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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations of ECO member states, participating in the 30th meeting of ECO Council of Ministers. ISLAMABAD

CM Balochistan Stresses Institutional Coordination, Effective Governance

■ Mir Sarfraz Bugti reviews construction of Model Secondary School in North Dera Bugti, reiterates commitment to quality education, merit and development, and vows to keep government schools dedicated to educational activities.

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has said that effective performance of the government machinery and coordinated cooperation among institutions are essential for improving public service delivery and achieving development targets across the province.

The chief minister made these remarks while inspecting the under-construction Model



Secondary School Mir Ghulam Qadir Bugti in North Dera Bugti, where he reviewed ongoing work aimed at improving educational facilities in the area.

Speaking to local residents and government officials, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said the provincial government's core agenda since assuming office has remained focused on public service, fulfilling commitments, promoting merit and ensuring quality in development projects.

He said the government was prioritising initiatives whose results are visible to the public and capable of bringing tangible improvements to people's lives.

The chief minister appreciated the role of government officers and the civil bureaucracy in the development of Balochistan, saying effective functioning of the government machinery and coordination between institutions were helping the province achieve its public service and development objectives.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti also paid tribute to the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, Balochistan Police and other law-enforcement agencies for their sacrifices and services for maintaining peace, protecting citizens and upholding the writ of the state in Balochistan.

PM Shehbaz approves district-level SME facilitation centres to boost

■ PM gives nod to restructuring of TDAP, SMEDA to boost exports and align local industries with global standards

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday approved the establishment of facilitation centres for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) at the district level to boost the country's exports and directed to launch pilot projects in Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Quetta.

He said following the successful implementation of these centres, they will gradually be established in all districts to provide maximum awareness and guidance to citizens interested in setting up businesses.

In a meeting with a delegation of exporters associated with SMEs,



the prime minister directed the relevant authorities to present, at the earliest, a comprehensive plan for establishing a sustainable cold storage system to facilitate the export of perishable goods.

The meeting discussed progress on government initiatives aimed at promoting small and medium-sized businesses, as well as the challenges they face.

The prime minister said an amount of Rs300 billion had been allocated under the Export Finance Scheme for the SME sector and new exporters.

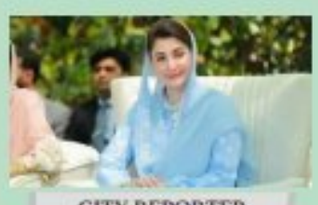
The allocated amount will be exclusively reserved for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), he said. In this regard, EXIM Bank has already issued a circular.

The prime minister also approved the modernisation and restructuring of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to promote Pakistani exports and align local industries with international export standards.

He said that SMEs were the backbone of any country's economy, adding that providing facilities to increase exports by SMEs was among the government's top priorities.

CM Maryam calls for promoting peace and vows to make Pakistan a model nation

■ Maryam Nawaz urges Pakistanis to promote tolerance, mutual respect and brotherhood, calling for a peaceful society free from extremism and intolerance.



CITY REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has emphasised that tolerance, respect and patience are the foundations of a successful and peaceful society, saying Pakistan must become a model of peace, tolerance and brotherhood.

In her message on the International Day for Tolerance, Maryam Nawaz said the importance of tolerance had grown significantly amid rising extremism and violent conflicts around the world.

She stressed the need to promote mutual understanding and respect for differences to maintain peace and harmony in society.

The Punjab chief minister said the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the finest example of tolerance and patience, adding that he demonstrated tolerance even towards his enemies. She said Islam also teaches peace and encourages people to practise tolerance.

Maryam Nawaz warmly welcomes Sikh community to Pakistan



Balochistan Home Minister Vows Strict Action Against Extortionists

Staff Reporter
QUETTA

Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langau has vowed strict action against elements involved in extortion across the province, assuring lawmakers that those responsible would be brought to justice.Speaking during a Balochistan Assembly session chaired by Speaker Captain (Retd.) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, Langau said the provincial government had taken serious notice of complaints about illegal money collection from transporters, truck drivers and ordinary citizens.The issue was highlighted by National Party Deputy Parliamentary Leader Rehmat Saleh Baloch.



Provinces give Rs57.46bn grant to federal government for first time in Pakistan's history

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

In a first in the country's history, the provinces have provided a grant of Rs57.46 billion to the federal government during the first quarter of the current fiscal year under Article 164 of the Constitution.

According to sources, Article 164 is separate from the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and allows the federal and provincial governments to provide grants to one another for any national purpose.Under the current budget, an agreement was reached to obtain grants worth Rs1,035 billion from the provinces.

Under the arrangement, Punjab will contribute Rs555 billion, Sindh Rs263 billion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rs157 billion and Balochistan Rs58 billion.



Action against terrorism must for economic cooperation with Afghanistan, Pakistan

■ IPP President addresses workers' convention in Faisalabad where he acknowledges sacrifices of security forces

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMBAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday stressed that action by the Afghan Taliban regime against terrorism and ensuring a stable and secure environment were "absolutely essential" for sustained regional economic cooperation.

"Pakistan desires peaceful, prosperous and stable Afghanistan, fully integrated within the ECO framework," he said while chairing the 30th meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad.

The DPM said Afghanistan at peace with itself and all its neighbours would not only benefit its own people but also contribute to peace and prosperity across the wider region.

DPM Dar called on the ECO member states to strengthen regional connectivity amid prevailing global uncertainty and rapid technological advancements. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the principles, objectives and vision outlined in the ECO Charter, saying Pakistan, as a founding member of the organisation, attached particular importance to regional cooperation.

"Our guiding principles are equality of sovereignty, mutual respect, non-interference and cooperation based on mutual benefit," DPM Dar said.

In letter to top judges, jailed Imran Khan says he is 'highly vulnerable to brain haemorrhage, cardiac arrest'

■ Petition detailing jail conditions of Bushra Bibi alleges seven small snakes emerged from her cell in Adiala prison

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

Jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan has reportedly written a letter to the chief justices of the Supreme Court (SC), Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) and Islamabad High Court (IHC), expressing concern over his health and urging them to ensure the implementation of court orders.

In the letter authored by Barrister Salman Sadar on behalf of the ex-premier, the former prime minister said doctors had warned him of the risk of a brain haemorrhage and a heart attack, adding that his blood pressure had reached 193.

"Doctors have told me that I am at risk of a brain haemorrhage and a heart attack. My blood pressure has reached 193," he wrote in the letter.

Khan, 73, has remained in prison since August 2023 following convictions in several cases that he and his party describe as politically motivated. He has faced multiple legal proceedings since his ouster as prime minister in April 2022 following a no-confidence vote.

In the letter, Imran urged the chief justices to ensure that court decisions were implemented, saying he wanted to prove his innocence if he remained alive.

"I will prove my innocence if I remain alive," he wrote. The letter was addressed to the chief justices through his counsel Barrister Salman Safdar.

"I do not ask Your Lordships for any favour. All I request as justice is the implementation of the orders of the Honourable Supreme Court and proper treatment for our medical



conditions. I will only remain able to prove my innocence if I stay alive. I appeal to Your Lordships, on the most basic grounds of human compassion, give me justice before it is too late," Khan wrote.

The development came days after IHC division bench comprising Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif had directed jail authorities to allow lawyers Khosa and Salman Safdar to meet Imran and his wife, Bushra, at Adiala jail while hearing their appeals against convictions in the £190 million case.

Lawyers representing former prime minister Imran and his wife, Bushra Bibi, have submitted affidavits to the IHC, detailing their meeting with the incarcerated couple at Adiala jail on November 11.

IHC moved for Bushra Bibi's hospital transfer

Meanwhile, Bushra Bibi has approached the IHC through lawyers Latif Khosa and Barrister Salman, seeking her immediate transfer to a specialised hospital for medical treatment and possible eye surgery.

In her petition, she requested the court to order authorities to produce her complete medical record and ensure that all necessary facilities were provided for her surgery.

The petition stated that Imran Khan had raised concerns about his wife's health during a meeting with lawyers on November 10. It added that Bushra Bibi had informed them about a possible eye surgery scheduled for November 15.

CamScanner

Four accused remanded into police custody in maid murder case

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A judicial magistrate has granted four-day physical remand of four accused including the wife of a senior FIA officer who were involved in torturing a teenaged maid who was later succumbed to her injuries in Islamabad,

The 13-year-old domestic worker died after allegedly being tortured at the house of a Grade-19 officer located in Police Lines in Islamabad.

The four accused included a woman named Afshan and a seminary teacher.

Police had requested an eight-day physical remand but the magistrate on Monday approved only four-day remand and handed the accused to police for further interrogation.

According to initial investigation, the FIA officer's wife had allegedly been torturing the young girl for a long time. Sources said she was brutally beaten a few days before her death.

A religious teacher (Qari), who visited the house to teach the officer's children, was also accused of torturing the girl.

Islamabad Police have arrested the officer's wife and the Qari in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, an investigation committee led by the SSP Investigation is looking into the incident to determine the facts.

