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PTI terms PM Shehbaz's dialogue offer 'merely symbolic'

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan termed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer for talks a "merely symbolic" one, saying that no positive step has been taken beyond extending the invitation.

Speaking to journalists in Rawalpindi, Barrister Gohar said his party had been denied a meeting with its jailed founder Imran Khan for a year, with the last meeting taking place in October last year. "We have always stood with the state of Pakistan," he said, adding that despite the party's good intentions, it was still not being allowed to meet its leader.

The PTI chairman's remarks came hours after the prime minister extended a conditional offer of talks to the PTI, provided it ends its ongoing long march towards Islamabad.



Court extends bail granted to Shah Mehmood Qureshi in May 9 cases

CITY REPORTER

Lahore

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday extended the interim bail granted to PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi in different cases, including Jinnah House, Askari Tower attack cases, until November 6,

The court directed the lawyers to give arguments at the next hearing.

Jail warrant papers of the PTI leader were presented in the court on the occasion.

Qureshi had filed interim bail petitions in different cases, including that of torching of the PML-N's office and containers at Kalma Chowk, prior to his arrest. However, they were rejected after he was taken into custody. Later, they were restored on the Lahore High Court (LHC) orders.Out of 14 May 9 cases registered against the PTI leader, he has been acquitted in six of them.



Pakistan's bank deposits rise 14% to Rs39.24 trillion

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's banking sector deposits rose 13.9% YoY to Rs39.244 trillion at the end of August, supported by increased digitalisation and strong remittance inflows through official channels, According to the latest State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data, the strong growth in banking deposits is due to increased digitalisation and robust remittance flows through official channels.

Bank deposits reached Rs 39,244 billion by August 2026, and bank deposits stood at Rs 34,463 billion in August 2025.

An increase of Rs 4,781 billion in bank deposits was recorded over the course of a year.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives a briefing at the groundbreaking ceremony of Kashmir Chowk Underpass in Islamabad.

PM Shehbaz offers talks to PTI if long march is called off

- PM Shehbaz Sharif offers talks to PTI, urging it to end its long march and sit-ins as he stresses dialogue, economic stability and public safety.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has offered talks to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) , urging the party to end its long march and sit-ins and resolve political issues through dialogue.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of the Kashmir Chowk Underpass in Islamabad, the prime minister said the government had agreed to hold meaningful and purposeful negotiations with the PTI leadership to find solutions to the country's issues through mutual discussions.He said roads, underpasses and bridges were constructed to facilitate the people's travel, expressing hope that one day the Kashmir Highway would reach Srinagar.

The prime minister regretted what he described as the return of the "dark shadows" of sit-ins and long marches. He said the government's committee had held talks with the PTI in the Speaker's Chamber for two days and had hoped that the discussions would produce positive results.The premier said the government had also hoped that the talks would lead to an end to the politics of sit-ins. However, he said the PTI delegation later demanded changes to matters that had already been agreed upon.

Shehbaz Sharif said the politics of long marches and sit-ins first affected the country's economy. He maintained that the government had worked as a team over the past two and a half years to put the economy back on its feet.He said the time had now come for economic growth, pointing to an increase in remittances and IT exports. The prime minister alleged that the country's development was being deliberately disrupted, despite Pakistan gaining recognition internationally.

Trump says he is ready for direct talks with Iran



WEB DESK

WASHNGATION

US President Donald Trump has said he is ready to hold direct talks with Iran, as tensions between Washington and Tehran continue amid the ongoing conflict,

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump said he had always been willing to negotiate directly with Iran.

The US president also commented on rising fuel prices, rejecting the view that the Strait of Hormuz was now the main reason behind the increase.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump blamed Ukraine's attacks on Russian oil refineries and the closure of refineries in Democratic-led US states, including California, for putting additional pressure on fuel prices.

He also said he believed Iran was responsible for the recent incident involving a FlyDubai aircraft, although investigations into the incident are continuing.

Trump also addressed the withdrawal of US bomber aircraft from RAF Fairford in Britain.

He said the aircraft had been brought back to the United States because of a specific security threat. The Pentagon confirmed that the US bombers had been redeployed from the British base following security concerns.

PTI lacks numbers to move long march beyond Attock, says KP governor

- The governor alleged that the PTI was no longer a conventional political party and accused its leadership of damaging the province

CITY REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lacks the public support to take its long march beyond Attock, warning that the provincial government would implement governor's rule if the president and prime minister decide to impose it.

Speaking to a private television channel, Kundi said the PTI could not move beyond Attock and challenged the party to demonstrate its claimed public support.

"Where are the two million people?" he asked, claiming that the PTI did not have enough people to carry out the march.

The governor alleged that the PTI was no longer a conventional political party and accused its leadership of



damaging the province. He also claimed that the provincial government had failed to establish control over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Kundi said the province was facing a serious security crisis, yet the PTI was focusing on marching towards Islamabad instead of addressing militancy.

He also expressed concerns about security during the long march, questioning whether the PTI had any mechanism to prevent an individual from entering Islamabad with malicious intentions during the protest.

Five terrorists killed in North Waziristan operation

- Security forces killed five terrorists and wounded two others in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan. President Zardari and PM Shehbaz praised the forces for the operation.

CITY REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Security forces have killed five terrorists and wounded two others in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan, security sources said.The operation was carried out against alleged militants affiliated with Fitna al-Khawarij in parts of North Waziristan and nearby areas, according to the sources.

Security forces had been monitoring the movement of the militants and subsequently launched what the sources described as a targeted operation against their positions.

President Asif Ali Zardari commended the security forces for the operation, praising their professional capabilities and response against militant elements. He said such operations were helping prevent militants from carrying out their objectives.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed appreciation for the security forces, saying they had taken timely and decisive action against the militants.

The prime minister said operations against Fitna al-Khawarij would continue until terrorism was eliminated, reiterating that lasting peace and the eradication of terrorism were among the government's key priorities under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision.

Pakistan conducts successful test of indigenous Fatah-4 cruise missile

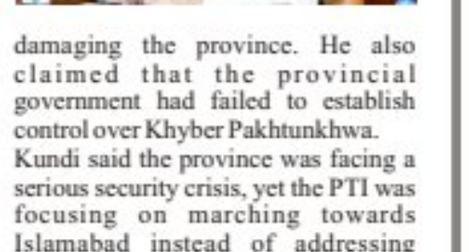
- Missile equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigation systems, says ISPR

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan conducted a successful test launch of the indigenously developed extended version of the Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, the weapon system is capable of engaging targets at extended ranges with high precision and lethality, the military's



media wing said.

It added that the test also validated additional technical parameters of various subsystems incorporated to improve accuracy and enhance survivability.

"Today's launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Pakistan Army along with scientists and engineers of the developing agency," the ISPR added.President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and services chiefs commended the successful test launch of the Fatah-4 extended version.

They appreciated the technical prowess, dedication, and commitment of all those who contributed to achieving this milestone.

The test followed the successful training fire of the Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile in May this year. Earlier this year, theArmy Rocket Force Command conducted a successful training launch of the indigenously developed Fateh-II missile system.

In a statement on April 28, the ISPR said the launch was witnessed by senior officers from the Strategic Plans Division, Army Rocket Force Command and Pakistan Army, along with scientists and Engineers of Strategic Organisations.

Scanned with CamScanner

ANF seizes 3,825kg drugs worth Rs560m in Balochistan operation

- The total value of the seized narcotics exceeds Rs560 million and the narcotics were allegedly intended to be smuggled abroad.



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized a total of 3,825 kilograms of narcotics during an operation at a clandestine drug cache in the Jusak area of Balochistan, allegedly intended to be smuggled abroad.

According to the ANF, the seized narcotics included 2,454 kilograms of hashish, 1,363 kilograms of methamphetamine (Ice), and eight kilograms of heroin.

The total value of the seized narcotics exceeds Rs560 million and the narcotics were allegedly intended to be smuggled abroad.

The compound was being used for the temporary storage of the narcotics.

Preliminary investigations indicated the narcotics were smuggled into Pakistan from Afghanistan.

The plan was to smuggle the narcotics abroad via a sea route once a signal for safe passage was received.

A month ago, acting on information provided by the ANF, 463 kg of 'Ice' (crystal methamphetamine) was seized at the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

These drugs were recovered from a container at the Port of Colombo.



High-security arrangements are in place in Rawalpindi as the Sri Lankan cricket team conducts practice sessions ahead of their upcoming series against Pakistan

Balochistan Holds Special Open Courts for Women in Three Districts

- Over 600 women participate in first-of-their-kind forums in Sohbatpur, Sibi and Harnai to raise concerns about rights, education, healthcare, employment and basic amenities

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA





Special open courts for women were organized for the first time in three districts of Balochistan during September 2026, providing women with a direct platform to present their concerns and grievances before administrative institutions.

The initiative was carried out in Sohbatpur, Sibi and Harnai with the cooperation of FC Balochistan (North) and the respective district administrations. The open courts were aimed at bringing government institutions closer to local communities and creating an accessible forum where women could directly communicate their problems to the authorities concerned.

