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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding promotion of cashless economy. Islamabad

Bilawal Bhutto urges political dialogue to address economic crisis and public hardships

■ PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto calls for political cooperation, prioritising public welfare, improving healthcare and education, and strengthening federal-provincial coordination.

STAFF REPORTER

LARKANA

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that criticism is easy, but delivering practical results is difficult, emphasising that the real use of power lies in building a safe, fair and sustainable future.

Addressing a ceremony in Larkana, Bilawal said providing better healthcare and education facilities remained a priority. He noted that the world was facing an economic crisis and people in



Pakistan were also suffering its consequences.

He said he had visited Larkana after a considerable period and pointed out that people from Balochistan and other areas also travelled to the city for medical treatment. He added that the government's priority had always been to provide internationally recognised healthcare facilities to disadvantaged sections of society. Bilawal said no citizen would be deprived of medical treatment due to a lack of financial resources. He added that several development projects were under way in Larkana and Qambar Shahdadkot.

He claimed that Sindh was providing greater support to higher education than Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He expressed hope that the 600-bed hospital being built in Larkana would meet the city's requirements and provide healthcare facilities of international standards.

The PPP chairman acknowledged that Larkana faced several problems, including water shortages, and said efforts would be made to resolve them. He added that the Sindh government was taking steps to promote higher education and further improve the education sector.

Rana Sanaullah says KP governor's rule to continue until objectives are achieved

■ Rana Sanaullah says KP governor's rule will continue until its objectives are achieved Confirms no formal PTI talks and stresses the need to defeat terrorism.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will remain in place until its objectives are achieved, while confirming that no formal negotiations are currently underway with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Speaking during a private television programme, Rana Sanaullah said there were currently no formal talks with PTI, although backchannel contacts continued from time to time. He reiterated that governor's rule in the province would remain in place until the desired objectives were achieved.

Commenting on the security situation, he said terrorism was spreading in the region with assistance from India and Afghanistan. He stressed that preventing terrorism was of critical importance and said all stakeholders would be taken on board in efforts to address the threat.

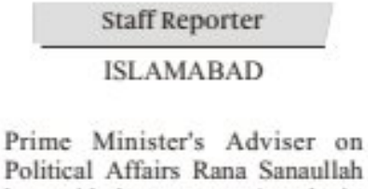
He maintained that there was no alternative to achieving success in the war against terrorism, adding that combating the menace remained essential.

Responding to Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's opposition to governor's rule, the prime minister's adviser said he was entitled to hold a different opinion.

Rana Sanaullah said no one wanted to escalate tensions with Maulana Fazlur Rehman, adding that there was no confrontation between the two sides and that the matter involved only a difference of opinion.

He said the government had the right to disagree with JUI-F's position, just as the party had the right to express its disagreement with the government's stance.

Hafiz Naeem lambasts Sindh govt over Karachi's problems



CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has called on Karachi residents to raise their voices for the resolution of the city's longstanding problems, criticising the provincial government over the performance of local government institutions and delays in major development projects.

Addressing a ceremony, Hafiz Naeem said that essential sectors, including education, fall under the local government system, but local government institutions remain dependent on provincial governments for authority and resources.

He criticised the repeated delays in local government elections, saying the election date had been announced for the fifth time in Islamabad while polls had not been held in Punjab. He added that political leaders who criticise the system were also cooperating with it and shared responsibility for the situation.

Highlighting Karachi's water crisis, the JI chief said the K-4 water supply project had remained incomplete since 2005. He argued that timely completion could have ensured water supplies to households through regular connections rather than tankers.



Armed Afghan militant arrested after infiltration attempt foiled in Upper Kurram

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Security forces foiled an infiltration attempt from Afghanistan into Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Upper Kurram district, arresting an armed Afghan militant.

According to security sources, an armed member of a terrorist organisation attempting to infiltrate from Afghanistan was arrested, while other members of the group failed to cross the border.The sources identified the arrested Afghan militant as Qari Waqas, alias Qadoos, reportedly belonging to Spin Ghar, Afghanistan. During interrogation, the suspect revealed that he had been attempting to enter Pakistan to join the Khariji Kazim Group.



Turkish parliament ratifies Makkah Defence Pact with Pakistan, KSA

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Turkiye's parliament ratified the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, a defence pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, clearing the way for Ankara to send military support to Riyadh amid attacks by Yemen's Houthi militants against the kingdom.

The measure, formally titled the Bill on the Approval of the Makkah Agreement on Joint Defence between the Republic of Türkiye, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, passed in the General Assembly of the Grand National Assembly after debate among parties.

During the debate, ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) lawmaker Ziya Altunyaldiz stressed that the agreement aims to expand security cooperation in the region.



Pakistan, Sudan Agree to Boost Security and Counterterrorism Cooperation

■ Field Marshal Asim Munir meets Sudanese Interior Minister Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali at GHQ; both sides reaffirm commitment to strengthening bilateral relations

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Sudanese Interior Minister Lieutenant General (Police) Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali met Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS and CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Friday.

The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security challenges and opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation.Both sides agreed to further strengthen relations between Pakistan and Sudan,

particularly in security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation. The Sudanese interior minister appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability and d Pakistan was committed to deepening bilateral engagement with Sudan.

acknowledged the longstanding fraternal ties between the two countries.Field Marshal Asim Munir said Pakistan was committed to deepening bilateral engagement with Sudan.

He also said close cooperation was essential to address shared security challenges.

Pakistan reiterates support for independent Palestine, calls for end to Gaza violence

■ Pakistan seeks peace and stability in the region and reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

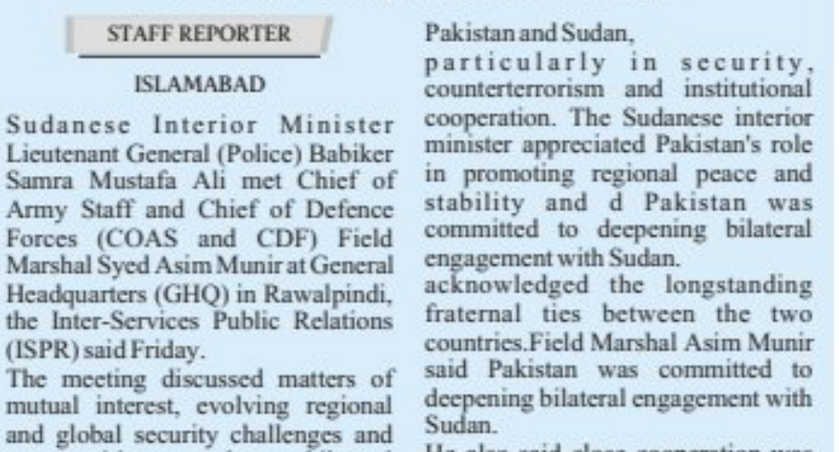
Pakistan has called for the early implementation of a two-state solution to the Palestine dispute, reiterating its support for an independent and sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan seeks peace and stability in the region and reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Speaking about the R4 foreign ministers' meeting held in Istanbul, the spokesperson said discussions covered the situations in Palestine and Yemen, tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran, and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. He said the participating countries called for an immediate end to violence in Gaza and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. The spokesperson also condemned Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in Yemen and the Red Sea, expressing solidarity with Saudi Arabia and Yemen. were essential to resolving regional conflicts.He stressed that dialogue and diplomacy were essential to resolving regional conflicts.

Pakistan also welcomed ongoing diplomatic efforts, including the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, and called for the restoration of safe and uninterrupted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Sajjad Haider Khan further said that on October 23, R4 foreign ministers met their counterparts from France, Germany, Italy and the United



Kingdom in Istanbul to discuss key regional and international challenges.Separately, Pakistan expressed condolences to the government and people of Jordan over the loss of lives, extending sympathies to the bereaved families and wishing those injured a speedy recovery.

It also reaffirmed its solidarity with Jordan in the fight against terrorism.

The Foreign Office spokesperson said Pakistan strongly condemned Houthi ballistic missile attacks on Saudi Arabia's Makkah and Madinah regions on October 26.

CamScanner

SNGPL Posts Record Rs34.65 Billion Pre-Tax Profit, Recommends 30% Cash Dividend

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Board of Directors of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), at its meeting held in Lahore on Thursday, November 5, 2026, approved the Company's Annual Financial Statements for the financial year ended June 30, 2026, and recommended a final cash dividend of Rs. 3.00 per share (30%) for approval by the shareholders.SNGPL achieved its highest-ever profit before levy and income tax of Rs. 34,656 million during FY 2025–26, registering an impressive increase of approximately 42% over Rs. 24,446 million reported in the preceding financial year. The Company posted a profit after tax of Rs. 14,809 million, translating into earnings per share (EPS) of Rs. 23.35, compared to a profit after tax of Rs. 14,592 million and EPS of Rs. 23.01 recorded in FY 2024–25.The Company's sustained and focused efforts towards improving operational efficiency and controlling losses also yielded positive results, with Unaccounted-for-Gas (UFG) volumes declining by 1,672 MMCF (from 29,520 MMCF to 27,848 MMCF) during the year. This reduction reflects the Company's continued commitment to enhancing operational performance and strengthening its efforts to curb gas losses.The Company's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 27, 2026, at its Head Office, where shareholders will consider and approve the Annual Financial Statements, the recommended final cash dividend and other matters of ordinary business.The Board appreciated the Management's performance and particularly commended its concerted efforts towards UFG control and improved operational efficiency. The Board also acknowledged the dedication, professionalism and commitment of the Company's employees in pursuing the targets set by the Board. The valuable contributions of the Board Members, Management and staff were recognized as instrumental in the Company's overall performance and achievement of this historic financial milestone.



