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PM Shehbaz says KP emergency imposed out of compulsion, blames PTI for

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday that the government was compelled to impose governor's rule and a state of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after repeated efforts to address the province's security situation failed.

Addressing the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) parliamentary party, the prime minister accused the PTI government of failing to take action against terrorism and neglecting public welfare during its 13 years in power.

He said the law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had deteriorated over the past few months, with security personnel and civilians losing their lives in terrorist attacks.

The prime minister said he had held several meetings with former KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and offered cooperation in addressing the province's problems.

"I told Ali Amin Gandapur that we would work together and that combating terrorism was a shared responsibility," he said.

Shehbaz Sharif claimed that terrorism had been eradicated from Pakistan by 2018 but terrorists were brought back into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the PTI government's tenure.

He said terrorists had returned to Swat after PTI came to power and were given a free hand by the then-government.



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir among others on Tuesday attended the funeral prayers of two Pakistan Army pilots, who were martyred in a training aircraft crash near Quetta a day ago.

Balochistan Targets 30,000 Overseas Jobs, 25,000 Skilled Youth

- The meeting of the Balochistan Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA), chaired by the chief minister, reviewed measures to improve technical education

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA



The Balochistan government has set targets to provide technical training to 25,000 young people and prepare 30,000 skilled workers for overseas employment by next year, Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said during a meeting on vocational education and youth development.

The meeting of the Balochistan Technical

Education and Vocational Training Authority (B-TEVTA), chaired by the chief minister, reviewed measures to improve technical education, expand employment opportunities and equip young people with skills required by local and international labour markets.Bugti said vocational training was essential to empowering young people economically and helping them secure decent employment. He directed the relevant authorities to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that trained youth could contribute effectively to Pakistan's economy and compete for jobs in international markets.

He stressed that training programmes must reflect modern technological developments and the evolving requirements of employers. He also called for stronger monitoring and accountability to improve the performance of technical training institutes and ensure quality education.

Officials informed the meeting that an institute registration portal had become operational to improve the registration and monitoring of technical and vocational training institutions across Balochistan.

The meeting also reviewed delays in implementing the Chief Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme. Participants decided to initiate action against those responsible for slow progress and accelerate implementation to achieve the programme's targets.

Rising terror incidents prompted govt to impose emergency in KP: Ministers

- Law Minister Azam Tarar says former KP govt was not serious in dealing with terrorism: Atta Tarar says govt was not opposed to PTI's long march, political demands:

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar said on Tuesday that increasing incidents of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were a major reason why emergency was imposed in the province, Giving a briefing to international media representatives in Islamabad along with Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, the law minister claimed that incidents of terrorism in the province went up by 200 per cent during the PTI government in the province.

Asserting that coordination between the federal and provincial governments was necessary in fight against terrorism, the minister said that the former KP government was not serious in dealing with the issue.

He said that the issue of terrorism was not new. "In fact, Pakistan has been grappling with the problem for the last several decades," he said, adding that Pakistan Army was spearheading the efforts to weed out terrorism.

Azam Tarar said that the imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is strictly in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan. He said the option has been exercised after thorough deliberations in the federal cabinet for the unity, security, and well-being of the state of Pakistan. He also noted that elected governments in the past have exercised this constitutional option.



KP police get 10 armored vehicles from Centre as part of terrorism fight

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has handed over 10 newly acquired armored vehicles to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police to strengthen their operational capabilities and support ongoing counterterrorism operations in the province.

The vehicles, originally purchased for the Islamabad Police on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, have been transferred to KP to enhance the effectiveness of security operations amid rising terrorism-related incidents in the province.



PTI being marginalised, public mandate ignored in KP: Ali Muhammad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has alleged that the party is being politically marginalised in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, claiming that a government with a public mandate is being dismantled.

Ali Muhammad Khan said he had received reports that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dysfunctional Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was in police custody. He added that he had no information about Afridi's current whereabouts or well-being.



Court puts off hearing of Imaan Mazari, husband bail pleas

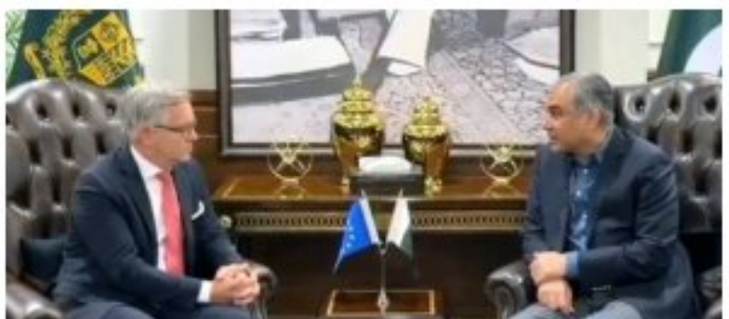
Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of bail petitions filed by human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and her husband Hadi Ali Chattha in the case of violation of section 144 and terrorism until October 17.

Pakistan, EU envoy discuss promoting legal migration

- European Commissioner commends Pakistan's policy to combat illegal migration: Magnus Brunner says drop in illegal migration to open up pathway for legal migration



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner has praised Pakistan's measures to combat illegal migration in a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Tuesday,

Magnus Bruinner said Pakistan's effective measures have resulted in a commendable 64 percent reduction illegal migration to Europe.He also commended the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for demonstrating professional capabilities despite limited resources. He said reducing illegal migration will open up pathways for legal migration.Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against illegal migration. He said following a 64% reduction in illegal migration, our next target is to eliminate it completely.Mohsin Naqvi stressed the need for Pakistan and the European Union to work together to completely eliminate illegal migration.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed promoting legal migration between Pakistan and the European Union and expanding opportunities for skilled workers.

Pakistan tests extended-range Fatah-2 hypersonic missile: ISPR

- Pakistan Army tests the extended-range Fatah-2 missile, with the ISPR highlighting its advanced navigation, precision targeting and manoeuvrability.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's army has conducted a successful test launch of the extended-range version of its Fatah-2 missile system, with the military saying the weapon features advanced navigation, modern avionics and enhanced capabilities to engage targets at greater distances.

In a press release, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said the test of the Fatah-2 Extended Range (ER) was conducted on Tuesday. The system is designed to strike targets with high precision, while its trajectory and manoeuvrability are intended to help it overcome enemy missile defence systems.

Enhanced capabilities According to the ISPR, the Fatah-2 ER incorporates advanced navigation technology and state-of-the-art avionics to support its targeting capabilities. Its extended range is expected to increase the Pakistan Army's reach and capacity to engage targets deeper within an adversary's territory.

The military also highlighted the missile's distinctive trajectory and manoeuvrability, which it said would enhance its ability to penetrate opposing missile defence systems.

The ISPR did not disclose the missile's precise range, the distance covered during the test or other technical details of the launch in its announcement.The launch was witnessed by the Commander of the Army Rocket Force Command (ARFC), senior Pakistan Army officers, and scientists and engineers involved in the weapon system's development.

Scanned with CamScanner

Babusar Top Road closed due to heavy snowfall in Mansehra

- Shahrah-e-Mansehra was also closed temporarily for all kinds of traffic from Zero Point Gilgit.

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

Traffic was suspended as the Babusar Top Road was closed due to heavy rain and snowfall in Mansehra on Tuesday,

According to details, a cold wave gripped Mansehra after the city received intermittent heavy rain and snowfall. Babusar Top Road was closed at Gati Das.

Shahrah-e-Mansehra was also closed temporarily for all kinds of traffic from Zero Point Gilgit.

The district administration said that all the roads leading to Kagan and Naran Valley are open for all kinds of traffic.

The district administration



further said that as the snowfall will stop the roads will be opened and traffic will be resumed.

On October 12, 2026, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain-wind/thunderstorms in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and upper and central Punjab on Tuesday, with isolated hailstorms also likely during the period.

According to the weather forecast issued by the Met Office, partly cloudy weather is expected in the upper parts of the country, while dry weather is likely to prevail in other areas.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, partly cloudy weather is likely in most areas, with rain-wind/thunderstorms expected at isolated places in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Battagram, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Buner, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Kohat, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, Parachinar, Hangu, Lakki Marwat, Karak, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Waziristan.



Women police officials shield themselves with umbrellas from the rain before the start of the third T20 cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

Poverty leads Karachi family to commit 'collective' suicide

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI

Five bodies have been recovered from a flat in Falak Naz Society of Gulshan-e-Hadeed locality of Karachi, prompting the IGP Sindh to seek a report from the DIG East,

Police say that the bodies were of two little girls, their parents and one woman. They said preliminary investigations suggested that the family have committed collected suicide due to poverty.

Apparently, the incident appears to be that of collective suicide, the police Force has said, adding however, the investigation was underway. The bodies were taken to Jinnah Hospital for post-mortem.

Giving further details, police have said that there are bullet marks on the heads of a man, Shahzeb, and his wife Saba, whose bodies were lying on two sofas, while the bodies of Shahzeb's sister Shumaila and two girls were found from a bed.

There is a bullet mark on the right



temple of Shahzeb, while on the left temple of Saba.

A pistol was found from the lap of Saba, the Force has said, adding that the house was locked from inside.

Police have expressed the fear that the girls might have been poisoned before they were murdered.

They have said that the deceased have been identified as Shahzeb, his wife Saba, Shumaila, Eezal and Arya.

Soon after receiving the information, police, members of the crime scene unit, Edhi ambulance and volunteers reached the site of the incident.

Sources have told the 24News TV channel that there are no signs that the deaths occurred while resisting a robbery bid.

Meanwhile, a note penned down by Shahzeb has come to light in which he said that the reason for taking such an extreme step was that his relatives had boycotted him and his family. "I am jobless. And whenever we go to our relatives' homes to seek money, we are insulted and driven out of homes. They have also blocked our cellphone numbers," Shahzeb wrote.

