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## Govt cuts petrol price by Rs9.41 per litre, diesel by Rs5.56

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

he federal government on Thursday slashed the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) by Rs9.41 and Rs5.56 per litre, respectively.With the latest adjustment, petrol will cost Rs352.59 per litre, while HSD will be available at Rs382.25 per litre.The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) said the revised prices would be effective for November 6.Ogra has also begun publishing daily petroleum prices on its website to improve transparency and allow changes in international oil prices to be passed on to consumers more quickly. Amid volatility in global oil rates on the back of renewed hostilities in the Middle East, the government decided to switch to a daily fuel price review mechanism.



## IMF sees Pakistan's economic growth reaching 3.5%

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's economic growth rate is rising from 2% to 3.5%, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Country Director Mahir Binici said on Thursday, describing the country's economic progress as a significant development.
Addressing a conference organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Islamabad, Binici said Pakistan had reached a historic turning point in economic terms.He said the country had moved from an economic crisis towards stability, adding that economic reforms were being implemented.



## CM Maryam orders ensuring total ban on burning of crop stubble

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Punjab Maryum Nawaz Sharif has directed all deputy commissioners to ensure 100 percent ban on burning of crop residues all across the province, "Punjab is confronting with serious issue of rising smog levels and burning of crop residue is adding further to the air pollution," she added.The CM issued the directive while presiding over a high-level review meeting with deputy commissioners of all the districts in Lahore on Thursday.

CM Maryam said the government was committed to transform Punjab into an ideal province and for this a district-wise beautification plan was being implemented.
She expressed dismay on delay in implementation of beautification plan in some of the districts. She criticized DC Okara for not giving proper attention to burning of crop residues in his district.
The CM ordered setting up of special squads for governance and road maintenance. She also directed DCs to patch up water filtration plants in their respective districts.
She directed DCs and ADCs to visit hospitals on daily basis and ensure availability of medical facilities to the citizens.
Advisor to the CM on Punjab Performance Management Unit Shoaib Mirza presented a performance report of districts like Gujranwala, Attock, Bahawalpur, Murree, Chakwal, Jehlum, Layyah, and Sahiwal.



## Asim Munir Visits SSG Headquarters in Tarbela, Reviews Operational Readiness

■ Army Chief Commends Elite Force for Professionalism, Emphasises Specialised Training and Combat Preparedness

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, has visited the Headquarters of the Special Services Group (SSG) in Tarbela, where he reviewed the elite force's specialised training, operational preparedness and combat capabilities.
According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday, the top military commander
was received by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) SSG upon his arrival at the headquarters.
During the visit, Field Marshal Asim Munir laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered prayers to pay tribute to SSG personnel who sacrificed their lives in defence of the country.
He was subsequently briefed on the SSG's specialised training programmes, operational preparedness and mission-oriented readiness, with a focus on the force's ability to undertake complex special operations.
The army chief also witnessed a display of state-of-the-art specialised equipment and a demonstration highlighting the SSG's combat proficiency, agility and precision in carrying out special operations.
Interacting with officers and troops, Field Marshal Asim Munir commended the SSG personnel for their professionalism, high morale and unwavering commitment to their responsibilities. He underscored the importance of maintaining high training standards and strengthening operational capabilities to respond effectively to evolving security threats and emerging challenges.
security threats and emerging challenges.
Field Marshal Asim Munir stressed that sustained training, the development of indigenous capabilities and an uncompromising focus on operational preparedness were essential to maintaining a decisive edge in an increasingly challenging security environment.
The visit highlighted the importance of specialised training, advanced equipment and combat readiness in enabling the SSG to meet demanding operational requirements.

## Security forces destroy Afghan Taliban posts after cross-border firing in Kurram



NEWS DESK

KURRAM

Security forces have foiled an infiltration attempt by a terrorist group identified as Fitna al-Khawarij along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, destroying Afghan Taliban border posts in a retaliatory operation following cross-border firing.
According to security sources, a terrorist formation belonging to Fitna al-Khawarij attempted to enter Pakistani territory through the Shalozan sector of Kurram on Thursday. Security forces responded promptly, thwarting the infiltration attempt before the militants could cross into Pakistan.
The sources said Afghan Taliban forces opened what they described as unprovoked fire on Pakistani troops after the attempted infiltration was intercepted, triggering an immediate response from the Pakistani side.
Security forces launched a strong retaliatory operation, deploying heavy weapons against the positions from which the firing originated.The response inflicted significant damage on Afghan Taliban border posts, according to security sources, who said the Pakistani forces successfully repelled the attempted infiltration and effectively responded to the cross-border aggression.

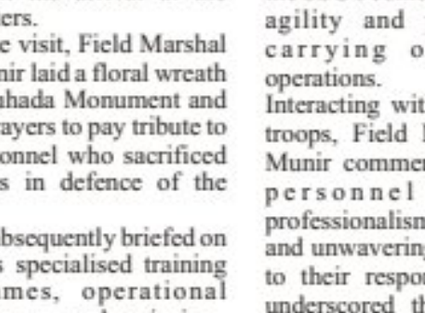
## PM Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Kashmir Chowk underpass

■ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the Kashmir Chowk underpass, completed in 27 days at a cost of Rs1.45 billion, to ease traffic congestion.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has inaugurated the Kashmir Chowk underpass, which is expected to help reduce traffic congestion on busy roads.
The prime minister was briefed on the project, which includes 6,340 newly planted trees and two monuments inspired by Kashmir.
Addressing the ceremony, Shehbaz Sharif said the underpass had been completed in just 27 days and congratulated Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. He said he had not seen a project completed at such speed during his political career.
The prime minister said the project was not merely a 500-metre underpass but a four-kilometre road network. It was completed at a cost of Rs1.45 billion, he added.
Shehbaz Sharif said the project demonstrated the government's preparations for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and other important events. He

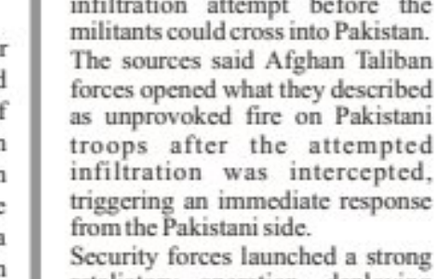


said improving the city's beauty and traffic system was the government's responsibility.
He added that the project had been awarded through e-PADS at a price around 2.5 per cent below the estimated cost. He urged officials to work together with the same commitment to serve the country and ensure that no effort was spared to beautify Islamabad ahead of next year's SCO summit.
Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the underpass had been completed in 27 days while maintaining quality. He said the prime minister had fully supported and cooperated on the One Constitution Avenue matter.

## KP Governor Kundi says federal support vital for peace and development

CITY REPORTER

PESHAWAR



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said federal government support is essential for peace and development in the province.
Addressing a ceremony, Kundi said the province had faced terrorism and unrest for a long time. He said the largest operation in Swat's history was carried out during a Pakistan Peoples Party government, clearing the area of terrorists.
The governor said people had made great sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. He added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was rich in natural beauty and mineral resources, and that the province needed to become developed and strong.
Kundi said he had always maintained that the fight against terrorism was a shared responsibility. He claimed the province had enjoyed peace for a considerable period under a PPP government, while terrorism increased during the previous government.
He accused the former leadership of failing to attend even Apex Committee meetings and said hostile elements were using Afghan territory to carry out terrorism in Pakistan. Kundi said he had repeatedly urged PTI to work with others to present the province's case to the federal government.
He said the province had been slipping into the hands of terrorists and that the federal government had been forced to impose an emergency. Kundi said establishing law and order remained the provincial government's priority, adding that peace and development were not possible without federal support.

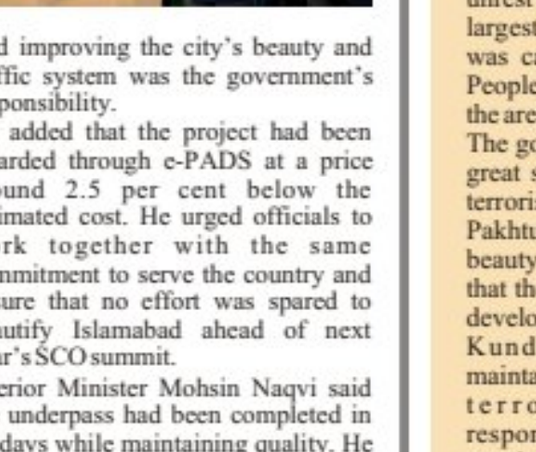
## Pakistan, UK agree to deepen cooperation in security, trade and migration

■ FM Dar, Omani counterpart also explore avenues for enhanced cooperation, exchange views on regional developments

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

UK Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Thursday, with the two sides agreeing to deepen bilateral cooperation in security, law enforcement, migration, trade and investment.
According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two sides reviewed Pakistan-UK relations and discussed ways to expand cooperation in



sustained engagement between Islamabad and London on bilateral matters and regional developments, stressing the need to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.The meeting was part of a series of high-level diplomatic engagements between Pakistan and the UK in recent months.
In October, UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Stephen Doughty visited Pakistan, where he held meetings with senior Pakistani officials, including Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar.
Discussions during Doughty's visit covered economic growth, trade, regional security, counterterrorism, education and migration. The visit also included discussions on reducing illegal migration and strengthening cooperation on shared security priorities.
Earlier, on August 27, Dar held delegation-level talks with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband in London.

