Simultaneously Publishing for Quetta, Karachi,Faisalabad

Daily People's Version Quetta

Public

Member APNS

A.B.C Certified

Friday
November 13, 2026
Pages: 8 | Rs:40
Vol:28 | Issu:317

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP31 Leaders Summit.

Pakistan's commitment to Saudi Arabia's security is non-negotiable, says DG ISPR

■ DG ISPR Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry says Pakistan's commitment to Saudi Arabia's security is non-negotiable and pledges continued military, training and logistical support.

STAFF REPORTER
RAWALPINDI

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that Pakistan's commitment to protecting Saudi Arabia's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity is absolute and non-negotiable.

In an interview with Arabic newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat, the military spokesperson said the security of Saudi Arabia and the



Two Holy Mosques was Pakistan's top priority, adding that Islamabad was ready to take all necessary defensive measures to protect the Kingdom amid the prevailing circumstances.

He said Pakistan would continue providing all required support to Saudi Arabia for defensive purposes, including military personnel, defence capabilities, training and logistical assistance.

Regarding Pakistan's military presence in the Kingdom, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said Pakistani troops were already deployed in Saudi Arabia and performing various duties, including defence assistance, military exercises and manoeuvres.

DG ISPR confirms Pakistani troop presence in Saudi Arabia under Makkah Agreement

He said practical implementation of the obligations under the Makkah Joint Defence Alliance had begun following recent attacks targeting Saudi Arabia, which had raised deep concern in Pakistan.

The DG ISPR reiterated Islamabad's strong condemnation of attacks on Saudi cities, airports and civilian and economic infrastructure, describing them as a direct threat to the Kingdom's sovereignty and regional stability.

PM Shehbaz calls for grant-based climate finance, urges global support for vulnerable nations

■ PM Shehbaz urged grant-based climate financing and increased adaptation funds at COP31, stressing that vulnerable nations need support without additional debt to tackle climate disasters.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday called for grant-based climate financing, including public-private partnerships, and a significant increase in resilience and adaptation funds to help climate-vulnerable countries cope with the growing impacts of climate change.

In his national statement at the Antalya Leaders Summit of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), he stressed that vulnerable nations need timely assistance and financial support that does not add to their debt burden.

The prime minister said resilience and adaptation funds were



essentially survival funds, particularly for struggling economies facing increasingly devastating climate disasters.

Highlighting Pakistan's experience with climate-induced disasters, the prime minister recalled the devastating floods of 2022, when one-third of the country was submerged, affecting 33 million people, claiming more than 1,700 lives and causing economic losses exceeding $30 billion.

Referring to the August 2025 flash floods in Buner, he shared the heartbreaking story of a young man who was just two days away from his wedding when floodwaters swept through his village, turning a home prepared for celebration into a house of mourning.

He said the tragedy reflected the plight of millions across Pakistan and the developing world, who had contributed the least to climate change but were bearing its heaviest consequences.

Recalling his warning at the United Nations four years ago that what happened in Pakistan would not remain confined to the country, the prime minister said the warning had unfortunately become a reality.

"Climate change knows no borders. No nation can face it alone. Solidarity must mean action," he said.

The prime minister expressed gratitude to Türkiye, particularly President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, First Lady Emine Erdogan and the Turkish people, for their support to Pakistan during the devastating floods of 2010 and 2022. He also thanked Türkiye for hosting COP31 and acknowledged Australia's valuable role as President of Negotiations.

Highlighting Pakistan's efforts towards clean energy, he said the country had added more than 20 gigawatts of distributed solar capacity in just two years, while clean sources now accounted for nearly 55 per cent of its energy mix.



Petition filed in FCC for recovery of Sohail Afridi, others

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

A constitutional petition has been filed in the Federal Constitutional Court seeking the recovery of Sohail Afridi, Babar Saleem Swati and Member of the National Assembly Junaid Akbar Khan.

The petition was filed by MNA Shandana Gulzar under Article 175E(3) of the Constitution, naming the Ministry of Interior, the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as respondents.

The petition raises important questions about the constitutional limits of powers exercised under Articles 232, 234 and 245 of the Constitution. The petitioner maintains that none of these constitutional provisions authorises the unlawful detention of any individual.



Discrepancies 'found' in Maulana Fazl's son assets, income

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Questions have been raised about major discrepancies between former federal minister Asad Mahmood's declared assets, income and high-value real estate link to him,

Documents and complaints filed with authorities allege a severe gap between his (Asad's) official financial filings and the estimated worth of properties in Islamabad.

Asad Mahmood, son of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Ameer Maulana Fazlur Rehman, and a former Minister for Communications and Postal Services is facing major corruption and abuse-of-authority investigations by Pakistani anti-corruption agencies.

The authorities stated that Asad Mehmood deliberately hide facts in income tax wealth statement, showed himself as a salaried person but neither mention the institution.



Mohsin Naqvi vows federal support for Gilgit-Baltistan's development, tourism

■ Mohsin Naqvi has pledged federal support for Gilgit-Baltistan's development, peace and tourism, as Chief Minister Amjad Hussain described the region's situation as peaceful.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi while commending the surge in tourism in Gilgit Baltistan has vowed that the federal government will provide every possible assistance for the fast-tracking overall development and maintaining law and order situation in GB,

Mohsin Naqvi expressed these remarks during a meeting with GB Chief Minister Amjad Hussain who called on him in Islamabad

Discussions were focused on the overall situation in Gilgit-Baltistan, law and order situation and a raft of matters of mutual interest.

Mohsin Naqvi said GB government's efforts for development, peace and stability in Gilgit-Baltistan are commendable and the number of tourists visiting Gilgit-Baltistan has increased significantly due to these efforts.

The promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan will strengthen the local economy and increase employment opportunities, Mohsin Naqvi said, adding the federal government will provide all possible cooperation for the overall development and law and order of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Balochistan offers vast investment opportunities in minerals, oil and gas sectors: Bugti

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has said the province offers vast investment opportunities in the minerals, oil and gas sectors, including the Reko Diq project, assuring investors of security and all necessary facilities.Addressing a session on the opening day of the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026, Bugti said Balochistan was ready for investment and would provide investors with a secure environment and all required facilities.He said the provincial government had established a new security division for the mineral corridor, while a new Frontier Corps (FC) wing was also being set up to ensure the safety of investors and projects.Bugti said there would be no bureaucratic



hurdles for investors and that a one-window operation facility would be provided to facilitate investment.

Highlighting the province's mineral and energy potential, he said there were significant opportunities in minerals, oil and gas, particularly in the Reko Diq project.

He added that work on the Reko Diq project was expected to begin by 2029. Bugti also revealed that substantial oil and gas reserves had been discovered in Saruna, which he said were even larger than the reserves at Sui.

Dar urges investment across mineral value chain as Pakistan hosts global mining

■ Dar said Pakistan was seeking investment in exploration, mining technology, processing and energy

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 kicked off at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad on Thursday, bringing together more than 5,000 delegates from over 50 countries to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's mineral sector.

The forum aims to showcase the country's vast mineral reserves and attract international investment in mineral exploration, mining, processing and value addition, with a focus on turning natural resources into sustainable economic growth.

Addressing the inaugural session, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar welcomed international delegates and said the participation of global investors reflected growing confidence in



Pakistan's commitment to long-term partnerships in the mining sector.

He said Pakistan did not intend to merely extract minerals and export them in raw form, but sought to develop the entire mineral value chain by gradually expanding its capacity for processing, refining and manufacturing mineral-based products.

Dar said Pakistan was seeking investment in exploration, mining technology, processing and energy, adding that mineral development would create opportunities in engineering, automation, services and manufacturing.

He noted that Pakistan was entering a critical phase of economic development, highlighting progress towards macroeconomic stability through fiscal discipline, reforms and prudent financial management. He added that mineral resources would play a key role in the country's next phase of economic transformation.

The foreign minister also highlighted Pakistan's ambitions to become an active player in clean energy, digital technology and industrial production. He said demand for copper and other minerals had increased globally due to the expansion of clean energy and electric vehicles.

Dar described Balochistan as central to Pakistan's mineral future and stressed the importance of strengthening supply chains and diversifying global sources of mineral supplies.

CamScanner

Car-bomb attack on DI Khan police station foiled

- The powerful blast destroyed the police station's gate and a section of its boundary wall.



SPECIAL REPORTER
DI Khan

Police thwarted a terrorist attack on Band Korai Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday morning, after assailants rammed an explosive s-laden vehicle into the station's main gate,

The powerful blast destroyed the police station's gate and a section of its boundary wall.

According to police, the attackers fled the scene following a strong retaliatory response from police personnel.

All police officers present inside the station remained safe and unharmed.

However, the explosion also destroyed a nearby mosque and damaged several surrounding houses.

Soon after receiving the report, Superintendent of Police (SP) Paharpur Iqbal Baloch, SP Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Iftikhar Shah and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Mohammad Adnan rushed to the scene and cordoned off the entire area.