The FIA officer was also suspended after the death of the maid



A vendor busy preparing traditional 'chicken sajji' for customers at Saidpur Road

Sindh takes lead in implementing national mental health policy

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



The Ishrat Husain Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL), in collaboration with the University of Manchester, organised a two-day roundtable in Karachi on October 22–23, where government officials, mental health experts, development partners and civil society organisations agreed on multisectoral action to implement the National Mental Health Policy at the grassroots level.The roundtable focused on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies – Pakistan (IAPT-PK) Programme, a flagship initiative of Sindh Minister for Health Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho. The programme is being implemented by the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL), in partnership with the Government of Sindh and the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI), across some of the province's most flood-affected areas, including Larkana, Sukkur, Qambar Shahdadkot and Tando Allahyar.Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nasim Chaudhry outlined PILL's research-to-policy work in Sindh, while Prof. Imran Bashir Chaudhry said the IAPT-PK Programme aimed to improve access to psychological care through primary healthcare facilities. The interventions adopt a life-course approach and address a broad range of mental health conditions, including those that contribute significantly to the burden of disability in Pakistan.Prof. Nusrat Husain of the University of Manchester said poverty, educational disadvantage, violence and climate-related disasters were affecting people's mental health, and called for local research and evidence-informed policymaking. He proposed a live dashboard to track progress, a follow-up meeting in four months and annual reviews.Secretary Health Dr Tahir Sangi, representing Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, said the Health Department would nominate a focal person for each district. He outlined plans for awareness campaigns, digital health platforms, community outreach and basic screening training for Lady Health Workers and Community Health Workers. Director General Health Sindh Dr Saqib Sheikh proposed linking the programme with the province's Non-Communicable Diseases Action Plan.Participants recommended a costed implementation plan, trained counsellors at primary healthcare facilities, stronger referral pathways, access to essential psychiatric medicines and mental health indicators in electronic medical records.Representatives of the Sindh Sports and Youth Affairs Department, Taskeen, the Benazir Income Support Programme, the British Asian Trust, SIEHS-Rescue 1122, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Sindh, Savaira, the Aga Khan University and the CDC-HIV group also took part, offering support ranging from awareness videos in Sindhi, vocational skills training and youth development centres to district mapping, stronger referral systems and agreed mental health indicators.

Major terror plot foiled in karachi; two suspected TTP members arrested

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



A major terror plot was foiled in Karachi after two suspected members of the proscribed Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SLA) were arrested during a joint operation by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Karachi and a federal intelligence agency.

According to the CTD spokesperson, the operation led to the arrest of two key alleged operatives of the banned organisation, with a ready-to-use improvised explosive device (IED) and hand grenade recovered from their possession.

The arrested suspects were identified as Madad Ali, alias Ali, son of Ali Akbar, and Junaid Ali Abbasi, son of Amanullah Abbasi.

During preliminary investigations, the suspects reportedly disclosed that they had received militant training from the proscribed Sindhudesh Liberation Army.

Pakistan eyes investment-led shift from wastewater disposal to recycling

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



:Pakistan is seeking to mobilise public and private investment to transform wastewater management from a conventional disposal system into a circular model focused on treatment, recycling and reuse, amid mounting water security challenges driven by climate change, pollution and extreme weather.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik shared the vision during a meeting with UNICEF Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Climate, Environment and Energy (CEE) Cindy Kushner and her team, the other day.

The meeting focused on Pakistan's preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, and opportunities to advance child-sensitive climate action ahead of COP31.

Dr Malik said the proposed national investment platform for water and sanitation would help translate climate vulnerabilities into bankable projects by mobilising public investment and attracting climate and private-sector financing.

He said the Indus Basin was facing mounting pressures from glacial melt, extreme heat, floods and pollution, requiring Pakistan to move away from the linear model of waste disposal towards a circular approach to waste and wastewater management.

The proposed platform would prioritise wastewater circularity, with particular emphasis on significantly increasing the proportion of wastewater that was safely treated and reused, which currently remained low.

The minister also highlighted plans to develop National WASH Accounts and Service Level Delivery Standards to strengthen transparency and accountability in the sector.

He said credible tracking of expenditure, service delivery and wastewater reuse would be essential to build confidence among development partners and investors.

The meeting also discussed UNICEF's Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC), for which an opening consultation was welcomed by the minister at COP31. The UNICEF-led framework is intended to guide climate-related interventions across health, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and child protection.



1971 War: India's alleged role in training Mukti Bahini fighters in East Pakistan

SPECIAL REPORTER
RAWALPINDI

Following its defeat in the 1965 war, India adopted a new strategy on political and military fronts, with the alleged objective of breaking Pakistan apart, according to the report.Through misleading propaganda, India began influencing young Bengalis and inciting them against West Pakistan.

The report alleges that the Mukti Bahini, an armed organisation established under the patronage of India's intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), killed hundreds of thousands of patriotic Pakistanis in an attempt to break the alliance between the Pakistan Army and the Bengali population.

Modi admits to Indian role in Fall of Dhaka

For this purpose, a control headquarters was reportedly established in Kolkata under the supervision of Rameshwar Nath Kao, with India's Eastern Command overseeing operations.

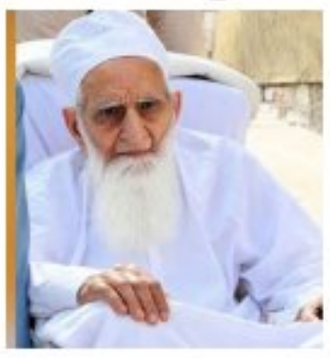
Six separate training centres were established to train Mukti Bahini fighters, each operating under the command of an Indian Army brigadier.

According to the report, approximately 100,000 Mukti Bahini fighters received training at these six camps.

Children enjoy leisure time with their families at Bagh-e-Jinnah

Tablighi Jamaat Ameer Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman passes away

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Tablighi Jamaat Ameer Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman, a renowned religious scholar and teacher of Hadith, has passed away.

Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman had been serving as the head of Tablighi Jamaat since 2018. The time and venue for his funeral prayers will be announced later.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed deep sorrow and grief over his demise, extending heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family and senior members of Tablighi Jamaat.

Naqvi paid tribute to Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman's services in spreading the teachings of Islam. He said the late religious scholar had rendered valuable services for the propagation of Islam and that his contributions would always be remembered.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday expressed grief and sorrow over the death of Tablighi Jamaat Ameer Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman, paying tribute to his services for the promotion of Islam.

In a condolence message, the interior minister extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and senior members of the Tablighi Jamaat. He expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time and offered his condolences over the passing of Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman.

Mohsin Naqvi paid tribute to the late religious scholar for his contributions to preaching the teachings of Islam. He said Maulana Nazar-ur-Rehman had rendered valuable services for the propagation of Islam and devoted his efforts to spreading the message of the religion.

CamScanner

From Neighborhood to Convergence; ECO and New Horizons of Iran-Pakistan Cooperation



By: Hamid Ghanbari

Our region is at a critical juncture in its history. International developments, changes in economic and geopolitical equations, and increasing security challenges have created conditions that, more than ever, remind us of the need to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the future of this region cannot be built on the basis of erosive competition or dependence on external arrangements. What can lead to stability and sustainable development is strengthening cooperation among neighbors, mutual respect, trust-building, and utilizing the capacities that the countries of the region possess. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is one of the important platforms for realizing such an approach, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is also pursuing active participation in this organization with the same view.

The 30th ECO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Islamabad is an appropriate opportunity to once again emphasize the importance of regional convergence. Regional cooperation for member countries does not only mean increasing economic exchanges; it is also directly related to their strategic interests, including strengthening economic independence, ensuring security, and consolidating peace and stability. This meeting is also an opportunity to examine existing obstacles and find new ways to expand cooperation among members.

ECO; Great potential, shared responsibilities

The Economic Cooperation Organization has a history of nearly six decades. The organization was formed in 1964 with the participation of Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey under the title of "Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD)" and continued its activities under the name ECO in 1985. The accession of seven more countries in 1992 expanded its scope of activities and turned ECO into a regional organization with ten members, an area of ??about eight million square kilometers, and a population of more than half a billion people.

These figures not only indicate the geographical and demographic extent of ECO; but also indicate a significant economic potential that has not yet been fully utilized. The member countries have vast energy resources, fertile agricultural lands, industrial capabilities, important transit locations and markets that can complement each other. The location of these countries on the East-West and North-South communication routes has also provided a position that, if coordinated and cooperated more, will allow them to play an effective role in regional and international trade, transportation, energy and communications.

The economic dimensions of this capacity are also significant. The total population of the member countries in 2025 was about 545 million people and their GDP exceeded 3 trillion dollars. Although these countries accommodate more than 6.6 percent of the world's population, their share of world trade is close to 2 percent. These figures show that there is a significant gap between the region's demographic and economic capacities and its position in world trade. Bridging this gap is one of the most important reasons that highlights the need to strengthen economic cooperation within the ECO framework.

The reality is that the level of trade between member states is still not commensurate with the existing capacities. Customs and trade barriers, infrastructure deficiencies, banking and financial constraints, and difficulties in facilitating trade continue to prevent the full exploitation of regional opportunities. Therefore, merely agreeing on common goals is not enough. What is important is to transform these agreements into concrete and implementable programs; programs whose effects are visible in the economic and social life of the people of the member states.

In my opinion, several issues should be prioritized for ECO's activities in the coming years: increasing trade between member states, developing transport and transit corridors, expanding cooperation in the energy sector, facilitating banking and financial exchanges, attracting investment, and strengthening scientific, technological, and cultural ties between the nations of the region.

Among these priorities, the issue of transport and transit holds a special place. The geographical location of the member states has enabled ECO to become an important link between the markets of East Asia, Central Asia, WestAsia and Europe. Of course, this capacity cannot be realized solely by relying on geographical location. Coordination in transit policies, joint investment in infrastructure and facilitating the crossing of goods and passengers across borders are the main prerequisites for achieving such a goal.