CamScanner

# Umrah pilgrim arrested for trying to smuggle drugs absorbed in clothes

■ Umrah pilgrim arrested for trying to smuggle drugs absor



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) personnel have arrested a passenger from Peshawar's Bacha Khan International Airport and recovered five kilos of ice concealed in clothes on Thursday,

The booked passenger was proceeding to the Saudi Arabia with intention to perform Umrah. The clothes he was carrying had the drug absorbed.

The Force during another operation hauled 36 kilos of Charas, 12 kilos of opium and 2 kilos of ice from two passenger travelling by rickshaw at Lalliani Toll Plaza, Kasur. It also nabbed two bus bound women travelers at Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza and recovered 2.5 kilos of ice and one kilo Charas from them.

The Force also recovered 1.2 kilo of Charas from a lady near Turkai Toll Plaza Jehlum attempting to smuggle the drugs to Lahore.

Meanwhile, the ANF booked peddlers selling drugs around educational institutions at Attock, Fateh Jang and recovered huge quantity of drugs from them.



Chief Traffic Officer Muhammad Nabeel Khokhar distributes reflector stickers among motorcyclists during a road safety and fog/smog awareness campaign orgnizesd by city traffic police at Chungi No. 09.

# First Lady calls for human solidarity, justice and dialogue, highlights Pakistan's commitment to peace

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA



:First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari has called for greater human solidarity, compassion and understanding, stressing that scientific and technological progress must go hand in hand with humanity's ability to care for one another.

She was chief guest at the second edition of the Diplomatic Bazaar, titled "Confluence — A Celebration of Human Dignity, Friendship and Universal Brotherhood", organised by the Foreign Affairs Liaison Office (FALO), Karachi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the State Guest House, Karachi, on Thursday.

The First Lady formally inaugurated the Bazaar and visited the stalls set up by participating countries. She interacted with diplomats and explored the traditional cuisines, handicrafts, arts and cultural heritage showcased by the participating diplomatic missions.

Addressing the gathering, the First Lady said Karachi, with its many languages, cultures and communities, reflects Pakistan's diversity, resilience and generosity. She observed that while cultures might differ, people's hopes and aspirations are remarkably similar, with everyone seeking peace, opportunities, security and a better future for their children. She expressed hope that the connections established through the Bazaar would open new opportunities for young people, women entrepreneurs, artists and businesses.

The First Lady also highlighted the extraordinary pace of scientific and technological progress, particularly in artificial intelligence, which is transforming how people learn, work, communicate and shape their future. However, she pointed out that despite humanity's growing technological capabilities, millions continue to face poverty, hunger, conflict and displacement. "We are teaching machines to think, but have we learned to care for one another? We are making technology more intelligent, but are we making humanity more compassionate?" she said.

Referring to the vision of her mother, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the First Lady said she had envisioned a Pakistan that would stand among nations with confidence and dignity, champion dialogue over confrontation and contribute to lasting peace in the region and beyond. She said this vision continues to guide Pakistan's diplomatic efforts through building bridges of understanding, resolving differences through dialogue and pursuing a future in which peace, cooperation and shared prosperity prevail over conflict and division. Recalling her mother's belief in standing together, particularly in difficult times, she said the world has enough divisions and needs the courage to care for one another.

Asifa Bhutto Zardari said that the suffering of innocent children in Gaza and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as elsewhere in the world, cannot be ignored while celebrating friendship and international cooperation. Emphasising that human dignity cannot be selective and compassion.

# Emergency landing facility provided at Gwadar airport

SPECIAL REPORTER
Gwadar



More and more facilities are being provided to airlines at the Gwadar International Airport after it became operational, Sources told the 24News TV channel that now the facility of emergency landing had also been provided at the airport.

They informed that now the airport had the capacity to store 38,000 liters of fuel for planes.

However, sources explained, the facility of repair and maintenance of planes was not available at the airport.

All operational information related to the airport, they added, was available on the Pakistan Airports Authority's website, and was published in the aviation information publication.

# NCCIA Deputy Director Asif reviews recruitment arrangements as physical tests enter second day

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



:Deputy Director Incharge National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad Asif Nawaz on Thursday reviewed arrangements for the ongoing physical recruitment tests as the selection process entered its second day in the federal capital. According to an NCCIA official, candidates for various positions continued to participate in physical fitness tests as part of the agency's ongoing recruitment drive.

NCCIA Deputy Director Asif reviews recruitment arrangements as physical tests enter second day

He said Deputy Director Asif Nawaz inspected the testing venue and reviewed arrangements for the arrival of candidates, checking gates, verification of documents and other administrative matters.

During the visit, he directed the staff concerned to ensure smooth entry of candidates, proper checking of documents and effective management of all activities at the testing centre.

Asif Nawaz emphasised that every stage of the physical tests should be conducted in an organised and transparent manner, strictly in accordance with merit.

He directed officials to provide necessary facilities to candidates and ensure that they did not face unnecessary difficulties during the recruitment process.

The official said the physical tests were continuing under the supervision of NCCIA officers, with special attention being given to transparency, discipline and candidates' convenience.

# Pakistan aims to raise clean energy share to 90pc by 2036: Leghari

**Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Thursday said the share of clean energy in Pakistan's overall energy mix had reached 52 percent, with the government aiming to increase it to nearly 90 percent by 2036.**

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari on Thursday said the share of clean energy in Pakistan's overall energy mix had reached 52 percent, with the government aiming to increase it to nearly 90 percent by 2036.

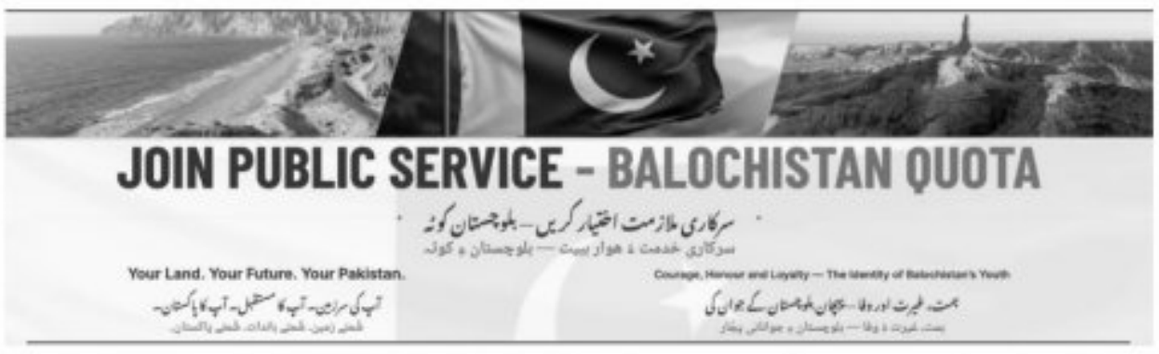
He was talking to Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, who called on him at the Power Division, said a press release.

The meeting involved comprehensive discussions on mutual strategies to promote clean energy, advance the green energy transition and address climate change challenges in the country.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (INTERNAL)
ISLAMABAD

URAAN PAKISTAN




Applications are invited for recruitment against the following vacant posts, reserved for Balochistan quota in the Prime Minister Office (Internal) as per details given below:-

| S.No | Designation of Post | BPS | No. of Vacancies | Qualification | Age Limit |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| i. | Naib Quasid | BS-01 | 02 | Primary Pass | 18-35 years |
| ii. | Mali | BS-01 | 02 | Primary Pass | 18-35 years |
| iii. | Sanitary Worker | BS-01 | 02 | Primary Pass | 18-35 years |

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS/ GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Age limit: 18-30 Years + 05 Years (specific additional relaxation for candidates from Balochistan notified by Establishment Division dated 22-10-2026 and 27-10-2026.
2. Citizens of Pakistan who are domiciled resident of Balochistan are eligible.
3. Incomplete information in the application form and those received after closing date will not be entertained.
4. All applications shall be submitted through the National Job Portal (NJP) within 15 days of publication of this advertisement.
5. If any document provided by candidate is found bogus during the recruitment process and afterwards, the appointment will be treated as cancelled.
6. Applicants who are already in service (Government Servants) should apply "through proper channel" and NOC shall be provided at the time of interview.
7. Candidates are advised to bring their original document at the time of interview.
8. Only short-listed candidates will be called for walk in interview.
9. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing for walk in interview.

Assistant Secretary (Admn)
Ph: 051-9222666

PID(I)4221/26

# Man dies after huge fire guts foam factory in Lahore

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A man died when a massive fire engulfed a foam factory located in an industrial estate in Lahore on Thursday morning,

The blaze which erupted in foam-making material late Wednesday night was doused in a huge operation in which 21 fire-fighting vehicles and 35 personnel participated today morning.