Police have launched a search operation in the area to track down and apprehend the attackers.



At the 'Bhattak' crossing point near the railway station, motorcyclists are crossing the railway tracks while a train approaches on the same line, posing a severe safety hazard

CJP consults bar representatives on e-filing pilot for family cases

- The train, consisting of 10 carriages, left for Peshawar with over 400 passengers on board

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chairperson of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) Justice Yahya Afridi on Thursday held a consultative meeting with representatives of provincial bar councils, the Islamabad Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan to discuss the proposed e-filing pilot for family cases and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Bar Councils, along with office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

The participants reviewed draft e-filing templates developed under the proposed National Unified E-Filing and Electronic Judicial Record System for pilot implementation in family cases at selected judicial stations.



The chief justice asked each provincial bar council and the Islamabad Bar Council to nominate two members of the Bar to review the templates and suggest improvements before the launch of the pilot project.

Emphasising the importance of consultation with the legal fraternity, the CJP said the e-filing system should be practical, effective and user-friendly, reflecting the professional experience of practising lawyers and the needs of litigants.

The bar representatives appreciated the proposed e-filing initiative and the establishment of Women Facilitation Centres, observing that these measures could improve access to justice, particularly for women, and make the family justice system more accessible and responsive.

The consultation reflected a shared commitment to involving the legal fraternity in judicial reforms, using technology to improve court services and strengthening access to justice for women and children.

No matter if new political arrangement in the offing in Punjab: Azma

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said there is no matter if a new political arrangement is in the offing in Punjab.

Azma Bokhari remarked that certain business figures were eager to have the title of chief minister attached to their names.

She said opponents were increasingly troubled by people's reception given to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz during her visits to different districts, adding that people were enthusiastic about witnessing the public response.

Bokhari claimed that some individuals had begun coming forward after realising that the CM's performance could make it difficult for them to succeed in the next general elections.

Responding to a question, the provincial minister said Mahmood Qadir Niazi should resign and go home if the government was unable to protect his personal interests.

No matter if new political arrangement in the offing in Punjab: Azma

NAB director urges students to become Iqbal's shaheens & fight corruption

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Director Javed Ahmed Khan has called upon students and young people to become Iqbal's Shaheens, uphold the highest standards of integrity and wage a determined jihad against corruption, emphasizing that a corruption-free Pakistan can only be built through honesty, self-accountability and strong moral character.

Addressing students at a ceremony organized at AIOU in connection with the 149th birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal, he said corruption was a major impediment to national development and its eradication required collective commitment, particularly from the younger generation.

He urged students to reject corruption in every form, neither indulge in dishonest practices themselves nor allow others to compromise integrity and actively contribute to building a transparent, responsible and corruption-free society.



He emphasized that Allama Iqbal's concept of the Shaheen symbolizes courage, self-respect, high aspirations and moral strength, qualities that young people must embody to become responsible citizens and play an effective role in national progress.

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University, Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Amir Shah said Iqbal's philosophy provides a powerful intellectual and ethical foundation for promoting self-accountability, honesty and character building among youth.

He said Iqbal regarded young people as the nation's most valuable asset and entrusted them with the responsibility of shaping its future.

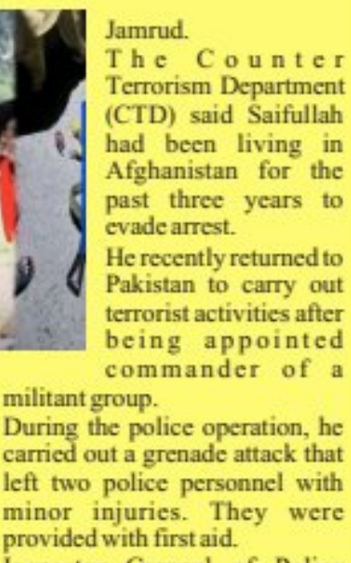
Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Amir Shah urged students to make truthfulness, integrity, respect for others' rights and self-accountability integral to their lives while avoiding hypocrisy, backbiting and negative social attitudes.

He said Iqbal's teachings remain highly relevant in addressing contemporary moral challenges and fostering a society founded on justice, ethical responsibility and mutual respect.

The event featured speech and recitation competitions aimed at promoting Iqbal's philosophy, moral teachings and message of selfhood among the younger generation.

The speech competition was held under the theme "From Khudi to Self-Accountability: Iqbal's Message for a Corruption-Free Society," highlighting the relevance of Iqbal's thought in promoting transparency, honesty and ethical responsibility.

Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof Dr Sher Muhammad and Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof Dr Naveed Sultana, also attended the ceremony.



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Police have killed a wanted commander of Fitna al Khawarij identified as Saifullah during an operation in the Bara Sheikhan area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

According to CTD records, Saifullah was a proclaimed offender wanted in several serious cases. He was also allegedly involved in improvised explosive device (IED) attacks targeting security checkpoints and an attack in the Ali Masjid area of Jamrud.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said Saifullah had been living in Afghanistan for the past three years to evade arrest.

He recently returned to Pakistan to carry out terrorist activities after being appointed commander of a militant group.

During the police operation, he carried out a grenade attack that left two police personnel with minor injuries. They were provided with first aid.

Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed praised the police personnel involved in the operation against the wanted commander.

He said the officers who had saved hundreds of innocent lives by eliminating the commander were an asset to the nation. He added that operations would continue until the country was cleared of the last terrorist.



Customers browse and purchase warm jackets and coats from a roadside vendor amid chilly weather at Liaquat Bazaar.

PTI MPs meet Pervaiz Elahi, discuss political situation

- Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi voiced serious concern about the PTI founder's declining health, stating that his condition was worsening day by day.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Members of the National Assembly and Punjab Assembly belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Wednesday met former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi to discuss the country's prevailing political situation.

During the meeting, the participants held detailed discussions on recent political developments and expressed concerns over the deteriorating health of PTI's founder.

Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi voiced serious concern about the PTI founder's declining health, stating that his condition was worsening day by day. He highlighted concerns regarding the founder's poor eyesight and high blood pressure, emphasising that his medical condition required continuous care and attention.



Elahi stressed that the relevant authorities should ensure the provision of the best possible medical treatment to the PTI founder.

He maintained that proper healthcare facilities and consistent medical supervision must be provided until the party's founder makes a full recovery.

CamScanner

Remittances nearly cover trade gap

Pakistan's workers' remittances rose to a four-month high of $3.9 billion in October, taking cumulative inflows during the first four months of FY27 to $14.77 billion, almost enough to cover the country's entire merchandise trade deficit of $14.6 billion during the same period.

The latest figures highlight the growing importance of overseas Pakistanis in supporting the external account, as inflows continued to cushion the widening trade gap and helped contain pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

According to data released



by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday, October remittances increased 13.8% year-on-year from $3.42 billion and rose 8.5% month-on-month from $3.59 billion in September, the highest monthly inflow recorded so far in FY27. During July to October, remittances increased 14% to $14.77 billion, against $12.96 billion in the corresponding period last year.

JS Global Head of Equity Research and Senior Vice President Waqas Ghani said, "Overseas Pakistanis just covered almost the entire trade deficit, again." He pointed out that remittances of $14.8 billion during the first four months compared with a merchandise trade deficit of $14.6 billion, which had widened 16% year-on-year.

Sustained inflows, particularly from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies, are helping contain pressure on the current account, support foreign exchange reserves and strengthen the country's external financing position, he said. He added that channel checks indicated economic activity in the Gulf was also recovering, reinforcing the resilience of remittance flows from GCC economies and providing continued support to the external account. "Remittances are buying Pakistan time. The question is whether exports can catch up or nah," he remarked.

Gulf economies remain the biggest source Country-wise data showed Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates remained the largest sources, contributing $3.67 billion and $3.05 billion respectively during July to October.

Together, the two accounted for around 45.5% of total inflows. Including other GCC countries, the region contributed approximately $8.09 billion, or 54.8% of the total.

Saudi Arabia's remittances increased 16.5% year-on-year, while inflows from the UAE grew 13.5%. Among other GCC economies, Bahrain recorded growth of 15.8%, Kuwait 13.9% and Qatar 13.6%. Within the UAE, Dubai remained the dominant contributor, with remittances rising 28% to $2.51 billion. Inflows from Abu Dhabi, by contrast, declined 29.5% to $443.2 million, indicating diverging trends within the country's major corridors.

UK outpaces US as European inflows grow

Outside the Gulf, the United Kingdom emerged as the largest source, sending $2.23 billion during the first four months, up 19.2% from a year earlier.

Inflows from the United States increased 13.8% to $1.26 billion, while remittances from European Union countries rose 9.6% to $1.87 billion.

Italy contributed $565.2 million, Spain $339.9 million and Germany $282.5 million during the period.