The energy sector is also one of the areas that can link the common interests of the member states. The fact that ECO members have diverse capacities in the fields of gas, electricity and renewable energies has provided a good opportunity for the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The establishment and development of energy transmission and exchange networks, in addition to helping to ensure energy security, can strengthen the basis for economic growth and sustainable development in the region.

In this context, the development of ECO's 2035 Vision Document is of particular importance. This document should be able to provide a clear picture of the future direction of the organization and identify priorities that all members should play a role in implementing. We expect that the new vision will not be limited to merely stating general goals and will pave the way for a move from fragmented cooperation to a coherent and sustainable model of regional integration. The Islamic Republic of Iran is also ready to actively participate in this process and cooperate in formulating and implementing programs that will ensure the common interests of the members. Hosting the 18th ECO Summit in the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2026 will also be a valuable opportunity to review the achievements of the organization and chart its future course. We hope that with the active participation of member countries and the presentation of their views and suggestions, constructive, this summit can become a turning point in the development of economic and political cooperation in the region.

Pakistan; Iran's neighbor, partner and strategic friend

The holding of the ECO Council of Ministers meeting in Islamabad, in addition to its multilateral importance, is also an opportunity to emphasize Pakistan's position in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran-Pakistan relations cannot be defined solely within the framework of the usual relations between two neighboring countries. The historical, civilizational, cultural and religious ties between the two nations have a long history and have formed extensive contacts between them over the years. These commonalities are a valuable asset for the development of relations between the two countries in the current situation and in the years to come.

Iran has always attached special importance to its relations with Pakistan. From our point of view, the stability and security of each of the two countries is directly related to the national interests of the other country. The common borders, economic and trade capacities, people-to-people contacts and geopolitical position of the two countries have provided numerous grounds for expanding cooperation; Potentials that seem to have not yet been fully utilized.

Developing economic and trade relations should be one of the main axes of relations between Tehran and Islamabad. Increasing bilateral trade, developing border markets, completing transportation infrastructure, facilitating the activities of businessmen, and strengthening ties between the private sectors of Iran and Pakistan can help increase the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries.

Economic Cooperation Organization Big Potential, Small Integration

Pakistan Promoting Regionalism for a Resilient ECO



By: Tazeen Akhtar

Economic Cooperation Organization ECO that emerged from Regional Cooperation for Development RCD after the fall of USSR and independence of Central Asian States is the 3rd largest bloc in the world by population, after China-India led blocs. ECO has everything – 580 million people, $3 trillion economy, $9.8 trillion PPP, oil, gas, minerals, agriculture, young labour, and a land bridge from China to Europe.But it trades more with outsiders than with itself. Only 1 dollar out of every 10 earned in trade stays inside ECO.If Pakistan's chairmanship can turn ECOTA from paper to practice, and connect Central Asia to Gwadar / Karachi through real corridors, ECO can become what it was meant to be in 1964 – not just a talking club, but a real economic bloc.RCD was formed by Pakistan, Iran, Türkiye in 1964 while Azerbaijan,Kazakhstan,Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan,Turkmenistan. Uzbekistan were included and the the organization was reshaped as ECO in 1985 with Afghanistan also as member and it was further expanded in 1992 after CARs became independent states.The 30th Meeting of the ECO Council of MinistersIt will be held in Islamabad on 15-16 November 2026. The Meeting will be chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and will be attended by Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations of ECO Member States, along with representatives of the ECO Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies.The Ministerial Meeting will be preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials (SOM) of ECO Member States, which will review the activities and programmes of the Organization, assess the work of its subsidiary bodies, and finalize the agenda and draft outcome documents for consideration by the Ministers during COM.Pakistan As Chair of the ECO for 2026-2027Pakistan will seek to advance the Organization's objectives under the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO". Pakistan's Chairmanship will focus on strengthening regional connectivity and deepening regional integration to strengthen regional partnerships, and promote collective efforts towards greater prosperity, sustainable development, and a more integrated and resilient ECO region.This would also provide an opportunity to reinvigorate the ECO's role as an effective platform for regional cooperation, dialogue, and economic collaboration. Pakistan's Chairmanship of the ECO offers an opportunity to position Pakistan as a regional connectivity hub, facilitator of logistic supply chains and an agenda setter for regional trade.These efforts will contribute towards unlocking the region's considerable economic potential and ensuring that the benefits of regional cooperation are translated into tangible improvements in the lives of the people of ECO Member States.Total GDP of ECOECO is the 8th largest bloc by nominal GDP, 4th largest by PPP GDP. TotalGDP Nominal~ $3.0 – $3.16 Trillion, GDP PPP~ $9.84 Trillion (2026 estimate)GDP Per Capita Nominal~ $5,440 – $5,536, GDP Per Capita PPP~ $16,947Breakdown – Nominal GDP 2025-26 Approx:Türkiye$1,602,860 Million, Pakistan$407,307 Million, Iran$371,123 Million, Kazakhstan$306,239 Million, Uzbekistan$110,000 – $120,000 Million, Azerbaijan$75,938 Million, Turkmenistan$70,000 – $80,000 Million, Tajikistan$14,000 – $15,000 Million, Kyrgyzstan$22,625 Million, Afghanistan$17,817 Million = TOTAL~ $3.05 TrillionTürkiye alone is more than 52% of ECO's nominal GDP. Kazakhstan is 2nd in per capita – $15,191, followed by Türkiye $18,676.Volume of Trade Between Members – The Weak PointThis is ECO's biggest failure – and biggest opportunity. ECO's Total Foreign Trade with the World:~ $1.016 Trillion (2023-24)~ 4-5% of world tradeIntra-ECO Trade – Trade Between Members Themselves: 2024: $94 – $95 Billion – Uzbek President Mirziyoyev at 17th ECO Summit, Khankendi, July 20252023-24 – other estimate: $110 BillionShare: Only 8% to 10% of ECO's total foreign trade, ECO share in global trade: Only ~2% – 4%Comparison:EU intra-trade: 60-70% – ASEAN intra-trade: ~25% – ECO intra-trade: 8-10%Pakistan's trade with ECO: Only 3% of Pakistan's external trade is with ECO countries – despite Pakistan being a founding member.Why so low? High tariffs and non-tariff barriers, ECOTA not fully ratified / implemented, Sanctions on Iran, Security situation in Afghanistan, Weak transport, banking, payment systems, Limited product diversification – all sell similar oil, gas, cotton, agricultureTarget: ECO Vision 2025 had set a target to double intra-regional trade. It was not achieved. Now Vision 2035 and Pakistan's Chairmanship 2026-27 aim to revive it through: Implementing ECOTA, Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) Corridor, Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad freight train, ECO Trade and Development Bank, Green corridors, e-commerce, digital trade.ECO Vision ; According to the Treaty of Izmir and ECO Vision 2025 / Vision 2035:Main purpose: Create conditions for sustainable economic development and joint welfare of member states.Specific objectives:1. Remove trade barriers within the ECO region and develop intra-regional trade – 2. Promote ECO region's integration with global markets – 3. Develop transport and connectivity – road, rail, sea, air, energy corridors linking Central Asia to the Arabian Sea and Europe – 4. Develop energy cooperation – oil, gas, electricity, renewables, TAPI, CASA-1000, ITI Corridor – 5. Strengthen cultural and historical ties among member states – 6. Promote agriculture, industry, tourism, science, environment and human developmentIn simple words: Trade more with each other, connect with each other, and grow together – instead of depending only on outside powers.Its flagship agreement is ECOTA – ECO Trade Agreement, signed 2003, in force April 2008, to create an ECO Free Trade Area. It is still not fully implemented – a major reason intra-ECO trade remains low.ECO is one of the oldest regional organizations in Asia. It connects Asia to Europe, Eurasia to the Arab World, and Central Asia to the Arabian Sea. ECO is an intergovernmental regional organization for economic, technical and cultural cooperation among 10 countries in South Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East.

THE BIG QUESTION: WHO IS PROTECTING THE TECHNICAL TEAM OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES?



By: Syed Naseer Gillani

The most disturbing aspect of the Tarbela-5 controversy is that accountability appears to have stopped at the sacrifice of individuals, while the Ministry of Water Resources' technical team, whose professional competence and role in major water-sector projects require independent investigation, remains protected and continues to enjoy positions of authority.Serious questions need to be answered:1. Questionable appointments and promotions: How were certain recruitment, promotion and service rules followed?2. Lack of field experience: What relevant practical experience do these officials possess in the construction, supervision and management of major dams and hydropower projects? Allegations that some have virtually no hands-on field experience, not even a single day of practical dam-site experience, must be independently verified.3. Repeated project failures: Their professional and administrative roles in Tarbela-4, Tarbela-5, Neelum-Jhelum and Kurram Tangi deserve a comprehensive, project-wise performance review. Who made the critical decisions, who approved them, and who is accountable for the resulting technical, financial and contractual consequences?4. Indus Waters Treaty and water diplomacy: Equally serious concerns have been raised about Pakistan's handling of Indus about victories must be supported by documented legal and technical results.5. Institutional protection: Who recommended these appointments? Who approved the creation of positions? Who facilitated their promotions? Who continues to protect this team despite recurring controversies and audit observations?THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHY IS ACCOUNTABILITY SELECTIVE?A retired Lieutenant General serving as Chairman WAPDA was made to leave following the Tarbela-5 controversy. Yet the Ministry of Water Resources' technical and administrative chain of responsibility appears to have escaped comparable scrutiny.Why was the Chairman WAPDA held accountable, while the Ministry's relevant technical decision-makers were not subjected to the same level of investigation?Was the responsibility confined to WAPDA, or did it extend to the Ministry, the project authorities, the consultant independent, high-level inquiry must examine:- The original appointments, qualifications and service records of the concerned technical officials.- The legality of subsequently created posts, promotions and postings.- Their actual field experience and professional track records.- Their individual decision-making roles in Tarbela-4, Tarbela-5, Neelum-Jhelum and Kurram Tangi.- Pakistan's legal and technical performance in Indus Waters Treaty proceedings.- The responsibility of the Ministry, WAPDA, project management and consultants for the decisions and failures under investigation.The inquiry must identify not only those who executed decisions but also those who appointed, promoted, protected and empowered the people responsible.THE QUESTION IS SIMPLE: WHO IS BEHIND THIS TEAM, WHY IS IT STILL IN POWER, AND WHY HAS NO ONE BEEN HELD ACCOUNTABLE? Pakistan's water and energy security cannot be left at the mercy.