According to sources, the fire was caused by a short-circuit and it quickly spread throughout the Mini Star Foam Factory, located in Sundar Industrial Estate.

According to Rescue 1122 officials, the Lahore Command and Control Centre received the call about the blaze at 22:21 on Wednesday night, prompting a swift response from the rescue personnel.

The fire-fighting and rescue operation was led by District Emergency Officer Dr Rizwan Ahmad Chaudhry.

One ambulance, six fire-fighting vehicles, four rescue vehicles, one specialized vehicle and more than 35 rescue personnel took part in the operation.

After bringing the fire on control on Thursday morning, the rescue personnel found a dead body during a search operation in the factory, which was handed over to the police.

The police were trying to establish the identification of the deceased.

CamScanner

# Saudi Arabia extends $3 billion loan rollover

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that Saudi Arabia has further extended the $3 billion debt repayment for a 'reasonable period' and said that the country's external position remains comfortable even without a $10 billion US facility.

The $3 billion loan matured in October while Islamabad had requested the $10 billion liquidity support facility in July and hoped for its approval before the end of September.



"If ($10 billion) liquidity support facility comes, fantastic, If it doesn't come, we will, Insha'Allah, continue to work," said the minister in the Parliament House while speaking to the media after attending the Senate Standing Committee on Finance meeting.

While responding to a question, Aurangzeb said that the $3 billion Saudi short-term loan has been rolled over for a "reasonable time" but did not give further details. The sources said that Saudi Arabia has again extended the debt for a shorter period.

"It has been rolled over. You don't need to worry. It has been extended for a reasonable period", said the Minister on the $3 billion debt repayment question.

He said that given Pakistan-Saudi Arabia "strategic relationship you don't need to worry about for how long it is. But it's not an issue".

The minister further explained that Pakistan did not need any further financial assistance from the Kingdom and the country now has three months of import cover with foreign exchange reserves standing at $21.5 billion.

The minister said that the government and the central bank were planning that by the end of this fiscal year the import cover will increase to four months.

Pakistan remains dependent on the rollover of the existing debts by the bilateral and commercial creditors to whom the country owes $10.5 billion this fiscal year.

Saudi Arabia has given $8 billion short-term debt but it has already rolled over the repayment of $5 billion till December 2028.

The minister further said that Pakistan had asked for the liquidity support facility of $10 billion back in July. At that time, we were looking for market access. We got market access in the first week of September, in which we raised $3 billion and the order book was $6 billion, he added.

While sharing his plan sans the US facility scenario, the Finance Minister said that Pakistan would rely on Eurobond issuances, Panda bond issuances, and these dollar-settled rupee-linked bonds.

To a question whether the US authorities had indicated extending the facility, the Finance Minister said that Pakistan made a request - "if that's possible, that's fine; if it's not possible even then it's fine".

The news about a possible $10 billion US stability facility had surprised many and a few had drawn parallel with a similar facility for Argentina. However, the chances of its materialization remained negligible from the beginning.

While responding to another question, the Finance Minister said that the US financial institutions like the Exim Bank and the Development Finance Corporation can support their exporters; they need to support their investors into Pakistan. That is real financing and real credit. This liquidity support facility would just help the sovereign, he added.

To a question regarding maturity of another $5 billion Saudi debt in December 2028 along with other debts, the Finance Minister said that the government was trying to ensure that there is no bunching in any year.

We have structured new debt accordingly and made it a five-and-a-half year Eurobond so that it goes into the next fiscal year, said Aurangzeb.

The Finance Minister further said that the IMF board was tentatively scheduled to approve the two loan tranches valuing $1.2 billion in December.

Headed by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, the Senate Standing Committee took a detailed briefing on the country's debt profile. The Secretary Finance Imdadullah Bosal said that the arrangements have been made for the current fiscal year's external debt repayments.

Pakistan's external financing requirements for the current fiscal year are $21.5 billion, including $17.5 billion in principal debt repayments, said Bosal.

Out of the $17.5 billion, $10.5 billion would be rolled over by the bilateral and commercial creditors and the net payments of the principal and the interest are $11 billion, the secretary finance added. Bosal said that in the first four months, the $5 billion had already been repaid.

The secretary said that the government was aimed at extending the maturity of the debt, reducing interest expenses and the debt-to-GDP ratio.

Bosal briefed the committee that compared to 75% debt to GDP ratio in 2023 and 28% annual increase, the debt burden has dropped to 68% and the annual increase slowed down to 7.7%.

However, the committee members were of the view that a key reason for slower accumulation of the debt was the stable exchange rate that has

# Islamophobia



By: Aleeshah Shoaib




Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognizes the right of adults to marry and establish a family, affirms equal rights in marriage and its dissolution, and requires the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

The Qur'an describes marriage in terms of tranquility, love, and compassion: "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy." — Qur'an 30:21. This verse presents marriage as a relationship grounded in emotional well-being, affection, and mutual care.The Qur'anic emphasis on compassion provides a valuable ethical basis for protecting family members from abuse and neglect. The dignity and safety of spouses and children should remain central to family life.

At the same time, discussions of compatibility must acknowledge that interpretations of Islamic family law and modern international standards can differ, particularly concerning equal rights within marriage, divorce, and other legal matters. These questions deserve serious engagement through scholarship, dialogue, and attention to the lived experiences of those affected. The common objective should be to protect human dignity, prevent coercion and abuse, and ensure that family relationships are governed by justice and responsibility.

Article 17 of the UDHR recognizes the right to own property individually or jointly and prohibits arbitrary deprivation of property.

The Qur'an condemns the wrongful appropriation of another person's possessions: "And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it in bribery to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you to consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful]." — Qur'an 2:188. The verse condemns unjust enrichment and the misuse of legal or political influence for private gain.

This principle supports the protection of property rights, opposition to corruption, and the fair administration of justice. It also underscores the importance of ensuring that public officials do not exploit their positions to deprive others of what rightfully belongs to them.Articles 18 and 19 of the UDHR protect freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, as well as freedom of opinion and expression. One of the most frequently cited Qur'anic passages on religious freedom declares: "There shall be no compulsion in religion." — Qur'an 2:256. The principle rejects the idea that genuine faith can be established through coercion. Religious conviction involves conscience, and belief cannot be made authentic merely by force.

The Qur'an also states: "For you is your religion, and for me is my religion." — Qur'an 109:6 This verse affirms a distinction between religious commitments and recognizes the reality of differing beliefs.

# The Missing Link in Pakistan-China Trade



By: Kinza Kanwal



Pakistan's economic ties with China are presents a striking contrast. China is one of Pakistan's biggest trading partners and a significant supplier of machinery, industrial equipment and investments. However, Pakistan's export trade to China is still far less than its imports. In bilateral economic diplomacy, a question needs to be asked as, why the growing trade cooperation has not been matched by the export capabilities of Pakistan.

Trade data is not the key to the answer. It needs to look into the opportunities opened by bilateral dealings and the profile of Pakistan's exports and the hurdles Pakistan businesses face in global competition. Both countries have expanded their economic cooperation, but a key challenge is to make market access a driver of continued export expansion.

This imbalance is apparent in recent trade figures. According to the statistics in July 2026, Pakistan exported $2.68 billion and imported $19.54 billion from China in fiscal year 2025-26. Exports grew in comparison with the previous year while imports grew as well. The net result of this merchandise trade was around $16.85 billion.

These statistics show the imbalance of two-way trade but a trade imbalance with one trading partner does not necessarily indicate an unsuccessful economic relationship. Machinery, raw materials and intermediate goods imports can help the domestic production and investment. The matter which is more crucial is whether these imports support to build industries that can produce competitive products in the domestic and global markets.

This is especially significant as Pakistan and China have an existing bilateral mechanism to ease trade. In 2007, the first phase of their Free Trade Agreement came into effect. A second phase agreement was signed in April 2019, and tariff cuts took effect January 2020. Its aim was to enhance market access, to fix vulnerabilities of the previous agreement and to enhance trade cooperation.

Pakistan news analysis

In the modified deal, China will remove tariffs on 313 lines of products that are considered priorities for Pakistan. These comprised textiles, garments, seafood, meat, leather, chemicals, footwear and engineering goods. The deal also included a more comprehensive timetable of tariff cuts in the future.

The concessions were vital because they sought to resolve a long-standing issue that Pakistani exporters required more competitive access to the Chinese market. But preferential tariffs are not the only element of trade, however. Reduced customs duties can enhance the price of a product, but they cannot offset the lack of reliable supply, product consistency, or high production costs or poor commercial contacts.

This was emphasized in a preliminary evaluation of the second phase of the agreement carried out by the Pakistan Business Council. The study findings showed that the new tariff regime provided significant market access benefits. Meanwhile, in consultation with exporters it found barriers that were not solely due to Chinese tariff policy.