A female visitor takes an interest in viewing paintings during the three-day Pakistan Tourism, Sports and Family Festival, organized by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), at the Pakistan Sports Complex.

NPO, APO Conclude International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation and Value Addition

■ International delegates explore smart agriculture, food processing and sustainable productivity; Punjab Government outlines ambitious PIVOT 2026-2029 targets.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The five-day international workshop on "Innovative Value-added Products in the Agriculture Sector (Smart Agriculture)" (26-SPP-PK-F2-05), jointly organized by the National Productivity Organization (NPO Pakistan) and the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, concluded in Lahore today, bringing together international delegates from APO member economies to explore innovative approaches to agricultural productivity, value addition and sustainable growth.Held from November 2 to 6, 2026, the workshop featured technical sessions and a learning visit to Nestlé Pakistan on November 4, providing participants with practical insights into dairy value addition, food processing and smart supply chain management.The closing ceremony was attended by Sardar Usama Fayyaz Leghari, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture / Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of the Punjab, as Chief Guest.Addressing the participants, the Chief Guest congratulated NPO and APO on successfully organizing the workshop and highlighted agriculture's vital role in Pakistan's food security and economic development. He emphasized that climate change, water scarcity and post-harvest losses necessitate a transition towards modern, resource-efficient and market-oriented agricultural practices.He stated that the future of agriculture depends not only on increasing production but also on adopting smart technologies and transforming agricultural commodities into competitive, value-added products.Highlighting the Punjab Government's flagship Punjab Innovation for Value, Opportunity and Transformation (PIVOT) 2026–2029**, he outlined its targets of Rs. 1.995 trillion in investment,



US$6.8 billion in additional exports and the creation of over 162,000 direct jobs. The initiative also envisages the establishment of agro-processing parks in Sargodha, Khanewal, Okara and Bhakkar. He noted that these initiatives complement the Federal Government's URAAN Pakistan and 5Es Framework to promote export-led economic growth.In his closing remarks, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO, NPO Pakistan**, thanked APO Japan for its continued cooperation and appreciated the active participation of international delegates. He emphasized the importance of translating the knowledge and expertise gained through the workshop into practical initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity and generate wider economic benefits.He also acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Tanvir Faisal, Programme .

Plane averts disaster after bird strike during landing at Karachi airport

SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI



A private airline flight travelling from Islamabad to Karachi narrowly escaped a major accident while landing at Karachi Airport, according to airport sources.
The incident occurred when a bird struck the aircraft as it was approaching the runway for landing. The collision reportedly caused significant damage to the aircraft's radome and bulkhead frames, raising concerns about its structural condition.
Fortunately, all passengers and crew members remained safe, and no injuries were reported.
Airport sources confirmed that the aircraft was grounded following the incident and will remain out of service until the necessary technical inspections and safety checks are completed.
The plane will only be allowed to resume operations after receiving clearance from the relevant authorities.
The incident highlights the potential risks posed by bird strikes during critical phases of flight, particularly during take-off and landing, and underscores the importance of aviation safety measures at airports.

Govt appoints Mustafa Ramday as chairman of PSO Board of Management

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The federal government on Friday reconstituted the Board of Management of Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO), appointing Mustafa Ramday as Chairman and Independent Director for a three-year term with immediate effect,Mustafa Ramday brings more than 28 years of experience in constitutional, commercial and energy-sector law. An Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and former Advocate General, Punjab, he has advised on the legal framework for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), power generation and clean energy projects, and represented oil, gas and power-sector entities in international arbitration. Chambers & Partners ranks him in its top tier for dispute resolution and litigation in Pakistan.
On assuming office, Mustafa Ramday confirmed that he would serve PSO in an honorary capacity, foregoing directors' fees and all work-related expenses: "I would like to make it clear, to the company and to everyone else, that I will not charge PSO any directors' fee, travel, boarding, lodging or other costs to which I would be entitled for any PSO work, whether within or outside Pakistan."

LHC dismisses petition seeking law against marital rape

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE



The Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed a petition seeking direction for the government to enact a law against marital rape and exploitation,
LHC's Justice Abher Gul Khan issued a seven-page verdict, remarking the court cannot order the government to frame any specific law. "Enacting law is the job of the parliament and the provincial assemblies," the judge added.
The court, however, clarified that the decision does not support violence or coercion. "A woman's dignity and protection remain intact even after marriage," it added.
The petition was filed by one Areej Sohail Bhutta, praying that such such experiences brought to her attention that amount to an alleged deficiency in the existing legal framework governing the offence of rape, particularly with regard to the absence of a distinct statutory treatment of sexual violence within marriage.The petitioner said on the basis of such professional encounters and her understanding of the constitutional guarantees of dignity, equality and security of person, she has approached this court seeking directions to the federal and provincial governments to undertake appropriate legislative measures, including amendments to Sections 375 and 376 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, so as to provide a specific legal framework addressing what she described as the deficient legal regime concerning marital rape.
In its verdict, the LHC judge declined to issue order to the government for amending Sections 375 and 376, observing the court cannot push any institution to frame any law."The current text of Section 375 does not mention exemption for husband on the basis of marriage," the judge remarked, adding this verdict does not support violence or coercion and even after marriage, a woman's dignity and security remain intact.

TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111219953 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDINGS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT KACHHI 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 2%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Repair Of Office and Residence for Assistant Commissioner Sunni Tehsil Sunni District Kachhi	4,926,108

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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 3,448,275 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm In case of representative the bidder provides an authority letter on Judicial stamp paper of Rs, 100/-stamp paper, mentioning TSE Number and title of work duly attested by Oath Commissioner **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 19 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 19 November, 2026till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: XEN CWPP&H Office Dhadhar Phone no: 3337340773 Email: xenbuildingkachi@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BUILDINGS CWPP&H DEPARTMENT KACHHI

DPRQ/PRQ No.2312/06-11-2026

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627111220913 Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Executive Engineer-II Provincial B&R District Lasbela invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2026 based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates **Tender Fee 1500 PKR and Bid Security 2%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	Construction of Naib Tehsildar Liari Office Uthal Lasbela	9,652,770

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 2 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,756,939 PKR Amount in2 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million)In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE10(vii) (General Buildings and Maintenance). **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,500 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 23 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 23 November, 2026till 11:00 AM. **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under-signed at 12:00 PM Address: Office of The Executive Engineer-II Provincial B&R District Lasbela **Phone no: 0300705842 Email: eeiiuthal@gmail.com**

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-BUILDINGS CW PP&H DEPARTMENT DISTRICT LASBELA AT UTHAL

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TENDER NOTICE

TSE-2627101214553 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 GGHS GOTH IMAM DIN KIAZAI 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 2%**

S.No	Name of Work/s	E/Cost
1	OFFICE BUILDINGS(BOUNDRY WALL AND MAIN GATE)	3,000,000

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules – 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 2,100,000 PKR Amount in3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm PAID BPRRA'S CHALAN (IF PAID THROUGH APP ATTACH RECIEPT) **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of Bank Gurantee,Deposit at Call of 2 % specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed 1,000 PKR **Issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to 20 November, 2026during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The Tenders must be submitted latest by 20 November, 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 HEAD MISTRESS GGHS GOTH IMAM DIN KIAZAI Phone no: 3200895288 Fax no: 00000000000 Email: Jameelanizam2@gmail.com

Head Mistress GGHS GOTH IMAM DIN KIAZAI

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NADRA Deputy Assistant Director shot dead in Peshawar's Hayatabad

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR



Unidentified armed assailants shot dead Fahad, a Deputy Assistant Director of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), in the Hayatabad area of Peshawar.
According to police, the incident took place in the parking area of a NADRA office, where unidentified attackers opened fire on Fahad, killing him on the spot.Following the incident, police personnel rushed to the scene and collected evidence from the crime site.Police said efforts were underway to identify the suspects with the help of CCTV cameras installed in the parking area.The victim's body was shifted to a hospital for the completion of legal formalities and a postmortem examination.

CamScanner

Kashmir, Global Politics and the Pressure Around Pakistan



By: Aasi

The world has changed. Wars are no longer fought only with tanks, missiles and gunpowder. Modern conflicts are now driven through narratives, media campaigns, diplomatic pressure, economic manipulation, human rights slogans and international lobbying. Anyone who believes Pakistan is facing threats only at its borders perhaps still does not understand the reality of twenty-first century warfare. Today, bullets may be silent, but narratives are poisonous. Attacks are carried out not only on battlefields, but through headlines, reports, social media trends and political pressure.

Kashmir once again stands at the center of international politics. However, an important question arises: why have some British parliamentarians suddenly become vocal about Kashmir now? Where were these voices when innocent children in Indian-occupied Kashmir were being killed? Where were these defenders of human rights when pellet guns blinded Kashmiri youth? And where was the global conscience on August 5, 2019, when India revoked the special status of occupied Kashmir and turned the entire valley into an open prison?



At that time, the international community largely remained silent. Human rights organizations issued weak statements while major powers preferred diplomacy over morality. Yet today, when comments are directed toward Pakistan's internal matters, the sudden activism raises serious questions. This is why many observers believe that these developments are not simply about human rights, but part of a larger geopolitical game.