It may be mentioned here that in September another set of five bodies of the same family had been recovered from a flat in Karachi's Ahsanabad. The deceased included a doctor, his wife and their three children. The husband was identified as Dr Umar.According to police, the bodies were four to five days old and had badly decomposed. Residents of the building informed police after noticing a foul smell coming from the locked flat. Police subsequently broke open the door, which was locked from the inside.

The bodies of Dr Umar and his wife were recovered from one room, while the bodies of their three children were found in another room. The body of one child was found on a bed, while the other two were found on a mattress.

Three PASSCO officers among six arrested over wheat scam charge

SPECIAL REPORTER
MULTAN



The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested six suspects, including senior officials of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO), in an alleged wheat embezzlement case involving losses of more than Rs347.6 million to the national exchequer.

According to an FIA spokesperson, the arrested suspects include the Deputy General Manager (DGM), Project Manager and Vigilance Officer of PASSCO's Multan Zone.

The suspects are accused of colluding to embezzle 25,058 bags of locally procured wheat in 2024, allegedly causing a loss of more than Rs332.1 million to the national treasury.

In a separate allegation, the suspects are also accused of embezzling 105.3 metric tons of imported wheat in 2022, resulting in an estimated loss of more than Rs15.4 million to the government exchequer.

FIA officials said the alleged irregularities in the two cases resulted in a combined loss of more than Rs347.6 million.

The arrests were made in connection with case No. 39/2026. The FIA Multan has launched further investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the alleged embezzlement and establish the responsibility of the accused.

The allegations against the suspects have yet to be established through legal proceedings

Brazilian Defence Delegation Visits Air Headquarters Islamabad to Strengthen Bilateral Defence Cooperation

- Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire meets Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu to discuss enhanced Air Force-to-Air Force engagement, joint training, professional development and collaboration in advanced multi-domain operational capabilities.

News Desk
ISLAMABAD

A high-level defence delegation of the Federative Republic of Brazil, led by Admiral Renato Rodrigues De Aguiar Freire, Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, called onAir Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting both sides discussed matters of mutual interest with particular emphasis on enhancing bilateral defence cooperation, strengthening Air Force-to-Air Force engagement and exploring avenues for collaboration in training, professional development and the exchange of operational expertise.The Air Chief briefed the visiting dignitary as regards to PAF's ongoing modernization and indigenization drive alongside



the development of an integrated, multi-domain operational ecosystem encompassing kinetic, space, cyber, artificial intelligence and electronic warfare capabilities. Chief of the Air Staff also emphasized the importance of technological advancement, self-reliance and continuous capability enhancement in maintaining operational superiority in an increasingly complex security environment.The Brazilian Admiral underscored the importance of sustained professional exchanges, mutual learning and institutional collaboration to address evolving aerial and security challenges. The dignitary appreciated the professionalism and operational capabilities of Pakistan Air Force and expressed keen interest in leveraging the expertise and experience of PAF human resource to enhance operational preparedness and strengthen bilateral defence ties. Both sides also reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the two friendly countries. The visit of Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of Brazil to Air Headquarters underscored the shared commitment of both countries to fostering mutual understanding, enhancing professional cooperation and exploring new avenues of collaboration in the field of aerial defence.

State of emergency in KP to help fight terrorism: Mustafa Kamal

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal has said imposition of state of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was the need of the hour, stressing that protecting the lives, property and dignity of citizens is the government's foremost responsibility.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Kamal said the government was pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and emphasised the need for effective measures to eliminate the menace.

He said emergency in KP would support security agencies in their efforts to eliminate terrorist elements, improve the law and order situation and ensure the safety of citizens.The federal minister stressed that all necessary steps must be taken to eradicate terrorism and protect public lives and property so that people could live without fear and insecurity.Kamal expressed hope that Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, would become a peaceful region, adding that efforts would continue to establish lasting peace and ensure a secure future for the people.



Students take part in painting and drawing activities during art classes at Alhamra Arts Council

Lahore ranks as world's most polluted city as AQI reaches 199

- Lahore ranks as the world's most polluted city with an overall AQI of 199, while readings reach 300 in Gulberg. Rain is expected today and tomorrow, with temperatures between 22°C and 31°C.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Lahore has ranked first among the world's most polluted cities, with an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 199.

Air quality readings across several parts of the city showed significantly higher pollution levels. The AQI at the CERP Office in Gulberg was recorded at 300, while Kahna Nau reported 244 and Burki Road recorded 224. Model Town registered an AQI of 220, while DHA Phase 6 recorded a reading of 201.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast a possibility of rainfall in Lahore today and tomorrow, raising the prospect of changing weather conditions across the city.

The minimum temperature is expected to



remain around 22 degrees Celsius, while the maximum could reach 31 degrees Celsius. The current temperature was recorded at 25 degrees Celsius.

According to meteorological data, wind speed in the city was recorded at five kilometres per hour.

Residents are advised to remain mindful of local air quality conditions, particularly in areas where pollution readings are elevated.

Scanned with CamScanner



Teaching Machines, Teaching Minds: Pakistan's AI Moment in Education

By: Zahid Mushtaq Qureshi

Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant promise confined to Silicon Valley laboratories. It is already reshaping how students learn, how teachers teach, and how nations compete. For Pakistan, a country with one of the youngest populations in the world, the question is not whether AI will transform education but whether the country will shape that transformation or merely watch it happen. The window to act is open, but it will not stay open forever. The opportunity is considerable. A large share of Pakistan's population is under thirty, and millions of young people are hungry for skills that translate into employment. AI-powered tools can personalize learning for students who sit in overcrowded classrooms, offer instant feedback where teachers are stretched thin, and bring quality instruction to remote areas that have never had a qualified science or mathematics teacher. Language tools that work in Urdu and regional languages could open knowledge to children who currently struggle because their lessons arrive in a

research, help scholars analyze large datasets and reduce the burden of routine administrative work. Yet enthusiasm must be tempered by honesty about where the country stands. Public spending on education remains low, and millions of children are still out of school. Internet access is uneven, with rural areas and girls often left furthest behind. Many teachers have had little exposure to digital tools, let alone AI. Curricula in most institutions still reward memorization over analysis, which is precisely the kind of work machines now do better than humans. If AI is layered on top of a weak foundation, it will widen the gap between the privileged few who can afford elite schooling and the majority who cannot. Closing the distance with developed nations therefore begins with fundamentals. Countries that lead in AI did not get there by buying technology alone; they invested for decades in strong schools, rigorous mathematics and science teaching, and universities that produce original research. Pakistan must raise the quality of basic education, strengthen mathematics, statistics and computing from the early grades, and introduce digital literacy as a core subject rather than an elective. Teachers are the hinge of the entire system. Large-scale training programmes, supported by incentives and continuing professional development, will matter more than any expensive software purchase. At the higher education level, the Higher Education Commission and universities need to

are woven into disciplines from medicine to agriculture to the social sciences, instead of being treated as the preserve of computer science departments. Research funding must be increased and tied to national priorities, such as climate resilience, healthcare delivery and food security, where homegrown AI solutions could make a real difference. Partnerships between universities and industry should become routine, giving students practical experience and giving companies a pipeline of talent. The country must also find ways to keep its best minds at home, since every talented graduate lost to brain drain is an investment handed to another economy. Infrastructure and policy must keep pace. Affordable broadband, reliable electricity and access to computing resources are prerequisites for any serious AI ecosystem. The government's push towards a national AI strategy is a welcome step, but strategies are only as good as their
implementation, and Pakistan's record of continuity across changing governments is not encouraging. Consistent funding, clear accountability and long-term thinking will decide whether policy documents become reality. Equally important are rules on data protection, transparency and ethics, so that students' personal information is safeguarded and algorithms do not entrench bias against women, minorities or

non-English speakers. There is also a cultural task. Educators and parents must learn to see AI as a tool that supports thinking rather than a shortcut that replaces it. Universities need clear, sensible policies on AI use in assignments and research, so that integrity is protected without banning technology that students will meet in every workplace. The goal should be graduates who can question, verify and create, not merely prompt a machine and accept its output. Pakistan will not match the United States or China in AI spending overnight, and it should not try to. Its advantage lies elsewhere: a young, adaptable population, a growing freelance and technology sector, and the ability to build solutions for problems that wealthy nations rarely face.

By focusing on quality teaching, applied research, inclusive access and sound governance, the country can carve out a meaningful place in the AI economy. The choice before policymakers, educators and citizens is stark. Invest seriously in the minds of the next generation now, or spend the coming decades importing the technology that others have built.



By: Nasar Iqbal

Nasar Iqbal Honoured with International Award in Baku



Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan Honoured with Prestigious International Award in Baku for Outstanding Contributions to Humanitarian Services, Business and Leadership

Recognition for facilitating the release of 362 Pakistani prisoners through payments totalling SAR 6.7 million, arranging 44 life-saving heart surgeries for underprivileged children, providing clean drinking water to 30 villages, and making significant contributions to business and community welfare.

The Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah and the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh have recommended his name to the Government of Pakistan on three occasions for prestigious civil honours, including the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

(Special Report): Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan, a prominent Pakistani businessman, entrepreneur, community leader and humanitarian from Tehsil Barnala, District Bhimber, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has been honoured with the prestigious Entrepreneurship Excellence Award 2026 at the International Achievers Awards 2026 – Season 4, held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The award recognises his outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship, business development, leadership, humanitarian initiatives and community welfare.

The prestigious international ceremony brought together distinguished entrepreneurs, business leaders, social activists and prominent personalities from various countries. The event was organised by West World Group, founded by Ms. Naima Lashari.

