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Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meeting with the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CM vows no safe havens for terrorists in Balochistan

■ Says intelligence-based operations are continuing in Kolpur, Kirdgap and Nushki

STAFF REPORTER
QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti declared that terrorist elements seeking to destabilise the province would not be allowed to establish safe havens, asserting that the state would employ an effective strategy to defeat terrorism and protect citizens.

Bugti was commenting on a recent security operation in the Kolpur area in which eight terrorists affiliated with the India-backed Fitna al-Hindustan were killed. He described the operation as a significant achievement in the ongoing fight against terrorism and said attempts to spread fear, disrupt public life or target national highways would be thwarted.

Intelligence-based operations are continuing in Kolpur, Kirdgap and Nushki, the chief minister said, while security has been further strengthened along the Quetta-Taftan National Highway to ensure the safety of citizens and uninterrupted movement of traffic. Bugti expressed grief over the martyrdom of Major Umar Minhas Nasir and Havaldar



Muhammad Adnan Khan, who were killed in a terrorist attack. He paid tribute to the fallen security personnel and offered condolences to their families.

Terrorist groups are increasingly using modern technologies, including drones and improvised explosive devices, the chief minister noted. However, he stressed that changing tactics would not weaken the state's resolve. "State institutions are also improving their strategies and operational capabilities in response to the changing nature of terrorism," he said.

Lasting peace is essential for economic development, investment and the restoration of normal life in Balochistan, Bugti emphasised, adding that the government would not allow terrorists to regain a foothold in any part of the province.

PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto calls Fazl, condemns government's actions against JUI-F

■ Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari spoke to Maulana Fazlur Rehman, condemning the government's "political vengeance" against JUI-F and urging it to tolerate opposition criticism.

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari spoke by telephone on Sunday with Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and criticised the government's treatment of him.

The call comes amid a month of heightened friction between the JUI-F leader and the PML-N-led federal government.

On Sunday, Fazl's party also staged street protests in several cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against what it described as propaganda aimed at the party and its leadership.

A PPP statement said the two



leaders discussed the country's political situation. Bilawal, whose party is part of the ruling coalition, condemned what he called the government's actions and political vengeance against the JUI-F.

He said the government should tolerate opposition criticism, stressing that the opposition plays an extremely important role in a democracy and parliamentary system. He urged the government to avoid steps that weaken democracy and Parliament.

Bilawal has lately been pressing for political unity, asking the prime minister to build trust with both the government's allies and the opposition. On Nov 10 he said political parties would have to work together rather than fight each other under such a reset. Days earlier, he had urged the federal government to engage all political and social stakeholders instead of fighting everyone, Fazl included.Over the past month, Fazl and federal ministers have traded harsh remarks. The exchanges began after Fazl accused the Centre of depriving the provinces of their rights. This followed his decision to join the opposition in criticising the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in the PTI-ruled province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PM, Field Marshal attend funeral of soldiers martyred near Nushki

■ Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir attended funeral prayers for two soldiers martyred near Nushki on November 14.

CITY REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



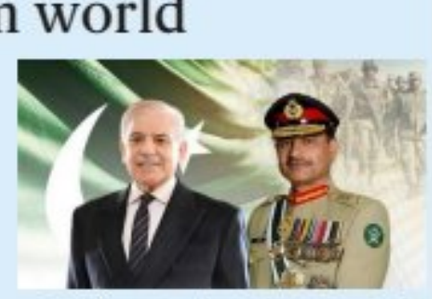
Funeral prayers have been offered for Major Umar Nasir Minhas and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan, who embraced martyrdom in Nushki.According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the funeral prayers for Major Umar Nasir Minhas and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan were held at Chaklala Garrison in Rawalpindi.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the funeral prayers of the two martyrs. Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, senior civil and military officials, and family members of the martyrs were also present on the occasion.

According to ISPR, Major Umar Nasir Minhas and Havildar Muhammad Adnan Khan embraced martyrdom on November 14 near Nushki district.The Pakistan Armed Forces and the entire nation paid tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs, saying their bravery, dedication to duty and unwavering commitment to the motherland were a source of pride.

PM Shehbaz, CDF Asim Munir most influential figures of Muslim world

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir have jointly secured the top position in the 2027 edition of the world's 500 most influential Muslims list.

Saudi King Salman, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have also shared the top ranking in the annual publication, The Muslim 500: The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims.

Compiled by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre (RISSC), based in Jordan, the publication said this was the first time that multiple individuals had jointly secured the top position.

According to the report, the ranking reflects the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye on August 7, 2026. The publication described the agreement as a significant development in cooperation among Muslim countries, bringing together Pakistan's military strength, Saudi Arabia's economic resources and Türkiye's technological and industrial capabilities.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei secured fourth position, followed by Jordan's King Abdullah II at fifth and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at sixth. Prominent Pakistani religious scholar Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani ranked seventh on the list.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan secured 12th position, while Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was placed at 22nd. Another Pakistani religious scholar, Maulana Tariq Jameel, ranked 32nd.



Pakistan, Uzbekistan Agree to Enhance Defence and Air Force Cooperation

■ Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu Holds High-Level Meetings with Uzbek Defence Leadership; Discussions Focus on Joint Military Exercises, Training, Capacity Building and Emerging Technologies

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, during his official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, held high-level meetings with Defence Minister Lieutenant General Botir Qudrathodjayev Bahromovich and Major General Burkhanov Akhmad Jamolovich, Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of Air Defence & Air Force of Uzbekistan. During the meeting with the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, the discussions encompassed regional security, existing defence ties and prospects for institutional collaboration. The Air Chief highlighted the deep-rooted historical, cultural and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The Uzbek Defence Minister lauded the professionalism, operational prowess and combat capabilities of the Pakistan Air Force, expressing keen interest in harnessing PAF's expertise and human resource potential to enhance operational readiness of Uzbekistan Air Force. In the subsequent meeting with Deputy Defence Minister and Commander of Air Defence & Air Force of Uzbekistan the interaction focused on Air Force-to-Air Force cooperation with special emphasis on joint military exercises, structured exchange programmes, sustained professional interactions and capacity building endeavours.

Khawaja Asif hints at major political developments by New Year

■ Minister says consensus on provincial issue likely in coming weeks, hints at opportunity for Imran's return

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has hinted at major political developments by the New Year, saying significant progress has been made on the provincial issue and a political consensus is expected in the coming weeks.Speaking on Geo News programme Naya Pakistan on Sunday, Asif said significant progress had been made on the provincial issue and political consensus was expected to emerge in the coming weeks.

"My personal view is that the New Year will see this new system as well, God willing," he said. Asked whether the developments were expected in 2026, the defence minister said some shape of the new system would emerge before the year ended, adding that around six weeks remained in 2026. Asif said the leadership of all four provinces should be taken on board to reach a consensus, regardless of whether their parties were currently represented in parliament.