Pakistan is not merely a country; it is a strategic state, a nuclear power and an important player in the Muslim world. Its geographical position makes it central to regional politics. From the very beginning, hostile forces have attempted to weaken Pakistan internally through political instability, economic pressure, sectarian divisions and institutional conflicts.

If one carefully studies India's long-term policies, a pattern becomes visible. The objective has never been limited to border disputes alone. The broader aim appears to be keeping Pakistan politically and economically unstable. Whether through diplomatic pressure, propaganda campaigns, disinformation networks or attempts to isolate Pakistan internationally, the strategy seems focused on weakening the country from within.

At the same time, influential lobbying networks across the world often shape international narratives according to political and economic interests. This explains why human rights abuses against minorities in India, including events in Gujarat, Delhi and occupied Kashmir, rarely receive the same intensity of criticism that Pakistan faces. The silence over the suffering of Kashmiris contrasts sharply with the rapid attention given to Pakistan's internal affairs.

If human rights are truly universal, then why is the world silent over the militarization of occupied Kashmir? Why have United Nations resolutions remained practically inactive for decades? Why is the Kashmiri right to self-determination discussed only symbolically in international forums?

The answer largely lies in global interests. In international politics, economic and strategic priorities often outweigh moral principles. India is viewed by many Western powers as a major market and a strategic counterweight in the region. As a result, many of its controversial actions are ignored or downplayed. On the other hand, Pakistan occupies a different strategic position. It is home to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while Gwadar is seen as an important future trade route. Pakistan's nuclear capability and regional importance make it highly relevant in global calculations. These realities naturally create pressure from different international actors seeking influence in the region.

Another concerning reality is the rise of narrative warfare. Certain groups operating abroad openly campaign against Pakistan's institutions while remaining silent on Indian policies in Kashmir. Such lobbying efforts often attempt to internationalize Pakistan's domestic issues while ignoring far greater violations elsewhere. This selective activism creates understandable skepticism among Pakistanis.

The question therefore becomes important: who benefits when Pakistan is constantly portrayed as unstable? Why are incidents inside Pakistan amplified globally while violence against Muslims and minorities in India is often described merely as an "internal matter"?



By: Eman Naveed

CPEC 2.0 and the Pakistani Graduate: A Corridor Transformed



Infrastructure is complete. What will take its place will require another type of Pakistani worker altogether.

In September 2025, the 14th Joint Cooperation Committee met in Beijing and did not dominate the headlines in Pakistan like a ribbon cutting on a motorway would. But the agreements signed there are more important to a 22-year-old engineering student from Lahore than any road that was constructed between Kashgar and Gwadar.

CPEC, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, is now in its second structural phase – one where megawatts of renewable energy, special economic zones, digital infrastructure and agri-technology, rather than coal and kilometers of asphalt, shape the economic landscape. This transition is not cosmetic. It is a real shift towards what Beijing calls high-quality development: green industry, technology transfer, and digital infrastructure.

This change is not just a geopolitical phenomenon. Nowadays, for professional class of Pakistan, it has become a matter of economic survival.

CPEC Phase-I, launched in 2013 and operationalized around 2017, was engineered as an "early harvest" – a quick infusion of Chinese state funds into the most critical and constricting Pakistani bottlenecks. The majority of the estimated $25 billion commitments were directed to coal-fired power plants, transmission lines, the Gwadar port complex and the national motorway network. The 2022 progress report from the Planning Commission estimated that Phase-I created some 75,000 direct jobs, mainly in construction labor and plant operations.

That is a model that is structurally depleted. Much of the road construction is completed. The power plants are operating — but the problem of circular debt is another crisis. The 14th JCC formalized a reimagined five thematic corridors – industrial-growth corridor, innovation and digital corridor, green development corridor with a target of 10,000 megawatts of solar and wind energy, agricultural modernization corridor and socioeconomic corridor focused on human development.

The financing structure is also different. Phase-I was mostly government-to-government and the Chinese state banks had been lending concessional loans to the public entities of Pakistan. CPEC 2.0 promotes business-to-business deals and private Chinese companies such as solar companies, LONGi Green Energy and Zonergy, have begun entering Pakistan under commercial terms. This is consequential. The expectations of private companies are not the same as infrastructure companies. They do not require general laborers. They require technically skilled local staff who are able to operate with Chinese systems. The Skills Mismatch

Higher Education Commission estimates that about 445,000 university graduates are produced in Pakistan every year. The distribution of those graduates, however, is highly skewed to the needs of CPEC 2.0 that has now started. About 83 per cent of the student body enrolled in the course of study are in social sciences and humanities. Rare talent in these areas continues to be renewable energy technicians, SCADA system operators, drone pilots for precision agriculture, and Mandarin competent IT professionals.

The Ministry of Climate Change estimates that by 2030, if the ambitious 10,000 MW solar target is achieved on schedule, this green development corridor alone would need an estimated 15,000 – 20,000 trained technicians to reach that goal. There is no national programme to produce them in bulk in Pakistan. There are ongoing programmes at NUST and NED but the enrolment in these programmes is low and linkages with industry are weak.

programmes at NUST and NED but the enrolment in these programmes is low and linkages with industry are weak.

In the meantime, the textile industry, which used to be Pakistan's biggest semi-skilled graduate employing industry, also continues to be structurally limited by energy costs that have recently jumped above Rs 65 per industrial unit. CPEC's green corridor won't solve that right away, though, as the majority of solar capacity will primarily be used for powering SEZ industrial operations. Apparel exports in Pakistan are around $19 billion per year, whereas in Bangladesh are $47 billion, which is something that can't be achieved without an energy cost saving measure for the legacy sectors, which CPEC 2.0 does not include as its core objective. What structural change demands The JCC process has grown from a level of high-level political signaling to what international political economy scholars call "technocratic diplomacy," or the process of bureaucratic coordination among different ministries, regulatory agencies, and state enterprises. This is mostly suitable. The issue of CPEC has never been a diplomatic problem, rather it's an implementation issue arising from institutional capacity gap on the Pakistani side.

There is no parallel "skills JCC" – structured bilateral mechanism, which looks into the labor requirements of each phase of CPEC and prepares its education and vocational training system accordingly. In investor surveys, the Chinese companies working in Pakistan's SEZs have repeatedly complained about a lack of locally trained technical staff. That is a failure of policy, not the market.

CPEC 2.0 is not a panacea and is not a threat. It is a transition of the economy that can be described in terms of who benefits and who needs to be prepared. With the corridor now shifting, the graduates of Pakistan in Electrical Engineering, Renewable Energy Systems, Agricultural Technology and Information Technology are poised to have better opportunities.

The 14th JCC took decisions in Beijing which will impact Pakistan's labor market over the next ten years. The proper reaction is not protest or uncritical celebration but critical alignment — of university curricula, of vocational training, of individual professional growth with the logic of industry which is in full swing.



Tayyaba Bari/ Dr. Syed Qasim Raza

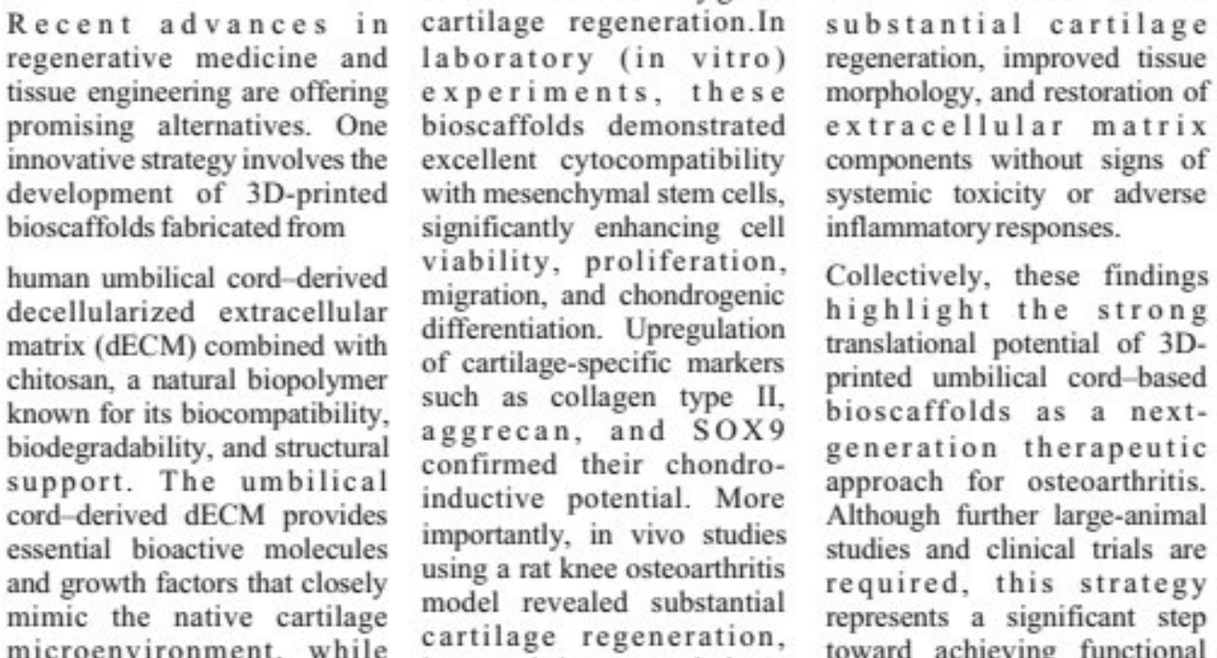
3D Bioprinting Offers New Hope for Osteoarthritis Patients in Pakistan

Osteoarthritis is a progressive, degenerative joint disease that affects millions worldwide, causing chronic pain, stiffness, and loss of mobility. Current treatment options—such as painkillers, anti-inflammatory drugs, physiotherapy, corticosteroid injections, and ultimately joint replacement surgery—primarily focus on symptom management rather than restoring the damaged tissue. While these approaches may temporarily relieve pain and improve function, they do not address the underlying loss of articular cartilage. Because cartilage is avascular and lacks sufficient intrinsic healing capacity, its degeneration is often irreversible, emphasizing the urgent need for regenerative therapies that can repair and restore joint structure and function.

