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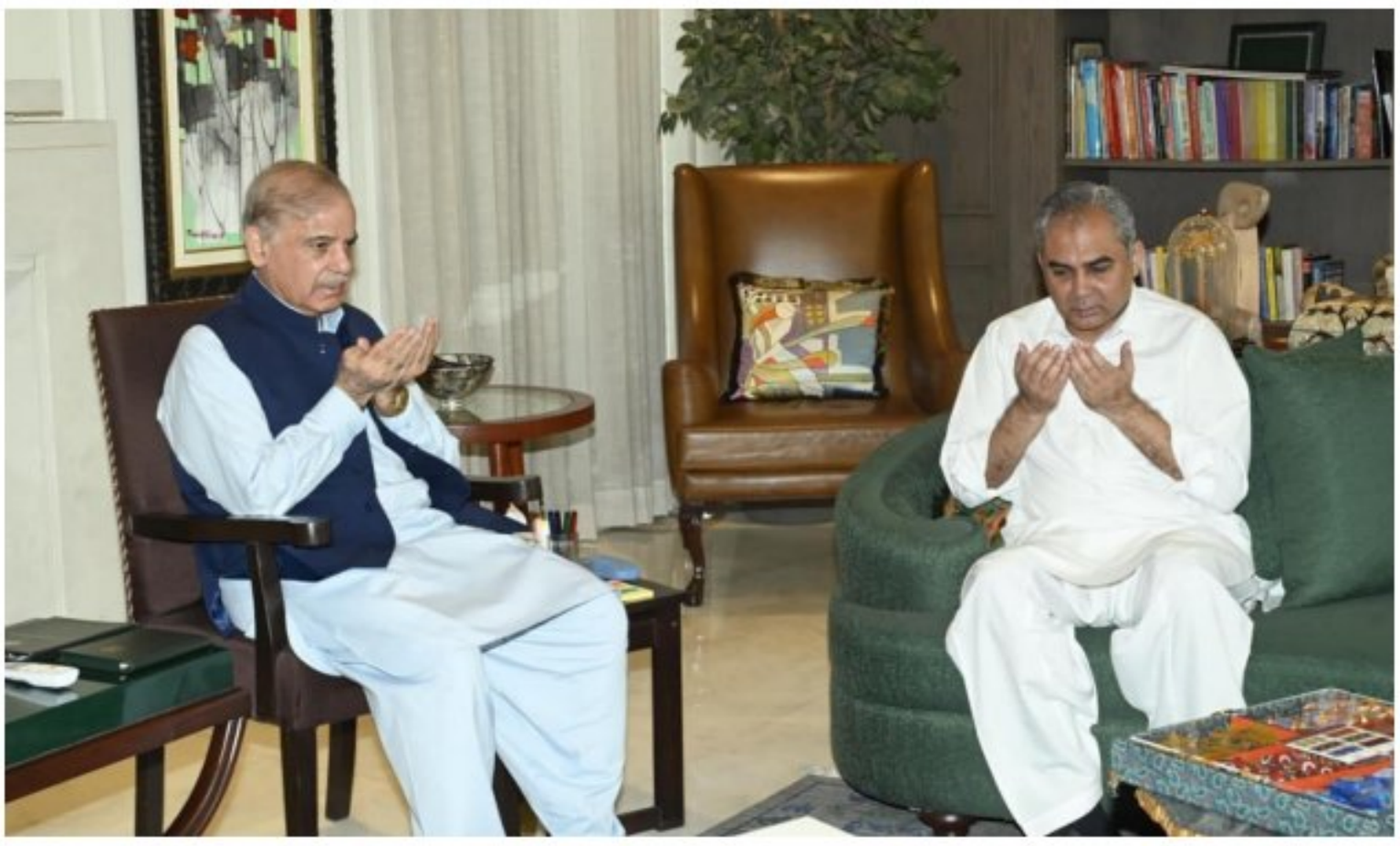
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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering fateha at residence of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on demise of his maternal uncle.



Amir Muqam accuses CM Sohail Afridi of misusing long-march donation fund

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister Amir Muqam said Sohail Afridi had collected billions of rupees in donations from so many people, and staging a long march is necessary for them to misappropriate those funds.

He said they do not care about the people; these individuals would approve the drafts, but Sohail would call and forbid it. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry stated that the negotiations failed because the KP government did not provide assurances of cooperation in the war against terrorism. He said the KP government is unwilling to implement the National Action Plan in the fight against terrorism. He expressed disappointment with the opposition's negotiating team regarding the issue of counter-terrorism.



Three ringleaders among eight terrorists killed in DI Khan security operation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Dera Ismail Khan, eliminating eight terrorists belonging to Fitna-ul-Khawarij, According to security sources, the operation was launched following intelligence reports regarding the presence of terrorists in the Dera Ismail Khan area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Three key ringleaders of 'Fitna-ul-Khawarij' are among the eight terrorists eliminated.Foreign currency and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists.

Under the 'Azm-e-Istehkam' vision, security forces remain committed to the complete eradication of terrorism and the establishment of lasting peace.

Security forces kill eight India-backed militants in KP's DI Khan operation

■ According to security sources three Fitna al-Khawarij commanders among terrorists killed during IBO

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Security forces killed eight India-sponsored terrorists during an intelligence-based operation conducted in Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, security sources said on Sunday.

According to the sources, the operation was launched after intelligence reports indicated the presence of militants in the area. Eight members of Fitna al-Khawarij were killed during the operation, including three key commanders.



Security sources said a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, along with foreign currency, was recovered from the militants.

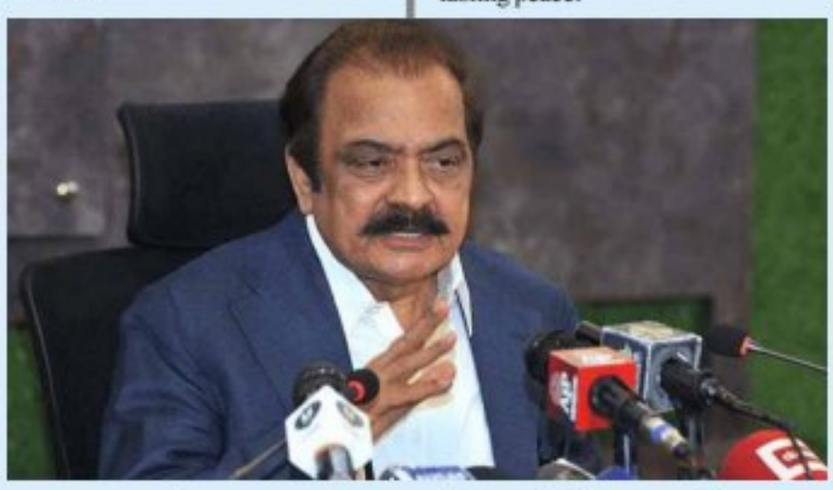
The operation was carried out under the government's Azm-e-Istehkam vision, which aims to counter terrorism and promote lasting peace and stability in the country, according to the sources.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif praised the security forces for carrying out a timely and effective operation against the militants.

The prime minister said the entire nation stood alongside the security forces in the fight against terrorism. He reiterated the government's resolve to continue operations against Fitna al-Khawarij until the threat of terrorism was eliminated.

Shehbaz said eliminating terrorism was essential for maintaining peace and stability in the country.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also commended the security forces for the successful operation against militants in Dera Ismail Khan.



PTI long march will not be allowed to enter Islamabad, says Rana Sanaullah

■ Rana Sanaullah said the PTI long march will not be allowed to enter Islamabad, while noting that future talks could remain possible if the opposition cooperates against terrorism.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) long march will not be allowed to enter Islamabad.

Speaking to the media after talks at Parliament House, Rana Sanaullah said the negotiations primarily focused on the law and order and terrorism situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the government had demanded that the provincial government play an effective role in combating terrorism, but the opposition was not willing to cooperate on the issue.

Rana Sanaullah said the government had shown flexibility regarding meetings with PTI founder Imran Khan, but the two sides could not reach an agreement on other key issues.

He made it clear that the proposed PTI long march would not be allowed to enter the limits of Islamabad.

The adviser said the issues on which the two sides failed to reach an agreement were known to everyone.

However, he added that the door to future negotiations could remain open if cooperation was extended in the fight against terrorism..

KP governor says emergency will be imposed if needed to save province

■ On facing substantial losses, Taliban forces raised white flags, besides announcement of ceasefire: sources

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said that an emergency will be imposed if necessary to save the province, arguing that the prevailing situation could provide grounds for such a measure.

Speaking to a private television channel, Kundi said that when the situation in the province reaches such a point, the president, prime minister and other relevant institutions may consider imposing an emergency.



The KP governor said that if an emergency or similar measure was imposed, he alone would be enough to deal with the situation. He claimed that those involved were currently hiding and getting themselves arrested.

Kundi said he did not make provocative statements like his opponents and would deal with them when the situation arose. Questioning the ongoing long march, he asked whether anything was actually happening in Peshawar, whether any corner meetings had been held or whether any banners had been seen.

He said the long march had so far only resulted in what he described as self-arrests and people going into hiding. Kundi challenged the participants to cross Swabi and said there appeared to be no proper planning behind the march.

