Simultaneously Publishing for Quetta, Karachi,Faisalabad

Daily People's Version Quetta

Public

A.B.C Certified

Member APNS

Friday
November 20, 2026
Pages: 8 | Rs:40
Vol:28 | Issu:324

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Islamabad:Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Security Cooperation between the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiy) of Qatar and Federal Constabulary of Pakistan.

Army firm in defending Balochistan amid challenging conditions: Field

■ CDF Asim Munir commends troops' professionalism, preparedness during his visit to Turbat

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has said that the Armed Forces are committed to defend the motherland amid challenging operational conditions,The Field Marshal said this during his visit to Turbat city in Balochistan, said an ISPR press released issued in Rawalpindi on Thursday morning.



Upon arrival, Field Marshal Asim Munir laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered Fateha.

The COAS and CDF was given a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security environment, operational preparedness and successful ongoing operations against externally-sponsored terrorism.During interaction with troops, the Chief of Defence Forces commended their high state of operational preparedness, professionalism and unwavering resolve to defend the motherland amidst challenging operational conditions.

Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Balochistan in their continued pursuit of peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

Security forces kill 22 Indian-sponsored terrorists in KP operations

■ ISPR says security forces killed 22 Indian-sponsored militants in intelligence-based operations and encounters across South Waziristan, Bannu and Tank districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Security forces have killed twenty two terrorists belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-Al-Khwarij in multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a press release, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the operations were carried out on 16-17 November.

On reported presence of terrorists, an intelligence based operation was conducted by security forces in South Waziristan. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged their location and after intense exchange of fire, fifteen terrorists



belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-al-Khwarij were killed.

In two separate encounters in Bannu district, own troops effectively engaged militants' hideouts. As a result of precise and skillful engagement, six terrorists were neutralized.

One more terrorist was effectively neutralized in an encounter in Tank district.

Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from killed Indian sponsored terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Kharji found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country," ISPR said.

Pakistan's contributions to world peacekeeping highlighted



Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stressed that collective awareness, a common strategy and mutual cooperation are essential for ensuring global peace and security.

Addressing the Schuman Security and Defence Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels, the defence minister highlighted Pakistan's longstanding contributions to international peace, particularly through United Nations peacekeeping missions.He said that around 237,000 Pakistani military and police personnel had served in 48 UN peacekeeping missions over the decades, while 183 Pakistani personnel had laid down their lives in the service of international peace.

JI stresses need for improving education system



Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has said education has not been the priority for governments, and the country's education system is being destroyed with each passing day.

Addressing the "National Dialogue in Education" organised by the Islamic Students' Union of Pakistan, he also congratulated the Islamic Students' Union for organising the dialogue.

Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said that governments have banned student unions, however, the issue of banning the student union was resolved after the decision of Justice Qazi Faez Isa in 2024.



Pakistan seeks to expand trade, cooperation with ASEAN: Ishaq Dar

■ Pakistan seeks stronger trade and economic ties with ASEAN as Ishaq Dar meets its secretary-general to discuss investment, cultural exchanges and cooperation in new sectors.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has expressed Pakistan's desire to expand cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly in trade and other key sectors.

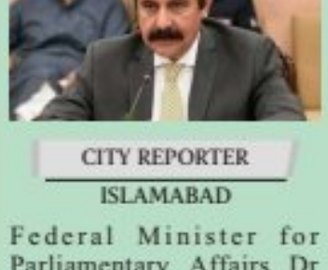
During a meeting with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan valued the organisation's efforts to promote dialogue around the world. He stressed that collective efforts were essential for achieving peace, stability and shared development.

Dar said Pakistan wanted to strengthen people-to-people exchanges with ASEAN, adding that the secretary-general's visit reflected a shared commitment to advancing the partnership between the two sides. He said the visit would provide fresh momentum to bilateral cooperation and highlighted the need to explore new areas of collaboration. Dar also described the ongoing discussions as important for strengthening engagement between Pakistan and ASEAN.

Speaking on the occasion, ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn said the ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership was established in 1993, adding that the organisation attached great importance to its longstanding partnership with Pakistan.

Referendum on new provinces not unconstitutional demand: Tariq Fazal

■ Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the PPP also advocates the supremacy of democracy and the Constitution, questioning why the party was reluctant to seek the people's opinion.



CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has said that holding a referendum is not an unconstitutional demand but a democratic option provided under the Constitution.

Reacting to a statement by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Saeed Ghani, the federal minister questioned why people should be deprived of their right to express their views on their future and effective governance.

He asked why any decision should be imposed before the public is given an opportunity to express its opinion, adding that a referendum provides a constitutional and democratic platform for seeking the people's mandate.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the PPP also advocates the supremacy of democracy and the Constitution, questioning why the party was reluctant to seek the people's opinion.

He maintained that the essence of democracy lies in making decisions in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people, respecting their views and accepting decisions made through public participation.

Process for changing system should Be democratic: Bilawal Bhutto

■ Says referendum on new provinces unconstitutional; parliament could not be bypassed for any such move

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has said he did not start the discussion about the destruction of the system, rather it was Mohsin Naqvi who started it.

In an interview with a private TV channel, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Mohsin Naqvi is his brother and he respects him, but it is not only Mohsin Naqvi's right to give his opinion on the reset of the system, he also has the right to say that the process of changing the system should be democratic.

Bilawal said that the Presidency had also issued a clarification that the issue of establishment of provinces was not discussed in the meeting.

He said that the Presidency had also issued a clarification that the issue of establishing provinces was not discussed in this meeting.

He once again objected to the proposal for a referendum for the establishment of provinces and, citing Article 234 of the Constitution, declared it unconstitutional.

Bilawal Bhutto complained that despite being a key stakeholder in the current system, he was not taken into confidence on the proposal for a referendum to establish provinces.

He said no-confidence motion against the founder of PTI was also brought through constitutional means, so it would not be appropriate to set aside the constitution and hold a referendum.

The PPP chairman said that if electoral reforms are to be carried out, then how it is possible to talk about holding a referendum or new elections before that.

The reputation of the Election Commission and the electoral process has never been as bad as it is today. Bilawal Bhutto said that in the history of Pakistan, opposition parties have always accused the opposition of rigging elections, but this is the first time that the leaders of the ruling party and its allies are also talking about rigging.



He asked, "When no one is willing to believe in fair and transparent elections in the current system, how the true opinion of the people be revealed through a referendum under such a system."

The PPP leader said that a resolution regarding the establishment of the South Punjab province has been passed in the Punjab Assembly. The decision should be made in accordance with the matter on which the elected representatives of the people agree.

Bilawal Bhutto said that the people of Sindh cannot be asked whether there should be a new province in Punjab or not, just as the people of any other province cannot be asked for their opinion on the establishment of a new province in Sindh.

He said due to the current situation in the world, Pakistan is not facing a general economic crisis but an economic disaster, which is likely to increase further.

In the current situation, the 100 percent focus of all stakeholders should be on providing economic relief to the people.

CamScanner

Musadik to represent Pakistan at SCO Civilizations Dialogue Forum in India

- Pakistan delegation will also participate in thematic sessions of the Forum and engage with SCO member States on the sidelines of the Forum.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Masood Malik will lead the Pakistan delegation to the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilizations Dialogue Forum, being held in New Delhi from November 20 to 22, 2026,

According to a Foreign Office statement released in Islamabad on Thursday, Dr Musadil Malik is attending the event at the invitation of the Minister of Culture and Tourism of India, according to a Foreign Office statement.

At the Forum, Dr Musadik Malik will share Pakistan's perspective on the salience of dialogue among civilizations and Pakistan's contribution in this area of diplomacy. His statement will also highlight Pakistan's constructive role in the SCO, as well as Pakistan's diverse civilizational and cultural heritage.

Pakistan's participation in this Forum is reflective of its contribution as an active SCO member State to promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding in line with "Shanghai Spirit".

Pakistan delegation will also participate in thematic sessions of the Forum and engage with SCO member States on the sidelines of the Forum.

Pakistan is the current chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) (SCO-CHS) for the period 2026-27.



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr. Kao Kim Hourn lead the delegation-level talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Graduation Ceremony Held At PAF Academy Asghar Khan

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Graduation Ceremony of 153rd GD(P), 99th Engineering, 109th Air Defence (Charlie & Delta) and 136th Combat Support Courses was held at PAF Academy Asghar Khan, Risalpur. Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while General Rafet Dalkiran, Commander Turkish Air Force, also witnessed the ceremony. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, was also present at the occasion. Upon arrival, the Chief Guest was received by Air Vice Marshal Hasan Faisal, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Academy Asghar Khan.Addressing the graduating cadets, the Chief Guest congratulated them on successfully completing their demanding training and commended their impressive parade and high standards of training. He also acknowledged the presence of the Commander Turkish Air Force, describing it as a reflection of the longstanding bonds of brotherhood between the two countries. Recalling Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's visit to the Academy 78 years ago, the Chief Guest highlighted his vision of a strong and efficient Air Force, stating, "A country without a strong Air Force is at the mercy of any aggressor." He observed that Pakistan Air Force had remained steadfast in upholding this vision throughout its history, adding, "The Quaid's Air Force had upheld the promise of being Second to None."Referring to Marka-e-Haq in May 2025, Chief of the Naval Staff lauded the outstanding operational performance of Pakistan Air Force, particularly its successful conduct of multi-domain operations through indigenous capabilities. Recalling the events he stated, "When the enemy came on the night of 6th and 7th May 2025, it came with its finest aircraft and its loudest boasts; by sunrise those boasts lay in the fields beyond our borders." He attributed PAF's remarkable performance to the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and highlighted the homegrown kill chain as a hallmark of the service's sustained modernization and indigenization efforts.Highlighting inter-services cooperation, the Chief Guest observed that Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force shared a long history of working together. He also highlighted Pakistan Navy's ongoing modernization, including the induction of advanced warships, HANGOR Class submarines, indigenous long-range weapons and unmanned systems.A total of 108 Cadets graduated during the ceremony. The Chief Guest conferred awards upon distinguished cadets for their outstanding performance during training.

