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Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Endeavour Group.

Turkish air force chief calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

■ General Rafet Dalkiran meets Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ as Pakistan and Türkiye discuss regional security and stronger defence cooperation.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

General Rafet Dalkiran, Commander of the Turkish Air Force, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS and CDF) of Pakistan, at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security dynamics and opportunities to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Field Marshal Asim Munir highlighted the deep-rooted historical, cultural and strategic ties between the two countries,



reaffirming the importance of their longstanding relationship.

He also appreciated the strong defence partnership between the armed forces of Pakistan and Türkiye, underscoring the close military ties and continued cooperation between the two brotherly nations.

General Dalkiran reciprocated the commitment to strengthening bilateral defence relations and expressed appreciation for the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan explore ways to boost bilateral ties, regional

■ DPM Dar and Turkmen FM Meredov co-chair 6th session of joint inter-governmental commission, says FO

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a tête-à-tête with Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Ovezgeldiyevich Meredov in Islamabad. The two officials reviewed the longstanding and fraternal relations between the two countries, according to a statement issued by the Foreign



Office. During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, regional connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.

The two ministers also exchanged views on regional developments. Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored that dialogue and diplomacy remained the only viable means of resolving outstanding issues and achieving lasting peace and stability in the region. Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov appreciated Pakistan's constructive role and continued diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and stability. Joint inter-governmental commission meeting Following the one-on-one meeting, the 6th Session of the Pakistan–Turkmenistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission was held, during which the two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral co-operation and discussed the opportunities for power co-operation, transit trade and regional connectivity.

During the meeting, co-chaired by DPM Dar and Turkmen FM Meredov, the two sides underscored the importance of stronger business-to-business engagement, institutional partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges.



PTI's Taimur Jhagra, Kamran Bangash, Irfan Saleem arrested in Radio Pakistan attack case

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

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Police on Tuesday arrested three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, Taimur Saleem Jhagra and Kamran Bangash, along with Irfan Saleem, in the Radio Pakistan attack case.

The former ministers were taken into custody outside the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

According to police, Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Farhan Khan was present at the high court's main entrance with a contingent when the arrests were made.

They said that three leaders had reached the high court to seek interim bail after an anti-terrorism court dismissed their bail applications in the Radio Pakistan attack case. They were present in the high court's bar room before being taken into custody.

The PHC had earlier approved their applications for interim bail.

It may be noted that the Punjab Forensic Science Laboratory report, sought by an ATC in the Radio Pakistan attack case, earlier this year confirmed the presence of several PTI leaders, including Saleem, in footage relating to the May 9, 2023 incidents.

Forced division of Sindh will spill blood in Karachi, Hyderabad, warns Bilawal

■ PPP chairman says new provinces must follow constitutional, democratic, legal procedure

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has warned that if Sindh is divided by force, questions will be asked about the blood spilled on the streets in Karachi and Hyderabad.

Addressing an event at the Karachi Press Club, Bilawal said: "If the province is divided by force, society will be divided, it will lead to enmity, ordinary people will take up arms, and the bloodshed will not be limited to a single death."

He said the PPP supports the creation of provinces in line with the wishes of the people, the Constitution and the law. "Where



we are opposing, it is over force and coercion. We do not want division through force," he said.

Bilawal said the Constitution already lays down a procedure, and that suggesting a referendum amounted to looking for an unconstitutional method. "If you are looking for an unconstitutional method, how can the PPP be with you" he asked.

He said referendums in Pakistan's history had been held for undemocratic purposes. "It is not about a referendum, it is about intent," he said.

Referring to a provincial minister's call for a referendum, he said: "Hold a referendum in your own assembly first." He added that the Sindh Assembly had stated its position on the division of Sindh "not once, but ten times".

The PPP chairman said he had not been consulted on the creation of provinces. "As far as making provinces is concerned, I have not been spoken to," he said. He added that the constitutional, democratic and legal procedure had not been followed. "I do not know what Mohsin bhai is trying to do," he said.

Bilawal said neither the prime minister nor the cabinet had said anything about the provinces, and that the matter had not even been debated in the cabinet, let alone parliament. "When such things are done through back doors, they do not last forever," he said.

Rangers official martyred in firing near Rawalakot bus terminal

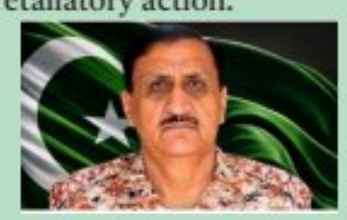
■ Rangers Deputy Superintendent Barkat was killed after armed men opened fire near Rawalakot's bus terminal; four attackers were killed in retaliatory action.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Law enforcement personnel remain deployed in Rawalakot and surrounding areas to maintain public order and protect residents, while armed individuals are reportedly attempting to disrupt security measures through violence and intimidation.

According to the report, armed men opened indiscriminate fire on law enforcement personnel deployed near the Matyalmera Bus Terminal at around 10:30am on Tuesday. Pakistan Rangers Deputy Superintendent Barkat was



shot in the head and seriously injured.

The injured officer was immediately shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Rawalakot, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Law enforcement agencies responded to the attack and killed four armed men, according to the report. An operation was under way to restore control of the situation in the area.

Pakistan-Türkiye Strengthen Strategic Defence Partnership Through Enhanced

■ Air Chiefs discuss operational collaboration, advanced aerospace technologies, unmanned systems, electronic warfare, joint training and indigenous defence innovation to deepen bilateral military ties and reinforce regional security.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A high-level defence delegation led by General Rafet Dalkiran, Commander Turkish Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The engagement focused on translating the longstanding strategic partnership between the two brotherly nations into enhanced operational collaboration, technological cooperation and a shared vision to address contemporary air power challenges.Upon arrival at Air Headquarters, the Turkish Air Force Commander was accorded a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air



Force.During the meeting, the Air Chief highlighted that the Pakistan-Turkiye partnership, founded on shared history, common values and mutual trust, has evolved into a robust strategic relationship with considerable potential for expansion in the defence and aerospace domains. He apprised the visiting dignitary of PAF's ongoing transformation into a technologically advanced, multi domain Air Force, driven by capability-centric modernization, indigenous innovation and investment in next-generation operational concepts. Chief of the Air Staff also assured the visiting dignitary of PAF's all out support in the domains of pilot training, professional development and capacity building endeavours of the Turkish Air Force. Both Air Chiefs identified substantial opportunities for elevating bilateral defence cooperation in unmanned and autonomous systems, electronic warfare, advanced aerospace technologies and indigenous research, development and production. They also stressed the importance of institutionalized professional exchanges, integrated training programmes and joint exercises to enhance interoperability and foster greater operational synergy between the two Air Forces.The Turkish Air Chief acknowledged Pakistan Air Force's remarkable professional standing, operational proficiency and combat experience.

CamScanner

NDMA warns of drought in several districts of Sindh, Balochistan

- The NDMA said that temperatures in the affected districts of the province were 1 degree Celsius to 3 degrees Celsius above normal.



SPECIAL REPORTER

QUETTA

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday issued a high alert about drought in several districts of Sindh and two districts of Balochistan due to below normal rainfall, prolonged dry weather and increase in temperatures,

In its alert, the NDMA said that there was a serious risk of drought in Umarkot, Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas and Sujawal districts of the province.

The Authority informed that in view of risk of drought in the above-mentioned districts, the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) was constantly monitoring the situation.

It went on to say that Chaghi and Washuk districts of Balochistan faced a similar situation.

The NDMA said that temperatures in the affected districts of the province were 1 degree Celsius to 3 degrees Celsius above normal.

It drew attention to the fact that the shortage of water had seriously impacted crop production and agricultural activities in these districts.

The Authority urged the concerned departments to take appropriate measures for the protection of people, crops and cattle.



Labourers engage in construction work on the service road project connecting from Faizabad to Gulberg Green along expressway in federal capital

Islamabad makes vehicle fitness certificates mandatory from December 1

- Islamabad Traffic Police makes fitness certificates compulsory for all vehicles and announces a crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles from December 1.

SPECIAL REPORTER

QUETTA

Vehicle fitness certificates have been made mandatory in the federal capital, with a crackdown on smoke-emitting vehicles set to begin on December 1.

To make Islamabad smog-free and control air pollution, the Islamabad Traffic Police has decided to tighten measures concerning vehicle fitness and exhaust emissions.

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan, attended by representatives of the Islamabad-Rawalpindi Goods Transport Union and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce. The participants discussed vehicle fitness, measures to eliminate smog



and enforcement of traffic laws.

According to the traffic police spokesperson, the meeting decided to make fitness certificates compulsory for all vehicles in Islamabad. The transport union was also directed to ensure that its vehicles became smog-free by November 30.

Chief Traffic Officer Kainat Azhar Khan warned that strict legal action would be taken against smoke-emitting vehicles after the deadline. She said vehicles emitting smoke posed a serious threat to human health, adding that making the federal capital smog-free was a priority and protecting human lives remained the foremost concern of Islamabad Traffic Police.

The meeting also made it mandatory for vehicles carrying sand, gravel and cement to cover their loads with tarpaulins. Action will be taken against those violating the requirement.

The chief traffic officer said action against overloaded vehicles was already under way without discrimination and that a crackdown would be launched against vehicles violating traffic regulations after the deadline.

Meanwhile, transport union representatives assured the Islamabad Traffic Police of their full cooperation in efforts to eliminate smog and ensure compliance with traffic laws.