Australia and Canada also maintained positive growth, with remittances rising 12.9% to $386.9 million and 11.5% to $268.9 million respectively. The figures indicate that while the Gulf remains the backbone of remittance inflows, overseas Pakistanis in the UK, Europe, North America and Australia continue to provide an important source of foreign exchange.

Sustained growth offers some relief to the external financing position, though the widening trade deficit underscores the need to strengthen export earnings and reduce reliance on overseas transfers to finance external payments. The rupee continued its marginal appreciation against the US dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday, closing at Rs276.65, up Rs0.01 from the previous session. It had gained 0.03%, or Re0.09, last week to settle at Rs276.66, against Rs276.75 a week earlier, according to SBP data.

Gold prices declined on Tuesday, tracking losses in the international market, with 24-karat gold falling Rs1,500 per tola to Rs430,836.

The price of 10-gram gold dropped Rs1,286 to Rs369,372, according to rates released by the All-Pakistan Gems and Jewellers Sarafa Association (APGJSA). In the previous session, gold had increased Rs3,200 per tola to Rs432,336.

In the international market, gold fell $15 to $4,083 per ounce, while silver remained unchanged at Rs5,723 per tola in the local market.

The Person Within Me, the Persona the World Sees





By : Malik Muslim Raza Awan

Maaye ni, main kinnu aakhaan, dard vichhore da."

Mother, whom can I tell of the pain of separation

Whenever I hear these words, I think of a separation that has accompanied me through my own life: the distance between the person I am within and the person I have learned to present to the world.

It is a difficult absence to explain. I am present in my daily life, fulfilling responsibilities, meeting people and carrying on conversations. Yet beneath that activity, a quieter part of me waits for attention. Sometimes I find myself missing who I am, even while going through the familiar motions of being myself.

The world knows my name and recognises my face. It also has expectations. Over the years, I have developed a persona that understands those expectations: when to speak, when to remain silent, what to reveal and what to conceal. That public self helps me function in society. But he does not always represent the person who lives within.

My inner self feels pure in his immediate response to life. He sees suffering and feels compassion before asking whether helping will bring any benefit. He recognises injustice without first checking the status of the person responsible. He wants honesty, fairness and affection without calculation.

He is also braver than the person I sometimes allow the world to see.

He can admit a mistake, acknowledge hurt and ask for love. He does not regard an apology as a loss of dignity. My outward self is more cautious. He thinks about reputation, relationships, family expectations and the consequences of disagreement. He fears being judged or misunderstood.

My inner self says, "Speak the truth." My outward self replies, "You do not understand what it might cost."

Much of my personal struggle lives inside that exchange.

There have been moments when I have smiled while hurting, agreed while unconvinced, or remained silent when my conscience asked me to speak. Sometimes the outward person tells a convenient lie. At other times, he offers a more persuasive explanation: that I had no choice.

But my conscience remembers the choice. It remembers the apology I could have offered, the kindness I postponed and the words I swallowed because they might have disturbed an otherwise comfortable conversation.

When the company leaves and the distractions end, those moments return. I may have explained my behaviour successfully to everyone else, yet something within me remains unsatisfied.

Still, I cannot dismiss my outward self without understanding his burdens. He carries responsibilities and must consider how decisions affect other people. Some of his caution comes from experience. Some of his fear comes from disappointment. The habits through which I conceal myself may once have helped protect me.

The difficulty begins when protection becomes a way of life, and concealment becomes so familiar that I struggle to recognise my own feelings.

In family and community life, questions of reputation can carry considerable weight. I can become preoccupied with what is expected of someone of my age, background and position. I can observe every custom and maintain every appearance, while quietly wondering where my own convictions belong.

There is a particular loneliness in receiving respect for an image that does not fully represent me. I to want to be understood, yet I sometimes hide the feelings through which understanding might become possible.

The person within seems free of that concern with appearances. What fascinates me is that he also seems to contain every age of my life.

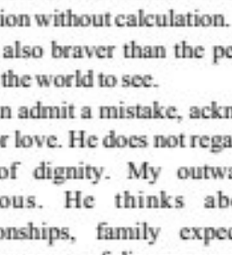
He is a child in his desire for uncomplicated affection. He wants to laugh freely, ask honest questions and trust without constantly preparing for disappointment. He wants to feel valued without having to prove his usefulness.

He is a young man in his courage and hope. He still believes I can change. He questions why a fear I have carried for years should be allowed to govern the years ahead.

And he is an elder in his understanding of time. He knows that many arguments consume more peace than they deserve. He values a sincere conversation, a clear conscience and the opportunity to show kindness while it is still possible. The child preserves my tenderness, the young man my courage, and the elder my perspective. Yet my public self sometimes listens more closely to passing opinions than to any of them.This is the separation I hear in the kalam. Its words give expression to the pain of becoming distant from someone deeply loved. In my own reading, that longing reaches inward: how can I explain that the person I want to find has been living within me all along

Listening to him requires care. Every inward feeling is not necessarily conscience. Anger, desire and wounded pride can also sound convincing. I have to become quiet enough to recognise the voice that asks me to be fair when fairness offers no advantage, and truthful when honesty is uncomfortable.

When Graduate Research Gets Lost in Administrative Delays



By: Zahid Mushtaq Qureshi

Graduate education is meant to prepare students to become researchers, scholars and professionals capable of producing new knowledge. After completing the required coursework, students should be able to move into research within a clear and reasonable timeframe. Unfortunately, for many MS, MPhil and PhD students in Pakistan, the transition from coursework to research can become a long administrative journey involving multiple committees, repeated approvals and months of waiting. The problem is not the existence of academic oversight. Research proposals must be evaluated, supervisors must be qualified, research methodology must be appropriate and ethical requirements must be fulfilled. The real concern is that necessary academic safeguards can become excessive when students have to pass through several committees sequentially, with months between meetings. In many universities, after completing coursework, students are required to appear before a Graduate Research Committee (GRC). After GRC approval, the case may proceed to the Board of Studies (BOS), followed by the Faculty Board and, in some universities, the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) or an equivalent body. Everybody may have a legitimate academic role. However, the problem arises when students must wait several months between each stage. A student may have completed all coursework and be ready to conduct research, yet remain unable to proceed simply because a committee has not met. Consider students who completed their coursework in Spring 2025 but, even after more than a year, were still waiting for the Faculty Board, with no clear date announced. Such a delay is not a minor administrative inconvenience. It consumes a substantial portion of a student's degree period. The situation becomes even more concerning when BASR is another stage after the Faculty Board. HEC's Graduate Education Policy 2023 recognizes the importance of graduate research governance, while HEC guidance identifies BASR or an equivalent body as having responsibilities related to the quality and governance of graduate programmes. If BASR identifies an issue with a research proposal, students should receive the comments immediately and be able to work on the required corrections. Instead, in a highly bureaucratic system, students may have to wait for official minutes, written observations or another committee meeting before they can even determine what needs to be changed. A simple academic correction can consequently become another cycle of delay: committee meeting, waiting for minutes, receiving comments, making corrections, waiting for another meeting and then seeking reconsideration. Students

should spend their time solving academic problems, not waiting for the administration to communicate what the academic problem is. This issue is particularly important under HEC's Graduate Education Policy 2023 (GEP-2023), which provides the national framework for MS/MPhil and PhD programmes. The policy establishes prescribed periods for degree completion and places significant emphasis on quality, research, governance and academic standards. These time limits make administrative efficiency essential. A student's degree clock continues to run while university committees are processing the student's case. If institutional procedures consume one or two semesters, the student is left with less time to conduct the research and complete the degree. There is a crucial difference between academic delay and managerial delay. Academic delay may be justified when a proposal genuinely requires methodological improvement, ethical review or substantive revision. Managerial delay occurs when meetings are postponed, files remain pending, minutes are prepared late, offices wait for one another or students simply have to wait for the next semester's meeting. Academic review may improve research quality. Managerial delay simply consumes research time. HEC's recent nationwide quality review of MS/MPhil and PhD programmes also provides an opportunity to examine this issue. HEC has identified areas including governance, supervision, student support and research quality as important elements of graduate education. Governance, however, should not mean simply having committees and regulations. Good governance also requires that those committees function efficiently and within reasonable timelines.

The solution is not to abolish GRCs, BOS, Faculty Boards or BASR, nor to reduce academic standards. Instead, universities should make the entire process time-bound and coordinated. HEC and universities should consider establishing a maximum one-semester administrative period after coursework for completing the necessary research approvals. Meeting dates should be published in advance, proposals should be tracked digitally, and students should receive written decisions and corrections promptly. If a proposal requires revision, the student should be informed immediately. If another committee's approval is necessary, the case should be scheduled within a defined period. Students should not lose an entire semester simply because a statutory committee has not scheduled a meeting. Universities should also distinguish between student-related delays and institutional delays. If a student fails to submit required documents, that is a student delay. If all documents have been submitted but the case remains pending because a committee has not met, that is an institutional delay. These situations should not be treated in the same way. The consequences of administrative delays can be particularly serious for research projects dependent on seasons, laboratory schedules, fieldwork, participants, funding periods or external collaborators. Losing six months before research begins can sometimes mean losing .