The governor claimed that the protesters wanted the march to continue for a month but did not want to reach Swabi.

PTI long march will proceed as scheduled, says Barrister Gohar



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has said the party wanted negotiations with the government to succeed, but the two sides have yet to decide when the next round of talks will take place.

Speaking to the media after a deadlock emerged in talks between the government and PTI, Gohar said the party's long march would proceed according to schedule, describing it as the party's right.

He said no steps should be taken under the pretext of the long march that could create hatred, division or tension among the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa or undermine the province's mandate, autonomy and powers.

Gohar said there was no room for any measure against provincial rights or the public mandate, adding that such actions would also be contrary to the spirit of the 18th Amendment.

The PTI chairman said the response to the long march should not be the imposition of an emergency or governor's rule. He added that it had still not been decided when the next meeting between government and PTI delegations would take place.

Tarar grills PTI over changing positions during talks with govt

■ Opposition talks collapse as Mohsin Naqvi blames Sohail Afridi

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of repeatedly changing its position, saying the party must clearly decide whether it stands with Pakistan or Afghanistan.

Speaking to media on Sunday, Tarar said PTI leaders were "experts at taking U-turns" and had failed to maintain a consistent position on national issues.

He accused the party of pursuing a "dual policy" and said its approach amounted to providing cover to militants.

Tarar alleged that PTI benefited from facilities provided by Pakistan while showing sympathies toward "terrorists."



He said the party needed to adopt an unequivocal position on matters concerning the national interest.The minister also claimed that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had received Rs700 billion for counterterrorism efforts but had shown little willingness to take effective action against militants.

He accused the provincial government of pursuing a policy of protecting terrorists.

Tarar further alleged that PTI was the "B team" of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the "C team" of the Afghan Taliban.



He said the federal government would not allow anyone to undermine peace and security, adding that protecting the lives and property of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's people and combating terrorism remained government priorities.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has accused Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi of sabotaging negotiations between the federal government and the opposition, claiming that the two sides had reached agreement on almost all points before the talks collapsed.

He said 99 percent of the proposed agreement had been settled, but changes to the draft and the KP chief minister's subsequent rejection derailed the process. Naqvi also warned that the government would not allow protesters to march on Islamabad in violation of court orders.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Sunday, Naqvi thanked members of the opposition negotiating committee, saying they had participated in the discussions in good faith and that a comprehensive agreement had been prepared.

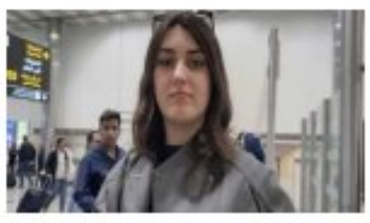
He said he had presented the draft to the President and briefed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the developments. However, upon returning from his meeting with the President, he was informed that several changes had been proposed.

Scanned with CamScanner

Azerbaijani woman Diana leaves Lahore for Baku under police escort

- Azerbaijani woman Diana has departed Lahore for Baku on a PIA flight accompanied by Pakistani police officials following her involvement in a Lahore case.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



An Azerbaijani woman, identified as Diana, departed for Azerbaijan from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport on Sunday under the supervision of Pakistani police officials. According to sources, Diana travelled to Baku on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK-159. Three police officers, including an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) from the Defence area, accompanied her during the departure process and travelled with her to Azerbaijan.

The police team was sent to accompany Diana following a request from the Azerbaijani embassy. The team reportedly included a female police officer along with other officials.

Diana remained under the supervision of the Airport Security Force (ASF) at Lahore airport until her departure. Police officials subsequently completed her boarding formalities and accompanied her onto the flight.

Diana had reportedly arrived at the airport two days earlier intending to travel to Azerbaijan but left the flight and declined to return to her country at that time. She subsequently remained at Lahore airport while arrangements were made for her departure.

The development comes against the backdrop of a case in which Diana had alleged that she was assaulted after being taken to an apartment in Lahore. The allegations were recorded in a statement before a court on Sept. 29.

According to the statement, Diana arrived in Islamabad from Istanbul on Sept. 13 and stayed in Faisalabad for five days before travelling to Lahore.



A vendor displaying fish to attract the customers at H-9 Weekly Bazaar in Federal Capital

Balochistan Archery Association Elects New Leadership Unopposed

- Muhammad Shahzad Tareen elected President, Samiullah Sadiq General Secretary and Gul Muhammad Finance Secretary for four-year term







SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

The election of Balochistan Archery Association was held on Thursday, October 01, 2026 at 05:00 PM at Ayub Stadium Quetta under the supervision of the Election Commission Committee. The election was held in accordance with the Government of Balochistan Sports Policy 2008. The presidents, general secretaries, finance secretaries and other members of the registered districts of Balochistan including Quetta, Pishin, Mastung, Chaman, Harnai, Qila Saifullah, Daki, Khuzdar and Kohlu participated. The real panel of the panel was Muhammad Shahzad Tareen for the post of president, Samiullah Sadiq for the post of general secretary and Gul Muhammad for the post of finance secretary. No panel came in the competition against them nor did any candidate submit papers against them individually. Thus, all the district officials unanimously elected Muhammad Shahzad Tareen for the post of president, Samiullah Sadiq for the post of general secretary and Gul Muhammad Finas for the post of secretary for a period of 04 years unopposed through show of hands. Balochistan Archery Association President-elect Muhammad Shahzad Tareen while addressing said that archery is an interesting and international sport in which boys and girls players of Balochistan are interested and they have immense talent. Events will be organized in every district at the government level and under the supervision of the provincial association and all players will be provided equal opportunities on the basis of merit and performance. Coaching courses will be conducted by National of International Qualified Coaches for coaches of all districts. We will work under the sports policy on an equal basis in all districts. Finally, Balochistan Archery Association President-elect Muhammad Shahzad Tareen, General Secretary Samiullah Sadiq and Finance Secretary Muhammad Gul sincerely thanked the participants and media from all districts for expressing their complete trust in us.

Four Pakistani sailors freed from Somali pirates due home today

- The four sailors, Yasir Khan, Aqeel Khan, Amin bin Shams and Usman Ghani, scheduled to arrive at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport at 4:40 pm today

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Four Pakistani sailors freed after more than five months in captivity aboard a tanker hijacked by Somali pirates are scheduled to return to Karachi on Sunday, a day later than previously announced, travel details obtained by Arab News showed, as efforts continued to bring home the bodies of three compatriots killed during the ordeal.

The four sailors, Yasir Khan, Aqeel Khan, Amin bin Shams and Usman Ghani, are booked on Ethiopian Airlines flight ET694 from Addis Ababa, scheduled to arrive at Karachi's Jinnah International Airport at 4:40 p.m. on Oct. 4, according to an itinerary seen by Arab News.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Friday the four sailors would arrive in Karachi on Saturday following efforts by Pakistan's Foreign Office and its embassy in Djibouti to secure their return.



Rangers deployment in Capital extended to Oct 15 as PTI gears up for march

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

In a significant move amid political tensions, the federal government has extended the deployment of Rangers in Islamabad to October 15. As many as 3,000 personnel will remain deployed in the capital till October 15, according to the notification. Earlier the federal government had approved the deployment of Rangers till October 5. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Sohail Afridi in a statement said the first phase of the long march would start on Sunday (today) from Gundi Chowk, Lakki Marwat.Talks between the opposition and the government end without any positive outcome, which means a deadlock persists amid PTI call for a long march on Islamabad from Sunday

The deadlock between the government and PTI had shifted to counterterrorism-related administrative matters.

According to the sources, the PTI was reluctant to accept certain administrative measures in areas affected by terrorism and was also hesitant over the government's position on counterterrorism strategy. The sources said the government had made clear that progress on other issues would also remain blocked if there was no movement on the counterterrorism matter.



Opposition leader Allama Nasir Abbas said a deadlock remains in negotiations with the government, matters will not be finalised until the meeting with the PTI founder.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also met with President Asif Zardari. He consulted with top political leadership and legal experts.

Earlier, authorities in federal capital sought to extend thedeployment of 3,000 paramilitary Rangers in Islamabad until Oct. 15, official documents showed on Saturday, as the government and opposition held talks to defuse tensions ahead of a planned march by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party.

The request comes as authorities maintain heightened security in and around the capital ahead of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) march, which is due to leave Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday.

Shipping containers have been positioned to block key routes, as transporters complain of disrupted freight movement. .

Govt sets Oct 20 as deadline for pilgrims to deposit second Hajj installment

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The federal government has set Oct 20 as the deadline for intending pilgrims selected under the government Hajj scheme to deposit the second installment of their pilgrimage dues, the religious affairs ministry said late Friday.

Pakistan allocated 107,526 slots, including 30,000 for a shorter package, to the government scheme, while another 71,696 slots have been allocated to the private scheme for next year's Hajj.

The country completed online booking of all seats under the government Hajj scheme on Aug. 25, marking the first time the entire quota had been filled through a digital reservation system.

In its statement issued on Friday, the religious affairs ministry warned that pilgrims applications for next year's Hajj would be canceled if payments were not made by the cut-off date.

