was led by Senator Sherry Rehman and included Nayyar Bukhari, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Senator Waqar Mehdi.The opposition delegation comprised Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Noorul Haq Qadri and Senator Ali Zafar.

Saudi coalition destroys Houthi drone in Makkah region

Web Desk

Makkah



A Saudi-led coalition said on Friday it intercepted and destroyed in the Makkah region a drone fired by Yemen's Houthis.

"A drone launched by the terrorist Houthi militia has been intercepted and destroyed in the Makkah region," the coalition wrote in a post on X.

Earlier, the Houthis reported on Thursday deadly strikes on residential areas of western Yemen, blamed on their Saudi foe, while explosions later rocked Riyadh, weeks into intensified violence.

The Houthis and the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised Yemeni government have exchanged daily attacks since a years-long truce fell apart over the summer.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis said on Thursday it had downed two ballistic missiles launched by the group towards Riyadh, soon after AFP correspondents heard fresh explosions in the capital.

"Air defences intercepted and destroyed two ballistic missiles launched by the terrorist Houthi militia towards Riyadh," coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki said on X. Earlier, AFP correspondents in Riyadh had heard at least eight explosions as authorities warned the city was "under a hostile aerial threat" in a phone alert.

Saudi civil defence had issued warnings for "potential danger" in Riyadh, Kharj and the southern city of Najran that were lifted shortly afterwards.

The Houthis have ramped up attacks on Saudi Arabia, including by launching deadly strikes on the Riyadh airport that forced its shuttering for two weeks as flagship events were cancelled -- threatening the kingdom's economic diversification plans.

More than 1,600 people have been killed in Yemen since hostilities resumed, with more than 275,000 displaced, according to United Nations figures."As an initial toll, 12 citizens were killed and three others were critically injured when the Saudi enemy targeted the homes of the families of Ibrahim Saeed Mohammed Ahmed Al-Qouz and Al-Raabi Saeed Mohammed Ahmed Al-Qouz in Al-Barah, Maqbana district.



Women purchase traditional chana chaat (spicy chickpea salad) from a street vendor in the provincial capital.

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