Strongly condemn Houthi attacks on Riyadh, stand firmly with Saudi leadership, people: Ashrafi

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary-General of the International Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, has strongly condemned the Houthi militia attacks on civilian infrastructure in Riyadh, expressing complete solidarity with the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a joint statement issued on behalf of both councils, Ashrafi described the targeting of civilian infrastructure in Riyadh as highly condemnable and alarming, particularly the damage caused to the King Abdullah Financial District.

He said Houthi militia attacks on various Saudi cities, airports and other civilian installations in the past had also placed the lives and public property at serious risk. Such attacks not only threaten regional peace and stability but also directly endanger civilian populations and critical national infrastructure.

Ashrafi emphasised that the security of the Land of the Two Holy Mosques was of utmost importance to the people of Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah.

He said both councils stood firmly with the Saudi leadership and people and fully supported the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's right to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, citizens, holy sites and national assets.

He called upon the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation , the United Nations Security Council and the international community to unequivocally condemn the Houthi attacks on Riyadh and take effective measures to prevent such attacks, hold those responsible accountable and promote peace and stability in the region.

He said there could be no justification for targeting civilian populations and infrastructure, urging the international community to play a united and effective role against such actions to prevent further escalation and instability in the region.

Ashrafi reaffirmed that the Pakistan Ulema Council and the International Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain Council would continue extending their full support for the security and stability of Saudi Arabia and the protection of the sacred Land of the Two Holy Mosques.

Lahore ranked world's most polluted city as hazardous smog grips Punjab

- Lahore's minimum temperature is expected to stay around 14°C with a maximum of 27°C

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Thick smog continues to blanket Lahore and several other cities across Punjab, pushing air quality to hazardous levels.

Air pollution in the provincial capital has reached alarming proportions, with Lahore once again ranking as the most polluted city in the world. The city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) surged to 325, while specific hotspots recorded even more severe readings—peaking at 424 around GC University, 420 in Allama Iqbal Town, and 350 in Model Town.

According to the Meteorological Department, Lahore's minimum temperature is expected to stay around 14°C with a maximum of 27°C. Humidity levels were recorded at 68 percent alongside sluggish wind speeds of just 3 kilometers per hour, trapping pollutants close to the ground.

Other districts across Punjab are grappling with equally hazardous air. Khanewal recorded an extreme AQI of 1,202, followed by Kasur at 694, Multan at 323, and Gujranwala at 260.

In response to the deteriorating conditions, medical experts have urged residents to adopt strict precautionary measures, wear protective masks, and avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure until air quality improves.

British journal backs Pakistan's claim of downing several Indian Rafales

WEB DESK
LONDON



A British journal has confirmed Pakistan's claim of shooting down several Indian aircraft, saying 32 out of 36 Rafale jets now remain with India.

The 2027 World Air Forces Directory, published by the British magazine 'Flight International', has revealed that the numbers of the destroyed Rafale aircraft were BS 001, BS 021, BS 022 and BS 027. India failed to provide any clear images with the serial numbers of the four aircraft. The report also said that Pakistan's multi-domain operations had paralysed the Indian Air Force.

India proudly showcased its fleet of 36 Rafale fighter jets, despite crashes of multiple jets in aerial combat with Pakistan, and now a British aviation magazine has raised questions about four missing jets.

Nearly 18 months after Pakistan shot down Indian fighter jets during May 2025 conflict, a fresh report listing only 32 active Rafales has reignited controversy over New Delhi's military claims.

The annual directory sheds light at military aircraft inventories across 161 countries, including Pakistan and India.



Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah receives a shield from Acting Consul General of China in Karachi Dr Feng Deheng during a seminar titled "Understanding China's Governance and Deepening China-Pakistan Cooperation", organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) at a local hotel last day.

Punjab extends ban on use, sale of camera-enabled smart glasses, other devices

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



The Punjab Home Department has extended the enforcement of Section 144 across the province for another 30 days.

The provincial government has maintained a ban on the use, sale and purchase of hidden recording devices and equipment designed for spying.

Under the extended restrictions, smart glasses equipped with concealed cameras and recording gadgets disguised as everyday items, including pens, keychains and other accessories, will remain prohibited.

The ban applies to devices capable of secretly capturing or transmitting photographs, videos and audio recordings.

The restrictions also cover the sale and purchase of such equipment through physical shops and online platforms. Shopkeepers, traders and distributors have been barred from selling prohibited hidden recording devices anywhere in Punjab.

According to the Home Department, the measures aim to protect citizens' privacy, sensitive information and the security of important installations. Particular emphasis has been placed on safeguarding the dignity and privacy of women and children.

However, laptops, tablets, mobile phones and terminal devices approved by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) have been exempted from the restrictions.

CamScanner

Farming leads PM's youth loan drive

The agriculture sector remains the single largest beneficiary of the prime minister's youth loan scheme, availing half of the Rs288 billion in loans disbursed during the past three years, but surprisingly, Rs102 billion of it went to fewer than 4,000 landlords, official statistics showed.

The details emerged amid a revision in the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYBALs). The government has increased



the maximum size of the subsidised loan from Rs7.5 million to Rs25 million besides marginally reducing the profit rates for the banks.

The loans were given at fixed interest rates of 5% and 7%, depending upon the size, to both the agriculture sector and businesses from 2023 to June 2026. Amid subsidy constraints, the prime minister has now approved an ambitious Rs292 billion disbursement target for this fiscal year alone, which is more than the total disbursements during the past three years.

According to the details, the government disbursed Rs288 billion among 570,290 beneficiaries from 2023 to June 2026. But over 35%, or Rs102 billion, of the total loans were availed by 3,957 individuals in the agriculture sector. They took loans in the range of Rs1.5 million to Rs7.5 million at an interest rate of 7%.

In addition, another Rs92 billion was availed by 20,405 businesses, bringing the total disbursements in the maximum loan category to Rs193 billion, availed by a total of 24,362 individuals and firms.

Pakistan's lending landscape is heavily tilted in favour of the government, which takes the maximum amount of loans due to its annual estimated budget financing requirements equal to 4% to 5% of the GDP. The remaining loans are largely availed by big businesses, leaving very little for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

The subsidised loan scheme, which was first approved in January 2023, has so far helped 570,290 borrowers. But 59% of those were from the farming business. The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet this month revised the scheme by adding another loan category of Rs7.5 million to Rs25 million with a fixed interest rate of 8%.

It also reduced the profit margins of the commercial banks by 0.6% to Karachi-Interbank Offered Rate (Kibor) plus 2.4%.

The finance ministry spokesperson said the decision to reduce the earlier bank rate of Kibor+3% "will have a positive implication in terms of budgetary requirements of the scheme".

The scheme may face funding constraints as the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has estimated the subsidy impact of Rs38 billion on the basis of Rs250 billion in disbursements for the current fiscal year. Compared to the requirement, the available funding was Rs21 billion, the central bank wrote to the federal government.

The fresh disbursement target of Rs292 billion during the current fiscal year is estimated to entail an additional subsidy-related budgetary requirement of Rs8 billion for FY27. The central bank said that the budget of Rs21 billion has been allocated under the scheme against the estimates of Rs38 billion.

However, the finance ministry spokesman said sufficient funds are available for the scheme for the current fiscal year.

The disbursements are being made as per the requirements and the finance ministry and the SBP continue to monitor the progress and make available any additional resources if and when required, the spokesman said.

The scheme is available to Pakistani citizens aged 18 to 45 with entrepreneurial potential, with loan sizes now divided into five tiers after the addition of a new category last week.

A new Tier-4 has been introduced, covering financing limits from Rs7.5 million up to Rs25 million with a proposed borrower rate of 8% and a tenor of up to eight years, including a grace period of up to one year to cater to medium enterprises seeking higher growth and employment generation.

The new tier four will have first-loss risk coverage up to 10% on a portfolio basis.

The finance ministry said an independent impact assessment conducted by the Commonwealth Secretariat of the United Kingdom indicated that the enterprises availing Rs1.5 million to Rs7.5 million demonstrated a high employment multiplier of 15 per loan; therefore, the addition of the proposed new Tier 4 of Rs7.5 million to Rs25 million is intended to enable enterprise expansion and maximise employment outcomes.

The government plans to give Rs150 billion in subsidised loans at an 8% interest rate in the range of Rs7.5 million to Rs25 million during the current fiscal year.