A beautiful view of yellow and orange marigolds blooming along a roadside green belt at Koral Chowk Interchange

CamScanner



Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh, addressing the 89th convocation Of FAST University, Chiniot, on 15 November 2026.

FBR integrates 14,078 Tier-I retailers, textile & leather retailers with POS

■ **A total of 12,302 Tier-I retailers were registered with the POS system, with 25,580 of their branches integrated.**

Special Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has integrated 14,078 Tier-I retailers, textile and leather retailers, and restaurants with its Point of Sale (POS) system as of November 1, 2026, The system is used to document transactions of Tier-I retailers, hotels, and restaurants and the number of integrated branches and outlets across these categories reached 38,259 during the same period.

A total of 12,302 Tier-I retailers were registered with the POS system, with



25,580 of their branches integrated.

Around 1,212 restaurants were registered, and 1,908 restaurant branches were linked to the system of the FBR. The FBR also registered 564 textile and leather retailers, with 10,771 of their branches integrated with the system.

Yesterday, FBR made it mandatory for all registered tea manufacturers, blenders and packers to install electronic production monitoring systems by December 10, requiring every retail pack to be digitally recorded before leaving factory premises.

The directive, issued under Sales Tax General Order (STGO) No. 35 of 2026, covers black, green, flavoured and instant tea, tea bags, extracts and premixes containing milk powder or sugar. It also applies to toll and contract packers and covers all retail packaging formats, including sachets, pouches, cartons, jars and tins. Under the new system, manufacturers must install barcode scanners, counting sensors and other equipment on every packing line to record production.

Online registration opens for auction of attractive vehicle number plates in Punjab

■ **Punjab launches online registration for auction of attractive vehicle registration numbers, with November 30 set as the deadline to participate.**

Business Reporter
LAHORE



- Online registration has opened for the auction of attractive vehicle registration numbers, with November 30 set as the last date to participate in the e-auction.

According to Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) Chairman Faisal Yousaf, citizens can participate in the online auction from the comfort of their homes. The facility covers registration numbers for motorcycles, cars and commercial vehicles.

Faisal Yousaf said online registration was available through the e-Auction app and web portal. Citizens would not need to visit Excise Department offices to take part in the auction.

China, US discuss tariffs, farm trade ahead of Xi-Trump meeting

Staff Reporter
BEIJING



China and the United States discussed tariff cuts, agricultural trade and other issues at their first trade council meeting on Friday, China's Commerce Ministry said, days ahead of an expected leaders' meeting in Shenzhen next week.

"The two sides held candid, in-depth and constructive exchanges on implementing the outcomes of previous China-US economic and trade talks, including tariffs, a reciprocal '$30 billion-for-$30 billion' tariff-cut arrangement, agricultural trade and other issues of mutual concern," the ministry said.

It did not say whether any agreements were reached. Both sides will continue using the council to address trade concerns, expand cooperation and reduce outstanding issues, the ministry added. Following a September summit between Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump in Washington, the two sides proposed a $60 billion package of reciprocal tariff cuts, including roughly $17 billion worth of US farm goods that China imported in 2024, but the plan has yet to be finalised.

Chinese purchases of US farm goods other than soybeans are on track to hit a seven-year ?low this year, despite an agreement to buy $17 billion annually through 2028, a Reuters analysis of customs data showed earlier this month, underscoring persistent uncertainty over the deal.

Beijing has repeatedly urged Washington to implement the $60 billion tariff-reduction deal, calling it a prerequisite for increasing purchases of US farm goods.

The White House said Trump will meet Xi on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic



Rs1.895 trillion transferred to provinces under NFC Award

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The federal government transferred a total of Rs1.895 trillion to the four provinces under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award during the first quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal year. During the period, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded budget surpluses, while Balochistan faced a budget deficit.According to documents from the Ministry of Finance, Punjab received Rs942 billion under the NFC Award during the first quarter. The province's total revenue stood at Rs1.117 trillion, while its expenditures were recorded at Rs784 billion. As a result, Punjab posted a budget surplus of Rs333 billion between July and September.

The documents showed that Sindh received Rs479 billion under the NFC Award. The province recorded total revenue of Rs690 billion and expenditures of Rs509 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of Rs180 billion during the first quarter.

World Bank approves $300m financing for Sindh water and sanitation project

■ **Pakistan borrowed Rs1.514 trillion in the first quarter of FY2026-27, including Rs1.037 trillion in September, and received $5.44 billion in foreign loans and grants; $3bn in bonds**

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



The World Bank has approved $300 million financing which is designed to expand safe water, sanitation and hygiene services to 1.5 million people and forms the first phase of a broader 10-year programme in Sindh province of Pakistan,

The World Bank financing is part of the overall $540 million STAR WASH-1 project targeting rural water, sanitation, and hygiene in Sindh province. STAR WASH-1 aims to halve water contamination at point of use and connect 80 percent of targeted rural communities to a professional water and sanitation provider.The investment, including $150 million from Asian Development Bank and $90 million from the Government of Sindh, is expected to generate over 14,000 jobs and formalize Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees as a rural WASH utility.As reported by the World Bank, its Board of Executive Directors approved $300 million in financing on November 13 for the Sindh Transformational Accelerated Rural Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Services Phase 1 Project, or STAR WASH-1.

The project is set to finance climate-resilient infrastructure, including solar-powered water supply systems and improved sanitation systems, in selected rural areas of Sindh Province. It also includes an integrated social and behaviour change program aimed at improving personal and environmental hygiene and shifting service delivery toward safer and more sustainable rural WASH systems.

World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Bolormaa Amgaabazar said unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene remain a major driver of child stunting in Pakistan, adding the expansion of services in rural Sindh is intended to address one of the root causes. The project aims to halve water contamination at the point of use and connect 80 percent of targeted rural communities to a professional water and sanitation service provider.

Tesla offers $29,990 cybercab to select customers

■ **According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country's food exports increased from $1.11 billion in the corresponding quarter last year**

Commerce Reporter
KARACHI



US electric carmaker Tesla has started offering its fully driverless Cybercab for private use to selected customers, marking a major step towards bringing self-driving technology to the public.

Tesla announced the offer on social media platform X by sharing a picture of its golden-coloured, two-seat Cybercab.

The vehicle has an initial price of $29,990, while customers will have to pay an additional $299 per month to use its self-driving features.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said the offer would become available across the country after receiving the required regulatory approval.

However, Musk described the monthly subscription fee as expensive and indicated that the company could reduce it to around $115.

The proposed lower price would be closer to the current cost of self-driving and connectivity services offered with other Tesla vehicles.

The move is part of Tesla's plan to expand its driverless car technology beyond commercial robotaxi services and bring it to private car buyers.

The development could open a new chapter in the use of self-driving vehicles, making advanced driving technology more accessible to ordinary customers.

Officials from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkiye arrive in Islamabad for 30th ECO ministerial meeting

■ **FM Dar chairs two-day ECO ministerial meeting in Islamabad on November 15-16**

News Desk
ISLAMABAD

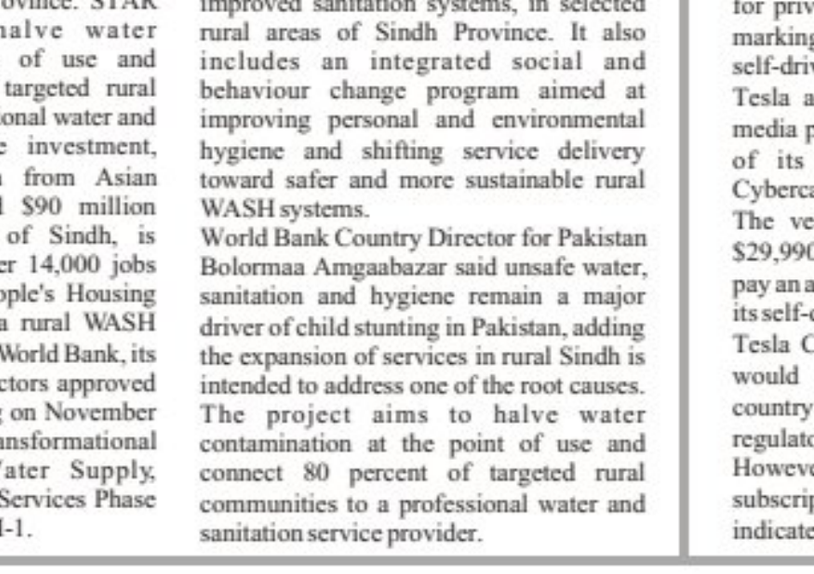
Senior officials from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkiye, along with representatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), arrived in Islamabad on Sunday to attend the 30th Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) Council of Ministers Meeting, the Foreign Office (FO) said.