"The dates for depositing the second installment of dues for Hajj pilgrims under the government scheme have been set for October 5 to October 20, 2026," the ministry said.



Vendors preparing and display the different kinds of traditional food items to the customer on the roadside colorful stalls during a Dada Hanjer Pir local mela festival at fair ground near Multan road

19-year car theft run ends in deadly Karachi police encounter

- Two alleged accomplices managed to escape during the encounter, according to police.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A suspected member of an interprovincial car theft gang, who had allegedly been stealing vehicles in Karachi for 19 years, was killed in a police encounter in Shah Faisal Colony,According to the details, the Anti-Vehicle Lifting Cell carried out the operation in the area, during which the suspected car thief was killed. Police said 47 cases had been registered against him at different police stations.

The suspect had reportedly been arrested seven times in the past and was allegedly involved in cases relating to vehicle theft, armed encounters with police, illegal weapons and drugs.

Two alleged accomplices managed to escape during the encounter, according to police. In a separate incident, an alleged police encounter took place near Umar Brohi Goth in Gulshan-e-Maymar. Police said three suspects were arrested during the operation.

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A Significant Step Toward Export Promotion: Export Credit Insurance Gives Pakistani SMEs New Strength



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

Exports have always held fundamental importance in Pakistan's economy. For any country, selling goods and services in international markets generates foreign exchange. It also strengthens industrial development, employment opportunities, business activity, and overall economic stability.

Alongside large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can play a significant role in Pakistan's export economy. However, these businesses face a number of risks when entering international markets, some of which can affect their entire business strategy.

One of the most important risks is that a foreign buyer may fail to make payment. This is where Export Credit Insurance in Pakistan can emerge as an effective

What Is Export Credit Insurance?

The basic objective of Export Credit Insurance is to protect an exporter against the risk of non-payment by a foreign buyer after goods or services have been supplied. Subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, Pak EXIM Bank may provide compensation for the loss.

The most important aspect of this facility is that an exporter does not have to enter international trade entirely exposed to uncertainty. Instead, the exporter can expand business with the support of an institutional risk-protection mechanism.

A large number of SMEs in Pakistan have the potential to sell their products abroad. However, risks associated with new buyers, new markets, and international payments often compel them to remain cautious.

Many businesses limit themselves to buyers with whom they already have established relationships because of concerns about payment risks. As a result, their export activities remain confined to a relatively narrow circle.

Export Credit Insurance can help change this situation. When an exporter has protection against non-payment, the business may feel more confident about establishing relationships with new buyers and entering new international markets.

This facility is particularly important for small and medium-sized exporters. Large companies can sometimes manage different risks through their financial resources, legal expertise, and international business experience. For a small business, however, non-payment of a large amount by a foreign buyer can create a serious financial crisis.Export Credit Insurance seeks to reduce this risk and thereby expand the ability of SMEs to participate in international trade.

Another important benefit is that exporters can move toward conducting business on an open-account basis. In international trade, open-account transactions mean that, in certain circumstances, goods are supplied to the buyer first and payment is made later.

in certain circumstances, goods are supplied to the buyer first and payment is made later.

Although this method can make business relationships easier and more competitive, it also exposes the exporter to the risk of non-payment. By providing protection against this risk, Export Credit Insurance can help Pakistani exporters adopt more flexible trade terms with international buyers.

Export Credit Insurance is not merely an insurance policy. It is a mechanism for creating confidence within the export environment.

In international trade, buyers seek suppliers who can provide products consistently, reliably, and on competitive terms. When a Pakistani exporter has institutional protection against non-payment, the exporter may be in a better position to offer more acceptable trade terms to buyers. This can create opportunities for increasing business volumes and establishing long-term commercial relationships.

The concept of a Risk-Sharing Pool provided through Pak EXIM Bank also has an important role in this framework. According to the available information, the Export Credit Insurance facility for SMEs under the Pak EXIM and EDF Risk-Sharing Pool is intended to make export credit insurance more accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Under such a mechanism, the risk is managed institutionally rather than being placed entirely on one party. The objective is to enable SMEs, particularly businesses entering the export market for the first time, to manage the risks of international trade in a more structured manner.

Key Products: CSTP and Bank Master Policy

Two important products have been identified under this programme.

Comprehensive Short-Term Policy (CSTP): an eligible SME exporter can directly obtain Export Credit Insurance.

Bank Master Policy (BMP): participating banks and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) can obtain Export Credit Insurance against the risk of non-payment for their funded SME exporters.

Both mechanisms have the potential to strengthen the relationship between SMEs and financial institutions.



By: Aasi

From Cash to QR: Pakistan's Quiet Financial Revolution

For generations, cash was the language of Pakistan's marketplace. A customer opened his wallet, a shopkeeper counted notes, change was returned, and the transaction was complete. Whether it was a roadside tea stall, a grocery shop or a large retail outlet, money changed hands physically.



That habit is now being challenged by something far smaller than a bank branch: a mobile phone.

Pakistan is quietly moving towards a digital payments economy, and the scale of this transformation is much larger than many people realise.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan's latest Payment Systems Quarterly Review, during January-March 2026, retail payments through the formal banking system reached 3.7 billion transactions worth Rs168.8 trillion. Digital channels accounted for 92 per cent of these transactions by volume, with 3.4 billion digital transactions worth Rs68.3 trillion.These are not merely banking statistics. They represent a change in everyday behaviour.

Mobile banking applications and digital wallets have become major engines of this transformation. During the same quarter, banking apps and e-money wallets processed

The mobile phone is gradually becoming a financial instrument.

But every revolution creates new responsibilities.

The greatest challenge for digital payments is not technology. It is trust.A person who loses cash knows exactly what has happened. A person whose digital account is compromised may not even understand how the money disappeared. Fraudulent calls, fake links, stolen passwords and social-engineering scams can turn convenience into a financial nightmare. This means Pakistan cannot build a digital economy simply by putting QR codes on shop counters. It must simultaneously build digital literacy, consumer protection and cyber-security awareness. The elderly deserve particular attention. A young person may understand passwords, authentication codes and mobile applications almost instinctively. For an older citizen who has spent decades dealing in cash, the same system can appear complicated and intimidating. The answer is not to leave such people behind. The answer is to teach them. here is another important dimension to digital payments: documentation.

Cash transactions often disappear from the formal economic record. A student can receive funds from home almost instantly.A customer can pay at a restaurant without searching for change. A small entrepreneur can send money to a supplier without travelling to a bank.

some will continue to prefer cash. Trust must therefore remain at the centre of the digital transition.

Raast is particularly important because it was designed as Pakistan's national instant payment system, allowing individuals, businesses and government entities to make real-time digital payments across participating institutions.

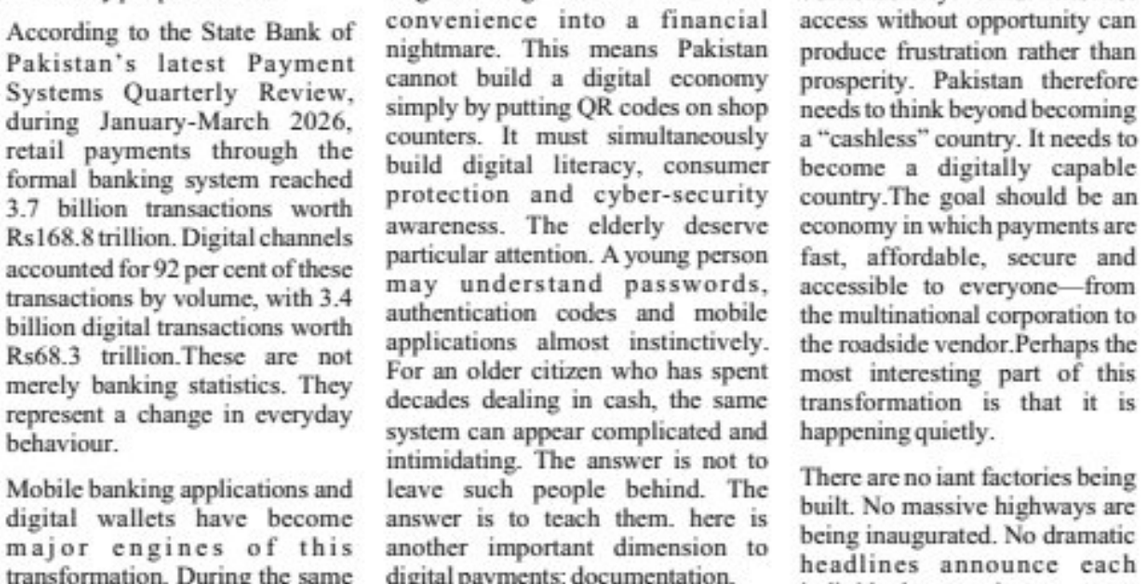
Pakistan's young population could become the biggest beneficiary of this transformation. The digital economy is creating opportunities in freelancing, e-commerce, software development, online education, digital marketing and creative industries.

A young Pakistani sitting in a small town can potentially sell a service to a customer thousands of kilometres away.

That is a profound change.