Some challenges cited included insufficient market information, lack of skill to find Chinese buyers, lack of factory infrastructure and lack of knowledge about trade procedures. The results indicated that enhanced access will bring opportunities while the Pakistani businesses will require the ability to compete for customers.

The difference between access and competitiveness is key to the trade relationship. While a company might be favored under a contract, it could still not be able to obtain orders because it is not able to meet the requirements of the buyers regarding the quality, quantity, delivery and pricing. Trade negotiations can be done with favorable conditions, but businesses need to be able to operate effectively within these.

Product diversification is another crucial factor to consider.




Chairman FACE NGO, Col (red) SamiUullah Bangash planting a tree on occasion of Sabaz Azadi Drive 2026 at Defence Park.

CamScanner




ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meets Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh, to discuss bilateral trade, investment and industrial cooperation on November 5, 2026.

# FBR widens sales tax rules to cover home appliances and batteries

■ **FBR has amended the Sales Tax Rules to make tax stamps compulsory on more home appliances and storage batteries, including imported goods.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has amended the Sales Tax Rules to widen the scope of household electrical goods, making it mandatory to affix tax stamps on the newly added items.

According to a notification issued by the FBR, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and television sets have been brought under the new rules. The rules will also apply to storage batteries.

The notification states that tax stamps will also have to be affixed and activated on




imported goods. Imported items will not receive customs clearance without a tax stamp, and the stamp must be installed and activated before clearance.

The FBR said storage batteries supplied to retail and automobile companies would also fall within the ambit of the new rules, although battery parts would not be ught covered. State-owned enterprises have also been brought under the new rules.

The notification further states that tax stamps will be applied to both the products and their packaging. A licence will be valid for only one specific product, and a licence holder will not be able to track any other product. Licences already issued will also be subject to this restriction.

The FBR has removed the condition that only a company can obtain a licence, meaning any eligible applicant can now apply. Licence holders have also been made responsible for installing and repairing the tax stamp system.

According to the notification, all data from the tracking system will be the property of the Government of Pakistan.



# Pakistan's cement sales reach 17.953 million tonnes

■ **Cement sales rose by 5.93 percent to 14.889 million tonnes over four months of the current fiscal year.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's total cement sales reached 17.953 million tonnes from July to October 2026, Cement sales rose by 5.93 percent to 14.889 million tonnes over four months of the current fiscal year.

A 0.37% year-on-year increase was recorded in total cement sales in October. Cement sales in the local market rose by 1.17 percent in October, reaching 4.041 million tonnes.

In October, total cement sales comprising both local sales and exports stood at 4.81 million tonnes.

Cement exports in October fell by 3.67 percent to 768,754 tonnes.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year, cement exports declined by 9.51 percent to 3.064 million tonnes.



# SMEDA expands MSME support through finance, export and e-commerce initiatives

■ **SMEDA is expanding its three-year plan to help MSMEs access finance, formalise, export and reach global markets, including through Alibaba.com.**

Commerce Reporter

LAHORE

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has stepped up its efforts to strengthen Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem, rolling out an expanded set of interventions for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under a three-year Business Plan (2025-28).

The plan covers access to finance, business formalisation, export readiness, links with international markets and climate-smart business practices. It aligns with the Ministry of Industries and Production's strategic direction and the government's vision of an export-oriented, inclusive economy. Officials say SMEDA is moving beyond isolated support schemes towards an integrated approach aimed at helping businesses overcome barriers, improve competitiveness and tap meaningful opportunities. Recognising that sustainable MSME growth requires coordinated action, the authority is working with government institutions, financial regulators, banks, development partners, industry associations and the private sector.

Access to finance remains among the most persistent constraints. Many viable enterprises struggle to obtain credit because of inadequate documentation, insufficient collateral, low awareness of banking products or difficulty meeting banks' assessment requirements.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed that SME financing be raised to Rs2.2 trillion by 2028, providing a national framework to address the problem. SMEDA's role, officials say, goes beyond encouraging banks to lend. It has launched initiatives to improve enterprises' readiness for financing, raise awareness of financial products and close information gaps that complicate lending decisions. These include financial literacy sessions, information on banking products, assistance with documentation through countrywide help desks, and credit-related assessment and facilitation mechanisms to help lenders make informed decisions.

A recent high-level session on access to finance at the Prime Minister's Office brought the experiences of MSMEs, particularly women entrepreneurs, into the discussion on financing barriers and solutions. Officials say the objective is not merely to raise lending volumes but to enable viable businesses to expand and create jobs.



# SSGC announces winter gas schedule with three daily slots for domestic consumers

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) announced a winter gas supply schedule on Wednesday, fixing three daily slots for domestic consumers in line with directives from the federal government.

An SSGC spokesperson told Media that the schedule applies to household consumers in Sindh and Balochistan and takes effect immediately.

Under the new schedule, gas will be available from 6:30am to 9am for breakfast, 12pm to 2:30pm for lunch, and 6pm to 9pm for dinner. The company published the timings on its website and social media pages, saying it was "prioritising domestic consumers by ensuring supply during meal times."

SSGC customers have not had round-the-clock gas for the past several years. The announcement follows a severe gas crisis in Karachi on Tuesday, when confusion deepened after several conflicting supply schedules, attributed to SSGC, began circulating on social media from Monday.

# PSX Investor Base Surges 47.3% in First 10 Months of 2026

■ **Nearly 219,000 net new investors join market; 26,843 accounts opened in October**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) recorded significant growth in its investor base during the first ten months of 2026, adding 218,894 investors and registering a 47.3 per cent increase between January and October.According to the latest figures, the total number of investors increased from 463,071 at the beginning of the year to 681,965 by the end of October.During October alone, a total of 26,843 new accounts were opened at the PSX, including 26,801 individual and 42 corporate accounts. The net increase in the investor base during the month stood at 25,747.Meanwhile, the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) added 1,077 new accounts in October, taking its total investor count to 61,915.Young investors continued to dominate new individual account openings, with people aged 18 to 30 opening 14,634 accounts, representing 54.6 per cent of the monthly individual total. Another 9,290 accounts, or 34.7 per cent, were opened by investors aged 31 to 45.Combined, these two age groups accounted for 23,924 new accounts, representing 89.3 per cent of all individual accounts opened during October.Gender-wise, men opened




22,878 accounts, accounting for 85.4 per cent of new individual accounts, while women opened 3,923 accounts, representing 14.6 per cent.Geographically, Punjab led the country with 14,891 new accounts, followed by Sindh with 7,643. Together, the two provinces contributed 83.9 per cent of the total accounts opened during the month.Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 1,894 new accounts, while 1,419 were opened in Islamabad. Balochistan accounted for 370 accounts, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 340, Gilgit-Baltistan 150, and overseas investors contributed another 136 accounts.

SECP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said that simplifying access to investment opportunities and safeguarding investors' rights remained key priorities of the regulator.

# Commerce Minister, Turkish trade minister discuss basmati rice, Mango exports, industrial investment

■ **Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Türkiye's strong support for Pakistan's legitimate claims concerning Basmati rice and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in protecting and promoting Pakistan's premium agricultural products in international markets.**

News Desk

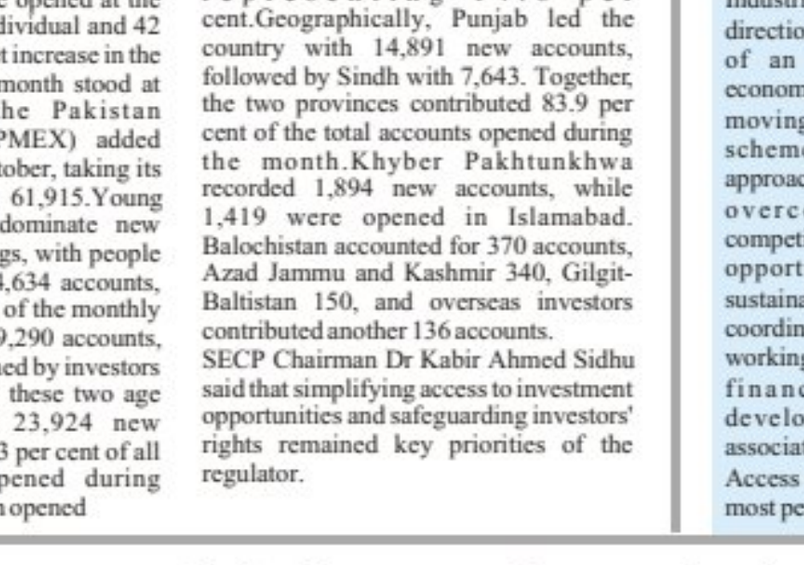
ISTANBUL

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a bilateral meeting with Türkiye's Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, focusing on expanding bilateral trade, promoting Pakistani agricultural exports and strengthening Turkish investment in Pakistan.

During the meeting, both ministers held productive discussions on matters of mutual economic and commercial interest, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Türkiye's strong support for Pakistan's legitimate claims concerning Basmati rice and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in protecting and promoting Pakistan's premium agricultural products in international markets.