Referendum on new provinces has no constitutional status: Sharjeel

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon has reiterated that the provincial government stands firm on its position regarding the creation of new provinces, stressing that the Constitution clearly outlines the legal procedure for establishing a new province.

Speaking to the media here on Monday, Memon said that a referendum has no constitutional status in this matter. He explained that under the Constitution the decision to create a new province rests with the assembly of the province concerned and requires a majority vote.

He added that the prime minister had not yet issued any statement regarding the proposed creation of new provinces.

The provincial minister said that political and constitutional matters should be resolved through legal and democratic channels rather than street protests.

Responding to calls for a referendum, Memon remarked that such sensitive matters could not be settled through lotteries, coin tosses or other arbitrary methods, emphasising that the Constitution and law must prevail.

Commenting on the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Memon said that its leaders should listen carefully to public concerns and stressed that terrorism must not be allowed to return. He also criticised past political figures for allegedly defending the May 12 tragedy on television while people were losing their lives.

Private DNA test cannot deprive child of family lineage, rules LHC

- Says child born of wedlock is legally legitimate: Also upholds verdict of dowry return

SPECIAL REPORTER

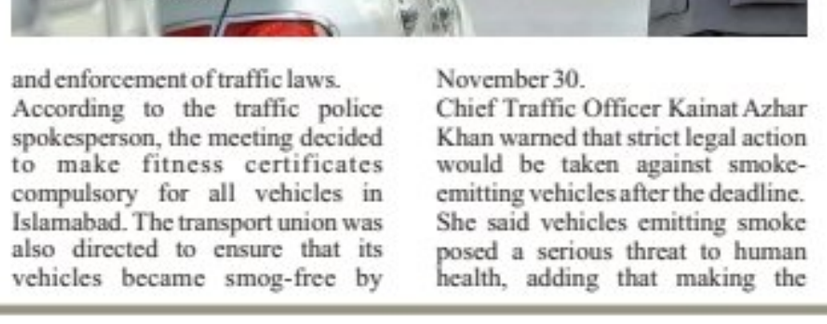
LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday said that a private DNA test of a child could not deprive him or her of his or her lineage,

In an eight-page verdict, penned down by Justice Asad Ali Bajwa on the petition filed by Osama Tahir and others, it was stated that the child born of a wedlock was legally legitimate.

The high court further said that conducting DNA test of a child without the permission of the mother of that child or high court ruling was a violation of privacy.

The court noted that if the culture of accepting DNA reports was allowed to take roots, this would



lead to chaos in society. "A man can only get the DNA test of his child conducted within 40 days of the birth of that child," it said, adding, "The DNA test conducted four months after the birth of a child has no legal value."

The LHC was of the view that the wellbeing of a child was first and foremost, and that the DNA test could not be ordered in ordinary circumstances. "A child's privacy and wellbeing are over and above all other things," it said.

The court rejected the petitions filed by Osama and others, and upheld the judgements given by lower courts.

It rejected the request made to withhold the expenses of a son on the basis of a DNA test, and upheld the lower courts judgements wherein the monthly expenses of the son had been raised from Rs10,000 to Rs25,000.

The court also ordered that monthly expenses to be given to the son would increase by 10 per cent every year.

In another decision, the court upheld the decision of the return of dowry, adding that in case dowry was not returned, Rs970,000 would have to be paid. .

Adiala Jail denies reports of seven snakes found in Bushra Bibi's cell

SPECIAL REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



The Adiala Jail administration has denied reports claiming that seven small snakes were found in the cell of Bushra Bibi, describing the reports as baseless and fabricated.

According to the jail administration's spokesperson, no incident involving the discovery of seven snakes in a female prisoner's cell had occurred at the Central Jail. The spokesperson said reports circulating on social media and in some media outlets were contrary to the facts.The spokesperson said necessary measures were taken to ensure the safety and health of all prisoners, particularly female inmates.

MQM links uplift to new provinces, administrative units

- Siddiqui urged people to unite and launch a collective struggle for the creation of new administrative units.

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has called for the establishment of new administrative units and provinces in line with population, saying the move is essential for the country's development.

Addressing a gathering here on Monday, Siddiqui urged people to unite and launch a collective struggle for the creation of new administrative units.He also called for public support through a genuine referendum at Shahrah-e-Faisal.

He said Karachi contributes 66 percent of the revenue to the federal government and 97 percent to Sindh, yet the city continues to face a shortage of basic facilities and is being denied its legitimate rights.The MQM chairman said the feudal system and political monopoly of a few families were major obstacles to the country's development.

He also termed the undercounting of Karachi's actual population in the census unfair to its residents.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111223423 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates

Tender Fee PKR and Bid Security 2%

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Repair and Renovation of BRDA Buildings	2,850,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 1,995,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 04 December, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 04 December, 2026till 10:30 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:30 AM Address: RDA COMPLEX NEAR JABLE-E-NOOR WESTERN BYPASS ROAD QUETTA

Phone no: 3219018796Fax no: 9213263

Email: brdaquetta9@gmail.com

Deputy Director BALOCHISTAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

DPRQ/PRQ No.2496/17-11-2026

بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ضابطہ فوجداری پاکستان ہمراہ دفعہ (10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ

ATC نمبر 49/26 FIR نمبر 11/26 سرکار بنام: محمد نواز وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 365,A,147,148,149 CTD سیوی P/S

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمیان (1) محمد نواز ولد علی محمد قوم دشتی سکنہ بھاگ (2) میر حسن بارہ ولد عبدالمجید قوم بالہ سکنہ کنھن (3) شاہ اللہ شیرازی ولد گل بہار شیرازی قوم ہوتی سکنہ ستی بولان (4) منیر احمد عرف منیر ولد دوستین قوم عمرانی ہوتی سکنہ ستی بولان (5) سرجا احمد عرف سرا جو قوم عمرانی ہ معلوم سکنہ ستی (6) شفیع محمد شفو ولد دین محمد قوم ابڑو سکنہ بھاگ جرم بالا کے جس کی سزا مذکورہ بالا دفعات میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا ان کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران بالا دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکوران بالا فرار ہوگئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران کو لازم ہے کہ وہ بتاریخ 26-11-2026 عدالت ہذا بمقام ڈھاڈر نالش مذکور کی قلمبندی کیلئے حاضر ہوں مفرور ملزمان کی جانب سے مسٹر خیر محمد مری ایڈوکیٹ کو کونسل مقرر کیا جاتا ہے۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

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بعدالت اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ضابطہ فوجداری پاکستان ہمراہ دفعہ (10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ

ATC نمبر 45/26 FIR نمبر 21/26 سرکار بنام: منیر وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (i) (a) 11F (1) (2) ATA CTD سیوی P/S

ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمیان (1) منیر ولد اسماعیل خان قوم جتوئی سکنہ بھاگ کچھی (2) قربان ولد بنگر قوم تالانی سکنہ گوڑی لہڑی (3) حبیب اللہ عرف لاغری ولد انور خان قوم شاہیجہ سکنہ ستی بولان (4) وڈیرہ مزمل ولد وڈیرہ نہال جتوئی سکنہ ستی (5) ترجمان UBA محمد اسماعیل عرف مزار بلوچ ولد خیر بخش قوم لاگھو سکنہ پولیس لائن قلات جرم بالا کے جس کی سزا مذکورہ بالا دفعات میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا ان کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران بالا دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکوران بالا فرار ہوگئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران کو لازم ہے کہ وہ بتاریخ 26-11-2026 عدالت ہذا بمقام ڈھاڈر نالش مذکور کی قلمبندی کیلئے حاضر ہوں مفرور ملزمان کی جانب سے مسٹر خیر محمد مری ایڈوکیٹ کو کونسل مقرر کیا جاتا ہے۔

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اشتہار زیر دفعہ 87 ضابطہ فوجداری پاکستان ہمراہ دفعہ (10) 19 انسداد دہشتگردی ایکٹ

ATC نمبر 47/26 FIR نمبر 08/26 سرکار بنام: ذاکر وغیرہ

جرم زیر دفعہ 7 (1) (b,d,h,i) ATA CTD سیوی P/S ہرگاہ ہمارے روبرو نالش پیش ہوئی ہے کہ مسمیان (1) ذاکر ولد گل جان قوم گہرانزئی ہوتی (2) مشتاق عرف آقا ولد صوبیدار سکنہ ستی بولان قوم جتوئی جرم بالا کے جس کی سزا مذکورہ بالا دفعات میں مقرر ہے مرتکب ہوئے ہیں (یا ان کے ارتکاب پر شبہ ہے) اور از روئے ریژن یعنی کیفیت تعمیل وارنٹ گرفتاری کے جو بطبق اس نالش کے جاری ہوا تھا معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران بالا دستیاب نہیں ہوسکتے اور ہرگاہ حسب اطمینان ہمارے ثابت ہوا ہے کہ مذکوران بالا فرار ہوگئے ہیں یا انہوں نے وارنٹ کی تعمیل سے گریز کرنے کیلئے اپنے تئیں روپوش کیا ہے لہذا اس اشتہار کی رو سے حکم دیا جاتا ہے کہ مسمیان مذکوران کو لازم ہے کہ وہ بتاریخ 26-11-2026 عدالت ہذا بمقام ڈھاڈر نالش مذکور کی قلمبندی کیلئے حاضر ہوں مفرور ملزمان کی جانب سے مسٹر خیر محمد مری ایڈوکیٹ کو کونسل مقرر کیا جاتا ہے۔

اسپیشل جج انسداد دہشتگردی کورٹ کچھی بمقام ڈھاڈر

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CamScanner

Global Trade at a Crossroads

The latest developments in international trade relations involving China, the United States, Canada and Mexico reflect the growing importance of economic diplomacy in an increasingly uncertain global environment. At a time when protectionist policies, tariff disputes and geopolitical rivalries are reshaping international commerce, major economies are attempting to protect their national interests while keeping the doors open for cooperation. The first meeting of the China-US Trade Council and the renewed efforts by Washington and Ottawa to reach a trade agreement are significant developments that could influence the future direction of global trade.The meeting between Chinese and American representatives is particularly important because economic relations between the world's two largest economies have a direct impact on international markets, supply chains, agricultural exports and business confidence.