More than 600 women participated in the special open courts held across the three districts. During the proceedings, participants highlighted a wide range of issues affecting their daily lives and communities. These included concerns related to women's rights, access to basic amenities, education, healthcare, employment opportunities and other social and administrative matters.

The forums provided participating women with an opportunity to raise their concerns directly rather than relying solely on intermediaries. The initiative also enabled representatives of the relevant administrative institutions to hear the issues firsthand and take note of the problems faced by women in different areas.

Officials and concerned institutions assured the participants that practical measures would be taken to address the issues raised during the open courts. The assurances included efforts to examine the complaints and concerns presented by women and take appropriate steps through the relevant departments and administrative channels.

The organization of dedicated open courts for women is being viewed as an effort to improve communication between local women and government institutions.

PTI using 'Pashtun card' for political mileage: Ikhtiar Wali

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Prime Minister's Coordinator Ikhtiar Wali has accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of creating political unrest and using what he described as the 'Pashtun card' to spread propaganda, saying the state cannot be held hostage.

Speaking about the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Wali claimed that thousands of terrorist incidents had occurred in the province over the past two years.

He also said the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in KP was facing a shortage of weapons.

Meanwhile, Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry said the government remained committed to its policy of reconciliation and had sought to resolve political differences with the opposition through negotiations.

Chaudhry alleged that PTI had deliberately undermined the talks and was attempting to mislead the public about the government's position. He further claimed that PTI's priorities did not include addressing the deaths of its supporters.

Referring to the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chaudhry said the province's challenges were visible to the public and alleged that corruption had remained a major issue in KP for the past 15 years.

The statements come amid continued political tensions between the government and PTI, with both sides maintaining differing positions over negotiations, governance and the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Heavy rains, hailstorms trigger floods, close highways in KP cities

- The worst-hit KP cities were Landi Kotal, Bara and Swabi while Pak-Afghan Highway was closed at many points due to heavy flood situation in Khyber, Torkham border, Zakhakhail Bazaar and Shinwari areas.

SPECIAL REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Widespread heavy rains and hailstorm on Tuesday morning suspended routine life in upper parts of the country particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, triggering floods, shutting down highways, destroying crops and suspending electricity supply, The worst-hit KP cities were Landi Kotal, Bara and Swabi while Pak-Afghan Highway was closed at many points due to heavy flood situation in Khyber, Torkham border, Zakhakhail Bazaar and Shinwari areas.

The local administrations have warned the public to exercise caution while travelling during the tough conditions due to rain and stay away from the flooding routes.

Heavy rain and hailstorm also lashed Swabi District turning the weather cold, damaging standing crops, flooding low-lying areas and disrupting power supply.

The thick black clouds darkened Tehsil Bara and Jamrud in Khyber District, turning the day into night.

Authorities dispatched rescue teams to deal with the flood situation in Bara River.

Authorities in Landi Kotal issued alert after stormy heavy rains triggered high flood in the river,



warning people to stay away from the flooded areas.

Murre and Attock cities were also hit by heavy rain and hailstorms, dipping the mercury while the Met Office has predicted more rains for the hillstation and its upper areas, alerting tourists and drivers to be careful in face of landsliding and thick fog.

The electricity supply was interrupted in 83 feeders of Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (Pesco) region due to heavy rain.

A Pesco spokesman informed the media that 19 feeders in Peshawar, 13 in Khyber, nine in Swabi, 29 in Mardan and 13 in Swat were tripped due to the heavy downpours.

The spokesman said the Pesco operation team is on high alert on the directive of Pesco chief Akhtar Hameed Khan and have started restoration work in the areas where the rain has stopped.

Eight international, domestic flights cancelled at Karachi Airport

- According to flight schedule, flight ET-695 from Karachi to Addis Ababa has been cancelled while flight SQB-976 from Karachi to Rahim Yar Khan has also been shelved.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Eight international and domestic flights departing from Karachi's Jinnah International Airport were cancelled on Tuesday due to technical reasons, According to flight schedule, flight ET-695 from Karachi to Addis Ababa has been cancelled while flight SQB-976 from Karachi to Rahim Yar Khan has also been shelved.Moreover, Fly Jinnah flight 9P-870 from Karachi to Multan has been cancelled while Fly Jinnah flight 9P-810 from Karachi to Faisalabad has also been called off.

Further, Fly Jinnah flight 9P-851 from Karachi to Quetta has been cancelled while Fly Jinnah flight 9P-844 from Karachi to Lahore has also been cancelled.

Similarly, AirSial flight PF-125 from Karachi to Islamabad has been called off while Airblue flight PA-110 from Karachi to Dubai has also been suspended.

New mechanism introduced in Punjab to extend employees' contract

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

A new procedure has been established for extending the tenure of contract employees in Punjab, As per official document, contract extensions for any employee will now be granted based on performance.

The requirement for the Punjab Chief Minister's prior approval in every individual case for contract extensions has been waived.

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشت گردی مستونگ

اشتہار بحکم احضار شخص ملزمان زیر دفعہ (87 ض ف)(10) 19 انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ 1997

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ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی حامد ولد مومن قوم بلوچ سکنہ کلاغ پسنی جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ (2) (1) 7 ATA 21 i -11F ت پ 34-109-302 میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی حامد ولد مومن مذکور دستیاب نہیں ہو سکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی حامد ولد مومن مذکورہ فرار ہو گیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی حامد ولد مومن سکنہ کلاغ پسنی کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 12 ماہ اکتوبر 2026ء بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکورہ کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

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Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, Pakistan's Envoy to the UAE, inaugurates the Pakistan Pavilion at AI Everything Global 2026 in Dubai, showcasing Pakistan's growing capabilities in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies on 06.10.2026

Scanned with CamScanner

The Medal of Peace and the Yoke of Inflation



By: Aasi, Islamabad

The story begins with a strange contradiction. The president of the world's most powerful nation stands on the White House lawn calling Pakistan's army chief a "fantastic person." Islamabad is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Newspapers across the globe crown Pakistan the "unlikely peace broker." And at that very moment, on a street in that very city, a motorcyclist stands at a petrol pump doing the math — at three hundred and ten rupees a litre, how much fuel can he afford today and still make it home with something left in his pocket. Both scenes are unfolding in the same country, at the same time, under the same government. This contradiction is the real story of today's Pakistan.

Let's begin with the diplomatic triumph, because it is genuinely a remarkable tale. In February 2026, the United States and Israel launched a war on Iran. Lasting more than a hundred days, it shook the entire Middle East and threw global energy markets into turmoil. And in the middle of it, Pakistan did what no major power, no major global institution, had managed to do in five decades. On April 11 and 12, Islamabad hosted the first direct, high-level talks between the United States and Iran since 1979. A three-hundred-member American delegation led by Vice President JD Vance, alongside special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, sat across from a seventy-member Iranian delegation led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, for twenty-one hours of talks. The first round ended without a breakthrough — but it was a beginning, one that would later be called the "Islamabad Process."

Field Marshal Asim Munir made a flurry of calls to American officials in the hours before Trump's deadline for a strike on Iran expired, and out of that came a two-week ceasefire on April 8. That ceasefire nearly collapsed more than once, but Pakistani diplomats — Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar chief among them — kept shuttling between Washington and Tehran. Working quietly alongside Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar and Egypt, with little public fanfare, they kept the process alive until, in June, Shehbaz Sharif announced on social media that the US and Iran had agreed on a final text. On June 17, Washington released the full fourteen-point agreement, and negotiations over its implementation continued at the Lake Lucerne Summit in Switzerland, mediated jointly by Pakistan and Qatar.

Why was Pakistan the country that could pull this off? The answer lies in its geography. On one side, a strategic defence pact with Saudi Arabia. On another, a five-hundred-and-sixty-mile border with Iran and deep religious and cultural ties. On a third, a long-standing military relationship with the United States. And on a fourth, a deepening strategic partnership with China. No other country stood at all four corners simultaneously. But behind this success lay something less often discussed in the glowing profiles: Pakistan's own desperation. Its economy was already struggling to stabilise, inflation was running high, and a prolonged war meant costlier oil, shrinking remittances from the Gulf, and millions of Pakistani workers' livelihoods at risk. The World Bank had cut its Middle East growth forecast for 2026 to just 1.8 percent. For Pakistan, mediation was never simply a matter of diplomatic prestige — it was a fight for economic survival. That is why Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar flew to Beijing on March 31 to present a five-point peace plan jointly with China, and why, that same month, Pakistan carried Iran's fifteen-point proposal to Washington. There is another layer to this story worth noting: Pakistan read Trump's psychology well. It nominated him for the Nobel Prize, joined his "Board of Peace," signed a deal with Washington to explore Pakistan's oil reserves, and struck a partnership with his crypto platform, World Liberty Financial. Former senator Mushahid Hussain Syed put it bluntly to the Washington Post: "We read him right." A decade earlier, this same Trump had accused Pakistan of "lies and deceit." Today, he hosts Field Marshal Asim Munir alone for lunch at the White House.

It is a diplomatic reversal so sharp that even Pakistani diplomats admit to being somewhat surprised by it.

