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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting on PM's Youth Business & Agriculture Scheme in Lahore

PM Shehbaz briefs Nawaz Sharif on K-P security, economic challenges

■ The two hold detailed consultations on national political matters and steps to improve the economy

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif in Lahore on Sunday and briefed him on the security situation in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), the country's economic challenges and the government's ongoing reform agenda, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

According to the PMO, the meeting took place at Jati Umra, where Nawaz was briefed on the government's ongoing reforms, particularly economic reforms, the challenges facing the country and measures being taken to address them.

The two leaders held detailed consultations on national political matters and steps to improve the economy, according to the PMO. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also attended the meeting.

The meeting took place as consumers faced another increase in electricity prices. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) notified a Rs2.36 per-unit increase on Saturday under the monthly fuel cost adjustment for September.The higher electricity costs came amid expensive LNG imports and uncertainty over supplies. Pakistan was expected to spend (Continued on Page-4)

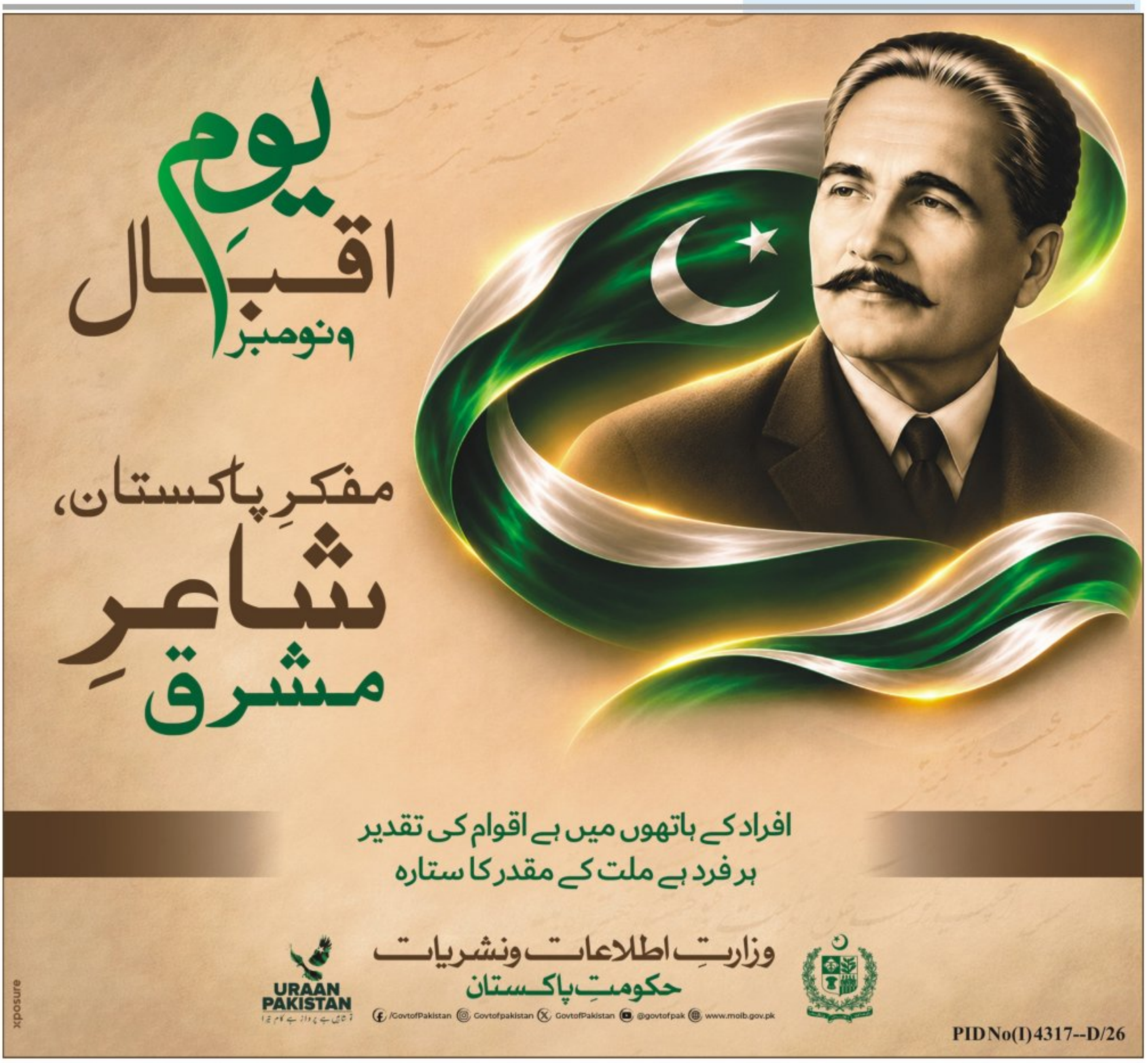


Quetta Bears Clinch Grand Balochistan League Title, Defeat Chagai Scorpions in Final

■ 11 Franchise Teams Compete in 28 Matches; Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Inayat Hussain Awards Trophy to Winners at Chagai Stadium

PUBLIC NEWS
QUETTA

The Grand Balochistan League, organized by FC Balochistan (North) in Quetta from October 26 to November 8, concluded successfully. 11 franchise teams participated in the tournament, while a total of 28 matches were played. In a thrilling final played at Chagai Stadium, Quetta, Quetta Bears defeated Chagai Scorpions to win the champion trophy. The special guest of the final ceremony was Commander 12 Corps, Lieutenant General Inayat Hussain, who presented the trophy to the winning team and distributed prizes among the outstanding players. The league is a manifestation of the commitment to promote sports in Balochistan, provide opportunities for positive activities to the youth, and promote healthy competition and mutual harmony.



CDA Chairman Reviews Progress on Margalla Avenue Extension, Sangjani Interchange

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, accompanied by relevant senior officers, visited the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project and carried out a detailed review and inspection of different sections of the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project.While briefing Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, on the progress made so far on the project, relevant senior officers said that construction activities are underway on a 24/7 basis, vigorously and daily across the various sections of the project and that overall, 35 percent of the development work on the project has been completed to date.During the briefing, Chairman CDA was informed that work on the widening and extension of the main road over an approximate length of 2.7 kilometers is progressing rapidly, and that work on the service road alongside the main road is also proceeding swiftly.While briefing Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf, it was apprised that the structural work on the underpass included in the Sangjani Interchange project has been completed. Similarly, the pile work for the abutments on both sides of the N-5 Interchange Bridge has been completed. During the briefing, he was informed that four of the culverts included in the project have been completed, while work on one culvert is ongoing while the work on all the loops and ramps included in the project is also proceeding rapidly, day and night.Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf expressed satisfaction over the construction work carried out so far on the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project in Islamabad and directed that all obstacles in the way be removed in order to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe.Chairman CDA said that special attention should be given to speed, quality and transparency in the project's construction work. He said that the completion of the project will provide easy access to Islamabad for citizens travelling within and outside the City, particularly those coming from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, speaking to the media after inaugurating the celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of the national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Lahore braces for worsening smog as Diwali pollution threatens to cross border

■ Punjab's Environment Protection Department warns that pollution from Diwali fireworks and crop burning in Indian Punjab could push Lahore's air quality to hazardous levels through Tuesday.

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE

Air pollution in Lahore is expected to worsen as polluted winds from India's Punjab region could carry smoke from Diwali celebrations across the border, raising health concerns in Lahore, Kasur and other adjoining areas.

According to a special report issued by the Punjab Environment Protection Department, smoke from fireworks in India could reach Lahore within five to 13 hours. Air quality in Lahore and surrounding border districts is likely to deteriorate from Sunday night until Monday morning.

The report recorded Lahore's average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 272 on November 7, rising to 335 by 1pm on November 8. At the same time, the AQI reading stood at 294, compared with 163 at the corresponding time a day earlier.



Satellite images from NASA reportedly showed a thicker layer of haze and pollution over India's Punjab and Haryana on November 8 compared with the previous day.

The report noted that Amritsar is approximately 50 kilometres from Lahore by air, allowing polluted winds to cross the international border within hours.

Easterly winds from India are forecast to blow at speeds of 7 to 11 kilometres per hour. Fireworks, crop-residue burning and relatively stagnant nighttime winds could further intensify pollution.

The department also highlighted widespread crop burning in Indian Punjab. A total of 2,347 incidents had been reported there by November 4, including 1,081 in three districts opposite Lahore and Kasur.

The affected districts included Tarn Taran, with 558 incidents, Ferozepur with 316 and Amritsar with 207.