Recent advances in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering are offering promising alternatives. One innovative strategy involves the development of 3D-printed bioscaffolds fabricated from human umbilical cord–derived decellularized extracellular matrix (dECM) combined with chitosan, a natural biopolymer known for its biocompatibility, biodegradability, and structural support. The umbilical cord–derived dECM provides essential bioactive molecules and growth factors that closely mimic the native cartilage microenvironment, while chitosan enhances mechanical integrity and printability. The use of 3D bioprinting technology further allows precise control over scaffold architecture, pore size, and spatial organization, ensuring optimal nutrient diffusion, cell infiltration, and mechanical strength. This combination creates a biomimetic platform designed not only to support cells but also to actively guide cartilage regeneration.In laboratory (in vitro) experiments, these bioscaffolds demonstrated excellent cytocompatibility with mesenchymal stem cells, significantly enhancing cell viability, proliferation, migration, and chondrogenic differentiation. Upregulation of cartilage-specific markers such as collagen type II, aggrecan, and SOX9 confirmed their chondro-inductive potential. More importantly, in vivo studies using a rat knee osteoarthritis model revealed substantial cartilage regeneration, improved tissue morphology, and restoration of extracellular matrix components without signs of systemic toxicity or adverse inflammatory responses.



Collectively, these findings highlight the strong translational potential of 3D-printed umbilical cord–based bioscaffolds as a next-generation therapeutic approach for osteoarthritis. Although further large-animal studies and clinical trials are required, this strategy represents a significant step toward achieving functional cartilage repair and long-term joint preservation in human patients.



Visitors browse through a wide selection of books displayed at the International Book Fair.

CamScanner



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal addressing a Media Dialogue on "Media Literacy and Development Journalism" in Islamabad on November 6, 2026.

Commerce Minister holds series of bilateral meetings with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia in Türkiye

■ Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh also requested details of Pakistani companies expected to participate in the upcoming business forum to facilitate direct engagement between the business communities and identify potential investment partnerships.

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a series of bilateral meetings with Mr. Fareed S. Alasaly, Deputy Governor for International Organizations and Agreements of Saudi Arabia; Mr. Mohamed Farid Saleh, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Egypt; and Samir Abid, Minister of Trade and Export Development of Tunisia, on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The meetings focused on strengthening bilateral economic relations, expanding trade and investment opportunities, promoting joint ventures and enhancing industrial cooperation in sectors of mutual interest.

During his meeting with Mr. Fareed S. Alasaly, Deputy Governor for International Organizations and Agreements of Saudi Arabia, both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in agriculture and industrial development, particularly in human resource development, livestock and food security, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Jam Kamal Khan emphasized the importance of identifying new avenues for mutually beneficial joint ventures between Pakistani and Saudi companies.

Commerce Minister holds series of bilateral meetings with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia in Türkiye

He particularly proposed partnerships between leading businesses of the two countries to explore emerging trade opportunities in African markets.

The Commerce Minister also stressed the need for greater institutional and private-sector engagement to translate economic potential into practical business partnerships. He invited the Saudi representative to visit Pakistan during the upcoming FoodAg exhibition to explore opportunities in agriculture, livestock and food-related industries.



PM's Apna Ghar Programme crosses Rs100 bn in housing loan disbursements

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Schezad has said that the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Programme has crossed the Rs100 billion in housing loan disbursements, marking a significant achievement in the government's efforts to promote affordable housing and turning policy commitments into tangible results.

As of October 30,2026, a total of Rs104 billion has been disbursed through 17,697 housing loans, he posted on X.

The programme has also recorded substantial growth in financing approvals, with Rs533 billion approved against 90,405 applications out of a total of 220,715 applications received. The overall approval rate stands at 41 per cent.He said loan disbursements had increased by 404 per cent since June 2026, rising from Rs21 billion to Rs104 billion.Similarly, financing approvals witnessed a 269 per cent increase, climbing from Rs144 billion to Rs533 billion during the same period.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor model for Global South cooperation: Pakistani Ambassador

■ The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a landmark project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has set an example of mutually beneficial cooperation among Global South countries, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Syed Ali Asad Gillani said.

Staff Reporter

BEIJING

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a landmark project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has set an example of mutually beneficial cooperation among Global South countries, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Syed Ali Asad Gillani said.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, Gillani said bilateral relations have not only grown stronger, but have also expanded in depth and scope.

"CPEC is the latest manifestation of this relationship, and it is a huge project," the ambassador said. "It has transformed the socioeconomic landscape of Pakistan."

Gillani noted that when the CPEC was launched in 2013, Pakistan was grappling with power shortages that hurt livelihoods, productive capacity and exports. Following the completion of several energy and transport infrastructure projects in the first phase of the CPEC, Pakistan now has sufficient energy, creating broader business opportunities and improving people's livelihoods.

"CPEC has contributed more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity to Pakistan. Looking at the statistics, I find a single project alone was able to generate as many as 25,000 jobs," Gillani said in a recent exclusive interview with Xinhua.



Taking Gwadar Port as an example, Gillani said it was once a small village. The development of Gwadar Port has brought an airport, a hospital and vocational training programs, significantly improving the living standards of local residents.

"CPEC is transforming not only Pakistan, but also the ways we interact and connect with each other. There is recognition and appreciation of this," the ambassador said.

China and Pakistan have agreed that the priority of their practical cooperation at present is to advance the high-quality development of the CPEC, forge CPEC 2.0, and build it into a corridor of growth, livelihood, innovation, green development and openness.

SBP, all banks to remain closed on Monday

■ State Bank of Pakistan, all banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Monday, November 9, 2026, on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day.

Business Reporter

KARACHI

State Bank of Pakistan, all banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Monday, November 9, 2026, on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day.

"The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on Monday, November 9, 2026 being public holiday on the occasion of "Allama Iqbal Day", as declared by the Government of Pakistan," the central bank announced in a statement issued in Karachi on Thursday.



Subsequently, all banks, Micro Finance Banks and Development Finance Institutions will also remain closed on the first day of upcoming week to observe the birth anniversary of the poet of the East Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal.



SECP registers 5,003 new companies in October

■ PSX opened higher on Wednesday as the KSE-100 Index gained 398 points to reach 165,500, recovering after falling 814 points to close at 165,151 in the previous session.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 5,003 new companies in October 2026.

With this addition, the total number of registered companies in the country has risen to 321,794. During the month, 99.9 percent of registrations were completed online.

According to the SECP, 55.4 percent of the new companies were private limited and 41.6 percent were single-member companies. Punjab saw 2,663 new registrations, Islamabad 934 and Sindh 751, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 382, Gilgit-Baltistan 162 and Balochistan 111.

The information technology sector led registrations in October with 991 companies, followed by trading with 767, services with 594 and construction with 295.

Dollar edges lower as US election outcome cheers global markets

■ The dollar weakened after Democrats' US midterm victory eased market uncertainty, while the yen strengthened on rate hike expectations. Sterling held near a seven-week high ahead of the BOE decision.

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI

The dollar edged lower on Thursday in the aftermath of an overwhelming victory by Democrats in US midterm elections that cleared a major source of uncertainty and fuelled a rally in global equities.

The yen firmed after minutes of the Bank of Japan's September meeting reinforced expectations for further interest rate hikes, while sterling held near a seven-week high ahead of a Bank of England policy decision expected to deliver another rate increase.

Democrats swept to sizable majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives, easing concerns about contested results and spurring gains in US Treasuries and equities around the



world. The election result raises prospects of political gridlock in ?Washington and lowers expectations that US President Donald Trump will resume military strikes against ?Iran, said Ray Attrill, head of FX strategy at National Australia Bank.

"A lot of the market moves that ?we're seeing, particularly in bonds, I think can be traced directly to that, as well as a weaker dollar on the back of lower Treasury yields," Attrill said on a podcast.

Pakistan stock market investors base soars by 47.3% in 10 months

■ The monthly net addition rose from 20,600 in January to 25,747 in October, an increase of 25 percent.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The investors base of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has surged by 47.3 percent during the first 10 months of 2026, with nearly 219,000 net new investors entering the market as regulators and capital-market institutions stepped up efforts to simplify account opening, strengthen financial literacy and broaden public participation,

The Pakistan Stock Exchange's investor base reached 681,965 at the end of October, compared with 463,071 at the close of December 2025. The increase of 218,894 investors exceeded the combined additions recorded during the previous four calendar years, according to figures shared by Adviser to the Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad. The October closing total was also 56 percent higher than a year earlier.