Discussions on tariff reductions, agricultural trade and the proposed reciprocal $30 billion-for-$30 billion tariff arrangement indicate that both sides recognise the need to address outstanding economic differences. Although no final agreement was announced, the decision to continue using the Trade Council as a platform for resolving disputes is a positive indication that diplomatic engagement remains possible despite persistent disagreements.The proposed $60 billion package of reciprocal tariff reductions, which emerged following the September summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Washington, represents an important opportunity to reduce trade barriers. Its agricultural component is particularly significant for American farmers, who depend heavily on international markets for their products. China's proposed purchase of approximately $17 billion worth of US agricultural goods annually through 2028 could provide substantial support to American agricultural exporters.

However, the reported decline in Chinese purchases of American farm products other than soybeans highlights the gap between diplomatic commitments and actual trade performance.This gap must be addressed if both countries genuinely wish to restore confidence in their economic relationship. Trade agreements cannot succeed through political announcements alone; they require transparent implementation, predictable policies and mutual respect for commitments. Beijing's insistence that Washington first implement the proposed tariff-reduction arrangement before expecting increased agricultural purchases reflects a broader principle of international

Digitalization, crypto and rethinking Pakistan's identity architecture



By: Faisal Aziz Gill

Pakistan's telecom sector has been a cornerstone of digital expansion. Mobile connectivity widened access, reduced transaction costs, and enabled the rise of branchless banking and mobile wallets. As digital services deepen and financial activity migrates to mobile platforms, however, a structural weakness has become increasingly visible: Pakistan continues to treat telecom connectivity as a substitute for digital identity. This conflation was never intentional, but it has become a growing constraint on trust, scale, and long-term digital growth.

Across banking, payments, and mobile wallets, SIM cards have gradually assumed an unintended role as identity proxies, used for authentication, account recovery, and access control. SIMs were designed to connect devices to networks, not individuals to systems of value. Expecting them to perform both roles is no longer viable in a mature digital economy. The challenge Pakistan faces is not unique, but most advanced digital economies have already resolved it through deliberate structural separation.

In the European Union, financial access is anchored in state-grade digital identity frameworks under the electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services Regulation (eIDAS), reinforced through device-based authentication, while SMS-based verification has been explicitly downgraded due to its vulnerability. Singapore relies on its national digital identity system, SingPass, as the primary trust anchor for financial and government services, using telecom data only as a contextual risk signal. The United Kingdom and Australia have followed similar paths, moving away from SIM-centric security models and treating SIM-swap events as indicators of potential fraud rather than legitimate authentication. Across these systems, a consistent principle applies: SIMs enable access, while digital identity secures value. Pakistan has yet to formalize this separation, and the regulatory and economic cost of delay continues to rise.

SIM cards are transferable, replaceable, and commercially issued, with lifecycles optimized for speed and availability rather than assurance. These characteristics make them effective tools for connectivity but unsuitable foundations for identity. When possession of a SIM is treated as proof of identity, digital platforms inherit structural fragility by design. The resulting failures—account takeovers, recovery abuse, and agent-level manipulation—are often framed as enforcement gaps, when they in fact reflect a deeper design flaw: reliance on the wrong trust anchor. No degree of supervision can compensate for an identity model that was never designed to secure financial value.

Pakistan's push toward digitalization and mobile wallets has been a success story. Millions now rely on mobile platforms for payments, savings, and everyday transactions. Yet this success has also exposed the limits of SIM-based trust. As transaction volumes rise and wallets begin to store real value, identity assurance becomes the binding constraint. Without a financial-grade digital identity, mobile wallets face higher fraud losses, increased customer churn, regulatory hesitation to expand use cases, and growing international credibility concerns. In contrast, countries that anchored wallet ecosystems to national digital identity systems were able to scale safely, introduce new services, and attract long-term investment.

In modern digital states, identity is treated as public infrastructure rather than a feature embedded in private platforms. A mature framework separates three functions with precision: digital identity anchored in a state-grade system, connectivity delivered by telecom networks, and risk signaling, where telecom events inform safeguards without conferring authority. For Pakistan, this requires a coordinated national approach. NADRA becomes the root provider of digital identity—biometric, verifiable, and reusable across public and private services—while telecom operators, under PTA oversight, remain providers of access and identity-related risk signals rather than guarantors of identity itself. Banks, mobile wallets, and digital platforms then bind accounts to digital identity and secure devices instead of phone numbers, with regulators and enforcement agencies overseeing compliance through clear legal frameworks without expanding surveillance. Any such transition must be phased and inclusive, recognizing differences in digital literacy, device access, and regional connectivity so that citizens are migrated gradually rather than excluded abruptly. This is substitution, not disruption: replacing a fragile trust model with a durable one while preserving institutional boundaries and commercial roles.Buy Maps

For the telecom sector, separating identity from connectivity is not a threat but a strategic release. Over time, mobile networks have been pulled into identity and financial risk domains they were never designed to manage, exposing operators to reputational pressure, customer disputes, and implicit liability for downstream failures. A clear separation restores balance. Telecom operators are relieved of unintended identity responsibility and can refocus on growth areas that modern markets reward, including data services, digital platforms, enterprise solutions, internet-of-things connectivity, cloud services, and fintech partnerships. In economies that adopted this model, reduced fraud improved customer retention while regulatory clarity enabled faster innovation. Connectivity becomes a stable foundation on which multiple digital industries can scale, without telecoms being burdened as de facto identity providers.

Equally important, the transition from SIM-based identification to national digital identity provides the enabling layer for Pakistan's emerging cryptocurrency framework under the Virtual Assets Ordinance, 2025, and the establishment of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA). By anchoring access to verified digital identity rather than telecom credentials, regulators can expand licensed crypto activity—from custodial wallets to stablecoin-based remittances—without increasing systemic risk. This approach shifts crypto oversight from defensive containment to structured expansion, allowing innovation to scale within clear regulatory boundaries. In practical terms, digital identity becomes the foundation that makes responsible virtual-asset growth both credible and sustainable.

The policy decision before Pakistan is not whether SIMs should disappear; they remain essential to connectivity. The question is whether the state is prepared to stop asking connectivity tools to perform the work of identity.

Pakistan's E-Gaming Industry From Local Arcades to a Global Powerhouse



By: Shabana Mehmood

Over the past decade, Pakistan's e-gaming and esports landscape has transformed from a niche hobby tucked inside dimly lit neighborhood arcades and internet cafés into a multi-million-dollar economic engine and a dominant force on the international competitive stage. Historically, gaming in Pakistan relied on grassroots "gaming zones" in cities like Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad, where enthusiasts gathered around shared PCs and consoles to compete in Counter-Strike, Dota, and Tekken. Because international sponsorships, high-speed internet, and institutional support were scarce, these communities operated largely in isolation. Today, that isolation has vanished. Fueled by widespread smartphone penetration, affordable mobile data, and a massive youth demographic, with over 60% of the population under 30, Pakistan has emerged as one of the fastest-growing gaming markets in the world. By 2026, the country's gamer base has surpassed 50 million active players, while its local game development sector generates an estimated $400 million to $480 million in annual export value. Alongside this commercial boom, Pakistani esports athletes have shocked the global competitive community by capturing world championships, proving that raw talent and community-driven competition can rival the world's best-funded esports ecosystems. Pakistan's e-gaming industry spans two distinct yet interconnected pillars: competitive esports and game development and publishing. Together, they represent a high-growth digital frontier with immense untapped economic potential. Smartphones account for roughly 60% of all gaming activity in Pakistan. Accessible free-to-play titles like PUBG Mobile and Garena Free Fire have democratized competitive gaming, letting players from tier-two and tier-three cities compete in national qualifiers without expensive PC rigs. Pakistan is home to over 300 active gaming studios and development houses. Focusing heavily on hyper-casual, casual, and simulation titles, Pakistani developers have collectively amassed billions of downloads on global app stores. Industry analyses project sustained double-digit compound annual growth through 2028, driven by rising global demand for mobile entertainment and outsourced 3D art, animation, and game engineering. The rise of local gaming influencers on YouTube, Facebook Gaming, and TikTok has created a secondary economy around live streaming, tournament casting, and brand sponsorships. Major telecom operators, smartphone manufacturers, and beverage brands now routinely sponsor domestic leagues and collegiate tournaments. Despite generating hundreds of millions of dollars globally, industry experts note that a substantial portion of game-development export revenue remains parked in offshore accounts due to restrictive payment gateways, complex foreign-exchange regulations, and limited access to venture capital. Streamlining international payment channels and formalizing national esports federations remain critical to unlocking the industry's full economic scale. Studios, Organizations, and Ecosystem Builders. Behind the players is a growing network of studios, tournament organizers, and esports organizations that have built the infrastructure Pakistani talent needs to thrive. Companies such as Mindstorm Studios, Tintash,