Meanwhile, Delhi's AQI reportedly reached 455 on November 7 before climbing to 744 at 1am on November 8.

The department warned that Lahore's pollution levels could remain particularly high until 10am on Monday. A temporary improvement is expected between 1pm and 5pm, but pollution could rise again at night, with extremely unhealthy conditions potentially continuing into Tuesday.

A change in wind direction from Wednesday, November 11, may bring some relief. Rain and stronger winds on November 12 and 13 could further improve air quality, although the forecast remains uncertain.

Three-day Tablighi Ijtema ends in Lahore

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



A three-day global Raiwind Tablighi Ijtama (preaching congregation) concluded at Raiwind Markaz on Sunday morning with special prayers, seeking Allah's forgiveness for Ummah from all sins,

A sizeable number of followers from Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and other cities attended the congregation.

Ulemas from India and Bangladesh especially came to attend the gathering.

Maulana Zaheer ul Hassan, who led the exceptionally long prayer, urged the Muslims to obey the commandments of Allah Almighty and follow the glorious examples set by Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

He said, the Ummah was facing hardships due to their wrongdoings as they had forgotten the commandments of The Almighty Allah.

At the end of the Raiwind congregation, CTO Lahore Abdul Rahhim Sherazi took round of various routes to check security arrangements made for the congregation.

Pakistani astronaut to join China's next space-station mission

SPECIAL REPORTER
LAHORE



Pakistan is all set to make history in its space exploration as a Pakistani astronaut will become the first foreigner to visit China's space station when they join the country's next mission into orbit, Beijing's manned space

The mission will mark the first joint spaceflight involving Chinese and foreign astronauts in the history of China's manned space programme, representing a significant milestone in China-Pakistan space cooperation.

Pakistan and China are close diplomatic and strategic partners, and signed a deal in February 2025 setting up a Chinese government training programme for Pakistani astronauts.

The Pakistani astronaut will take off with the Shenzhou-24 crew, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said on social media.

The statement did not give a date of departure, but the mission is expected to take place by the end of the year.

The Pakistani astronaut, a payload specialist, will join a short orbital flight before returning with the Shenzhou-23 spaceship, which docked at the Tiangong space station in May, according to the CMSA.

The agency did not name the Pakistani crew member, but said in April that astronauts Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud had been chosen to start training in China.

Following three rounds of rigorous selection and assessment, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, were selected as reserve astronauts. They subsequently joined China's astronaut training programme to prepare for the mission.

Mehrgarh civilisation museum to reopen this month in Quetta

■ The Mehrgarh Museum in Quetta houses archaeological artifacts associated with one of South Asia's earliest settled farming communities.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

A museum dedicated to Pakistan's ancient Mehrgarh civilization is set to reopen later this month following the completion of a US-funded preservation project in southwestern Balochistan province, the American embassy

The Mehrgarh Museum in Quetta houses archaeological artifacts associated with one of South Asia's earliest settled farming communities. The restoration project, funded through the US Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation, is the first undertaken by the programme in Balochistan, extending its reach to all four Pakistani provinces.



US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker joined Balochistan Parliamentary Secretary Nawabzada Mir Muhammad Zarain Khan Magsi and heritage experts in Karachi on Saturday to mark the completion of the project, which involved preserving Neolithic artifacts, upgrading museum displays and training local conservation professionals.

"Today, we are thrilled that, through American excellence in museums and heritage preservation, the Mehrgarh Museum of Balochistan will showcase the 8,000-year-old Mehrgarh civilization and many others," Baker said, according to a statement issued by the US Embassy after the event.

Mehrgarh, an archaeological site in Balochistan's Kachi Plain, is among the earliest known farming settlements in South Asia, with evidence of agriculture, animal domestication and permanent habitation dating back thousands of years.The site provides important evidence of the transition from hunting and gathering to settled agricultural life, offering insights into the development of early communities in the region long before the emergence of the Indus Valley Civilization.



Vendors grill fish over charcoal at a roadside stall on Sham Nagar Road, preparing the popular winter delicacy for customers.

12 farmers receive tractor keys under Punjab's Green Tractor Scheme in Mandi Bahauddin

■ Twelve farmers receive high-powered green tractors under Punjab's subsidy scheme, with 174 beneficiaries selected through a transparent online balloting process.

SPECIAL REPORTER
MANDI BAHAUDDIN

Twelve farmers in Mandi Bahauddin have received keys to high-powered tractors under the Green Tractor Scheme.

A ceremony was held at the district office to distribute tractor keys among farmers under the farmer-friendly initiatives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Member of the Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary Khalid Mahmood Ranjha distributed the keys among the farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Mahmood Ranjha said the Punjab chief minister was providing a subsidy of Rs750,000 on each tractor. He said 174 farmers in the district would receive green tractors through transparent online balloting, adding that the keys had initially been handed over to 12 successful applicants.Ranjha said the distribution process would be completed in phases. He added that access to modern agricultural machinery would improve farming practices and help significantly increase crop yields.



Farmers who received the tractors thanked Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for introducing the farmer support package and expressed their gratitude to the Punjab government.

CamScanner

IQBAL'S SHAHEEN AND PAF'S WINGS OF RESOLVE



By: Izmi Herlani

One of the most enduring influences on the spirit of Pakistan Air Force came not from a military strategist or an aviation pioneer, but from a poet, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. His poetry offers neither the comfort of easy praise nor the promise of effortless greatness. It demands courage, self-belief and relentless endeavour. Its promise is exacting: we need not remain confined by the limits we inherit, but we must earn the heights we seek. For PAF, that promise takes wing in Iqbal's Shaheen, high-flying, keen-eyed, restless in spirit and sustained by its own strength. As Pakistan commemorates the poet's 149th birth anniversary, the question is not simply how deeply we admire his vision, but how faithfully we live it.

Iqbal does not ask the Shaheen to admire its wings. He challenges it to use them. Beyond achievement lies another horizon; beyond recognition, another responsibility. Yesterday's accomplishment must never become tomorrow's excuse. Here, inspiration meets its test: aspiration must become preparation, confidence must become competence and pride must answer to duty.The Shaheen's qualities give that pursuit its discipline. High flight demands high purpose; keen sight suggests foresight. Its restless spirit rejects stagnation, while its solitary struggle speaks of endurance and self-reliance. Together, these qualities offer an uncompromising ideal: strength earned through effort, not distinction borrowed from privilege.That ideal has a contemporary institutional expression in PAF's modernization and indigenization drive under Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Describing a transition towards a "Next Generation Air Force", the Air Chief has outlined changes in operational doctrine and the induction of capabilities in Kinetic domains, Unmanned Systems, Electronic Warfare, and Space & Cyber capabilities. The stated ambition reaches beyond individual platforms towards a connected, Multi-Domain Force.The connection with Iqbal is not in the terminology. It is in the refusal to stand still. An institution honours that spirit when it encourages inquiry, rewards initiative and prepares its people for challenges that yesterday's methods cannot answer.For every young Shaheen, the blue uniform therefore marks both an arrival and a beginning. Selection opens the door; character determines what follows. The aircraft commands the gaze, but the instructor's patience, the engineer's ingenuity, the technician's precision and the fighter pilot's preparation make flight possible. There is patriotism in exactness. There is honour in work done faithfully when no one is watching.