Mr. Nasar Iqbal has been residing in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for approximately 23 years, during which he has established a distinguished professional career in the construction industry while actively contributing to business development, humanitarian causes and the welfare of the Pakistani community.

Lifetime Achievement Award from the Government of Pakistan

In recognition of his longstanding humanitarian, social and community welfare services, Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan was also honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Government of Pakistan in 2025.

Over the years, he has received several other awards, shields of appreciation and certificates of recognition from various social, business and Pakistani community organisations in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Recommended Three Times for Pakistan's Prestigious Civil

Awards

In recognition of his remarkable humanitarian and community services, the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah and the Embassy of Pakistan in Riyadh have collectively recommended his name to the Government of Pakistan on three separate occasions for prestigious national civil awards, including the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz.

These recommendations particularly highlighted his contributions towards the release of Pakistani prisoners in Saudi Arabia, assistance to distressed Pakistani nationals, medical treatment for underprivileged children and other humanitarian initiatives.

Release of 362 Pakistani Prisoners Through SAR 6.7 Million in Financial Assistance

One of Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan's most significant humanitarian achievements has been his continuous efforts to facilitate the release of Pakistani prisoners detained in various prisons and detention centres across Saudi Arabia.Through Help the Humanity Group Saudi Arabia, and with the generous support of donors, volunteers and community members, he has played a leading role in facilitating the release of 362 Pakistani prisoners, with approximately SAR 6.7 million paid towards legal fines, financial settlements and related obligations.

Many of these individuals had remained separated from their families for extended periods due to financial penalties and legal complications.These humanitarian efforts have reunited hundreds of families, allowing parents to return countless households.

to their children and bringing relief, happiness and renewed hope to countless households.

44 Life-Saving Heart Surgeries for Underprivileged Children

Another remarkable aspect of his humanitarian work is his commitment to helping children suffering from congenital heart diseases in Pakistan.

Through the Little Hearts Hope initiative, in collaboration with the Pakistan Children's Heart Foundation and generous donors, he has successfully facilitated 44 life-saving heart surgeries for underprivileged children.

These children belonged to financially disadvantaged families who could not afford the substantial costs of specialised cardiac treatment.

This initiative has provided critically ill children with a new chance at life while bringing hope and relief to their families.

Clean Drinking Water Project

Benefiting 30 Villages in Azad Kashmir Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan has also undertaken a major humanitarian infrastructure project in his native region of Union Council Thub Pattni, Tehsil Barnala, District Bhimber, Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The project involves the development of an approximately 14-kilometre-long water supply network, designed to provide clean drinking water to nearly 1,000 households across approximately 30 villages.

Previously, women and children in these communities were forced to travel long distances carrying water containers on their heads to meet their daily household needs.

The water supply initiative has significantly contributed to improving living conditions and reducing the daily hardships faced by local residents, particularly women and children. Contributions to Education, Healthcare and Community Welfare Beyond these major humanitarian initiatives, Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan has remained actively involved in supporting education, healthcare, ambulance services.

, vocational training, medical assistance and financial support for disadvantaged families.

As Chairman of Faail Al Khair Foundation, he continues to promote charitable initiatives aimed at improving the lives of vulnerable and underprivileged communities.

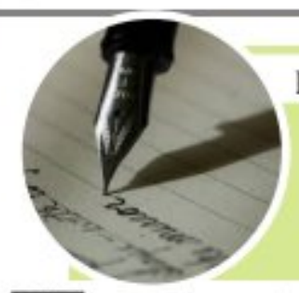
He has also actively contributed to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis, the Kashmir cause and human rights initiatives through various community organisations, including the Kashmir Committee Jeddah, Pakistan International Overseas Forum and other social welfare platforms.

His voluntary contributions have also extended to assisting Pakistani expatriates facing difficult circumstances in Saudi Arabia.

Leadership in Major Construction Projects in Saudi Arabia

Alongside his humanitarian activities, Nasar Iqbal Sardar Khan is an experienced professional in Saudi Arabia's construction and infrastructure development sector.

He currently serves as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Modon Al-Binaa Contracting Company, Jeddah, where he has been responsible for overseeing major construction and development projects.



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

Young People Forced to Leave Their Country: Who Is Responsible?

These words are not merely an expression of a young person's desire; they reflect the growing anxiety in our society, where educated, skilled, and hardworking young Pakistanis become exhausted while searching for opportunities in their own country. They become willing to move to almost any country where they see the possibility of finding employment, living with dignity, and supporting their families. The question is: why has our younger generation begun to regard leaving its homeland as a path to success? Have opportunities in Pakistan disappeared, or have we weakened the system that should provide these opportunities to our youth?

Pakistan is a country with a predominantly young population. Young people are the real driving force behind economic growth, industrial production, scientific research, modern technology, entrepreneurship, and national defence. Developed countries invest in education, employment, research, and business opportunities to benefit from the abilities of their younger generations. In contrast, when young people remain unemployed despite earning degrees, when personal connections are given preference over merit, and when the future appears uncertain despite hard work, frustration becomes inevitable.The major reasons behind the desire of Pakistani youth to move abroad include unemployment, inflation, limited incomes, and economic instability. A young person spends years acquiring an education, while parents invest their savings in the hope that their child will eventually improve the family's circumstances. However, when that young person submits countless job applications, attends interview after interview, and still fails to find a

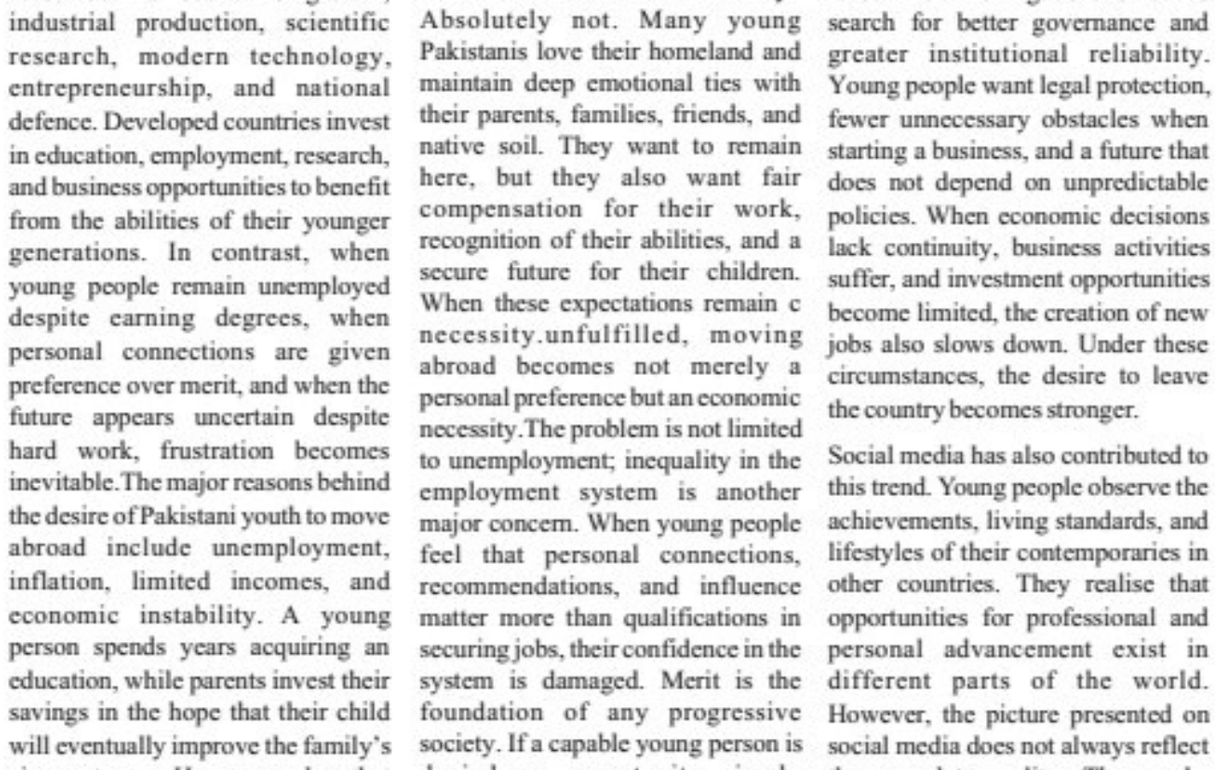
suitable opportunity, those hopes begin to fade. Even when employment is secured, the salary is sometimes so low that, after meeting personal expenses, the individual is unable to provide meaningful financial support to their parents.

Meanwhile, the rising cost of everyday necessities creates further pressure. House rents, electricity and gas bills, children's education, healthcare, and food prices make life increasingly difficult for ordinary families. Young people realise that despite working day and night, they cannot feel secure about their future. When they discover that even an ordinary job abroad may offer better earnings and opportunities for professional advancement, their thoughts increasingly turn towards leaving their homeland.An important question arises here: does every young person who moves abroad dislike their own country? Absolutely not. Many young Pakistanis love their homeland and maintain deep emotional ties with their parents, families, friends, and native soil. They want to remain here, but they also want fair compensation for their work, recognition of their abilities, and a secure future for their children. When these expectations remain c necessity.unfulfilled, moving abroad becomes not merely a personal preference but an economic necessity.The problem is not limited to unemployment; inequality in the employment system is another major concern. When young people feel that personal connections, recommendations, and influence matter more than qualifications in securing jobs, their confidence in the system is damaged. Merit is the foundation of any progressive society. If a capable young person is denied an opportunity simply because they lack influential connections, they gradually become disillusioned with their society.