The Commerce Minister also highlighted investment opportunities for Turkish companies in Pakistan, particularly the 1,000 acres of land earmarked for Turkish enterprises in Karachi Industrial Park. He invited Turkish businesses to capitalize on the opportunity by




establishing industrial units and expanding their manufacturing and investment footprint in Pakistan.

Commerce Minister, Turkish trade minister discuss basmati rice, Mango exports, industrial investment

Highlighting Pakistan's agricultural export potential, Jam Kamal Khan sought Türkiye's support in facilitating greater market access and increasing exports of Pakistani mangoes to the Turkish market.

Responding to the Commerce Minister, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat emphasized the importance of effective marketing and branding of Pakistani Basmati rice in Türkiye to strengthen its market presence and enhance consumer recognition.

The Turkish Trade Minister also assured his full support for increasing imports of Pakistani mangoes, recognizing the potential for expanding agricultural trade between the two countries.

In a significant development, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat agreed to send a delegation of Turkish officials to Pakistan to review existing bilateral trade mechanisms and explore practical measures to further improve trade relations.

Both sides underscored the importance of sustained institutional engagement, enhanced business cooperation and closer coordination to translate existing economic opportunities into tangible trade and investment outcomes.Separately, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

CamScanner

# Iran's IRGC says two tankers and tugboat caught fire in Strait of Hormuz

■ US sanctions individuals, entities over alleged efforts to supply Iran with air defence systems



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said on Thursday that two oil tankers and a tugboat had caught fire in separate incidents after attempting to use unauthorised routes through the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement carried by the official IRNA news agency, the Revolutionary Guard said a large oil tanker struck a mine Wednesday night while attempting to pass through an "unauthorised route" south of the strait.

The tanker caught fire and stopped, the statement said.

In a separate incident, another supertanker caught fire while leaving the route in the eastern part of the strait, it said.

A tugboat approaching to help extinguish the blaze also caught fire, the statement added.The Revolutionary Guard also said that its navy's electronic warfare unit had "taken control of two Lucas-type aircraft" that it described as "intruding."




**Geneva: Pakistan Concludes its Second Periodic Review before the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva. Led by Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik, the delegation highlighted Pakistan's progress in human rights legislation, policy reforms and institutional measures to fulfil its international obligations and protect vulnerable communities on November 05, 2026.**

# Abdul El-Sayed becomes first Muslim elected to US Senate

■ El-Sayed's victory in the closely contested election marked a breakthrough for the Democratic Party's progressive wing

Web Desk

DETROIT

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's open US Senate seat on Tuesday, according to media projections, becoming the first Muslim elected to the chamber while preserving a crucial Democratic seat in the party's fight for Senate control.

El-Sayed's victory in the closely contested election marked a breakthrough for the Democratic Party's progressive wing and denied Republicans a chance to flip the seat of retiring Democratic Senator Gary Peters.

El-Sayed, 42, a former public health official, focused on lowering costs for working families and reducing corporate



influence in politics. His platform included Medicare for All, a government-funded universal healthcare program championed by progressives in his party.

Republicans held a 53-47 Senate majority going into midterm elections, with Democrats needing a net gain of four seats to take control.

His opponent Mike Rogers, 63, a former congressman and FBI agent, entered the race with strong backing from Trump and national Republicans and had sought to cast El-Sayed as a radical candidate sympathetic to extremism through alleged ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, claims that El-Sayed denies and that remain unsupported by evidence. Democrats said the attacks on El-Sayed relied on Islamophobic tropes.

Rogers also devoted significant effort to courting Jewish voters who may have been uneasy with El-Sayed's opposition to US military aid for Israel and his characterization of Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide.But Rogers struggled to overcome voter concerns about the economy and Trump's low ratings. In the closing weeks of the race, he broke with the president on the war in Iran and the US trade dispute with Canada, arguing that ending both was necessary to help bring down costs for businesses and consumers.

# Russia bombards Ukraine power grid before Abu Dhabi talks; Merz urges Moscow to engage

Web Desk

KYIV/BERLIN

Russia bombarded Ukraine's energy infrastructure in waves , knocking out power to swathes of the country with dozens of missiles and hundreds of drones, a week before US-brokered peace talks were due to resume.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said at least 33 people had been killed on Monday when Russia twice bombed a school being used for aid distribution in the village of Komyshuvakha, near ?the front line in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region. About 50 people were still believed to be buried under the rubble, he said.

Russian officials said Ukraine had set fire overnight to a major oil refinery in the city of Yaroslavl.

The attacks, less than two days after the end of a brief humanitarian truce in the Russian-controlled town of Oleshky agreed with the help of US first lady Melania



Trump, did not bode well for the talks that the US has scheduled for Abu Dhabi on November 10-11.

Moscow said its forces had targeted Ukrainian military units in areas around Komyshuvakha and two other settlements in the Zaporizhzhia region. It said in a statement on Tuesday that up to 25 Ukrainian servicemen had been killed, while 15 vehicles and an electronic warfare station were also destroyed.

At a press conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Zelenskiy said the attack showed that Moscow was intent on killing people instead of building on the humanitarian ceasefire in and around Oleshky.

Germany has become Ukraine's

# North Korean leader calls for 'rapid' naval build up as Pyongyang warns of stronger response to US 'hostility'

● Kim says recent geopolitical environment, hostile acts of enemies prove need for 'most developed, powerful warship'

Web Desk

Pyongyang

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for a rapid buildup of naval combat power to counter "hostile acts of the enemies," as Pyongyang warned the United States that it will mount a stronger response to Washington's "hostile policy" toward the country, state media reported on Wednesday.

Kim made the remarks during a visit to the Nampho shipyard Monday, where he was briefed on the shipyard's ongoing upgrades and inspected a new warship under construction, state-run Korean Central News Agency reported. "It is vital and



important requirement of the times to rapidly bolster up the surface and underwater combat power for defending the national sovereignty in the sea under various threats," Kim said.

The recent geopolitical environment and hostile acts of the enemies in the region prove the need for "the most developed and powerful warship," he added.

Without providing the ship's specifications, North Korean n of media said the vessel is "designed to carry out its complex operational mission in consideration of the present-day warfare."'Dialogue with US remains an 'option'

Kim's powerful sister Kim Yo-jong Wednesday said that dialogue with Washington remains "an option for peace, but that it would not be necessary for its own interest."

She said that the continued "hostile signal" by Washington was compelling the regime to reconsider the "true nature" of the US. "The choice for peace includes dialogue of course, but this is not surely equated with national interests for us," Kim said in a statement.

Her remarks came a day after she rejected the FBI findings that Pyongyang was behind the theft of more than $6 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange."The so-called 'cryptocurrency hacking case by the DPRK' is no more than a tip of iceberg that shows the essence of the US hostile policy toward the DPRK," she maintained.

DPRK refers to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The US abandonment of its hostile policy" toward Pyongyang "is a major premise and key to solving all problems," she said, adding that North Korea has no reason to engage in talks with the US unless that happens.

# Americans said no to war, and we endorse this message: Iran's Ghalibaf

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Senior Iranian Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf hailed the US public's rejection of the Iran war by voting against the Republican Party in the Congress midterm election in an X post on Wednesday.

"Conscience or the cost of living, Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message," he said.

He added that "If the US govt betrays their public will to serve international paymasters and blackmailers," it will suffer "a nightmare." His comments came as Democrats established a majority in the Senate and House elections in a rebuke against US President Donald Trump's stewardship of the country, which in part has stemmed



from the war waged on Iran.

Drones attack Iranian Kurdish opposition in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah and east Erbil, sources say

Two explosive-laden drones attacked the Iranian Kurdish opposition in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah and east Erbil on Wednesday, security sources said.Iran has repeatedly struck the bases of Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region.

# Ilhan Omar wins fifth consecutive term in US Congress



Web Desk

Washngation

Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar has won a fifth consecutive term in the US House of Representatives, securing re-election from Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the US midterm elections. According to preliminary results compiled by US media outlets, Omar defeated Republican candidate John Nagel to retain her congressional seat. Omar has represented the Minnesota district since 2019 and has continued to face criticism from President Donald Trump over her immigration background and political positions.Omar, who arrived in the United States as a refugee from Somalia, has frequently been targeted by Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric. The US president has previously suggested that she should return to her country of origin.

# Iran war played a role in Republicans' losses in midterm elections, admits Trump

■ Trump said Democrats would send legislation he considered "insane" to his desk and that he would veto it

Web Desk

Washngation

President Donald Trump acknowledged that the war in Iran played a role in Republicans' losses in Tuesday's midterm elections, as Democrats prepared to take control of both the US House and Senate and challenge his legislative agenda.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said Democrats would send legislation he considered "insane" to his desk and that he would veto it.

"They'll send over things that are insane, and I'll veto them," he said. "And after a couple of months of vetoes, they'll call and they'll say, 'How do we get this stuff done?' And we'll work together."