we.R.play, Caramel Tech, and Frag Games have anchored Pakistan's reputation as a software exporter. Beyond building hit mobile titles, studios like Mindstorm have actively nurtured talent through university fellowships, game jams, and developer incubation programs. Homegrown franchises have professionalized roster management, bootcamps, and international travel. 4Thrives Esports has become a powerhouse in PUBG Mobile, while Hotshot Esports and Total Winner Esports dominate the domestic Free Fire circuit. Meanwhile, global giants like Red Bull eSports, Team Falcons, and Twisted Minds have signed top Pakistani athletes, connecting local talent to international salaries and training facilities. Local organizers such as Pakistan Gaming Community (PGC), Gamers Galaxy, and collegiate networks across Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad have bridged the gap between casual play and international qualifiers, hosting LAN events that scout undiscovered talent. Pakistani esports athletes have earned



over $7.1 million in cumulative international tournament prize money across more than 560 global events, establishing an unmatched legacy in fighting games, battle royales, and MOBAs. We have E-Games icons like Sumail SumaiL Hassan in Dota 2. He became the youngest player in history to win The International (2015) at age 16 and is Pakistan's highest-earning esports athlete, with over $4.17 million in career prize winnings; he continues to compete at top global majors, including ESL One and PGL Wallachia. Then Arslan Ash Siddique, Tekken 7 / 8. Widely regarded as the greatest Tekken player of all time, he is a multi-time EVO champion (including EVO 2026) and Tekken World Tour Finals winner; he holds 15 major career titles and single-handedly put Pakistan's arcade scene on the world map. Another name is Atif Ijaz Butt, a Tekken 7/8 player. Tekken World Tour Finals champion and 2026 CEO winner, one of Pakistan's highest-earning fighting-game players, with over $455,000 in prize winnings and 9 major titles. Farzeen & M. Zubair, Tekken 8, represent Pakistan's deep second wave of Tekken dominance; Farzeen captured 2026 titles at Combo Breaker and The MIXUP, while M. Zubair clinched a landmark $250,000 victory at the Esports World Cup 2026. 4Thrives Esports (FALAK, IQ, Nocki, T24 OP, HUZAIFA) captured the PUBG Mobile Global Open (PMGO) 2026 Season 1 title ($62,500) and represented Team Pakistan to win a bronze medal at the 20th Asian Games (2026). Hotshot Esports (Hasuu 11, Anas, Sajid) is Pakistan's most decorated Free Fire squad, with 6 major championship titles and consistent appearances at the Free Fire World Series. Pakistan's e-gaming journey proves that world-class excellence can emerge even without traditional institutional backing. From SumaiL's historic Dota 2 triumph to the Pakistani Tekken dynasty and podium finishes at the Asian Games, the nation's players have already conquered the hardest arena: global competition. As policy reforms gradually ease cross-border payments for game studios and corporate sponsors invest more deeply in domestic leagues, Pakistan is well positioned to turn its youthful passion for gaming into a sustainable pillar of its digital economy.



Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia, at Parliament House

CamScanner



Islamabad: November 17, 2026: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, attended the China's Governance and Worldwide Development Global Dialogue as Chief Guest, jointly organized by China Media Group (CMG), the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan and the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI).

PSX opens week higher as KSE-100 gains over 1,400 points

■ PSX opened the business week positively as the KSE-100 Index surged 1,400.20 points, or 0.79%, to 179,274.07 amid strong buying activity and rising investor interest.

Special Correspondent

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) kicked off the business week on a positive note, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index surging more than 1,400 points amid strong buying activity.

During trading in opening session, the index reached 179,274.07 points, marking an increase of 1,400.20 points, or 0.79%, compared with the previous close of 177,873.87 points.



The market recorded a high of 179,274.07 points, while the day's low stood at 178,315.62 points, reflecting an upward movement during the session.

Trading volume reached 20,720,027 shares, indicating continued market activity.

In previous session, PSX witnessed bullish trend on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 500.11 points to close at 177,873.88 points.

The ready market had witnessed a trading volume of 1,42.810 million shares, compared to 1,070.480 million shares traded in the previous session.

Gold prices decline by Rs2,000 per tola in Pakistan

■ Gold prices fell for the sixth consecutive day, with domestic per-tola rates declining Rs2,000 and international prices dropping $20.

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Gold prices continued their downward trend for the sixth consecutive day in both international and domestic markets.

According to the All Sarafa Association, the price of 24-karat gold per tola fell by Rs2,000 to Rs408,936.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold declined by Rs1,715 to Rs350,596.

The price of silver also decreased, with a fall of Rs115 per tola, bringing it down to Rs5,228.

Meanwhile, in the international market, gold prices dropped by $20 per ounce to $3,864.

Pakistan's good exports hit record $11.4b in first 4 months of FY27

■ The government credited the record rise in exports to key measures included in the FY27 budget, such as reduced taxes and surcharges for businesses and industry, particularly exporters.



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's good exports reached an all-time high of $11.4 billion during the first four months of the current fiscal year, the government said on Sunday, crediting the move to its interventions such as reduced taxes, refunds and support for small and medium enterprises.Goods exports are tangible products manufactured or produced in a country that are sold to buyers in another. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has tasked authorities to ensure Pakistan's exports reach $60 billion by 2029.Pakistan's government wrote on social media platform X that goods exports reached $11.4 billion from July to October 2026, achieving an 8.8 percent year-on-year growth from $10.4 billion in the same corresponding period last year."This record performance reflects the impact of the measures introduced by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the federal budget.

Pakistan debt falls by Rs936 billion in 1Q of FY2026-27



Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's total government debt declined by Rs936 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, reaching Rs82.658 trillion by the end of September 2026,

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the decline represents a 1.12 per cent reduction in the government's overall debt during July-September.

According to SBP officials, domestic debt fell by 2.75 per cent during the first quarter to Rs57.758 trillion, reflecting reduced government borrowing from domestic sources over the three months.

In contrast, the government's external debt rose 2.89 per cent during the same period to Rs24.9 trillion by the end of September.However, the figures indicate a decline in domestic borrowing alongside an increase in external debt during the first quarter of the fiscal year. Despite the quarterly reduction, the government's total debt remained at Rs82.658 trillion at the end of September 2026.

Yen Hovers Near Two-Month Low Against US Dollar Amid Japan's Economic Contraction

WEB DESK

SINGAPORE



The yen was pinned near two-month lows against the dollar and little changed against the euro in Asian trade on Monday as markets assessed how an unexpected contraction in the Japanese economy in the third quarter might affect the policy outlook.

The yen fluctuated between gains and losses without moving too far, trading against the dollar at 159.72 yen and against the euro at 176.03 yen, close to levels where US and Japanese authorities are believed to have intervened earlier this year.

"Unless weakness spreads into wages, services and underlying domestic demand, the BOJ is likely to look through the soft patch," said Masahiko Loo, chief fixed ?income strategist at State Street Investment Management in Tokyo."The yen may take the initial hit, but expect strong resistance to further weakness in the 160s," he added. "Intervention risk rises, while the risk-reward of adding fresh yen shorts becomes increasingly unattractive at these levels."

Asia's second-largest economy contracted by an annualised 0.1% in the July-September quarter, data showed, weaker than expectations of 0.3% growth.

Most other currency pairs held steady in early Asian trade. The euro last fetched $1.1021, the British pound was level at $1.3212, the Australian dollar was down 0.1% at $0.6769 and its kiwi counterpart was flat at $0.5520.

Against the Chinese yuan , the US dollar was flat at 6.6716 yuan in offshore trade after data on Monday showed China's industrial output expanded at a slower pace in October, growing 4.8% from the corresponding month a year before, while growth in retail sales also cooled.

The dollar has been gaining strength lately, rising against most of its peers for the past five consecutive sessions after hawkish commentary from Federal Reserve officials and a hot October inflation report, which have revived bets that the US central bank will have to take aggressive action to rein in cost-of-living pressures.

The video player is currently playing an ad. You can skip the ad in 5 sec with a mouse or keyboardThe US dollar index , which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 103.46, its highest since April 2025.

"Markets are pricing higher US rates in the near term, but also a greater drag on medium-term US growth from restrictive policy," MUFG analysts wrote.

Shipping costs surge as Iran war disrupts trade routes

■ A container shipment from Karachi to New York, which previously cost around $2,000, is now being quoted at $8,000 to $9,000.

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



Shipping costs for Pakistani exporters to the United States have surged as some routes as the fallout from the Iran war disrupted shipping lanes and drives up war-risk insurance and fuel costs,

A container shipment from Karachi to New York, which previously cost around $2,000, is now being quoted at $8,000 to $9,000.

The freight rate for a 20-foot container from Karachi to Jebel Ali has increased from $50 to $4,000. The freight rate for a 40-foot high-cube container to Jebel Ali has risen from $200 to $6,000.

The cost of a 20-foot container for New York, Savannah, and Charleston has increased from $2,500 to $9,500.

The cost of a 40-foot high-cube container for New York, Savannah and Charleston has increased from $3,500 to $11,000. The shipping cost for a 20-foot container to Europe has increased from $2,000 to $4,500. Lengthy shipping routes have extended delivery times by up to 20 days.

Shipment deliveries are now facing delays of up to a month. High shipping costs and delays are putting Pakistani exports under pressure in the global market. Exporters face severe distress due to shipment delays. Rising import costs are increasing risks to the national economy.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan agree to expand bilateral trade, investment, economic cooperation

■ President FPCCI proposed organizing joint investment forums and signing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between business organizations of the two countries to provide a structured framework for long-term cooperation.