But it would be unfair to present this success without its criticisms. US Senator Lindsey Graham said plainly he didn't trust Pakistan with the negotiations, calling its role "problematic" given its stance on Israel and the Abraham Accords. Chatham House's Chietigj Bajpaee notes that since Pakistan has no diplomatic relations with Israel, its leverage as a mediator was always going to be limited. The Stimson Center's analysis points out that Pakistan's own political vulnerabilities — including American overtures to Pakistan's opposition and calls for Imran Khan's release — complicated the mediation's early stages.

In other words, the story is not as tidy as the official narrative suggests. And yet, the fact remains: Pakistan achieved something that had eluded major powers and international institutions since the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and Nixon's opening to China.

Now to the other side of this contradiction — and here the tone of this column must change, because in the glow of diplomatic victory, the face of the ordinary citizen tends to disappear. On July 11, 2026 — the very week the world was praising Pakistan's diplomatic skill — the Petroleum Division issued a notification raising petrol prices by thirteen rupees eighteen paisas per litre.



By: Ehtsham Dar

Hormuz at the Centre of a Gathering Storm

A decisive move away from an unjust, exploitative bureaucratic model toward a social welfare service model — because injustice breeds only more injustice, impatience, and brutality, regardless of who is responsible."*



In the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, despite devolution of powers under the 18th Amendment and the constitutional guarantee of Article 10-A of the 1973 Constitution, the timely collection of standard evidence remains critically compromised. Due to the archaic, exploitative bureaucratic model enforced within the police, the criminal justice system is under severe strain. This is evident in a 73.41% ratio of under-trial prisoners, a dismal 12% conviction rate, an imbalanced police-to-population ratio of 1:517, rigid adherence to an "Elitistan" model, and a ranking of 130th out of 143 countries by a reputable international institution in justice delivery.

This severe strain on the social contract between the citizen and the state demands a living, realistic, robust, and sincere dialogue to transition from an archaic bureaucratic model to a modern, social welfare-oriented service model. Injustice breeds nothing but more injustice, impatience, and brutality — regardless of who is responsible.

While individuals within institutions are undoubtedly vital due to their academic, legal, and professional competence, coupled with sincerity and hard work, they are not indispensable. Institutions themselves are indispensable because of their foundational mandate, the

uninterrupted social benefits they deliver, and their capacity to adapt to changing realities. Change is the only constant. To date, no institution in Pakistan — especially the police — can claim immunity from this reality.

Grounded in Article 10-A of the 1973 Constitution, Pakistan's criminal justice system faces severe institutional challenges in delivering timely, non-discriminatory, and cost-free justice to uphold the rule of law. The system comprises the police, prosecution, judiciary, correctional centers, and prisons. Operating with scarce resources and inadequate personnel, the police face systemic failures: investigations and challans are rarely completed within statutory timelines; duty hours are undefined; investigation funds are chronically delayed; and prosecution cooperation is lacking. Prisons suffer from extreme overcrowding. The judicial process is plagued by countless adjournments. There is a complete absence of comprehensive institutional accountability — from the junior-most to the senior-most ranks. As a result, performance has been reduced to a digital fluctuation of statistics, the burden of which is borne by both the ordinary citizen and the state. Consequently, citizens are left invoking historical metaphors — requiring the wealth of Croesus, the patience of Job, and the lifespan of Noah — merely to witness justice.

The Police: First Interface and the "Pro Max Elitistan" Model

The police are the first and most critical interface between the citizen and the state in ensuring the rule of law. The police service is meant to provide employees with a dignified livelihood to lead purposeful lives, guaranteeing the protection of life, property, and honor without compliance with the law.However, officers perform security, protocol, ceremonial, judicial, and administrative duties without fixed working hours.

prejudice and in full compliance with the law.However, officers perform security, protocol, ceremonial, judicial, and administrative duties without fixed working hours.

Originating from the same society, the police department also suffers from a societal "neuro-cardio disease" of extreme materialism, self-interest, sycophancy, backbiting, and social media-driven validation for immediate financial gain. In a capitalist system, the prescribed remedy is the "Pro Max Elitistan" model, which grants senior officers endless privileges, immunities, and vast discretionary powers.Nurtured by capitalist educational institutions, this model prioritizes competitive grade-chasing over character-building and makes a luxurious lifestyle the ultimate goal. To achieve it, societal narratives erode the distinction between _halal_ and _haram_, fueling social intolerance.

Meanwhile, the physical and mental degradation of junior officers is even deeper. They live in continuous uncertainty, are alienated from their families, and face systemic humiliation while trying to preserve self-respect. This inflicts irreparable damage on their professional efficacy, well-being, and moral character.

Systemic Flaws and Structural Breakdown

The decay rests on three fundamental pillars:

1. The Criminal Procedure Code 1898: Designed for colonial subjugation, not citizen rights. Ostensibly adversarial, but in practice accused-centric.

2. Over-reliance on Oral Testimony: Approx. 90% of judicial decisions rely on verbal testimony. Forensic and digital evidence remain discretionary under Article 164 of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order 1984.

3. The "Pro Max Elitistan" Model: Prioritizes serving the elite over public welfare. Performance is reduced to a "digital depiction of figures." *Administrative and Constitutional Deficiencies*

1. Absence of a Provincial Police Service: Post-18th Amendment, law and order is a provincial subject, but no integrated provincial cadre from Constable to IG exists. Public Safety Commissions remain dysfunctional.

Current laws: Punjab Police Order 2002, KP Police Act 2017, Balochistan Police Act 2011, Sindh Police Act 2019.

2. Compromised Evidence: Due to severe resource shortages and lack of timely forensic support.

3. Normalization of Corruption: Bribery and misappropriation of operational resources are normalized.

4. No Victim Standing: The aggrieved party has no locus standi during bail, framing of charges, or sentencing. The prosecutor represents only the state. The "presumption of innocence," without scientific evidence, grants de facto impunity. *5. Budget Distortion*: A massive portion of the provincial police budget is consumed by salaries, pensions, protocol, VIP security, and judicial duties — leaving junior officers to bear operational shortfalls. *Statistical Indicators of Systemic Crisis**A. Under-Trial Overcrowding*: Per _The Express Tribune_, Jan 30, 2026, 72.5% to 73.41% of inmates in Punjab are under-trial. International standard: 27%. Example: Central Jail Gujranwala capacity 1,425; current population over 5,300 — a violation of Article 9.

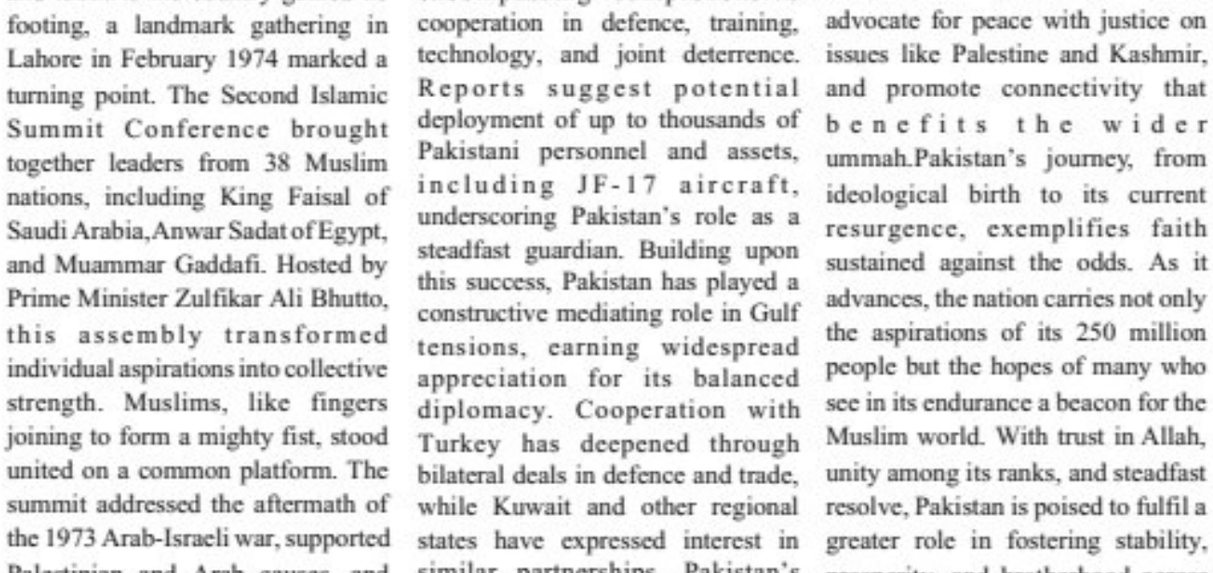


By: Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The Fortress Endures: Pakistan and the Vision of Islamic Solidarity