Trump said the war in Iran had weighed on Republican candidates, even as voters backed his handling of it. "I think a part of it was Iran, but at the same time people understood the importance of what I've done with



Iran," he said. His remarks come as Democrats captured majorities in both the Senate and House, scoring sweeping victories that reached deep into Republican strongholds as tens of millions of voters delivered a scathing rebuke to Trump. The size and breadth of the Democratic wave were still coming into focus, but the party prevailed in states long thought to be out of reach, including conservative bastions like South Carolina, Texas and Iowa.The Democratic wave underscored voters' deep frustration with Trump's stewardship of the economy and his decision to launch a war against Iran in February, which drove gas prices up sharply. In poll after poll, voters expressed anxiety about the cost of living and anger at the way Trump has handled the issue.

In Kansas, Adam Hamilton, a megachurch pastor, became the first Democrat to win a Senate seat since the Great Depression nearly a century ago.

In Ohio, Democrat Sherrod Brown claimed a seat that belonged to Vice President JD Vance two years ago, while Texas Democratic state Representative James Talarico withstood a barrage of outside spending to defeat scandal-plagued Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton. Both Ohio and Texas voted for Trump by a double-digit margin in 2024.In South Carolina, a state that Trump carried by nearly 18 points in 2024, pediatrician Annie Andrews triumphed over Republican Senator Darline Graham, who was appointed to the seat after the death of her brother, Senator Lindsey Graham.

Trump elevated Paxton and Graham ahead of more established candidates despite clear liabilities. Paxton has been at the center of a litany of controversies, including his 2023 impeachment and securities fraud charges, while Graham's admitted inexperience drew negative headlines.

CamScanner

# Mahira Khan accepts that lead heroine roles may not last forever

■ Mahira Khan says she is enjoying her current phase of life and career, adding that she is not worried about a time when lead heroine roles may no longer come her way.

NEWS DESK

LAHORE



- Pakistani superstar and acclaimed actress Mahira Khan has said she is thoroughly enjoying the current phase of her life and is not concerned about a time when she may no longer be offered lead heroine roles. Speaking during a special session titled "From Story to Character" at a literary and cultural event held in Dubai, Mahira Khan shared her views on various aspects of her personal and professional journey.

The actress said she values both success and the love she receives from her fans, describing her connection with supporters as extremely important. She added that while she appreciates the affection and admiration shown by people, she understands that fame and success do not last forever.

Mahira noted that this awareness keeps her focused on her work rather than on the temporary nature of popularity. Speaking confidently about her career, she said she is enjoying her current age and stage of life and is not worried about the possibility of no longer being cast in traditional heroine roles in the future.She remarked that such a transition may not be far away and that she is completely comfortable with the idea. The actress also appealed to filmmakers and producers to consider her for a wider range of characters rather than limiting her to conventional lead roles.



# Faaiza Hasan warns actors against signing away their 'AI rights'

■ Faaiza further advised artists to seek professional guidance before committing to any agreement.

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD



Popular Pakistani actress Faaiza Hasan has raised concerns about the growing use of artificial intelligence in the entertainment industry, urging fellow actors to carefully review contracts before signing away rights related to their image, voice, and likeness.

Taking to Instagram, the actress shared a video message addressing members of Pakistan's acting fraternity, warning them about AI-related clauses that are increasingly appearing in agreements with production houses, television channels, and private producers.

In the video, Faaiza appealed to actors and actresses to thoroughly read and understand every aspect of their contracts, particularly provisions concerning artificial intelligence.

"Greetings! I have a request for my fellow actors and actresses: when you sign agreements with production houses, channels, or private producers, please read the contracts very carefully. Look closely at what is being stated regarding the AI clauses," she said.

The actress noted that some AI-related provisions appear to have little or no relevance to actors working on television projects, yet continue to be included in contracts.

"Sometimes, these AI clauses have absolutely no relevance to us as drama makers or as actors performing in those dramas. These clauses are being added without proper explanation, and frankly, some of them make no sense to me," she remarked.

Faaiza further advised artists to seek professional guidance before committing to any agreement.

"I request all actors to read, think, and understand the agreement thoroughly. If you do not understand it, consult a lawyer or contact the actors' association before signing. In my opinion, some of these AI clauses are absolutely not in our favour," she stated.

Clarifying her intentions, the actress emphasized that her message was not directed against any specific production house or television network.

"The purpose of this video is not to hurt the sentiments of any production house or channel; it is purely for the purpose of awareness," she added.

Expanding on her concerns in the caption

# Eman Rajab stuns fans with her latest style drop

■ The light colors and relaxed silhouette gave the outfit a fresh and comfortable summer feel, perfectly suited to the season.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Famous Pakistani YouTuber Rajab Butt's wife Eman Fatima has once again caught the attention of fans after sharing a fresh set of photographs on Instagram.Taking to Instagram, Eman posted a collection of recent pictures with the caption, "Recent photo dump," giving fans a glimpse into her latest fashion and everyday moments.

For the photos, Eman chose a refreshing sky-blue traditional outfit that combined simplicity with elegance.

She wore a loose-fitting embroidered tunic featuring delicate white floral detailing on the front, along with intricate embroidery around the neckline and sleeves.

The outfit was paired with matching wide-leg trousers decorated with white embroidered patterns, creating a coordinated and graceful look.

She completed the ensemble with an off white dupatta finished with a delicate lace border, adding a soft contrast to the pastel tones.

The light colors and relaxed silhouette gave the outfit a fresh and comfortable summer feel, perfectly suited to the season.

Her understated styling further highlighted the simplicity and charm of the look.



# MPA Saqib Chadhar booked in harassment

■ Areeba Habib Impresses Fans With Elegant Festive Style Statement

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has registered a case against Punjab Assembly member Saqib Chadhar in connection with allegations of harassment involving actress Momina Iqbal.

The case has been lodged under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA). According to the complainant, Saqib Chadhar and his associates were involved in acts of blackmail and issued threats.

The FIR states that the accused allegedly threatened that certain data would be leaked if a marriage proposal was

According to the investigation record, Momina Iqbal's sister provided the cybercrime agency with videos related to the alleged threats.

The FIR further states that the videos and a mobile phone have been taken into custody as digital evidence and sent for forensic examination.

# Zoya Nasir's hilarious message to her aunts steals the spotlight

■ Taking to Instagram Stories, Zoya posted a stylish picture of herself dressed in a traditional outfit while joking about repeatedly wearing one of her favorite shirts.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress and content creator Zoya Nasir has once again captured the attention of her fans, this time not through a drama serial or fashion campaign, but with a humorous social media post that showcased her playful personality and close family bonds.The actress recently took to Instagram Stories to share a candid and amusing message aimed at her beloved aunts. Alongside a stylish photograph of herself dressed in a traditional outfit, Zoya jokingly addressed family members who apparently tease her about repeating her favorite clothes.In the post, she humorously wrote, "To all my dearest aunts: Allah ki kasam this is the last time I'm wearing this shirt," before tagging family nicknames including Ashoo, Baby, Chono, and Billum, accompanied by a series of laughing emojis.The lighthearted remark instantly resonated with social media users, many of whom could relate to being lovingly criticized by relatives for wearing the same outfit multiple times. Fans praised the actress for embracing the joke and sharing a moment that reflected the realities of everyday family life.The photograph featured Zoya standing against a rustic red-brick wall, wearing a beautifully designed traditional ensemble consisting of a pink and red patterned shirt paired with a soft pink dupatta. Her elegant appearance combined with the humorous caption created a perfect blend of fashion and fun, drawing positive reactions from followers.Social media users appreciated the actress's willingness to laugh at herself and engage with her audience through genuine and relatable content. Many commented that despite being a celebrity, Zoya continues to share the same family experiences that ordinary people encounter, making her online presence feel authentic and approachable.Known for maintaining an active social media presence, Zoya frequently gives fans glimpses into both her professional projects and personal life. Her posts often reflect her vibrant personality, allowing followers to connect with her beyond the screen.The actress has built a strong fan base over the years through her acting performances, modeling assignments, and digital content creation. Her ability to balance glamour with authenticity has helped her remain one of the most admired personalities in Pakistan's entertainment industry.Meanwhile, Zoya is currently appearing in the drama serial Bas Tera Sath Ho, where she continues to receive praise from viewers for her performance as Shehreen. The role has further strengthened her reputation as a talented actress capable of portraying diverse and engaging characters.While her latest Instagram Story may have been a simple joke about a favorite shirt, it succeeded in bringing smiles to countless followers. The post highlighted the warmth, humor, and affectionate relationships that exist within her family, while also reminding fans that even celebrities face the same playful comments from relatives that many people experience.

# DRAP gets observer status at International Council for Harmonization




WEB DESK

KARACHI

The International Council for Harmonization (ICH) nominated the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) as its "observer" status,

The decision was taken during a meeting of the International Council for Harmonization, which was held in Rio de Janeiro from June 2-3.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Health said that Federal Minister for Health, Mustafa Syed Kamal congratulated DRAP for achieving this milestone.

He said that it is a historical movement that ICH nominated DRAP as "representative".

Mustafa Kamal said that ICH is an international forum who ensured quality and safety of medicines.