The Cough We Ignore



Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

If you or someone in your family has been coughing every morning for months, you might put it down to the weather, dust or simply getting older. It is easy to get used to it. The cough becomes part of the morning routine, the mucus that comes with it hardly seems unusual, and even the breathlessness while climbing stairs or the wheezing at night may not seem like reasons to worry. Most people find a way to explain these symptoms away, especially when they develop gradually.But when these symptoms persist, they could be early signs of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a progressive lung condition that makes breathing increasingly difficult.

COPD is a health crisis that rarely gets the attention it deserves. It is the third leading cause of death worldwide and has no cure. According to the report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in June 2026, it claimed 3.4 million lives, approximately six percent of all deaths.

The condition includes chronic bronchitis, in which the airways stay inflamed and clogged with mucus, and emphysema, in which the lungs' air sacs are gradually destroyed. It creeps up slowly, until even a short walk to the shop leaves a person gasping, and diagnosis often comes late.

COPD can develop for several reasons, but smoking is one of the leading causes. Air pollution, smoke from cooking fires and workplace dust can also contribute, which is why the disease affects non-smokers too. Much of the resulting lung damage is irreversible, making prevention and early intervention essential.

For smokers, the greatest concern is the smoke produced when tobacco burns. A cigarette is a small, efficient combustion engine, and its smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals that irritate the airways. The US Surgeon General has concluded that these chemicals inflame the delicate lining of the lungs and cause permanent damage that leads to COPD. The damage is largely driven by the toxic chemicals released when tobacco burns, while nicotine is primarily responsible for addiction.Quitting tobacco is the ideal outcome for a smoker with COPD and the most effective intervention we have, but medicine has to treat the patient in front of it, not the one it wishes it had. Many keep smoking after diagnosis, having tried patches, gum, counselling and medication without lasting success, and for them "quit or nothing" is not a strategy. It is a shrug. The principle behind tobacco harm reduction is not unfamiliar. As the health risks of burning wood and coal became clearer, many households moved towards cleaner cooking fuels. Transport is undergoing a similar shift, with electric vehicles reducing dependence on combustion. The idea is to reduce exposure to harmful emissions. For smokers who struggle to quit, tobacco harm reduction follows a similar principle: seeking to reduce exposure to the toxic smoke produced by burning tobacco, while recognising that continued nicotine use is not risk-free and that long-term health risks depend on the evidence for each alternative.

harmful emissions. For smokers who struggle to quit, tobacco harm reduction follows a similar principle: seeking to reduce exposure to the toxic smoke produced by burning tobacco, while recognising that continued nicotine use is not risk-free and that long-term health risks depend on the evidence for each alternative.

But reducing harm must begin with recognising it. A persistent cough, regular wheezing or breathlessness should not be dismissed as part of ageing or everyday life. Early diagnosis, treatment and support can help people manage COPD, while reducing exposure to cigarette smoke, household fumes and polluted air can help prevent further damage.

COPD cannot be cured, and the lung damage it causes is often permanent. But its progression can be slowed, particularly by quitting smoking and avoiding harmful exposure. That morning cough may seem harmless today, but it could be the lungs warning of something far more serious.

The Count That Was Never Taken: What the 1947 Record Says About Jammu

By: Muhammad Waleed



Amanullah Khan Naqshbandi was travelling with a convoy of Muslim migrants out of Jammu on 5 November 1947 when it was attacked. He survived. Seventeen of his relatives did not. His account is one of the few places where their deaths are written down at all. There is no official list that carries their names, no register of the villages emptied around them. Every 6 November, families across Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and the diaspora mark the anniversary, and every year they do it without a record to point to.What is missing from 1947 in what is today Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not testimony. It is a count. No government, before or after the Maharaja's accession, set out to establish how many people were killed, how many fled and how many simply disappeared from the record. That uncertainty has too often been mistaken for proof that little happened.

The 1941 Census of India gives the only firm baseline. Jammu Province, as the census defined it, held 1,981,433 people, of whom 1,212,405, or 61.19 percent, were Muslim. In Jammu district alone, Muslims numbered 158,630, about 37 percent of the population. By 1961, the first full census taken after Partition, the district's Muslim share had fallen to 51,690 people, roughly 10 percent. No census was held in the state in 1951, which is precisely the year a count closest to the violence would have told us the most.

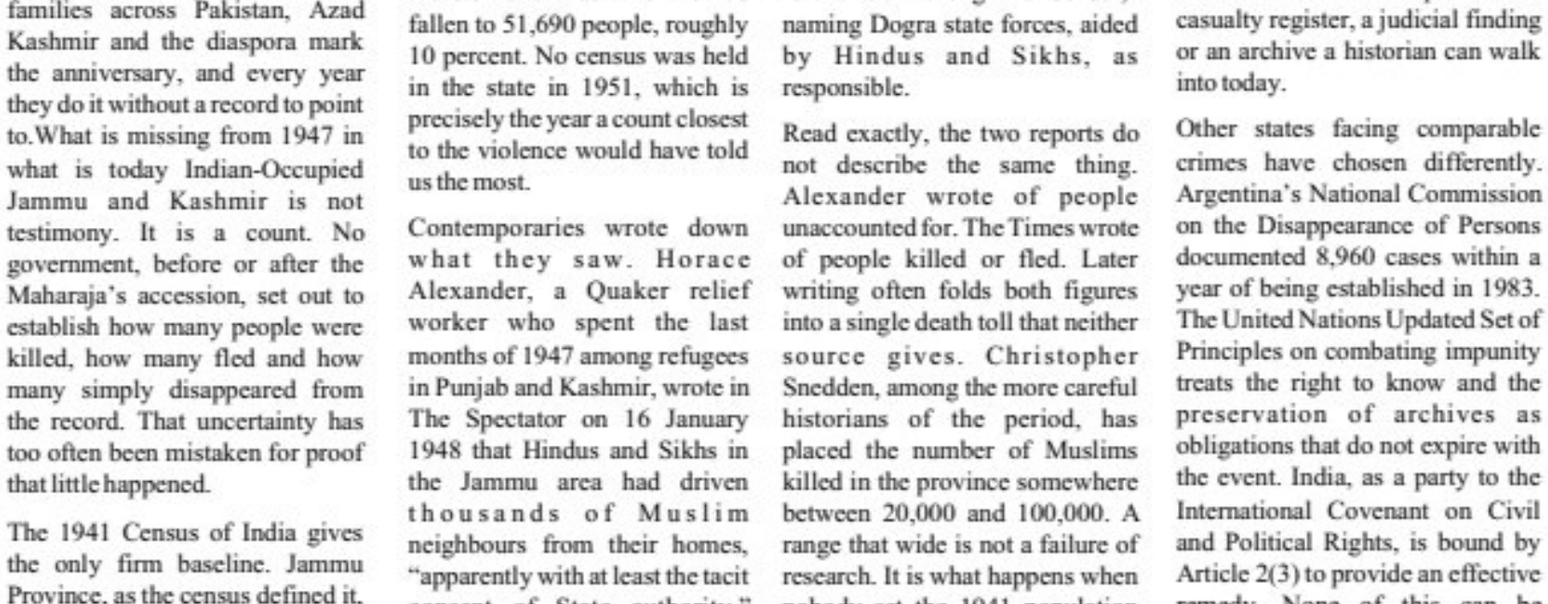
Contemporaries wrote down what they saw. Horace Alexander, a Quaker relief worker who spent the last months of 1947 among refugees in Punjab and Kashmir, wrote in The Spectator on 16 January 1948 that Hindus and Sikhs in the Jammu area had driven thousands of Muslim neighbours from their homes, "apparently with at least the tacit consent of State authority." Some two hundred thousand, he added, were "not accounted for." On 10 August 1948, The Times of London reported that 237,000 Muslims in the eastern districts had been "systematically exterminated, unless they escaped to Pakistan along the border," naming Dogra state forces, aided by Hindus and Sikhs, as responsible.

Read exactly, the two reports do not describe the same thing. Alexander wrote of people unaccounted for. The Times wrote of people killed or fled. Later writing often folds both figures into a single death toll that neither source gives. Christopher Snedden, among the more careful historians of the period, has placed the number of Muslims killed in the province somewhere between 20,000 and 100,000. A range that wide is not a failure of research. It is what happens when nobody set the 1941 population against the dead, the missing and the displaced while it was still possible to do so.

There were reasons the count was never taken. By early October 1947 the Maharaja's administration had placed the leading local newspapers under pre-censorship, barred papers from outside the state, and interned the Associated Press correspondent. After the accession, neither the Government of India nor the new state administration ordered a public inquiry into the killings.

Horace Alexander and Richard Symonds did investigate specific incidents at the request of the Indian and Pakistani governments, and Gandhi acknowledged the killings publicly before the year was out. Neither effort produced a casualty register, a judicial finding or an archive a historian can walk into today.

Other states facing comparable crimes have chosen differently. Argentina's National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons documented 8,960 cases within a year of being established in 1983. The United Nations Updated Set of Principles on combating impunity treats the right to know and the preservation of archives as obligations that do not expire with the event. India, as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, is bound by Article 2(3) to provide an effective remedy. None of this can be applied backward to punish 1947. It can be applied to the choice, still being made today, to keep the record closed.



President Asif Ali Zardari has called for a proactive approach to strengthening Pakistan-Ireland relations, with particular focus on expanding bilateral trade and investment, promoting educational and cultural cooperation and addressing visa-related difficulties faced by Pakistani nationals in Ireland.