CamScanner



Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meets Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Alisher Shukurov, on the sidelines of COP31, to discuss bilateral cooperation in agricultural research, seeds, horticulture and livestock.

Bullish momentum continues as PSX gains over 300 points

- **Pakistan Stock Exchange opened higher on Wednesday, with the KSE-100 Index gaining 309 points to reach 179,600. The market had surged**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened in positive territory on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 309 points during early trading.

The index climbed to 179,600 points as bullish momentum continued in the market at the start of the third trading day of the business week.

The latest gains follow a strong performance in the previous session, when the stock market maintained its upward trend throughout trading.

At the close of Tuesday's session, the KSE-100 Index had surged by 5,448 points to settle at 179,335 points.

FBR waives Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers

- **The FBR has waived the Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers joining the ATL, subject to an undertaking not to purchase or acquire property for six months.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has abolished the Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers, allowing them to join the Active Taxpayer List (ATL) without paying the additional fee, subject to certain conditions.

According to the FBR, taxpayers seeking the exemption must undertake not to purchase or acquire any property for the next six months.

Individuals wishing to join the Active Taxpayer List will be required to submit an undertaking to the FBR. The authority has introduced a new form, ATL-U, for this purpose.



Taxpayers will be able to submit the undertaking electronically through the FBR's IRIS system.

Under the new procedure, individuals submitting the undertaking will be restricted from purchasing or acquiring property for six months. The FBR will also monitor property transactions during this period.

The FBR said that if a taxpayer purchases or acquires property within the stipulated six-month period, the surcharge exemption will be withdrawn.

Through this initiative, new taxpayers have been given the opportunity to join the Active Taxpayer List without paying the Rs25,000 surcharge, provided they comply with the prescribed conditions.

Dollar gains traction as Fed speakers warn of risks from inflation

- **The US dollar held near a two-week high as stronger-than-expected inflation and hawkish Federal Reserve comments boosted expectations of an interest rate hike in**

WEB DESK

SINGAPORE

The dollar held gains near a two-week high in early Asian trade on Wednesday as a hotter-than-expected inflation report and hawkish comments from Federal Reserve officials fuelled bets the central bank will raise rates next month.The US dollar index , which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was steady at 102.22, closing in on its highest level since October 28.

The gauge traded up 0.5% on Tuesday after data showed US consumer prices increased by more than expected in October amid higher costs for food and accommodation.

"The rates market isn't simply pricing another hike," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone Group Ltd in Melbourne. "It's questioning how restrictive US monetary policy may ultimately need to become, and that's a far more consequential debate for risk assets."The dollar held onto its gains against its major peers in early Asian trade. The euro and the British pound were flat at $1.1168 and $1.3345, respectively. Against the yen , the US dollar was unchanged at 158.715 yen. The Australian dollar was up 0.1% at $0.6870, edging back from a seven-month low, while the New Zealand dollar was flat at $0.5605.

Comments from voting members of the Federal Reserve's rate-setting committee signalling unease over high inflation have firmed expectations for further rate hikes, prompting traders to all but abandon bets that the US central bank will stand at at its next policy meeting, which concludes on December 9.



Punjab govt collects record Rs114.76 billion during first two months of current FY

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Punjab government has recorded a staggering growth in its revenue collection driven by record tax receipts during first two months of the ongoing fiscal year, 2026-27,

During the period, July-August 2026, the Punjab Revenue Authority collected Rs114.76 billion, marking a 31.6 per cent increase compared to the Rs. 87.18 billion collected in the same period the previous year.According to the Finance Department report, growth has come from bringing untaxed service sectors into the formal system rather than burdening existing taxpayers.

The government has received additional Rs 81.28 billion in taxes while Rs 33.47 billion under non-tax form. It collected Rs 53.81 billion under the head of Sales Tax, Rs 12.62 billion under the head of Motor Vehicle Tax, and Rs 9.11 billion under the head of Stamp Duty.

Pakistan's textile exports reach $18 billion in FY2025-26

- **Overall exports contract by 5.9 per cent**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's textile and apparel exports increased by 0.3 percent to reach $18 billion in FY2025-26, the highest in four years despite a 5.9 percent contraction in the country's overall exports,

In its first Annual Export Performance Report, covering the period from July 2025 to June 2026, shared with the government's decision-makers, PTC stated that Pakistan's total exports declined to $30.14 billion from $32.04 billion in FY 2025-26, whereas textile and apparel exports edged up from USD 17.95 billion to USD 18 billion, increasing the sector's share in national exports to approximately 60 percent.

The report provides a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of Pakistan's export performance, with a detailed analysis of textile and apparel exports at chapter, product and market levels based on HS-6 data obtained from the Pakistan Single Window and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The analysis highlights a continuing structural shift towards value-added textile products, which increasingly dominate Pakistan's export basket, while raw materials and intermediate products continue to face declining performance.



Exports under HS Chapters 61-63, covering apparel and made-up articles, reached USD 14.98 billion, registering 1.1 percent growth year-on-year.

These products accounted for 83.2 percent of textile exports, compared with 77 percent in FY2021-22.

Woven apparel under Chapter 62 emerged as the strongest performer, increasing 3.9 percent to USD 4.295 billion, the highest level ever recorded.

Other made-up articles under Chapter 63 rose 0.6 percent to USD 5.705 billion, while knitwear under Chapter 61 declined 0.7 percent to USD 4.979 billion.

In contrast, exports of raw materials and intermediate products under HS Chapters 50-60 declined 3.4 percent to USD 3.03 billion, the lowest level in five years.

These exports have fallen substantially from USD 4.50 billion recorded in FY2021-22, reflecting persistent weaknesses in Pakistan's upstream textile value chain.

OGDCL announces discovery Of oil, gas reserves in Khairpur

- **OGDCL operates the exploration block with a 95% working interest, while Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) holds the remaining 5%.**

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Wednesday announced the discovery of oil and gas at its Bitrisim Northwest-1 exploratory well in Khairpur district, Sindh, with initial testing yielding 12.8 million standard cubic feet of gas and 175 barrels of oil per day,

In a notification, the company said the discovery was made in the Basal Sands of the Lower Goru Formation within the Bitrisim Exploration Licence.

OGDCL operates the exploration block with a 95% working interest, while Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) holds the remaining 5%.

According to the company, the well produced the reported gas and condensate flows during testing through a 32/64-inch choke at a wellhead flowing pressure of 3,020 pounds per square inch (psi).



Drilling at Bitrisim Northwest-1 began on August 21, 2026, and reached a total depth of 3,732 meters in the Sembar Formation.

Following an assessment of well logs, a drill stem test was conducted in the Basal Sands of the Lower Goru Formation, confirming the presence of gas and condensate.

OGDCL said it was accelerating work to connect the well to the national gas gathering system to enable early commercial production.

Smart meters to be installed on transformers across all DISCOs to curb theft, overbilling: Cheema

- **Pakistan plans to install smart meters on transformers across all DISCOs to curb electricity theft and overbilling, with funding arrangements underway.**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Ahad Cheema chaired a meeting on Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs) where it was decided that smart meters will be installed on transformers across all DISCOs to curb theft and overbilling.

The meeting reviewed development programs for DISCOs and discussed the Economic Affairs Division's (EAD) efforts to arrange funding for installing smart meters on transformers across all DISCOs. Participants noted that positive progress had been made so far in arranging funding for the smart metering system, which is intended to help curb electricity theft and overbilling.

The meeting discussed the continuation of the smart metering project after privatisation. Ahad Cheema said the government would put in place arrangements to ensure that private investors carry the project forward. Smart meters on transformers can help curb electricity theft, improve billing accuracy and protect consumers from overbilling, while safeguarding the interests of consumers, investors and the government.



Negotiations with multilateral partners for development programmes would continue until privatisation is completed. If a DISCO is privatised while negotiations or programme preparations are under way, the relevant financing and development programmes would be transferred to the private investor as part of the handover, subject to agreed arrangements.

Ahad Cheema further emphasised that any new project undertaken by a private investor within a DISCO must be processed through competitive bidding and receive approval from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), as applicable.

He stressed that the purpose of privatisation was not to shift costs or undue pressure onto consumers. The government would facilitate the process while safeguarding consumers' interests and ensuring that investors meet their financial and contractual obligations.

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Privatisation, and senior officials from the relevant ministries also attended the meeting.

CamScanner

Drone attack causes fire in Russia's Baltic Sea port of Ust-Luga, governor says



Web DESK

MASCOW

A drone attack has caused a fire in the port area of Ust-Luga by the Baltic Sea in Russia's northwest, injuring three workers, regional governor Aleksandr Drozdenko said on Telegram on Wednesday.