The palace offers comfort. The mountain demands endurance. Iqbal places the Shaheen on the rock, not beneath the gilded dome: stature must be earned, not bestowed. For the Men in Blue, the lesson is not hardship for their own sake. It is the refusal to let convenience outrank duty.That distinction gives remembrance its purpose. The courage of Air Commodore M M Alam, Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Rafiqui (Shaheed) and Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas (Shaheed) places a demanding inheritance before succeeding generations. The remembrance of 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars & Operation Swift Retort carries its own call to readiness. A legacy is not a shelter beneath which to rest. It is a standard to carry forward.During the conflict of May 2025, one of the largest Beyond-Visual-Range aerial engagements of the 21st century, PAF demonstrated the significance of preparation, coordination and effective employment of technology. Its success in the air battle included independently corroborated Indian aircraft losses, among them 04 Rafale, 01 MiG-29, 01 Mirage 2000, a Su-30 MKI and a Heron UAV worth nearly USD 09 million. Additionally, the breach of Indian Air Defence Shield in the shape of destruction of 02x S-400 Air Defence Systems speaks volumes of PAF's professional prowess.The strategic lesson extends beyond a tally of aircraft and equipment lost by the enemy. Modern air combat demands that detection, tracking, decision-making and engagement work together. The Shaheen's keen vision finds a contemporary parallel in situational awareness: seeing the threat, understanding its significance and acting before the opportunity passes.The Air Chief has described PAF's transformation in terms of a home-grown, Multi-Domain Kill Chain, bringing Unmanned Systems, Electronic Warfare, Space and Cyber assets into its operational approach by prioritizing indigenization through National Aerospace Science and Technology Parks. In that stated vision, strength rests not in an aircraft alone, but in the coordinated capabilities behind it.Iqbal's poetry does not explain a missile's trajectory or establish a combat result. It speaks to the human discipline behind capability: the willingness to learn, the composure to judge and the resolve to act. Achievement must deepen that discipline, not diminish it. The Shaheen cannot remain aloft on yesterday's flight.The impulse here is unmistakable: no station is final while the desire for flight endures. For the professional, that means remaining teachable after success, inquisitive after qualification and alert after recognition. Knowledge loses its power when its possessor decides there is nothing left to learn.The National Aerospace Science and Technology Parks initiative brings a practical dimension to this pursuit. By seeking to connect industry, academia and government across aerospace and emerging technologies, NASTP spearheaded by Pakistan Air Force, places research and innovation within the larger ambition of national capability. Its deepest promise lies in the people and institutions able to turn an idea into a working system and to improve, sustain and eventually replace it.The JF-17 Thunder offers another expression of that ambition through indigenization at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. Self-reliance is built through such cumulative work: a design refined, a process mastered, a difficult problem solved. Its foundations lie as much in workshops and laboratories as in the aircraft that finally takes to the sky.And the summons reaches beyond any PAF Air Base. To the young Pakistani Shaheen looking upwards, the first instrument of ascent may be a book, a skill or a question pursued with patience. The future needs those who can fly, but also those who can teach, design, build and discover. Each has a part in making national ambition real.This Iqbal Day, let remembrance become resolve: excellence in uniform, integrity at work and purpose in youth. Let the child watching an aircraft cross the sky see more than the splendor of flight. Let that child recognize what learning, discipline and courage can make possible and find the resolve to begin.



By: Aasi

From Cash to QR: Pakistan's Quiet Financial Revolution

For generations, cash was the language of Pakistan's marketplace. A customer opened his wallet, a shopkeeper counted notes, change was returned, and the transaction was complete. Whether it was a roadside tea stall, a grocery shop or a large retail outlet, money changed hands physically.

That habit is now being challenged by something far smaller than a bank branch: a mobile phone.

Pakistan is quietly moving towards a digital payments economy, and the scale of this transformation is much larger than many people realise.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan's latest Payment Systems Quarterly Review, during January-March 2026, retail payments through the formal banking system reached 3.7 billion transactions worth Rs168.8 trillion. Digital channels accounted for 92 per cent of these transactions by volume, with 3.4 billion digital transactions worth Rs68.3 trillion.These are not merely banking statistics. They represent a change in everyday behaviour.

Mobile banking applications and digital wallets have become major engines of this transformation. During the same quarter, banking apps and e-money wallets processed approximately 2.89 billion transactions worth Rs41.67 trillion. Pakistan's instant payment system, Raast, processed 742 million transactions worth Rs23.27 trillion.Think about what this means for an ordinary Pakistani.

A small shopkeeper can receive payment without keeping large amounts of cash. A freelancer can receive money electronically.A student can receive funds from home almost instantly.A customer can pay at a restaurant without searching for change. A small entrepreneur can send money to a supplier without travelling to a bank.

The mobile phone is gradually becoming a financial instrument.

But every revolution creates new responsibilities.

The greatest challenge for digital payments is not technology. It is trust.A person who loses cash knows exactly what has happened. A person whose digital account is compromised may not even understand how the money disappeared. Fraudulent calls, fake links, stolen passwords and social-engineering scams can turn convenience into a financial nightmare. This means Pakistan cannot build a digital economy simply by putting QR codes on shop counters. It must simultaneously build digital literacy, consumer protection and cyber-security awareness. The elderly deserve particular attention. A young person may understand passwords, authentication codes and mobile applications almost instinctively. For an older citizen who has spent decades dealing in cash, the same system can appear complicated and intimidating. The answer is not to leave such people behind. The answer is to teach them. here is another important dimension to digital payments: documentation.



Cash transactions often disappear from the formal economic record. Digital transactions leave a trail. If handled responsibly, this can help businesses maintain records, improve access to formal finance and give policymakers a clearer picture of economic activity.

But documentation should not become intimidation.

If citizens begin to believe that every digital payment exists only to increase taxation or surveillance, some will continue to prefer cash. Trust must therefore remain at the centre of the digital transition.

some will continue to prefer cash. Trust must therefore remain at the centre of the digital transition.



By: Ishak Soomro

Mohenjo-daro: A National Tourism Vision Demands Equal Attention

Pakistan has made remarkable progress in promoting tourism by showcasing its majestic mountains, glaciers and valleys to the world. New highways across the northern regions have transformed travel, strengthened regional connectivity and projected a positive international image. These investments deserve appreciation because modern infrastructure is indispensable for national development.

Yet, while national attention remains focused on the country's breathtaking natural landscapes, one of humanity's greatest archaeological treasures continues to receive far less attention than it deserves. That treasure is Mohenjo-daro, and unfortunately the road leading to it presents an image that is inconsistent with its global significance. Mohenjo-daro is far more than a tourist destination. It is one of the world's most important archaeological sites and one of the earliest known examples of planned urban civilization. More than 5,000 years ago, the people of the Indus Valley built a sophisticated city featuring an advanced drainage system, standardized brick construction, carefully planned streets, remarkable water management and an efficient civic administration. At a time when many of today's great civilizations had yet to emerge, the inhabitants of Mohenjo-daro had already demonstrated an extraordinary understanding of urban planning and public infrastructure.It is this exceptional legacy that earned Mohenjo-daro recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, it continues to inspire archaeologists, engineers, historians and researchers from around the globe.Recent archaeological discoveries have further elevated the site's international importance. Scientific excavations, conservation projects and radiocarbon dating have challenged several long-held assumptions regarding the city's origins. Researchers now believe that the massive mud-brick defensive wall dates back to the Early Harappan period, suggesting that Mohenjo-daro is even older than previously believed. Modern surveys have also corrected archaeological maps prepared nearly a century ago, revealing that the ancient city was considerably larger and more complex than earlier interpretations suggested. As the world rediscovers Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan has an opportunity to present this priceless heritage with renewed confidence.

Unfortunately, visitors travelling to the site encounter a very different reality. The 28-kilometre Larkana-Mohenjo-daro Road (National Highway N-155), constructed by the National Highway Authority in 2014 as a dual carriageway, has not undergone the comprehensive rehabilitation expected for an internationally significant tourism corridor. After more than a decade of service, sections of the pavement have deteriorated, lane markings have faded, reflective safety installations are inadequate and directional signage remains insufficient.For many visitors, the first impression of Pakistan's greatest archaeological treasure is not the magnificence of the Great Bath or the remarkable street grid of the ancient city. It is an access road that fails to reflect the importance of the destination. This is not merely an engineering issue. It is an issue of national image.

Every foreign tourist, archaeologist, diplomat, researcher, journalist and documentary filmmaker travelling to Mohenjo-daro forms an opinion about Pakistan before reaching the archaeological site itself. Infrastructure often communicates more effectively than speeches or promotional campaigns. A well-maintained road reflects national confidence, administrative efficiency and respect for cultural heritage. Conversely, deteriorated pavements, inadequate signage and poor roadside presentation unintentionally convey neglect towards one of the world's greatest archaeological landmarks.

This concern is not hypothetical. Earlier this year, visitors from Norway and Lebanon expressed disappointment over the condition of the approach road and the absence of clear directional signs leading to Mohenjo-daro. Their observations should be regarded not as criticism but as constructive feedback from international visitors who travelled thousands of kilometers to experience Pakistan's ancient civilization.In today's digital world, every visitor becomes an ambassador. Positive experiences encourage tourism, while negative experiences spread rapidly through travel websites and social media, influencing thousands of potential visitors around the world.The Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, deserves recognition for his efforts to modernize Pakistan's highway network, particularly in the northern tourist regions. Better roads have boosted tourism, stimulated local economies and strengthened Pakistan's international image. The same vision should now extend to the country's most significant archaeological destination. A comprehensive national tourism policy must not distinguish between natural beauty and cultural heritage. Both represent Pakistan's identity and both deserve equal investment. Mohenjo-daro deserves to be connected through what can rightly be called Pakistan's Heritage Corridor.