CamScanner



Singapore: November 19, 2026: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, presenting the Product Innovation of the Year award at the 9th Global SME Finance Awards to the representative of the Bank of Punjab in recognition of its contribution to innovation in SME financing.

LPG prices drop by Rs50 per kg in Karachi as Iranian supplies resume

■ **LPG prices in Karachi have fallen by Rs50 per kilogram to Rs450 following the resumption of Iranian supplies, with further reductions expected.**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices in Karachi have declined by Rs50 per kilogram following the resumption of supplies from Iran, bringing the retail rate down to Rs450 per kg, with further reductions expected.

According to details, LPG prices in the port city have witnessed a significant decrease as supplies from Iran resume, easing pressure on consumers who had been facing sharply higher fuel costs.

The latest reduction has brought the per-kilogram retail price down from around Rs500 to Rs450, while further declines are anticipated if supply conditions continue to improve.

Previously, LPG prices in Karachi had surged to Rs600 per kg following the suspension of supplies from Iran, creating additional financial pressure on households and businesses relying on the fuel.

SECP slashes mobile app loan interest rates by 67pc

■ **The SECP has directed mobile loan companies to update their applications and related documentation within 15 days to comply with the revised requirements.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has reduced the annual interest rate on loans offered through mobile applications by 67 per cent, introducing new restrictions aimed at protecting borrowers from excessive borrowing costs and mounting debt.

The regulator has issued a new circular, setting the maximum annual interest rate on digital app-based loans at 90 per cent, down from the previous ceiling of 274 per cent.

Under the revised framework, the daily cost of borrowing Rs10,000 will stand at Rs24.66. All fees, charges and other costs will be included in the prescribed loan cost to ensure greater transparency for borrowers.

The SECP said the reduction was intended to protect consumers from excessive financing costs and prevent them from falling into unsustainable debt.

The new rules also cap digital app-based loans at Rs50,000, with a maximum repayment period of 90 days.

Borrowers making early repayments will only be charged for the period during which the loan remained outstanding. Furthermore, lending companies will not be allowed to impose late payment penalties during the first three days after the repayment deadline.

Govt approves construction of two M-6 motorway sections under public-private partnership

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The government has approved the construction of the first two sections of the 306-kilometre Hyderabad-Sukkur M-6 Motorway under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, paving the way for private investment in the country's major infrastructure projects.

The decision was taken at the 46th meeting of the Public Private Partnership Authority (P3A) Board, chaired by P3A Chairman Muhammad Ali. The board approved the construction of the first two sections, covering a combined distance of 121 kilometres, and appointed the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as transaction adviser for both sections.

Under the approved arrangement, the National Highway Authority (NHA) will invite bids from eligible local and foreign investors for the construction and operation of the motorway sections.

Private investors will operate the motorway for 25 years and recover their investment through toll collection.

The government will provide financial support exclusively for the first section, while the remaining arrangements will be undertaken through the public-private partnership framework.

The six-lane M-6 Motorway will stretch 306 kilometres from Hyderabad to Sukkur and will be constructed in five sections.The OPEC Fund for International Development and the Islamic Development Bank will provide financial assistance for the remaining three sections, covering the Nawabshah-Sukkur portion of the motorway.



Pakistan's IT exports hit record $453 million in October 2026

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's information technology (IT) sector showed strong growth, with IT and telecom services exports reaching a record $453 million in October 2026,

The latest figures also reveal that the country's technology exports increased by 17% during the first four months of the current fiscal year, highlighting the growing contribution of digital services to Pakistan's economy.

According to the latest official data, Pakistan's exports of telecommunications, computers, and information services reached $1.699 billion during July-October FY2026-27, compared to $1.445 billion during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

The increase reflects continued growth in the country's IT services sector, which has emerged as an important source of foreign exchange earnings.

This represents a year-on-year increase of approximately 17.4%, compared to the $386 million recorded in October 2025.

National Savings revises profit rates on various savings schemes

■ **Pakistan's National Savings Directorate revises profit rates, increasing returns on selected short-term and Islamic schemes while maintaining existing rates on several certificates.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The Directorate of National Savings has revised profit rates on several savings schemes, increasing returns on selected certificates and accounts while maintaining existing rates on a number of other investment products.

According to a new notification issued by the Directorate of National Savings, profit rates on certain certificates and accounts have been increased, while the previous rates for several schemes remain unchanged.

Under the revised notification, the profit rate for the first five profit payments on Special Savings Certificates has been set at 11.8 percent, while the rate for the sixth profit payment will remain unchanged at 12.8 percent. No changes have been announced in the profit rate for Defence Savings Certificates.

Similarly, the profit rate on Regular Income Certificates will remain at 12.12 percent. Investors in Behbood Savings Certificates, Pensioners' Benefit Accounts and Shuhada Family Accounts will continue to receive returns at the existing rate of 12.96 percent.

The Directorate has also increased profit rates on Short-Term Savings Certificates.

Under the new rates, three-month certificates will offer a return of 11.56 percent, while six-month certificates will carry a profit rate of 11.90 percent. The rate for one-year certificates has been set at 12.14 percent.

Meanwhile, the profit rate on ordinary Savings Accounts has been fixed at 10.50 percent.

Changes have also been introduced in the rates offered under Islamic savings products. The one-year Sarwa Islamic Term Account will now offer a profit rate of 12.04 percent, while the three-year Sarwa Islamic Term Certificate will carry a revised rate of 11.98 percent.

However, the profit rate on the five-year Sarwa Islamic Term Certificate will remain unchanged at 12.12 percent.

Additionally, the expected profit rate on Sarwa Islamic Savings Accounts has been increased to 12.04 percent.

The revised notification covers conventional and Islamic savings products offered by the National Savings Directorate, with adjustments varying according to the type and maturity period of each scheme.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb meets with Singapore DPM

■ **Federal Minister Senator Aurangzeb congratulated Singapore on its forthcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027, noting that Pakistan assumed the Chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).**

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and Minister for Energy, Industries and Trade Gan Kim Yong and discussed various measures to strengthen trade relations between the two countries, During the meeting, the minister highlighted the significance of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Singapore this year, a testament of our longstanding relations.

The Finance Minister observed that bilateral engagements were gaining momentum. He recalled the recent visit of Singapore's Foreign Minister H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan to Pakistan.

Federal Minister Senator Aurangzeb congratulated Singapore on its forthcoming ASEAN Chairmanship in 2027, noting that Pakistan assumed the Chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

He underscored the potential for closer collaboration between the two countries in areas including finance, artificial intelligence, fintech, trade and investment.

He noted that businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), need to engage directly to better understand the commercial opportunities between the two countries.The two sides also discussed opportunities to enhance trade in Pakistani food and agricultural products, with the Finance Minister noting the potential to further expand their presence in the Singapore market.

Ayaz calls for stronger Pakistan-US trade, economic ties

■ Ayaz Sadiq called for stronger Pakistan-US trade and investment ties through business partnerships, institutional cooperation and investor-friendly policies.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Wednesday emphasized the need to further strengthen trade and economic relations between Pakistan and the United States, stressing enhanced engagement between the business communities of the two countries to promote bilateral trade and investment.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the American Business Council at Parliament House.

Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kiani was also present.

Welcoming the delegation, the Speaker appreciated the business community's role in strengthening Pakistan-US economic relations and said Pakistan offered vast opportunities for trade and investment across various sectors.

He underscored the importance of exploring these opportunities through stronger business-to-business engagement, institutional linkages and expanded commercial partnerships between the two countries.

Ayaz Sadiq also briefed the delegation on Pakistan's parliamentary system and legislative procedures, g highlighting Parliament's role in facilitating economic and commercial activities.

He said creating a conducive environment for trade and investment was among the government's key priorities, adding that investor-friendly policies had been introduced to facilitate the business community and encourage both domestic and foreign investment.

Emphasizing the need for sustained engagement and mutual cooperation, the Speaker called for strengthening institutional and business-to-business linkages to unlock the full potential of bilateral economic relations.

Reaffirming Parliament's commitment to supporting the business sector, he assured the delegation of all possible cooperation through legislation to address business-related concerns and safeguard the interests of the business community.

He said Parliament would continue to play an effective role in promoting economic and commercial activities, while parliamentary cooperation and sustained dialogue remained essential to further consolidating Pakistan-US relations.

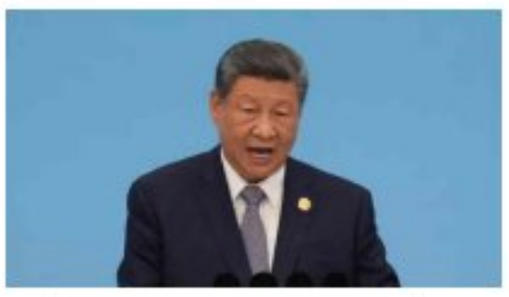
Describing overseas Pakistanis as a valuable national asset, Ayaz Sadiq highlighted their significant potential to contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

The American Business Council delegation thanked the Speaker for the warm welcome at Parliament House and appreciated his keen interest in addressing the concerns of the business community.