He said that a power station was also cut off as a result of the attack, during which 150 drones were shot down over the Leningrad region that is also home to a major oil refinery and the city of St Petersburg, the hometown of President Vladimir Putin.

The Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia warned of a drone ?threat on Wednesday, and neighbouring Finland has adopted temporary partial airspace and maritime curbs, amid the attack.

Ust-Luga is a major oil, oil products and grain export outlet, along with other commodities.Reuters could not immediately independently confirm the report.



Antalya: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meeting with the President of Finland Alexander Stubb on the sidelines of COP31.

Ukraine's Zelensky welcomes 'changes' in US approach during talks with Russia

■ US envoys, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and businessman Steve Witkoff, are mediating the talks.

Web Desk

Ukraine

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was "happy" with US mediators' change in approach during talks with Russia in Abu Dhabi, set to continue into a second day on Wednesday, but emphasized the need for security guarantees for his country.

Representatives from Kyiv and Moscow began negotiations in the Emirati capital on Tuesday, the first since February when discussions reached a stalemate and Washington was sidetracked by the Iran war.

US envoys, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and businessman Steve Witkoff, are mediating the talks.



The first meeting lasted several hours and aimed to make progress towards resolving the war in Ukraine and -- according to Washington -- working on a "new" security framework that includes Europe.

Kushner told delegates the United States had "narrowed the gaps" between the warring sides, without providing details, and ed hoped to move towards a "solution" to Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

Zelensky, speaking in Copenhagen on Tuesday, said the talks were "constructive and quite substantive", adding his team had reported that humanitarian issues and security guarantees were among the topics discussed.

Asked about changes in the approach to peace talks by Kushner and Witkoff, Zelensky said: "I see changes. I'm very happy with what I hear."

The Ukrainian president said negotiators in Abu Dhabi were working on a "large-scale exchange of prisoners", adding that US officials would travel to Russia to discuss the matter further.

However, fighting continued overnight.

The governor of Russia's Leningrad region, Aleksandr Drozdenko, posted on Telegram that a Ukrainian drone attack had sparked a fire at Ust-Luga, a key Baltic port for oil exports.

Russian air defences also downed 146 drones during "continuing" combat operations, he added.

In Paris, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed this week's discussions as "very productive" and called for Europeans to be eventually included at the negotiating table "because they are part of solving this problem".

Iran designates Argentina's navy and air force as 'terrorist organizations'

■ Iran has designated Argentina's navy and air force as terrorist organisations in retaliation for Buenos Aires listing Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist entity.

Web Desk

DUBAI

Tehran has designated Argentina's navy and air force as "terrorist organizations," Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday, in a reciprocal move following Buenos Aires' designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity in April.Argentina had designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, following a push from US President Donald Trump's administration for allies to do so.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that Tehran considers the Argentinian air force and navy terrorist organizations "based on the principle of reciprocity".

Argentina's President Milei leads



National Flag Day Ceremony

"It is evident that the responsibility for all consequences arising from this matter will lie with the Argentine government," the ministry added, without elaborating. It made no mention of Argentina's army.

Argentina said in April that the measure it took against Iran's IRGC was due to its backing for Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which ?Buenos Aires blames for the deadliest bombing in the South American nation's history, a 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish community centre in the Argentinian capital that killed 85 and injured hundreds.

India pollution monitors over Whelmed by toxic smog

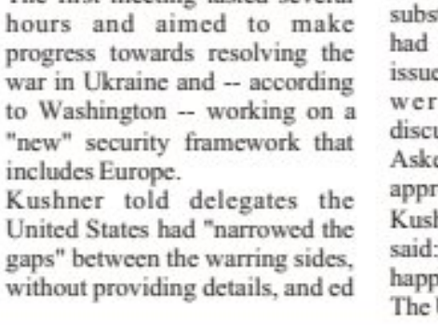
● But the missing readings meant official data failed to capture the full extent of the pollution at its worst.

Web Desk

PARIS

India's air pollution monitors were overwhelmed this week by toxic smog so severe that concentrations exceeded their upper measurement limit, equivalent to 66 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum, regulators said.

The admission comes after opposition politicians accused authorities of deliberately allowing gaps in official readings for several hours overnight Sunday into Monday, just as pollution surged with a barrage of fireworks for Diwali, the



Hindu festival of lights.

New Delhi is one of the world's most polluted capitals, where winter smog from vehicle emissions, farm fires and industry already chokes millions.

But the missing readings meant official data failed to capture the full extent of the pollution at its worst.

"The government which shuts down air quality monitoring does stations on the night of Diwali, the government that does data fraud, how will you trust such a government" Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj said in a video posted on X.

"If Diwali night's PM2.5 (toxic particulates) is not in the record, who will answer for that air" senior Congress party lawmaker Ajay Maken said in a social media post.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) rejected accusations of deliberate under-reporting, saying the gaps reflected "differences in measurement of pollutant concentration" rather than an attempt to conceal pollution.

-'Extreme episodes'-

Particulate matter analysers, installed when the National Air Quality Index (NAQI) was introduced in 2015, were calibrated to measure concentrations of up to 1,000 micrograms per cubic metre.

The WHO recommends a daily maximum of 15 micrograms per cubic metre for PM2.5, fine particles small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and linked to cancer.

"The designed system of automated data validation treats hourly readings beyond the calibrated range as outside range, and such readings are not used in the computation," the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said in a statement late Tuesday.

Marco Rubio rejects Iran reparation demand

Web Desk

Washngation

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States would not pay Iran for war damages, rejecting one of Tehran's stated conditions for ending the more than eight-month war.

They're demanding pallets of cash, which the president made clear is not going to happen," Rubio told reporters after a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Paris on Tuesday.

The top US diplomat also said there is "no need" to return to major combat operations because the Trump administration's sanctions and naval blockade were imposing sufficient costs on the Iranian economy.



Rubio spoke a day after President Donald Trump said there was "positive momentum for a deal" to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and constrain Iran's nuclear programme.

After meeting with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani at the White House Monday, Trump told reporters that the war he launched in late February was "effectively over."

US Defense Secretary Hegseth survives impeachment threat



Web Desk

Washngation

Republicans in the US House of Representatives blocked an effort to impeach Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, winning a reprieve for the polarising Pentagon chief before Democrats take control of Congress next year and possibly try again. The vote on a procedural motion came just hours after Hegseth blasted efforts to impeach him as a farce and delivered a defiant defence of his record at the helm of the US military, winning praise from President Donald Trump.The chamber voted 211 to 204 in favour of a motion to refer eight articles of impeachment to the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee, a move that the sponsor of the impeachment push, US Representative Thomas Massie, warned would kill it.

Workers across Spain stage first general strike in 14 years in anger over housing

■ Spanish workers staged their first joint general strike in 14 years, protesting soaring rents , housing shortages and evictions ahead of the November 29 snap election.

Web Desk

MADRID

Spanish workers went on a general strike on Wednesday, setting up picket lines despite stormy weather in a mass protest against the country's housing affordability crisis a few weeks before a snap general election.

It is the first general strike in 14 years to be jointly backed by Spain's two largest unions, UGT and CCOO, as well as other labour organisations and tenants' associations angry about rising rents and evictions.

"We won't stop until we transform this country's housing model from top to bottom so that houses are for living instead of being at the service of the rentier minority," said Alicia del Rio, spokesperson for the Madrid Tenants' Union, as the strike began at midnight.

Spain has a deficit of about 750,000 homes, which is set to grow to more than a million by 2028, according to the central bank.



With fewer people able to afford a home, renting has increased sharply, putting pressure on that market. The average rental price of 1,176 ($1,315) is equivalent to about 98.7% of a young person's average monthly salary in Spain, according to the Youth Council of Spain.

Plans for massive protest marches in the afternoon were threatened by two storms, dubbed Charles and Bruna, that led weather agency AEMET to issue alerts for 14 regions over strong winds, rough seas and heavy rains.

According to UGT and CCOO, early participation in the strike reached 90% at ports and in the automotive sector, with "total stoppages" reported at factories including Volkswagen's (VOWG.DE), opens new tab in Navarre and SEAT's in Barcelona.

The unions also put early turnout at 85% in the meat industry, 82% in waste collection and 75% in the energy sector.

They said participation was lower in healthcare and social services, at 38%, and at 35% in the postal service.

Tensions flared at the start of the strike at Madrid's Mercamadrid wholesale market, where about 1,000 protesters gathered. CCOO's Madrid branch said on X that police fired pepper spray at pickets and arrested one of them, with 13 people requiring medical attention.

A police spokesperson confirmed the arrest but not the use of pepper spray, although he said it was used to disperse a separate picket line in the Carabanchel district.

CamScanner



Comedian Asif Iqbal dies of heart attack

■ Renowned comedian and stage actor Asif Iqbal dies after a heart attack, leaving Pakistan's theatre community and fans mourning his sudden death

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Renowned Pakistani comedian and stage actor Asif Iqbal has passed away, with his family confirming that he died after suffering a heart attack.