Conversely, if they believe that hard work, competence, and honesty can lead to success, they are more likely to strive for a better future within their own country. The mismatch between the education system and market requirements further aggravates the problem. Large numbers of young people obtain degrees, yet they often lack access to practical skills, modern technology, vocational training, and business experience. Industries require workers with specialised skills, while many graduates complete courses that do not adequately prepare them for available jobs.

Education must therefore go beyond the mere acquisition of degrees and be connected with employment, industry, agriculture, information technology, digital commerce, and modern business requirements.Another important reason for moving abroad is the search for better governance and greater institutional reliability. Young people want legal protection, fewer unnecessary obstacles when starting a business, and a future that does not depend on unpredictable policies. When economic decisions lack continuity, business activities suffer, and investment opportunities become limited, the creation of new jobs also slows down. Under these circumstances, the desire to leave the country becomes stronger.

Social media has also contributed to this trend. Young people observe the achievements, living standards, and lifestyles of their contemporaries in other countries. They realise that opportunities for professional and personal advancement exist in different parts of the world. However, the picture presented on social media does not always reflect the complete reality. Those who move abroad may also face high living costs, language barriers, loneliness, legal complications.



Visitors explore stalls during International Conference on "Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth" organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) at local hotel

Scanned with CamScanner

Crude oil prices hit near two-week high as Saudi attacks threaten supply recovery

■ Gulf oil exports recovered to more than 81% of pre-war levels in September; however, rebound remains vulnerable



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

Oil prices rose about 2% on Monday to their highest levels in nearly two weeks as renewed attacks on Saudi Arabia and incidents involving tankers in and around the Strait of Hormuz heightened concerns over energy supplies, overshadowing hopes of increased fuel exports from Russia.

Brent crude futures gained $2.04, or 2%, to $106.76 a barrel by 1507 GMT, their highest level since September 29. US West Texas Intermediate crude rose $1.84, or 2%, to $93.69 a barrel.

The gains came as Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi fighters stepped up attacks on Saudi targets. The Houthis claimed responsibility for a Saturday strike on Riyadh's international airport that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, while Saudi authorities reported injuries in a further attack on the airport on Sunday.Attacks on commercial shipping have added to concerns about the security of energy exports from the region. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations reported that a tanker was struck by a drone near Oman's Sohar anchorage, while another was damaged by an unidentified projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

The incidents threaten to undermine the recovery in Middle Eastern oil exports recorded in September and have reinforced concerns that further escalation could disrupt supplies and keep prices elevated.



ISLAMABAD: October 13, 2026: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan presents a book showcasing Pakistan's rich culinary heritage, diverse food products and food industry along the Indus to Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Oumer Hussein Oba during their meeting in Islamabad.

IMF warns inflation in Pakistan will skyrocket to 9.9%

■ The revised inflation forecast represents an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the IMF's April projection of 8.4 percent, which was also maintained in July.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised Pakistan's inflation forecast for FY2026-27 to 9.9 percent from 8.4 percent, while maintaining its economic growth projection at 3.5%,

According to the IMF's latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday during the World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings in Bangkok, Pakistan's inflation is expected to exceed the government's 8.2 percent target while GDP growth is projected to remain below the official target of 4 percent.



The revised inflation forecast represents an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the IMF's April projection of 8.4 percent, which was also maintained in July.

Although the IMF did not provide a Pakistan-specific explanation for the revision, it raised inflation projections for the Middle East and Central Asia amid disruptions to energy supplies and rising prices caused by the ongoing regional conflict.During the recently concluded staff-level discussions, Pakistani authorities maintained that the annual inflation target remained achievable despite emerging price pressures.

The government has continued passing higher fuel prices on to consumers while introducing monthly compensation of Rs2,000 for motorcyclists and Rs3,000 for small-car owners.

However, the IMF has raised concerns about the relief scheme, describing it as broad-based and costly.

The higher inflation projection could also increase pressure on monetary policymakers to maintain a restrictive interest-rate stance, although the WEO does not specify any new interest-rate requirement for Pakistan.

On economic growth, the IMF retained its 3.5% forecast despite the government's expectation that GDP expansion would reach 4% during the fiscal year.

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb recently told Reuters that he remained confident Pakistan's growth would exceed 4%. "I am still quite clear that we should clock north of 4%," he said.

The IMF also revised Pakistan's projected current account deficit upward to 1% of GDP, equivalent to approximately $4.4 billion.

Oil falls as Russia diesel supply prospects counter Gulf supply risks

■ Oil prices fell over 1% as traders weighed potential Russian diesel supplies against Gulf security risks, while OPEC cut its 2026 oil demand growth forecast amid rising shipping and insurance costs.

Web Desk

Russia



Oil prices fell on Tuesday and were on track for their first decline in nearly a week, as traders assessed supply risks from attacks on Saudi Arabia while weighing the prospect of additional diesel supplies from Russia.

Brent crude futures fell $1.30, or 1.2%, to $105.35 a barrel by 0329 GMT, while US West ?Texas Intermediate crude futures were down $1.25, or 1.3%, at $92.49 a barrel.

Both benchmarks climbed nearly $2 a barrel in the previous session, with Brent settling at its highest since September 15.

US President Donald ?Trump said Russia had agreed to supply diesel to global markets, and his administration temporarily lifted US sanctions on ?Russian fuel designed to deprive Moscow of revenue for its war on Ukraine.

Additional supplies could help alleviate tightness in ?global fuel markets, tempering some of the supply concerns that have supported crude prices recently.

However, "there is considerable scepticism over the Russia-Ukraine energy ceasefire, particularly with reports that Russia has hit Ukrainian energy targets since Trump announced it," ING analysts said in a note.

Lawmakers ?from both parties in the US complained Trump's agreement with Putin appears to violate US law barring imports of ?Russian energy until Moscow ends its aggression against Ukraine.

Concerns over the vulnerability of Gulf energy infrastructure and shipping lanes remained in ?focus after Iran-aligned Houthis struck Riyadh's international airport over the weekend, while tanker attacks were reported near the Strait of Hormuz.

The incidents threatened to derail a recovery in Middle East supplies seen in September, and have reinforced fears of further disruptions along one of the world's most important energy transit routes.

"Fresh diesel supply from Russia and steadier Saudi flows are ?offering some relief, yet the ?market still looks more ?worried about the risk of further hits to ships or pipelines in the Gulf than it is reassured by extra barrels," said Tim Waterer, chief analyst at ?KCM Trade.

"Until we see clearer signs of de-escalation, the path of least resistance still ?leans higher," he said.

Trump talks ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, but if markets jump the gun.

Ministers of OPEC and non-OPEC Participating Countries in the Declaration of Cooperation said shipping and insurance costs have surged to unprecedented levels of over one-third of the commodity value, impeding efficient movement of crude oil and products.

OPEC has revised down ?its oil ?demand growth forecast for this year to 400,000 barrels per day ?from 1.4 million bpd at the start of the year, in line with developments throughout the year, Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of ?the organisation said on Monday.

Dollar slips as oil prices sink, bond yields stabilise

● The dollar fell 0.2% as Treasury yields, oil prices and global stocks declined. Markets awaited US inflation data, while central bank rate expectations and geopolitical risks shaped currency trading.

Web Desk

SINGAPORE

The dollar retreated in ?Asian trade on Tuesday after a holiday in some US markets, while bond yields and oil prices eased, accompanied by a slide in global stocks.

The US dollar index of the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, slid 0.2% to 102.39, stumbling as it approached its highest since April last year.

"There are some signs that positive global economic surprises are coming off the boil, while US bond yields are stabilising," MUFG analysts wrote in a note.

The yield on the US 10-year Treasury bond was down 5 basis points at 5.192% ?as trading resumed after Monday's bond market holiday.



Brent crude futures fell 1.4% to $105.20 as traders weighed the prospect ?of more diesel supplies from Russia, amid an elusive "energy truce" between Moscow and Kyiv declared by US President Donald Trump.

However, the step ?has brought little respite from attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine.

Supply risks also kept in focus in the Middle East after recent ?attacks on Saudi Arabia.

The reversal in energy costs and climbing US Treasury bond yields undermined some of the dollar's recent strength against major peers, with no sign of a safe-haven dash for the greenback as equity markets sold off.

The euro appreciated 0.2% to $1.1177 on Tuesday, while the British pound was up 0.1% at $1.3219. The ?yen strengthened 0.2% to 158.215 yen against the dollar after Bank of Japan data showed wholesale prices rose 6.8% in the year to September, ?missing a median market forecast of 7.6% but still enough to justify market fears of higher interest rates.

The Chinese yuan traded near its strongest in ?four years, ?holding steady against the dollar at 6.6961 yuan in offshore trade.

The Australian dollar was level at $0.6960, little changed after the release of minutes from the Reserve Bank of Australia's September board meeting that voted unanimously to raise rates for the fourth time this year.

IMF predicts global growth to slow less in 2026 but warns of 'split' outlook

■ Fund slashes Middle East growth outlook due to war disruptions: Saudi economy to contract by 3.3 percent in 2026: Warns of AI market correction, cyber threats to financial system

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday forecast that global growth in 2026 would slow less than previously expected due to advanced economies' "resilience" in the face of war-fuelled energy prices, but warned that low-income countries remained vulnerable to the supply shock.

In its World Economic Outlook (WEO) released at the organization's Annual Meetings in Bangkok, the Fund raised its 2026 global growth forecast by 0.1 percentage points to 3.1 percent, compared to 3.5 percent growth in 2025.

The IMF warned that while many advanced economies have been buoyed by rising investment in artificial intelligence (AI) technology, poorer countries that are not benefiting from that boom face stark choices as they deal with high energy prices due to the US war on Iran.