Pakistan stands as a living testament to an enduring spiritual and ideological conviction. From its very inception, the rallying cry that unified millions were both simple and profound: "What does Pakistan mean? La ilaha illallah." Under this banner of faith in the Oneness of Allah, the nation emerged on the world map in 14 August 1947, as a homeland for Muslims of the Subcontinent, guided by the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the philosophical foresight of Allama Iqbal. It was not merely a political endeavour but the realisation of a distinct national identity rooted in Islamic ideals of justice, sovereignty, and unity. Yet the path was fraught with peril. Even before the new state could draw breath, formidable obstacles arose—economic collapse, mass migrations, and external scepticism. Many predicted that its borders would soon dissolve under pressure, but divine will ordained otherwise. Like a ship battling turbulent seas, Pakistan endured and reached the shores of stability through resilience and faith.As the country gained its footing, a landmark gathering in Lahore in February 1974 marked a turning point. The Second Islamic Summit Conference brought together leaders from 38 Muslim nations, including King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Anwar Sadat of Egypt, and Muammar Gaddafi. Hosted by Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, this assembly transformed individual aspirations into collective strength. Muslims, like fingers joining to form a mighty fist, stood united on a common platform. The summit addressed the aftermath of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, supported Palestinian and Arab causes, and elevated Pakistan's stature as a stability of the Islamic world. It earned the honourable distinction of the Fortress of Islam, particularly through its longstanding commitment to safeguarding the Haramain Sharifain. Pakistani troops have served in Saudi Arabia since the 1970s, with deployments in training, advisory, and protective roles—often numbering over 10,000 at peaks, including during the 1990-91 Gulf War. This sacred duty reflects not mere strategy but a religious obligation deeply felt by the nation. Adversaries, notably neighbouring India, seized every opportunity to portray Pakistan as a failing state. Yet at moments of trial, unseen help arrived. In May 2025, Pakistan demonstrated military prowess that astonished observers, restoring its lost prestige through resolute leadership that honoured the divine trust placed upon it. A landmark Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement with Saudi Arabia, signed on 17 September 2025 in Riyadh by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, formalised decades of brotherhood. This pact declares that any aggression against one is an aggression against both, encompassing comprehensive cooperation in defence, training, technology, and joint deterrence. Reports suggest potential deployment of up to thousands of Pakistani personnel and assets, including JF-17 aircraft, underscoring Pakistan's role as a steadfast guardian. Building upon this success, Pakistan has played a constructive mediating role in Gulf tensions, earning widespread appreciation for its balanced diplomacy. Cooperation with Turkey has deepened through bilateral deals in defence and trade, while Kuwait and other regional states have expressed interest in similar partnerships. Pakistan's armed forces, with approximately 650,000–685,000 active

personnel—one of the world's largest standing armies—alongside an estimated hundreds of nuclear warheads and modern platforms like JF-17 fighters and advanced missiles, provide credible strength to these endeavours. Looking to the future, Pakistan's perspective remains one of hope anchored in unity and good intentions. The day is not distant when an alliance of Islamic countries, forged through mutual respect and shared values, may emerge—bearing precedents in the European Union or NATO yet rooted firmly in Islamic principles of solidarity. Such a framework would face formidable obstacles: historical differences, external influences, and economic disparities. Yet with the spirit that carried Pakistan through partition, the 1971 trials, and recent triumphs, it remains achievable. Pakistan, with its strategic location, military capability, and diplomatic bridges—linking South Asia, the Gulf, and beyond—can serve as a pivotal node in this vision. It continues to champion economic cooperation within the OIC, advocate for peace with justice on issues like Palestine and Kashmir, and promote connectivity that benefits the wider ummah.Pakistan's journey, from ideological birth to its current resurgence, exemplifies faith sustained against the odds. As it advances, the nation carries not only the aspirations of its 250 million people but the hopes of many who see in its endurance a beacon for the Muslim world. With trust in Allah, unity among its ranks, and steadfast resolve, Pakistan is poised to fulfil a greater role in fostering stability, prosperity, and brotherhood across Islamic lands.



Islamabad: 6 October, 2026 - UN Secretary-General H.E. Antonio Guterres planting a sapling at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.

Scanned with CamScanner

Economic stability, export growth remain key priorities, says Aurangzeb

● Aurangzeb said greater participation by domestic investors would help attract foreign investment to the country

Web DESK

KARACHI

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said the government is focusing on economic stability, fiscal discipline and boosting exports to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Addressing the National SDGs Investment Fair, the minister said the government had a key role to play in promoting investment and creating an environment conducive to responsible and sustainable economic growth.

He said economic policies would have to take global economic conditions into account, adding that the positive impact of government measures was becoming visible in the form of lower inflation.

"Economic stability is a fundamental requirement," Aurangzeb said, stressing the need for the government and private sector to work together to promote investment and economic growth.

He said greater participation by domestic investors would help attract foreign investment to the country.

The finance minister noted that Pakistani business groups were increasingly joining hands to form consortia. He said five initial public offerings (IPOs) had been conducted at the Pakistan Stock Exchange over the past three months, while 11 IPOs were held during the last fiscal year — the highest level in two decades.

Aurangzeb also highlighted the need for greater international support to address the impact of climate change. He said Pakistan was not receiving sufficient assistance through climate loss and damage funds and required increased access to global climate financing.

He stressed the need to strengthen institutional capacity to bring climate-related projects in line with international standards.



IMF talks likely to clear way for 1.2 billion dollar tranche

■ The SBP briefed the IMF delegation on measures taken to maintain foreign exchange reserves and contain inflation.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Ongoing talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are expected to conclude this week, potentially paving the way for a staff-level agreement and the release of around $1.2 billion, according to sources in the Finance Ministry.

The discussions have focused on Pakistan's economic performance and progress towards meeting key targets under the IMF programme.

According to the sources, the IMF has expressed satisfaction with the country's foreign exchange reserves and welcomed the Federal Board of Revenue's performance in achieving its



revenue targets during the July-September quarter.

The achievement of the tax collection target was described as a significant development for the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the sources said.

The two sides also discussed a proposal to introduce a fixed tax scheme for farmers towards the end of the current fiscal year.

The State Bank of Pakistan briefed the IMF delegation on measures taken to maintain foreign exchange reserves and contain inflation.

The central bank told the delegation that its foreign exchange reserves stood at $21.4 billion, while commercial banks held another $5.4bn, according to the sources.

The IMF delegation is expected to share a draft of the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) with Pakistan's economic team.

An agreement on the MEFP would pave the way for a staff-level agreement, which could facilitate the release of a tranche of around $1.2bn, the sources said.

India finance minister says US trade talks hit 'plateau'

● The two nations announced an initial understanding in February that would see Washington reduce tariffs to 18 per cent and India cut duties on a range of products

Web Desk

NEW DELHI

Trade deal talks between India and the United States have reached a "plateau", New Delhi's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday, after negotiations dragged on for months with the sides struggling to resolve sticking points.

The two nations announced an initial understanding in February that would see Washington reduce tariffs to 18 per cent and India cut duties on a range of industrial and agricultural products.

Several rounds of talks have



since taken place but have been complicated by Washington launching a probe into unfair trade practices against multiple countries, including India.

"The agreement's negotiations are still ongoing, although we'd like to believe that both the sides have reached a plateau, beyond which giving or taking might be very, very difficult," Sitharaman said.But Sitharaman, responding to a question on concessions at the Munich Security Conference in New Delhi, added that there is "room to operate from; both sides would do it".The remarks echoed sentiment expressed by US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer last week, who said he didn't believe an announcement was "imminent", but that both sides had identified the "universe of items that are sticking points".

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to US President Donald Trump last week in a telephone call discussing "cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas", according to a statement from the premier's office.

Trump moves to cut diesel costs with order on tax-free fuel

■The move came as surging pump prices tied to the Iran war weighed on Trump's Republican Party weeks before the US midterm elections.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order allowing drivers to use tax-exempt red-dyed diesel, a fuel normally reserved for farm machinery and other off-road equipment, on public roads.

The move came as surging pump prices tied to the Iran war weighed on Trump's Republican Party weeks before the US midterm elections.

Speaking at a rally in Nebraska, Trump told supporters the order would "officially waive the off-road requirement and allow anyone to purchase tax-free red-dyed diesel for any reason."

The president admitted he was unfamiliar with the fuel, joking to the crowd: "I don't know what the hell it is, but whatever it is, it's supposed to be very good."

Red-dyed diesel is essentially the same fuel as standard diesel, but it is exempt from highway fuel taxes.

A White House fact sheet released alongside the order described a more limited measure than the one Trump announced on stage.

Rather than scrapping the tax, the order instructs Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, in consultation with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, to defer the tax owed on dyed diesel used on roads until the end of the year, without interest or penalties, and to look for ways to cancel the charges altogether.

The White House said federal authorities and state governors could use their discretion to halt inspections and waive the tax liability drivers would otherwise



face.

The fact sheet made no mention of Iran, instead blaming the price surge on the Russia-Ukraine war and a global shortage of refining capacity.

It also accused Democratic-led states of closing refineries in the name of green energy policies.

Trump at the Nebraska rally also praised a deal struck with Europe this month to release 100 million barrels of refined diesel from strategic reserves over the next four months.

He had floated a ban on US exports of diesel, which powers trucks, farm equipment and construction machinery.

Diesel prices in the United States have hit record highs above $6 a gallon in recent weeks, with export restrictions imposed by major supplier Russia after Ukrainian attacks on its fuel facilities adding to pressure on global markets.

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The move came as surging pump prices tied to the Iran war weighed on Trump's Republican Party weeks before the US midterm elections.

Euro faces political, fiscal reckoning as it hovers near 17-month low

■ The euro hovered near a 17-month low amid euro zone political and fiscal concerns, while the dollar strengthened on higher US Treasury yields and persistent inflation pressures.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The euro struggled near a 17-month low on Tuesday, weighed down by political uncertainty ?and fiscal concerns across the euro zone, while the dollar extended its blistering rally as it rode US Treasury yields higher.