Yet access alone is not enough. A smartphone without skills is merely a sophisticated entertainment device. A digital wallet without financial awareness can become a vulnerability. And internet access without opportunity can produce frustration rather than prosperity. Pakistan therefore needs to think beyond becoming a "cashless" country. It needs to become a digitally capable country.The goal should be an economy in which payments are fast, affordable, secure and accessible to everyone—from the multinational corporation to the roadside vendor.Perhaps the most interesting part of this transformation is that it is happening quietly.

There are no iant factories being built. No massive highways are being inaugurated. No dramatic headlines announce each individual transaction.



A lady labourer pushing hand cart loaded with mud for preparing bricks at brick kiln, Tando Hyder



By: Ishak Soomro

Mohenjo-daro: A National Tourism Vision Demands Equal Attention

Pakistan has made remarkable progress in promoting tourism by showcasing its majestic mountains, glaciers and valleys to the world. New highways across the northern regions have transformed travel, strengthened regional connectivity and projected a positive international image. These investments deserve appreciation because modern infrastructure is indispensable for national development.

Yet, while national attention remains focused on the country's breathtaking natural landscapes, one of humanity's greatest archaeological treasures continues to receive far less attention than it deserves. That treasure is Mohenjo-daro, and unfortunately the road leading to it presents an image that is inconsistent with its global significance. Mohenjo-daro is far more than a tourist destination. It is one of the world's most important archaeological sites and one of the earliest known examples of planned urban civilization. More than 5,000

years ago, the people of the Indus Valley built a sophisticated city featuring an advanced drainage system, standardized brick construction, carefully planned streets, remarkable water management and an efficient civic administration. At a time when many of today's great civilizations had yet to emerge, the inhabitants of Mohenjo-daro had already demonstrated an extraordinary understanding of urban planning and public infrastructure.It is this exceptional legacy that earned Mohenjo-daro recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, it continues to inspire archaeologists, engineers, historians and researchers from around the globe.Recent archaeological discoveries have further elevated the site's international importance. Scientific excavations, conservation projects and radiocarbon dating have challenged several long-held assumptions regarding the city's origins. Researchers now believe that the massive mud-brick defensive wall dates back to the Early Harappan period, suggesting that Mohenjo-daro is even older than previously believed. Modern surveys have also corrected archaeological maps prepared nearly a century ago, revealing that the ancient city was considerably larger and more complex than earlier interpretations suggested. As the world rediscovers Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan has an opportunity to present this priceless heritage with renewed confidence. daro, Pakistan has an opportunity to present this priceless heritage with renewed confidence. Unfortunately, visitors travelling to the site encounter a very different reality. The 28-kilometre Larkana-Mohenjo-daro Road (National Highway N-155), constructed by the National Highway Authority in 2014 as a dual carriageway, has not undergone the comprehensive rehabilitation expected for an internationally significant tourism corridor. After more than a decade of service, sections of the pavement have deteriorated, lane markings have faded, reflective safety installations are inadequate and directional signage remains insufficient.For many visitors, the first impression of Pakistan's greatest archaeological treasure is not the magnificence of the Great Bath or the remarkable street grid of the ancient city. It is an access road that fails to reflect the importance of the destination. This is not merely an engineering issue. It is an issue of national image.

Every foreign tourist, archaeologist, diplomat, researcher, journalist and documentary filmmaker travelling to Mohenjo-daro forms an opinion about Pakistan before reaching the archaeological site itself. Infrastructure often communicates more effectively than speeches or promotional campaigns. A well-maintained road reflects national confidence, administrative efficiency

and respect for cultural heritage. Conversely, deteriorated pavements, inadequate signage and poor roadside presentation unintentionally convey neglect towards one of the world's greatest archaeological landmarks.

This concern is not hypothetical. Earlier this year, visitors from Norway and Lebanon expressed disappointment over the condition of the approach road and the absence of clear directional signs leading to Mohenjo-daro. Their observations should be regarded not as criticism but as constructive feedback from international visitors who travelled thousands of kilometers to experience Pakistan's ancient civilization.In today's digital world, every visitor becomes an ambassador. Positive experiences encourage tourism, while negative experiences spread rapidly through travel websites and social media, influencing thousands of potential visitors around the world.The Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, deserves recognition for his efforts to modernize Pakistan's highway network, particularly in the northern tourist regions. Better roads have boosted tourism, stimulated local economies and strengthened Pakistan's international image. The same vision should now extend to the country's most significant archaeological destination. A comprehensive national tourism policy must not distinguish between natural beauty and cultural heritage. Both represent Pakistan's identity and both deserve equal investment. Mohenjo-daro deserves to be connected through what can rightly be called Pakistan's Heritage Corridor.

Beginning from Sukkur and Larkana, visitors should be guided through internationally designed tourism signage displaying UNESCO branding and information about the Indus Valley Civilization. National Highway N-155 should undergo complete resurfacing where necessary, structural rehabilitation, fresh thermoplastic lane markings, installation of reflective road safety devices, modern overhead gantry signs, kilometer markers, landscaping with indigenous vegetation, decorative lighting at strategic locations and aesthetically designed entrance gateways.

welcoming visitors to one of humanity's oldest planned cities.

Such improvements would transform the journey into an integral part of the visitor experience rather than merely providing access to the destination. The financial investment required would be relatively modest compared to the long-term benefits. Improved infrastructure would promote tourism, facilitate international archaeological cooperation, strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, enhance Pakistan's global image and generate new economic opportunities for local communities.

Demonstrate that Pakistan fully recognizes its responsibility as custodian of one of humanity's greatest civilizations. As new archaeological discoveries continue to rewrite the history of Mohenjo-daro, the gateway leading to this extraordinary city should not remain neglected. The road should inspire the same admiration that visitors experience when they finally enter the ancient ruins. This is not simply about repairing asphalt or installing signboards. It is about presenting Pakistan with dignity before the world and honoring a civilization that gave humanity lessons in urban planning more than five thousand years ago.The time has come for the Ministry of Communications and the National Highway Authority to prioritize the immediate rehabilitation, modernization and beautification of National Highway N-155. Such an initiative would improve road safety, enrich the visitor experience .and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to preserving one of the greatest achievements in human history. Pakistan's tourism story should not begin and end in the northern mountains. It must also celebrate the cradle of the Indus Valley Civilization. Mohenjo-daro has already earned its place in world history. It is now our responsibility to ensure that the journey leading to it reflects the same greatness.

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Pakistan's trade deficit reaches $10.8 billion in first quarter

■ Pakistan's trade deficit rose 15% to $10.8 billion in the first quarter. September exports reached $2.93 billion, while imports stood at $6.49 billion.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's trade deficit reached $10.8 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, registering an increase of around 15 percent compared with the same period last year, according to data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The statistics showed that the trade gap also increased by 6% in September 2026 compared with September 2025. On a month-on-month basis, the deficit in September was around 8% higher than in August 2026.Exports recorded notable growth during the period. In September 2026, exports were 17% higher than in the same month of the previous year. Compared with August 2026, exports increased by 16%, while imports rose by 11%. According to the data, Pakistan's exports stood at $2.93 billion in September 2026, while imports reached **$6.49 billion**. Exports increased by around $400 million compared with August.

The report noted that the exchange value used for exports and imports was approximately Rs278 per US dollar.

Meanwhile, data for July and August showed growth in trade in services. Exports of services increased by around 29% during the two-month period, while imports of services registered growth of 9.7%.



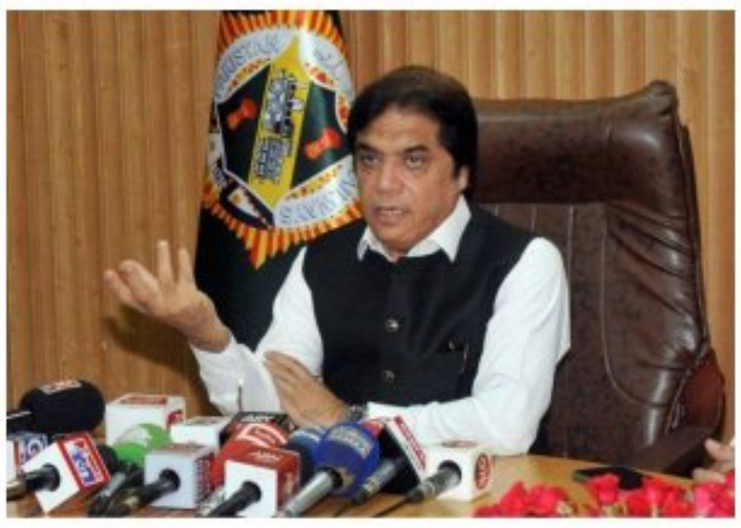
A labourer drives a loaded-cart on a busy road at Tower area

Minister announces zero-tolerance policy against theft of railway scrap, spare parts

■ anif Abbasi says private vendors causing delays in goods delivery should be blacklisted: Advance planning ensuring transparency and efficiency should be mandatory

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Minister for Pakistan Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has directed that advance planning be made mandatory to ensure transparency, efficiency and improvement in the railway system while private vendors causing delays in the delivery of goods should be blacklisted immediately,Hanif Abbasi issued these directions while chairing a meeting in Lahore Saturday on the performance and affairs of Pakistan Railways.