"I believe that some solution will emerge," he said, describing the discussions taking place in recent weeks as positive.The defence minister also suggested that the expected political developments could offer an opportunity for incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan to return to mainstream politics."If he agrees to this, or if they reach an agreement, then it will provide a window of army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa". Debate over new provinces Asif's remarks come amid a renewed debate over the creation of new provinces, with several government figures publicly supporting a referendum or political consensus on the issue.Earlier, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan opportunity for them to return to mainstream politics once this political phase is over," Asif said. He likened the "opportunity" to the one the PML-N had received during the "extension of former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

CamScanner

Former Gulistan-e-Jauhar SHO dismissed over Mir Raza case

• Former SHO Kamran Qureshi has been dismissed following a judicial commission report that identified alleged negligence in the Mir Raza case.

SPECIAL REPORTER
KARACHI



Former Station House Officer (SHO) of Gulistan-e-Jauhar police station, Kamran Qureshi, has been dismissed from service in connection with the Mir Raza case.

According to Additional Inspector General Azad Khan, the judicial commission's report on Mir Raza's death had levelled allegations against Qureshi. He was accused of failing to secure the location where Mir Raza's body was found.

Young businessman Mir Raza Ali's body was recovered from Gulistan-e-Jauhar on July 29. The incident was initially declared a suicide, but doubts surrounding the initial conclusion prompted the Sindh government to establish a judicial commission to investigate the case.

The commission's report, released in October 2026, concluded that Mir Raza's death was murder rather than suicide.

The report also identified professional negligence in the initial police investigation and recommended the formation of a joint investigation team (JIT).



Students browse through a variety of books at stalls during a book fair at Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF).

4 retreating Indian-backed terrorists eliminated in Bannu gunbattle

■ The terrorists targeted the Kingar Pul checkpost but were forced to flee after the effective and swift joint response by the police.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Four Indian-backed terrorists, belonging to Fitna al-Khwarij, were killed when their attack on a police checkpost in Bannu District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday morning were beaten back by the agile security forces, reported 24NewsHD TV chanel

The terrorists targeted the Kingar Pul checkpost but were forced to flee after the effective and swift joint response by the police.

Soon after learning the attack was launched, fresh reinforcements from Quick Response Force and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) rushed to the site and helped the police to thwart the cowardly attack of the terrorists.

In the ensuring gunbattle, four Khwarij terrorists were killed whose bodies were taken into custody. The process for their identification was under way. The security forces personnel seized weapons and ammunition.

Later, the security forces personnel carried out a clearance operation in the areas.

In reaction, KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfikar Hameed commended Bannu Police for extending quick and immediate response to the terrorists' attack.

The KP IGP said repelling the cowardly attack of terrorists in the darkness of night successfully is a testament to the high level of training and dedication of the jawans.

"There is no place for terrorists on the soil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, we will ensure their elimination," he declared. .

Dense fog forces closure of M-5 motorway between Rohri, Pano Aqil

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Dense fog has forced authorities to suspend traffic on the M-5 Motorway between Rohri and Pano Aqil to ensure the safety of commuters.

According to a spokesperson for the Motorway Police, the section has been closed as a precautionary measure to protect the lives and property of motorists amid extremely poor visibility.

The authorities have advised commuters to avoid unnecessary travel during foggy conditions and prefer travelling during daylight hours.

The spokesperson said that the most suitable time to travel during the fog season is between **10am and 6pm**.

Motorists have also been urged to drive at reduced speeds, maintain a safe distance from vehicles ahead and strictly follow lane discipline.

The Motorway Police further advised drivers to avoid unnecessary overtaking and sudden braking, use fog lights and ensure that their vehicle's headlights, rear lights and windscreen wipers are in proper working condition.

Commuters have been advised to exercise caution and follow official traffic updates before setting out on their journeys.

بھرتی برائے فرنٹیئر کور بلوچستان (ساؤتھ)

سال 2026 (78 بیچ ریکروٹ)

1۔ فرنٹیئر کور بلوچستان (ساؤتھ) میں مختلف اقوام اور ٹرائبل کی آسامیاں خالی ہیں۔ بھرتی ہونے والے امیدواران کو بلوچستان کے اضلاع (قلات، خضدار، تربت، پنجگور، گوادر، خاران، واشک، لسبیلہ، بیچ، آوران اور چاغی) میں ڈیوٹی پر تعینات کیا جائے گا۔ فرنٹیئر کور (ساؤتھ) کی ٹیمیں مندرجہ ذیل مقامات پر بھرتی کریں گی۔

خواہشمند حضرات اپنے ضلع کی مقررہ تاریخ پر متعلقہ بھرتی سنٹر پر تشریف لائیں۔

	بھرتی دفتر	تاریخ	وقت
ا۔	ہیڈکوارٹر تھرد بٹالین، حیدرآباد بھرتی برائے اضلاع امیدواران تمام اضلاع صوبہ سندھ	23 تا 25 نومبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
ب۔	آرمی سلیکشن اینڈ ریکروٹمنٹ سنٹر، بنوں عاقل بھرتی برائے اضلاع امیدواران تمام اضلاع صوبہ سندھ۔	28 نومبر تا 1 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
پ۔	سرگودھا جھنگ موڑ ایم پی ہیک پوسٹ بھرتی برائے اضلاع: چنیوٹ، فیصل آباد، گجرانوالہ، حافظ آباد، قصور، کھاریاں، خوشاب، لاہور، منڈی بہاؤالدین، میانوالی، ننکانہ صاحب، نارووال، شیخوپورہ، سرگودھا، سیالکوٹ، وزیرآباد اور میرپور ڈویژن۔	4 تا 6 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
ت۔	رینجرز کیڈٹ کالج۔ چکری، راولپنڈی بھرتی برائے اضلاع: چکوال، جہلم، راولپنڈی، گجرات، مری اور گلہ کہار، ایبٹ آباد، ہری پور، کوہستان، مانسہرہ، تورغر، شانگلہ، اٹک اور مظفرآباد ڈویژن۔	9 تا 11 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
ٹ۔	بلوچ رجمنٹ سنٹر، ایبٹ آباد بھرتی برائے اضلاع: ایبٹ آباد، ہری پور، کوالائی پالس، اپر/لوئر کوہستان، مانسہرہ، تورغر، شانگلہ، اٹک اور مظفرآباد ڈویژن۔	14 تا 16 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
ج۔	آرٹلری سنٹر، اٹک بھرتی برائے اضلاع: اٹک، تلہ گنگ اور پوٹھوہار ڈویژن۔	19 تا 21 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
چ۔	پنجاب رجمنٹ سنٹر، مردان بھرتی برائے اضلاع: ہزارہ ڈویژن، مردان، مالاکنڈ، یونیر، سوات، لوئر/اپر چترال، صوابی اور لوئر/اپر دیر۔	24 تا 26 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
خ۔	سکاؤٹس ٹریننگ اکیڈمی ورسک، پشاور بھرتی برائے اضلاع: پشاور، چارسدہ، خیبر، مہمند، نوشہرہ، مہمند ایجنسی	29 تا 31 دسمبر 2026	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
د۔	سکاؤٹس ٹریننگ سنٹر، کوہاٹ بھرتی برائے اضلاع: بنوں، ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان، ہنگو، کرک، کوہاٹ، کرم، لکی مروت، جنوبی/شمالی وزیرستان، اورکزئی اور ٹانک۔	3 تا 5 جنوری 2027	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک
ذ۔	تنظیمات کمبائنڈ کیس کینٹ، ملتان بھرتی برائے اضلاع: بہاولپور، بہاولنگر، بھکر، ڈیرہ غازیخان، جھنگ، جامپور، کوٹ ادو، خانیوال، لیہ، لودھراں، ملتان، مظفر گڑھ، وہاڑی، پاکپتن، رحیم یار خان، راجن پور، ساہیوال، ٹوبہ ٹیک سنگھ، تونسہ اور وہاڑی	8 تا 11 جنوری 2027	صبح 8 بجے سے دوپہر 3 بجے تک