The federal minister hoped that this milestone would play a key role for imporving regulatory system in Pakistan.

Syed Mustafa Kamal said that the move will further improve confidence in the pharmaceutical system of DRAP.



Students showing keen interest in a portrait exhibition of Quaid-e-Azam at NCA Tolinton Block.

CamScanner

# Youth Leaders Parliament Balochistan Delegation Meets IG FC North

● Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba highlights youth's role in peace, stability and national development; delegation appreciates FC's public welfare initiatives



PUBLIC NEWS

QUETTA

A delegation of Youth Leaders Parliament Balochistan visited the headquarters of FC Balochistan (North), where it held a meeting with Inspector General Frontier Corps (North), Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on peace and stability in Balochistan, the constructive role of youth, education, development and the promotion of national unity.During the meeting, the participants discussed the importance of engaging young people in positive and productive activities and encouraging their participation in efforts aimed at the development and prosperity of the province. The role of youth in strengthening social harmony, promoting education and contributing to national progress also came under discussion.IG FC Balochistan (North), Major General Muhammad Atif Mujtaba, described the youth of Balochistan as an important asset for national development. He highlighted the significance of young people in building a peaceful, stable and prosperous society and emphasized the importance of their constructive contribution to the province's future.

# Sri Lanka take 193-run lead against PCB Patron's XI on second day

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD



Sri Lanka strengthened their position against PCB Patrons XI on the second day of the three-day practice match at Islamabad Club on Thursday, extending their overall lead to 193 runs after reaching 121-6 in their second innings at stumps.The visitors faced a challenging spell against the PCB Patrons XI bowling attack but managed to maintain a substantial advantage by the close of play. Milan Ratnayake remained unbeaten on 27, while Kesara Nuwantha was not out on zero as Sri Lanka ended the day with four wickets remaining.For PCB Patrons XI, Shoaib Akhtar Jr. delivered an impressive performance with the ball, claiming three wickets to put pressure on the Sri Lankan batting lineup. Ubaid Shah and Saqib Khan also contributed to the bowling effort, taking one wicket each.Earlier in the day, PCB Patrons XI resumed their first innings at 43-2, looking to build on their overnight position against Sri Lanka's bowling attack. However, the hosts were unable to convert their start into a substantial total and eventually declared their innings at 151-8.Azan Awais was the leading run-scorer for PCB Patrons XI, producing a valuable half-century. His innings of 50 provided stability to the batting lineup and helped the team post a competitive total. Tayyab Arif contributed 30 runs, while Muhammad Taha added 29 to support the innings.Despite these contributions, PCB Patrons XI finished 72 runs behind Sri Lanka's first-innings total, giving the visitors an important advantage heading into their second innings.Sri Lanka had earlier declared their first innings at 223-7, establishing a 72-run lead over the home side. The visitors then returned to the crease with the objective of extending their advantage and putting further pressure on PCB Patrons XI.The second innings saw Sri Lanka lose six wickets, but the contributions from their lower-order batters helped them maintain control of the match. Ratnayake's unbeaten 27 proved important in keeping the innings moving, while Nuwantha remained at the crease at the end of the day's play.With an overall lead of 193 runs and four wickets still available, Sri Lanka will look to further strengthen their position on the third and final day of the practice match.PCB Patrons XI, meanwhile, will aim to dismiss the remaining Sri Lankan batters quickly and limit the visitors' advantage before beginning their pursuit of a challenging target.The practice match at Islamabad Club is providing both sides with valuable preparation ahead of their upcoming cricket commitments, with the second day's play leaving Sri Lanka in a commanding position.

# Pakistan's Arafat Minhas nominated for ICC Player of the Month award




SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan all-rounder Arafat Minhas has been nominated for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for October 2026 following his performances in Pakistan's ODI tri-series victory against England and Sri Lanka.

The 21-year-old faces competition from South Africa all-rounder Marco Jansen and West Indies captain Shai Hope for the monthly award.

Minhas was named Player of the Series after scoring 149 runs in five innings at an average of 29.80 and a strike rate of 119.20. He also claimed nine wickets at an economy rate of 5.13.

His standout performance came against England, when he scored 59 runs and took six wickets for 40 runs, recording the second-best ODI bowling figures by a Pakistan bowler on home soil.

Minhas also played a key role in the final against Sri Lanka in Lahore, scoring 61 off 31 deliveries to help Pakistan chase a target of 326 and secure the title.South Africa's Marco Jansen earned his nomination after scoring 198 runs and taking 13 wickets in three Tests against Australia, helping his team secure a 2-1 series victory.

Jansen scored 85 and claimed six wickets in the second Test at Gqeberha as South Africa registered an innings-and-31-run victory.

He followed that performance with another half-century and three wickets in the third Test, helping South Africa complete a series comeback.

His performances also took him to the top of the ICC Men's Test bowling and all-rounder rankings.

West Indies captain Shai Hope completed the men's shortlist after scoring three unbeaten centuries against India across ODI and T20I matches.

Hope struck an unbeaten 162 in the third ODI in New Chandigarh, helping the West Indies chase 352, their highest successful run chase in ODI cricket.He also scored two unbeaten centuries of 102 each during the five-match T20I series, finishing with 261 runs at a strike rate of 190.51.

Meanwhile, India's Deepti Sharma, Australia's Annabel Sutherland and Bangladesh's Sobhana Mostary were nominated for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award.

# Cristiano Ronaldo announces international retirement

■Cristiano Ronaldo has retired from international football at 41 after a falling-out with coach Jorge Jesus, ending a record 234-cap Portugal career.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo announced on Thursday that he is retiring from international football.

The 41-year-old made 234 international appearances for Portugal and scored 146 goals, both world records.

The decision follows a falling-out with national coach Jorge Jesus. Last month, Ronaldo left the team camp after Jesus refused to use him in a Nations League match. The row reportedly escalated after Ronaldo warmed up for a long time against Norway but was never brought on. He later said he would explain his reasons "in time."

Jesus had played down talk of a rift. He said the door remained open for Ronaldo to return and that the forward alone should decide how to end his international career. Portugal went on to beat Denmark 4-2 and then Norway at home, finishing the window top of Group Four with 12 points from 12.

then Norway at home, finishing the window top of Group Four with 12 points from 12.

Jesus only took the job this summer. He signed a four-year deal to coach Portugal through the Cup, succeeding Roberto Martinez after the team's 1-0 round-of-16 loss to Spain. The two had worked together at Al-Nassr in 2025/26, where they won the Saudi Pro League title.

2030 World Cup, succeeding Roberto Martinez after the team's 1-0 round-of-16 loss to Spain. The two had worked together at Al-Nassr in 2025/26, where they won the Saudi Pro League title.

Ronaldo's future with the national side had been in question since the World Cup. He had said he considered retiring from international football after the tournament but decided to carry on while chasing 1,000 career goals. He had 979 goals across club and international football as of September.





# Valverde rescues Real as Liverpool crash at Fenerbahce in Europe

Web Desk

Valverde

Valverde rescues Real as Liverpool lose their perfect record in a dramatic Champions League night. Federico Valverde scored in stoppage time to give Real Madrid a 3-2 win at AEK Athens.

Real fell behind twice but kept their fine start alive. They now have 12 points from four games and sit second, behind Paris Saint-Germain on goal difference.

AEK made the better start. Aboubakary Koita curled a shot into the top corner in the 12th minute. Jude Bellingham levelled with a neat backheel before the break.Stavros Pilios put AEK back in front in the 75th minute. His low shot crept through Thibaut Courtois' legs. Kylian Mbappe equalised three minutes later, and Valverde then made sure of the win.

Liverpool had no such luck in Istanbul. They arrived with three wins from three, but lost 3-2 at Fenerbahce. Trey Nyoni and Alexander Isak gave Liverpool the lead twice. Fenerbahce hit back each time. Vedat Muriqi headed the winner in the 79th minute to give the hosts their first win of the season.

Liverpool are now eighth on nine points. Fenerbahce moved up to 19th with five.

Manchester City also had a tough night at RB Leipzig. They went ahead and were pulled back twice. Erling Haaland then slid in at the far post in the 8th minute to win it 3-2.

City are seventh on nine points. Arsenal beat Slavia Prague 2-1 and moved third on 10 points. Noni Madueke and Viktor Gyokeres scored in the first half, and Slavia replied only in the final minute.



# Novak Djokovic Set to Miss ATP Finals After Early Paris Exit

Web Desk

Paris

Novak Djokovic suffered a shock exit from the Paris Masters on Wednesday. The 24-time Grand Slam champion lost to Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata in the second round.

The score was 2-6, 6-3, 6-3. Hijikata is ranked 83rd in the world, so the result surprised many fans.

The loss also ended the 39-year-old Serb's chance of playing at the ATP Finals later this month.

Djokovic started the match very well. He won the first set with ease and looked in full control.

Then the match changed. Hijikata broke his serve in the eighth game of the second set. He then held his serve to level the match at one set each.