Hanif Abbasi directed the installation of modern CCTV cameras and deployment of private security personnel at all railway workshops and yards to strengthen security arrangements.

He also announced a zero-tolerance policy against theft of railway scrap and spare parts. He said all stakeholders would have to work collectively to achieve the revenue targets set for the current financial year.

The minister also directed that locomotives undergoing repairs be brought back into service according to the scheduled timeline.

Abbasi said there would be no compromise on the quality of work and warned that legal action would be taken against those found negligent in the discharge of their duties.

He further directed that all brake and luggage vans be outsourced immediately under a uniform policy.

The meeting was informed that Millat, Awam, Mianwali and Karakoram Express trains would be handed over to the private sector during the current month.

Uzbekistan emerging as global hub for technology outsourcing

● This transformation highlights Uzbekistan's growing role in the international technology services market, as the country moves beyond conventional software development towards providing comprehensive corporate and business support functions to international clients.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Uzbekistan is steadily strengthening its position in the global technology outsourcing market, transforming its domestic IT sector into an export-oriented industry encompassing software development, business process outsourcing (BPO), knowledge process outsourcing (KPO), creative industries and professional services.

The rapid expansion of the sector is reflected in the growth of IT outsourcing services, which increased from $3.2 million in 2019 to $716.4 million in 2025. During the same period, the number of IT companies surged from 369 to 3,400, while the overall volume of IT services reached $2.8 billion, said a release issued by embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan here on Saturday.

This transformation highlights Uzbekistan's growing role in the international technology services market, as the country moves beyond conventional software development towards providing comprehensive corporate and business support functions to international clients.

A major factor behind this growth is the country's young and expanding workforce. With a population of approximately 38 million, around 60 percent of whom are under the age of 30, Uzbekistan offers a substantial talent pool for technology-driven industries. Its working-age population is estimated at 21 million.

More than 220 universities are operating in the country, including 145 offering IT-related programmes.

Specialized IT universities produce around 25,000 graduates annually, while more than 350,000 people study foreign languages each year.

Uzbekistan currently has an estimated 500,000 IT professionals working in areas such as software development, data engineering, DevOps and UI/UX design.

The country's outsourcing industry is also expanding beyond software development, with business process outsourcing emerging as another important growth area.

Pakistan amends State-Owned Enterprises Policy on IMF directive

■ The amendment, however, provides a specific carve-out for entities regulated by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



The federal government has amended the State-Owned Enterprises (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023 to bring financial reporting of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and fulfil another condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF),

The Finance Division, through a notification issued on Saturday, approved amendments to paragraph 31 of the SOEs (Ownership and Management) Policy, 2023 under the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023

Under the amended policy, "International Financial Reporting Standards" for the SOEs Act, 2023 will mean the Financial Reporting Standards notified by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) from time to time under Section 225 of the Companies Act, 2017.

The amendment, however, provides a specific carve-out for entities regulated by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

For such entities, the statutory financial reporting framework prescribed by the central bank under the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962—including its circulars, directives and instructions—will take precedence and prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with the IFRS framework.

The government has also clarified the treatment of SECP-approved modifications and exemptions in the implementation of IFRS.

According to the amended policy, any modifications or exemptions granted by the SECP to companies generally under Section 225 of the Companies Act, 2017 will also apply to SOEs registered with the SECP under the Companies Act.

However, the provision will not affect the statutory powers, functions or instructions of the SBP in relation to entities regulated by it, which will continue to have an overriding effect as mandated under the SBP Act, 1956.

The amendment also assigns a new financial management responsibility to the Finance Division.

The Finance Division, in consultation with the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), has been mandated to issue a detailed framework for the financial management of statutory SOEs.

At the same time, all SOEs will be required to establish internal audit procedures and mechanisms in accordance with Sections 19 and 20 of the State-Owned Enterprises (Governance and Operations) Act, 2023.

The notification said the details of the new financial management arrangements are contained in Annexure 6 of the amended policy.

The move effectively establishes a common IFRS-based reporting reference for SOEs registered under the Companies Act while preserving sector-specific regulatory requirements of the central bank.

Trump tariffs a mixed bag for US auto industry

■ President Donald Trump has claimed a "roaring comeback" in American auto manufacturing following aggressive trade policy, but analysts view the cumulative impact as more of a mixed bag.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

President Donald Trump has claimed a "roaring comeback" in American auto manufacturing following aggressive trade policy, but analysts view the cumulative impact as more of a mixed bag.

Since Trump returned to the White House, General Motors, Toyota, Ford and other carmakers have announced plans to expand US plants or shift production from overseas to make use of underutilized factories, as the industry navigated measures such as a 25-percent levy on imported autos.

But as the president's allies in the Republican party look ahead to mid-term elections in November, the gains to the US carmaker profile look more incremental than decisive, and are accompanied by a drag in spending in some cases due to trade uncertainty.

"It's a partial win," Stephanie Brinley, an automotive analyst at Mobility Global, said of the lift from Trump's tariffs to the US auto industry.

Auto industry experts view the unsettled nature of Trump's trade measures as a hindrance to bigger wins. This defect has most recently surfaced in the dust-up between the United States and Canada that has clouded the prospects of the North American trade agreement, known as the USMCA.

In August, a top Honda executive said the company was operating near full capacity at its North American facilities and wanted to build a new plant, but might pivot if the fog around USMCA persists.

Moreover, the disruptions from tariffs and Trump's reversals of US policies favoring



electric vehicles have weighed on the US auto supplier sector, which provides parts and technology and employs some 930,000 people in the United States.

There has been "a noticeable slowdown" in investment by suppliers due to policy uncertainty, including on tariffs, said Tyler Harp, an industry economist at the Center for Automotive Research (CAR).

Investment by suppliers plunged from more than $8 billion in the first quarter of 2025 to around $600 million in the two subsequent quarters before recovering somewhat, according to CAR data.

"Suppliers are more exposed to tariffs," Harp said. "They're not in a position to absorb them as well as automakers."

After falling for much of 2025, US auto employment has been on an upswing for most of 2026. In September, the sector had just under 1.8 million workers, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

That's almost one percent more than the level in January 2025 when Trump took office, but more than two percent below the peak level from the last decade, in July 2024 when Joe Biden was president.

Scanned with CamScanner

Tens of thousands protest across Spain over housing crisis

- Far-right activists, some of whom performed Nazi salutes, tried to reach demonstrators camped out in the Puerta del Sol



Web Desk

MADRID

Spanish police arrested three members of a far-right group and fired rubber bullets on Saturday night in Madrid after tens of thousands had marched across the country to demand action to tackle a housing crisis.

Far-right activists, some of whom performed Nazi salutes, tried to reach demonstrators camped out in the Puerta del Sol, a central square in the Spanish capital, to protest the housing crisis, the Spanish government said.

Earlier, some demonstrators waved posters calling for a general strike after ?the measures drawn up to address mass anger over the eviction of an 87-year-old woman in Madrid, and other housing issues, were rejected in parliament on Friday.

"It's a shame," said Nando de Anguulo, 26, who joined Saturday's protest in Madrid. "It only proves that it is us, the people, who have to adapt to the political parties, and not the politicians to what the people want, and this can't go on like that."

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez might call a snap election for November after the legislation ?failed to pass and would be watching the strength of Saturday's protests before deciding, Spanish media reported on Friday.

Sanchez's office declined to comment on the reports.

In the southeastern city of Valencia, demonstrators clashed with police who fired rubber bullets and tear gas to break up protests.

About ?30 protesters entered the City of Arts and Sciences, a landmark cultural complex, before police ousted them. Other demonstrations in 50 Spanish cities were peaceful.

Lula ahead in polls for Brazil's first-round vote; runoff likely

Brazil's Lula holds a narrow lead over Flavio Bolsonaro in polls ahead of Sunday's first-round election, with surveys showing a tight runoff race between the two frontrunners.



WEB DESK

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

A series of polls on Saturday showed Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula ?da Silva slightly ahead of Senator Flavio Bolsonaro ?before Sunday's first-round vote, and a close race in a likely runoff between the leftist incumbent and his right-wing challenger.

If ?no candidate wins more than 50% of valid ?votes -- which exclude blank and null ballots -- on ?Sunday, the two frontrunners advance to a second-round runoff ?on October 25.

First round (valid votes): Lula 47.8%, Bolsonaro ?42.1%, Augusto Cury 3.6%, Ronaldo Caiado 3.4%, Renan Santos 1.7%, Romeu Zema 0.9% Runoff: Lula 47.3%, Bolsonaro 43.1%

MDA surveyed 2,007 people from ?September 30 to October 2; margin of error ?of 2.2 percentage points

First round (valid votes): Lula 45%, Bolsonaro 42%, Caiado ?4%, ?Santos 3%, Cury 3%, Zema 1% Runoff: Lula 47%, Bolsonaro 46%

Datafolha surveyed 4,006 people from October 2-3; margin of error 2 percentage points

First round (valid votes): Lula 46%, ?Bolsonaro 45%, Cury ?3%, Santos ?3%, Caiado 3% Runoff: Bolsonaro 44%, Lula 42%

Quaest surveyed 3,702 people from October 2-3; ?margin of error 2 percentage points

ATLASINTEL/BLOOMBERG POLL

First ?round (valid votes): ?Lula 47%, Bolsonaro 44.1%, Santos 4.6%, Cury 2.1%, Caiado 1.4% Runoff: Lula 47.6%, Bolsonaro 47.4%

AtlasIntel surveyed 4,945 people from ?September ?27 to October 2; margin of ?error 1 percentage point



Israel targets top Hamas leader in deadly Gaza strike on anniversary

Web DESK

GAZA

Israel said on Saturday that it attempted to kill Hamas's top leader in the Gaza Strip in an airstrike on an apartment that local officials said killed five people, four of them women.