2۔ معیار برائے بھرتی

	GD سولجر	سولجر کلرک	ای ایم ای سپاہی
ا۔	تعلیم میٹرک	تعلیم انٹرمیڈیٹ بمعہ کمپیوٹر ڈپلوما اور ٹائپنگ سپیڈ 35 الفاظ فی منٹ	تعلیم انٹرمیڈیٹ بمعہ ٹیکنیکل ڈپلوما
ب۔	قد۔ 5-6"	قد۔ 5'-3"	قد۔ 5'-6"
پ۔	عمر 24 - 17 1/2 سال	عمر 24 - 17 1/2 سال	عمر 24 - 17 1/2 سال
ت۔	چھاتی۔ 33 - 31"	چھاتی 32 - 30"	چھاتی 33 - 31"
◆	سندھی امیدواروں کیلئے قد اور چھاتی کی پیمائش میں 1 انچ کی رعایت دی جائے گی		

3۔ نوٹیفائیڈ شہدا ایف سی بلوچستان ساؤتھ (صرف بیٹا اور بھائی) کیلئے خصوصی رعایت رکھی گئی ہے۔ ایسے تمام افراد مندرجہ بالا تاریخوں میں متعلقہ بھرتی سنٹر پر بھرتی کے لئے تشریف لائیں۔

تعلیم	قد	عمر	چھاتی
مڈل	5فٹ 4انچ	عمر 24 - 17 1/2 سال	32 - 30انچ

4۔ سہولیات

ا۔ ایف سی کے جوانوں کی گفٹ لوچھی آرمی کے جوانوں کے برابر	ب۔ مفت رہائش / کھانا	پ۔ دوران سروس آپکے بیوی اور بچوں کا مفت علاج	ت۔ بچوں کی مختلف تعلیمی اداروں میں تعلیم کی سہولت
ٹ۔ اندرون ملک بذریعہ روڈ ریلوے اور پی آئی اے سفر کرنے کی صورت میں نصف کرایہ کی سہولت		ٹ۔ سال میں دو ماہ کی چھٹی بمع تنخواہ اور بروقت ضرورت ایمرجنسی چھٹی	
ج۔ کارکردگی کی بناء پر اقوام متحدہ کے ساتھ بیرون ملک سروس کے مواقع		چ۔ شہداء کے بچوں کیلئے مفت تعلیم اور رہائش کے لئے گھر	ح۔ پنشن گریجوٹی کی سہولت

نوٹ:۔ 1۔ وہ حضرات جن کی عمر 18 سال سے زائد ہے ان کا فارم (ب) قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ بلکہ کمپیوٹرائزڈ شناختی کارڈ لازمی ہے۔ 2۔ تمام اصل تعلیمی اسناد / کمپیوٹرائزڈ فارم (ب)، ڈومیسائل، تمام دستاویزات کی دو عدد تصدیق شدہ فوٹو سٹیٹ اور تین عدد پاسپورٹ سائز فوٹو اپنے ہمراہ لائیں۔ 3۔ جعلی تعلیمی اسناد پیش کرنے والے کو حوالہ پولیس کیا جائے گا۔ 4۔ وہ حضرات جن پر ایف آئی آر درج ہو یا سزا یافتہ ہو ں وہ بھرتی کے لئے نااہل ہوگا۔ 5۔ ٹیسٹ / انٹرویو کے لئے آنے والے ٹی اے / ڈی اے کے حقدار نہیں ہوں گے۔ 6۔ 30 جنوری 2027 تک، خواہشمند امیدواروں کی عمر کی حد 24 سال سے زیادہ اور 17 سے کم نا ہو۔ 7۔ 1 میل دوڑ کے ٹیسٹ کے لئے PT شوز، تحریری ٹیسٹ کے لئے قلم اور امتحانی گتہ ساتھ لائیں۔ 8۔ تعلیم اور کمپیوٹر میں مہارت اور ڈی اے ای / ٹیکنیکل ڈپلومہ رکھنے والوں کو ترجیح اور عمر میں ایک سال تک رعایت دی جائیگی (BSc/BA)، بی اے/بی ایس سی 9۔ ایم اے/ایم ایس سی (MSc/MA)، اور اس سے زیادہ تعلیم رکھنے والوں کو عمر میں دو سال تک رعایت دی جائیگی۔ 10۔ ڈرائیونگ میں مہارت رکھنے LTV/ HTV اور ڈرائیونگ لائسنس یافتہ جوانوں کو ترجیح دی جائیگی۔ 11۔ مزید معلومات اور رہنمائی کے لئے ایف سی ہیلپ لائن 0852411818/0852412209 سے رابطہ کریں۔

لیفٹیننٹ کرنل برائے انسپکٹر جنرل فرنٹیئر کور بلوچستان (ساؤتھ)

(محمد سہیل طفیل)

PID (Q) 158 / 26

National interests must prevail over political, personal considerations: Hanif Abbasi

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi has said that the flood-damaged Faisalabad-Lahore railway section has been restored in 45 days through the dedicated efforts of Pakistan Railways employees, highlighting the government's commitment to improving railway infrastructure and services across the country.Addressing a ceremony on Sunday to mark the restoration of the section, the minister said national interests must always take precedence over political and personal considerations, adding that Pakistan's stability and security should never be compromised.

He said around 1,500 feet of railway track between Faisalabad and Lahore had been washed away by floods on July 27, 2026. Following the completion of necessary formalities, including the appointment of consultants.

Media facilitation centre opens in Capital for ECO coverage

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



A media facilitation centre has been established at the Pak-China Friendship Centre for media coverage of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) meeting.

Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil inaugurated the centre and reviewed the facilities and arrangements provided to journalists.