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD

President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, and Chairman of the Turkmenistan Chamber of Commerce, Gurdov Mergen Meretdurdyevich have agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan through enhanced business cooperation, investment partnerships and regular exchanges of business delegations.

The understanding was reached during a meeting between the two business leaders in FPCCI house here, which focused on exploring new avenues of trade, investment and institutional collaboration between the business communities of the two brotherly countries.

Both sides also agreed to enhance cooperation between the FPCCI and the Turkmenistan Chamber of Commerce, with particular emphasis on establishing stronger institutional linkages, facilitating business-to-business contacts and promoting joint investment initiatives.

During the meeting, Atif Ikram Sheikh highlighted the significant potential for expanding bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in energy, renewable energy, textiles, agriculture and pharmaceuticals.



He emphasized that Pakistan and Turkmenistan needed to take concrete and coordinated measures to translate their existing economic potential into tangible trade and investment opportunities.

President FPCCI proposed organizing joint investment forums and signing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) between business organizations of the two countries to provide a structured framework for long-term cooperation.The FPCCI president stressed that regular exchanges of business delegations could play an important role in strengthening institutional cooperation and enabling entrepreneurs to identify viable business opportunities.

He urged the business communities of both countries to move forward with joint ventures and investment projects, adding that the exchange of market information, trade statistics and business intelligence could help identify new areas of mutual interest.Atif Ikram Sheikh assured the visiting delegation that the FPCCI would take comprehensive measures to connect Turkmenistan's business community with Pakistani entrepreneurs and facilitate direct business contacts.

He further underlined the need to expand cooperation in emerging sectors, including information technology, digital services, halal food and healthcare, saying that these areas offered considerable opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.

CamScanner

Trump's judge appointment blitz faces Republican resistance



Web DESK

WASHINGTON

last-minute effort by US President Donald Trump to install as many judges as possible before Democrats take control of the US Senate is running into resistance from some fellow Republicans.

Until recently, Senate Republicans had routinely approved Trump's nominees for lifetime seats on district and appeals courts during his second term, confirming 57 so far and helping him cement a conservative imprint on the judiciary that will ?outlast his presidency.

But as the White House and Senate Republican leaders press ahead with judicial nominees during the lame-duck session, a handful of Republicans have blocked or cast doubt on three nominees selected for their home states.Senators traditionally help choose judges for vacancies in their states. Trial court nominees are especially vulnerable because, under Senate custom, home-state senators can block them by withholding a "blue slip," a form indicating support to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

While generally honoring that tradition, the White House has sometimes picked conservatives to fill judicial vacancies over the objections of Republican senators.

"We put up a lot of really qualified candidates that we sent to the White House, and they basically ignored that and just put through their one," Senator Alan Armstrong, an Oklahoma Republican, said.

Two outgoing Republican members on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and John Cornyn of Texas, can deny such nominees the votes needed to advance.



Islamabad: November 17, 2026: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Turkmenistan's Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations, Dortguly Suleymanov, pose for a group photograph with senior officials following their bilateral meeting on trade and economic cooperation.

Deleted from India's voter rolls, some Muslims face detention, deportation

■ India's voter roll revision raises concerns over mass deletions, Muslim discrimination, citizenship disputes, and alleged deportations across the Bangladesh border.

Web Desk

SATKHIRA,Banglades

When Sahida Fakir stepped out of her Mumbai home on July 19 to buy vegetables, she told her younger son she would be back in minutes.

More than three months later, the 38-year-old is living in a Bangladeshi village, separated from her husband and two sons.

Fakir said plainclothes officers detained her, seized her phone — which she said contained copies of identity documents — and eventually forced her across the border. Court filings show the officials belonged to the Mumbai police crime branch. The department did not respond to a request for comment.

"Someone grabbed my hand from behind and ordered me to get into the vehicle," Fakir told Reuters in Satkhira, Bangladesh.

Fakir is among 10 families Reuters interviewed whose relatives were detained, deported or questioned over their citizenship after being dropped from India's revised electoral rolls. All had Indian identity or family documents while relatives including parents and siblings remained on the voter lists.

The cases show how India's sweeping voter-roll revision has become entangled with a separate drive to identify and expel suspected illegal immigrants, even though removal from the rolls does not itself establish that someone is a



foreigner.

The voter list revision struck 130 million names nationwide in the largest deletion of voters in India's history. Data shows the omissions disproportionately affect Muslims, India's largest minority, who have faced what rights groups describe as exclusionary policies and rising discrimination, since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party took power in 2014.

The revision sparked massive protests and accusations that the BJP was reshaping the electorate in its favour. The party denies targeting legitimate citizens.

In West Bengal, where it has run furthest, around 9 million names were cut ahead of state elections earlier this year. Muslims made up about 70% of the 2.7 million names deleted after a closer review, despite being 27% of the population, according to the Kolkata-based Sabar Institute.

The BJP emerged victorious in those polls and took control of the state for the first time. "We cannot deny the anti-incumbency factor but the voter deletions played a big role in determining West Bengal election results," the institute's founder, Sabir Ahamed, said.

Anti-Houthi forces retreat in Yemen as Iran strikes Bahrain

■ Iranian drone attacks on Bahrain and Houthi advances in Yemen intensify regional tensions, threatening Gulf security, shipping routes, and diplomatic efforts.

Web Desk

Yemen

Iran and its allies ramped up pressure on the US and allied Gulf states on two fronts with Saudi-backed forces retreating in their battle against the Iran-aligned Houthis in Yemen and Iran itself firing drones at US bases in Bahrain.

In Yemen, Saudi Arabia's campaign against the Houthis suffered a major setback, as its allies, fighting on behalf of the internationally recognised Yemeni government, pulled back from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to defend their temporary capital Aden on the southern coast.

The announcement signalled the



apparent end of a six-week government counteroffensive to drive the Houthis from the mouth of the Red Sea to secure a key oil route.

Meanwhile, Iranian attacks on Bahrain, headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet in the Gulf, were likely to put new pressure on US President Donald Trump to resolve the war he launched nearly nine months ago.

Since the unpopular war contributed to a defeat for his Republicans in midterm elections this month.

Australian lawmaker leaves hospital after losing both legs in car attack

● Australian lawmaker Helen Haines has been discharged from hospital after losing both legs in a car attack and is now focusing on rehabilitation.

Web Desk

SYDNEY

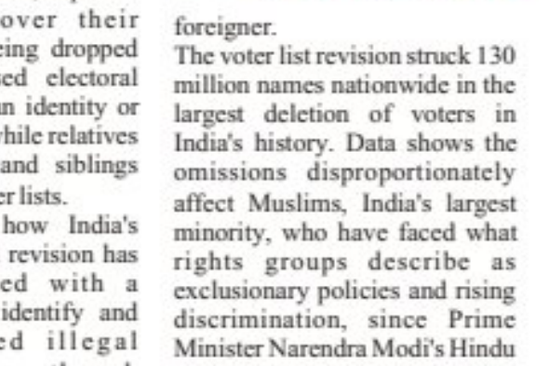
Helen Haines, the Australian lawmaker who lost her legs after being repeatedly struck by a car in an attack, said on Monday she had been discharged from hospital and was now focused on rehabilitation.

"This is a really positive moment," Haines said in her first public statement since the October 19 attack, adding that she appreciated the thousands ?of warm wishes and supportive messages she had received from ?people throughout Australia and around the world.

"They are giving me ?strength as I focus on this next phase of healing."

Haines, 65, was airlifted to hospital after being rammed by a car outside her office in the small town of Wangaratta in the state of Victoria last month. Surgeons amputated both of her legs.

Brendan Nugent, a resident of the town of Tarrawingee within Haines' electorate, has been charged with three offences over ?the incident: dangerous driving causing serious injury, intentionally causing serious injury, and causing ?harm ?to a public official.



During a court appearance in October, the accused's lawyer said his client had some mental health concerns and was also being treated for concussion, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Haines, an independent the rural lawmaker, was elected to parliament in 2019 ?for the rural seat of Indi, which she retained in 2022 and 2025.

Violent attacks on politicians are ?rare in Australia, where federal lawmakers, state leaders and ?even ?prime ministers are often seen shopping, grabbing coffee or attending community events with relatively little security.

However, concerns about politicians' safety have grown in recent years amid rising polarisation, online abuse and threats against elected officials, prompting calls for greater protections while preserving the accessibility that has long characterised Australian politics.

US and Russia to oppose talks on limiting autonomous weapons

Web Desk

GENEVA

Major arms producers the United States and Russia look set to oppose a push at a global meeting in Geneva this week to launch negotiations on legally binding rules for autonomous weapons, in what diplomats and rights groups expect to be difficult talks.

The rise of artificial intelligence has boosted development of drones, robots, tanks, submarines and other military hardware capable of killing without human involvement. Semi-autonomous, AI-assisted weapons have already been used in Ukraine, Sudan and the Middle East, ?despite ethical concerns. The UN-hosted meeting



starting on Monday is due to decide whether to launch negotiations for a legally binding agreement on prohibitions and regulations for Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).But while most of the 128 states ?party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons support that, major military nations including the US, Russia and Israel oppose it, arguing that existing humanitarian law is sufficient.