The pre-dawn strike came on the anniversary according to the Jewish calendar of the October 7, 2023 attack, the deadliest-ever day for Israel which retaliated with a devastating offensive in Gaza.

The Israeli military said it aimed to kill Ali al-Amoudi, describing him as the "right-hand man" of slain Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar and saying he was involved in planning the October 7 attack.

Israel said it was reviewing whether it killed or injured him.

It said it targeted him after learning that he was inside an apartment building, saying it showed that Hamas was using civilians as human shields.

"Today, al-Amoudi is the most senior Hamas figure in the Gaza Strip and is directly involved in Hamas's terror activities and in rebuilding the organisation for war. The terrorist was struck in order to remove the threat," a military statement said.

"Steps were taken to mitigate harm to civilians, including the use of precise munitions," the military said, adding it "regrets any harm caused to uninvolved individuals".

Israel killed Sinwar in Gaza in October 2024, in what many Israelis saw as a major symbolic victory, although Israel has vowed to keep destroying Hamas even since a US-brokered ceasefire was declared a year ago.

Amoudi is considered Hamas's top person in the Gaza Strip. The movement's leader Khalil al-Hayaa lives in Qatar and has tried to manoeuvre diplomatically to Hamas's advantage.

Hayaa agreed in July to a US plan for Hamas to give up its weapons, in what President Donald Trump hailed as a breakthrough but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed as insincere.

IRGC says Trump must learn from Iran war and accept Tehran's conditions

WEB DESK

New Delhi



Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi has urged US President Donald Trump to learn from the experience of the war with Iran and accept Tehran's conditions.

In a statement, he said that Trump had failed to achieve his objectives during the conflict, while the United States faced economic and political difficulties throughout the war.

He claimed that the US government's primary concern was not the American people but Israel.

IRGC commander argued that the US military could not successfully fight countries possessing only a fraction of the resources available to the Pentagon.

The IRGC spokesman also criticized Trump's "America First" policy, saying the US president had promised to prioritize American interests but was now giving precedence to Israel.

He said Trump should draw lessons from the conflict with Iran and accept Tehran's terms if Washington wants to move forward.

Cornell president vows 'serious look' at fraternities sororities in wake of rape allegations

- Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff said the school would take steps to prevent a similar situation in the future

WEB DESK

Spain

Cornell University will examine the role of fraternities and sororities on campus following an outcry over the school's handling of a student's rape allegations,

A civil lawsuit filed last month by the woman, who alleges she was drugged and raped in 2024 by several members of the Chi Phi fraternity, has sparked outrage and soul-searching at Cornell over its campus culture at the school in Ithaca, New York.

In a video message, Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff said the school would take steps to prevent a similar situation in the future. That includes "a serious look at the role of ?fraternities and sororities in campus life," Kotlikoff said.



"At their best, these organizations can provide students with friendship, belonging, mentorship and a powerful sense of community," he said. "But being part of a group can never diminish individual responsibility."

The university will seek input, he said, from students, alumni and others on how to "preserve what is valuable about Greek life while strengthening individual accountability, transparency and a culture in which every member understands their responsibility to protect the safety and well-being of others."

The lawsuit against Cornell, seven fraternity members and others, alleges that the school failed to adequately punish some of the accused ?students.

The accused men have denied all wrongdoing, the New York Times reported.

Cornell has defended its handling of the matter, saying it launched a comprehensive investigation and barred the Chi Phi fraternity from campus. The school said it imposed a range of disciplinary measures, including expulsions.

But "we must do better," Kotlikoff said. "We don't have all the ?answers, but we are committed to investigating and finding the answers our community deserves."

He vowed that university officials would "be more transparent" about their actions related to the 2024 incident, but he did not detail specific initiatives that ?the university would take.

"In the coming weeks, we will create additional opportunities for members of our community to ask questions and hear directly from university leadership," he said.

Trump names intelligence chief Clayton as AI czar, to head task force, WSJ reports

- Clayton will lead a new White House panel tasked with reporting within 120 days on the risks and opportunities posed by AI

WEB DESK

DAVOS

US President Donald Trump has appointed Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton as the administration's AI czar, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday, citing an interview with Clayton.

Clayton, who was appointed intelligence chief in August, will lead a new White House panel tasked with reporting within 120 days on the risks and opportunities posed by AI, the newspaper said.

"The president asked that a group be put together," which the administration refers to as the "Super Intelligence Force," to ensure the US remains a leader in advanced AI while ?protecting Americans' interests, Clayton told the Journal, adding that "the risk of not being first is high."

The safety of AI has become a major issue in recent weeks, with some researchers warning that people building the technology believe it could kill humans within a decade. Several Democratic and Republican lawmakers have responded with alarm and calls for more action.

Trump has appeared to take a light touch toward AI regulation, arguing that excessive oversight could weaken competitiveness against China. He said on Tuesday that he does not want to work with Chinese ?President Xi Jinping on governing AI technology.

Clayton's panel will review AI-related risks and current government reporting mechanisms for breaches, hacks and other incidents, and recommend ways to strengthen federal-response capabilities under existing authorities, the Journal said, citing the task force's charter.

This is the second time Trump ?has named an adviser to oversee AI-related decisions across the administration. Venture capitalist David Sacks held the AI czar role at the beginning of Trump's second term.The task force's vice chairs will ?be Emil Michael, Scott Kupor and Federal Trade Commission Chair Andrew Ferguson, while members will include Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Scanned with CamScanner

Legendary comedian Umer Sharif remembered on death anniversary

■ Umer Sharif's popular dramas include the famous comedy drama Bakra Qastoon Par, released in 1989, Badha Ghar Par Hai, Meri Bhi To Eid Karade, Mama Mojak Mat Karo and

WEB DESK

KARACHI



The 5th death anniversary of the King of Comedy legend Umer Sharif is being observed on Friday Umer Sharif, who has made people laugh for decades with his unparalleled acting and unique style, was born on April 19, 1955, in the Liaquatabad area of Karachi.
He began his career as a stage performer under the name Umer Sharif.
He changed his name to Umer Sharif and then made his name known all over the world under that name. The uncrowned king of stage dramas released his plays for the first time on audio cassette in 1980, which became a success not only in Pakistan but also in neighbouring India.Umer Sharif's popular dramas include the famous comedy drama Bakra Qastoon Par, released in 1989, Badha Ghar Par Hai, Meri Bhi To Eid Karade, Mama Mojak Mat Karo and others.
He wrote the scripts of more than 70 plays, which he himself wrote, directed, and acted in, and these plays set records of popularity.
The legendary comedian was also honored with many awards for his unforgettable services to the Pakistani entertainment industry.
He was awarded 2 National Awards for Best Actor and Best Director for the film Mr. 420, released in 1992. In addition, he was awarded 10 Nigar Awards.

7 foods you should generally avoid storing in the fridge

■ Experts reveal foods that are better stored outside the fridge

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



While refrigeration helps extend the shelf life of many foods, some everyday items are generally better stored outside the fridge, experts say. Low temperatures can affect the texture and flavour of certain foods and, in some cases, may accelerate quality deterioration.
Here are some commonly used foods that are generally better kept at room temperature when they are whole and uncut.
Tomatoes
Refrigerating tomatoes can affect their texture and flavour, making them softer and reducing some of their natural sweetness and aroma.
Whole tomatoes are generally best kept at room temperature away from direct sunlight. Once cut, they should be refrigerated.
Potatoes Cold temperatures can cause some of the starch in potatoes to convert into sugars. This can affect their taste and cooking characteristics, sometimes making them unusually sweet and affecting their texture.
Potatoes are best stored in a cool, dark and dry place with good ventilation, such as a kitchen basket or paper bag. They should also be kept separately from onions.
Whole onions can become soft and develop mould more easily in a humid refrigerator environment.
Garlic can also sprout and develop a rubbery texture when exposed to unsuitable storage conditions.
Both onions and garlic are generally better kept in a cool, dry and well-ventilated place. Peeled or chopped onions and garlic, however, should be transferred to a sealed container and refrigerated.
Bread Refrigeration can speed up the process that makes bread dry and stale.
Bread intended for consumption within a few days is generally better kept at room temperature in a bread box or sealed bag.
If bread needs to be stored for a longer period, freezing it is generally a better option than refrigerating it.
Cold temperatures can cause banana peels to darken and may affect the texture of the fruit.
Unripe and ripe bananas are generally better kept



Babrik Shah gets massive Lollywood support ahead of Tamasha 5 finale

■ Babrik Shah comes from a film family, with his father also associated with the Pakistani film industry.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Actor Babrik Shah is receiving massive support from his fellow Lollywood stars as his Tamasha Season 5 journey moves towards the finale, with several prominent film celebrities publicly backing the veteran actor and cheering him on.