"The global economy has been resilient, but that resilience is under strain, with risks to growth tilted to the downside," said Silvana Tenreyro, the IMF's chief economist.

The United States' war on Iran, launched in February, has plunged the Middle East into violence and seen global energy prices skyrocket as a result of Tehran's retaliatory actions. Prices of refined petroleum



products remain between 70 and 95 percent above pre-war levels, putting pressure on countries dependent on energy imports for economic activity.

The war is in its eighth month, and Tenreyro warned that "a prolonged conflict in the Middle East could put additional pressures on inflation and slow down growth."

Energy-importing countries not exposed to the AI boom remain the most vulnerable, creating what the IMF termed a "bifurcated outlook" in its WEO report.

The report detailed that the twin economic forces of the war in Iran and the AI technology boom had created a "fragmented" world economy.

"Headwinds from a prolonged war and persistent geopolitical tensions could revive inflationary pressures, strain fiscal and external positions, and hit energy-importing and low-income countries hardest," it said.

"At the same time, the current technology tailwind could stop abruptly if expectations about AI-related profits and productivity gains are reassessed, weakening investment and tightening financial conditions."

The IMF's split view of the world economy was evident in its specific projections. The Middle East and Central Asia region, exposed directly to the Iran war as Tehran has targeted Washington's Gulf allies, saw the IMF forecast economic contraction of 0.3 percent in 2026.

Saudi Arabia saw one of the sharpest falls in projected growth, with the IMF forecasting a contraction of 3.3 percent -- a cut in the forecast of 5.0 percentage points.

Scanned with CamScanner

IMF says AI investment propping up global growth, but war and debt threaten outlook

- IMF forecasts 3.1% global economic growth in 2026 as AI investment offsets Middle East energy shocks, while recession risks and debt concerns increase.



Web Desk

BANGKOK

The global economy will still manage to top 3% real GDP growth this year as strong AI investment offsets the energy shock from the war in the Middle East, ?but downside risks are mounting and more countries are being left behind and vulnerable to rising debt loads, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

Despite a more protracted conflict that has kept oil prices ?above $100 a barrel, the IMF is forecasting 2026 global growth at 3.1%, a slight uptick from the 3.0% it predicted in July.

The World Economic Outlook forecast, released as global economic and finance leaders gather in Bangkok for the IMF and World Bank annual meetings, is about even with the most optimistic scenario issued in April but below 2025 global growth of 3.5%.

For 2027, the IMF predicts 3.4% global growth, flat with the July forecast and up 0.2 percentage point from April.

The slight improvement is largely due to continued strong investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, prompting growth upgrades for key advanced economies building AI platforms and ?especially for countries supplying AI hardware, including South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand, which is hosting the meetings this week.

"The global economy has been resilient, but that resilience is under strain, with risks to growth tilted to ?the downside," the IMF's new chief economist, Silvana Tenreyro, told reporters.

"A prolonged conflict in the Middle East could put additional pressures on inflation and slow down growth. A worsening of fiscal ?prospects, a reassessment of AI profitability, and extreme weather events could further weaken the outlook," she added.

Countries and companies moved quickly to mitigate the oil price shock, drawing down reserves, substituting other suppliers and energy sources and cutting oil demand, Petya ?Koeva Brooks, the IMF's deputy research director, told Reuters in an interview.



950 Houthi fighters killed, 380 vehicles destroyed in offensive: Yemen govt forces

WEB DESK

Yemen

Yemen's armed forces have claimed that around 950 Houthi fighters were killed and 380 military vehicles were destroyed or disabled during 1,879 operations conducted under 'Operation Dawn of Yemen'.

According to Arab media reports, Yemeni armed forces spokesperson Colonel Majid Al-Nazili said the operations targeted Houthi military positions using fighter aircraft, drones, artillery, rocket launchers and sniper units.

He said preliminary estimates indicated that approximately 950 Houthi fighters had been killed, while 380 military vehicles, logistical assets and other equipment had been destroyed or rendered inoperable.

According to the spokesperson, the operations disrupted Houthi firing positions and caused disorder in the group's command-and-control and supply networks.

Al-Nazili said the targets included fortifications, defensive installations, command-and-control centres, artillery and rocket-launcher positions, surveillance and intelligence facilities, reinforcement routes, weapons and ammunition depots, and military transport and logistical assets.

He added that airstrikes in Taiz targeted Houthi reinforcements and fighter units moving towards front lines. The strikes dispersed Houthi gatherings and disrupted efforts to reinforce positions and regroup forces, he claimed.

The spokesperson said the operations had been conducted in accordance with international humanitarian law, with attention to the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution to protect civilians and civilian property.

He further said military engineering units were clearing restored positions and surrounding areas of landmines and explosive devices to make them safe for the return of military personnel and civilians.



Trump denounces Houthi attacks after Saudi crown prince call as coalition intercepts missiles

Web DESK

WASHINGTON

Houthi rebels threatened a "swift and painful" response against U.S. interests across the Middle East on Monday if President Donald Trump joins Saudi military strikes against the group, AFP reported.

"If the US becomes involved in the aggression against Yemen, we will not deliberate over the decision to respond, rather, there will be a swift and painful response targeting the US and all its interests in the region," Houthi political bureau member Mohammed Al Bukhaiti told the European news agency.

Bukhaiti also warned "all employees and workers at Saudi oil facilities and airports to stay away from these sites, as they have become legitimate targets".

The threats followed the group's deadly attack on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, which killed at least 13 people and wounded hundreds more.

Trump condemned the Riyadh attack Monday, stating it was unacceptable.

"The Houthis are misbehaving very badly. They're misbehaving very badly. No good," the president told reporters at the White House.

Trump, who described the airport attack as "not acceptable," also confirmed that he had spoken with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Meanwhile, explosions were again reported over Riyadh on Monday night, with the Saudi-led coalition saying it had intercepted a Houthi missile. The Houthis claimed another attack on the airport.

Bukhaiti had also told AFP the attacks were intended to warn the crown prince "that he can no longer wage aggression against Yemen from a safe position."

American citizens detained in Saudi Arabia for filming recent events, US embassy says

WEB DESK

New Delhi



The US embassy in Riyadh said on Monday that American citizens had been detained for filming recent events in Saudi Arabia, which has suffered a string of deadly attacks by the Houthi militia.

The US mission said "American citizens have been detained for taking photos of recent events," without specifying how many were arrested. It noted that Saudi authorities have warned that "filming, publishing, or sharing information related to counter missiles and drones and their impact sites exposes you to legal liability."

The embassy also said US government employees must obtain its authorization before using any airport in the Kingdom."US government employees working in Saudi Arabia require special authorization to use any airport in Saudi Arabia," the mission said in a statement. It also urged US citizens to "take extreme caution" if they choose to use Saudi airports.

Houthi strikes on airports have recently rocked Saudi Arabia, with at least 18 people killed in Riyadh airport.

Nato warns Russia of tough response to any attack

- In recent days, Trump has announced a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin allowing Russia to supply diesel to global markets

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS

Nato's top commander warned Russia that his forces would destroy "anything and everything" involved in any attack if Moscow was "foolish enough" to launch an assault on alliance territory.

Speaking at the Warsaw Security Forum, US Air Force General Alexus Grynkewich stressed Nato was a defensive alliance. But he outlined a three-pronged approach of blocking, blunting and breaking enemy forces to make any attack "utterly futile".



His remarks come amid heightened tensions between Europe and Russia and lingering concerns among European allies over US President Donald Trump's commitment to Nato's mutual defence pact.

In recent days, Trump has announced a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin allowing Russia to supply diesel to global markets and renewed his criticism of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

European govts seek Nato assurance over Moscow's 'clandestine operations of arson, drone incursions and cyber disruptions'

European governments accuse Moscow of stepping up a campaign of sabotage, drone incursions and cyberattacks against them, while Russia warned last month it could use nuclear weapons if Nato attempted to cut off its Kaliningrad exclave. Grynkewich did not mention Russia by name but much of his message was clearly directed at Moscow.

Nato's 2022 Strategic Concept describes Russia as the alliance's most significant security threat.

"If someone is foolish enough to attack us, we will fight," he said. "We will, in short, ensure any attack, against any ally, proves utterly futile." Grynkewich said Nato's response would not be limited to forces involved in an initial attack. "Should the adversary choose to press the attack or commit his reserves, we will break the warfighting system engaged against us," he said.

"This includes not just the attacking force itself, but anything and everything that supports, sustains, and controls that force.

Iran's demands over the Strait of Hormuz would set a dangerous precedent, Rubio warns Asian leaders

- UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham says Iran likely coordinated a suspected plot targeting RAF Fairford, raising tensions as Tehran denies involvement.

WEB DESK

DAVOS

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said on Monday ?that a suspected plot targeting the RAF Fairford air base in Britain was "highly likely" to have been coordinated in Iran, and almost certainly directed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The RAF Fairfordbase in southwest England, which had been used by US bombers to carry out strikes on Iran, became the focal point for a major security response after five British men were arrested nearby in the early hours of September 27 on suspected terrorism and explosive offenses.

US officials have told Reuters that there had been a suspected plot involving Iran to launch a drone attack, and ?last week US President ?Donald Trump said a threat linked to Iran had prompted a ?decision ?to withdraw ?the bombers from the base.

"I can confirm our assessment that it is highly likely to have been coordinated in Iran, almost certainly directed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard (IRGC)," Burnham told parliament.



Tehran has rejected any suggestion it was involved in the Fairford incident, saying it amounted to "unfounded and malicious speculations."

Details around the suspected plot remain thin. The five detained men were later released without charge on police bail "under stringent conditions," and two other arrested men, including a British-Iranian national, have also been released.