CamScanner

China's Xi calls for free and open trade at APEC summit

■ **Xi Jinping urged support for free trade and opposed protectionism at an Asia-Pacific summit in China, ahead of high-stakes talks with Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin on trade and global conflicts.**



Web DESK

SHENZHEN

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday urged support for "free and open trade," while expressing opposition to "protectionism" in an opening speech at an Asia-Pacific ?summit where he was due to meet his US and Russian counterparts. Xi's remarks came after Washington announced further restrictions on China's access to advanced AI chips from companies such as Nvidia (NVDA.O), opens new tab, which could further complicate a fragile trade truce with Beijing. China has pledged to retaliate.

"We must firmly uphold the rules-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, support free and open trade and investment, maintain the stability and smooth operation of global industrial and supply chains," Xi told an audience of business executives, after posing a series of rhetorical questions on how the Asia Pacific should respond to a changing world.



BANGKOK, 19 NOVEMBER 2026: CHAIRMAN SENATE SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI RECEIVING SOUVENIR AT THE SAVE THE CHILDREN POLICY DIALOGUE IN BANGKOK.

Kuwait reports drone attacks as Iran, US trade attacks on Qeshm and Bahrain

■ **He said the situation was under control and relief agencies were on full alert.**

Web Desk

Kuwait



Kuwait's army has said the Gulf country is under attack by drones while the United States and Iran traded blows, marking escalating tensions in the region as a peace deal remains elusive.

The US earlier carried out several attacks on Iran's southern island of Qeshm, in the Strait of Hormuz, hours after Iran said it launched a drone attack on a US radar system in Bahrain.

"The American attack on locations on Qeshm island caused no damage to residential, commercial, or infrastructural areas," Ahmad Nafisi, deputy governor of Iran's southern Hormozgan province, said.

He said the situation was under control and relief agencies were on full alert.

IRNA reported five to six explosions on the island on Tuesday evening.

A US official told Al Jazeera the strike hit a missile launch site on Qeshm, in response to Iran's earlier attack on a US base in Bahrain. US Central Command said Iranian drones aimed at a US radar system at an air base in Bahrain "were intercepted without any damage to US equipment or personnel".

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it carried out a "precision operation" with drones on the US-operated radar at the Sheikh Isa air base, in response to "repeated violations of Iranian airspace by US military drones".

Bahrain, which hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, said its air defences intercepted the attack, and blasts were heard over the capital, Manama, according to the AFP news agency.

It was the third Iranian drone attack on Bahrain in five days after a lull of several weeks. Friday's strike was the first Iranian attack on a Gulf country since early September, AFP reported. Reuters said it came after a Bahraini court sentenced 64 people, mostly Shia clerics, to life in prison for allegedly colluding with Iran.

Democrat Peltola wins in Alaska, securing 56-44 US Senate majority

■ **Democrat Mary Peltola defeated Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan in Alaska's Senate race, giving Democrats a projected 56-44 majority and their largest Senate advantage since 2009.**

Web Desk

WASHINGTON



Democrat Mary Peltola won Alaska's US Senate race on projections from US media showed, defeating Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan and ?giving her party its ninth flip of the midterm elections and a commanding 56-44 Senate majority.

Peltola won 50% of first-place votes to Sullivan's 46%, enough to clear the 50% threshold and avoid additional rounds under Alaska's ranked-choice voting system.

Trump won Alaska by 13 percentage points in 2024, but voter ?frustration with the high cost of living and the state's strong independent political streak put it back in play for Democrats.

"As a lifelong Alaskan who has dedicated my career to serving our state, there is no greater honor than having Alaskans' support in our fight to take on corporate greed, lower costs, and put Alaska first," Peltola said on X after media projected her victory. "Thank you, Alaska. Let's get to work."

Alaska's isolated communities can make its election counts unusually lengthy.

Explosion heard in Saudi capital, missiles intercepted

● **The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis also said they intercepted two cruise missiles the latest in weeks of strikes targeting military, civilian and oil infrastructure.**

Web Desk

JADAH



A powerful explosion rattled homes in Riyadh on Wednesday, AFP journalists and residents said, as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis pressed their campaign of attacks against the kingdom.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis also said they intercepted two cruise missiles -- the latest in weeks of strikes targeting military, civilian and oil infrastructure.

Residents said Wednesday's explosion came without warning, with no mobile-phone alert issued beforehand as is usually the case during aerial threats.

"The explosion was extremely loud," said a resident in northern Riyadh. "Hearing a blast without receiving a warning is very frightening."

An AFP journalist said doors throughout her home swung open and the lights briefly went out.

The location of the explosion was not immediately clear, but residents told AFP they saw smoke near Riyadh's airport in the northeast of the city.

In October, a deadly attack targeting Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport killed 14 people and injured hundreds, forcing the suspension of flights for two weeks.

Within minutes, the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis said its air defences had intercepted and destroyed a up cruise missile launched by the group towards the Riyadh region.

Earlier, the coalition had reported intercepting another cruise missile also heading for the same region.

Saudi civil defence authorities also said they had activated early warning systems in the southern regions of Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, near the Yemeni border.

The Saudi-led coalition, which backs neighbouring Yemen's internationally recognised government in its war with the Houthis, has battled a surge in attacks since hostilities reignited in July. The long-running civil war in Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, had been largely dormant after a ceasefire went into effect in 2022.

US, Iran exchange fire despite talks with mediators

Web Desk

TEHRAN



The US and Iran exchanged fire, with the US striking an Iranian missile launch site after Iran said it targeted a US military radar system in Bahrain, despite talks between Iran and mediators Oman and Qatar.

The latest back-and-forth between the US ?and Iran was a reminder of difficulties ending nearly nine months of war that have destabilised the Middle East, pushed up global energy prices and fueled US voter anger in November elections that punished President Donald Trump's Republican Party.

A US military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said US fighter jets fired on a Revolutionary Guards missile launch site on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz in response to Iran's "aggression targeting US personnel and assets."

Iranian media, citing ?an Iranian official, said the US attack did not damage infrastructure.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said earlier on Tuesday they targeted a US military radar system at Bahrain's Sheikh Isa base, and ?warned Bahrain over its alliance with the US and stance towards Shi'ite clergy.

Russia's Putin says he expects big potential benefit from meeting with Trump and Xi



Web Desk

MASCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday he expected a big potential benefit from his upcoming meeting with US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Putin, who is due to meet Trump and Xi on Thursday, was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO summit 2026 in China's southern technological and manufacturing hub of Shenzhen.

Citing what he said was a fragmented global economy and military-political risks, Putin said that partnership, rather than isolation, was needed, and that APEC provided a chance for a constructive exchange of views.

Trump's Board of Peace faults Israel and Hamas for failure to end Gaza war

■ **The 12-page Board of Peace report is the body's second to the United Nations Security Council since the US-backed ceasefire came into effect 13 months ago**

Web Desk

JERUSALEM



The body overseeing US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war accused both Israel and Hamas of failing to meet their commitments to end hostilities, leaving the population of Gaza in dire conditions and the ceasefire in danger of collapse.

The 12-page Board of Peace report, seen by Reuters, is the body's second to the United Nations Security Council since the US-backed ceasefire came into effect 13 months ago.

It offers a sobering assessment of progress made since then.

The board, established and headed by Trump, is expected to present the report's findings to a meeting of the council in New York at the end of November.

"The distance between what has been agreed and what is happening on the ground nonetheless remains the principal risk to the process," the report said, warning that "a ceasefire that delivers nothing visible cannot ?be sustained indefinitely."

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a spokesperson for the political office of Hamas did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the report.

While the ceasefire has halted major fighting, the wider plan, which calls for Hamas to disarm, Israeli troops to withdraw and reconstruction to begin, has effectively stalled since soon after it came into effect last year.

Hamas agreed in July to a Board of Peace roadmap to surrender its weapons and transfer governance of Gaza to a civilian transitional authority, but Israel rejected the roadmap, saying it will not withdraw until Hamas is dismantled.

Israel has carried out near-daily strikes on Gaza, while the report said Hamas fighters have also continued attacks on Israeli troops.

"Every day that Israel continues strikes against Hamas targets, it delays putting Hamas' agreement to the roadmap to the test," the report said.

"Meanwhile, Hamas militant activity continues, the commitment to cease all military activities has not been met in full by the parties, and the population faces another winter in tents and rubble."

CamScanner



Aima Baig's emotional reflection on her journey wins hearts

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani singer Aima Baig has touched fans' hearts with an emotional message after a heartfelt tribute from one of her fan pages reminded her of the journey that brought her to where she is today.

Deeply moved by the gesture, the singer expressed sincere gratitude for the unconditional love and support she has received over the years, saying she would not be where she is today without her fans.

A fan page recently shared a heartfelt Instagram post celebrating Aima Baig's journey, highlighting her achievements and praising her dedication and success over the years. Touched by the gesture, Aima reposted the tribute on her Instagram Story and responded with a sincere message thanking not only the page but all of her fans around the world.

Expressing her emotions, Aima wrote that the tribute genuinely moved her. She said people often feel lonely or forget to appreciate the countless blessings in their lives, but moments like these remind them that there are millions of people who love and support them for no reason other than genuine admiration.

The singer went on to thank every fan page that has supported her throughout her career. She said she would not be where she is today without e their constant encouragement and unwavering belief in her. She added that her dream became a reality because of the love and support she has received from fans over the years.