In separate posts on X, the FO said Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Elnur Mammadov, who is also heading his country's delegation, had "arrived in Islamabad to participate in the 30th ECO Council of Ministers Meeting". He was received at Islamabad International Airport by FO officials.

Deputy Secretary General of the SCO Ahmad Saidmurodzoda also arrived to attend the meeting and was received by FO officials, according to another post.

The FO said Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Arman Issagaliyev, who is heading his country's delegation, had also arrived in Islamabad for the meeting. He was received at the airport by ministry officials.

Meanwhile, OIC Secretary General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed arrived in the federal capital to participate in the meeting, while Turkiye's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Musa Kulaklikaya, who is also leading his country's delegation, arrived to take part in the proceedings. Both were received by FO officials at the airport.The two-day meeting is being held in Islamabad on November 15 and 16 under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. It will bring together foreign ministers and heads of delegations from ECO member states, alongside representatives of the organisation's secretariat and subsidiary bodies.



The ministerial meeting will be preceded by a gathering of senior officials from member states, who will review the organisation's activities and programmes, assess the work of its subsidiary bodies and finalise the agenda and draft outcome documents for consideration by the ministers.

Pakistan, which holds the ECO chairmanship for 2026-27, will seek to advance the organisation's objectives under the theme "Reviving Regionalism for a Resilient ECO". The country's priorities include strengthening regional connectivity and economic integration, deepening partnerships and promoting cooperation for sustainable development and shared prosperity.

The ECO was established in 1985 by Pakistan, Iran and Turkiye and expanded in 1992 to include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The 10-member regional organisation aims to promote economic development through cooperation in areas including trade, transport, energy and investment.

CamScanner

Israel claims to kill senior Hamas commander in Gaza airstrike

■ The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades confirmed Abu Younis's death in a statement, expressing condolences over his killing



Web DESK

JERUSALEM

The Israeli military has claimed that it targeted a senior commander of Hamas's armed wing in an airstrike in the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the Israeli military said it had targeted the senior Hamas commander but did not immediately disclose his identity.

However, according to the British news agency, Hamas sources said commander Samir Abu Younis was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis, southern Gaza.

Medical sources said the strike targeted a street in the al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis, killing Abu Younis and injuring several other people.

Mahmoud Bassal, spokesperson for Gaza's Civil Defence agency, said rescue workers had recovered the body of 53-year-old Samir Abu Younis. Two other people were also injured in the attack.

Later, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades confirmed Abu Younis's death in a statement, expressing condolences over his killing.According to the group, Samir Mahmoud Abu Younis, also known as Abu Mahmoud, was a member of Hamas's General Military Council and commander of its Rafah Brigade.



Jordan's State Security Court sentenced three men to death on Sunday for carrying out an attack on a church in the southern governorate of Karak last month that killed nine people, the state news agency Petra reported.

Philippines, Australia sign defence pact with eye on China

■ Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese witnessed the signing of the defence pact in Manila, where he is attending a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Web Desk

MANILA

The Philippines and Australia signed a defence cooperation arrangement on Sunday that Manila said would lower bureaucratic hurdles to joint military activities, as the two countries further deepen security ties.

Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the arrangement would streamline implementation of the bilateral Status of Visiting Forces Agreement, or SOVFA, by simplifying coordination procedures.

"Rather than 100 steps to do a single thing, it will just now take



10," Teodoro told reporters, describing the deal as an "anti-red tape measure" for implementing SOVFA.

He said the arrangement would pave ?the way for closer cooperation involving maritime, air and land forces, as well as humanitarian and disaster response, and would bolster the Philippines' "credible deterrence posture" including in the South China Sea.The Philippines has been broadening its network of security ties while complementing a long-standing alliance with its treaty partner, the United States, in the face of what it describes as China's aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where countries have overlapping maritime claims.

Australia has consistently supported Manila's position on the strategic waterway, backing a 2016 ruling by an international arbitral tribunal that China's sweeping claims have no basis under international law, a decision Beijing rejects.

Beijing maintains that its actions in the South China Sea have been lawful and professional. It routinely opposes Manila's joint military activities with its allied partners, saying such drills heighten tensions in the region.

UK's Prince William to be joined by wife Kate for visit to India

■ Heir-to-the-throne William, 44, and Kate are flying out for a series of events across Mumbai during a three-day visit

Web Desk

LONDON

Kate, Britain's Princess of Wales, will undertake her biggest foreign trip since having treatment for cancer when she joins her husband Prince William in India for his annual Earthshot Prize awards this week. Heir-to-the-throne William, 44, and Kate are flying out for a series of events across Mumbai during a three-day visit that includes Tuesday's awards ceremony.

For Kate, 44, the trip marks her most high-profile overseas visit since she had preventative chemotherapy for an unspecified form of cancer in 2024. While she is now in remission, she says the illness still ?impacts her life.



William, who, like his father King Charles, has made campaigning on the environment one of his biggest causes, founded the Earthshot Prize in 2020 with the aim of finding solutions to climate change. It awards five winners £1 million ($1.3 million) each to scale up their projects.

"For the prince, Earthshot is ultimately about replacing pessimism with possibility," a spokesperson for the couple's office at Kensington Palace said.

US aviation crisis persists as over 6,200 flights cancelled, 7,500 delayed

● Thousands of passengers remained stranded at major airports, including those in Dallas, Houston, Chicago, Atlanta and New York

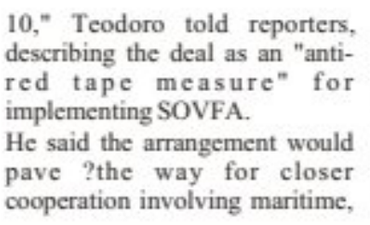
Web Desk

WASHINGTON

Air travel disruptions across the United States continued for a second consecutive day, with airlines struggling to restore normal schedules despite the reopening of airspace and the resumption of flight operations.

Thousands of passengers remained stranded at major airports, including those in Dallas, Houston, Chicago, Atlanta and New York, awaiting flights to their destinations.

According to FlightAware data, a total of 6,228 flights to and from the United States were cancelled, while another 7,542 were



delayed. The figures exceeded the morning forecast by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Bryan Bedford.

Bedford had estimated that between 4,000 and 5,000 of the 41,000 scheduled flights for the day would be cancelled. Globally, 6,843 flights were cancelled and 19,927 delayed, with a significant proportion of the disruptions involving US operations.

Among major airlines, JetBlue was the worst affected, with nearly 45 percent of its flights cancelled. American Airlines, United Airlines and Delta Air Lines also cancelled approximately a quarter of their scheduled flights.Airlines have announced that affected passengers can reschedule their journeys for alternative dates without paying additional fees.

Chicago's O'Hare International Airport was among the hardest-hit facilities, with more than 559 flights cancelled by 2pm. Another 68 cancellations were reported at Chicago Midway Airport. At Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, a major hub for Delta Air Lines, 479 flights had been cancelled by 12:30pm.

In Texas, nearly 300 flights had been cancelled at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport by 9am. Several passengers spent the night at the airport, with those scheduled to take connecting flights from Dallas facing particular difficulties.

At Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, more than 310 flights had been cancelled by the evening, while disruptions also continued at William P. Hobby Airport. According to the US Department of Transportation, airspace remains open and departures are operating safely. However, passengers have been advised to prepare for further cancellations and delays as airlines face difficulties repositioning.

Saudi-led coalition intercepts missiles towards Riyadh, drones in Eastern Province

Web Desk

JADAH

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Sunday it had intercepted two Houthi ballistic missiles launched towards the Saudi capital Riyadh and three drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province.

The Houthis, who control most of the populous parts of Yemen, have intensified attacks on the Saudi capital in recent days. A Houthi attack last week damaged an administrative building of the state oil company Saudi Aramco in Riyadh's financial hub.

The Eastern Province, the economic powerhouse of Saudi



Arabia, has been subject to multiple attacks by Houthis in the past few weeks.It contains the majority of the kingdom's oil and gas reserves ?and is home to Aramco's headquarters, which suffered extensive damage in an attack in October.

The Houthis have stepped up strikes on Saudi airports, ports and oil facilities, while Saudi Arabia has ramped up airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen in response.

South Korea should not fear China's rise, foreign minister says



Web Desk

SEOUL

South Korea should neither fear China's rise nor underestimate its capabilities, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun urging deeper cooperation ahead of a regional summit in China next week. "During this visit to China, I was reminded that we should neither have an unfounded fear of China's rise nor underestimate its capabilities and potential," Cho wrote on X, saying Seoul should ?build cooperation benefiting both countries by drawing on the autonomy and ?creativity of its people and companies.

Cho's remarks came after talks and dinner with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Friday, their first meeting in about three months.

The ministers discussed bilateral ties, issues on the Korean Peninsula and ways to deliver tangible benefits to people in both countries

Global powers converge in Manila as ASEAN summit kicks off

■ US President Donald Trump is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday near the summit's conclusion, a visit expected to include a sideline meeting with fellow Quad countries India, Japan and Australia

Web Desk

MANILA

A key regional summit opens on Sunday in Manila, with Southeast Asian heads of state facing questions on trade, security and an ongoing energy crisis while playing host to a who's who of global leaders.

US President Donald Trump is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday near the summit's conclusion, a visit expected to include a sideline meeting with fellow Quad countries India, Japan and Australia — the first of his second term.