The aim of the media centre is to provide modern facilities to domestic and foreign journalists for timely and effective coverage of the meeting. On this occasion, the federal secretary was also given a briefing on facilities available in the media centre.

Ashfaq Ahmed Khalil said the ministry has taken vigorous steps to ensure effective media coverage of the ECO meeting.

He said Media Facilitation Centre has been equipped with high-speed internet, special desks, a modern digital studio and a podcast studio, while specific conference rooms have also been set up for media briefings.

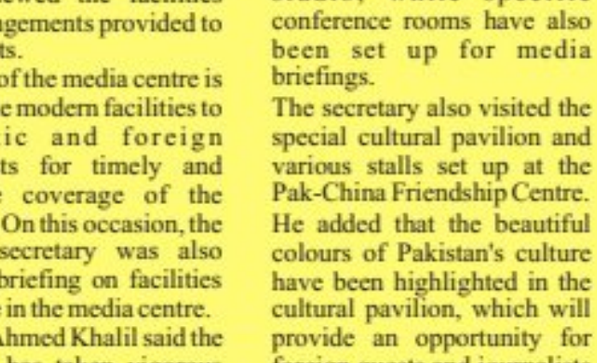
The secretary also visited the special cultural pavilion and various stalls set up at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

He added that the beautiful colours of Pakistan's culture have been highlighted in the cultural pavilion, which will provide an opportunity for foreign guests and journalists to be exposed to Pakistani culture.

AJK sets November 21 deadline for registration of licensed weapons

■ AJK has extended the deadline for mandatory firearm registration until November 21, warning of arrest and weapon confiscation for non-compliance.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has extended the deadline for the mandatory registration of firearms held by licensed individuals until November 21.

The AJK Home Department has issued a notification announcing the extension, giving firearm licence holders additional time to register their weapons at their respective police stations.

According to the department's notification dated November 5, 2026, all individuals holding firearm licences in Azad Jammu and Kashmir are required to register their weapons with the relevant police station.

The notification warns that individuals found possessing unregistered weapons will face legal action, including immediate arrest and confiscation of their firearms.

The Home Department said the measures have been introduced as part of efforts to curb the use and supply of illegal weapons across the region.

Authorities have urged all licensed firearm holders to complete the registration process within the revised deadline to avoid legal consequences.

CamScanner

The Silent Rise of Screen Addiction in Pakistan



Ebba Wahid ; Student

News Reporting & Writing

Dinner tables in Pakistani households were once filled with family conversations, the sound of television, and the clinking of plates. Now, a child watches cartoons on a tablet while his older sister scrolls endlessly through Instagram reels. Their mother replies to WhatsApp forwards between bites, while their father silently checks work emails on his phone. Everyone is sitting together, yet the room remains unusually quiet.

Over the past few years, screen addiction in Pakistan has evolved from being seen as a teenage problem into something much larger. This issue is quietly affecting not only youth but entire households across urban Pakistan. Smartphones, cheap internet packages, and unlimited short-form content have become part of daily life, Pakistanis are spending more time online and less time interacting with one another in real life. Studies conducted globally after COVID-19 have linked excessive screen time with sleep disruption, anxiety, and reduced attention spans among young users. What began during the COVID-19 lockdowns as a necessity for work, education, and entertainment has slowly turned into a lifestyle that does not seem like it will change anytime soon.According to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan crossed 190 million cellular subscribers in 2025. Internet and smartphone usage in Pakistan have continued to rise rapidly in recent years, particularly among youngsters. Apps such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Netflix now dominate everyday life, often replacing activities that once centered around conversation, family gatherings, or outdoor gatherings.

For young people, the effects are evident and difficult to ignore."I spend around seven hours a day on my phone," said Ebba Wahid, a student who mostly uses YouTube, Netflix, and WhatsApp. While she admitted that screens sometimes affect her studies, sleep, and mood, she has also acknowledged how difficult it has become to stay away from her phone.

Too much dependence on devices is no longer limited to entertainment alone. Teachers say they are



increasingly noticing changes in students' attention spans and classroom behavior. Teachers also say online classes during lockdown normalized long hours of phone usage for both children and adults.

A private-school teacher who has worked with O-level and university students told in an interview that many students now struggle to focus during lectures because they are accustomed to receiving information in quick and visually engaging formats online. "They are so accustomed to getting information in short amounts quickly and in a more interactive way," the teacher explained, adding that even classrooms using study properly. The shift reflects a broader change in how younger generations process information and spend their free time. But the impact is not limited to the classrooms. Parents are also beginning to notice how screens are changing family dynamics at home. Karachi resident Khaula Khan said her children spend too much time on screens and admitted that family bonding is sometimes affected during meals or gatherings. Although she has tried to limit screen usage for her children and herself, she feels her concerns are often ignored. multimedia tools struggle to compete with the constant stimulation students experience on their phones.As attention spans shorten, Educators say students become distracted more easily and often lose focus unless classrooms remain highly interactive. unless classrooms remain highly interactive it is not possible to help the distracted students study properly. The shift reflects a broader change in how younger generations process information and spend their free time. But the impact is not limited to the classrooms. Parents are also beginning to notice how screens are changing family dynamics at home. Karachi resident Khaula Khan said her children spend too much time on screens and admitted that family bonding is sometimes affected during meals or gatherings. Although she has tried to limit screen usage for her children and herself, she feels her concerns are often ignored.



By Muhammad Mohsin Khan (Rajput)

K-Electric: A Chronicle of Illumination Transformation, and Endurance

Among the institutions that have indelibly shaped the economic and civic landscape of Karachi the commercial nucleus of Pakistan and one of South Asia's most consequential metropolitan centres few possess a historical significance comparable to that of the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation. Known in contemporary times as K-Electric, this entity transcends the conventional definition of a utility provider; it constitutes an indispensable pillar underpinning industrial productivity, commercial vitality, and the quotidian functioning of millions of inhabitants. Its century-long evolution, extending from the colonial era through nationalization and eventual privatization, mirrors the broader trajectory of Karachi itself. The history of this institution is therefore not merely a corporate narrative but an integral chapter in the developmental saga of the city it serves.



The origins of the organization may be traced to the year 1913, when Karachi, then a rapidly expanding port city within British India, required a more dependable electrical infrastructure to sustain its growing urban and commercial aspirations. To address this necessity, the British administration established the Karachi Electric Supply Company as a publicly listed enterprise. Although its initial operational ambit was relatively modest, the company progressively expanded in tandem with Karachi's city's subsequent economic ascendancy.

Following the emergence of Pakistan as an independent state, the company entered a new phase of institutional development. In 1952, during the administration of Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin, the government assumed ownership of the enterprise and incorporated it into the public sector. Consequent to this transition, the organization was reconstituted as the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC). For several decades thereafter, it functioned as a wholly state-owned utility, bearing primary responsibility for the generation and distribution of electricity throughout Karachi and its adjoining regions.