Detectives have ?said petrol but no viable explosive had been found in vans seized ?along with the five men. However, both police and ?Burnham have pointed toward the involvement of a foreign state.

"We will ?not tolerate these threats on our soil," ?Burnham said. "We will crack down on Iran's use of criminal networks, using our full range of ?powers to target them and their funding streams, and we will bring further sanctions to restrict the capacity of Iran and the IRGC to do us harm."

Foreign ministries from almost 30 countries including the US, Canada, France and Germany issued a statement condemning "Iran's use of violent attacks, including the acts of lethal plotting, ?arson, sabotage, cyber-attacks, and other hybrid activities against us and our partners."

"The UK has also concluded this event demonstrates the IRGC's continued willingness ?to project hostile activity ?beyond its borders through covert networks and proxy actors," the statement said.

Scanned with CamScanner

Sanam Baloch Surprises Fans With Sabreen Hisbani's Vocals

Sabreen Hisbani's Vocals Surprise Fans in Sanam Baloch's Video

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Pakistani television personality and actress Sanam Baloch has entertained social media users with a lighthearted video in which she pretends to sing along to a melodious tune, only for the clip to reveal a humorous surprise at the end.

The unexpected twist comes when viewers discover that the beautiful vocals actually belong to fellow actress Sabreen Hisbani.

Sharing the video on Instagram, Sanam encouraged her followers to watch until the end to discover the surprise. Her playful caption described the clip as her first attempt at singing, adding to the humour of the moment.

The video offers a glimpse into the friendly rapport between the two actresses, with their spontaneous interaction bringing a touch of fun to social media.

Sanam Baloch is a familiar name in Pakistan's entertainment industry. She began her career as a presenter on Sindhi-language television before gaining wider recognition for her work as a television host and actress.

Over the years, she has earned appreciation for her performances in popular dramas, including Dastaan, Durr-e-Shehwar and Kankar. Her engaging hosting style has also helped her establish a strong presence on Pakistani television.

Sabreen Hisbani, meanwhile, is known for her work in Pakistani television dramas. Her vocals provide the unexpected highlight of Sanam's latest video, turning an apparently ordinary singing clip into an amusing social media moment.

Yumna Zaidi mourns Laiba Ejaz's tragic death

In her Instagram story, Yumna highlighted how fraudsters exploit young people's dreams and hard work.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Yumna Zaidi has expressed grief over the tragic death of Laiba Ejaz, an IIUI gold medallist whose tragic death has drawn attention to an alleged multi-million-rupee overseas education scam.

In her Instagram story, Yumna highlighted how fraudsters exploit young people's dreams and hard work.

Yumna called for strict action against those responsible.

Laiba had completed her BS in Physics with a gold medal and hoped to pursue higher education in the United States with aspirations of studying at Harvard University and becoming a scientist.

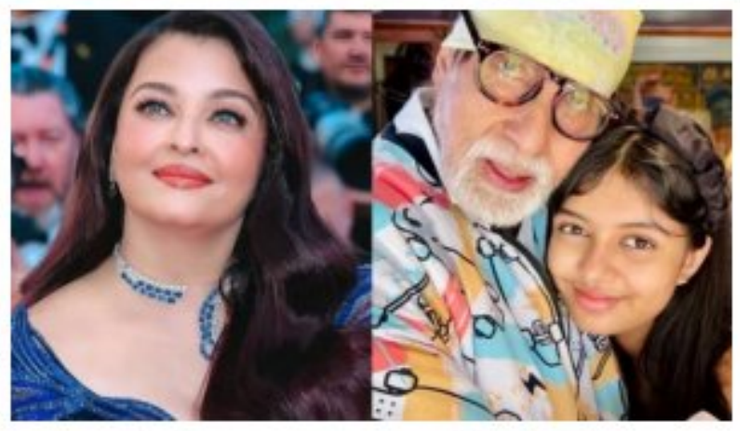
Her family reportedly made significant financial sacrifices to support her ambitions, including selling property and pledging jewellery.

According to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), suspects collected Rs 9.3 million by promising to arrange a US visa, university admission and scholarship.

The FIR states that the family was given fake admission letters, scholarship documents and fee receipts. Reports say Laiba experienced severe distress after the fraud came to light.

Her death has sparked calls for accountability and greater awareness about fraudulent overseas education schemes.

As of October 12, reports indicate that a suspect has been arrested, while the investigation into the alleged fraud continues. The allegations remain subject to legal proceedings.



Aishwarya Rai Shares Heartwarming Birthday Wish for Amitabh Bachchan

From Jalsa to KBC 18: Amitabh Bachchan's Birthday Celebrations

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan marked her father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan's 84th birthday on October 11 with a heartfelt message and a special family photograph featuring the veteran actor and his granddaughter, Aaradhya Bachchan.

The actress shared the picture on Instagram on Sunday, offering fans a glimpse of a tender moment between the grandfather and granddaughter. In the photograph, Amitabh appeared in an oversized jacket and beanie as Aaradhya wrapped her arms around him affectionately.Alongside the image, Aishwarya expressed her love and blessings for the Bollywood legend, writing, "Happy Birthday dearest Pa-Dadajiii. Love and God Bless. Always."Amitabh Bachchan Greets Fans Outside Jalsa

Continuing his long-standing birthday tradition, Amitabh stepped outside his Mumbai residence, Jalsa, to acknowledge the fans who had gathered to celebrate his special day.

Wearing a red kurta with a matching shawl, the actor greeted the crowd and waved to his admirers. A giant garland arranged by fans added to the festive atmosphere as people gathered to catch a glimpse of the Bollywood superstar.

Several prominent personalities from the film industry also shared birthday wishes for the legendary actor. Sanjay Dutt, Chiranjeevi, Prabhas, Anupam Kher, Ajay Devgn, Farah Khan, Kajol and Shatrughan Sinha were among those who celebrated the occasion on social media.

Amitabh's Birthday Celebrations on Kaun Banega Crorepati 18

The birthday festivities also featured a special celebration on the television quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati 18, where Amitabh's son, actor Abhishek Bachchan, joined him for the occasion.

The special birthday week included appearances by Madhuri Dixit, Ayushmann Khurrana and Sara Ali Khan, who joined the programme as celebrity guests to celebrate the veteran star.

One particularly emotional moment came when Amitabh and Abhishek shared a warm embrace, giving viewers a glimpse of their close father-son relationship.

Amitabh Bachchan to Return in Kalki 2898 AD Sequel

Alongside his television commitments, Amitabh is preparing to reprise his role as Ashwatthama in the sequel to Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin.



Neelam Muneer announces birth of baby boy

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Neelam Muneer has confirmed the birth of her first child, a baby boy named Muhammad Hamdan, sharing the joyful news with her fans in a heartfelt social media post.

The 34-year-old actress put an end to speculation among her followers by announcing the arrival of her son on Instagram, where she shared a touching photograph of herself holding her new-born while lying in a hospital bed.

Alongside the picture, Muneer expressed her gratitude and happiness in an emotional caption, writing, "The moment I became someone's whole world. Alhamdulillah! My little prince, Muhammad Hamdan, is a prayer of mine that has been answered and the greatest blessing of my life."

The announcement was met with excitement as fans and well-wishers celebrated the actress's new journey into motherhood.

Speculation about the birth had circulated on social media before the official announcement.

Earlier, a close friend of Muneer's husband had shared a congratulatory message across various social media platforms, adding to the anticipation among her followers.

Muneer, who is known for her work in Pakistani television dramas and films, married Dubai-based Pakistani businessman Muhammad Rashid in January 2025 in Dubai..

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.

After Mahira Khan, Sajal Aly falsely dragged in India's political debate

The screenshot falsely portrays her as celebrating a possible change of government in India and supporting Cockroach Janta Party

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

After Mahira Khan, Pakistani actress Sajal Aly has become the latest celebrity dragged into India's political debate through a fake Instagram story.

The screenshot falsely portrays her as celebrating a possible change of government in India and supporting Cockroach Janta Party, giving those targeting the ongoing protests another supposed Pakistani endorsement to circulate.

The fabricated story suggests that a change in leadership would improve relations between India and Pakistan and allow artistes to work together again.

However, a fact-check identified the screenshots attributed to both Sajal and Mahira as false. Neither actress's official account carried the alleged story when checked.



Some users have accused the BJP IT cell of employing cheap tactics, arguing that people are cross-checking viral claims instead of accepting screenshots at face value. These accusations, however, do not establish who produced the image.

The fact-check documented BJP supporters circulating the fabricated posts on X. Sharing the screenshots and creating them remain separate questions.

The political shift in focus is striking: questions about electoral rolls and alleged voter deletions are being recast through supposed Pakistani celebrity involvement.

A fabricated endorsement offers no answer to those questions, but it can steer the conversation away from them.After Mahira Khan, Pakistani actress Sajal Aly has become the latest celebrity dragged into India's political debate through a fake Instagram story.

The screenshot falsely portrays her as celebrating a possible change of government in India and supporting Cockroach Janta Party, giving those targeting the ongoing protests another supposed Pakistani endorsement to circulate.



Pakistani actor and television host Adnan Siddiqui has bid farewell to Tamasha Season 5 following its grand finale, sharing a heartfelt tribute to the people behind the reality show and hinting at even bigger ambitions for its next instalment.

Scanned with CamScanner

Kusal Mendis leads Sri Lanka to consolation win as Pakistan secure series 2-1

- Sri Lankan skipper scores unbeaten 87 for consolation victory

Sports Reporter
Rawalpindi

Kusal Mendis guided Sri Lanka to a convincing eight-wicket win over Pakistan, scoring an unbeaten half-century in the third and final T20I at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Pakistan, however, won the series 2-1 after clinching victories in the first two games.