Babrik Shah comes from a film family, with his father also associated with the Pakistani film industry. He followed the same path and established himself as a film actor, appearing in several projects during the period when Lollywood was producing films regularly.
However, as the local film industry went through a difficult period and opportunities became limited, Babrik's work on the big screen also slowed down. His appearance on Tamasha 5 has now brought him back into the spotlight, giving audiences a chance to see a different side of the veteran actor.
Throughout the reality show, Babrik has attracted attention for his humour, personality and approach to the game. His interactions with other contestants have also become a regular talking point among viewers, while his experience in the entertainment industry has added another dimension to his presence in the house.

As the show heads towards its final stage, support for Babrik is also coming from outside the Tamasha house. His Lollywood friends have stepped forward to show their backing, with Babar Ali, Arbaaz Khan, Saud Qasmi, Jan Rambo and Mishi Khan among those who have shared messages in his support.
The support from his former colleagues also shows that Babrik continues to have strong connections within the film industry, despite spending years away from the mainstream spotlight.
His Tamasha 5 appearance has also introduced him to a new generation of viewers while reminding longtime fans of his connection with Pakistani cinema.
The actor has been receiving support from viewers on social media as well, with fans regularly sharing posts and comments in his favor during the show.



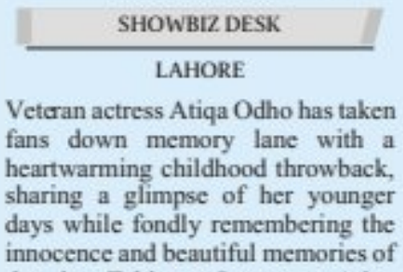
'Mere bachpan ke din', Atiqa Odho unlocks precious childhood memories

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Veteran actress Atiqa Odho has taken fans down memory lane with a heartwarming childhood throwback, sharing a glimpse of her younger days while fondly remembering the innocence and beautiful memories of that time.Taking to Instagram, Atiqa shared a childhood photograph of herself along with a heartfelt message about her early years. Writing, "Mere bachpan ke din, kitne achay thay din," the actress looked back fondly on the days she remembers with affection.
The black-and-white photograph shows a young Atiqa looking towards the camera while wearing a patterned dress and a headband, giving fans a nostalgic glimpse of the actress from long before she became a familiar face on Pakistani television.
Alongside the photograph, Atiqa wrote about looking back at her innocent days and cherishing the memories and journey that followed. She also expressed gratitude to everyone who has been part of her story over the years.
Her message reflected a simple appreciation for the different chapters of her life, from childhood memories to the experiences and people who became part of her journey.

Feroze Khan hits back at critic questioning his support for Shahvir Kadwani



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actor Feroze Khan has publicly thrown his support behind young actor Shahvir Kadwani, firmly shutting down a social media user who questioned his decision to defend the rising star over ongoing criticism.Taking to Instagram, Feroze shared a picture featuring himself alongside Shahvir and penned a supportive note, writing: "Hate only comes after success Shahvir, congratulations you're the new successful."Shahvir responded to the veteran actor's show of support in the comments section, expressing his gratitude and writing: "Blessed to have brothers like you in my life."
However, the post soon sparked a debate among social media users, with one commenter directly questioning Feroze's stance.
Tagging the actor, the user asked: "Put your hand on your heart and tell me, Feroze bhai, aren't you defending the wrong thing here?"
Feroze did not shy away from responding and firmly rejected the criticism.

Hadiqa Kiani celebrates record-breaking response to 'Ki Puchdayo Haal

■ Legendary Pakistani singer Hadiqa Kiani has basking in the overwhelming response to her soulful Sufi track 'Ki Puchdayo Haal', which has crossed an impressive 7 million views in just five days.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Legendary Pakistani singer Hadiqa Kiani has basking in the overwhelming response to her soulful Sufi track 'Ki Puchdayo Haal', which has crossed an impressive 7 million views in just five days.
Taking to her Instagram handle, the celebrated singer shared a post featuring a screenshot from the official music video alongside positive reactions from listeners, many of whom praised her melodious vocals and acknowledged the timeless legacy of iconic Punjabi poet Shiv Kumar Batalvi.
Expressing her gratitude over the remarkable milestone, Hadiqa wrote:
"So grateful. Over 7 million views in 5 days, I don't have the words to express my gratitude."
The achievement comes as the Sufi rendition continues to resonate with audiences, with



listeners appreciating Hadiqa's emotive delivery and the poetic depth behind the track. Released through the Sufiscore platform, 'Ki Puchdayo Haal' is a deeply meditative Sufi composition built around the evocative poetry of renowned Punjabi writer Shiv Kumar Batalvi. The song also incorporates concluding verses attributed to legendary Sufi poet Bulleh Shah, further enriching its spiritual and literary essence.
The music video, directed by Abdullah Haris, complements the haunting and introspective mood of the song with breathtaking visuals captured across Skardu and the northern areas of Pakistan.
The expansive mountainous landscapes and serene natural surroundings mirror the track's central themes of longing, solitude and self-discovery, creating a visual experience that complements Hadiqa's soulful rendition.
As 'Ki Puchdayo Haal' continues to gather millions of views, Hadiqa's latest musical offering is striking a chord with listeners while bringing celebrated Punjabi poetry to a contemporary audience.

Mehwish Hayat heats up Rutba countdown with powerful Sheelli tease

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Actress Mehwish Hayat has turned up the excitement around her upcoming drama Rutba by giving fans another glimpse of her powerful character Sheelli as the countdown to the October 6 premiere continues.
Taking to Instagram, Mehwish shared a promotional poster featuring herself alongside Talha Chahour and described the drama as a story where "status, principles and ambition" are set to collide. She introduced the characters Hadi and Sheelli while reminding viewers that Rutba will begin airing on October 6.
The actress also revealed that the drama will air every Monday and Tuesday at 8pm on ARY Digital. The promotional campaign has so far focused on themes of power, status and ambition while keeping much of the storyline under wraps.
The poster highlights writer Umera Ahmed and director Haseeb Hassan, whose collaboration has further added to the interest surrounding the project as viewers wait to see how the story unfolds.
Mehwish later shared another promotional post marking five days to go before the premiere. In the post, she highlighted her



character Sheelli and wrote that she carries a presence that demands attention, while hinting that power can change everything in the world of Rutba.
The accompanying poster once again carried the drama's tagline, "With power, nothing stays the same," while confirming its October 6 launch and Monday-Tuesday broadcast schedule at 8pm.
Through the countdown posts, Mehwish has offered viewers brief glimpses of Sheelli without revealing major details about the character or the storyline. The promotional material continues to focus on power, status, principles and ambition as key themes of the drama.
Rutba features Mehwish Hayat, Talha

Scanned with CamScanner



Date change: Punjab govt considers only three-day Basant after Eid in March

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Uncertainty over the date of Basant 2027 continues, as the Punjab government has decided to revise the festival schedule once again,

According to the well-placed sources in the government, consultations on the new dates of Basant had been completed and an announcement could be made at any time.

Sources said Basant is now likely to be held for three days instead of the previously proposed 10-day period. The festival is also expected to be moved from January and February to March, shortly after the holy month of Ramadan.

The sources said the festival would be limited to three days under the latest proposal.

Basant dates have already been changed several times. The festival was initially announced for March before the schedule was later shifted to January 29 to February 7.

Houthis say struck oil facility near Riyadh, as Saudis hit Sanaa

● Two correspondents in Sanaa reported hearing loud explosions and seeing warplanes firing missiles at the city.

WEB DESK

Riyadh

Yemen's Houthis claimed an attack on an oil facility near the Saudi capital , where an AFP journalist saw flames and smoke, and accused the Gulf kingdom of striking Sanaa dozens of times.

The foes have traded strikes since the Houthis seized all of Yemen's Red Sea coast and took control of the Bab al-Mandab strait in a lightning offensive last month.Houthi-affiliated channel Al-Masirah TV reported that "Saudi enemy aircraft" hit Sanaa with 26 strikes, after earlier reporting "Saudi aggression" against the Yemeni capital, without providing details on the targets or casualties.

Two correspondents in Sanaa reported hearing loud explosions and seeing warplanes firing missiles at the city.

In neighbouring Saudi Arabia, flames and smoke were seen rising on Saturday afternoon from an Aramco facility south of Riyadh, an AFP journalist said.



While the Saudi authorities are yet to comment, late on Saturday, the Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group had targeted an oil facility in Riyadh with ballistic missiles and drones, adding that they sparked fires at the targeted sites.

The AFP journalist reported seeing firefighters attempting to extinguish a blaze at Aramco's Riyadh refinery, located south of the capital, while ambulances and police vehicles were stationed near the facility.

The Houthis' Al-Masirah channel earlier on Saturday also reported missile strikes on the telecommunications network in Yemen's northwestern governorate of Saada, one of the group's strongholds.