Fire in Phuket shophouse kills 11 injures 16, police say



NEWS DESK

BANGKOK

A fire ripped through a commercial shophouse on Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket early on Monday, killing 11 people and injuring 16, police told Reuters. The blaze started in a building housing a vehicle rental business and later spread to several nearby buildings The fire broke out at about 3:17 a.m. (2017 GMT), and firefighters took about two hours to bring it under control, Thai authorities said Fifteen of those injured were Thai nationals and one was a Myanmar national. No tourists were among those killed or injured, police said

The cause of the fire remained under investigation

The building is in a town area, near the popular beach of ?Patong ?on Phuket's western coast

Iran urges ECO states to enhance energy security

■ ECO leaders call for stronger regional connectivity, trade resilience

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on Monday called for stronger regional cooperation in trade, transport and energy, describing the three sectors as strategic pillars for enhancing economic resilience, connectivity and collective security among member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO),

"In the current global and regional context, trade, transport and energy should constitute the three strategic pillars of ECO cooperation," Sayyed Abbas Araghchi said while addressing the 30th meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers.

He emphasized that strengthening connectivity, facilitating intra-regional trade and enhancing energy cooperation would reinforce collective resilience, reduce external vulnerabilities and promote a more integrated and self-reliant region.

The Iranian foreign minister welcomed the establishment of the Technical Negotiation Committee to reform the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA),



urging existing parties to actively pursue negotiations and encouraging other member states to join the process.

He said a modern, inclusive and effective trade agreement could expand regional commerce, strengthen economic resilience and bring benefits to the people of the region.

Abbas Araghchi expressed gratitude to Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ECO Secretariat for organizing the meeting. He also thanked Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar for his leadership within the organization and the warm hospitality extended to the Iranian delegation. He also appreciated ECO Secretary General Asad Majeed Khan and his team for their efforts.

The Iranian foreign minister particularly thanked member states and other countries that had unequivocally of condemned the acts of aggression against Iran's territorial integrity and people, and had extended condolences and expressions of solidarity to the Iranian government and nation.

He said such support was particularly meaningful following the martyrdom of Iran's Supreme Leader and the loss of several senior political and military officials, and other innocent lives during the aggression.

Referring to the human cost of the conflict, the Iranian foreign minister said that more than 5,000 Iranian citizens had been killed, including 168 students and teachers at the Minab school. Abbas Araghchi maintained that Iran had consistently supported international law, the UN Charter and the peaceful settlement of disputes through diplomacy. However, he said military aggression, threats, targeted assassinations, economic coercion and blockades had contributed to growing insecurity in the region.

He said the prevailing tensions in the Persian Gulf and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz should be viewed in the context of these hostile policies and military actions.

CamScanner

Sehar Hashmi's Bridal Look Captivates Fans on Instagram

■ Sehar Hashmi's Bridal Transformation in 'Shaidai' Wins Hearts Online

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress Sehar Hashmi has once again captured the attention of fans after sharing a behind-the-scenes Instagram reel showcasing her elegant bridal look from the drama serial Shaidai.

The actress posted the BTS-style video featuring her character Miraal alongside Feroze Khan, who plays Ali Khan in the drama. The reel offered fans a glimpse into the wedding sequence that has become one of the show's most talked-about moments.



Sharing the video, Sehar described it as her "favorite bridal look so far" and used the hashtag #AliMirKiShadi. She also credited Ansab Jahangir Studio, Ansab Jahangir, and Laal Tiny Treasures for designing her outfit and accessories while reminding Pal viewers to watch Shaidai every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00 PM on Har Pal Geo.

The reel featured the trending version of the song "Sanu Ek Pal Chain Na Aave", beginning with a black-and-white transition before revealing her bridal look in full colour.

Sehar appeared in a pastel mint-green dupatta paired with an intricately embroidered antique-gold gharara, creating a graceful and regal bridal ensemble. She completed the look with traditional jewellery, a classic bridal bun, soft glam makeup and fresh floral accessories, adding elegance to the wedding sequence.



Hiba Bukhari's dreamy Thailand birthday dump wins hearts online

■ Pakistani actress Hiba Bukhari has delighted fans after sharing a glimpse of her birthday getaway to Thailand through a series of pictures on Instagram.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Hiba Bukhari has delighted fans after sharing a glimpse of her birthday getaway to Thailand through a series of pictures on Instagram.

Taking to Instagram, Hiba shared a birthday carousel a day after her special day. Along with the photos, she wrote, "Just a day late for my birthday post. Lots of love!! Remember me in your prayers."

Through the caption, Hiba thanked her fans for their love and warm wishes while requesting them to remember her in their prayers. She also playfully acknowledged that her birthday post was a little late.

The carousel featured Hiba exploring Phuket Town, where she visited popular attractions including Thalang Road and the Golden Dragon Monument. She also shared a mirror selfie and several candid moments from her



trip, giving fans a closer look at her relaxing vacation. For the outing, Hiba opted for a cream-colored ruffled crop top paired with a denim maxi skirt featuring colorful patches. She kept her naturally curly hair open and chose minimal makeup, giving her holiday look a fresh and effortless appearance.

The post quickly attracted thousands of likes and comments, with fans praising her vacation pictures and birthday look. Many admired her simple style, while several celebrities also joined in to wish her on her birthday.

Her husband, actor Arez Ahmed, left a heartfelt comment, writing, "Tareef karoon kiya uski jisnay tumhein banaya... you beautiful human being :)."

Actress Zara Noor Abbas commented, "Happy Birthday Haseena," while director Angeline Malik wrote, "Hey beautiful, a very happy birthday."

Several other friends and fellow celebrities also extended their best wishes in the comments section.

Hiba Bukhari has established herself as one of Pakistan's leading television actresses through popular dramas including Hum Tum, Deewangi and Fitoor. She is currently appearing in Humrahi, where her performance continues to receive praise from viewers

Sana Javed shares BTS moments from hit drama

■ Bas Tera Saath Ho BTS excites Sana Javed fans

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Sana Javed has treated fans to behind-the-scenes glimpses from her drama serial Bas Tera Saath Ho, offering a sneak peek at one of the show's most emotional scenes while showcasing her elegant traditional look.

Sharing a series of photos and videos on Instagram, Sana appeared in a bottle green shalwar kameez featuring intricate embroidery and classic styling. She captioned the post with one of her character Ansa's dialogues: "Ansa Jameel, Kya kar rahay hain aap peechay hatain."

Among the behind-the-scenes clips, one showed Sana drying her wet hair with a towel as co-star Farhan Saeed watched on. Another captured a tense sequence in which Faran Tahir's character, Taya Jaan (Mursaleen), attempts to slap Farhan Saeed's character, Anas, before Ansa courageously steps in to stop him, delivering the now-highlighted dialogue.

Brazil rally past Japan to reach World Cup last-16

The final clip featured a candid moment of Sana adjusting her hair between takes, giving fans another glimpse of the atmosphere on set.

Sana's traditional attire, paired with gold jewellery, soft makeup and loose wavy hair, drew widespread admiration from fans, who praised both her style and screen presence.



Did Tauseeq Haider and Farah Sadia tie the knot? hosts reveal the truth

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Pakistani television hosts Tauseeq Haider and Farah Sadia have reacted after AI-generated wedding pictures falsely claimed that the two had secretly tied the knot.

The viral images quickly spread across social media, leaving many fans wondering whether the longtime friends had actually gotten married. Taking to Instagram, the duo shared a joint video with the caption, "Happily single," along Through the caption, they made it clear that despite the rumours circulating online, both of them are happily single and the wedding claims were completely fake. By using the hashtag #fakenews, they also highlighted how easily false stories can spread on social media simply to attract views.

The video opened with Farah Sadia playfully showing off a ring while saying, "So, we are happily married." Tauseeq Haider immediately joined the joke, smiling as he replied, "Congratulations, Farah."

Continuing the humorous exchange, Tauseeq said they had hoped that if such news were ever true, they would be the ones to announce it themselves.

Three-Year-Old Diagnosed With HIV in Pathan Colony



WEB DESK

KARACHI

A three-year-old child from Pathan Colony has tested positive for HIV, adding to growing concerns over the increasing number of infections reported in the area.

According to medical reports, the child underwent HIV screening using three separate testing kits, with all tests confirming the presence of the virus.

The latest diagnosis adds to a series of HIV cases reported among children in the locality, prompting renewed concern among residents and health authorities.

Family members said the child had previously received medical treatment at Valika Hospital. According to the parents, the child's condition worsened after the treatment, leading them to seek further medical evaluation.

They said an HIV test was later conducted, which confirmed the infection.The parents have alleged that negligence during treatment at the hospital may have contributed to their child's infection. However, these claims have not been independently verified, and no official investigation has yet established the source or cause of the infection.

We should be scared', Kinza Hashmi speaks out on women's safety

■ She stressed that women should not dismiss safety concerns or assume that nothing bad could happen to them.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Kinza Hashmi has shared her heartfelt concerns about the growing sense of insecurity women face in Pakistan, admitting that she often feels scared and urging women to prioritise their safety by staying alert and trusting their instincts.

During her appearance on 'GlossETC by Mahila Rehman', Kinza candidly spoke about the disturbing rise in crimes against women and children, saying the daily news has made fear an unavoidable reality.

"We should be scared. Every day, you open Instagram and come across seven or eight videos about crimes that have happened, mostly involving women. In fact, I was discussing the same thing with Khawar on my way here. When you're living in a country where such incidents happen so frequently,



you have every reason to be cautious."

She stressed that women should not dismiss safety concerns or assume that nothing bad could happen to them.

"People often say, 'Don't be afraid, nothing will happen to you,' but I don't agree with that. You should stay alert. You should know who is around you, how people are looking at you and always remain aware of your surroundings. Given everything happening around us, what else can we do? May Allah protect everyone. But our safety is the most important thing, and we should take it seriously."