October recorded 26,843 new investor accounts, comprising 26,801 individual accounts and 42 corporate accounts. Separately, the net addition to the investor base was 25,747, against 25,281 in September, an increase of 1.8 percent. The distinction matters because gross account openings and net additions to registered investors measure different aspects of market participation.

The monthly net addition rose from 20,600 in January to 25,747 in October, an increase of 25 percent. During January–September, cumulative additions stood at 193,147, according to the monthly figures compiled for the period.

The expansion follows a strong financial year for equities. PSX's annual report shows that the .5



benchmark KSE-100 Index closed FY2025–26 at 180,301.70 points, compared with 125,627.31 a year earlier, a gain of approximately 43.5 percent. Market capitalisation increased from Rs15.24 trillion to Rs20.20 trillion, while the value traded across the ready and futures markets rose from Rs9.79 trillion to Rs14.20 trillion.

These figures describe the completed financial year rather than current market levels.

Young investors accounted for most individual accounts opened in October. People aged 18–30 opened 14,634 accounts, representing 54.6 percent of new individual accounts, while those aged 31–45 opened 9,290, or 34.7 percent. Together, the two groups accounted for 89.3 percent of the monthly individual total.

Women opened 3,923 accounts, representing 14.6 percent of new individual accounts, compared with 22,878 accounts opened by men.

The figures show that widening women's participation remains an important area for investor outreach.

Punjab contributed 14,891 new accounts and Sindh 7,643, together accounting for 83.9 percent of October's total. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 1,894 accounts, Islamabad 1,419, Balochistan 370, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 340, Gilgit-Baltistan 150 and investors based abroad 136.

Sahulat accounts remained the main route for new individual account openings. A total of 20,698 were opened during October, representing 77.2 percent of new individual accounts, against 6,103 normal accounts.

The Securities and Exchange nt Commission of Pakistan raised the Sahulat account investment limit from Rs1 million to Rs3 million in March. Subsequent reforms permitted investors to maintain a Sahulat account with more than one securities broker, subject to one such account per broker and the applicable account limit.

The regulator's consolidated investor onboarding framework, issued through Circular No. 19 of 2026, introduced processing timelines of one working day for complete Sehl/Sahulat applications and two working days for normal accounts. It also provides for application tracking and written reasons for rejection, while reducing repeated verification across regulated institutions.

Earlier amendments enabled IBAN-based digital verification as an alternative means of completing customer verification requirements.

CamScanner

Marco Rubio denies plans to resign as 2028 speculation grows

■ US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has denied reports of plans to quit the Trump administration, reaffirming his commitment to serve until the president's term ends.



Web DESK

Washngation

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissed reports that he was planning to leave the Trump administration as he weighs his next moves after Republicans' losses in midterm elections, according to The New York Times.

It has "always been my plan" to work for President Donald Trump until the end of his term, Rubio told The Times in an interview.

Rubio, who also serves as Trump's national security adviser, is widely considered a potential successor to Trump in the 2028 presidential race.

Just days before Tuesday's midterm elections, he made an unusual appearance alongside the US leader on the campaign trail, briefly stepping up on the podium to address a cheering crowd at a rally.

Rubio declined to answer questions about his political future on Thursday, however, saying: "I literally will not talk about 2028 anymore."

On reports that he was considering an exit from the Trump administration, he told The New York Times: "I don't know where these things come from, to be honest with you."



ISTANBUL, November 6, 2026: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan addresses the closing session of the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Meeting on behalf of OIC Member States, emphasizing stronger economic cooperation, enhanced trade financing, increased intra-OIC trade and collective efforts for sustainable development.

Trump says impeaching him would 'destroy' Democrats

■ Trump said he was not concerned about the possibility of impeachment, insisting there were no grounds for removing him from office.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that if the Democrats were to launch an effort to impeach him when they take control of Congress next year, it would "destroy" their party.

Asked about prospective impeachment a day after his Republican Party suffered a sweeping midterm election loss, Trump said: "I think it would destroy the Democrat Party if they did that," insisting there was "no reason" for him to be impeached.

Speaking at the White House for the first time since the midterm election results on Wednesday, Trump said he was not concerned about the possibility of impeachment, insisting there were no grounds for removing him from office.



"I think it would destroy the Democrat Party if they did that," Trump said when asked about the prospect of Democrats initiating impeachment proceedings.

Asked whether he was worried g about such a move, Trump responded, "No, no, no, not even a little bit."He further defended his presidency, questioning why Democrats would seek to impeach him and claiming the country was performing better than at any point in its history.

"It would be impeachment for no reason. For what? For having a successful country? A country is more successful now than anytime in its history," he said.

Despite the escalating political tensions following the election, Trump indicated that he could work with Democrats in Congress, provided they did not seek to obstruct his administration's agenda."I'll get along probably with the Democrats unless they want to be destructive, but I have the power of the veto," he said.

His remarks come as Democrats prepare to take control of both chambers of Congress in January 2027, giving the opposition party greater influence over legislation, congressional investigations and oversight of the Trump administration.

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong sentenced to 10 more years

■ The unannounced trip sends a strong signal to his oil-rich Saudi ally as Riyadh comes under near-daily attack

Web Desk

Hong Kong

Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong was sentenced to 10 more years in jail on Thursday for colluding with foreign powers, the second time he was penalised under the city's national security law.

Wong, who became internationally renowned during the "Umbrella Movement" that convulsed Hong Kong in 2014, has already spent almost six years behind bars and is now not due for release until late 2036. The US consulate in Hong Kong said the sentencing showed that Beijing "will go to extraordinary lengths to silence those who advocate for fundamental freedoms" in the Chinese territory.

China said it "firmly supports the



Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in safeguarding national security in accordance with the law and cracking down on acts that endanger national security."

"Relevant parties should earnestly respect China's sovereignty, respect Hong Kong's legal system, stop making irresponsible remarks... and cease interfering in Hong Kong's judiciary and China's internal affairs in any form," the foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh garment workers largely return after wage protests

● Gazi Jasim Uddin, who heads the police unit for industrial zones, said protests had dropped sharply compared with recent days.

Web Desk

DHAKA

Garment workers in Bangladesh largely resumed work on Thursday after days of wage protests, although some factories remained closed and isolated demonstrations continued.

Bangladesh's garment wage board agreed on Wednesday to raise minimum pay in the key sector, which generates around four-fifths of the country's export earnings, worth up to $38 billion.

Gazi Jasim Uddin, who heads the police unit for industrial zones, said protests had dropped sharply compared with recent days.



"In Narayanganj, more than 95 percent of garment factories have resumed operations," Uddin told AFP. There were isolated protests in Gazipur and Ashulia, also industrial areas near Dhaka.

"Workers in Ashulia went to factories and started coming out an hour later," he said. "In Gazipur protesters tried to occupy the highway."

The South Asian nation of 170 ome of the world's best-known million people is the world's second-biggest garment exporter behind China, making clothes for some of the world's best-known brands.

Workers are demanding a minimum monthly wage of 30,000 taka ($240), a 140 percent increase on the current 12,500 taka. The wage board, comprising representatives of employers and workers, was set up by the government on Sunday to negotiate a pay rise.

In a statement to reporters, the board said the new minimum wage would be announced in December and take effect in January.

The dispute reflects longstanding tensions in an industry that employs more than four million people but has been dogged by complaints over pay, working conditions and labour rights.

On Wednesday, before the deal was announced, tens of thousands of workers marched through industrial areas, with some hurling bricks, setting fire to police vehicles and erecting barricades as police fired tear gas to disperse crowds.

Monowara, 35, a garment worker in Gazipur, said large numbers of police officers were still patrolling the area.

She said she had been ready to resume work, but her factory had informed workers it would remain closed until Sunday.

North Korea tells EU to 'mind own business' on human rights

Web Desk

North Korea

North Korea lashed out at the European Union over its draft UN resolution addressing human rights in the country, state media reported Thursday, telling the bloc to "mind its own business".

Pyongyang has long been accused by the United Nations and other critics of widespread rights abuses, including running prison camps and severely restricting freedom of expression and access to information, while little is known about its criminal justice system.

The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution condemning



North Korea's human rights violations every year since 2005.

"The EU submitted again a 'draft resolution' flagrantly distorting the human rights policy and situation of the DPRK," the North's UN mission said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, referring to the country by the initials of its official name.

Bangladesh's ousted premier Hasina tells the AP she will return from exile in December at any cost



Web Desk

DHAKA

Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ousted in a mass uprising in 2024, has told The Associated Press that she remains committed to returning to Bangladesh from exile in India next month, despite being sentenced to death over her government's deadly crackdown on protesters.

Hasina fled to India after student-led protests forced her from power and has remained there ever since.In 2025, a Bangladeshi special tribunal sentenced her to death for crimes against humanity, ruling that she was responsible for ordering the crackdown, which left hundreds of people dead and thousands of others injured.