It comes after the Houthis said that Saudi Arabia bombed the Yemeni capital itself on Thursday night for the first time since renewed fighting broke out between the two sides in July.

After several years of calm, Yemen was plunged back into civil war that month, pitting the Iran-backed Houthis, who control most of northwest Yemen including Sanaa, against Yemen's internationally recognised government.

The government, based in the city of Aden, controls much of the country's south and east -- a region that is larger but much less populated.

Hostilities were reignited after four years of a fragile truce when Iran sent a plane to Sanaa carrying a Houthi delegation. The flight did not seek authorisation from Saudi Arabia, contravening a practice in place for a decade. Riyadh retaliated with strikes on Sanaa airport, and in response the Houthis attacked Saudi territory for the first time since 2022. Since then, fighting has intensified with the Houthis launching a lightning offensive in which they seized control of coastal regions along the Bab al-Mandab strait.

AJK president calls for solving Kashmir issue as per UN resolutions

● Hurriyat delegation meets AJK president, discusses the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), led by Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, on Saturday called on President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Dr Muhammad Najib Khan and discussed the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The meeting discussed Indian actions in IIOJK, alleged human rights violations, the situation of Hurriyat leaders and activists, and efforts to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level.

The AJK president said the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was an internationally recognized issue and its final settlement should be in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, a press release issued here said.



He said the Kashmiri people should be given their right to self-determination to decide their future, and appreciated Pakistan's political, diplomatic and moral support for the Kashmir cause.

Dr Najib Khan said the unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 could not change the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir or affect the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

He called upon the international community to take notice of the situation in IIOJK and urged the UN human rights bodies and international observers to be given access to the territory for an impartial assessment of the situation.

The president also called for highlighting alleged human rights violations, arrests of political activists and Hurriyat leaders and restrictions on freedom of expression in IIOJK.

Anti-Taliban groups claim deadly operations across several Afghan provinces

■ National Independence Front claims rocket attack on Taliban intelligence headquarters in Mazar-i-Sharif: United Front of Afghanistan claims Taliban-linked commander was killed in Zabul

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Armed resistance groups have claimed a series of attacks against the Taliban regime in different parts of Afghanistan, with operations reported in several provinces,

According to the report, the National Independence Front of Afghanistan claimed that a rocket attack targeted the Taliban intelligence directorate headquarters in Mazar-i-Sharif. The group said five people were killed in the attack, including Deputy Director Qari Nasir Ahmad.



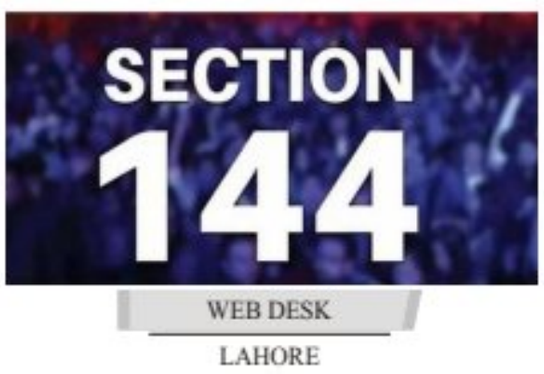
The United Front of Afghanistan also claimed that one of its operations in Zabul province killed Bilal, whom the group described as an important commander linked to the Taliban's Abu Bakr network.

The United Front said 68 operations had been carried out across 19 Afghan provinces during the past two months. It claimed that 102 Taliban members were killed and another 45 were wounded during the reported operations.

Meanwhile, the National Resistance Front claimed responsibility for an attack in the Faryab district of Baghlan province. According to the group, three Taliban members were killed and two others were wounded in the attack.

Section 144 imposed in parts of KP amid security concerns

■ Restrictions on transportation and movement of various types of vehicles in South Waziristan Lower, South Waziristan Upper, DI Khan and Tank Dist imposed



WEB DESK

LAHORE

In view of security concerns, Section 144 has been imposed in various areas of the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.The district administration has imposed restrictions on transportation and movement of various types of vehicles in South Waziristan Lower, South Waziristan Upper, Dera Ismail Khan and Tank District. A ban has been imposed on the movement of loader rickshaws, single and double cabin cargo vehicles, Shehzore, Mazda, Suzuki loaders and dumpers in Wana and Azam Warsak of Lower South Waziristan, which will be in effect from 9pm on October 1 to 9pm on October 10.

Similarly, the movement of loader rickshaws, cargo vehicles, Shehzore, Mazda, Suzuki loaders, tractor trolleys and dumpers has been banned in Upper, which will continue from October 3 to 5.

Traffic has been restricted on Tank Road, Kalachi, Hathala, Kot Atal, Garh Abdullah and several link roads in Dera Ismail Khan.The ban will be in effect from 6 am to 6 pm from October 4 to 6, while Potta Hathala Bazaar will also remain closed.A ban has been imposed on the movement of people, passenger and cargo vehicles, and motorcycles on various routes in Tank district, which will be in effect from 9 pm on October 3 to 12 noon on October 5. Emergency movements permitted by law enforcement agencies, emergency services and security forces will be exempt from the ban.

Customs seize 47kg of suspected drugs at Islamabad airport

■ Islamabad airport Customs seize 47 kilograms of suspected drugs in two operations, arresting passengers and initiating legal proceedings.



SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Customs authorities at Islamabad International Airport seized a total of 47 kilograms of suspected drugs in two separate operations against drug smuggling attempts over the past week.

According to Customs officials, passengers arriving from abroad on Thai Airways flight TG-349 were subjected to strict surveillance and checking on October 2, 2026.

During the inspection, a Thai national, Naeehaphong Pueehykosai, was stopped and searched. Customs officials recovered 23 kilograms of suspected cannabis/weed from his possession, estimated to be worth around Rs31 million.

Officials said a special vigilance team was formed on the basis of credible information under the supervision of the Assistant Collector Customs (AB), Airport. The recovered material was seized and the passenger was detained for further legal proceedings. A case was also registered against him.

In another operation, Customs officials stopped an incoming passenger on the basis of a tip-off and recovered 24 kilograms of hashish from his possession. The international market value of the seized drugs was estimated at around Rs310 million.

Customs officials said 55 kilograms of hashish worth Rs550 million had also been seized from an incoming passenger on September 28. Legal proceedings against the passengers arrested in both operations are underway.



People drink fresh juice made from seasonal mausambi (sweet lime) prepared by a fruit vendor

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By: Abdullah Jan
Sports Reporter

SPECIAL EDITION



Grand Opening of the Balochistan Youth Cricket League

FC Brigade Commander Brigadier Fayyaz Hussain Shah Attends the Opening Ceremony









The Balochistan Youth Cricket League, organized by FC Balochistan (North), was inaugurated in a grand ceremony at Chagai Stadium, Quetta. FC Brigade Commander Brigadier Fayyaz Hussain Shah formally opened the tournament by playing the ceremonial first shot, marking the beginning of an exciting week of cricket featuring young players from leading educational institutions.The Balochistan Youth Cricket League is being held from October 1 to October 8, 2026, at Chagai Stadium, Quetta. A total of 10 educational institutions are participating in the tournament, providing young students with an opportunity to demonstrate their cricketing abilities in a competitive and organized sporting environment.The tournament features a total of 24 matches, ensuring an extensive schedule of competitive cricket throughout the week. A special match for women has also been included in the tournament, providing female students and players with an opportunity to participate in sporting activities and showcase their talent.The participating teams have been divided into two groups. Group 1 comprises NUML University, the University of Balochistan, NUML Balochistan Campus, Iqra Public School and College, and the Infantry School. Group 2 includes BUITEMS University, Balochistan Agriculture University, Bolan Medical College, Al-Hamd University, and the Command and Staff College.The league brings together students from universities, colleges and educational institutions on a common sporting platform. The participating teams will compete against each other during the league and will seek to secure strong results through consistent performances on the field.The organization of the Balochistan Youth Cricket League is aimed at providing young people with healthy, positive and constructive opportunities outside their routine academic activities. Sports play an important role in encouraging young people to remain physically active while also developing qualities such as teamwork, discipline, cooperation, confidence and healthy competition.The participation of 10 educational institutions has added further significance to the tournament, allowing students from different institutions to interact with one another through sport. The competition provides young cricketers with an opportunity to test their abilities against players from other institutions and gain valuable experience in a competitive environment.The inclusion of a special women's match is also an important feature of the league. It provides female players with an opportunity to take part in cricket activities and encourages greater participation of young women in sports. Through such activities, students can use their energy in positive and productive pursuits while developing their sporting abilities.The tournament is also expected to promote a spirit of healthy competition among students representing different educational institutions. While the teams will compete for victory on the cricket field, the league also provides an environment where players can learn the importance of teamwork, mutual respect, sportsmanship and discipline.The 24-match schedule will keep the competition active throughout the tournament period. Each participating team will have the opportunity to demonstrate its capabilities, while the stronger-performing sides will move forward in the competition and compete for a place in the final.The tournament final will be played on October 8, 2026, bringing the week-long cricket event to a conclusion. The finalists will compete for the championship title at Chagai Stadium, Quetta.





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