The meeting of the Quad — a grouping broadly aimed at counterbalancing China's regional influence — would come days before a historic sit-down with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen.

Brazil's recently re-elected Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, meanwhile, is set to attend a plenary session of the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Sunday, while Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will sign a new defense pact with host country the Philippines.

Nearly 20,000 police officers have been deployed around Metro Manila for the summit, with progressive groups predicting a turnout of thousands for an anti-Trump march on the summit site.

Much of the uproar targets the US Pax Silica program — a supply-chain initiative designed to counter China's dominance in semiconductors and rare earths — whose flagship Philippine project, a 1,620-hectare AI manufacturing hub north of Manila, threatens to displace Indigenous families.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton said last week that a widely rumored November target date for a deal signing timed to Trump's visit was never in the works.



Unfinished business A day of early meetings kicked off on Saturday with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announcing a Philippine trade deal, and ASEAN leaders huddling on key issues including haze from Indonesia and potential fuel-sharing schemes as members struggle with Iran war-driven shortages.

But two issues that have vexed ASEAN leaders for years — a languishing South China Sea "Code of Conduct" and their relationship with war-torn Myanmar — look to be Singapore's problem when the bloc's rotating chair passes to the city-state in 2027.

CamScanner

Namra jokes about disappointing the nation as 'Asiya'

■ The actress took to Instagram and shared a humorous story that quickly caught attention.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Popular actress Namra Shahid has taken the internet by surprise with a witty and self-aware take on her on-screen persona, playfully addressing fan reactions to her character Asiya in the hit drama Muamma.The actress took to Instagram and shared a humorous story that quickly caught attention.

In the post, she joked, "After disappointing the entire nation Asiya is trying new filters on Instagram," turning criticism into comedy with effortless charm.



The lighthearted jab comes in response to recent audience central reactions following a key plot twist in Muamma. Namra's character, Asiya, who is known for her loyalty, sparked frustration among viewers after choosing to conceal crucial information to protect Jahan Ara instead of helping uncover the central mystery. The decision left fans divided, with many expressing disappointments over her actions.

Through her Instagram story, Namra cleverly blurred the line between fiction and reality. While her character appears in the drama with a minimal, de-glam look as a domestic attendant.She further amplified the humor by pairing the post with the song "TanhaAkeli Hoon," a tongue in cheek choice considering her character is rarely seen alone in the series.



WHO ranks Pakistan among top 5 on child deaths

■Global body says vaccines save millions of lives, help cut child deaths, nearly eliminate polio

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistan has been placed among the top five countries in the world for reducing child mortality, according to the World Health Organization.

The WHO says the country's vaccination efforts have saved millions of children and played a major role in fighting preventable diseases.

The recognition highlights the impact of the country's immunisation drive over the years. According to the WHO, vaccination has saved 2.6 million children in Pakistan from dying of preventable diseases.

The WHO said Pakistan began its vaccination programme in 1976 by eliminating smallpox. Since then, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) has helped reduce deaths and strengthen disease prevention across the country.

According to the report, vaccines are now provided free of cost against 13 diseases in Pakistan. The WHO says this long-running immunisation programme has become one of the country's most important public health tools.

Smallpox eradicated, polio sharply reduced

The WHO said vaccines have completely eradicated smallpox from Pakistan. It also said vaccination has reduced polio cases by 99.8%, marking one of the biggest gains in disease control.

According to the report, Pakistan had around 20,000 polio cases in 1996, while by 2025 that number had fallen dramatically due to vaccination efforts. The WHO also said around 45 million children are vaccinated against polio.

The report said newborns in 80% of the country's areas have now been protected from tetanus.

It added that Punjab, Sindh, Azad Kashmir, Islamabad and Gilgit-Baltistan have been confirmed as tetanus-free. This, the WHO said, is another major sign of progress in routine immunisation and maternal-newborn health protection.

With support from Gavi, the report said, about seven million children and 5.5 million women are vaccinated every year in Pakistan.

Amar Khan drops bold empowerment message for women

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress, writer and director Amar Khan has shared a powerful post that blends fashion with a strong message on women empowerment, offering both visual impact and meaningful reflection.

Sharing a carousel of photos and clips, Amar Khan presented a bold yet graceful appearance while pairing it with a thought-provoking caption that read, "Dressed in peace, built like protest… allow women to be-dismantling all the regular expectations."

The words carry layered meaning, suggesting a balance between calm strength and silent resistance. By describing herself as "dressed in peace," she reflects composure and confidence, while "built like protest" hints at challenging societal norms.

The phrase "allow women to be" reinforces the idea of freedom and individuality, encouraging acceptance beyond traditional expectations.

In the visuals, Amar Khan is seen wearing a striking all-white power suit that combines elegance with modern tailoring.



The structured blazer features delicate embellishments, possibly floral or beaded, adding texture to the clean silhouette.

She pairs it with wide-leg trousers that create a fluid and elongated look, enhancing the elevates the look, with voluminous brunette outfit's sophistication. The ensemble is completed with sleek silver pointed-toe heels, giving the monochrome style a contemporary edge. Her styling further elevates the look, with voluminous brunette waves parted neatly to the side and a soft glam makeup palette that highlights her natural features through warm, neutral tones and a radiant finish.

The post quickly drew strong reactions, with fans praising not only her polished style but also the meaningful message behind it.

Over the years, Amar Khan has built a strong reputation in the entertainment industry, gaining recognition through projects such as Belapur Ki Dayan, Ghughi, Dil-e-Bereham, and Choti Choti Batain.



Court cancels Rajab Butt interim bail in Karachi

■ Rajab Butt Bail Revoked After Missing Court Hearing

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

A court in Karachi has revoked the interim pre-arrest bail of YouTuber Rajab Butt after he failed to appear during a hearing in a case related to alleged religious offence.

The proceedings were held at an Additional Sessions Court, where the judge cancelled the bail due to the accused's absence.

Defence counsel informed the court that Rajab Butt was unable to attend because of health issues, stating that his condition prevented him from appearing in person.

However, the complainant's lawyer opposed the request, arguing that the accused had repeatedly avoided court hearings by citing various reasons and urged the court to proceed without granting further relief.

The case, registered at the Hyderi Market Police Station, involves allegations of disrespect toward religious sentiments.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court decided to cancel the interim bail.

Hania Aamir spotted at Asim Azhar's New York concert, fueling relationship rumors



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Actress Hania Aamir was recently spotted attending Asim Azhar's concert in New York City, sparking renewed rumours about their relationship.

A video circulating online shows Hania to remain unnoticed by covering her face with a cloth and wearing a hat. Despite her efforts, fans quickly recognised her as she sang along to Meri Zindagi Hai Tu, a popular song associated with her drama.

The clip soon went viral, with fans expressing excitement across social media after identifying the actress in the crowd.

Hania and Asim have been romantically linked since 2018. Speculation picked up again following Asim's split from ex-fiancée Merub Ali in June 2025. Her presence at his concert has further intensified rumours, with many fans hoping the two might rekindle their relationship.

Eating healthy? This study has a shocking warning

■ TFinding challenges long-standing assumptions about diet

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

A surprising new study from the United States is raising questions about one of the most widely accepted health habits—eating fruits and vegetables.

Researchers say that for some young non-smokers, a "healthy diet" could be linked to an increased risk of lung cancer.

According to a report published by Science Daily, researchers have found a potential connection between diet and lung cancer risk in people under the age of 50.

The study focused on individuals who do not smoke but maintain diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and grains—foods typically associated with good health.

Researchers observed that younger individuals who followed healthier eating patterns were, unexpectedly, more likely to develop lung cancer compared to the general population. This finding challenges long-standing assumptions about diet and cancer prevention, particularly among non-smokers.



Pesticide residues under scrutiny

Dr. George Navacca, who led the study, described the findings as "surprising" and said they raise important questions for further research.

He pointed out that non-organic fruits, vegetables, and grains may contain high levels of pesticide residues. These chemicals, he suggested, could be a hidden factor contributing to cancer risk in younger individuals.

Dr. Navacca emphasized that while the results are concerning, they are not definitive. Instead, they highlight the need for deeper investigation into how environmental factors—such as pesticide exposure—interact with diet and health.

The study opens a new area of discussion around food safety and long-term health risks.

Two apples on empty stomach may support liver health

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

A growing discussion among health experts highlights a simple dietary habit that may support liver health.

According to specialists, eating two apples on an empty stomach every morning could play a role in maintaining liver function.

They also emphasize that lifestyle choices remain more important than medication in preventing liver diseases.

Health experts suggest that consuming two apples daily on an empty stomach may help support liver health.

They describe apples as a nutrient-rich fruit containing fiber, vitamins, and antioxidants. These elements are believed to help the body maintain liver performance over time.

Experts also stress that regular habits are key, especially when it comes to long-term liver care.

Early signs of liver problems

According to liver disease specialists, early signs of liver issues may include skin-related changes.

These can involve warts on the skin and darkening around the neck area. Experts warn that such symptoms should not be ignored.

They also note that fatty liver disease can occur even in people who have lost weight. This is often linked to ongoing unhealthy lifestyle habits.

Why Apples may help liver health

Health experts explain that apples may help reduce fat accumulation in the liver due to their fiber and antioxidant content.

They believe that regular apple consumption can contribute to lowering the risk of liver-related diseases over time.

However, they emphasize that no single food works alone without a healthy lifestyle.

Experts strongly recommend adopting healthy daily routines to support liver function.

CamScanner

Ackerman hits century as South Africa bounce back



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Marques Ackerman hit an aggressive century as South Africa bounced back on the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Wanderers Stadium on Monday.