The final set was a long fight. At 3-3, Djokovic lost his serve and gave his rival a big chance. Hijikata took it and broke again to win the match.

After the game, Djokovic was honest about the loss. He said he felt disappointed, because he thought he was in control after the first set.



# 11th Thal Desert Jeep Rally hits the tracks

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The 11th Thal Jeep Rally began at Changa Manga Teela in KotAddu today with more than 100 racers gearing up to join it,

The inspection process of modified as well as stock vehicles was under way at the moment.

The four-day event will feature more than one hundred local and foreign racers competing on challenging desert tracks across Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu and Layyah.

Cultural activities have also been organized across all the three districts to entertain visitors and sports enthusiasts.

Thal Desert Jeep Rally will not only promote motorsports but also highlight the scenic beauty and tourism potential of the desert areas of Pakistan.

CamScanner




## FCC bars PHC from hearing cases related to arrests made under 3 MPO

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Thursday barred the Peshawar High Court (PHC) from hearing the cases related to arrests made under the 3 MPO, The FCC also suspended the orders given by different benches of the high court in which they had barred the authorities from making arrests under the 3 MPO.

A two-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan, heard the petition filed by the KP government against the PHC orders.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan said that the court would issue notices to parties to the case.

Speaking on the occasion, advocate general KP said that under Article 245, the PHC and other high courts could not interfere in the areas where the army was conducting operations. "A high court cannot hear the cases filed under article 199 of the constitution," he added. Shah Faisal Ilyas, a lawyer, on the occasion, requested the court to hear him prior to granting stay in the case. He was of the view that all three objections raised by the provincial government could not be upheld.

# Oil prices tumble, stocks surge after Trump's election rout

● Crude prices finished the day down more than eight percent with both major contracts under $100 a barrel.

WEB DESK

Washngation

Wall Street stocks surged as markets greeted the resolution of US midterm elections while oil prices tumbled on expectations the Democratic sweep could hasten a resolution to the US-Iran war.

Democrats seized control of both houses of Congress in a victory that gives them the power to block legislation, open investigations into Trump's administration and influence government budgets, including the Pentagon.

Heading into Tuesday's vote, some investors had viewed a decisive Democratic win as representing trouble for stocks, citing the risk to the buildout of artificial intelligence data centers.

But stocks bounced Wednesday as analysts said the election outcome resolved uncertainty and pointed to relief that Trump did not contest the results.

Oil prices were under pressure throughout the session, adding to losses after US Vice President JD Vance said in a social media post that the Republican defeat was due to the unpopularity of the Iran war, which has sent the prices of fuel and other staples soaring. Crude prices finished the day down more than eight percent with both major contracts under $100 a barrel."I think that the election might be leading the market to conclude that Trump might now be inclined to make a deal," said Andy Lipow of Lipow Oil Associates. "Also, with the Democrats in charge of the Senate and House, they may be inclined to restrict funding for the war, and that forces Trump into ending the conflict."The drop in oil prices added momentum to Wall Street stocks, which opened higher following positive sessions on leading European exchanges.



All three major indices finished solidly higher, with the Dow ending up three percent, or more than 1,500 points at 53,356.12.

Opposition to data centers fueled campaigns in key states like Texas, Georgia and Ohio where Democrats won gubernatorial elections previously held by Republicans.

But gains by Microsoft, Amazon and other hyperscalers suggest markets may see an upside to constraints that deter overbuilding, said Steve Sosnick of Interactive Brokers.

"At some level, people are happy that the industry might be saved from its own worst instincts," said Sosnick, who noted that Nvidia and other chipmakers fell following the results.

Both of Elon Musk's publicly traded companies fell after the billionaire's huge political donations failed to stop the Democratic tide. SpaceX fell 3.8 percent and Tesla dropped 3.3 percent.

Lockheed Martin, which lost 6.9 percent, was among the defense companies that retreated, while First Solar jumped 4.6 as the election lifted the prospects for renewable energy.

Earlier, Europe's main indices finished with gains of around two percent despite official data Wednesday showing that eurozone inflation reached a three-year high of 4.0 percent in October.

# ECP reserves verdict on Punjab's plea to hold LG polls after January 20

● ECP has reserved its decision on Punjab's request to hold local government elections after January 20, citing fog, weather conditions and the need for additional preparation time.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reserved its decision on the Punjab government's request to reschedule local government elections in the province.

A four-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the case. Punjab Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq, the provincial chief secretary and the secretary of the local government department appeared before the commission.

During the hearing, the chief election commissioner noted that




discussions had previously taken place between the Punjab cabinet committee and the ECP. He said the provincial government had earlier proposed holding elections between December 15 and January 15.

Punjab Chief Secretary told the commission that preparations for the local government elections were complete but requested a date after January 20, saying the administration needed an additional two months to make the necessary arrangements.

He cited severe fog in Punjab, particularly Lahore, during December, explaining that weather conditions made election arrangements difficult for administrative staff. He added that conditions generally improve after January 20.

An ECP member pointed out that the provincial government had previously suggested holding elections in April.

Responding to the observation, the chief secretary said the government had reconsidered its position and had no objection to holding elections in January or February.



## LHC rules Child Marriage Restraint Act 2026 cannot apply retrospectively

■ Lahore High Court rules the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2026 cannot apply retrospectively, overturns a shelter home order and allows Kiran Shaheen to live by her own choice.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has ruled that the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2026 cannot be applied retrospectively, setting aside an order that had declared a married girl underage and directed her transfer to a shelter home.

Justice Khalid Ibn-i-Aziz accepted a criminal revision petition filed by Sher Baz and Safina Khatoon and overturned a May 20, 2026, decision of the Sessions Court in Khushab. The court also dismissed a constitutional petition filed by Ahmed Sher, the father of Kiran Shaheen, allowing the girl to live wherever she chooses in accordance with her free will.

According to the court's judgment, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2026 came into force on May 11, 2026, while Kiran Shaheen's marriage was solemnised on April 18, 2026. The marriage, therefore, took place before the new legislation became effective.

The court held that legislation cannot ordinarily be applied to events that occurred before its commencement. It observed that using a newly enacted law retrospectively to initiate legal proceedings would be contrary to established legal principles.

The Sessions Court in Khushab had previously declared Kiran Shaheen under the age of 16 and ordered her transfer to a shelter home.

However, the girl told a magistrate that she had married of her own free will and had not been abducted. She also refused to return to her father and expressed her desire to live with her husband.

In its judgment, the high court observed that proceedings under Section 552 of the Code of Criminal Procedure require the relevant legal conditions concerning alleged abduction and the girl's age to be examined.

It further noted that if the alleged abducted girl disputes the claim of being underage before the court, the legal basis for continuing proceedings under Section 552 must be reassessed.

# Noose tightened on Maulana Fazl's family, close aides

■ Complaint lands in FBR seeking probe into assets, business transactions, bank accounts of Senator Kamran Murtaza, Lutfur Rehman, Ziaur Rehman, Asad Mehmood and Abrar Ahmad Khan:

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The noose is being tightened around JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, his family and close aides as a complaint has been filed in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) against them whereas the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has issued a notice to the Maulana's seminary for committing violations of law,

The complaint landed in the FBR sought initiation of a probe against Maulana Fazl's family members and his close associates for alleged tax evasion and hiding their income.

Senator Kamran Murtaza, Lutfur Rehman,



Ziaur Rehman, Asad Mehmood and Abrar Ahmad Khan have been named in the complaint, seeking investigation into their assets, bank accounts and sources of income.

The complainant particularly demanded probe of transactions into Senator Kamran Murtaza's numerous national and foreign currency accounts.

The FBR was also urged to inquire into Lutfur Rehman's bank accounts and business activities under tax laws.

The complainant also claimed of alleged presence of unspecified amounts in bank accounts of Ziaur Rehman.

Asad Mehmood's bank accounts should be scrutinized for possible tax evasion.

An investigation was also sought into Abrar Ahmad Khan's bank accounts, travel and tours business and related financial matters. It was also urged to probe the transactions with different welfare, educational and business institutions.

# Lahore again ranks as world's most polluted city as AQI hits 338

■ Lahore tops the global pollution ranking again with an average AQI of 338. Several areas record hazardous levels, prompting experts to advise residents to limit outdoor activities and wear masks.

WEB DESK

LAHORE



Lahore has once again ranked as the world's most polluted city, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 338 amid worsening smog conditions.

According to the Environment Department, air pollution levels across the city have become extremely alarming, with several areas recording hazardous AQI readings.

The AQI around FC College was recorded at 508, while Paragon Society reported a reading of 548. In Model Town, the air quality index reached 414, reflecting the severity of pollution across different parts of the city.

In view of the deteriorating air quality, experts have advised residents to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities and wear protective masks whenever they need to step outside.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast that Lahore's temperature will range between a minimum of 17°C and a maximum of 30°C over the next 24 hours.



Minister of State and Chairman Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority, Bilal Bin Saqib meets Mark Elliott, Mastercard's Division President for East Arabia to discuss digital payments, remittances and Pakistan's virtual assets framework.

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