Yemeni army says 340 Houthi fighters killed in 1,322 military operations

■ Government forces report territorial gains in Al-Jawf, Taiz provinces as part of ongoing 'Dawn of Yemen' offensive

Web Desk

Yemen

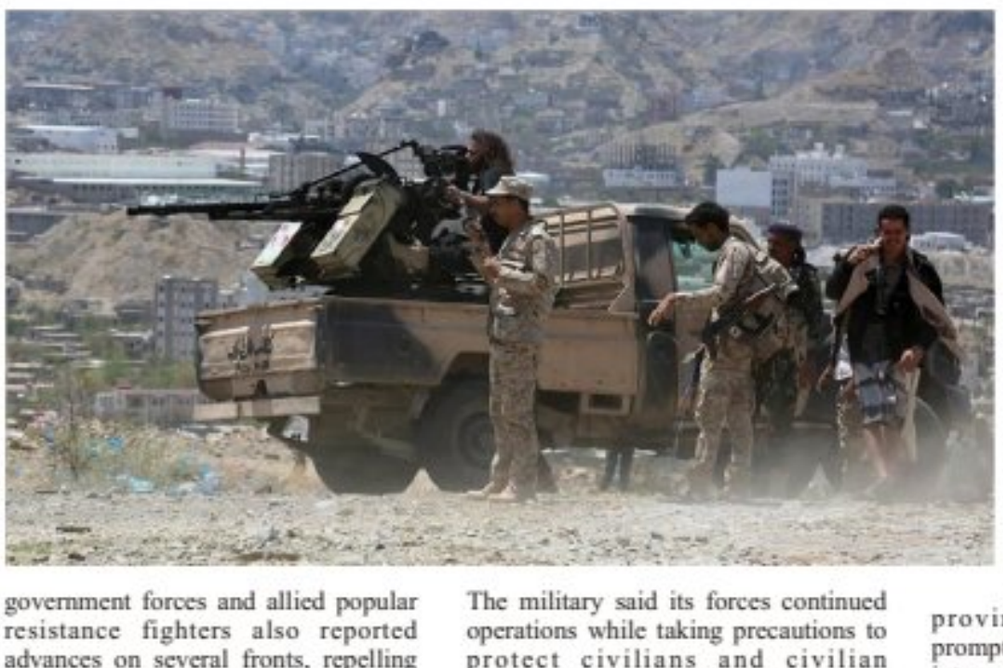
Yemen's armed forces said that they had carried out 1,322 operations targeting Houthi positions and military capabilities, claiming to have killed or incapacitated around 340 fighters and commanders.

In a statement on US social media company X, the Yemeni military spokesperson said the operations also destroyed or damaged 114 military vehicles and pieces of equipment.

The spokesperson said government forces had gained territory in Al-Jawf province as part of the ongoing "Dawn of Yemen" military operation.

Units from the First and Third Emergency Divisions seized Houthi positions in Umm Lafifa, Qurun al-Sabir and Duhaydat al-Aqir, according to the statement.

In southwestern Taiz province,



government forces and allied popular resistance fighters also reported advances on several fronts, repelling Houthi attempts to recapture lost positions.

The military said its forces continued operations while taking precautions to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Since October 5, Yemeni government tal, Sanaa, from the Houthis.

forces have been conducting an operation dubbed "Dawn of Yemen," aimed at regaining control of state institutions and retaking the capital, Sanaa, from the Houthis.

Fighting between government forces and the Houthis resumed in July, killing and wounding thousands and displacing more than 250,000 people, according to UN reports.

The renewed clashes ended a period of relative calm that had prevailed since April 2022, further worsening Yemen's humanitarian crisis.

Yemen has been engulfed in civil war since the Houthis seized Sanaa and several provinces in September 2014, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene in March 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government.

CamScanner

Sidra Niazi Condemns Victim Blaming After Acid Attack

■ Actress Raises Voice After Shocking Attack on Doctor



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Sidra Niazi has strongly criticized the culture of victim blaming following the shocking acid attack on Dr. Mahnoor, calling on society to shift its focus from questioning victims to holding offenders responsible for their actions.

Taking to Instagram, Sidra expressed her anguish over the brutal attack that left the young doctor critically injured while she was performing her duties at a hospital. While the incident sparked widespread concern and condemnation, the actress highlighted how many social media users turned their attention toward the victim's personal life, appearance, and choices rather than condemning the violence itself.

In an emotional message shared on her Instagram Story, Sidra said the incident had once again raised serious questions about societal attitudes and the way young boys are being raised.

"Dr. Mahnoor has left us shaken once again. Every time a woman is attacked, harassed, or subjected to such horrific violence, I find myself questioning where we are failing as a society. How are we raising our children, especially our boys, that some grow up believing they have the right to punish, control, or destroy a woman's life?" she wrote.

The actress also voiced concern over the public reaction that often follows such crimes, arguing that some responses can be nearly as disturbing as the violence itself.

She noted that instead of expressing outrage and sympathy for victims, many people rush to scrutinize a woman's character, clothing, decisions, and actions, seemingly searching for reasons to justify or explain the abuse she suffered.

Describing this attitude as deeply troubling, Sidra said victim blaming reflects a dangerous lack of empathy and a willingness to excuse brutality by shifting responsibility onto women. "The fact that someone can look at a victim of such a horrific act and ask, 'What did she do?' instead of 'How could anyone do this to her?' is deeply disturbing," she stated.

Concluding her message, the actress stressed that no rejection, disagreement, or personal conflict can ever justify violence.

Rajab Butt Urges Fans to Avoid Online Drama

■ Social Media Feud Continues Between Rajab Butt, Sheikh Aon

Web desk

LAHORE



Popular Pakistani YouTuber Rajab Butt has spoken out amid an ongoing social media controversy involving his former brother-in-law, Sheikh Aon, urging fans to avoid engaging in online arguments and to respect his family's privacy.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Rajab Butt issued a detailed message to his followers, asking them not to react to comments being made about his personal life and family.

He said that while he is often viewed negatively by some online users, he requested his supporters not to escalate the situation or respond to criticism.

Rajab also addressed recent remarks made during a live stream in which Sheikh Aon allegedly discussed rumors circulating about his infant son, Kivan Sultan. He urged people not to give sy.

attention to such discussions and suggested that constant online reactions only fuel unnecessary controversy.

The YouTuber emphasized that social media users must develop resilience and not respond to every comment or rumor, noting that public platforms often involve criticism and debate.

He further hinted that some individuals may be intentionally raising sensitive topics to remain relevant online.

Rajab concluded his statement by once again appealing for restraint, asking fans not to involve his young son in the dispute and to avoid spreading or reacting to related content.



■ Hina Tariq Talks About Modesty in Acting Career

Rising Star Hina Tariq Emphasizes Personal Values in Acting

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Hina Tariq has shared her thoughts on maintaining modesty while working in the entertainment industry, saying she chooses to uphold personal values in her on-screen appearances.

In a statement circulating on social media, Hina said she often wears a dupatta in dramas so that she can look back on her work with pride and dignity, especially in the eyes of her future family.

She explained, "Main dramon mein hamesha dupatta leti hoon takay kal ko mera shohar aur bachay dekhein ke maine izzat se kaam kiya," emphasizing that her professional choices are guided by her personal beliefs and sense of respect.The actress added that she wants her present work to reflect positively on her future, and that she remains mindful of how her performances may be viewed later in life. Her remarks received attention online, with many social media users appreciating her stance on modesty and personal values in the entertainment industry.Hina Tariq is considered one of the emerging talents in Pakistan's television industry. She initially gained popularity as a social media influencer before transitioning into acting. She has appeared in several television projects, including Bharam, Nafrat, and Naqaab, where her performances helped establish her as a rising young actress.

Chinese medicinal herb shows promise in treating hair loss

■ Researchers found that Polygonum multiflorum, commonly known as He Shou Wu, could help combat androgenetic alopecia, the most common form of hair loss among men worldwide.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



A traditional Chinese medicinal herb used for more than a thousand years may offer a new treatment option for male pattern baldness, according to a study published in the Journal of Holistic Integrative Pharmacy.

Researchers found that Polygonum multiflorum, commonly known as He Shou Wu, could help combat androgenetic alopecia, the most common form of hair loss among men worldwide.

Male pattern baldness develops gradually as hair follicles shrink, producing thinner, shorter hair before growth eventually slows or stops altogether. Existing treatments such as Finasteride and Minoxidil can be effective but may cause side effects in some users, including sexual dysfunction and scalp irritation.

According to the study, Polygonum multiflorum appears to act through several biological pathways associated with hair growth and regeneration. Researchers said the herb may help reduce the effects of dihydrotestosterone (DHT), a hormone considered one of the primary causes of male pattern baldness.

The review also found that the herb may protect hair follicle cells from premature death, improve blood circulation to the scalp and activate biological signals involved in tissue repair and regeneration.

Lead researcher Han Bixian said the findings connect traditional medical knowledge with modern scientific understanding.

"Our analysis bridges ancient wisdom and modern science," Bixian said.

Researchers reviewed laboratory studies, clinical reports and historical herbal records to assess the herb's potential role in hair restoration.

The study concluded that Polygonum multiflorum may do more than slow hair loss, creating conditions that support the regeneration of hair follicles and encourage new growth.

The researchers also noted that when properly processed using traditional preparation methods, the herb appears to have a favourable safety profile, potentially making it an alternative for people concerned about the side effects of existing treatments.

Scientists said the findings could help guide the development of future therapies to promote hair regrowth and prevent hair loss.

A artist performs a traditional Spanish Flamenco Bianco dance during the 25- day World Culture Festival 2026, organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan

Late Irrfan Khan's wife Sutapa Sikdar praises Hajra Yamin performance in Doctor Bahu

Web Desk

KARACHI



Yamin's performance in Doctor Bahu is winning hearts and the appreciation is now coming from both sides of the border.