The euro ticked slightly lower to $1.1220 in the early Asian session, having slid to its lowest since May 2025 in ?the previous session and extending its 1.2% fall from last week.It was last at 84.83 ?pence , having also lost more than 1% against the British pound last week.

The common ?currency has come under pressure due to worries about high debt levels and political gridlock in France, with ?an upcoming snap election in Spain adding to headwinds.

A sliding euro is also the latest alarm bell for policymakers ?facing a surge in French borrowing costs that has started to spill over into the broader euro area.

"We're pretty pessimistic about the euro. We think it's going to go down to under $1.10," said Joseph Capurso, a strategist at Commonwealth Bank ?of Australia.

"We're not surprised that we've seen this weakness... For the euro to rise, you'd need a ?big decrease in oil prices... a big increase in expectations for European monetary policy tightening. Another one would be ?them starting ?to get their act together on reining in the budget deficit, though I think there's no chance of that happening anytime soon," Capurso added.

In the broader market, the dollar marched higher, drawing support from still-elevated US Treasury yields, which scaled multi-decade highs overnight.

Against the yen, the dollar rose a touch to 157.92 , while ?sterling slipped 0.02% to $1.3222.The ?dollar index firmed at ?102.16, having scaled an 18-month high in the previous session.The greenback's strength has come despite reduced expectations for a Federal Reserve rate hike this month in ?the wake of weaker-than-expected US jobs data, as investors bet the central bank would still ?need to ?tighten policy further.



Scanned with CamScanner

Dennis Hastert, former US House speaker and admitted child molester, dies at 84

■ Dennis Hastert, the longest-serving Republican US House of Representatives speaker who later admitted to sexually abusing boys as a high school wrestling coach and pleaded guilty to charges.



Web Desk

CHICAGO

Dennis Hastert, the longest-serving Republican US House of Representatives speaker who later admitted to sexually abusing boys as a high school wrestling coach and pleaded guilty to charges arising from the scandal, has died,

Hastert, sentenced in April 2016 to 15 months in prison for bank fraud for trying to cover ?up payments to keep his molestation secret, died at his home over the weekend due to natural causes, Kendall County Coroner Jacquie Purcell told CBS News.

Known as "Denny" to his friends, ?Hastert was one of the United States' most powerful politicians during his time leading the lower chamber of Congress from January 1999 to January 2007, during the presidencies of Democrat Bill Clinton and Republican George W. Bush.

The burly Midwestern conservative had been seen as an amiable lawmaker although his leadership tactics perpetuated the partisan polarization in Congress. His reputation was destroyed eight years after quitting the House when revelations emerged about his sexual abuse of boys as a civics teacher and coach at Yorkville ?High School in suburban Chicago from the 1960s to the early 1980s.

"The defendant is a serial child molester," US District Judge Thomas Durkin said of Hastert when he sentenced him, at age ?74, to prison. "Some actions can obliterate a lifetime of good works."

Hastert pleaded guilty to violating federal banking laws by structuring financial transactions ?to evade bank reporting requirements to try to keep hush-money payments to a sexual abuse victim hidden. Hastert did not face criminal charges for sexually abusing the boys because the statute of limitations had long expired.

Prosecutors ?detailed Hastert's actions toward five boys as young as 14. They said Hastert, exploiting his position of authority as the school's wrestling coach, committed acts including "intentional touching of minors' groin area and genitals or oral sex ?with a minor."

In one instance, they said, Hastert asked a boy during a wrestling camp to stay in his hotel room, and then abused him. That boy, decades later, confronted Hastert about the abuse. Hastert made a secret deal to pay him $3.5 million to compensate him for his ordeal and buy his silence.

Jeffrey Archer, bestselling UK novelist and scandal-plagued politician, dies aged 86



WEB DESK

LONDON

Jeffrey Archer, the bestselling British novelist and former ?politician who was jailed for lying in a high-profile libel case, has died aged ?6, his publisher HarperCollins said on Monday.

Archer sold over 300 million copies worldwide and was known for pacy thrillers like his 1976 debut "Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less" and 1979's "Kane & Abel". His final novel, "Adam and Eve", is due to be published on Tuesday.

Kate Elton, HarperCollins' UK CEO and Archer's editor, said in a ?statement: "We're all devastated to have lost a writer who has brought joy to ?generations of readers — and a true friend."

Archer was also a prominent Conservative politician, who briefly served as ?a lawmaker before becoming a senior party official under then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the mid-1980s.

But he ?was as well-known for his very public downfall.

In 1987, Archer sued the Daily Star tabloid for saying he had paid a woman for sex, winning a then-record £500,000 ($660,450) in damages. The case returned to the public eye when he was selected ?as the Conservative candidate to become London's first elected mayor in 1999. A former friend accused ?him of lying and Archer was eventually charged with perjury and perverting the course of justice, convicted and sentenced to ?four ?years' imprisonment. He served two years, during which time he wrote "A Prison Diary".

The trial of Archer's libel case, which was heard in front of a jury, became notorious for the judge's summing up of evidence given by Archer's wife Mary.



Russian attack kills five in Ukraine's Kharkiv, shatters residences

■ Facades and balconies on residential buildings were badly damaged and apartments inside were smashed

Web DESK

PARIS

Russian bombs struck a residential area of Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv , killing five people, injuring more than 50 and shattering apartment buildings, officials said.Oleh Syniehubov, governor of the northeastern region, said on Telegram that three bombs had hit different areas of the city.He said 53 people were injured, ?with 30 of them being treated in hospital, three in a serious condition. Three of the injured were children.Mayor Ihor Terehov said emergency crews had recovered two bodies from rubble.

Facades and balconies on residential buildings were badly damaged and apartments inside were smashed.

Rescue workers led stunned residents out of buildings, guiding them carefully around piles of rubble. "We saw two wounded neighbours covered in blood. ?My daughter went outside, and our cat ran away," resident Viktoriia Nahornyak told Reuters Television over the wail of an air raid siren.

"I only grabbed my documents and went outside in the clothes I'm wearing right now."

One resident was found dead in his bed. Another body lay on the ground, covered with a blanket.

Officials said warehouses were also damaged in the strike.Kharkiv, located 30 km (18 miles) from the Russian border, is Ukraine's second-largest city.From the outset of the war in February 2022, it has withstood sustained Russian attacks and suffered considerable damage.

Kharkiv has been one of the major targets of Russian attacks since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The city is Ukraine's second-largest and is located only about 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the Russian border, making it particularly vulnerable to attacks.

Since the beginning of the war, Kharkiv has repeatedly experienced missile and bomb attacks. Residential neighborhoods, infrastructure and other civilian facilities have suffered extensive damage over the course of the conflict.

Nigerian military aircraft crashes, killing 32

WEB DESK

ABUJA



A Nigerian military plane flying from Benin City to Lagos crashed in southwestern Ondo state, killing 25 passengers and seven crew members.

President Bola Tinubu, confirming that there were no survivors, expressed "profound sadness" and ?extended condolences to the families of those aboard.

"The Chief of Air Staff has ?briefed me, and I have directed the Nigerian Air Force to immediately commence a thorough investigation into the cause of the crash to prevent future occurrences," Tinubu said in a statement.

The Air Force ATR-42 aircraft was on a routine mission from Benin City to Lagos when air traffic controllers lost contact with it at 0813 GMT on Monday, Aviation Minister Festus Keyamo said. The accident was one of the deadliest air disasters ?in Nigeria in recent years.

The wreckage was later located near the coastal town of Igbokoda, ?where ?search and rescue teams ?were deployed.

Yemen forces retake Mocha, key positions from Houthis

■ Fighting was reported on several fronts around Mocha, with a number of Houthi fighters killed or wounded and several others captured

WEB DESK

Yemen

Yemen's internationally recognised government forces have retaken the strategic port city of Mocha and key positions near the Bab El Mandeb Strait as they push ahead with a major counteroffensive against the Iran-aligned Houthis, the military said.

The military said on Monday its forces had also regained control of the Dhubab district in Taiz governorate and secured important positions near the strategic strait, a key route for global energy supplies.



It said a "strategic offensive" had also been launched against Sanaa, the capital controlled by the Houthis since 2014.

Fighting was reported on several fronts around Mocha, with a number of Houthi fighters killed or wounded and several others captured, according to military sources.

The Saudi-backed government forces said troops from the Homeland Shield Forces and Giants Brigades had carried out a large-scale operation, supported by air cover, against Houthi positions and movements in several areas of Dhubab, according to a report by Al Jazeera.

An unnamed army source said the forces had advanced and seized key positions, cutting off supply lines and roads leading to Bab El Mandeb.

Trump says taxpayers will no longer pay for TV ads that praised him

■ In a post on his Truth Social site on Monday, Trump said he considered the ads to be "a positive promotion for our Great U.S.A." but that ?they would no longer be funded by taxpayers.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said taxpayers will no longer pay for television ads featuring him shortly before the ?November congressional elections after widespread criticism of the campaign-style spots.