Beginning from Sukkur and Larkana, visitors should be guided through internationally designed tourism signage displaying UNESCO branding and information about the Indus Valley Civilization. National Highway N-155 should undergo complete resurfacing where necessary, structural rehabilitation, fresh thermoplastic lane markings, installation of reflective road safety devices, modern overhead gantry signs, kilometer markers, landscaping with indigenous vegetation, decorative lighting at strategic locations and aesthetically designed entrance gateways.

welcoming visitors to one of humanity's oldest planned cities.

Such improvements would transform the journey into an integral part of the visitor experience rather than merely providing access to the destination. The financial investment required would be relatively modest compared to the long-term benefits. Improved infrastructure would promote tourism, facilitate international archaeological cooperation, strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, enhance Pakistan's global image and generate new economic opportunities for local communities.

More importantly, it would demonstrate that Pakistan fully recognizes its responsibility as custodian of one of humanity's greatest civilizations. As new archaeological discoveries continue to rewrite the history of Mohenjo-daro, the gateway leading to this extraordinary city should not remain neglected. The road should inspire the same admiration that visitors experience when they finally enter the ancient ruins.

PM Shehbaz briefs Nawaz Sharif on K-P security, economic challenges

about $1.29 billion on 22 LNG cargoes between November 2026 and February 2027, including 10 spot-market cargoes estimated to cost $863 million. The Power Division also warned that fuel price adjustments could rise two to three times between December and February as international LNG and coal prices increased and hydropower generation declined during winter. The department cautioned that consumers could face a further financial burden, alongside increased power load management.

The meeting also followed the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in K-P on October 11, after President Asif Ali Zardari approved the summary on PM Shehbaz's advice under Articles 232 and 234 of the Constitution.The federal government cited a deterioration in the law and order situation and a rise in terrorist attacks as grounds for the decision. Under the proclamation, the provincial chief minister, cabinet members, advisers and advocate general ceased to hold office, while the governor assumed powers assigned to him by the federal government.

CamScanner



Director General of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Meets KP Business Community in Peshawar.

Gold prices plunge by Rs6,500 per tola in Pakistan

■ **Gold prices in Pakistan fell by Rs6,500 per tola to Rs429,136, while international rates dropped $65 to $4,066 per ounce after a two-day rally.**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Gold prices witnessed a significant decline in local and international markets after recording gains for two consecutive days.

According to the Sarafa Association, the price of 24-karat gold per tola in Pakistan dropped by Rs6,500 to settle at Rs429,136.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold fell by Rs5,573 to Rs367,914.

Silver prices also moved lower, with the per-tola rate declining by Rs85 to reach Rs5,678.

In the international market, gold prices fell below the $4,100-per-ounce mark. The price of an ounce of gold dropped by $65 to reach $4,066.

Weekly inflation increases 0.29 percent

■ **The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD



The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation increased by 0.29 percent during the week ended on November 05, 2026, for the combined consumption group, According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data, the SPI for the week under review increased to 374.61 points from 373.51 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 12.31 percent.

The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.86 percent to 361.00 points from 357.92 points. Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733–22,888, Rs 22,889–29,517, Rs 29,518–44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.70 percent, 0.52 percent, 0.40 percent and 0.10 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 items (41.18 percent) increased, 10 items (19.60 percent) decreased, while 20 items (39.22 percent) remained unchanged.

On a week-on-week basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included Petrol (4.20%), Diesel (2.97%), Pulse Gram (1.08%), Banana (0.85%), Onions (0.82%), Powdered Milk (0.73%), Chicken (0.61%), Sugar (0.40%), Wheat Flour (0.34%) and Pulse Moong (0.27%).

On the other hand, increase was observed in the prices of Tomatoes (54.18%), LPG r (0.91%), Bread Plain (0.64%), Milk Fresh (0.49%), Curd (0.41%), Match Box (0.16%) and Shirting (0.15%).

(3.72%), Potatoes (2.07%), Eggs (1.17%), Garlic (1.06%), Firewood (1.01%), Salt Powder (0.91%), Bread Plain (0.64%), Milk Fresh (0.49%), Curd (0.41%), Match Box (0.16%) and Shirting (0.15%).

27 bottled water brands found unsafe for consumption

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 27 commercially available bottled/mineral water brands unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological and chemical contamination during the third quarter (July-September) of 2026.

Under the government's directives, PCRWR conducted quarterly monitoring of commercially available bottled water brands and collected 223 samples from 20 major cities across the country to assess their compliance with the quality standards set by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA).

According to the test results, three brands, Aab-e-Haram, AB-Blue Water and HR Water Healthy Life — were found to contain excessive sodium levels ranging from 94 to 164 parts per million (ppm), against the permissible limit of 50 ppm.

Aab-e-Haram was also found to have a higher total dissolved solids (TDS) level of 680 ppm, exceeding the prescribed limit of 500 ppm, while Fresh Smart Pure Water contained potassium at 20 ppm, double the permissible limit of 10 ppm.

Similarly, two brands—Akwafine Bottled Drinking Water and Premium Safa Purified Water — were found to contain excessive arsenic levels ranging from 13.5 to 23.2 parts per billion (ppb), against the permissible limit of 10 ppb.

The report further revealed that 22 brands were contaminated with bacteria, making them unsafe for drinking purposes. These included Aab-e-Haram, Douro, Aab-e-Makuran, Water Verse Purified, Jel Bottled Drinking Water, Sip Bottled Drinking Water, Safi Bottled Drinking Water, Pure Aqua Tech Bottled Drinking Water.



Goods transport alliance announces 5pc reduction in freight charges

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance has announced a 5% reduction in goods transportation fares following a decline in petrol and diesel prices.

In a statement, Alliance President Malik Shehzad Awan welcomed the government's decision to reduce petroleum prices, saying the alliance had decided to lower freight charges in view of the recent reduction in fuel prices over the past four to five days.

He thanked the prime minister and the federal petroleum minister for the relief, while urging the government to further reduce petrol and diesel prices to provide additional relief to the transport sector.

The announcement comes after the government reduced the price of petrol by Rs9.41 per litre, bringing its new price to Rs352.59 per litre.

The price of high-speed diesel was also cut by Rs5.56 per litre, taking its new price to Rs382.25 per litre.

Pakistan's external debt nearly doubles to 135.1 billion dollars in a decade: World Bank

■ **The report showed that the country's external debt comprised $107.076 billion in public and publicly guaranteed debt**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's total external debt nearly doubled over the decade ending in 2025, reaching $135.107 billion from $68.673 billion in 2015, according to the World Bank's International Debt Report 2026.

The report showed that the country's external debt comprised $107.076 billion in public and publicly guaranteed debt, $17.58 billion in private non-guaranteed debt and $10.45 billion in short-term debt.

Of the public and publicly guaranteed debt, $56.83 billion was owed to multilateral creditors, $42.43 billion to bilateral lenders and $7.8 billion to private creditors.

China remained Pakistan's largest single creditor, with outstanding loans of $22.4 billion, followed by the World Bank with $19.2 billion and the Asian Development Bank with $16.83 billion.

In 2025, China extended the repayment period for $2 billion in loans to Pakistan, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided fresh financing of $2.3 billion under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to support the country's long-term economic stability.

The report highlighted the higher cost of borrowing from private creditors compared to official lenders. The average interest rate on private debt reached 8.6%, against 3.6% on public debt.

Private loans had an average repayment period of just three years, compared with 16 years for public debt. Similarly, the grace period for private borrowing stood at one year, while public loans carried an average grace period of four years.

Pakistan's external debt was equivalent to 34% of its gross national income (GNI), while debt servicing consumed 33% of the country's export earnings, highlighting the growing pressure of repayments on the economy.

The World Bank stressed the need to increase exports and secure more favourable borrowing terms, calling for an effective strategy to ease the country's debt burden and address long-term repayment challenges.

Pakistan's LPG demand expected to grow by 8-8.5pc annually, existing infrastructure inadequate

■ **Pakistan's LPG demand is projected to grow 8-8.5% annually, but limited domestic production, inadequate storage and weak transport infrastructure threaten energy security.**

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



The evolving regional situation and volatility in global energy markets have not only pushed up energy prices in Pakistan but also exposed serious weaknesses in the country's energy security landscape.

The ongoing conflict has highlighted Pakistan's fragile energy security position and underscored the need for comprehensive and integrated planning.

While the current LPG crisis is partly emerging due to border closures, it has also exposed vulnerabilities in the sustainability of Pakistan's LPG market. Demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is steadily increasing while domestic production remains insufficient and the existing infrastructure is riddled with shortcomings.