According to Aima, artists are nothing without the unconditional love of the people who stand by them through every stage of their journey.Ending her heartfelt note with a touch of humour, Aima joked, "I'm not crying, you are," adding heart and hug emojis to express her affection for her supporters.

Her emotional response quickly resonated with fans, many of whom praised the singer for remaining humble and grateful despite her success.

Sarah Khan's bridal makeover draws criticism from fans

■ Fans commented that the excessive makeup concealed the actress's natural beauty

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

Sarah Khan has come under criticism on social media after unveiling a bridal makeover for a recent salon photoshoot, with many fans saying the heavy makeup overshadowed her natural beauty.

Sarah, one of Pakistan's most popular television stars, is known for her performances in several hit drama serials and enjoys a massive social media following of 12.7 million on Instagram. She is married to singer Falak Shabir, and the couple has two daughters.





For the latest photoshoot, the actress donned a traditional deep red bridal outfit paired with elaborate jewellery. However, the bridal look quickly became a topic of discussion online, as many users expressed disappointment with the styling.

Several social media users claimed the makeup artist used an ivory-toned base instead of matching Sarah's natural complexion, while the glitter-heavy makeup made her appearance look overly dramatic and unnatural.

Many fans commented that the excessive makeup concealed the actress's natural beauty. Some described the look as overdone, while others said it made Sarah appear older than her age. A few users also remarked that the bold blush and heavy contouring altered her facial features.

Despite the criticism, a large number of fans reiterated that Sarah Khan is naturally beautiful and felt that a softer, more natural bridal look would have suited her better.



Pakistani dramas have no competition: Indian actor

WEB DESK

MUMBAI

Pakistani dramas continue to enjoy a massive fan following in India, and Shehnaaz Gill is no exception.

The actress recently opened up about her love for Pakistani shows and revealed that Hania Aamir is her favourite actress.

During an interview with Faridoon Shahryar, Shehnaaz showered praise on Hania, Bilal Abbas Khan and Fahad Mustafa. She also explained why the subtle romance shown in Pakistani dramas appeals to her so much.

"I really like Hania Aamir, she's my favourite. Bilal Abbas Khan, I love him. Mustafa," Shehnaaz said while naming the Pakistani stars she enjoys watching.

Shehnaaz appeared particularly impressed by the slow-burn romance and restrained chemistry between the lead characters.

She said viewers keep waiting for the couple to come closer, but the distance between them makes the relationship feel even more pure.

When asked to name her favourites, Shehnaaz picked Meri Zindagi Hai Tu, starring Hania Aamir and Bilal Abbas Khan, and Kabhi Main Kabhi Tum, featuring Hania alongside Fahad Mustafa.

Urmila Matondkar, Ram Gopal Varma secretly married during 1990s relationship

■ Speaking on a YouTube channel, senior Indian entertainment journalist Jyothi Venkatesh alleged that the filmmaker and actress tied the knot in a private ceremony while they were reportedly in a relationship.

WEB DESK

New Delhi

Veteran Indian filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma and actress Urmila Matondkar are back in the spotlight after a senior journalist claimed the two had secretly married during their rumoured relationship in the 1990s.

Speaking on a YouTube channel, senior Indian entertainment journalist Jyothi Venkatesh alleged that the filmmaker and actress tied the knot in a private ceremony while they were reportedly in a relationship.

According to Venkatesh, he first learned about the alleged marriage from veteran actor Chiranjeevi during a meeting on the sets of the film Gentleman.

He claimed Chiranjeevi questioned why, despite covering major entertainment stories, he had never reported on Ram Gopal Varma and Urmila's alleged marriage.

When asked about the evidence behind the claim, Venkatesh said Chiranjeevi told him the ceremony had taken place at a temple in Andhra Pradesh and even shared the contact details of the priest who had allegedly



performed the wedding rituals.

The journalist said that before publishing the story, he contacted Urmila Matondkar to verify the claim.

According to him, the actress became emotional, started crying, and asked how he could write such a story about her, reminding him that he had known her since the beginning of her film career.

Venkatesh also claimed that he sought a response from Ram Gopal Varma, but the filmmaker declined to comment on the allegations.

The journalist further alleged that Urmila wanted to legalise the relationship through an official marriage, but Ram Gopal Varma was not ready to take that step at the time, which ultimately led to their separation.

Ram Gopal Varma and Urmila Matondkar worked together in several successful films, including Rangeela, Daud, Satya, and Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya.

The alleged marriage claims have never been officially confirmed by either of them.Veteran Indian filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma and actress Urmila Matondkar are back in the spotlight after a senior journalist claimed the two had secretly married during their rumoured relationship in the 1990s.

Speaking on a YouTube channel, senior Indian entertainment journalist Jyothi Venkatesh alleged that the filmmaker and actress tied the knot in a private ceremony while they were reportedly in a relationship.

Iqra Aziz reveals daughter Sophia Hussain's face for the first time

Web Desk

KARACHI

Renowned Pakistani actress Iqra Aziz has revealed the face of her newborn daughter, Sophia Hussain, for the first time, delighting fans with a heartwarming family update on social media.

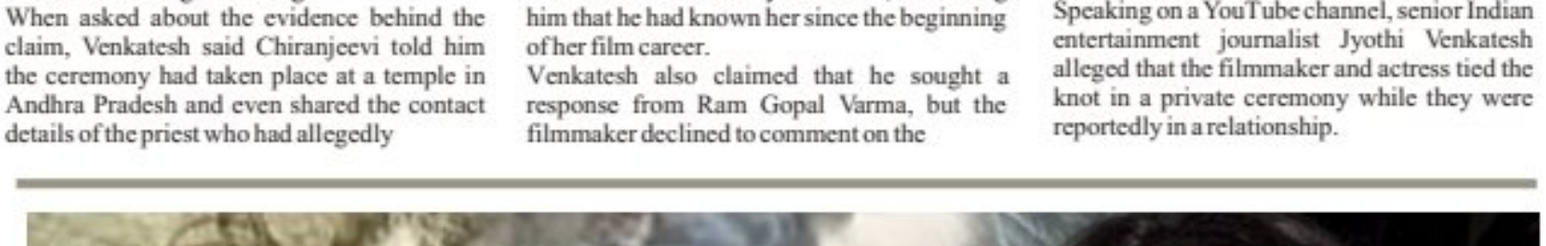
The actress shared a charming photoshoot on Instagram featuring both of her children, Kabir Hussain and Sophia Hussain. The pictures quickly drew praise from social media users, with many expressing admiration for the adorable sibling moments.

Iqra Aziz and her husband, actor Yasir Hussain, welcomed their



second child earlier this year. On January 27, the actress announced the birth of her daughter through Instagram, revealing that the couple had been blessed with a baby girl on January 24.

Iqra Aziz is widely recognized for her performances in popular television dramas including Suno Chanda, Ranjha Ranjha Kardi, Khamoshi, Jhooti and several other successful productions.



Pakistani actress Mehar Bano left fans stunned after a dramatic video made it appear as though she had tragically died during a trip to Skardu.

Dr Omer Adil sparks controversy with remarks against Madam Noor Jehan, Bushra Ansari

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

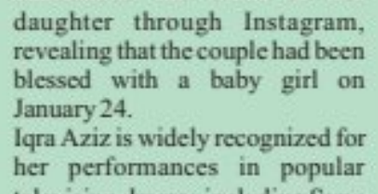
Dr. Omer Adil has landed in controversy after making remarks about financially successful women during a recent podcast where he referenced veteran actress Bushra Ansari and legendary singer Madam Noor Jehan.

Speaking on Dr. Ruby Malik's podcast, Omer Adil claimed that when women become the primary earners in a household they often attract people who depend on their income rather than support them.

He said that instead of finding a true provider, such women end up with "leeches" who continue benefiting from their success.

While recalling conversation with the late Madam Noor Jehan, Dr Omer said the iconic singer once told him that her voice became the family's main source of livelihood.

Using her as an example he said successful women often spend their lives financially supporting



people around them.

He also gave example of Bushra Ansari questioning men who rely on their wives earnings instead of contributing financially. He further said that men is the primary breadwinner according to the societal and religious values.

Dr Omer Adil's comments have quickly gone viral, triggering mixed reactions on social media. While some users agreed with his views many others criticized his remarks as unfair and disrespect.

The viral clip has reignited debate online over gender roles, financial independence, and the public scrutiny faced by successful women in Pakistan's entertainment industry.

CamScanner

Sri Lanka fightback delays Pakistan victory in second Test

● Milan Rathnayaka, Sonal Dinusha and Kusal Mendis help Sri Lanka avoid innings defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Sri Lanka mounted a resilient rearguard to stave off an innings defeat and frustrate Pakistan on Thursday, reaching 309-9 on day three of the second and final Test in Rawalpindi.

Milan Rathnayaka hit an unbeaten 60 while Sonal Dinusha (54) and Kusal Mendis (53) defied Pakistan's pace attack, avoiding an innings defeat and delaying a result.

At close, Asitha Fernando was the other unbeaten batter on two as the tourists batted in all three sessions to add 235 runs after resuming on 74-3.

The visitors now lead by 82 runs and will hope for a miracle to avoid a defeat or pull off a win.