Ethics experts and lawmakers ?from both parties have criticized the three nationally broadcast ads, which celebrate a "golden age of America," and called for independent investigations.

In a post on his Truth Social site on Monday, Trump said he ?considered the ads to be "a positive promotion for our Great U.S.A." but that ?they would no longer be funded by taxpayers and said either he ?or his MAGA PAC would fund the ads.

Trump's MAGA Inc political action committee has ?about $400 million. A White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity told Reuters that ?going forward the ads would be paid for by the PAC.

Lawmakers have questioned whether public funds are being used to promote Trump politically,



while other critics say the spots may violate longstanding restrictions on ?government propaganda and political activity.

Democratic lawmakers said last month that the White House transferred $20 ?million in Homeland Security Department funds to air the ads, including one that closely resembles a 2024 ?Trump ?campaign ad, and sought independent probes.

The ads have run during football games as recently as Sunday and during other programming. The New York Times reported that Trump personally directed the White House budget director to use taxpayer money for the TV spots, citing sources.

One ?ad features Trump declaring ?that "America will never ?be a communist country" while a chorus repeats the words "love me." Another combines images of Mount Rushmore with footage of Trump praising a "golden ?age of America." The ads end with a disclaimer saying they ?were paid ?for by the US government.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta on Monday called for an independent investigation, calling it a "staggering misuse of public funding and breach of public trust," after two Democratic ?congressmen ?last week urged a probe.

Scanned with CamScanner

Rakhi Sawant calls Komal Rani 'husband snatcher' amid Govinda rumours

■ Rakhi Sawant reacted strongly to the ongoing Govinda-Komal Rani controversy, criticising Komal over rumours linking her to Govinda and warning her against provoking her.

WEB DESK

MUMBAI



Indian media personality, actress and dancer Rakhi Sawant has once again reacted to the ongoing controversy involving actor Govinda, his wife Sunita Ahuja and his Roopa co-star Komal Rani Swarnakar.

Recently, after Komal was spotted at Mumbai airport, Rakhi strongly criticised her and questioned her over rumours surrounding Govinda's marriage.

Speaking to paparazzi, Rakhi said she was unhappy with Govinda and remarked that "the whole country" was upset with him.

Rakhi then turned her attention to e Komal, whose name has repeatedly surfaced in rumours concerning Govinda's personal life. Taking a sarcastic jibe at her, Rakhi questioned who Komal was and alleged that she had been talking about her and other celebrities.

Rakhi also directly warned Komal, referring to Govinda's wife Sunita, and said she should not mess with her, adding that she was not Sunita and would "tear her apart."

Rakhi went on to call Komal a "husband snatcher" while commenting on rumours linking her name with Govinda.

When paparazzi asked Rakhi about reports that Komal had applied vermilion in her hair parting, she responded sarcastically by asking whether it was vermilion in the name of "Chichi Bhai."

15 years later, Humsafar OST still brings back the nostalgia

■ The iconic "Woh Humsafar Tha" OST continues to evoke nostalgia among Pakistani drama fans 15 years after Humsafar first premiered.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The iconic "Woh Humsafar Tha" OST continues to evoke nostalgia among Pakistani drama fans 15 years after Humsafar first premiered.

Sung by Qurat-ul-Ain Balouch, the OST became a huge hit alongside the drama and went on to win Song of the Year and Best Original Soundtrack at the 2012 Lux Style Awards. Even years later, hearing the song is enough for many viewers to remember the emotional scenes, characters and moments that made Humsafar such a memorable television experience.

Premiering in 2011, Humsafar became one of the biggest successes in Pakistani television.

Mahira Khan as Khirad and Fawad Khan as Ashar were in the centre of the story.

Their complicated relationship and powerful on-screen chemistry made the drama a major talking point among audiences.

The drama proved to be a major turning point in both actors careers.

Mahira rose to wider fame as a leading television actress, while Fawad further established himself as one of Pakistan's most popular leading men.

Their performances also earned major recognition, with Mahira winning Best Television Actress and Fawad Best Television Actor at the Lux Style Awards.

The pair also won the Best On-Screen Couple award at the Hum Awards.

Fifteen years on, Humsafar continues to live through its characters, memorable scenes and, most importantly, an OST that remains deeply connected with an entire generation of Pakistani drama viewers.



Main Bill Gates ki beti hun? Nazish Jahangir mocks media exaggeration

■ The conversation then turned towards heartbreak, with Nazish being asked whether she would consider marrying a man who had experienced heartbreak in the past.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Nazish Jahangir has taken a sarcastic dig at the exaggerated narratives surrounding her recent interview, mocking the way a simple statement can be turned into a sensational story.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Nazish shared a note expressing her frustration over having her words taken out of context and repackaged into attention-grabbing headlines.

With a hint of sarcasm, the actress wrote, "Main Bill Gates ki beti hun yeh nahi bataya main ne", meaning, "I didn't say I'm Bill Gates' daughter."

She then explained the reason behind her frustration, writing, "And this is exactly why I hate giving interviews in this country. The way people twist a simple statement, take it completely out of context, and turn it into something it was never meant to be is honestly exhausting. Learn the full story before you create your own narrative. Not everything needs to be sensationalized for a headline." Nazish's reaction came after remarks from her recent interview about relationships and her preferences in a potential life partner started making rounds on social media and entertainment platforms.During the interview, the actress was asked about the kind of man she would like to marry. Speaking candidly, Nazish said she would prefer someone who shares a similar personality and with whom she could laugh, enjoy life and maintain a strong connection.

The conversation then turned towards heartbreak, with Nazish being asked whether she would consider marrying a man who had experienced heartbreak in the past. Rather than seeing it as a problem, the actress expressed a positive outlook, saying she would like to be the person who helps her future partner heal from his past. Her comment about wanting to "fix" or heal a broken heart was subsequently highlighted in various online posts and headlines.However, Nazish appeared unhappy with the way the remark was interpreted and presented, stressing that isolated statements should not be used to create an entirely different narrative.



Dananeer Mobeen makes singing debut with first track 'Touch'

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress and social media star Dananeer Mobeen has ventured into music with the release of her debut track, 'Touch', marking a new chapter in her growing entertainment career.

Mobeen shared a promotional video on Instagram to announce the release, revealing that considerable effort went into producing the song. She also expressed hope that her fans would enjoy the new track.

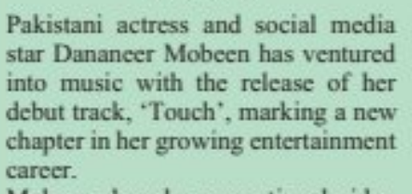
'Touch' features Dananeer Mobeen alongside singer Haider Mustehsan, who also lends his vocals to the track. The song combines an upbeat rhythm with energetic music, giving it a distinctive pop sound.

The release sees Mobeen take on a new creative role after establishing herself as an actress following her initial rise to fame on social media.

Mobeen first gained widespread attention through her viral videos on social media before making her acting debut. She subsequently appeared in popular television dramas including 'Sinf-e-Aahan' and 'Mohabbat Gumshuda Meri'.

Her move into music now adds another dimension to a career that has already taken her from social media fame to television and, most recently, singing.

Bushra Ansari reveals she is 70, says she has never hidden her age



WEB DESK

LAHORE

Senior Pakistani actress Bushra Ansari has revealed that she is 70 years old, saying she has never felt embarrassed about disclosing her age.Speaking at a recent event, the actress discussed her decision not to hide her age and said she proudly tells people that she has completed 70 years of her life.

Bushra Ansari said she had never concealed her age and recalled that someone once asked her why she openly disclosed it. In response, she jokingly said she did not have films running that would require her to hide her age.The actress said she openly tells people that she has turned 70, adding that if she does not look her age, it is a good thing. She said looking 50 at the age of 70 should be considered a positive thing.Bushra Ansari also said she had always maintained a low body weight throughout her life. She added that because she belonged to Punjab, people often told her that she was thin and weak, but she now believed that this had benefited her.

Saboor Aly reveals daughter's pre-school routine, sparks social media debate

■ "My daughter is going to pre-school now. She goes for 15 or 20 minutes, plays, and then comes back," Saboor explained.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Saboor Aly has sparked social media debate after revealing that her 1.5year old daughter, Serena, has started attending pre-school, with some questioning whether the toddler is too young while others defended the actress's parenting choice.

A viral video circulating on social media features Saboor during her recent appearance on Tabish Hashmi's entertainment show 'Hasna Mana Hai', where she opened up about her daughter's early learning experience and the reasons behind introducing her to a pre-school environment.

Saboor, who shares Serena with her husband, actor Ali Ansari, clarified that her daughter does not spend long hours at school and currently attends for only a short period.

"My daughter is going to pre-school now. She goes for 15 or 20 minutes, plays, and then comes back," Saboor explained.

The actress said she believes the experience is helping Serena develop her social skills by allowing her to interact and play with other children.



"When she plays with other children, her social skills improve. Even if we are not there for a little while, she is getting the chance to learn how to be around others and how to communicate," she added.

Saboor also recalled an amusing moment from her daughter's orientation class, revealing that Serena unexpectedly became emotional despite generally being a social and confident child.

"During the orientation class, she was the only one who was crying and she embarrassed me a lot. Even though she is the type of child who talks to everyone on her own, I don't know what happened that day," she shared.