By the closing years of the twentieth century, however, mounting economic pressures, operational inefficiencies, and recurring energy-sector challenges generated increasing calls for structural reform. These circumstances culminated in one of Pakistan's most consequential privatization initiatives. In 2005, KESC was transferred to private ownership, thereby inaugurating an entirely new chapter in its corporate history.

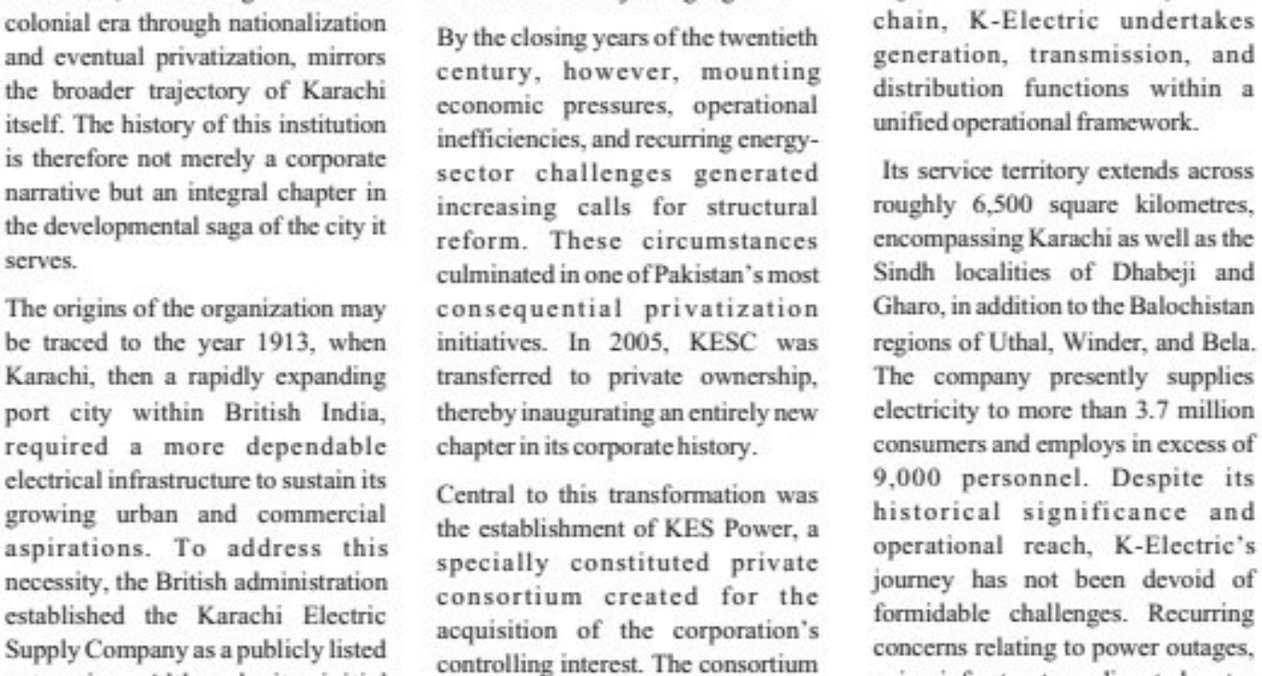
Central to this transformation was the establishment of KES Power, a specially constituted private consortium created for the acquisition of the corporation's controlling interest. The consortium comprised several prominent international investors, including Saudi Arabia's Al-Jomaih Group and Kuwait's National Industries company's shares, thereby assuming effective managerial control. The Government of Pakistan retained a substantial minority holding amounting to 24.36 percent of the corporation's equity.

A further milestone was reached in 2014 when the organization adopted the name "K-Electric," reflecting both a modernized corporate identity and its evolution into a publicly listed, profit-oriented utility enterprise. Today, K-Electric ranks among Pakistan's most significant corporate entities. In 2023, the company reported annual revenues of approximately PKR 519 billion, underscoring its considerable economic scale and strategic importance.

At present, the organization is chaired by Shahryar Arshad Chishti, while Syed Muhammad Talha serves as its Chief Executive Officer.

K-Electric occupies a distinctive position within Pakistan's energy sector by virtue of being the country's sole vertically integrated utility. Unlike many power-sector entities that perform only a single segment of the electricity value chain, K-Electric undertakes generation, transmission, and distribution functions within a unified operational framework.

Its service territory extends across roughly 6,500 square kilometres, encompassing Karachi as well as the Sindh localities of Dhabeji and Gharo, in addition to the Balochistan regions of Uthal, Winder, and Bela. The company presently supplies electricity to more than 3.7 million consumers and employs in excess of 9,000 personnel. Despite its historical significance and operational reach, K-Electric's journey has not been devoid of formidable challenges. Recurring concerns relating to power outages, aging infrastructure, disputed meter readings, and electricity theft have frequently subjected the company to public criticism and scrutiny.



Laborers are busy in earning livelihood at a local brick kiln site



By;Esha Shahzad,Haneen Tariq,Hamna Ahsan Khan

Born on the Wrong Side of the Map

On winter mornings in Sheshi Koh, the road disappears first.

Ice loosens the mountain soil above the valley. Meltwater carries rocks and debris into the narrow paths below. By afternoon, parts of the dirt track crumble into the river, cutting entire villages off from the rest of the district.

Men arrive with shovels, ropes, and wooden planks. Among them is 42-year-old Rahmat Deen, who has spent much of his life rebuilding the same road by hand.

"There is no one else," he said, pressing a rusted shovel into frozen ground. "If we don't fix it, we stay trapped."

More than 300 kilometres away, Islamabad continues to expand. Roads widen, flyovers rise, commercial zones take shape, and delayed infrastructure projects become headline news. But in villages like Sheshi Koh, development arrives differently.

It arrives in survival.

The contrast reflects a divide that has shaped lives for decades. According to World Bank estimates, nearly 61 percent of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas, yet access to healthcare, roads, sanitation, and education remains concentrated only in urban centres.

For Rahmat, that inequality is not measured through policy reports. It is measured through distance.

Six years ago, during winter, his six-year-old son slipped near the edge of a narrow mountain path close to the village. The nearest medical facility was nearly an hour away, and the road had already partially collapsed. Rahmat lifted the unconscious child into his arms and ran downhill, hoping someone would appear with transport.

"I picked him up and ran," he recalls quietly. "I thought if I could just reach the road, maybe someone would help."

Help never came in time.

"Agar road hoti," he said, staring down at his hands, "toh woh zinda hota."

If there had been a road, he would still be alive.

Across rural Pakistan, emergencies are often shaped by the same absence. The World Health Organization estimates that only 25 percent of Pakistan's healthcare facilities are located in rural regions, while most certified doctors live and work in urban areas. In many places, ambulance services are limited or unavailable, turning injuries, childbirth complications, and sudden illness into races against geography.