Set to chase a 169-run target, the visitors comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of just two wickets and 17 balls to spare, courtesy of an unbeaten partnership for the third wicket between Kamindu Mendis and captain Kusal.

Sri Lanka, however, got off to a shaky start to the pursuit as Mohammad Imran Randhawa trapped right-handed opener Lahiru Udara (one) lbw on the first delivery of the second over with 15 runs on the board.

Udara's dismissal paved the way for Kusal to walk out at No.3, and the captain, alongside opener Sineth Jayawardena, put Sri Lanka into a commanding position by raising a 59-run partnership for the second wicket,



which came at a brisk pace.

Arafat Minhas eventually broke the threatening partnership on the last delivery of the eighth over by dismissing Jayawardena, who made a brisk 38 off 26 deliveries with the help of five fours and two sixes.

Following Jayawardena's departure, Kusal joined forces with Kamindu and the experienced pair batted commandingly to retain the momentum in Sri Lanka's favour victory with an unbeaten 92-run partnership.

before ultimately steering the touring side to victory with an unbeaten 92-run partnership.

Captain Kusal remained the top-scorer for Sri Lanka in the run chase with an unbeaten 87 off 48 deliveries, studded with nine fours and four sixes. He was closely followed by Kamindu, who made 40 not out from 27 balls, smashing four boundaries.

For Pakistan, Imran and Minhas could pick up one wicket apiece in the fixture.

Put into bat first, the home side accumulated 168-8 in their 20 overs, courtesy of a gutsy knock by their captain Farhan.

The Green Shirts got off to a spirited start to their innings as their opening pair of Fakhar Zaman and Farhan, put together 34 runs in just three overs.

But Eshan Malinga struck twice, dismissing Fakhar (12) and in-form Maaz Sadaqat (0) in the fourth over to halt Pakistan's flamboyant start.

Following the back-to-back dismissals, Hasan Nawaz joined skipper Farhan in the middle, and the duo batted cautiously to add 33 runs to the home side's total until the former fell victim to Vijayakanth Viyaskanth in the ninth over after scoring a 17-ball 16.

Pakistan then suffered another setback in the subsequent over as experienced Sri Lanka all-rounder Dasun Shanaka sent back their wicketkeeper batter Khawaja Nafay for just three.

Shanaka struck twice more in his next two overs, dismissing all-rounder Mohammad Imran (6) and Abdul Samad (15), and reduced Pakistan to 102-6.



Haider targets another medal at Nagoya Para Games

Web Desk
LOS ANGELES

Pakistan's veteran para-athlete and 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games gold medallist Haider Ali is confident of delivering his best performance at the Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games, scheduled for October 18-24."Yes, I have worked hard and, Insha'Allah, will do my best," Haider told The Express Tribune as he departed for Japan.

Haider confirmed that he would compete in the discus throw event. "Yes, I will participate in the discus throw. I have three other athletes with me," he said.A 16-member Pakistan's contingent will compete in athletics, powerlifting, table tennis and wheelchair tennis, this correspondent has learnt.

The 41-year-old has an illustrious career on the international stage. He won gold in the discus throw at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, silver in the long jump at Beijing 2008 and bronze in the long jump at Rio 2016. He also secured bronze in the discus throw at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Haider is also a four-time Asian Para Games gold medallist and has also won two bronze medals at the continental event.

US Open champ Zverev to become tennis world number one

- The career-first will cap a stellar season for the 29-year-old, the current world number two, after he won the French Open in June and the US Open in September.

Sports Desk
MONTREAL

Men's tennis confirmed it will crown a new world number one as Germany's Alexander Zverev was ensured the year-end honour on Monday after Carlos Alcaraz lost his third-round match in Shanghai.

The career-first will cap a stellar season for the 29-year-old, the current world number two, after he won the French Open in June and the US Open in September.

The French Open was his first-ever Grand Slam title.

"It's been a fantastic season for me winning in Paris and New York and knowing that I will finish the year on top of the rankings is just a dream come true," Zverev said in a statement shared by the ATPTour website.

"So much work and effort have been put into achieving this goal, especially after coming back from the ankle injury," Zverev added.

He suffered a career-threatening ankle injury in his French Open semi-final in 2022. Zverev will be the first German male player to finish his season as top-ranked in the world, and the oldest to lift the trophy, set to be presented in November, for the first time.



Germany's Angelique Kerber and Steffi Graf have both been the year-end number one women's tennis player.

Zverev's achievement comes in a year where the previous two players to hold the top ranking, Italy's Jannik Sinner and Spain's Alcaraz, have skipped months of competition due to injury.

Sinner, the current number one, has not competed since Wimbledon where he beat Zverev in the final. He announced last week his season was over due to a knee injury.

Alcaraz, ranked third, was sidelined for months with a wrist injury from April until the US Open.

Zverev, 6-foot-6 (1.98m), had been destined for the top from a young age, hailing from a tennis family where his mother and father both played the sport to a high level in the former Soviet Union.

But he plays in the shadow of domestic violence allegations made by two former partners, which he has strenuously denied.



Sri Lanka name 15-member squad for Pakistan Test series

Web Desk
ISLAMABAD

Sri Lanka Cricket has announced a 15-member squad for the two-match Test series against Pakistan, with Kusal Mendis named captain for the tour scheduled from November 9 to 21, 2026.

The series forms part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025–2027 cycle, with the opening Test set to begin in Rawalpindi on November 9 and the second match scheduled to start in Lahore on November 17.

The squad includes experienced batters Pathum Nissanka, Dinesh Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis and Dhananjaya de Silva, alongside bowlers Prabath Jayasuriya, Lahiru Kumara, Asitha Fernando and Eshan Malinga.

Pathum Nissanka's participation subject to fitness

Sri Lanka Cricket said Pathum Nissanka would travel with the team only if he is declared medically fit.

The 15-member squad also features Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Sonal Dinusha, Anjala Bandara, Keshara Nuwantha, Milan Rathnayaka and Dilshan Madushanka.

Man City, PSG clash at contrasting time for state-backed projects

SPORTS Desk
ISLAMABAD

Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain have reshaped football with the financial backing of Gulf state owners, but there is a stark contrast in the health of those projects ahead of their latest Champions League meeting on Wednesday.

City return to Champions League action for the first time since they were found guilty of breaking Premier League financial rules in a bombshell verdict which could threaten their place in the English top-flight.

PSG strived to follow City's era of sustained success and are now firmly established as Europe's top dogs after successive Champions League titles to go along with their domination of French football.

Abu Dhabi-backed City won the race against Qatar-owned PSG to become European champions first in 2023.

The triumph over Inter Milan in Istanbul that completed a treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup was the pinnacle of City's rise since a 2008 takeover fronted by Sheikh Mansour, the vice-president and deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

But a cloud now hangs over City's haul of silverware from the past 15 years unless they can overturn the findings of an independent commission on appeal.

City were found to have used "sham" commercial deals with Emirati companies to inflate revenue and reduce costs to the tune of over 900 million ($1.2 billion) between 2009 and 2018.

No sanction has yet been meted out, but a severe points deduction or even expulsion from the Premier League are among the potential punishments.

The Premier League season has been thrust into turmoil while clubs await the appeal verdict, with City sitting top of the table after six successive wins, including a 3-0 rout of Liverpool on Sunday.

Winning the Champions League could be City's only way back into the competition next season.

To do so they will need to stop PSG's quest to join a very select club of sides to win the Champions League or European Cup in three consecutive seasons.



Renshaw puts victory in sight for Australia

- Renshaw followed his marathon 190 in the first innings with a brisk 82 in the second as Australia hurried to 314 for six in 58 overs before declaring.

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Matt Renshaw top-scored for the second time in the match and took a key wicket as Australia pushed for victory on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa at Kingsmead on Monday.

South Africa, set an improbable 421 runs to win, were 102 for four at the close.

Renshaw followed his marathon 190 in the first innings with a brisk 82 in the second as Australia hurried to 314 for six in 58 overs before declaring.

Opening bowler Josh Hazlewood struck twice before Renshaw, a part-time off-spinner, claimed his first Test wicket when he had South African captain Temba Bavuma caught off bat and pad at short leg.

Australian captain Pat Cummins had Tristan Stubbs caught behind three overs later, leaving the world Test champions with an almost impossible task on Tuesday if Bavuma is to retain an unbeaten captaincy record.

Since being appointed in 2023, Bavuma has led South Africa in 12 Tests, achieving 11 wins and a draw. No other captain in Test history has had such a successful start to a captaincy career.

South Africa have lost four Tests since his appointment but all happened with other players at the helm.



One of the wins under Bavuma was in the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord's in 2025.

While Renshaw's first innings was notable for his patience and the way he left the ball, the big left-hander was aggressive on Monday.

He hit seven fours and two sixes in facing 99 balls as Australia set out to score quickly to give themselves enough time to bowl South Africa out.

"He's (Renshaw) a well-loved guy, everybody knows his talent and we saw a glimpse of it today," said teammate Beau Webster.

"He's quite destructive when he gets going. He hits the ball in some odd spots and he can be really hard to stop.

"It's an amazing achievement to get back to Test cricket from where he was in the last 12 to 18 months. Everybody knows how good he is."

The tone was set from the start of the day as Nic Maddinson, who struggled to a 33-ball duck, continued to attack the bowling as he had done at the start of the Australian second innings on Sunday.