However, the actress revealed that Serena has now become more comfortable with the environment and has even developed an attachment to her teacher.

"But now, when she comes back to us, she cries saying she wants to stay with her teacher," Saboor said with a smile.

While Saboor's comments offered a glimpse into her approach to early childhood development, her decision to enrol her toddler in pre-school quickly became a topic of discussion online.

Some social media users questioned whether 1.5 years is too young for a child to begin attending a school environment. They argued that toddlers should spend more time at home during their early years and emphasized the importance of parents, particularly mothers, as a child's first source of learning.

Others, however, came to Saboor's defence, pointing out that many modern pre-school programs for toddlers' function more like playgroups, where children are encouraged to interact, play and develop basic social and motor skills rather than being subjected to academic pressure.



Pakistani actress Saba Qamar and Indian entertainer Rakhi Sawant recently shared pictures of a lively and unexpected encounter in Dubai, drawing considerable attention from fans on social media.

Scanned with CamScanner

University of Balochistan Storm into Youth Cricket League Quetta Final with Convincing Victory

● 164-Run Triumph over Bolan Medical College Highlights a Thrilling Semi-Final at Chagai Stadium

Sports Desk

QUETTA





The Youth Cricket League Quetta continued its exciting journey on Tuesday with a thrilling first semi-final played at Chagai Stadium, Quetta Cantt, where the University of Balochistan delivered a dominant performance to defeat Bolan Medical College by 164 runs and secure a place in the grand final.

The highly anticipated semi-final brought together two competitive young cricket teams, with both sides entering the contest determined to earn a place in the championship match. The atmosphere at Chagai Stadium reflected the growing enthusiasm surrounding the Youth Cricket League, as players displayed confidence, determination and a strong competitive spirit throughout the match.

The University of Balochistan established control over the contest with an impressive overall performance. Their batting unit put together a strong total, setting Bolan Medical College a challenging target. The University side showed excellent discipline and composure at the crease, building their innings through a combination of attacking stroke play and responsible batting.

Sahibzada Farhan replaces Salman Agha as T20 captain, no T20s for Babar Azam

● Farhan, a right-handed opening batter who led Pakistan at the recently concluded Asian Games, will captain the 15-member T20I squad.

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Sahibzada Farhan has replaced Salman Ali Agha as Pakistan's T20I captain, while Babar Azam has not been included in the squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Sri Lanka.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Monday announced Pakistan men's squads for the T20I series against Sri Lanka and the ODI tri-series involving England and Sri Lanka.

Farhan, a right-handed opening batter who led Pakistan at the recently concluded Asian Games, will captain the 15-member T20I squad.

Salman Ali Agha, who previously led Pakistan in T20Is, has not been included in the squad for the Sri Lanka series. Babar Azam has also been left out of the T20I squad but has been named in Pakistan's 16-member ODI squad for the tri-series.



Shaheen Shah Afridi will continue as Pakistan's ODI captain.

The three T20Is against Sri Lanka will be played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Oct. 9, 11 and 13.

Pakistan will then take part in a seven-match ODI tri-series alongside England and Sri Lanka.

Rawalpindi will host the first three matches of the tri-series before the tournament moves to Lahore for the remaining league matches and the final.

Pakistan's T20I squad comprises Sahibzada Farhan (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Arafat Minhas, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Muhammad Imran Randhawa, Khawaja Nafay (wicketkeeper), Maaz Sadaqat, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saim Ayub, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Moqim.

The ODI squad comprises Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Salman Ali Agha, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (wicketkeeper), Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Razaullah, Saad Baig (wicketkeeper), Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan and Sufiyan Moqim.

The team management includes manager Naveed Akram Cheema, head coach Mike Hesson, bowling coach Shaun Tait, batting coach Michael Smith and fielding coach Mansoor Amjad.

Djokovic advances to China Open final as Medvedev out for hitting fan with ball

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Novak Djokovic advanced to the China Open final after Daniil Medvedev was disqualified in the second set, when a ball that came off the Russian's racquet hit a spectator.

A man sitting in the stands behind Medvedev's side of the court was seen holding his face and escorted out of his seat after being hit, as Djokovic was serving for the match with the score at 7-5, 5-3.

Eleventh-ranked Djokovic will play world number nine Alex de Minaur for the title on Tuesday in Beijing.

The Australian had advanced over Hubert Hurkacz after the 29-year-old from Poland retired from their semi-final with an adductor strain.

Medvedev hit the ball with a backhand at the edge of the stands when he failed to return a point, with the chair umpire stopping play.

"Terribly sorry to the spectator, first of all," he told reporters afterwards, adding it was "100 percent an accident" and that he wished to apologise to the fan in person.

"The ball was bouncing back, so I tried to, like, just hit it anywhere, so it doesn't go out from the court," he said.

It had been a physical battle before Medvedev's disqualification.

Djokovic was red-faced and hunched over between points, with both players forcing each other through gruelling rallies, until the Serbian took control in the second set.

A valiant Djokovic, 39, put on a dazzling performance and saved 16 break points across the match, diving at the baseline and sprinting to the net. "I didn't see what happened, to be honest," he told the crowd after the fan was hit.

"I'm sure that Daniil didn't... do it intentionally. It happened by accident. Sorry for the crowd," he said, adding that it had been a tough match.



France roar back in Nations League as Italy beat Turkey

■ Olise scores twice as France beat Belgium 4-1

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Michael Olise starred as France stormed back from behind to thrash Belgium 4-1 in the UEFA Nations League , while Italy continued their resurgence with victory over Turkey.

Dodi Lukebakio's first-half strike had Belgium on track for a first competitive victory over France since 1981, but Zinedine Zidane turned to his star-studded bench and the hosts produced a devastating late surge.

Les Bleus struck four times in the final 13 minutes to keep Zidane's unbeaten record as coach intact as France edged closer to a place in the quarter-finals.

Desire Doue equalised with a low shot from the edge of the box before Olise pulled the ball back for Rayan Cherki to put France ahead as the floodgates opened, with substitutes accounting for all of the hosts' goals.

Olise put the game to bed with a scruffy third goal before he grabbed another in stoppage time to round off a breathtaking turnaround.

"I think we played well at the end. The first half was difficult.. but we kept going and we're happy," Olise told Tf1. The Bayern Munich winger has been France's most influential player in the early stages of Zidane's reign, netting four times in his last three matches despite starting only once.



"It's a team effort. He (Zidane) brings his own ideas and we follow him. We've done well in these four games and we'll keep going," said Olise.

France hold a three-point lead over Italy in Group A1, with Belgium another point behind.

Zidane's team will complete their group campaign with games away to Italy and at home to Turkey next month.

Italy, who are rebuilding under Roberto Mancini, moved up into second place courtesy of a 3-1 win over Turkey in Bologna.

Gianluca Scamacca drilled Italy ahead only for Aral Simsir to level just after the hour. The Azzurri, who thrashed Turkey 4-1 last week in Bursa, secured another win at home with goals from Riccardo Calafiori and Pio Esposito.

"There was fatigue all around, and we struggled a bit. But we did well to score, and then to score again right after they equalised," said Mancini.

The 61-year-old, who led Italy to Euro 2020 glory, is back for a second spell in charge of a nation who have failed to qualify for the last three World Cups.



Liverpool match looms but Man City will know what to expect at Anfield

Web Desk

Manchester

Manchester City face a hostile reception at Liverpool in their first game since being found guilty of serious breaches of the Premier League's financial rules, though how much the verdict will affect the leaders remains unclear.Fan chatrooms have been humming with opinion and invective but that is nothing new when it comes to relations between the old rivals.

Just how much it spills over into the stands at Anfield, and grounds beyond that over the course of the season, remains to be seen.

"If they want an understanding of how angry the game is going to be, then Anfield will tell them like you would never believe," former Manchester United captain and England defender Gary Neville declared recently on The Overlap podcast.

"I suspect there may be banners, there will certainly be chanting. There will be a reception like you have never seen for them at Anfield...it will be a brutal day." Merseyside Police said there would be an appropriate policing operation in place on the day.

Other commentators said that Liverpool ?supporters had been calling City cheats since they were charged by the Premier League in February 2023.

"Man City players already know what rival fans will do amid charges fallout," read a headline in the Manchester Evening news, on Monday.



Unusual cricket incident leaves players and fans baffled in Canada Super 60

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Cricket produced one of its most unusual moments during the Canada Super 60s semi-final between the Toronto Sixers and Mississauga Masters, leaving players, commentators and spectators wondering what had just happened.

Mississauga Masters fast bowler Ali Khan, who represents the United States, was bowling to West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard when he delivered a dangerous bouncer.

The ball flew over Pollard's head, went past the wicketkeeper and continued all the way over the boundary without touching the batter.

At first glance, it looked like a remarkable six.

However, the umpire called it a wide and awarded four boundary runs, giving Toronto Sixers a total of five runs — one for the wide and four for the boundary.