According to Petroleum Division documents available with Dunya, more than 10 million households in Pakistan are connected to the natural gas pipeline network while over 25 million households rely on LPG and other fuels to meet their energy needs.

Rising population and declining domestic natural gas production are driving a rapid increase in LPG demand. Pakistan's annual LPG market currently stands at approximately 2.4 million metric tonnes. Over past six years the market has recorded an average annual growth rate of 7.5% while demand is projected to continue growing by 8–8.5% annually in the coming years.

Commerce Minister urges coordinated efforts to boost exports, support SMEs for strengthen intra-OIC trade

■ The Minister further stressed the importance of accelerating digital transformation in trade and financial processes through the integration of customs and banking systems, electronic trade documentation and single-window platforms.

News Desk

ISTANBUL

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has called for stronger economic solidarity, improved access to trade financing and coordinated efforts to enhance intra-OIC trade while addressing the closing session of the 42nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, while speaking on behalf of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Addressing the high-level gathering chaired by Vice-President of the Republic of Türkiye, Cevdet Yilmaz, and the Commerce Minister emphasized those growing geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, financial vulnerabilities and increasing protectionism had made economic cooperation and collective action among Islamic countries more important than ever, said a release issued here on Friday.

Commerce Minister urges coordinated efforts to boost exports, support SMEs for strengthen intra-OIC trade

Speaking on behalf of OIC member states, Jam Kamal Khan expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Türkiye for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. He also acknowledged the contributions of the COMCEC



Coordination Office and OIC institutions towards the successful conduct of the session.

The Minister said that OIC countries possessed significant economic potential, geographical advantages, human resources and natural endowments that could be transformed into shared prosperity through stronger partnerships and coordinated policies.

He observed that while OIC member states had made considerable progress in sustainable development, technological advancement and economic prosperity over the decades, emerging global challenges required them to work together and develop practical solutions suited to their circumstances.Highlighting the outcomes of the session, Jam Kamal Khan said the deliberations had identified important areas for collective action, including intra-OIC trade, transport connectivity, sustainable tourism, agricultural productivity, food security, poverty alleviation and digital transformation.

Referring to the session's priority theme, "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Exports in the OIC Member Countries," the Minister stressed that affordable, diversified and sustainable trade financing was essential for improving export competitiveness, expanding international trade and accelerating economic growth.

He pointed out that exporters, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), continued to face difficulties in accessing suitable financing due to fragmented regulatory frameworks, high collateral requirements, transaction costs and lengthy administrative procedures.

CamScanner

After close vote, New Zealand must wait weeks for new government

■ Iran has sent the US a nuclear proposal through Qatar, demanding seven conditions be met before negotiations, including sanctions relief, frozen asset release and war reparations.



Web DESK

DUBAI

New Zealanders faced weeks of uncertainty on Sunday over who will govern the country after their general election, with the current coalition holding a slim majority but a potentially decisive slice of votes still to count.
Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's National Party and its partners ACT and New Zealand First were on track for 67 of the currently projected 131-seat parliament, Electoral Commission preliminary results of Saturday's vote showed. Sixty-six seats are needed for a majority.But special votes, around 14% of the total, remain to be counted, the commission said. These — including ballots from overseas New Zealanders and people voting outside their electorates have historically favoured the left. They will be announced with the final count on November 27.



Magnitude 5.7 quake injures dozens in central Japan 20 injured in 5.7 magnitude earthquake in central Japan

Qatar's emir, Trump discuss diplomatic efforts to end regional crisis

■ Qatar's Emir and Trump discussed regional de-escalation as Tehran linked nuclear negotiations with Washington to seven demands amid efforts to end the ongoing war.

Web Desk

DOHA

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and US President Donald Trump discussed diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region.
The two leaders discussed the matter during a telephone conversation, according to a statement issued by Doha.
Iran has sent the United States a nuclear proposal via Qatar, to be discussed only after Washington meets Tehran's seven demands, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Thursday.
The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US was reviewing the proposal but declined to provide further details.



Mediators have intensified efforts to end the war between Iran and the United States ?amid fears it could reignite after the US midterm elections, with Trump on Tuesday declining to rule out a resumption of combat operations after the vote and Iran planning wider retaliation if war resumes.
Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei had said earlier on Thursday, during a visit to Russia: "On the issue of diplomacy, we have announced seven conditions to the Americans. As long as they do ?not execute our seven conditions, we will neither open the Strait of Hormuz nor have negotiations".
Iran has demanded the lifting of US sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets and war reparations, among other conditions, while Washington has said nuclear issues must be part of any initial negotiations.
The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and Iran responded with strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. Conflict also erupted in Lebanon between Hezbollah and Israel, and more recently spread to Yemen, from where the Iran-aligned Houthis have struck energy facilities, airports and other targets in Saudi Arabia.

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 reportsthat he was planning to leave the Trump administration as he weighs his next moves after Republicans' losses in midterm elections,
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."Earlier Thursday, Bloomberg News reported that Rubio was weighing whether to leave the administration.



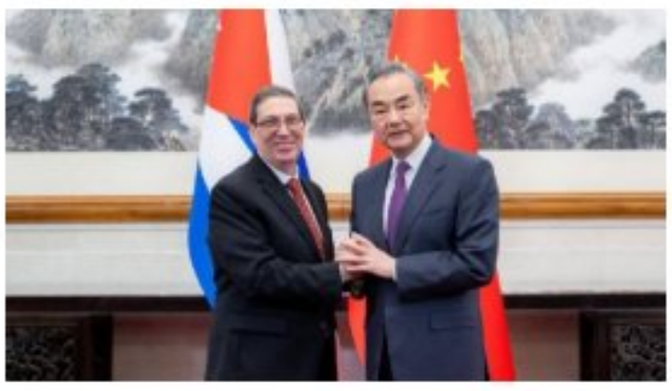
Beijing says opposes US 'sabotage' of Cuba-China relations

● China's foreign ministry vehemently opposed the move, calling the sanctions illegal and an example of "long-arm jurisdiction".

Web Desk

Beijing

Beijing condemned new US sanctions against Cuba which it said sought to "sabotage" Chinese relations with the island.
The new wave of sanctions announced by the State Department targets Cuba's oil and electronic sectors.
It also includes, for the first time, two Chinese companies accused of supplying the island's military with electronics and other security equipment.
China's foreign ministry vehemently opposed the move, calling the sanctions illegal and an example of "long-arm jurisdiction".



"China firmly opposes US interference in and sabotage of China–Cuba cooperation," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a news briefing.
He warned that Beijing would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its businesses.
Since January, Washington has launched devastating new eading sanctions and an oil blockade against Cuba, crippling its economy and leading to widespread blackouts and shortages of necessities.
US President Donald Trump has hinted at launching a military intervention to overthrow the island's ruling Communist Party, and last month the American Secretary of State urged Cubans to work with US intelligence services.
The Chinese companies sanctioned on Thursday include the state-owned China National Electronic Import-Export Company (CEIEC) and private firm Beijing H&C Technologies.
The list also extended to Any Rodriguez Lastres, the daughter of the head of Cuba's largest military-controlled business conglomerate, the Grupo de Administracion Empresarial SA (GAESA).

Security officer attacked and killed near Sri Lankan Embassy in Jordan's capital

Web Desk

CAIRO

An assailant attacked and killed a security officer near the Sri Lankan Embassy in Jordan's capital Amman in what Jordanian authorities described as a terrorist act.
The attack comes weeks after gunmen opened fire during a funeral at a church in southern Jordan, killing nine people and wounding dozens more.
Jordan's Public Security Directorate said that a member of its forces was assaulted with a sharp object and died "in a cowardly terrorist attack." It said a preliminary investigation indicated the attacker had been "planning to commit the terrorist act against the officers."
Jordan's state-run Al-Mamlaka TV reported that the assailant, who has been arrested, attempted to seize the weapon from the security officer who was killed. A second security officer intervened, and both the assailant and the second officer sustained injuries, Al-Mamlaka said.
The Sri Lankan Embassy confirmed the attack took place in its vicinity.



Pakistani cadets demonstrate exceptional capabilities in China Army Cadets Week



NEWS DESK

ISLAM BAD

Pakistani cadets have demonstrated their exceptional capabilities at the 13th International Army Cadets Week held in China, Cadets from Pakistan's College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering delivered an outstanding performance, securing first position among the participating international teams from eleven countries. Pakistan clinched the overall second position among twenty-nine Chinese and international teams, winning the silver medal.
The Pakistani team presented its project, "Boxer Unmanned Ground Vehicle," in the Concept and Paper category of the competition.
The achievement of Pakistani cadets reflects Pakistan Army's professional excellence, creative capabilities and proficiency in modern technology.