The latest voice to join the list of admirers is Indian writer and producer Sutapa Sikdar, the wife of the late legendary actor Irrfan Khan.Responding to online discussions about Hajra's performance, Sikdar described the actress as an "underrated gem."

In her comment, she noted that Hajra has consistently delivered strong performances even when paired with less experienced co-stars.

She further highlighted that Doctor Bahu is a well written and well directed project and that Hajra shines even brighter because of her command over the role.Responding to Sikdar's comment, Hajra expressed her gratitude and revealed that she has admired Irrfan Khan's work for years."I'm at a loss for words. Thank you so much for your support, it means so much to me. I've been a fan and student of the late Sir Irrfan Khan's work for as long as I can remember, so this is incredibly special," she wrote.

Husan ki malika: Fans swoon over Zara Noor Abbas' chic photoshoot

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas has once again captivated her fans with her effortless charm and timeless beauty. The actress shared a series of striking photographs on Instagram, treating followers to a look that perfectly blended traditional elegance with nostalgic '90s vibes.

In the newly shared pictures, Zara radiates grace in an ivory white long kurta adorned with delicate self-embroidery. The outfit is beautifully paired with a vibrant multi-coloured shalwar featuring traditional green, orange and red geometric patterns, adding a playful splash of color to the otherwise understated ensemble.

Her accessories elevated the look even further. Zara opted for a statement metallic nose ring (nath), stacked oxidized silver bangles and a stylish wristwatch, creating a classic ethnic aesthetic. Soft, voluminous waves cascading over one shoulder and warm, natural-toned makeup completed her effortlessly elegant appearance.

The photoshoot was set against a charming indoor boutique backdrop. A wooden clothing rack displaying colorful traditional outfits, lush green plants and an antique style wooden chair added warmth and a distinctly desi feel to the setting.In one of the photographs, Zara can be seen holding a guitar while striking a playful pose for the camera.

CamScanner

Pakistani fighter Maliha Ali makes history by reaching IMMAF World Championship final

● Pakistani fighter Maliha Ali becomes the first Pakistani woman to reach the IMMAF World Championship final after defeating Mexico's Pan American champion.





SPORTS DESK

TBILISI

- Pakistani fighter Maliha Ali has made history by becoming the first woman from Pakistan to reach the final of the IMMAF World Championship.

Maliha secured her place in the title clash after defeating Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman, a Pan American champion, in the semi-final.

Her remarkable run to the final has included victories over two formidable international opponents. Before overcoming Guzman, the Pakistani fighter had also defeated a renowned European champion from Russia.

The achievement marks a significant milestone for Pakistani women's mixed martial arts, with Maliha becoming the first Pakistani woman to reach the final of the prestigious international competition.

Her performance has brought the spotlight on Pakistan's growing presence in international combat sports. She will now compete in the final with an opportunity to cap her historic campaign with a world championship title.



Huraira, Farooq centuries put FATA, Peshawar in command

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Mohammad Huraira and Mohammad Farooq struck centuries as FATA and Peshawar Blues strengthened their positions on the third day of the first round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold on Thursday.

At the National Ground in Islamabad, Sialkot Blues resumed their second innings at 13-0 and declared at 388-5, with Mohammad Huraira scoring 141 and Mohsin Riaz remaining unbeaten on 100. Karachi Blues set a target of 350 runs were 2-1 at stumps.

At Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Faisalabad resumed at their overnight score of 118-2 and were bowled out for 259 in reply to Peshawar Blues' 503-4 declared. Atiq-ur-Rehman top-scored with 72, while Sajid Khan and Mohammad Adnan took three wickets each. Following on, Faisalabad reached 54-1 at stumps and still trail by 190 runs.

Alcaraz into Paris Masters quarters



SPORTSDESK

PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz moved into the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters on Thursday after his last 16 opponent Matteo Berrettini withdrew.

Alcaraz, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, was scheduled to play the Italian, but Berrettini pulled out ahead of their encounter with an elbow injury.

"Unfortunately, the pain in my arm that I've been putting up with for the past few days means I won't be able to take to the court tonight," Berrettini posted on social media.

After receiving a bye through the first round as a top-eight seed, Alcaraz is into the last eight with only one match under his belt in Paris, a straight-sets success against Alex Michelsen.

He will meet American Taylor Fritz on Friday for a spot in the semi-finals. Fritz beat French sixth seed Arthur Fils 6-3, 6-4 to stay in the running for a place at the ATP Finals.

Alcaraz has never won the Paris Masters. The Spaniard is the top-ranked player remaining in the draw after world number one Alexander Zverev lost on Wednesday.

Berrettini, 30, has endured an injury-plagued career and was forced to retire earlier this season in Paris when a hip issue brought a premature end to his French Open quarter-final clash with Matteo Arnaldi.

Ben Shelton overcame France's Arthur Rinderknech in a third-set tie-break to secure his passage into the quarter-finals.

The American third seed battled past the 68th-ranked Frenchman 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5) to avoid becoming the latest high-profile departure.

Shelton will next play compatriot Tommy Paul after the 12th seed beat Frenchman Quentin Halys 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 in the day's opening match on centre court.

"It's been a long time since we've been on the court, but I'm looking forward to it," Shelton said of taking on Paul for the first time since losing to the world number 14 in Dallas two years ago.

"He's in great form right now. A great player, a great friend."

Australian qualifier Rinky Hijikata continued his run as he backed up his second-round victory over 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic with a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 win against Tomas Martin Etcheverry.

Zverev's vanquisher Lorenzo Musetti, however, failed to use his round-of-32 upset as a springboard to a first 1000-level title, losing a long three-set battle to Frenchman Luca Van Assche.

Former world number two Casper Ruud of Norway closed the day's action with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

Shelton and Paul will open play on Friday, before Alcaraz retakes the court in the night session to battle Fritz, followed by Ruud's clash with Portuguese lucky loser Nuno Borges.

Lakers send Bronny James to G League

● The Lakers kept James when they waived former 2024 No. 17 overall pick Dalton Knecht in October

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Bronny James is headed on assignment Thursday to the Coachella Valley Lakers in the G League, and whether he returns to Los Angeles and the NBA remains unclear.

James, 22, has played just 12 minutes in five games this season, his first with the franchise since his famous father, LeBron James, joined the Philadelphia ?76ers as a free agent.

The Lakers kept James when they waived former 2024 No. 17 overall pick Dalton Knecht in October.



James is in his third season with the Lakers. Head coach JJ Redick cast doubt about his place on the roster after Bronny James shot 25% from the floor (4 of 16) ?in five preseason games. He has four points in five regular-season games for the Lakers (7-2) in 2026.

"I thought he had a really nice September and a good summer with us, but I don't think he's played well in the four preseason games," Redick said last month.

Bronny James ?is signed on a fully guaranteed deal through the end of the 2026-27 season, with a ?team option for 2027-28. Los Angeles selected him in the second round (55th overall) of the 2024 NBA Draft out of Southern California.

Wasim Akram declines Afghanistan Premier League mentor role over PCB policy

■The PCB had earlier decided not to issue No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) to Pakistani cricketers seeking to participate in the league.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has declined an offer to serve as a mentor in the Afghanistan Premier League (APL) in line with the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) policy on the tournament, Sources said Akram was approached for the mentorship role but decided against accepting the offer after considering the PCB's position.

The PCB had earlier decided not to issue No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) to Pakistani cricketers seeking to participate in the league.

Meanwhile, former Pakistan all-rounder Azhar Mahmood has been appointed head coach of Team Paktia, captained by Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah, while former Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis has been named the team's ambassador.

Former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir,



who acquired British citizenship in May and currently resides in England, was signed by Kandahar Warriors in the platinum category during Tuesday's players' draft.

Amir registered for the draft as a British national, and the Warriors selected him with all-rounder Mohammad Nabi.

their first pick, ahead of veteran Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi.

More than 30 Pakistani cricketers, including Fakhar Zaman, Saim Ayub, Hasan Ali, Shan Masood, Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf and Imad Wasim, had registered for the draft.

However, none of the Pakistani players were selected amid uncertainty over their participation because of reported diplomatic tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Earlier media reports had indicated that the PCB

Pakistan wins three honours at Int'l Space Games 2026 IN Moscow

■ Pakistan's delegation representing the Institute of Space Technology (IST) has secured three prestigious distinctions at the International Space Games (ISG) 2026, held in Moscow, Russia, showcasing the country's growing capabilities in space science, engineering and mission operations.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's delegation representing the Institute of Space Technology (IST) has secured three prestigious distinctions at the International Space Games (ISG) 2026, held in Moscow, Russia, showcasing the country's growing capabilities in space science, engineering and mission operations.

At the closing and awards ceremony, Team Pakistan received the awards for 'Best Mission Control Centre (MCC) Team', 'Best Flight Engineer' and 'Outstanding Overall Coordination', marking a significant achievement for the country's young space professionals and students.

The International Space Games brought together participants from eight countries to compete in a simulated space-mission environment, featuring



intensive 48-hour habitat expeditions. The teams undertook engineering assignments, mission-control operations, scientific activities and simulated emergency scenarios to test their technical expertise, decision-making abilities and teamwork.

Pakistan was represented by an 11-member delegation comprising habitat crew members, mission-control personnel, consulting experts and professional jury members.

The habitat crew included Ayesha Jamil, Fakhar Arooj, Alishba Tanveer, Maheera Fatima and Hafiz Muhammad Abdullah, while Syeda Maryam Murtaza and Humail Amir Nawaz represented the Mission Control Centre.