According to family members, Asif Iqbal suffered a heart attack and was immediately shifted to a hospital for medical treatment. However, doctors could not save his life and he passed away.

Asif Iqbal had been associated with Pakistan's theatre and stage industry for several years and was recognised for his spontaneous humour, distinctive acting style and strong comic timing.

During his career, the late actor performed in numerous stage dramas and entertained audiences with his lively performances and memorable comic characters. His work on the stage earned him recognition among theatre audiences and colleagues in the entertainment industry.

His performances were particularly appreciated for their natural delivery and ability to bring humour to stage productions. Through his long association with Pakistani theatre, he became a familiar name among audiences who regularly followed stage dramas.

The news of his sudden death has caused grief across showbiz and theatre circles. Fellow artists, colleagues and fans have expressed sorrow over his death and offered condolences to his family.

Tributes have also been shared by members of the entertainment community, who remembered Asif Iqbal for his contribution to Pakistani stage comedy and his association with the theatre industry. Family members and colleagues are expected to share further details regarding his funeral and burial arrangements.

Haris Waheed Explains Shayyan's Popularity Despite His Flaws

■ Actor Explains Shayyan's Popularity Despite His Problematic Behaviour

Showbiz Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Haris Waheed has spoken about the audience response to his character Shayyan Mursaleen in ARY Digital's drama Bas Tera Saath Ho, saying viewers can disapprove of the character's actions while still appreciating his performance.

Haris plays Shayyan as a troublesome and flawed man whose actions frequently create problems for those around him. Despite his negative traits, the character has attracted considerable attention from viewers, particularly because of the humour and quirky moments the actor has brought to the role.

Speaking to Something Haute, Haris said he had noticed the positive response viewers were giving Shayyan. According to the actor, audiences are not necessarily endorsing everything the character does, but they have recognised the effort and performance behind the role.



Haris explained that viewers still want Shayyan to face the consequences of his actions, while simultaneously appreciating the way he has portrayed the character. He said audiences have also noticed the small and unusual touches he incorporated into the role.

FFC 6 September 728/90

The actor expressed gratitude for the feedback and said the response demonstrated that viewers were paying attention not only to Shayyan's behaviour but also to the finer details of his portrayal.

Much of Shayyan's appeal comes from the contrast between his problematic behaviour and the al lighter moments in his scenes. Haris's expressions, comic timing and unpredictable reactions have given the character a distinct personality beyond that of a conventional television antagonist.

Audience reactions to the drama have similarly highlighted Haris's comic performance, with viewers finding Shayyan entertaining despite his troublesome behaviour.

Haris's comments come as Bas Tera Saath Ho continues to centre Shayyan in the drama's ongoing family conflicts. ARY Digital has also portrayed the character as reckless and entitled, with his decisions repeatedly creating tension within the storyline.



Saba Qamar reveals she once fell in love with fellow actor

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Saba Qamar has revealed that she once developed feelings for a fellow actor she worked with on a film several years ago.

The actress, known for her performances in several popular television dramas, is currently in the United Kingdom, where she attended a charity event and interacted with fans.

During the event, Qamar spoke about her past and disclosed that she had fallen in love with a co-star from one of her earlier films.

She said the actor was not her co-star in any of her television dramas but had worked alongside her in a film several years ago.

Qamar did not reveal the actor's identity, explaining that he is now married and she did not want to disclose his name as it could create problems for him with his wife.

The actress also recalled discussing the matter with her niece, who advised her to forget the actor and move on with her life.

Qamar said she agreed with her niece, noting that she and the actor had been working together at the time and that she had decided to leave the past behind.

Her comments have since gained attention on social media, with users speculating about the identity of the actor she was referring to. However, Qamar herself did not name him.

Samiya Mumtaz Remembers Late Dance Teacher Mrs Mitha

■ Actress Samiya Mumtaz Shares Emotional Memories Of Her Late Dance Teacher

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Samiya Mumtaz has revisited cherished childhood memories of her late dance teacher, Mrs Mitha, sharing a series of throwback clips and recalling the lessons that remained an important part of her life.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Samiya said she first met Mrs Mitha when she was around six or seven years old. She could not recall their exact first meeting, saying it felt as though she had known her for as long as she could remember.

Samiya vividly remembered her teacher's distinctive appearance, including a sleeveless blouse, cotton sari and long braid decorated with a paranda matching the colour of her sari. She described Mrs Mitha as cheerful and witty, while noting that her playful personality never meant she should be taken lightly.

dance lessons with Mrs Mitha at a house in Gulberg, Lahore. The early classes involved simple dances performed to basic verses, although Samiya admitted she was not particularly skilled at the time.

After returning home, she would teach the movements she had learned to her cousin



Mahvash, who eventually joined the same classes. Samiya said Mahvash had a natural talent for dance and quickly picked up the finer movements with rhythm and ease.

Samiya also recalled discovering an old letter Mrs Mitha had written to her mother, asking that both cousins rehearse for an upcoming performance. The teacher had apparently preferred Mahvash because she was the stronger dancer.

Samiya also looked back at her time at Lahore Grammar School, saying she began school on its first day in 1979. Mrs Mitha later became a dance teacher there, introducing students to regional folk dances as well as styles such as the foxtrot, barn dance and dandia.

She particularly remembered being introduced to classical Bharatnatyam during rehearsals for the school's annual Parents' was Day. Samiya said learning classical dance was especially exciting because it was an era before YouTube and the internet.

Selected students were trained for tableaux and inter-school competitions, and Samiya recalled that their group frequently returned with top positions.

She said that during the 1980s, school dance classes were at one point renamed "Movement classes". Public performances were also restricted to female audiences, leading her to perform at events organised by APWA, Lahore Ladies Club and Kinnaird College for Women.

Outside school, Mrs Mitha continued including Samiya in performances whenever she received invitations. After leaving school and joining Kinnaird College, Samiya continued private lessons with her teacher.

When Samiya asked what she needed to do to become a professional dancer, Mrs Mitha advised her to pursue further training in India. Samiya subsequently travelled to Delhi, where she studied Bharatnatyam and Odissi at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram.On returning to Pakistan, Samiya discussed her training in detail with Mrs Mitha. She later came to understand that her teacher had developed her own approach to teaching Bharatnatyam .

in Pakistan, adapting its terminology,

Salman Khan denies health issues after Bigg Boss 20 concern

Web Desk

MUMBAI

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has dismissed concerns about his health following an episode of Bigg Boss 20 in which he appeared unwell.During the Weekend Ka Vaar segment, Salman was seen placing his hand on his heart, struggling to speak, and eventually lying down on the stage while requesting medical assistance.

This sequence alarmed viewers, prompting many fans to express concern on social media.

Responding to the reaction, Salman posted a statement on his Instagram Story clarifying, "Nothing is wrong with my health by the grace of God."

He criticised the editing of the show's promotional footage, which he said created a misleading



impression of a genuine health emergency.

Salman explained that the pain he feigned was intended to make a point to contestant Qazi, who had been using his own health as entertainment.

"It totally beats the purpose and looks like I am doing the same thing that Qazi was doing in the house," he wrote. "The pain was only to show Qazi that what he did was wrong because he used his health for entertainment, especially when the 15 people in the house were not aware.



Bollywood actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have welcomed their second child, a baby girl, nearly two years after the birth of their first daughter, Dua

Zara Noor Abbas makes stylish motorbike entry to promote upcoming film

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas grabbed attention with an unconventional entrance while promoting her upcoming film 'Shehroz'.

The actress arrived at a promotional event riding a motorbike, without any prominent security escort, making her arrival a talking point among those present.

Wearing sunglasses and riding a new-model heavy bike, Zara made a confident entrance at the film's promotional event.

Her unusual arrival immediately caught the attention of media representatives and other attendees, who showed keen interest in the actress's bold promotional appearance.

Speaking to the media during the



event, Zara answered questions about 'Shehroz', including details about its story and characters.

Also Read: Zara Noor Abbas and Asma Abbas win hearts with mother-daughter dance moves

Discussing the film's female cast, she revealed that the movie features three leading actresses — herself, Kinza Hashmi and Ushna Shah.

Zara also offered an intriguing description of the film's characters, saying that everyone in the movie is both a hero and a heroine.

CamScanner

Pakistan crush Bangladesh to book place in U19 Asia Cup final

● Green Shirts chase down 139-run target in just 21.5 overs

SPORTS DESK

Muscat



Defending champions Pakistan secured a place in the U19 Asia Cup 2026 final with a nine-wicket win over Bangladesh at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground in Oman on Thursday.

Rizwanullah led Pakistan's bowling attack with a five-wicket haul, while half-centuries from Hayam Khan and Usman Khan guided the team to victory.Chasing a modest target of 139, the Green Shirts cruised to victory in just 21.5 overs, losing only one wicket as their openers dominated the Bangladesh bowling attack.