Sri Lanka's fightback was aided by a hamstring injury to Pakistan fast bowler Saqib Khan, who was unable to bowl on Thursday, weakening the hosts' attack as the Pindi Stadium pitch became easier to bat on.



Pakistan wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori praised the home side's bowlers despite the injury to Saqib Khan.

"Unfortunately one of our bowlers got injured but the other three strived hard and made up for that loss," said Ghazi.

"We are confident that we can chase the target but we will need to do it with discipline."

Sri Lanka batter Sonal Dinusha said his team still had a chance of pulling off an upset.

"I am happy with the way we batted," said Dinusha. "We have an 80-run-plus lead so if we could add another 15-20 then it's game on."

On 167-5 at lunch, Sri Lanka were staring at an innings defeat, but Dinusha and Sri Lanka skipper Kusal put on a fighting 81-run stand for the sixth wicket, leaving Pakistan frustrated.

frustrated.

Kusal hit a miscued sweep off spinner Salman Agha onto his stumps, trudging off in disappointment. He hit eight boundaries in his 24th Test half-century.

Kusal, who reached 5,000 Test runs when on 13, became the 12th Sri Lankan to achieve the milestone, doing so in his 77th Test.

Dinusha and Rathnayaka then prolonged the fight as the duo erased Pakistan's 227-run lead, adding 53 for the seventh wicket.

It was Aamer Jamal who broke the stand with the second new ball, getting Dinusha caught at mid-wicket by Azan Awais off a miscued pull shot.

Dinusha's resolute knock had seven boundaries.

Alcaraz overpowers Medvedev to move closer to Last Four

■ Carlos Alcaraz defeated Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 6-4 at the ATP Finals, extending his winning streak to 11 matches and moving closer to a semi-final spot.

Sports Desk

MONTREAL

World number three Carlos Alcaraz eased past Daniil Medvedev 6-2 6-4 on Wednesday to move to the brink of a semi-final spot at the season-ending ATP Finals.

Alcaraz, seeking his maiden ATP Finals title, needed just 72 minutes to stretch his winning run to 11 matches after clinching back-to-back titles in Vienna and Paris. He has won three titles since coming back to the ?tour at the US Open following a four-month break due to a wrist injury.

He must wait for the other group match ?between Flavio Cobolli and Frances Tiafoe to find out whether he has secured a last-four spot with a match to spare.

"I think I did everything well," said Alcaraz, who also beat Medvedev in Vienna. "We could see in his first match that he was serving really well. He got a lot of free points with his serve and I just returned really well.



"On second serves I returned ?really ?aggressively and really deep, and I would say after that I was playing great, in my game style."

The 23-year-old found little resistance as he clinched the first set thanks to two consecutive breaks. Alcaraz ?picked up where ?he left off with another early break in the second and

Russian Medvedev, ATP Finals champion six years ago, was unable ?to match the Spaniard's power.

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Australia captain Cummins under pressure as Sandpapergate scandal deepens



SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Australia captain Pat Cummins stuck firm to his position that he had no knowledge of a 2018 ball-tampering plot as pressure on his leadership grew in the wake of Cameron ?Bancroft's explosive 4,000-word account.

Bancroft, who was banned for nine months for his part in the Sandpapergate scandal, questioned Cummins' credibility in a lengthy statement on Wednesday, saying the test captain's denials at a press conference last week were the "final straw" that pushed him to break his silence.

Cummins' manager Neil Maxwell said in a statement that Cummins' position had not changed and that he had no case to answer."Pat's position hasn't changed in eight years. He's been consistent and adamant from day one," Maxwell said."Pat feels for Cam (Bancroft) of course. He has been through a lot. We would urge people to again read Pat's interview transcript. There is nothing he hasn't answered. And that includes in response to what Cam has now said."

Bancroft joined a growing cohort of players who have alleged the wider team had prior knowledge ?of the ball-tampering in South Africa and not just the three players -- Bancroft,

David Warner and then-captain Steve Smith -- who were sanctioned.

National newspaper the Australian called for a review of Cummins' captaincy, and other Australian media outlets questioned whether he could survive the scandal.

"Pat Cummins' future as test captain should be placed under ?immediate review after Cameron Bancroft's stunning accusation that the skipper didn't tell us the truth," wrote Robert Craddock, a senior sports journalist at ?the Australian.

Hours before Bancroft's statement, Cricket Australia boss Todd Greenberg said Cummins did not need to be cleared of the matter.

The eight-year-old scandal was reignited by ?Usman Khawaja's allegations in his autobiography and to media that the wider team and staff discussed ball-tampering during theSouth Africa tour before Bancroft was caught with sandpaper on field during the Newlands test.

Alcaraz calm over hamstring scare at ATP Finals after injury-hit season

■ Carlos Alcaraz revealed a lingering hamstring problem after his ATP Finals win over Medvedev but remained optimistic about his fitness ahead of Friday's match.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Carlos Alcaraz said he was still feeling a hamstring problem that he picked up in his ATP Finals victory over Daniil Medvedev, but a recent spell on the sidelines had taught him to stay composed when his body throws another obstacle in his path.

The world No. 3 needed a medical timeout to have his left thigh strapped midway through his meeting with Medvedev in the season finale on Wednesday, but completed a 6-2 6-4 win.

"I feel it a little bit," Alcaraz said. "I'm not going to ?lie. But, you know, unfortunately I was playing great and suddenly I felt a little problem of my hamstring.

"I could play really good tennis since that moment till the end of the match. I was focused on other things. I was ?trying to stay relaxed, to move not too aggressive. I'm thinking about being aggressive and thinking about my shots all the time.

"Right now I'm just feeling okay. We'll see with my team, with my physio, but I think the rest of the day and tomorrow is really going to be important days ahead of me."

The 23-year-old Spaniard reached the semifinals and will continue his quest for a ?maiden ATP Finals title. He takes on the already eliminated Flavio Cobolli in his last round-robin match in Turin

Alcaraz said a near-five-month layoff with a wrist injury had reshaped his perspective, with the seven-times Grand Slam champion winning titles in Tokyo, Vienna and Paris after his return to action at the US Open in late August.

"The injury made me realise what's really important," Alcaraz said. "It's not winning or losing finals of tournaments. It's just about playing tennis. It's a gift every time I can step on the court and compete healthy.

"When you realise that, everything comes easier for me, because I enjoy and I don't feel stressful on a tennis court ... which means I can face problems in a different way.

"More calm, relaxed, and I'm thinking, 'OK, ?I'm going to still try my best tennis, I'm going to still try what I have to do' ... I ?think right now I'm more mature."





Barty humbled to join 'absolute legends' in tennis Hall of Fame

Web Desk

LOS ANGELES

Ash Barty has never been one to trumpet her achievements, so perhaps it was no surprise her election to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) left the Australian delighted but wondering whether she truly belonged among the game's greats.

The three-times Grand Slam singles champion and former world number one will be formally inducted at a ceremony in Newport, Rhode Island, next August and take her place among luminaries like Roger Federer, Billie Jean King and Margaret Court.

Nearly five years on from retiring but still only 30, Barty was touched to have personal messages of congratulations from nearly 20 Hall of Famers including Federer and Martina Navratilova as ITHF co-presidents Kim Clijsters and Patrick McEnroe gave her the news in a surprise call.

"I feel very, very humbled and grateful. And to be honest, I've got a little bit of impostor syndrome where I feel I don't quite belong," Barty told Reuters in a call from her home base in Queensland state.



Alcaraz books ATP Finals semi-final spot after Medvedev win

Web Desk

TURIN

Carlos Alcaraz reached the last four of the ATP Finals on Wednesday thanks to Frances Tiafoe after the Spaniard had earlier brushed aside world number five Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 6-4.

American Tiafoe beat Italian Flavio Cobolli 7-6 (8/6), 6-0 with his first set guaranteeing Alcaraz's spot in the next round.

Tiafoe kept his hopes of a semi-final spot alive in his maiden Finals appearance and faces Medvedev in his last group-stage match on Friday.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz needed just over 70 minutes to beat the Russian in Turin.

"A little bit of problems, you know, physically, in the match," Alcaraz said on-court after receiving some treatment in the second set.

"But I think everybody could see that I was able to still play good tennis, I could still move well."

By winning in straight sets, the 23-year-old will secure his spot in the semi-finals if Frances Tiafoe defeats Flavio Cobolli later or if the Italian beats the American in three sets.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111225453 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 DIRECTOR GENERAL FARMS & FEED RESOURCES QUETTA 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 1000 PKR and Bid Security 40,000/-

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL AROUND DG FARM AND FEED RESOURCES OFFICE QUETTA	1,950,000

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 1 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 1,365,000 PKR Amount in2 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 amount 40,000 PKR specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **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 10:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 11:00 AM **Address:** Office of the Director General Farms and Feed Resources Brewery Road Near CASVAB quetta

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Sheikh Rashid seeks relief for nephew sentenced to 60 years

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has appealed for leniency for his nephew Sheikh Rashid, saying he was unjustly handed a 60-year prison sentence. Speaking to the media during his appearance before a special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC), Sheikh Rashid said providing relief to ordinary citizens was a demand shared by the entire nation. He added that people could not even obtain flour without presenting their national identity cards.

He urged the authorities to extend relief to labourers, street vendors and ordinary citizens so they could afford basic necessities and lead their lives with dignity. He also called for a reduction in flour prices.