Pakistan, Britain to boost co-op in anti-terror, cybercrime, immigration fields

■ Mohsin Naqvi, British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis hold detailed talks in Islamabad

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMBAD

Pakistan and Britain have agreed to enhance cooperation in a number of fields including counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, NADRA, cybercrime, immigration and coast guards,
The agreement reached during a visit by British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis to the Interior Ministry in Islamabad on Friday where he held detailed talks with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and and Minister of State Talal Chaudhry. Both ministers also held delegation-level talks. The British minister praised the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in preventing illegal immigration.
Both sides agreed that Pakistan and Britain should enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, NADRA, cybercrime, immigration, coast guards, and training programmes.
On this occasion, the British minister maintained that cybercrime is an international problem, and all countries must work together to combat it effectively.
Dan Jarvis said there is excellent cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom in various sectors, and they want to expand it further.
He also acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the war against terrorism.
Both sides also decided to soon finalise Force (ANF) will be fully the memorandum of understanding on counter-narcotics. Collaboration between the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) will be fully operationalized with the IMO in a few years, said Mohsin Naqvi.
There was also consensus during the



CamScanner

FIA raids Dr. Fazeela Abbasi's beauty clinic

FIA investigates Dr. Fazeela Abbasi for illegal clinic operations

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



FIA has initiated legal action against Dr. FazeelaAbbasi's beauty clinic for violation of rules and illegal activities. Action was conducted by FIA Corporate Crime Circle.

According to FIA, Dr. Fazeela Abbasi started an unlicensed medical practice in a residential area of F8. Sources said during the raid, unregistered and substandard medicines were recovered from her clinic. Healthcare laws and CDA regulations were also violated at the clinic. Dr. Fazeela continued illegal commercial activities in the residential area. There was also an attempt to destroy evidence at the clinic before the FIA raid.

The FIA has also registered a case against Dr. Fazeela on charges of money laundering. Dr. Fazila also violated foreign exchange laws. Suspicious transactions of more than Rs. 2.5 billion were also made in 22 bank accounts from Dr. Fazeela's clinic.

Dr. Fazeela declared her income of only four to six lakh rupees on transactions worth billions of rupees. Further investigation was conducted on the clear discrepancy between the declared income and the actual financial activities.

Dr. Fazeela had her own and joint accounts in Dubai Islamic Bank, MCB, UBL and JS Bank.

FIA sources said that Dr. Fazeela made large-scale suspicious transactions in dollars and dirhams. Illegal funds were transferred to all bank accounts, evidence of hawala and hundi was also found. The investigation into alleged facilitation of government officials for Dr. Fazeela has also been launched. Other people besides Dr. Fazeela are also involved in the network, more arrests will be made.



Aiman Khan's 'Eid Dump' sparks online frenzy

Pakistani actress and social media star Aiman Khan has delighted fans with her latest "Eid dump."

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress and social media star Aiman Khan has delighted fans with her latest "Eid dump." Sharing a carousel of photos and clips capturing heartwarming moments with family and friends during Eid-ul-Fitr 2026, she gave followers a glimpse into her festive celebrations. Alongside the joyful moments, her effortlessly elegant style quickly became the highlight of the post.

Captioning her Instagram upload with a simple "#eiddump," Aiman showcased different stunning looks that perfectly blend tradition with modern sophistication.

In one appearance, she opted for a graceful ivory ensemble featuring a long, delicately embroidered kameez paired with matching straight-cut trousers, creating a timeless monochrome look.

She elevated the outfit with bold red bangles, a chunky gold-toned choker, and a chic ivory cross-body bag, adding a touch of festive vibrance.

In another look, Aiman embraced evening glamour in a floor-length black Anarkali-style dress adorned with intricate gold tilla and zari embroidery.

Paired with a matching dupatta, statement gold earrings, and metallic heels, the outfit exuded regal charm, making it perfect for intimate festive gatherings.

The photos, set against cozy indoor and ambient outdoor backdrops, reflect warm, celebratory moments while highlighting Aiman Khan's signature polished aesthetic.

Known for her massive social media following and fashion influence, the actress once again proves why she remains a trendsetter during the festive season.

Priyanka Chopra shares glimpses of busy March life

Priyanka Chopra shares heartfelt moments from her busy March journey

SHOWBIZ DESK

NEW YORK



Global star Priyanka Chopra once again delighted fans by sharing a glimpse into her busy yet fulfilling month, blending personal memories with professional highlights.

Taking to Instagram, the actress posted a collection of candid photos under the caption "Random March," giving followers a closer look at how she balances her demanding career with precious family time alongside her daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas and husband Nick Jonas.

The photo series featured warm and intimate moments, including snapshots of Priyanka spending quality time with her child and enjoying relaxed outings with Nick. One notable image included her presenter badge from the 9th edition of the Academy Awards, reflecting her continued influence on the global stage.

Despite her packed schedule, Priyanka made time for meaningful experiences. She recently shared glimpses from her travels across India, including a brief visit to Amritsar, hinting at yet another exciting journey.

She also gave fans a look at her downtime, posting a lighthearted video of a sunny drive with Nick, where the couple appeared relaxed and enjoying each other's company amid their busy lives.



Saboor Aly Cheers Kinza Hashmi Ahead of Leader

Saboor Aly Praises Kinza Hashmi Before Leader Drama Premiere

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Popular Pakistani actress Saboor Aly has stirred excitement among fans by showing strong support for her close friend and fellow star Kinza Hashmi ahead of the premiere of the much-anticipated drama Leader.

Taking to Instagram, Saboor shared a heartfelt message praising Kinza's talent, writing that she "can't wait" and that Kinza always brings something special to the screen. The warm shout-out not only reflected their close friendship but also heightened anticipation for the upcoming project.

Set to premiere on March 28, 2026, Leader is a political thriller written by Radain Shah and directed by Asad Mumtaz Malik. The drama features Kinza Hashmi alongside Ali Raza in leading roles.

Breaking away from conventional storytelling, the series dives into the intense world of student politics, exploring themes of power, ambition, and ideological conflict. The narrative follows young activists as they navigate personal relationships, romantic tensions, and moral dilemmas in a high-stakes political environment.

Aiman Khan Stuns Fans With Elegant Eid Looks

Aiman Khan Shares Stylish Eid Moments Winning Fans' Hearts Online



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani actress and social media star Aiman Khan has once again captured fans' attention with her latest "Eid dump" on Instagram.

Sharing a series of photos and short clips from her Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in 2026, Aiman gave followers a glimpse into her joyful moments with family and friends.

Alongside the candid memories, her effortlessly elegant fashion choices quickly became the highlight.

City & Local Guides

Captioned simply as "#eiddump," the post featured multiple looks that beautifully blend traditional charm with modern sophistication. In one appearance, she wore a graceful ivory outfit with a delicately embroidered long kameez paired with straight-cut trousers, creating a timeless monochrome aesthetic.

She complemented the look with vibrant red bangles, a chunky gold-toned choker, and a stylish ivory cross-body bag, adding a festive touch to the ensemble.

PMA demands action over prolonged delays in doctors' promotions, transfers

He accused the two health secretaries of administrative failure and negligence in the discharge of their official responsibilities.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Lahore has accused the Punjab health department of delaying thousands of doctors' promotion, transfer, and posting cases and disrupting the province's public health system, 24NewsHD TV reported on Sunday.

PMA Lahore President Prof Shahid Malik said a large number of doctors' cases had been pending for months and in some instances for one to two years due to what he described as a clear lack of interest by the provincial secretaries of Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Specialized Healthcare in processing and approving them.

He said the prolonged delays had created "serious unrest" among doctors and were not only affecting their professional growth and career progression, but were also undermining hospital administration and patient care across the province.

He accused the two health secretaries of administrative failure and negligence in the discharge of their official responsibilities.

The PMA called on the Punjab Chief Secretary to initiate immediate departmental action against them, arguing that the continued retention of "inefficient and irresponsible officers" in such key positions was unjust not only to doctors but also to the broader public health sector.

The PMA warned that if the issues were not addressed immediately, frustration among doctors would intensify and could have serious consequences for Punjab's already strained health system.



A female vendor displays traditional oil lamps to attract customers during the Diwali festival at Market Road

CamScanner

Babar Azam to lead Pakistan as three uncapped players added to squad for Sri Lanka Test

● Pakistan have added three uncapped players and recalled Aamir Jamal to their 16-member Test squad for the two-match home series against Sri Lanka starting November 9.