The left-handed Ackerman struck 157 off 164 balls as South Africa made 287 for four in reply to Bangladesh's first innings of 400.

Ackerman, in his third Test, and the recalled Zubayr Hamza, who made 83, put on 202 for the second wicket. They came together after the experienced Aiden Markram was caught behind off Hasan Mahmud for four in the second over of South Africa's innings.

Earlier, Bangladesh made their highest total against South Africa.

Litton Das, resuming on 92, scored 120 as the tourists added 73 runs to their overnight total of 327 for six for the loss of their remaining four wickets.Ackerman and Hamza had to survive some hostile new ball bowling by Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed but took control on a true batting surface as the ball lost its shine.

Hamza, playing in his eighth Test but his first in more than two years, put in a strong claim to establish himself in South Africa's problematic number three batting position. He is the eighth player to be tried at three since Shukri Conrad became coach in 2023.

Hamza hit 12 boundaries in a 129-ball innings before he was caught behind in the first over bowled by part-time left-arm spinner Mominul Haque.Ackerman, who made 95 in his second Test appearance against Australia last month, again displayed a fearless approach, using his feet and playing a variety of wristy strokes.

He showed no nerves as he cruised through the nineties, reaching his century off 125 balls. He then went on an all-out assault, scoring 57 more runs off 39 deliveries before he was caught in the deep off Mahmud. Ackerman hit 21 fours and a six.

Pakistan Shaheens off to Doha to play ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026

- Talking exclusively to PCB Digital ahead of the team's departure, captain Abdul Samad said:

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Shaheens departed from Karachi for Doha, Qatar in the wee hours of Monday to participate in the 50-over ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026, scheduled from 19 to 29 November, The 15-member squad led by Abdul Samad will be joined in Doha by Ali Raza and Farhan Yousuf, who recently featured in the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup in Oman.

Defending champions Pakistan Shaheens are placed in Group B alongside India 'A', Nepal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They will begin their campaign against UAE on 20 November, followed by matches against India 'A' on 22 November and Nepal on 24 November.



Talking exclusively to PCB Digital ahead of the team's departure, captain Abdul Samad said:

"Our preparations have been good. We have played scenario-based matches throughout the week, while the coaching staff has worked hard with the players to prepare for the 50-over tournament. We are confident of putting up strong performances in the event.

"Our immediate focus is on winning the opening match and carrying that momentum forward in the tournament. Every player is aware of his role and responsibilities within the team.

"If we execute our plans effectively, I am confident that we will achieve positive results, which will also benefit the players in the future events."

Pakistan Shaheens won the previous 50-over edition in 2023, beating India 'A' by 128 runs in the final in Sri Lanka, while in the previous edition which was played in T20 format, Shaheens clinched title by beating Bangladesh 'A' in a thrilling final decided by super-over.

5-member squad

Abdul Samad (captain), Ahmed Daniyal, Ali Raza, Danish Aziz, Farhan Yousuf, Haider Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Imran Randhawa, Rohail Nazir (wk), Saad Masood, Shahzaib Khan, Shamyl Hussain, Sufyan Moqim

Support staff

Ijaz Ahmed Jnr (head coach & team manager), Riffatullah Mohmand (batting coach), Rehan Riaz (bowling coach), Asfandyar Khan (strength and conditioning coach), Aleem Bajwa (physio) and Zubair Ahmed (team analyst)

Fixtures

20 November – 11am PKT - v United Arab Emirates at University of Doha Science and Technology

22 November – 3pm PKT – v India Aat West End Park International Cricket Stadium

ICC scraps Super Six stage in new format for 2027 ODI World Cup qualifier

- ICC scraps the Super Six stage for the 2027 ODI World Cup qualifier, introducing a 23-match format, and announces qualification plans for the 2028 men's and women's T20 World Cups.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided to scrap the Super Six stage from the 2027 ODI World Cup qualifying tournament as part of a major change to its format.

According to details, the new-look qualifier for the 2027 ODI World Cup will be held in February and March 2027, featuring 10 teams.

In the previous three editions, teams were divided into two groups, followed by a Super Six stage, with a total of 34 matches played. Under the revised format, the tournament will feature 23 matches.

The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, followed by the final. The tournament winner will qualify directly for the 2027 World Cup, while the teams finishing second, third and fourth will compete in the Super Series stage of the World Cup.

West Indies, Ireland, the United States, the Netherlands, Scotland and Oman have already secured places in the qualifier, while the remaining four teams will be decided through a playoff tournament in Nepal.

Meanwhile, the ICC has also announced the qualification format for the 2028 Men's T20 World Cup. A total of 16 teams will compete in four groups, with eight teams securing qualification for the tournament.

The governing body has also unveiled the qualification pathway for the 2028 Women's T20 World Cup.



England end Spain's unbeaten run

- Belgium smash Italy to reach Nations League quarters

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

England ended Spain's unbeaten run in competitive matches at 44 beating the world champions 3-2 on their own patch, while Belgium thumped Italy 4-1 to join France in the Nations League quarter-finals.

Thomas Tuchel's team win Group A3, level on 15 points with Spain, after the hugely impressive win in Madrid in which La Roja were for long periods made to look a shadow of the team which won the World Cup.

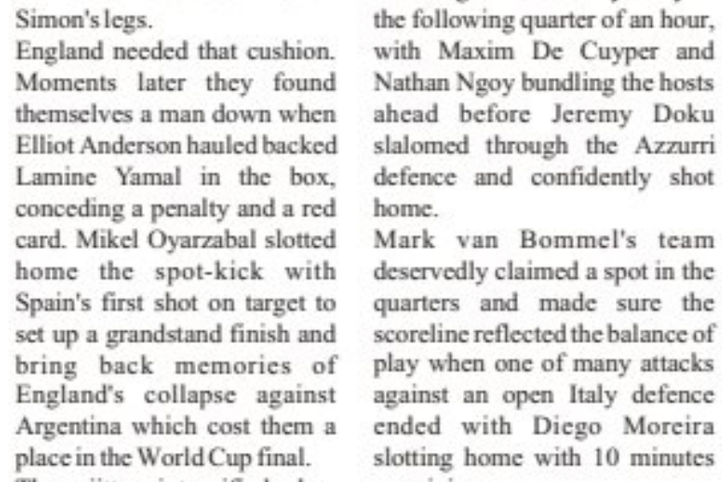
But the Three Lions ended up down to 10 men and hanging on by their finger nails before inflicting on Spain a first defeat in a competitive fixture since March 2023.

Asked by ITV whether this was England's best performance of his reign as coach, Tuchel said: "Under the circumstances against who and where we played, yeah."

"(We showed) what we are made of and what we can do," added Tuchel, saying his team were motivated by their third place at the World Cup.

"We are always ready to push our limits. We had our best result in 60 years and we weren't happy with it. It's impressive what we did in the last two camps."

Harry Kane put the away side deservedly ahead on the stroke of half time, netting from the penalty spot, his record-



extending 93rd England goal.

Ezri Konsa struck just after the break before Ben White gave England a barely-believable lead in the 57th minute when he latched onto Jude Bellingham's pass and finished between Unai Simon's legs.

England needed that cushion. Moments later they found themselves a man down when Elliot Anderson hauled backed Lamine Yamal in the box, conceding a penalty and a red card. Mikel Oyarzabal slotted home the spot-kick with Spain's first shot on target to set up a grandstand finish and bring back memories of England's collapse against Argentina which cost them a place in the World Cup final.

Those jitters intensified when Nico Williams slammed home Lamine Yamal's inch-perfect cross with 15 minutes remaining, but England just about held out under a Spanish onslaught.

Belgium rout Italy

Sitting third in Group A1 ahead of kick-off and needing a win to qualify for the last eight, Belgium had their backs up against the wall when Francesco Pio Esposito volleyed Italy ahead in the 11th minute.

But Belgium blew Italy away in the following quarter of an hour, with Maxim De Cuyper and Nathan Ngoy bundling the hosts ahead before Jeremy Doku slalomed through the Azzurri defence and confidently shot home.

Mark van Bommel's team deservedly claimed a spot in the quarters and made sure the scoreline reflected the balance of play when one of many attacks against an open Italy defence ended with Diego Moreira slotting home with 10 minutes remaining.

A dismal night for Italy, who were top of the group after beating France last time out and just needed a draw to go through, was made even worse when Senne Lammens saved Esposito's weak late penalty.



India's Jay Shah re-elected ICC chairman for second term

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Jay Shah has been re-elected unopposed for a second term as chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the governing body announced on Monday following its board meeting in Bali.

Shah, a former secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), first took charge as ICC chairman in 2024 at the age of 35, becoming the youngest person to hold the position.

During his second two-year term, Shah will oversee preparations for cricket's return to the Olympic Games at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

He described cricket's return to the Olympics as an extraordinary opportunity to introduce the sport to new audiences and inspire a new generation of players and fans. In a statement, Shah expressed gratitude to the ICC Board for its continued confidence and support, saying he considered the position both a privilege and a responsibility.

He said he remained committed to working with ICC members to advance the interests of cricket worldwide.Shah added that cricket was entering one of the most important and exciting periods in its history, with its return to the Olympic Games at LA28 offering an opportunity to expand the sport's global audience.

He said the ICC's responsibility extended beyond organising successful events, emphasising the need to build a stronger and more sustainable future for cricket while keeping fans, players, commercial partners and other stakeholders in focus.