Rahmat now leaves Sheshi Koh every year to work as a construction labourer in Islamabad. His wife and five children remain in the village. He returns only a few times a year. "You miss everything," he says. "Birthdays. School things. They grow up while you are away."

Then he pauses.

"But what choice do we have?"

"Shehar rozi deta hai," he says softly. "Sukoon nahi."

The city gives income, but not peace. For many Pakistanis, migration is not ambition. It is necessity. Twenty-one-year-old Ibrahim, a computer science student from Chitral now studying in Islamabad, says people leave because education, healthcare, jobs, and basic stability are not always available at home.

"Life in Islamabad is very different," he says. "Transport, universities, internet, facilities — everything is easier to access."

The same pattern appears across the country: women in Tharparkar travelling long distances for maternity care, communities in Balochistan depending on damaged roads, and flood-affected families in Sindh still waiting for full reconstruction after the 2022 floods.

reconstruction after the 2022 floods.

According to Muhammad Ahsan Khan, a Grade-20 officer serving as Collector of Pakistan Customs, geography does make development difficult.

"Infrastructure development in mountainous regions is extremely costly due to terrain and weather conditions," he explained. "Maintaining roads in such areas remains a persistent challenge."

But for villagers, explanations rarely soften frustration. Rahmat says politicians often visit during campaigns or after disasters, make promises, and leave.

"They come in big cars," he says. "They look around, make promises, then leave."

When disasters strike remote areas, national attention briefly turns toward them. But failing roads, healthcare shortages, and educational inequality rarely remain in public conversation for long. In Islamabad, a delayed flyover becomes news. In Sheshi Koh, a collapsed road may never be reported at all.

Still, Rahmat speaks with loyalty, not resentment.

"Yes," he said firmly. "This country is ours too."

What he wants is simple: nearby hospitals, proper roads, schools close to home, and a future where his children do not have to leave simply to survive.

By evening, mountain fog begins swallowing the road again. The men keep working as temperatures drop, pushing loose earth back into place before the next snowfall arrives.

"Har saal wohi kaam," he said quietly.

Every year, the same work.



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Group Chairman/ Chief Editor
Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman
Asim Nazir Ahmad

Editor :
Atif Saeed

Head office :
AES Complex , plot no 94 , Street no 4 ,
Sector H-8/1 , Islamabad

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone no.
+92 51 27 22 123

CamScanner

Weekly inflation decreases 0.46%

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

Business Reporter

Islamabad



The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation decreased by 0.46 percent during the week ended on November 12, 2026, for the combined consumption group, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Friday.

According to PBS data, the SPI for the week under review decreased to 372.90 points from 374.61 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 11.21 percent.

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

However, the SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.03 percent to 361.12 points from 361.00 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 decreased by 0.09 percent, 0.17 percent, 0.32 percent and 0.68 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 items (37.25 percent) increased, nine items (17.65 percent) decreased, while 23 items (45.10 percent) remained unchanged.

On a week-on-week basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included petrol (7.42%), diesel (6.10%), onions (1.70%), bananas (1.03%), gur (0.59%), sugar (0.43%), powdered milk (0.36%), pulse moong (0.32%) and pulse gram (0.08%).

Govt increases limit of currency transaction report to combat money laundering

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



The government has increased the limit of a currency transaction report under the Anti-Money Laundering Act from Rs2 million to Rs3 million,

In a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on Friday, a report will have to be submitted to financial monitoring units on at least Rs3 million of transaction, while banks will have to report on over Rs3 million of transaction.

The National Executive Committee Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing Terrorism gave the approval.

The notification will come into effect immediately.

Pakistan committed to ensuring security for mining sector: Minister

■ The government was now advancing copper smelting to capture greater value across the supply chain, from mining to finished metal.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday said the government was committed to ensuring security and safety at mine sites, along logistics routes and, above all, for trained human resources to support uninterrupted mining operations in a conducive environment, Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26) in Islamabad, Ali Pervaiz Malik said special arrangements had been made to strengthen the security framework for mining operations.

He said the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was investing in improving geological data through the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), recognising that investors could not accurately assess project risks without reliable scientific information.

He said more than 40 mineral exploration licences had recently been granted in the Chagai and Khuzdar districts of Balochistan alone, reflecting growing private sector participation in strategic and critical minerals.

The minister said the government was developing road connectivity between Chagai's mineral-rich belt and Gwadar Port, as well as linking Thar coal resources with power plants, to facilitate transportation and connect Pakistan's mineral resources with international markets.

He said Pakistan had traditionally exported raw ore and concentrates while importing finished products to meet domestic requirements.

The government was now advancing copper smelting to capture greater value across the supply chain, from mining to finished metal.

He said the government was also strengthening the scientific foundation of the mineral sector through accelerated geological mapping, including detailed surveys at a scale of 1:50,000, to identify mineral prospects across the country.

He said exploration efforts were increasingly focusing on minerals of strategic importance to global investors, including copper and gold in Chagai and western Balochistan, lithium, tin and tungsten in Gilgit-Baltistan, and antimony and base metals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister said these efforts were being complemented by modern geochemical and geophysical surveys, exploratory drilling and the upgrading of advanced geoscience research laboratories with sophisticated analytical technologies.



Vehicles sales soar 48% in Pakistan

NEWS DESK

KARACHI

Vehicles sales in Pakistan continued their upward trend, rising 48 percent during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal year (FY27) compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, reported

According to Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) data, car sales increased by 48% to 63,418 units.

Sales of trucks went up by 51% to 3,476 units, and the sales of farm tractors surged by 41% to 8,263 units.

Two- and three-wheelers, including motorbikes and rickshaws, sales rose by 27% to 753,902 units.

However, sales of jeeps-cum-pickups and buses went down by 32% to 11,391 units and by 16% 269 units respectively.

All other segments registered a healthy YOY growth during the period July-October, Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) Director General (DG) Razi-ur-Rahman said in a statement.

During the first four months of FY27, passenger cars registered YOY growth of 24% in production and 48% in sales.

Conversely, jeeps, and pickups experienced stagnant momentum, posting a 5% decrease in production alongside a sharp 32% decline in sales.

KP Secretary Tourism directs for early completion of 14 new tourists destinations

■ He was accompanied by Additional Secretary Rahimullah Mehsud, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Basit, Director Admin and Finance Shahryar Mahmood and other staff.

حکومتِ خیبرپختونخوا

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Secretary Department of Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museums Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Raja Fazal Khaliq said that instructions have been issued to accelerate measures on priority basis for promotion of tourism and culture in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to introduce adventure tourism at international level and to benefit youth from it to the maximum. Measures should be accelerated for early construction of 14 new tourist destinations in the province and construction of rest areas at tourist places.

He expressed these views during his visit to the office of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority KP CTA. On this occasion, Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Shahid Khan Mohmand gave him a detailed briefing.

He was accompanied by Additional Secretary Rahimullah Mehsud, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Basit, Director Admin and Finance Shahryar Mahmood and other staff.