Earlier, ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah conducted the hearing of the GHQ attack case. Faisal Malik, lawyer for the PTI founder, appeared before the court along with the legal team, while the prosecution team was also present in the courtroom.

Former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and other accused persons left the court after marking their attendance.

CM Maryam approves Phase II of solar panel scheme, increases target to 100,000

● Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz approves Phase II of solar scheme, raises target to 100,000 panels and backs waste-to-energy projects to expand renewable energy across the province.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved Phase II of the CM Solar Panel Scheme, increasing the target from 90,000 to 100,000 solar panels to expand access to renewable energy across the province.

The chief minister also approved a pilot project to install 5,000 solar panels in Cholistan and directed officials to prepare a plan for generating energy and biofuel from solid waste in collaboration with the Suthra Punjab initiative.

Chairing a special meeting, Maryam Nawaz ordered energy audits of all major hospitals and directed authorities to install electrical panels according to their energy requirements.

The meeting also granted in-principle approval for a pilot project to generate energy from 3,000 tonnes of waste. Provincial Minister Faisal Khokhar and the energy secretary gave detailed briefings on various proposed initiatives.



The meeting reviewed bioenergy and biofuel projects involving animal waste, agricultural waste and solid waste. A report was also presented on a biorefinery project in Nankana, which would utilise rice husks and other crop residues.

Officials also reviewed plans for commercial-scale biogas plants, private dairy farms and community-based biogas projects across Punjab.

In addition, the meeting granted in-principle approval to shift 40 water supply sites in Cholistan to solar energy.

During the briefing, officials revealed that Phase I of the CM Solar Panel Scheme had received more than 350,000 applications. A total of 89,869 people received solar panels under the first phase, resulting in savings of one-third on their electricity bills.

The scheme has gained considerable popularity across Punjab, according to the briefing.

Officials further informed the meeting that 76 schools across the province had been shifted to solar energy as part of a pilot project.

Punjab has the potential to produce 7.15 billion cubic metres of biogas annually from approximately 490,000 tonnes of animal waste.

The briefing also stated that around 1.6 billion units of electricity could be generated from animal, agricultural and solid waste.

According to a public survey conducted by the Energy Department, respondents expressed positive views about Maryam Nawaz's decisions for low-income communities, with some saying their electricity bills had nearly halved following the launch of the CM Solar Panel Scheme.

Khalid Maqbool says demand for new provinces is administrative necessity

● MQM-P chief Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui rejects threats over new provinces, urges authorities to act and says the demand is based on administrative and economic needs.

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has warned against threatening residents of Sindh's urban areas, saying they are neither anyone's subjects nor slaves and must be treated with respect.

Speaking to the media, Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said MQM-P had never limited its demand for new provinces to Sindh, Karachi or a separate province for the Urdu-speaking population. Instead, he said, the party had consistently advocated the creation of new provinces across Pakistan based on population and administrative requirements.

He questioned why threats of bloodshed were being directed at



Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Nawabshah if the demand for new provinces was being raised for the entire country.

Siddiqui said the position previously advocated by people in Sindh's urban areas was now being echoed across Pakistan. He maintained that his party believed in presenting arguments and expected responses through dialogue rather than threats. He urged those issuing warnings to residents of urban Sindh to think carefully before making such statements.

Addressing Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Siddiqui questioned why threats of bloodshed were specifically being associated with Karachi, Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Nawabshah when discussions about creating new provinces were taking place nationwide.

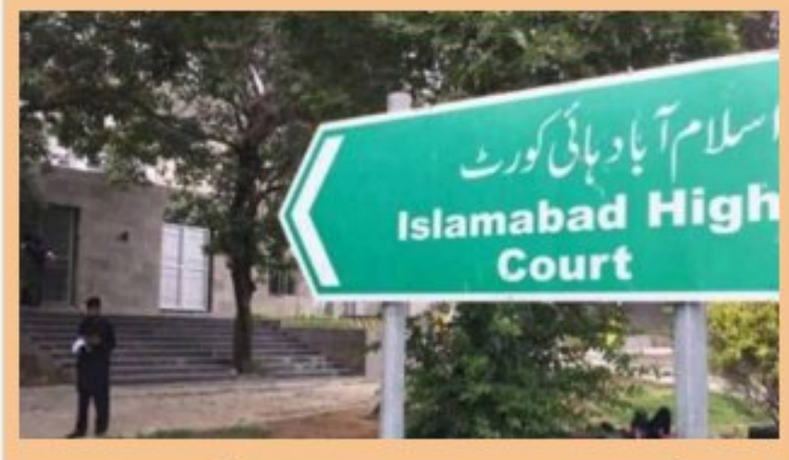
He called on law enforcement agencies and institutions responsible for maintaining law and order to take notice of the matter. He also urged the courts to exercise suo motu powers over the alleged threats.

The MQM-P convener said people from urban areas of Sindh had migrated to Pakistan carrying the gift of freedom. He added that economic activities in these cities benefited the entire province, yet their residents were being threatened.

Siddiqui claimed that Karachi contributed 97 per cent of Sindh's budget revenue, while some estimates put its share at 93 per cent. He questioned how much of the remaining revenue was generated by Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Nawabshah, Sukkur and other cities.

He also highlighted what he described as a significant gap between democracy and feudal-style democracy in Pakistan, arguing that political leadership frequently emerged through family and hereditary connections rather than from among political workers, limiting public representation.

Siddiqui maintained that the demand for new provinces was neither an act of treason nor a conspiracy, but an administrative necessity.



IHC orders CDA to complete NADRA e-balloting within 15 days

■ IHC directs CDA to complete NADRA e-balloting within 15 days, warning its chairman may be summoned personally if the court's order is not implemented within the deadline.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to complete the NADRA e-balloting process within 15 days, warning that its chairman may be summoned in person if the court's order is not implemented.

The written order was issued in a contempt of court case against CDA officials over the alleged failure to comply with judicial directions.

Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar issued the order while hearing a petition filed by citizen Muhammad Sharif. The court directed the CDA Member Estate to complete the NADRA e-balloting process and the balloting exercise under the relevant policy within 15 days.

The court warned that if the directions are not implemented within the stipulated period, the CDA chairman will be required to appear personally and explain the reasons for non-compliance.

According to the written order, the CDA's counsel had stated on January 29, 2026, that the applications would be considered within one month and included in the NADRA e-balloting process. Following this statement, the contempt petition had been disposed of.

The court was informed that certain aspects of the matter required further clarification and that the authority intended to submit additional material before the court.

The petitioner's counsel also presented a letter dated January 26, 2026, issued by the CDA's Deputy Director of Land and Rehabilitation. According to the letter, a decision had been taken, with the approval of the Member Estate and CDA Deputy Commissioner, to allot plots through NADRA balloting within one month.

The court observed that since the decision had been approved by the competent authority, the CDA was bound to implement it.

CDA counsel Kashif Malik and petitioner's lawyer Hasnain Haider Thaheem represented their respective sides in the case.

Pakistan delegation to visit India to participates in SCO Civilizations Dialogue Forum

■ Pakistan's Climate Minister Musadik Malik will lead a delegation to the SCO Civilizations Dialogue Forum in New Delhi from November 20-22, highlighting Pakistan's cultural heritage and diplomatic role

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, will lead Pakistan delegation to the first SCO Civilizations Dialogue Forum, being held in New Delhi, from 20-22 November 2026.He will be participating in the event at the invitation of the Minister of Culture and Tourism of India.

Dr. Malik will share Pakistan's perspective on the salience of dialogue among civilizations and Pakistan's contribution in this area of



diplomacy.

The minister's statement will also highlight Pakistan's constructive role in the SCO, as well as Pakistan's diverse civilizational and cultural heritage.

Pakistan's participation in this Forum is reflective of its contribution as an active SCO member State to promote dialogue, cooperation and understanding in line with "Shanghai Spirit". Pakistan delegation will also participate in thematic sessions of the Forum and engage with SCO member States on the sidelines of the Forum.

Pakistan is the current chair of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) (SCO-CHS) for the period 2026-27. Accordingly, Pakistan will host a number of ministerial, expert group meetings and other activities in the lead up to the Summit next year.

Attempts to divide people in Sindh unacceptable: CM Murad



STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has rejected attempts to divide people and create divisions among communities, saying that efforts to pit people against each other are unacceptable.

Speaking on the issue of creating additional provinces in Sindh, Murad Ali Shah said that attempts had been made in the past to incite people in Karachi against one another.

He maintained that those advocating the creation of four provinces in Sindh could not achieve their objective, as establishing a new province would require a two-thirds majority in the Sindh Assembly.

The chief minister challenged Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal to first become a member of the Sindh Assembly and demonstrate how a new province could be established.

Meanwhile, Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani criticised federal ministers for reacting to Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's statement.

Ghani said that one federal minister speaks on the issue after another, while Bilawal Bhutto had not initiated the debate about resetting the country's system. He added that discussions about creating additional provinces had originated elsewhere.

Commenting on the political situation in Sindh, Ghani accused the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) of attempting to create tensions between Sindhi and migrant communities.



Ethiopian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, accompanied by a diplomatic delegation, met with Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt, at PBM Head Office, Islamabad. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in social welfare and humanitarian assistance, with an understanding to develop a mechanism for future collaboration.

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

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