Mohammad Daniyal Hasnain and Talha Zubair served as consulting experts, while Dr. Rehan Mahmood and Engr. Maheen Zulfiqar participated as professional jury members.

Dr. Rehan Mahmood, Director of the Space Systems and Technology Research Lab (SSTRL) at IST, served as the National Coordinator and Head of the Pakistan delegation.The awards reflected the technical excellence, dedication, teamwork and coordination demonstrated by the Pakistani delegation throughout the competition.

The delegation's participation followed months of preparation and technical training, culminating in the challenging habitat expedition and the international awards ceremony.

The Institute of Space Technology congratulated the award recipients and all members of Team Pakistan on their achievements and appreciated the organisers, host institutions and international partners for making the event possible.

CamScanner



Khawaja Asif lays foundation stone for new state lounge at Islamabad airport

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) has commenced construction of a new state lounge at Islamabad International Airport, with Defence Minister Khawaja Asif laying the foundation stone of the project.

According to the Pakistan Airports Authority, the new state lounge aims to provide world-class hospitality facilities and improve protocol arrangements for visiting foreign heads of state and high-level delegations.

On the occasion, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif unveiled a commemorative plaque and also participated in a tree-planting activity.

The ceremony was attended by Defence Secretary Lieutenant General (retd) Muhammad Ali, Director General Pakistan Airports Authority Air Vice Marshal Shahid Afzal, Islamabad International Airport Chief Operating Officer Aftab Gilani and other senior officials.

National CERT warns of AI-driven cyber threats to financial institutions, infrastructure

● Urges financial institutions to monitor core banking records and customers' account balances against potential cyberattacks• Oil and gas installations, power grids, water utilitiesand transport systems identified as key targets • Advises organisations to update security systems and maintain backup operational procedures

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's National Cyber Emergency Response Team (National CERT) has issued a comprehensive security advisory warning of escalating artificial intelligence-driven cyber threats targeting financial institutions and critical national infrastructure,

According to the advisory issued by the Cabinet Division in Islamabad, malicious actors are increasingly utilizing advanced AI tools, automated bots, botnets, and agentic systems to accelerate attack speed and sophistication.

Furthermore, core banking networks, digital payment platforms, and customer mobile applications face heightened risks of severe cyber disruption.

Consequently, technical experts warned that unauthorized manipulation of displayed account balances could trigger widespread public anxiety and financial instability.

Therefore, national regulatory authorities are instructing all financial organizations to enforce immediate security countermeasures. Ultimately, proactive defence strategies are



essential for protecting vital national digital assets.

The advisory highlights that critical utility infrastructure beyond the banking sector also faces potential exposure to automated cyber attacks.

Specifically, oil and gas installations, water management utilities, power generation plants, and electrical distribution networks listed as primary high-value targets.

Furthermore, major industrial manufacturing hubs and national transportation management systems are vulnerable to sophisticated digital intrusion attempts.

Consequently, security analysts emphasize that successful breaches of operational technology could disrupt essential public services and compromise economic activity.

Therefore, infrastructure operators required to audit network access protocols and isolate mission-critical management systems. Ultimately, safeguarding public utilities remains paramount for preserving national operational resilience.

To mitigate emerging risks, National CERT recommended strict operational monitoring protocols across all corporate network interfaces and customer-facing application programming interfaces (APIs). Furthermore, security teams must actively track automated login attempts, repeated authentication failures, credential stuffing campaigns, and abnormal API requests. Consequently, IT administrators are advised to establish real-time alerts for unauthorized application configuration changes and unusual transaction patterns. Therefore, financial institutions must perform continuous integrity checks on customer data records and backend database systems. Ultimately, deploying real-time threat monitoring enables security personnel to neutralize automated bot attacks rapidly.The advisory cited recent cyber incidents in Europe, where attacks compromised refrigeration and cooling systems across several major supermarket chains. Furthermore, those European operational breaches caused tangible commercial damage and physical inventory loss, demonstrating the real-world impact of infrastructure hacking. Consequently, although formal investigations have not confirmed AI involvement in those specific European events.

Naqvi reviews Margalla Road Extension, Sangjhani Interchange projects, 35pc work completed

● Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviews Margalla Road Extension and Sangjhani Interchange projects, with 35pc work completed, and directs authorities to speed up construction.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

.Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviewed progress on the Margalla Road Extension and Sangjhani Interchange projects in Islamabad, with 35 per cent of the development work completed so far, and directed authorities to accelerate construction to ensure timely completion.

During his visit, the interior minister inspected the ongoing construction activities and received a detailed briefing from officials on the progress of both projects.

Mohsin Naqvi said the projects would connect Margalla Road with the motorway, providing an



alternative route for people travelling to and from Islamabad.

He said the completion of the road network would make access to the federal capital easier for people coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It would also facilitate commuters travelling to Islamabad International Airport.

The minister added that residents of the relevant sectors of Islamabad and people travelling from GT Road would also benefit from easier access to the federal capital through the new route.

Emphasising environmental protection, Mohsin Naqvi said special attention was being given to tree plantation and the preservation of the environment as part of the development projects.

He said thousands of new trees were being planted, while existing green areas were also being improved to ensure environmental sustainability.

The interior minister directed the concerned authorities to further speed up construction activities and maintain the pace of work to complete the projects within the stipulated timeframe.

During the briefing, officials informed the minister that 35 per cent of the development work had been completed so far.

They further explained that the project included one underpass and one interchange, which would form part of the road network connecting Margalla Road with the motorway.

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and other relevant officials were also present during the visit.

UNSC adopts Pakistan-led statement urging diplomacy during conflicts

■ UNSC encouraged individual UN member states to pursue mediation and diplomatic initiatives to ease tensions and help transform armed confrontations into peaceful resolutions

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The United Nations Security Council has adopted a Pakistan-initiated presidential statement urging countries to continue diplomatic efforts even after armed conflicts break out, stressing the need for ceasefires, de-escalation and lasting political solutions.

Titled "The Role of Diplomacy during Active Hostilities", the statement highlights the importance of diplomatic engagement in protecting civilians, containing violence, preventing conflicts from spreading and ensuring humanitarian assistance during wars.

It calls on countries to use mediation, good offices and direct or indirect communication between conflicting parties to ease tensions



and create opportunities for negotiations, even while military operations are underway.

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, welcomed the adoption, describing it as a significant contribution to international efforts aimed at resolving conflicts peacefully.

"The message of this Presidential Statement is both simple and powerful: Diplomacy must not end when hostilities begin. Indeed, it becomes even more indispensable," he said during a press stakeout following the adoption.The statement was adopted under the November presidency of Latvia's Ambassador Sanita Pavluta-Deslandes, who is currently chairing the Security Council.

The Pakistani initiative builds on UN Security Council Resolution 2788, unanimously adopted during Pakistan's presidency of the Council in July 2025, which reaffirmed the importance of peacefully resolving international disputes in accordance with the UN Charter.

While the earlier resolution focused on the peaceful settlement of disputes, the latest statement specifically addresses the need to maintain diplomatic engagement after armed confrontations have begun, when communication between opposing sides often breaks down and the risk of escalation rises.

Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finalize preparations for the forthcoming Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers Meeting.



Peshawar-Lahore direct flights to begin on November 9: Faisal Karim Kundi

■ KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi announces direct Peshawar-Lahore flights from November 9, with four weekly services initially operated in collaboration with South Air.

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Good news for residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has announced the launch of direct air services between Peshawar and Lahore from November 9, restoring air connectivity between the two cities in collaboration with South Air.

Faisal Karim Kundi said direct flights from Peshawar to Lahore would commence on the occasion of Iqbal Day, providing a new travel facility for people of the province.

He said the journey between Peshawar and Lahore would take approximately 50 minutes to one hour. Initially, four flights per week would operate on the route.

According to the governor, the first flight from Peshawar to Lahore would depart at around 1pm on November 9.

Kundi said the direct air service would particularly benefit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents living in Lahore, as well as businesspeople and employees who frequently travel between the two cities.

He added that the direct air service between Peshawar and Quetta was already operating successfully, while the number of flights on the Peshawar-Lahore route would be increased in the future.

The governor further said work was underway to explore possibilities for establishing air connectivity with Dera Ismail Khan, Chitral and Parachinar.

He said additional measures would be taken to connect different parts of the province through air services, making travel easier for residents.

Faisal Karim Kundi also expressed his commitment to taking steps to restore Peshawar's identity as the City of Flowers.

Petition filed in PHC to raise girls' marriage age to 18 in KP

■ Two minor girls have petitioned the Peshawar High Court to raise the minimum marriage age for girls in KP from 16 to 18, citing child rights and UNICEF statistics.

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR



A constitutional petition has been filed in the Peshawar High Court seeking to raise the minimum legal age for girls' marriage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 16 to 18 years.

The petition has been filed by two minor girls working for children's rights, who have argued that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the only province in Pakistan where the minimum legal age for girls' marriage remains 16 years, while Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan have raised the age limit to 18.

The petitioners have requested the court to direct the provincial government to introduce necessary legislation and take effective measures to prevent child marriages and establish 18 years as the minimum legal age for girls' marriage in the province.

The petition further states that despite several promises and announcements over the past two decades, effective legislation to prevent child marriages has not been introduced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to UNICEF statistics cited in the petition, approximately 21 percent of girls in Pakistan are married before reaching the age of 18. Such marriages have negative consequences for their education.

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