During the briefing, Secretary Tourism Department Raja Fazal Khaliq, while speaking, said that like Tirich Mir Summit, Falak Sair Summit should be introduced at international level.

While increasing the number of existing Tourist Facilitation Centers in the province, he said that more new rest areas should be constructed for tourists at tourist places, while 14 new tourist destinations should also be completed as soon as possible.

Appreciating the performance of Tourist Services Wing, he said that they have collected excellent revenue in a short time, however, along with making SOPs at district level, registration of unregistered hotels, restaurants, rent-a-car, tour operators and tour guides should also be completed.

Director General Tourism Authority Shahid Khan Mohmand, while reviewing the performance of Tourism Authority.

Islamabad set to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city

■ Islamabad aims to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city by December 31, with digital payments replacing cash across businesses and government departments.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The federal capital is set to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city, with the government setting December 31 as the final deadline for bringing all businesses and traders into the digital payments system.

The target was announced during a high-level meeting chaired by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, attended by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Sohail Ashraf, representatives of the banking sector and senior government officials.

Addressing the meeting, Talal Chaudhry said work on the Cashless Islamabad initiative was progressing rapidly under special directives from the prime minister and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

He said the interior minister had pledged to the prime minister that Islamabad would become not only Pakistan's first cashless city but also the world's first cashless capital.

Chaudhry said all relevant institutions were working together to achieve this vision, adding that consultation and recommendations from all stakeholders were essential to the project's successful implementation.

Outlining the government's strategy, he announced that cash payments would no longer be accepted at any department of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration or the CDA after November 30. All government transactions would instead be conducted through digital payment channels.

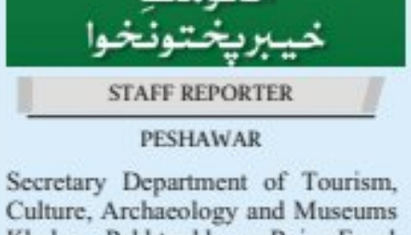
He revealed that approximately 26,000 merchants in the capital had already been integrated into the digital payment system.

The government aims to extend digital payment facilities to every level of commercial activity by December 31, ranging from street vendors and pushcart operators to major business establishments.

According to the minister, the transition to a cashless economy would significantly improve financial transparency, tax monitoring and the overall transaction system.

Representatives of the banking sector welcomed the government's Cashless Islamabad initiative and assured the authorities of their full cooperation in ensuring its successful implementation and transforming the capital into a modern digital city.

Gold, Copper reserves discovered in Chagai



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Gold and Copper reserves have been found in Chagai district of Balochistan, prompting Mari Energies to write a letter to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to inform it of the development,

In the letter, the company has written that its subsidiary firm Mari Minerals has made the discovery.

"The area where the discovery has been made is 50 kilometers east of the site of Reko Diq project, and 25 kilometers north-west of Naukundi," the company said, adding that drilling had been completed up to 25,000 meters. "All drill holes are 500 meters long and are vertical," it informed.

Mari Energies told PSX that SGS Pakistan had checked the samples.

These reserves spread over 1.4 square kilometers of area.

Federal Minister for Board of investment , Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh, talking to the media persons after attending the 89th convocation of FAST university chiniot on 15 November 2026.

CamScanner



Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar hosting a welcome dinner in honour of the Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states, in Islamabad on November 15, 2026.

China warns against new export controls on US chips after Nvidia scandal

■ China warned the United States on Friday against putting additional export controls on semiconductors in the wake of the scandal surrounding AI chip giant Nvidia.

WEB DESK

BEIJING

China warned the United States on Friday against putting additional export controls on semiconductors in the wake of the scandal surrounding AI chip giant Nvidia.
China "has consistently opposed the abuse of export control measures, which disrupts the stability of global industrial and supply chains and serves no party's interests," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular briefing when asked about calls from US lawmakers to impose more limits on exports of chip equipment to China."China and the United States should work together to implement the important consensus reached by their respective heads of state and maintain the stable



development of China-US economic and trade relations," Mao said. Nvidia co-founder Jensen Huang -- who resigned Thursday -- has admitted to an affair, reportedly with Alice Huang, a former senior executive at Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed.
Reports allege the Commerce Department under Secretary Howard Lutnick may have failed to act on suspicions that Megaspeed was helping reroute restricted Nvidia technology to China. US media quoted US lawmakers as saying that they were in favour of imposing additional export controls on chips to China as a result of the snowballing scandal."The export controls on chips to China has been a big issue around here. I'm in favour of limiting those exports," House speaker Mike Johnson was quoted as saying.
"I think there is a developing consensus in Congress that is an important position to take." US intelligence reportedly circulated a memo this spring alleging that Alice Huang -- no relation to Jensen Huang -- was an asset of China's Ministry of State Security.
Beijing has rejected the allegations and on Thursday said that they are a "pretext to for imposing a technological blockade" to stop China advancing in artificial intelligence technology.



Denmark announces $8.9 million in aid for Gaza and occupied Palestinian territories

WEB DESK

COPENHAGEN

Denmark has announced $8.9 million in humanitarian assistance for Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories to support Palestinians facing worsening humanitarian conditions, particularly amid severe winter weather.
According to Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, $3 million will be provided to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to assist Palestinians affected by flooding in Gaza.
An additional $5.9 million will be allocated to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support humanitarian operations in the occupied Palestinian territories.
The Danish Foreign Ministry said harsh winter conditions were further aggravating the humanitarian crisis facing Palestinians.
It stressed the importance of ensuring that essential humanitarian assistance reaches vulnerable Palestinians during the winter months, as deteriorating weather conditions continue to compound their suffering.

EU leaders seek to tackle challenges at first ever AI summit

■ The meeting comes amid mounting worries about a technology that promises to transform industries and societies but in recent months has caused alarm

WEB DESK

DUBLIN

European Union leaders gather in Dublin on Friday for their first ever summit on artificial intelligence, to debate how the bloc can catch up with the United States and China and tackle funding issues and other problems.
The meeting comes amid mounting worries about a technology that promises to transform industries and societies but in recent months has caused alarm after a series of incidents involving rogue AI agents. There was further turmoil this week with the resignation of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, leaving the industry without its biggest champion.
Leaders in Dublin will also assess how to overcome ?other problems such as red tape and set guardrails.
"Given the rapid pace of AI development, I believe that a first dedicated discussion, at leaders' level, is now needed on the opportunities presented by AI, as well as on its transformative effect on our economies and societies," European Council President Antonio Costa wrote in an invitation letter to EU leaders last week.
Mistral AI chief executive Arthur Mensch and Nobel Prize-winning AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton will brief EU leaders.