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan have added three uncapped players to their Test squad for the upcoming two-match home series against Sri Lanka, with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announcing four changes ahead of the opening encounter in Rawalpindi on November 9. Pace-bowling all-rounder Aamir Jamal has also earned a recall, joining fast bowler Ali Shabbir, right-handed batter Muhammad Tayyab Arif and pacer Saqib Khan in the expanded squad. The three newcomers have received their maiden call-ups to the national Test side following impressive performances in domestic cricket.

The PCB confirmed the selections on Saturday, November 7, while announcing that Ali Usman and Abdullah Fazal had been released from the Test squad. The board did not specify the reasons behind their release.

Ali Shabbir, Tayyab and Saqib were all part of the Patron's XI side that faced Sri Lanka in a three-day practice match at Islamabad Club from November 4 to 6. Their inclusion comes just days before Pakistan begin their campaign against the visitors.

Tayyab has emerged as one of the most impressive batting prospects following a prolific run in the Departmental first-class tournament. Leading Kingsmen Academy, the right-handed batter accumulated 727 runs in seven matches at an outstanding average of 66.09.

His maiden season in the competition included three centuries, making him one of the standout performers to earn national recognition.

Nineteen-year-old Ali Shabbir has also secured his first international opportunity after making an impression with the ball. The fast bowler has featured in eight first-class matches, claiming 22 wickets. He also picked up three wickets against Sri Lanka during the recent practice match.



Maliha claims bronze at MMA Worlds

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Pakistan's Maliha Ali won bronze at the IMMAF World Championships despite competing with multiple injuries, as the Pakistan MMA Federation appealed her split-decision defeat to Russia's Polina Baldina in the featherweight semi-finals Maliha, who fought with a fractured toe, bruised eyelid and partially dislocated jaw, lost to Baldina, a former world champion, after judges returned contrasting scorecards of 30-27, 28-29 and 28-29.

The Pakistani fighter had defeated two-time European champion Veronika Drozdova of Russia by split decision before securing a unanimous victory over Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman Salazar to reach the last four.

The federation has formally challenged the semi-final result, requesting a round-by-round scoring breakdown and a technical review of the bout.

Australia's Khawaja claims entire team knew about 'Sandpapergate'

■ But former opener Khawaja, who retired this year after 88 Tests, told the Sydney Morning Herald that everyone knew.



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Usman Khawaja claimed that the entire Australian team knew about the 2018 "Sandpapergate" scandal in Cape Town and said they also employed the tactic during the previous Test at Port Elizabeth.

Captain Steve Smith, his deputy David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were sent home in disgrace and found by a Cricket Australia investigation to be the only three players with prior knowledge of the ball-tampering plot.

Smith was banned for a year and sacked as skipper, Warner was suspended for 12 months and stripped of all leadership roles, while Bancroft was slapped with a nine-month ban.

But former opener Khawaja, who retired this year after 88 Tests, told the Sydney Morning Herald that everyone knew. "It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us," he said ahead of the release of his autobiography next week where a chapter is dedicated to the issue.

Bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon all denied publicly in 2021 that they knew about it.

Khawaja said he spoke in the dressing room after the Cape Town Test urging the team to take collective responsibility, rather than scapegoating Warner, Smith and Bancroft.

"In an ideal world, I don't want to do this." Khawaja said.

"I don't want to be the one who comes out and talks about the truth. The issue is that I genuinely thought after eight years the truth would have been out by now.

"Maybe I thought Davey (Warner) would have exposed it, or someone else would have talked about it more. I just didn't think it was going to come down to this."

Darren Lehmann, who was head coach at the time, denied there was widespread knowledge of the plot, while claiming ball-tampering was once ever-present in international cricket. "I don't think everybody would have known," he told national broadcaster ABC.

"I can't speak for them (the players) at all. I only know what I know, and I know that ball-tampering was a big part of the game of cricket.

"Now it's obsolete, but that doesn't make it right either and we paid a heavy price for that."

Comfortable

Lehmann, who quit after the series, said Khawaja's claims dredged up "bad memories" for him, the players and their families.

"For the families and the people involved, I feel for them right now because it's taking them back to a really bad place," he said.

"It's been eight years. You get to a place where you move on, and I've moved on with my life."

In the book, according to the newspaper, Khawaja recounts that discussions about ways to rough up the ball were first held in the dressing room during the second Test at Port Elizabeth, now known as Gqeberha.

Lakers send Bronny James to G League

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

SPECIAL REPORTER

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 NBAremains 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.

Pakistan Crowned Asian Men's Team Squash Champions After a Decade

■ Pakistan defeat Korea 2-0 in the final of the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship in Islamabad; Hong Kong China claim women's title with a 2-1 victory over Malaysia.

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

In a spectacular display of skill, resilience and sporting excellence, Pakistan clinched the Men's Team title at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026, defeating Korea 2-0 in a thrilling final at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. Hong Kong China emerged victorious in the Women's Team event, overcoming Malaysia 2-1 in a fiercely contested final. The electrifying encounters brought the curtain down on five days of exhilarating Squash action, featuring some of Asia's finest talent.Organized by Pakistan Squash Federation under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force, the prestigious continental championship was held from 03 to 07 November, 2026. The tournament witnessed intense matches, exceptional athleticism and remarkable displays of determination, as participating teams battled for continental supremacy. Pakistan's commanding victory in the Men's Team Final marked a proud moment for the nation, reaffirming its determination to



reclaim its illustrious place in international Squash.Mr Adel Jassim Al-Ghareeb, Vice President, Asian Squash Federation, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest and awarded trophies and medals to the triumphant teams and outstanding players. The ceremony was attended by Squash legends, senior officials of Pakistan Squash Federation, representatives of participating nations, players, coaches and an enthusiastic gathering of sports enthusiasts.Speaking on the occasion, Air Marshal Kazim Hammad, President Pakistan Squash Federation, hailed Pakistan's historic triumph, highlighting that the national team had reclaimed the prestigious Asian title after a decade. He attributed this remarkable achievement to the unwavering patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, who has consistently played a pivotal role in promoting Squash across Pakistan. He particularly acknowledged the Air Chief's steadfast commitment to nurturing emerging talent, providing opportunities to young players and extending sustained institutional support to restore Pakistan's standing in international Squash.Pakistan Air Force continues to remain at the forefront of efforts to revive the nation's glorious Squash heritage. Through sustained institutional patronage, world-class sporting infrastructure and dedicated support for emerging talent, PAF has been instrumental in reinvigorating Pakistan's Squash landscape. Under the patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, concerted efforts to restore Pakistan's historic dominance in international Squash have gathered renewed momentum. The successful staging of this prestigious Asian championship, crowned by Pakistan's emphatic triumph in the Men's Team event, stands as a testament to PAF's unwavering commitment to sporting excellence and the resurgence of Pakistan Squash.

Conway ruled out of India ODI series



SPORTS DESK

NEW DEHLI

New Zealand opener Devon Conway will miss the remainder of the one-day international series against India because of a concussion sustained in a collision with teammate Matt Henry earlier this week. Fast bowler Henry has been cleared of concussion after the training incident and will be available for the second ODI in Wellington on Saturday. Lefthanded top-order batter Nick Kelly has been called up from the New Zealand "A" squad early to replace Conway in the squad.

India won the rain-disrupted first ODI in Auckland on Wednesday by five wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

New Zealand will be hoping that batting mainstay Conway makes a full recovery before the first of two tests against India starts in Wellington on November 19.



City District Girls High School (Green Town) and Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) won the school and college titles, respectively, in the girls' weightlifting competitions at the 14th Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate Games 2026 that concluded on Friday in Lahore,

CamScanner



Lahore remains among world's most polluted cities as smog persists

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Lahore remained at the top of the list of the world's most polluted major cities on Sunday morning, as air quality continued to reach hazardous levels across several cities in Punjab.
The air pollution level in Lahore was recorded at 291 particulate matter, while several other cities in the province also reported extremely unhealthy air quality.
According to an international environmental monitoring website, Nankana Sahib recorded the highest pollution level at 685, followed by Dera Ghazi Khan at 611.
Meanwhile, Jhang recorded an air pollution level of 498, Multan 301, Gujranwala 296 and Faisalabad 294, highlighting the worsening air quality across Punjab.