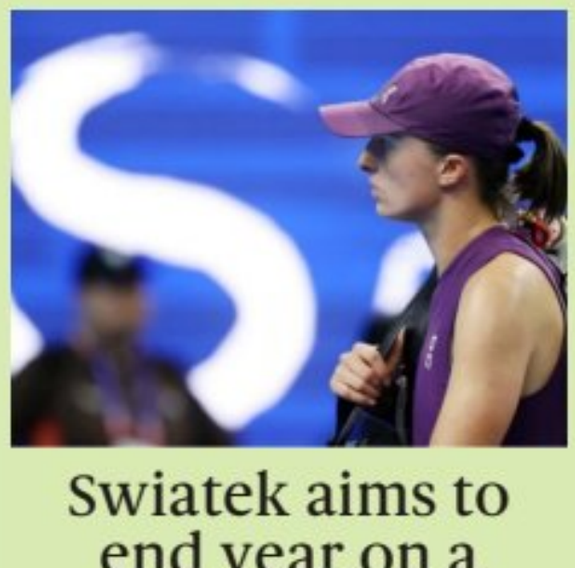
Maddinson needed just 19 balls to hurry from 17 to a Test-best 48 before he was bowled by a fast yorker from Anrich Nortje.

Nortje was South Africa's most impressive bowler. He struck Steve Smith on the helmet with a bouncer which prevented Smith from taking the field at the start of South Africa's second innings, and also bowled Alex Carey.

Renshaw was in sight of a second century in the match when he was out to a remarkable juggling return catch by Keshav Maharaj which needed to be confirmed by an umpire's review.

Cummins was next in and he thrashed four sixes in scoring 32 not out off 12 balls before declaring.

Maharaj said South Africa had again suffered "a couple of soft dismissals" but said Aiden Markram had shown the application needed as he batted through to the close, scoring 45 not out off 115 balls.



Swiatek aims to end year on a positive note

WEB DESK
LONDON

Iga Swiatek is on the brink of missing the WTAFinals for the first time since 2020 but the former world number 1 is ?determined to finish the year on a high to give herself the best chance of reaching the season finale.

The six-time major champion has won only one tournament this year at the Canadian Open in August and did not advance beyond the quarter-final stage at all four Grand Slams.

The 25-year-old, who won the WTA Finals in 2023 and has played at every edition since 2021, is 10th in the qualifying table for the November 8-15 tournament at Indian Wells with only four of the eight spots still up for grabs.

"Obviously I'm aware of the situation and ?it ?would be great to get into the Finals, for sure it's our goal," Swiatek told reporters on Monday ahead of the Wuhan Open.

Scanned with CamScanner



Several flights cancelled at Lahore airport amid Gulf tensions

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Several flights from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport to Gulf destinations were cancelled on Tuesday amid tensions involving Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, according to airport sources.

The cancelled flights included a private airline's flight XY318 to Riyadh, Saudi Arabian Airlines flight SV743 and flight RX676, airport sources said.

A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight, PK725, bound for Dammam was also cancelled, while the departure of Airblue flight G9 855 to Ras Al Khaimah was called off, according to the sources.

The cancellations could cause inconvenience for passengers travelling to the affected destinations.

Passengers have been advised to check the latest status of their flights with their respective airlines before leaving for the airport to avoid unnecessary delays. The reasons behind the cancellations have not yet been officially confirmed, and further details were awaited.

Pakistan condemns Israeli aggression in Syria, demands withdrawal from occupied territories

● Jadoon reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Syria's political transition, national reconciliation and economic recovery

WEB DESK

New York

Pakistan has condemned Israeli military operations in Syria as violations of international law and the country's sovereignty, calling on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Syrian territories and fully respect the 1974 disengagement agreement.

Speaking at a United Nations Security Council briefing on the humanitarian and political situation in Syria, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, said Israeli actions were undermining prospects for peace and stability in the region.

He said the occupied Syrian Golan Heights remained part of Syria under international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 338 and 497.

Jadoon reaffirmed Pakistan's support for Syria's political transition, national reconciliation and economic recovery, emphasising the need to preserve the country's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He welcomed the Syrian government's efforts to pursue an inclusive political process, as well as progress in negotiations with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).



The Pakistani envoy stressed that disputes in Sweida and other parts of Syria should be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means.

He said sustained international cooperation and humanitarian assistance were essential to rebuilding Syria, reviving its economy and meeting the basic needs of its population.Jadoon added that easing sanctions, increasing investment and expanding regional and international economic partnerships could help support the country's recovery.

He also emphasised the need for continued vigilance against the Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups, including foreign fighters, and called for strengthening Syria's security institutions.

International concern has also grown over Israel's military activities in Syria. Last month, a United Nations commission investigating the situation in the country expressed concern over Israeli military operations in Syrian territory, warning that certain actions, including the detention of civilians, could amount to war crimes.

In August, eight Israeli airstrikes were also reported at a military base in northwestern Syria.Pakistan has condemned Israeli military operations in Syria as violations of international law and the country's sovereignty, calling on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Syrian territories and fully respect the 1974 disengagement agreement.

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At least six dead, several injured as Rehman Baba Express derails near Multan

● PM Shehbaz orders expedited rescue operations, directs authorities to ensure best possible medical care for injured

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

At least six passengers were killed and several others injured after the Rehman Baba Express derailed near Sher Shah Bridge in Multan early Tuesday, with all 15 coaches reportedly coming off the tracks, sources said.

Rescue teams rushed to the site and launched operations to evacuate passengers from the derailed coaches. The injured were transported to Nishtar Hospital in Multan for medical treatment.

A passenger told reporters that the accident occurred at around 5:15am. The train was travelling from Karachi to Peshawar, according to earlier police information.



Rescue officials said 13 coaches had been cleared, while operations were continuing in another coach.

Meanwhile, a passenger claimed that nuts and bolts on coach number nine had been repaired near Rohri before the incident. However, the claim could not be independently verified, and it remained unclear whether the reported repair had any connection to the derailment.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took notice of the accident and expressed concern over the passengers injured in the incident.

He directed the relevant authorities to accelerate rescue efforts and ensure that the injured received the best possible medical treatment without delay.

The cause of the derailment has not yet been officially determined. Further details regarding the casualties, the condition of the injured and the circumstances surrounding the accident were awaited as rescue operations continued.

The incident has once again brought railway safety and maintenance into focus in Pakistan.

Senate, National Assembly to meet today over emergency, governor's rule in KP

■ President Zardari has summoned Senate and National Assembly sessions to seek endorsement of emergency and governor's rule in KP, citing rising terrorism and security threats across the province.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari summoned separate sessions of the Senate and the National Assembly today (Tuesday) at 6pm.

The sessions have been called following advice from the prime minister. The agendas for the two sessions have also been issued.

The sessions have been convened to seek parliamentary endorsement of the emergency proclamation and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as required by the Constitution.

Meanwhile, a parliamentary committee meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is also scheduled for 4 pm today, according to sources.



President Asif Ali Zardari approved the imposition of an emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Articles 232(1) and 234(1) of the Constitution.

The presidential announcement said the growing intensity of terrorist incidents had posed serious threats to the lives and property of citizens, while attacks on government installations, infrastructure and law enforcement agencies had increased.

A day earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has declared the elimination of terrorism the province's top priority, while Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has pledged full federal support to restore peace and strengthen law enforcement agencies.

The statements came during a meeting of the provincial Apex Committee chaired by Governor Kundi, where participants discussed the law and order situation, counterterrorism measures, the capacity of security institutions and development matters.

'Bad governance' led to emergency rule in KP: Punjab CM

■ The Punjab chief minister questioned why Punjab and KP, despite sharing the same country, Constitution and national resources, were experiencing different levels of development.



SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has criticised non-functional CM Sohail Afridi's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government, saying the province needs public service and development rather than political unrest and protests.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Maryam Nawaz said the people of KP had received sit-ins, chaos, verbal abuse and social media campaigns over the past 13 years instead of tangible progress.

She said emergency rule in the province is not the fault of the people, but 13 years of poor governance.

The Punjab chief minister questioned why Punjab and KP, despite sharing the same country, Constitution and national resources, were experiencing different levels of development.

She argued that the difference lay in the priorities and administrative capabilities of their respective governments.

Maryam Nawaz highlighted Punjab's cleanliness initiatives, scholarships, public safety measures, electric bus services, road infrastructure and healthcare facilities, including free medicines, field hospitals and mobile clinics.

She questioned why similar initiatives had not been implemented in KP, alleging that the provincial government had prioritised political activities over public welfare.

She also criticised the state of road development in KP, saying promises had been made without sufficient practical progress.

Referring to healthcare and public safety, she said residents deserved better access to essential services and protection.Maryam Nawaz maintained that the situation reflected what she described as 13 years of political turmoil and administrative shortcomings.

NAB probes exam 'irregularities' in Sindh Public Service Commission

■ NAB Karachi has written a letter to the SPSC secretary, seeking comprehensive details and results of all candidates who appeared in the examination.

WEB DESK

KARACHI



The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Karachi has launched an investigation into alleged corruption and irregularities in the Sindh Public Service Commission's (SPSC) Joint Competitive Examination 2023.

NAB Karachi has written a letter to the SPSC secretary, seeking comprehensive details and results of all candidates who appeared in the examination.

The anti-corruption watchdog has directed the commission to provide separate records of candidates who passed the screening test and the written examination.

It has also sought details of the examination advertisements, joining records, and members of the interview panels.

The investigation follows a complaint alleging corruption and irregularities in the recruitment process for the Joint Competitive Examination 2023.NAB Karachi has directed the SPSC secretary to ensure that the relevant Grade 18 officer appears at the bureau's office on October 20, along with the required records, to assist in the investigation.

The inquiry aims to examine the allegations and review the relevant examination and recruitment records.



Minister of State Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar addressing to International Conference on "Inclusive and Resilient Economic Empowerment and Growth" organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) at local hotel

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