Usman Khan and Hayam Khan provided a flying start, both batters scoring half-centuries and putting together an impressive opening partnership to take Pakistan past the 100-run mark.Hayam was eventually dismissed after scoring 69 off 72 deliveries, including eight fours and a six.However, Usman remained unbeaten to guide Pakistan home, scoring 64 off 54 balls, featuring seven fours and two sixes. Abdul Qadir contributed an unbeaten eight as the defending champions sealed their place in the final.Earlier, Bangladesh were bowled out for 138 in 31.4 overs after Pakistan's bowlers produced an impressive collective performance, despite a fighting half-century from opener Abdullah Al Muhi. Abdullah top-scored for Bangladesh with 50 off 45 deliveries, including four boundaries and two sixes, while Rakibul Hossain contributed 26 off 39 balls, hitting four boundaries.

All Rafi chipped in with 20 off 22 deliveries, including two fours and a six, but the rest of the batting line-up failed to make significant contributions.

Bangladesh captain Farid Hasan scored 17, while SK Jarif Siyam, Ahsan Al Mumin and Sheikh Atiqur Rahman managed just one run each. Robiul Hasan Anik and Rubay Islam Rizon were dismissed for ducks.

Saqib Khan (7-130) rips through Sri Lanka batting in Rawalpindi Test

● Seven-wicket haul sparks Pakistan fightback after De Silva-Kusal stand as Sri Lanka take narrow 12-run lead

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Young fast bowler Saqib Khan ripped through Sri Lanka's batting line-up on the fourth morning to claim a seven-wicket haul, but the visitors secured a narrow 12-run first-innings lead in the opening Test against Pakistan on Thursday.Sri Lanka lost their six wickets inside 42 runs. At the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, Sri Lanka started day four at 404-4, with Dhananjaya de Silva unbeaten on 167 and Kusal Mendis on 117, after the pair had put together a commanding 249-run partnership to put their side in a strong position.

Pakistan quickly turned the pressure on the visitors, with Saqib breaking the stand by dismissing de Silva for 167 before removing Kusal for 119 as Sri Lanka lost two wickets for eight runs.

Saqib continued his impressive spell, claiming the wickets of Sonal Dinusha, Lahiru Kumara and Asitha Fernando to finish with seven for 130 from 34 overs.

Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 446 in 117.2 overs, taking a 12-run lead over Pakistan's first-innings total of 434-9 declared. Milan Rathnayaka made 12.

Pakistan's second innings began with an early setback as Asitha Fernando dismissed Tayyab Arif for 11. At lunch, Pakistan were 39-1, for a lead of 27 runs. Azan Awais was batting on 16 and Mohammad Taha on 12.

On Wednesday, Dhananjaya de Silva and skipper Kusal Mendis blasted unbeaten centuries to put Sri Lanka in a commanding position.

De Silva (167 not out) and Mendis (117 not out) put together 249 runs for the fifth-wicket unbroken stand to enable Sri Lanka to reach 404-4 in 102 overs in their first innings as bad light hastened the stumps. De Silva, who completed his 14th Test century off 151 balls and brought in his 150 off 216 deliveries, smashed 20 fours in his marathon knock. De Silva faced 241 balls in his fine innings, which was full of patience. He waited for a loose delivery to be dispatched towards the boundary.Mendis, on the other hand, brought in his 11th Test century off 152 balls, smashing ten fours and four sixes. He faced 188 balls. Mohammad Abbas was the only successful bowler on the third day as he removed Kamindu to finish the day with 2-64. Saqib Khan, who had taken two early wickets on Tuesday, ended the day at 2-105 in 26 overs. Young pacer Razaullah conceded 127 runs in 23 overs and was the most expensive bowler.

Pakistan take on Bangladesh as ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy begins in UAE today



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Major international women's cricket competitions are starting on Thursday (today) in the state of Ajman, United Arab Emirates, where teams from 10 countries, including Pakistan, will compete for the title in the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026.

A total of 30 T20 International matches will be played in the tournament, which will continue until November 25, while the Pakistani team will begin its campaign today against Bangladesh.

According to the schedule released by the International Cricket Council, all matches will be held at the Karwan Sports Club Cricket Ground and Seven Districts Sports Club in Ajman.

The crucial opening match between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be played at the Karwan Cricket Ground at 1:15 pm today. The Pakistani team will be led by Muniba Ali, while Ayesha Zafar will be the vice-captain.

Pakistan has been placed in Group B with Bangladesh, Thailand, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe. The national team will play its other group matches against Thailand on November 13, the Netherlands on November 15 and Zimbabwe on November 16.

On the other hand, Group A includes the hosts United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland and Papua New Guinea.

The UAE women's team is participating in the tournament under the leadership of Isha Oza and will play their first match against Ireland on November 13.

For the first time, teams from five full member countries and five associate member countries are participating in the tournament, while the number of teams has been increased from eight to ten compared to the previous edition.

According to the ICC, the group stage will continue until November 18, after which the top three teams from both groups will advance to the Super Six stage.

Australia captain Cummins to address Khawaja 'Sandpapergate' claims

■ A Cricket Australia probe concluded only David Warner, Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft were in the know, with all three sent home in disgrace and subsequently banned.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Australia captain Pat Cummins said he plans to address Usman Khawaja's "long list of allegations" about the 2018 ball-tampering scandal on Friday after taking time to "better understand" them.

Pressure has been mounting for Cummins to front the media since the retired Khawaja reignited the explosive issue last weekend ahead of the release of his autobiography.

In the book, Khawaja alleges that the whole team, including Cummins, knew about the plot to rough up the ball with sandpaper to make it swing during the third Test against South Africa at Cape Town eight years ago.

He also claimed the tactic was used in the second Test at Port Elizabeth.

A Cricket Australia probe concluded only David Warner, Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft were in the know, with all three sent home in disgrace and subsequently banned.

Cummins and fellow bowlers Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all denied publicly in 2021 that they knew about the plan.

Cummins said he would give his version of events on Friday ahead of the latest round of the domestic Sheffield Shield competition.

"Happy to speak with any and all media about the events of this week," he said on social media.

"I've taken some time to try and better understand the long list and full extent of Uzzy's allegations so I can respond properly."

Starc reiterated his stance on Wednesday.

"I guess I won't speak on behalf of the bowlers, but, where I stand, my opinion hasn't changed, my recollection hasn't changed from what we said in 2021," he told reporters.

- 'We weren't aware' -

"As far as our statement said, we weren't aware of things being taken on the field, that's where I'll leave it."

The governing body have ruled out reopening their investigation.

Warner has strongly backed close friend Khawaja's claim that everyone knew, but Darren Lehmann, who was head coach at the time, denied any knowledge.

Former Australia batting coach Graeme Hick, who was on the South Africa tour, also rubbished Khawaja's allegations, calling them "absolutely false" in an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald.

"Khawaja puts it simply: 'It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us.' To me what Khawaja is implying here is absolutely false," said former England player Hick.

"In regard to any discussions around the ball-tampering in Port Elizabeth or Cape Town that took place, I will say in true honesty that I did not hear or know anything."

Smith and Bancroft have so far remained silent.

Cricket Australia chairman David Boon assured Cummins that his job was safe, regardless.

"We absolutely support Pat," Boon told The Australian newspaper, adding that the team needed to to look forward, not back.



Pakistan defeat Iran In Nigeria Polo World Cup qualifiers opening match

Web Desk

ABUJA

Pakistan made a winning start to the 13th Polo World Cup qualifiers in Nigeria, defeating Iran 10-6 in their opening match.

The national team delivered an impressive performance to secure a four-goal victory over Iran and begin their qualifying campaign on a positive note.The tournament features teams from Pakistan, Iran, India and host nation Nigeria.

Pakistan will face traditional rivals India in their next match on November 13 as they look to maintain their winning momentum.

The polo World Cup qualifiers began on November 9 and will continue until November 16. Pakistan are determined to win the qualifying tournament and secure a place in the Polo World Cup.



Andreeva powers past Sabalenka to reach WTA Finals last four

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

French Open champion Mirra Andreeva stormed past Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-0 to reach the last four of the WTA Finals on Wednesday as Elina Svitolina kept her bid on track with a three-set win over Karolina Muchova.Russian 19-year-old Andreeva held her nerve after falling behind 4-1 in the opening set -- winning the last 11 games to seal the round-robin victory in just 62 minutes.

"Oh my God, I'm even happier than I was after my first match," Andreeva said. "I feel like I can play another two matches, I'm so full of energy. I'm so pumped up. I'm so happy."

Andreeva, whose three titles this year include her maiden major at Roland Garros, is making her singles debut in the elite season-ending event.

The world number three seemed to be feeling the nerves in the early going against second-ranked Sabalenka.