بعدالت جناب اسپیشل جج ATC گوادر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ ۸۷ ض ف پاکستان

FIR نمبر 67/26 سرکار بنام :۔ فتح محمد وغیرہ CTD تھانہ مکران

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو اس امر کی نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمی کالعدم تنظیم BLF ترجمان میجر گہرام ولد قوم بلوچ سکنہ کلاغ تحصیل پسنی جرم دہشتگردی کا جس کی سزا مجموعہ تعزیرات پاکستان کی دفعہ 7 ATA 21-i 11F 302-109-34 ت پ (2) (1) میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوا ہے (یا اس کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور ازروئے ریمارکس یعنی کیفیت قبیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بہ طبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمی کالعدم تنظیم BLF ترجمان میجر گہرام مذکورہ دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتا اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مسمی میجر گہرام مذکورہ فرار ہوگیا ہے یا اس نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہاری روسے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمی میجر گہرام سکنہ کلاغ پسنی کو لازم ہے کہ بتاریخ 12 اکتوبر 2026ء بمقام گوادر اس عدالت میں (یا ہمارے روبرو) نالش مذکورہ کی جوابدہی کیلئے حاضر ہو۔

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PRQ No1758/06-10-2026

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بمطابق پولیس رولز باب 23 فقرہ 18

نامعلوم الاسم دہشتگرد و مقدمہ فرد نمبر 164/2026 زیر دفعہ 7(1)(a)(b)(c)(ff)(h)(i)-7(2)-11F(2)(5)(6)-11G-11H-11I-11J پولیس تھانہ سی ٹی ڈی کوئٹہ 11K-11N-11OOO/ATA, 3-4-5 Exp Act.



بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا تحریر ہے کہ مقدمہ فرد نمبر 164/2026 زیر دفعہ 7(1)(a)(b)(c)(ff)(h)(i)-7(2)-11F(2)(5)(6)-11G-11H-11I-11J پولیس تھانہ سی ٹی ڈی کوئٹہ درج رجسٹر ہے تفتیش ہے مقدمہ ہذا میں پانچ (05) نامعلوم الاسم دہشتگردوں کی نعش ہائے مردہ خانہ سول ہسپتال کوئٹہ میں موجود ہے۔ جن کی ورثاء کی تلاش جاری ہے اور ورثاء/رشتہ داری کی تلاش کیلئے دہشتگردوں کی تصاویر شائع کی جارہی ہے۔ لہذا عوام الناس میں اگر کوئی متذکرہ بالا دہشتگردوں یا ان کے ورثاء/رشتہ داروں کے متعلق معلومات رکھتا ہو یا رکھتے ہوں تو ذیل نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔

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Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a Joint Press Stakeout at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad on October 6, 2026.

Media Has Key Role in Promoting Regional Peace, Stability: Shafqat Abbas

◉ Responsible journalism, positive communication and accurate information can help promote peace

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Pakistan can play an effective role as a bridge for sustainable peace and stability in the region by promoting regional cooperation, dialogue among nations and stronger people-to-people contacts, speakers said at a panel discussion held in Lahore on Tuesday.

They stressed that sustainable peace requires greater emphasis on dialogue, diplomacy, economic cooperation, education, youth participation and responsible communication.

In the digital age, they said, combating misinformation, fake news and provocative narratives requires research, verification, media literacy and responsible journalism.

The views were expressed during a panel discussion titled "Pakistan as a Bridge for Peace and Stability: The Way Forward", jointly organized by the Press Information Department (PID), Lahore, and the Department of Digital Media, Punjab University, Lahore.

The discussion was attended by prominent journalist Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, columnist Salman Ghani, columnist Muhammad Mehdi, senior analyst Irshad Arif, University of Lahore Dean Dr. Fariha Kazmi, Director General Press Information Department Shafqat Abbas, and Chairperson Department of Digital Media, Punjab University, Dr. Sawaira Shami.

Dr. Shafiq Ahmad, teachers, faculty members, students, journalists and a large number of media professionals also attended the event.

Pakistan's Geographic Position Offers Strategic Opportunity

Senior journalist Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami welcomed the organization of such academic and intellectual programmes, saying Pakistan's geographical location gives it unique importance in the region.

He said Pakistan serves as an important link between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and China, giving the country an opportunity to contribute not only to trade and economic connectivity but also to dialogue, cooperation and peace among different regions and nations.

He observed that the world is currently facing serious challenges, including wars, conflicts, extremism, economic inequality and mutual distrust. In such circumstances, he said, dialogue should replace confrontation, cooperation should replace conflict, and mutual respect should take precedence over differences.

Shami said Pakistan had consistently maintained that regional disputes should be resolved through negotiations, diplomacy and mutual cooperation.

IHC seeks reply from govt in over 50 Pakistani youths missing abroad case

■ Hearing this, the judge asked the assistant attorney general to come to the rostrum and submit a report.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought a report from the federal government on the petition filed by the family members of over 50 youths who had gone to Europe illegally,

IHC's Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, who heard the petition filed by a citizen named Afzal Hussain Shah, directed the assistant attorney general to submit a report before the next hearing of the case on November 2.

Shafqat Abbas Tarar Advocate, who represented the petitioner, told the court that over 50 youths belonging to Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujranwala and Hafizabad travelled to an African country Mauritania on boats. "From there, they headed to Spain," he elaborated.

The lawyer said that the youths travelled between April 2024 and January 2025, but did not reach their destination. "The families of these youths did not receive any credible information about their presence in any country or the status of their immigration," he said, adding that his client had already submitted applications to the prime minister, the foreign minister as well as the interior minister in this regard.

Hearing this, the judge asked the assistant attorney general to come to the rostrum and submit a report.

The petitioner sought a direction to the

Saudi-led coalition destroys Houthi targets after Riyadh airport, Aramco refinery attacked

■ Yemeni government forces recapture strategic Red Sea port city of Mokha

Web Desk
Riyadh



Houthi rebels said they had struck Riyadh's international airport, an Aramco refinery and several other sites in Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said they had destroyed Houthi targets on the Red Sea coast.

Pakistan and Turkey meanwhile pledged to deploy troops to Saudi Arabia under a new mutual defence pact following weeks of Houthi attacks, as Riyadh and its Yemeni government allies began an ambitious push aimed at retaking all territory held by the group.The Yemeni military said it carried out more than 1,000 strikes and began an offensive against the Houthi-held capital, Sanaa, while the Saudi-led coalition supporting the internationally recognised government said 100 warplanes flew sorties at dawn.

Turki Al-Malki, spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition said on X that its naval forces had hit "military targets" belonging to the Houthis in Hodeida on the Red Sea coast.They "destroyed weapons depots, facilities storing booby-trapped boats and naval mines" and had "thwarted a planned attack" targeting waterways in the southern Red Sea, he said.

Loud explosions rattled Riyadh on Monday evening as the fighting escalated, and a Houthi spokesman said the group had hit the Saudi capital's King Khalid International Airport as well as an Aramco refinery and other targets in the kingdom's south.

The government announced on Sunday the lofty goal of retaking all Houthi territory -- home to most of Yemen's population, and much of it held for more than a decade.

Last month the Iran-backed group seized swathes of coastline along the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait, a chokepoint for oil and cargo shipping, in Yemen's deadliest fighting in years.

The Houthis have also been attacking neighbouring Saudi Arabia since Yemen's civil war flared back to life, and have declared a maritime blockade on its ships.



Traders stage protest against KP govt for 'ignoring' public issues

■ The protesters criticised the government for focusing on political protests instead of addressing the economic and administrative problems facing the province.

STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

The business community in Peshawar staged a protest against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, expressing strong reservations over its political activities, including long marches and sit-ins.

A large number of traders gathered at Provincial Assembly Square, where they held a protest demonstration and chanted slogans against the provincial government.

The protesters criticised the government for focusing on political protests instead of addressing the economic and administrative problems facing the province.

The traders said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government should prioritise resolving public and business-related issues rather than organising long marches and sit-ins.They maintained that the province is facing difficult economic conditions, while businesses are suffering and employment opportunities remain limited.

The business community urged the provincial government to take practical steps to improve the business environment, create employment opportunities and address the concerns of traders.

The protesters stressed that economic stability should be the government's primary focus.

Section 144 imposed across Punjab until October 15

■ Punjab has imposed Section 144 until October 15, banning gatherings of five or more people, rallies and sit-ins amid security concerns over possible terrorist attacks on public gatherings.



WEB DESK
LAHORE

The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 across the province from today (Tuesday) until October 15, restricting public gatherings and several other activities in open and public spaces.

According to a notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, gatherings of five or more people, processions, rallies, public meetings and sit-ins have been prohibited at public places, roads and open areas.

The order also bans carrying or displaying weapons at public places, as well as encouraging or provoking people to participate in unlawful gatherings.

The restrictions will not apply to weddings, funeral prayers, burials, mosques and other places of worship. Courts, government offices and officially authorised events have also been exempted.

Law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies and security personnel performing official duties will remain outside the scope of the restrictions.

The Home Department said intelligence and law enforcement agencies had reported information about immediate security threats, including concerns that terrorist organisations could target public gatherings.

According to the department, large gatherings could become potential targets for terrorist attacks. The restrictions have therefore been imposed as a precautionary measure to protect the lives and property of citizens.



Federal Minister for Law & Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar presenting a commemorative shield to British Minister of State Stephen Doughty during his visit to the Ministry on 6 October 2026.

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