The actress also expressed concern over the mindset reflected in social media discussions, saying she is often more disturbed by the comments beneath crime-related posts than by the news itself.

"Whenever you read the news, the most shocking part is often the comments. When you open the comment section, you realise the kind of mentality some people have. These are people living among us, yet we don't recognise them. How can you not be afraid? I would say you should be scared so that you stay vigilant and protect yourself."



Students take a keen interest in artworks displayed during the "Cultural Exhibition" featuring regional arts at Zubaida Agha Art Gallery, Institute of Arts and Design, University of Sargodha

CamScanner

Pakistan run riot as Sri Lanka crumble for 98 in second Test

● Three-wicket hauls from Abbas, Razaullah and Jamal leave visitors in tatters as Azan powers hosts to 121-3 in Pindi

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Tuesday put themselves in commanding position when they reached 121-3 in 37.2 overs at stumps in their first innings after skittling Sri Lanka out for a paltry total of 98 on the first day of their second Test at the Pindi Stadium in Rawalpindi.

The hosts lead by 23 runs with seven wickets in hand.

The second day on Wedesday will be very crucial for Pakistan as they would need to build a solid total which would allow them to put an immense pressure on the visitors who had a poor first day both with the bat and ball.

Azan Awais was batting on 47 and with him at the other end was nightwatchman Saqib Khan on two when bails were drawn.

Azan struck six fours from 96 balls. Azan added much-needed 80 runs for the first wicket stand with Tayyab Arif after a cheap fall of Sri Lanka.

Tayyab was the first casualty when he was removed by Asitha Fernando for



46. The youngster, who had hit fifty in his debut innings in the first Test at the same venue, faced 82 balls and had six cracking fours.

Mohammad Taha then joined Azan but he fell to left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya for eight after facing 29 deliveries.

Babar Azam once again failed to play a solid knock when he was bowled by Lahiru Kumara for eight. He hit two forus in his brief stay. Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara and Prabath Jayasuriya got one wicket each.

Earlier, Razaullah, Mohammad Abbas and Aamer Jamal exploited lively pitch and got three wickets each to bundle Sri Lanka out for 98 in 35.3 overs.

Skipper Kusal Mendis (32) and Sonal Dinusha (21) were the only batsmen who entered double figures.

Saqib Khan, who had ripped through Sri Lanka's batting in the first Test, provided an early breakthrough when he had Pasindu Sooriyabandara for just two. He edged a delivery pitched outside the off-stumps to keeper Ghazi Ghori who took an easy catch.

Soon afterwards seasoned pacer Mohammad Abbas got rid of Dinesh Chandimal (7) to leave the visitors struggling at 16-2. Dinesh hit one four from 13 balls.

Abbas struck again when he sent Kamindu Mendis for seven to leave Sri Lanka reeling at 25-3. Mendis hit one four. And in the next over Razaullah, who had a bad first Test, added to the miseries of Sri Lanka when he dislodged Lahiru Udara for four.



Pakistan bowlers rip through Sri Lankan batting line-up

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistani fast bowlers rocked the Sri Lankan battling line-up, sending top five batters back to the pavilion within 90 minutes of play on the first day of the second and final Test match being played at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday,

An hour before lunch break, the visitors were teetering at 45 runs losing five wickets. None of the Sri Lankan batsmen has yet entered the double figures and only three boundaries were scored so far.For Pakistan, Mohammad Abbas and Razaullah claimed two wickets each while Saqib Khan grabbed one wicket.Earlier, Pakistan won the toss and elected to bowl on the first day of the second and final cricket Test against Sri Lanka.

Speaking after winning the toss, Pakistan captain Babar Azam said they have made one change in the team, bringing in Aamer Jamal in place of Arafat Minhas.

Sri Lankan skipper Kusal Mendis said they have brought in Prabath Jayasuriya.

Duncan claims maiden LPGA title at The Annika

■ The American shoots a final-round 67 to finish at 16-under 264



SPORTS Desk

Madrid

Lindy Duncan made two late birdies to separate from the pack and claim her first LPGA Tour victory at The Annika on Belleair, Fla. Duncan, 35, earned the win in her 222nd career start.

She entered Sunday with a one-shot lead, and her 3-under-par 67 put her at 16-under 264 for the week at Pelican Golf Club, two better than South Korea's Hye-Jin Choi, who shot 68 on Sunday. Haeran Ryu of South Korea (66) and Yuri Yoshida of Japan (68) tied for third, three back at 13 under.

Asked what ?kept her working toward this culmination of her efforts, Duncan replied, "A lot of great people." "I got so many people to thank that believed in me when I wasn't sure if I wanted to keep playing or if I was good enough to keep playing," she said. "To be here, I'm just completely shocked." The win was massive for Duncan in more ways than one. It also vaulted her from No. 74 in the Race to the CME Globe standings to No. 34. The top 60 in the points race at the end of Sunday qualified for the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship.

Julia Lopez Ramirez of Spain also played her way into the season finale by placing fifth this week at 12 under. She carded a 67 on Sunday and moved from No. 66 to No. 47 in the points race.

"Honestly feels great," Lopez Ramirez said. "Feel like it's ?definitely a goal of mine for this year. Really wanted to make it for this week.

Honestly, now that ?the week is done, I can say it's been the pressure obviously for the week, but I tried my best and focused on what I had in front of me. Having the battle that I had today, fighting for this spot, it's been really cool." Duncan, a Florida native, began her final round birdie-bogey-birdie and added a birdie at the par-5 seventh. She took a step back when she bogeyed the par-3 12th and was tied with Choi for the lead heading to the par-4 16th. That was where she made the first of two straight birdies to break away. She holed a medium-long, slightly right-to-left birdie putt at the par-4 17th for a two-stroke advantage.

"Coming into today I kind of thought, 'No matter what happens I learned a huge lesson,' and hopefully I can take that forward with me," Duncan said. "I just put so much pressure on myself because I really want to do well.

The competition is so great out here. Sometimes you just overtry, and I think I've done that a lot. This week I finally let that go a little bit."

Choi, playing in the final group with Duncan, had four birdies through 11 holes but bogeyed Nos. 13 and 15 to drop back into a tie for the top spot.

Shadab Khan fined 5pc of match fee for dissenting against umpire's decision

● Shadab Khan is fined 5% of his match fee for showing dissent over an umpire's decision during UAE Bulls' eight-run defeat against Arabian Aces in Abu Dhabi T10.

SPORTS REPORTER

ABU DHABI

Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan has been fined five per cent of his match fee for expressing dissent over an umpire's decision during the Abu Dhabi T10 League.

The incident took place on Friday, November 13, during the 15th match of the tournament between UAE Bulls and Arabian Aces at Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Shadab was unhappy with an umpire's decision after a delivery he believed should have been declared wide was not given as such. Expressing his frustration,



the Pakistani cricketer struck his bat against the ground, which was onduct.

considered dissent against the umpire's decision and a breach of the tournament's code of conduct.

According to Abu Dhabi T10 management, Shadab was found guilty of violating Article 2.8 of the Level 1 Code of Conduct, which relates to showing dissent towards an umpire's decision during a match.

Shadab admitted the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by the match referee.

In the match, Shadab scored 22 runs off 14 deliveries, but UAE Bulls suffered an eight-run defeat against Arabian Aces. The defending champions are currently placed fifth on the points table

Pakistan Shaheens depart for Doha to participate in Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament

■ Jay Shah is re-elected unopposed as ICC chairman for a second two-year term, with cricket set to return to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Shaheens cricket squad have left for Doha to take part in the 50-over ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 tournament, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) , where they will clash with arch-rivals India in the defense of their title.

Pakistan Shaheens or the Pakistan 'A' team are officially the second-tier national men's cricket team of the country. The Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament is held to develop talented young cricketers and 'A' team squads across Asia.

Pakistan Shaheens are the defending champions, winning the 2025 edition of the tournament last year in Qatar by beating Bangladesh 'A' in a Super Over in the final.

"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 PCB said.

The 15-member squad is being led by Pakistani middle-order batter Abdul Samad. Pacer Ali Raza and Farhan Yousuf, who recently featured in the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup in Oman, will join them later in Doha.

The Shaheens are placed in Group B alongside India 'A', Nepal and the UAE. They will begin their campaign against the UAE on Nov. 20, followed by matches against India 'A' on Nov. 22 and Nepal on Nov. 24.

"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," Samad told PCB in an interview.

"We are confident of putting up strong performances in the event."

Pakistan Shaheens won the previous 50-over edition in 2023 as well, beating India 'A' by 128 runs in the final in Sri Lanka, while in the previous edition which was played in T20 format.

Andreeva captures WTA Finals crown on debut

■ The Russian teenager earns a record $3.37 million prize after defeating Svitolina 7-5, 6-3

SPORTS DESK

MADRID

Rzussian teenager Mirra Andreeva beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 7-5 6-3 to win the WTA Finals, completing an unbeaten singles debut at the season-ending championships in Indian Wells without dropping a set.

Andreeva threw her racket into the air and jumped for joy when Svitolina put an overhead into the net on match point, before hugging coach Conchita Martinez and her team. "I'm super thankful to my team for helping me work hard every day and pushing me to my limits," she said during the trophy ceremony. "Thanks for fighting with me."

The 19-year-old French Open champion won all five of her matches at the event, which brings together the top eight players of the season.

She takes home the maximum prize money of $3.37 million and the Billie Jean King Trophy. King watched the final from the stands on a sunny day in the California desert.