Irked that she had given up a break with a double fault, she was able to flip the switch, dealing handily with Sabalenka's big serves and pushing the Belarusian star back with her own big groundstrokes.

Andreeva crucially kept momentum on her side with a break for a 3-0 lead in the second set.

Sabalenka, trailing 0-40, saved three break points, but Andreeva gave herself another with a swinging volley winner and grabbed another break when a Sabalenka forehand flew just long.

The increasingly demoralized Sabalenka had no answer. After the Belarusian smacked a backhand into the net to give her opponent match point Andreeva polished things off with a service winner.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111221933 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MASTUNG invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	UPGRADATION OF DIFFERENT AREAS KANAK, KIRDGAB, PRINGABAD, DASHT KHAD KOCHA PSDP NO.4317 (Z2026.1413) (Upgradation of Solar System 30 HP WSS Kareem Abad Lakhpass)	2,311,949

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 1,618,364 PKR Amount in1 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 26 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 26 November, 2026till 12:00 PM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 01:00 PM Address: Office of The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Department Division Mastung

Phone no: 0843895449Fax no: 0843895449

Email: Xenpheoffice0654@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION MASTUNG

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Punjab govt assures seminary leaders of autonomy, resolves registration and bank Account issues

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Members of the Muttahida Madaris Council and the National Peace Committee met officials of the Punjab government to discuss the registration and legislation of religious seminaries and ways to strengthen government cooperation with madaris, said Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi.

Ashrafi said the issues of registration and bank accounts for all seminaries in Islamabad had been resolved, adding that significant progress had been made in coordination between the government and religious institutions. He appreciated the Punjab government for initiating the seminary registration process.

He said facilities and coordination between seminaries and government institutions would improve further in the future. Rejecting concerns that the government intended to shut down or take control of seminaries, he said no such action was planned and all stakeholders would work together to protect their independence and autonomy.

Finance minister dubs mining sector a 'game-changer' for Pakistan's economy at investment forum in Islamabad

● Provincial leaders highlight mineral reserves, investment incentives, plans to expand exploration and value addition

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday described Pakistan's minerals and mining sector as a potential "game-changer" for the economy, saying it could become one of the country's most important drivers of sustainable growth as the government sought to avoid repeating the cycle of short-lived, consumption-led expansion followed by balance of payments crises.

Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 in Islamabad, Aurangzeb said the government was pursuing deep structural reforms and remained committed to sustaining them, identifying privatisation, public finance, pension and tariff reforms, and the transition towards a cashless economy as key components of its agenda.

The forum brought together international investors and government officials as Pakistan sought to attract foreign investment in its mineral sector, with provincial leaders outlining investment opportunities, incentives and development plans.Aurangzeb said the minerals and mining sector offered considerable potential for attracting foreign investment and increasing sustainable exports. He added that a single mining project was expected to generate $2.8 billion in export proceeds once it became commercially operational.



The minister acknowledged that the project had faced delays but expressed confidence in its financing, adding that it had secured the largest syndicated financing in Pakistan's history and that its financiers remained committed as it moved forward."When we talk about a game-changer, when we talk about a step change in terms of moving towards sustainable growth, minerals and mining is going to be one of the most important, if not the most important sector, which is going to take us towards sustainable growth," he said.

Aurangzeb assured participants that the Ministry of Finance would support and facilitate the development of the sector. "We are there to help, support, assist in any way we can, because Pakistan depends on this sector, and inshallah, as you will see and as you will hear, we will make it happen," he stated.The finance minister further said Pakistan had repeatedly reached a point in its economic history where stabilisation was followed by questions about the pace of growth, often prompting a return to consumption-driven expansion. "Whenever we get to a stabilisation phase, the question is, where is the growth And that's when we get into what I call the gold rush," he added.

He further said the economy had moved towards a growth trajectory after contracting a few years ago, followed by growth of 2% and then 3%. Growth last year had been slightly below 3.7%, while the government was projecting 4% for the current fiscal year, he added.

Aurangzeb cautioned against pursuing growth through liquidity-fuelled, consumption-led expansion, saying the approach could deliver quick results but would eventually create current account and balance of payments problems. "We are very determined; we are not going to repeat that cycle.

Terrorists ram explosive-laden vehicle into DI Khan police station gate

● Terrorists attacked Bandkorai Police Station in DI Khan with an explosive-laden vehicle and gunfire, damaging nearby structures, but no casualties were reported.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the gate of a police station in Dera Ismail Khan and opened fire, causing damage to the building and nearby structures.

According to a police spokesperson, unidentified terrorists struck the gate of Bandkorai Police Station with an explosives-packed pickup truck and also fired shots.

The explosion damaged the police station's gate and wall, as well as a nearby mosque, while windows of houses in the surrounding area were shattered.



Police said personnel responded with heavy retaliatory fire, preventing the attackers from entering the police station's premises.

No casualties were reported in the attack, and all police personnel deployed at the station remained safe, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added that the police personnel displayed professionalism, alertness and courage during the attack.

Soon after receiving information about the incident, Dera Ismail Khan District Police Officer (DPO) reached the site and reviewed the security arrangements and the situation.

Local residents also rushed towards the police station to support the police after hearing the explosion.

The spokesperson said timely action and the resilience of police personnel had foiled the terrorists' plan to target the station. Police and security forces have launched a search operation in the area to arrest those involved. .



IMF seeks surplus budget from Punjab

■ According to details, the IMF has asked the Punjab government to spend more on the health and education sectors.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sought a supplementary budget from the Punjab government,

According to details, the IMF has asked the Punjab government to spend more on the health and education sectors.

The IMF also asked the Punjab government to enhance its revenue target. The Punjab government informed the International Monetary Fund that the Punjab Revenue Department stopped issuing supplementary grants.

The Punjab Revenue Department issues supplementary grants on in case of extreme necessity.

The Revenue Department explained that they adopt this measure to give the IMF a supplementary budget.

Earlier, on November 17, 2026. Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari said that the IMF agreed that the Punjab government had a surplus of approximately Rs 40 billion at the end of the 1st quarter and, as such, the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan corrected its data and uploaded revised fiscal operations reflecting the Punjab government's surplus. "Lastly, the news item also misreports that Punjab fell short of its surplus target of Rs. 150 billion at the end of the 1st quarter. Punjab does not have quarterly targets of surplus in the National Fiscal Pact, and the IMF agreed that Punjab was on track to achieve its committed surplus of Rs. 630 billion at the end of the current financial year," she stated.

The minister concluded that the government of Punjab rejects such misreporting by a credible newspaper, which has a stature and record of accurate reporting.

Lahore tops global pollution rankings as smog blankets city

■ Lahore tops global pollution rankings as AQI exceeds 344, with hazardous smog affecting residents and experts urging precautionary measures.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Lahore remained under a thick blanket of smog on Thursday, with air pollution levels reaching hazardous levels and making the provincial capital the world's most polluted city.

The average air quality index (AQI) in Lahore crossed 344, placing the city at the top of the global pollution rankings. The AQI reached 671 in Paragon City and 561 in Model Town, highlighting the severity of air pollution across different parts of the city.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), there is a 10 per cent chance of rain in Lahore on Thursday. Humidity was recorded at 75 per cent, while wind speed stood at 3 kilometres per hour. The city's temprature is going to stay around 18 degree at least and 29 degrees at max.



The minimum temperature in the city is expected to remain at 18 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is likely to reach 29 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, weather officials have forecast rainfall in parts of southern Punjab over the next two to three days, raising hopes of some relief from worsening air pollution and smog. However, temperatures are also expected to drop following the rainfall, bringing colder weather.

Medical experts have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, wear protective masks and take precautionary measures to protect their eyes and respiratory systems amid the hazardous air quality.

Sindh division not possible without its people's consent: CM Murad

■ Murad Ali Shah said his party had no objection to the creation of new provinces elsewhere, adding that Punjab could establish new provinces if it wished to do so



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Murad Ali Shah has said dividing Sindh is neither legally nor constitutionally possible without the consent of its people.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, Murad Ali Shah said his party had no objection to the creation of new provinces elsewhere, adding that Punjab could establish new provinces if it wished to do so.He emphasised that the Constitution does not allow changes to provincial boundaries without the will of the people. He added that the Constitution also provides a mechanism for holding a referendum, which can be used to resolve issues requiring public opinion.

The chief minister also highlighted Sindh's ongoing water crisis, saying the issue of water distribution under the 1991 Water Accord was already before the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

Questioning concerns over water theft, Murad Ali Shah said that when water itself was not reaching Sindh, the question of where it could be stolen from also needed to be addressed.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal interacts with young students during his visit to IMCG Golra Girls School under the ICT Education Reforms initiative, engaging with them on their learning experiences and responses in the classroom.

Printer & Publisher: Wasim Ahmed , Printed at Ulus Printer,s Quetta & Published At Office No.06 2nd Floor Zainab Chaimber Sahar-e-adalat Quetta

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