BISP audit reveals Rs25.7 billion irregularities

- Faulty CNIC records, ineligible beneficiaries and duplicate payouts exposed

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



An audit of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for 2024-25 has exposed widespread irregularities, including payments to government employees, pensioners and ineligible beneficiaries, duplicate educational stipends and serious flaws in beneficiary records.
The Auditor General of Pakistan's (AGP) report found that 12,078 government employees, pensioners and their spouses received Rs515.712 million despite their exclusion from the programme under a federal cabinet decision of December 2019.
Another Rs13.041 million was paid in 261 cases involving beneficiaries or their spouses who had travelled abroad, according to the report. The audit also identified payments to vehicle owners, ineligible students and beneficiaries with incorrect marital-status records.
According to the report, BISP had 10.02 million active beneficiary households during the financial year. The inclusion error rate stood at 6.8%, exceeding the prescribed 5% benchmark, while the exclusion error rate was 13.27%, against the permissible 10%.
Auditors attributed the discrepancies to weak data verification, inadequate information-sharing with government departments and ineffective enforcement of eligibility requirements. The report raises questions about the effectiveness of BISP's eligibility checks and financial controls.
The most significant concerns involved beneficiary identification. In 5,598 cases, the same spouse's computerised national identity card (CNIC) was linked to the records of as many as seven women, involving payments of Rs239.035 million.
In another 596,252 cases, beneficiaries' records lacked their spouses' CNIC details, involving Rs25.460 billion. The combined value of payments in these 601,850 cases amounted to Rs25.699 billion. The audit sought an explanation from NADRA and recommended independent verification of spousal relationships.
The report also identified 97,179 cases in which multiple Proxy Means Test (PMT) scores were recorded against the same household head within the prescribed period. This allegedly resulted in the wrongful enrolment of 18,964 beneficiaries and potential misallocation of Rs533.536 million.
Vehicle ownership was another concern. A sample review of 275,000 cases in Islamabad identified 1,719 beneficiaries owning vehicles beyond prescribed eligibility limits. They had received Rs69.744 million, prompting auditors to seek field verification.
In the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif programme, 165 schools already receiving full government assistance through Pakistan Baitul Mal were also enrolled in the BISP scheme, resulting in duplicate stipends of Rs17.690 million.

US army announces new task force to disrupt Iran's supply routes

- "The establishment of Task Force Iron Gate reinforces the success of our ironclad blockade against Iran at sea," Cooper said.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) on Saturday announced the establishment of a new task force aimed at disrupting Iran's use of land routes to transport advanced weapons and other materials, expanding Washington's pressure on Tehran.
In a statement shared on US social media platform X, CENTCOM said Adm. Brad Cooper, the command's chief, directed the formation of Task Force Iron Gate on November 7. The unit, comprising approximately 20 civilian and military personnel, will be based in Tampa, Florida.
The task force will work with other US government agencies to monitor and prevent the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies.

Sindh governor says democracy requires all stakeholders to work together

- Praises Punjab government's transparency; highlights Nawaz Sharif's development record

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Sindh Governor Syed Nehal Hashmi has praised the Punjab government for its transparency, saying he has not witnessed a government as transparent as Punjab's elsewhere.
He called for political cooperation and said democracy required all stakeholders to work together.
Speaking to the media at the Lahore Press Club here on Saturday, Hashmi appreciated the role of journalists in promoting truth, justice and social accountability. He described the Press Club's initiatives as exemplary and paid tribute to journalists for their commitment to society.
The governor said that journalists continue to play an important role regardless of which political party is in power.
He acknowledged the challenges facing the media and stressed the need for stronger communication between the government and journalists.
Hashmi also praised former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for his contributions to Pakistan's development, particularly the construction of the motorway network and efforts to strengthen the constitutional framework and rule of law. He said Lahore had undergone significant development over the years and that people in Karachi also appreciated Nawaz Sharif's services.
Commenting on corruption, the governor described mental corruption as the first form of corruption, explaining that denying people their rightful entitlements was also a serious injustice.
Hashmi further stated that he would not support any legislation that violated human rights and emphasised that national issues should be resolved through parliament. He also urged society to take responsibility in areas where government institutions could not reach.
Speaking about Karachi, he highlighted the city's historical and economic importance, pointing out that despite contributing substantial taxes, it did not receive its fair share of resources. He called for institutional accountability and said corruption should be addressed according to the law rather than personal preferences.

Maryam Nawaz removes Jhelum DC over exam postponement ahead of Her visit



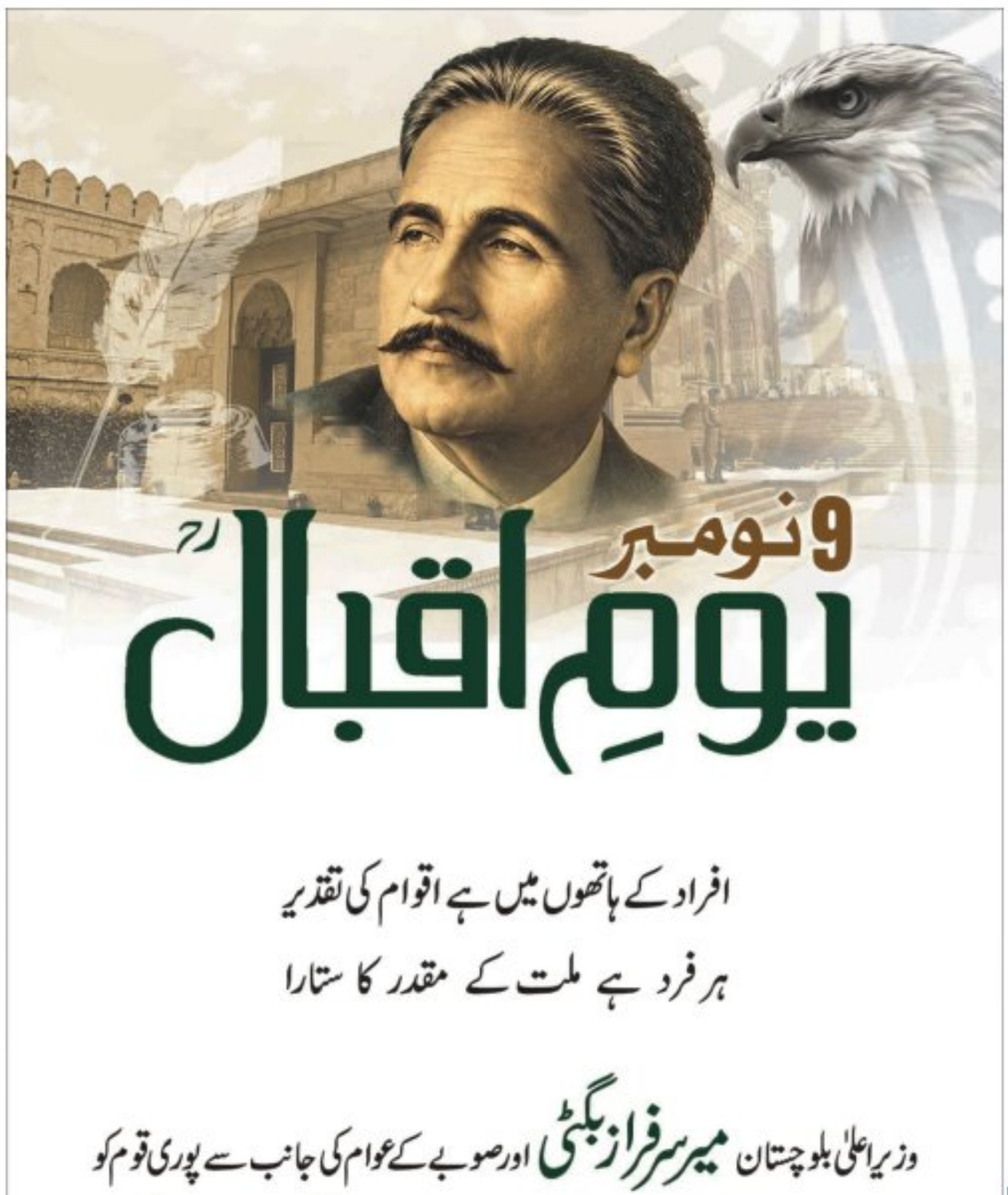
CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Sunday removed Jhelum Deputy Commissioner Mir Raza Ozgen from his post after the postponement of intermediate examination papers in the district ahead of her scheduled visit on November 10.
In a letter to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi, Ozgen said the deployment of administrative and security personnel could affect the smooth conduct of examinations and cause inconvenience to students.



Home Minister Sindh Zia-ul -Hassan Lanjar offering dua after inauguration of repair & renovation work of new rest house of PTC Shahdadpur



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