MIRRA IN THE DRIVER'S ?SEAT

Andreeva will rise to a career-high world number two in Monday's rankings and will move within 300 points of Elena Rybakina. She also won a custom Mercedes-Benz AMG SL 55 painted in the WTA's signature purple, though she does not yet have a driver's licence.

"This is an amazing motivation for me



to get my driver's licence as fast as I can," she said during the trophy ceremony.

"But I still want to just ?try to give it a little spin, maybe a couple of metres. I'm sure I'm going ?to be able to do that or at least honk a little bit. "If not, then look, I have five people on my team. I'm gonna be a passenger princess forever so that's also an option for me."

TENSE BATTLE

Andreeva was the favourite against Svitolina, the 2018 champion, and had beaten her 6-4 6-0 on Monday in the round-robin stage.

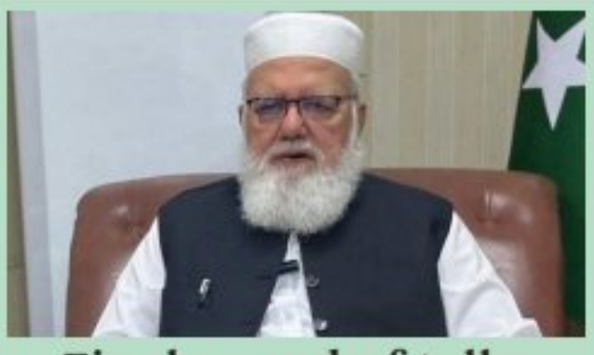
The first set was tight, with long rallies as both players tried to control points by pushing the other from side to side and drawing them in off the baseline.

Andreeva served for the set at 5-4 but struggled, hitting two double faults and a backhand long to let Svitolina ?back into it.

She stayed composed, though, breaking Svitolina in the next game and then showing great poise to serve out the 55-minute set.

The intensity stayed high in the second ?set, including a 10-minute seventh game, the longest of the tournament, which featured six deuces. Svitolina won the game when Andreeva sent a backhand wide to cut her opponent's lead to 4-3.

CamScanner



Final round of talks between govt, JI to be held on November 19, says Liaquat Baloch

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The final round of talks between the government and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) will be held on November 19, JI Deputy Emir and head of its negotiating committee Liaquat Baloch .

In a statement, Baloch said the meeting would take place at the White Room Conference Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had contacted Baloch to discuss the ongoing negotiations between the government and Jamaat-e-Islami.Baloch said a draft agreement between the two sides, prepared following the negotiations, was currently with the government.He expressed hope that the prime minister and deputy prime minister would support efforts to provide relief to the public and ensure positive progress towards resolving their difficulties.The JI leader added that his party would continue its struggle to secure relief for the poor and middle-income segments of society through both protests and negotiations.

Hafiz Naeem backs smaller administrative units, calls for constitutional framework

● The JI chief said that his party's protests had contributed to a reduction of Rs80 per litre in petrol prices and Rs32 per litre in diesel prices

LAHORE

ISLAMABAD



Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has voiced support for the creation of smaller administrative units, saying any new provinces must be established within the constitutional framework.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, Hafiz Naeem said a referendum could be held if permitted by the Constitution. He also urged the government to immediately conduct local government elections.

Commenting on political developments, he said that while the removal of a government through a no-confidence motion had been described as a constitutional process, horse-trading was not permitted under the Constitution.

The JI chief said that his party's protests had contributed to a reduction of Rs80 per litre in petrol prices and Rs32 per litre in diesel prices. He said government ministers had previously warned that petrol could reach Rs1,000 per litre.

Hafiz Naeem said his party's negotiating team had kept the government under pressure and that protests would continue despite the suspension of sit-ins.

He announced that JI would hold a public gathering in Balochistan on November 22 to highlight rising petrol and electricity prices, inflation and the law and order situation. Another major rally is scheduled for November 29 at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore.

He said the party had submitted its final draft to the government and that its negotiating team would meet government representatives on November 19.

Warning of renewed protests, Hafiz Naeem said the upcoming meeting could be the last if the government failed to expand the scope of relief for the public. He maintained that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was not preventing the government from providing further relief.

He said the party's campaign also focused on rising gas prices and the deteriorating agricultural sector, adding that although the government had fixed the gas price at Rs290, consumers were being charged up to Rs600.

The JI chief further said that his party's efforts had secured relief in electricity prices and reiterated that it would not accept further unjust agreements with independent power producers (IPPs).

Accusing the government of burdening the public to benefit powerful banking interests, he said economic policies and technical manoeuvres were pushing people deeper into financial difficulties.

Hafiz Naeem said JI was continuing its struggle on behalf of the public and would maintain pressure on the government until meaningful relief was provided

Government will facilitate Imran khan's surgery if recommended by doctors: Rana

● Rana Sanaullah says government will facilitate Imran Khan's surgery if medically recommended, while urging dialogue to resolve political and provincial disputes.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah has said the government will provide all necessary facilities for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan if a medical board determines that he requires surgery.

Speaking to a private television channel, Rana Sanaullah said no negligence had been shown in providing medical treatment to the former prime minister. He added that both Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, would receive medical care in accordance with doctors' recommendations.

He reiterated that if the medical board recommends surgery for Imran Khan, the government will make the necessary arrangements.

Commenting on the political situation, the prime minister's adviser alleged that PTI leaders had initially sought confrontation and unrest but turned to negotiations after failing to chieve their objectives.

Rana Sanaullah says jail, judiciary responsible if Imran Khan denied proper treatment

He said the government had made sincere efforts to resolve issues amicably, but the opposition had initially refused to cooperate.

Rana Sanaullah maintained that the government's policy remained clear: political issues should be resolved through dialogue and negotiations. He rejected the impression that any deal or political concession was under consideration.

Regarding provincial matters, he said the issue would be brought before Parliament soon, adding that it was too complex to be resolved through discussions involving a single individual. He said the matter would be debated in Parliament.



Maryam Nawaz urges students to play active role in nation-building

■ Maryam Nawaz urges students to embrace education, technology, discipline and public service, highlighting Punjab government initiatives supporting youth development.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has described students as the future leaders and key pillars of national development, urging them to play an active role in nation-building.

In her message on International Students' Day, the chief minister stressed the importance of modern education, technology, discipline and a spirit of public service. She reiterated her commitment to ensuring that students have access to books, pens and laptops to support their educational journeys.

Maryam Nawaz encouraged young people to contribute meaningfully to the country's progress, highlighting government initiatives such as the Honhaar Scholarship Programme, laptop scheme and electric bike scheme aimed at supporting students.

She said students were being provided with quality education at Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence, which she described as offering an educational standard superior to that of expensive private institutions.

Every Pakistani should renew resolve to contribute to nation-building: Maryam Nawaz

Emphasising that access to higher education is a fundamental right of every young person, she said the Punjab government was utilising all available resources to help students turn their aspirations into reality.

The chief minister also urged students to remain informed about national politics and current affairs, saying awareness was essential for making sound decisions about the country's leadership and future.

She added that today's students would become tomorrow's scientists, civil servants, champions, policymakers and global leaders. Maryam Nawaz advised them to use government-provided laptops and digital libraries for education and research while upholding professional skills, moral values and a spirit of service wherever they go.

Imran Khan seeking justice, not concession: Salman Akram Raja

■ Voices concern over PTI founder's health complications, demands his access to personal doctors

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja has accused the government of treating the PTI founder unfairly and maintained that Imran Khan would not compromise on his principles, adding he was seeking justice rather than special concessions.

He expressed concern over the health of party founder Imran Khan, stating that reports of his blood pressure reaching 193 are alarming and demanding immediate access for his personal doctors at the prison.

Speaking on Dunya News programme Dunya Meher Bokhari Kay Sath, Salman Akram Raja questioned why Imran Khan's personal physician was not being allowed to visit him if his health condition was satisfactory.

He also said that meetings with the PTI founder in prison had been suspended.

Raja compared the facilities provided to Imran Khan with those available to former prime minister Nawaz Sharif during his imprisonment, claiming that Sharif's associates were allowed to meet him regularly and his personal physician remained available.

He added that the reported arrival of a doctor from London raised questions about Imran Khan's health and reinforced the need for immediate medical attention.

The PTI secretary general also expressed concern about the health of Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, saying that she had been complaining about inadequate facilities and should be shifted to a hospital without delay.

MQM demands Sindh CM's resignation over 'failure' to deliver

■ Accuses PPP govt of facilitating illegal sale of Karachi's water through tanker services, alleging that water intended for the city's supply lines was being diverted and sold to residents.

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has once again demanded the immediate resignation of Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, accusing the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)-led provincial government of failing to manage the province's administrative and financial affairs.

In a statement, an MQM-P spokesperson alleged that nearly 48 percent of children in Sindh were experiencing physical and mental development delays, while the proportion of out-of-school children in several districts had reached 44 percent.

The spokesperson further claimed that around 6,000 children in Sindh had been affected by HIV/AIDS by April 2026, blaming the provincial government for what the party described as administrative negligence.

The MQM-P also accused the PPP government of facilitating the illegal sale of Karachi's water through tanker services, alleging that water intended for the city's supply lines was being diverted and sold to residents.

Commenting on the debate over the creation of new provinces, the spokesperson alleged that the PPP was opposing the movement because it feared losing an estimated Rs2.2 trillion in annual resources and its political position in the federal government.



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq interacting with a delegation of Senior Civil Servants from Bangladesh during an interactive session at the Parliament House

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