ICC board unveils roadmap for international cricket until 2035

Web Desk

DUBAI

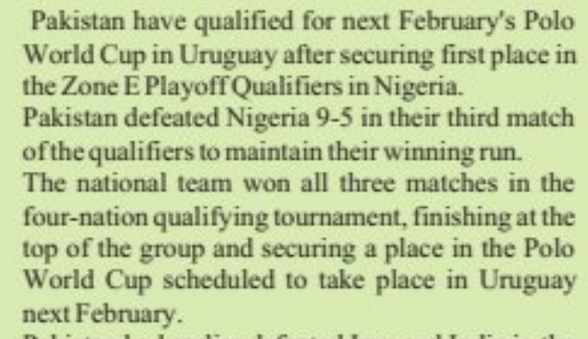
The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved the schedule and qualification formats for major global cricket events up to 2035.

According to the ICC, qualification formats have been approved for the 2027 ODI World Cup and the 2028 T20 World Cup. The qualification process for the 2028 Women's T20 World Cup has also been finalised.

The ICC has also approved holding the qualifying-stage matches for cricket at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in the United States and Bangladesh.

The statement said the 2029 World Test Championship final will be played in England, with June 8 to 12 set as the dates.

The ICC said the decision aims to create more opportunities in global cricket and improve qualification pathways for member nations.



Pakistan qualify for polo world cup after beating Nigeria 9-5

WEB DESK

NIGERIA

Pakistan have qualified for next February's Polo World Cup in Uruguay after securing first place in the Zone E Playoff Qualifiers in Nigeria.

Pakistan defeated Nigeria 9-5 in their third match of the qualifiers to maintain their winning run.

The national team won all three matches in the four-nation qualifying tournament, finishing at the top of the group and securing a place in the Polo World Cup scheduled to take place in Uruguay next February.

Pakistan had earlier defeated Iran and India in the qualifying competition.

CamScanner



Additional Rs2.35b approved to cover Punjab CM's plane

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Punjab government has approved an additional Rs2.35billion to meet the rising expenses of the Gulfstream aircraft used by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. According to official documents obtained by Dunya News, the provincial cabinet has ratified the approval of additional funds to cover the operational and other expenses of the VIP aircraft.

The documents reveal that the Punjab government sought additional financial resources in view of the increased cost of maintaining and operating the aircraft. Subsequently, Rs2.35 billion was approved on an emergency basis.

Sources said the additional allocation is specifically intended to meet the expenses of the Gulfstream aircraft currently being used by the chief minister.

The approval has brought renewed attention to government spending on the aircraft, with questions emerging over the use of public funds and the financial burden associated with its operation.

Bushra Bibi moves IHC seeking hospital transfer for eye treatment

● Bushra Bibi has approached the IHC seeking transfer to a specialised hospital, citing severe vision problems, eye pain and concerns over medical care at Adiala Jail.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



A petition has been filed in the Islamabad High Court seeking the transfer of Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder Imran Khan, to a specialised hospital for medical treatment following concerns over her deteriorating eyesight.

Bushra Bibi approached the high court through lawyers Latif Khosa and Barrister Salman Safdar, requesting that authorities be directed to submit her complete medical record and ensure timely provision of all necessary medical and surgical facilities.

The petition also sought arrangements for her immediate transfer to a reputable specialised hospital for proper medical care and treatment.

According to the petition, Imran Khan informed Bushra Bibi during a meeting on November 10 about the seriousness of her health condition. She also reportedly told him on November 15 about a possible eye surgery, saying she was experiencing vision difficulties and pain in her eye.

The petition stated that a medical examination was conducted by a doctor at the jail seven to eight days after she complained of eye pain. Bushra Bibi was reportedly informed that she required critical surgery and that the procedure could result in the loss of vision in the affected eye.

A detailed report of the meeting held at Adiala Jail on November 11, 2026, was also submitted to the court along with the petition.

According to the application, cataracts have been diagnosed in both Bushra Bibi's eyes, while jail authorities had indicated that her operation was expected to take place on November 15, 2026.

The petition stated that Bushra Bibi disclosed during the meeting that her eyesight had been severely affected and she could no longer see without glasses. Even with glasses, she could reportedly recognise people sitting in front of her only as dark shapes.

It further stated that she was experiencing severe eye pain and taking two tablets each of Panadol and Tonoflex daily to manage the discomfort.

The application alleged that despite repeated complaints to jail authorities, specialist doctors arrived for her medical examination only after seven to eight days.

It also raised concerns about poor sanitation in the large hall-like room where Bushra Bibi is being held. According to the petition, insects, cockroaches and caterpillars were present in her room.

The petition further claimed that seven small snakes had previously emerged from the room, after which the affected openings were sealed with cement.

It maintained that the doctor available at the jail was a gynaecologist rather than an eye specialist. The application warned that poor sanitation and the risk of insect bites could lead to post-surgical infection, potentially causing permanent loss of eyesight.

FCC allows PHC to hear Article 199 cases except governor's rule, MPO petitions

● Federal Constitutional Court amends its stay order on MPO arrests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, clarifies Peshawar High Court's jurisdiction and adjourns proceedings indefinitely.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Constitutional Court has amended its stay order concerning arrests under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court Aminuddin Khan and Justice Aamir Farooq heard the case and approved a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) petition, modifying its November 5 stay order.

During the hearing, PTI lawyer Barrister Gohar argued that the constitutional court's November 5 order had affected proceedings before the Peshawar High Court and brought lawyers' professional practice to a halt.

FCC restricts Peshawar High Court from hearing 3-MPO arrest cases

The constitutional court observed that its stay order concerned matters relating to governor's rule and the MPO, adding that the Peshawar High Court could continue hearing other cases under Article 199 of the Constitution.

Justice Aamir Farooq remarked that a straightforward reading of Article 245 suggested that cases under Article 199 could not be heard. However, he said that adopting a plain reading of Article 245 would bring the entire judicial system to a standstill.

The court also allowed the Peshawar Bar Council to become a party to the proceedings.

Barrister Gohar requested relief in cases involving arrests under Section 3 of the MPO, arguing that a review board had not yet been established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advocate General informed the court that the review board would be constituted after three months.

During an exchange with Barrister Gohar, Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan said that the miscellaneous applications had



Iran offers to help end Saudi-Yemen conflict, urges political solution

■ Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi calls for diplomacy to resolve tensions with the US, regional cooperation, and practical measures to protect Palestinians.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that the dispute between Iran and the United States cannot be resolved through threats or military action, stressing that diplomacy and negotiations offer the only viable path towards ending the conflict.

Addressing a meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Foreign Ministers, Araghchi appreciated the diplomatic efforts made by Pakistan and Qatar to resolve the Iran-US dispute. He emphasized the need to strengthen regional communication and promote collective efforts among neighbouring countries.

Araghchi said that the US and Israeli attack on Iran had created insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, adding that the strategic waterway could not be viewed separately from Iran.

He urged regional countries not to allow their territories to be used for attacks against other states. He also called for the establishment of a regional security framework based on the principle of non-aggression.

The Iranian foreign minister further stressed that preventing interference by external powers in the region was essential. He said sustainable regional cooperation was crucial to restoring maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Commenting on the situation in Gaza, Araghchi described it as alarming and called on Israel to lift restrictions on humanitarian aid. He said the plight of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank raised serious questions for the international community.

He urged the international community to take practical measures to protect Palestinians rather than remain silent.

Araghchi also announced that the 18th ECO Summit would be held in Tehran on December 4.

India staged false flag operation in attempt to defame Pakistan: PA speaker

■ The speaker stressed that the nation must remain united in the face of regional and international security challenges.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan has said India attempted to defame Pakistan internationally through a fabricated false flag operation.

Addressing a public rally here on Sunday, Malik Ahmed Khan said that 62 countries had sought evidence from India regarding the alleged false flag operation.

He said that Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) had already made it clear that if India initiated a war, Pakistan would bring it to an end.

The Punjab Assembly Speaker also said that Pakistani fighter pilots had shot down some of the world's most advanced aircraft, despite Indian warplanes being regarded as among the best globally.

He added that Pakistan's armed forces had severely disrupted India's air defence system.

Addressing Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Malik Ahmed Khan expressed solidarity with the military leadership, saying that the entire nation stood behind him.

He added that the threat of war was looming across the world, making national unity, solidarity and cohesion essential in the prevailing global situation.

The speaker stressed that the nation must remain united in the face of regional and international security challenges.

Multan emerges as most polluted city of Pakistan

■ Air pollution has engulfed various cities in Pakistan, with several Pakistani cities joining the list of the most polluted cities in the world

WEB DESK

LAHORE

Air pollution has engulfed various cities in Pakistan, with several Pakistani cities joining the list of the most polluted cities in the world.

Air pollution has reached alarming levels across several Pakistani cities, with Multan emerging as the most polluted city of Pakistan, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 277, according to an air quality report.

Gujrat ranked second with an AQI of 275, followed by Faisalabad at 233, Gujranwala at 230, Bahawalpur at 227, Sialkot at 221 and Peshawar at 209.

Meanwhile, Lahore ranked eighth among the world's most polluted cities, recording an AQI of 191, while Karachi secured ninth position with an AQI of 173.

The rising pollution levels have raised concerns over public health, particularly for children, elderly people and individuals suffering from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Health experts advise citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, wear protective masks when going outside and limit strenuous physical activities in polluted environments.

Authorities and citizens are urged to take precautionary measures to reduce exposure to hazardous air pollution and protect public health.



A craftsman is busy carving decorative designs on a marble gravestone at a roadside workshop in the city

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