Europe will have to ramp up its efforts if it is to be an AI player. An initiative known as the Chips Act implemented three years ago looks likely to fall short of its goal to attract advanced manufacturing and double the bloc's share of the global chip market to 20% by 2030.
A plan to build seven artificial intelligence gigafactories to house advanced AI processors, software, cloud technology, high-speed connectivity and data centres under one roof has yet to fully take off due to the fight among EU countries over spending on competitiveness in the bloc's 2028-2034 budget.
In addition to AI, leaders are also set to discuss Ukraine, which has since been added as a second major topic to the agenda, a day after US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner flew into Dublin to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy following talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin ?in Moscow.

Iran says another ship hit mine in Hormuz

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Friday that a ship was hit by an explosion after striking a mine in the Strait of Hormuz, where Tehran has sought to restrict navigation.
Since the outbreak of the Middle East war in late February, Tehran has insisted that vessels obtain its authorisation to traverse the strait and has attacked vessels that do not comply.
The United States has in response imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and provides military support to tankers using the vital trade route.
"A few hours ago, a ship carrying liquefied natural gas east of the Strait of Hormuz tried to cross an unauthorised passageway south of the strait, but was hit by a naval mine and exploded violently," the Guards said on Friday.
They did not give the name or origin of the vessel.
In recent weeks, Iran's armed forces have repeatedly reported fires or explosions on board ships in the strait, often saying the vessels struck mines.
The US military, however, claims to have cleared the main routes through the waterway of mines.
The Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military, also said overnight that their forces had targeted a US early warning radar system in Bahrain, a US ally in the Gulf that is home to American military installations.
The attack was not confirmed by either the US or Bahrain.

India blocks over 100 speakers from opposition democracy summit

WEB DESK

INDIA



India blocked more than 100 international speakers from attending a democracy summit organised by the opposition Congress party, a senior opposition politician said on Friday.
Those denied visas included a Norwegian journalist who had previously questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi about press freedom.
Shashi Tharoor, a Congress MP and former senior United Nations official, said 115 of the 315 speakers cleared by India's foreign ministry were subsequently refused entry or had their visas cancelled, "apparently on the instructions" of the home ministry.
"It is completely unclear under what provision of law the government has taken such a drastic step," Tharoor wrote on X. "What a shame that a proud democracy has become so insecure that it must stifle any voices it fears will be critical!" he added.Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng said on Wednesday that her visa was cancelled shortly before she was due to travel to India, where she had been invited to speak on media and press freedom.

Midair water leak floods Passenger Cabin, forces Flight diversion

■ A faulty bathroom faucet flooded a Frontier Airlines flight, forcing an emergency diversion to Chicago, with no injuries reported.

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK



A passenger aircraft in the United States was forced to divert after a faulty bathroom faucet caused water to flood the cabin during flight.
According to US broadcaster CBS, a Frontier Airlines flight travelling from Denver to Detroit encountered the problem when water began leaking from a washbasin faucet in one of the aircraft's lavatories.
The water gushed from a faucet near the front of the aircraft, spreading across the cabin floor and aisles and leaving parts of the passenger cabin flooded. The incident reportedly frustrated passengers over the disruption.
The pilot alerted air traffic control, warning that the large volume of water could potentially damage the aircraft's electrical systems. The crew subsequently requested an emergency landing at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.
According to the report, a plumber travelling aboard the flight helped stop the water leak. However, by that time, the cabin floor had already been soaked and the decision to divert the aircraft had been made.
Frontier Airlines confirmed that the flight was diverted due to a malfunctioning bathroom faucet. The aircraft landed safely, and no injuries were reported among passengers or crew members.Passengers were subsequently transported to their destination aboard a replacement aircraft.

Delhi overtakes Lahore as world's most polluted city as air quality drops

■ Delhi overtakes Lahore as the world's most polluted city, with hazardous smog pushing AQI to 334 and reducing visibility across India's capital.



Web DESK

NEW DELHI

India's capital Delhi overtook Lahore in Pakistan to become the world's most polluted city on Friday, with air quality reaching hazardous levels and visibility dropping as smog blanketed the city of 20 million people.
Air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was "hazardous" at 334, making it the most polluted global major city, according to Swiss group IQAir, which measures air quality levels based on the concentration of toxins
An AQI reading up to 50 is considered good with little or no health risk
India's official Central Pollution Control Board pegged the AQI higher at 403 and rated it "severe"
The Swiss and Indian readings vary due to the different AQI scales and methodologies used to calculate and classify air pollution ?levels

Trump says US does not need Iran deal, directs Vance to focus on domestic corruption

■ Trump shifts JD Vance's focus from Iran peace negotiations to alleged crime and corruption investigations in Democratic-led US cities and states.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON



President Donald Trump said the US does not need a deal with Iran and directed Vice President JD Vance, who has played a role in efforts to resolve the war, to focus "his complete and total attention" on alleged crime and corruption in Democratic-run cities and states.
Trump's directive came a day after the Wall Street Journal reported that Vance was considering face-to-face peace talks with a hard-line Iranian security official and a week after the vice president blamed the costly war with Iran for Republicans' midterm elections drubbing.
Vance's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.
Vance, long seen as skeptical of the war the US and Israel launched on Iran ?in February, led talks with Iranian officials in Pakistan in April that produced a June memorandum of understanding that paused the war but broke down within weeks.
Iranian state media said late last month Tehran had received a letter from Vance seeking renewed talks with Washington. Trump said he had not directed his vice president to make the outreach.
Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Tuesday after talks with US allies in Paris that Iran's demands for a potential deal were "absurd," citing its demand for reparations for the war, and said Trump would not sign a bad deal.
The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday ?that Vance was considering meeting with a senior Iranian security official, a move that would have put Vance at the center of peace negotiations. Reuters has not confirmed the potential talks.
Vance, who is viewed as a leading contender for the 2028 Republican presidential nomination, distanced himself from the war last week after Republicans' midterm election rout by Democrats.
The vice president blamed the costs of the Iran war in part for the party's losses. He also said an earlier recommendation to end the war was "sound advice."

CamScanner

Fiza Ali questions Pakistani actors ' style, calls it uninspired

■ During the podcast, Fiza Ali was speaking with veteran actor Usman Peerzada when she pointed out that many contemporary actors appear almost identical on screen.

WEB DESK

KARACHI



Television host and actress Fiza Ali has stirred a debate in the entertainment industry after criticizing the lack of variety in the appearance and style of many leading Pakistani actors. Her remarks, made during a recent podcast conversation, quickly caught public attention and sparked discussion among fans online.

During the podcast, Fiza Ali was speaking with veteran actor Usman Peerzada when she pointed out that many contemporary actors appear almost identical on screen.

According to Fiza, several top stars have adopted a similar look, making it difficult for audiences to distinguish them. She noted that many actors sport the same haircut, similar beard styles, gelled-back hair, and identical expressions, which she believes reduces individuality on television.

Referring to popular actors such as Wahaj Ali, Danish Taimoor, and Imran Ashraf, the host said that although they are handsome and talented, their on-screen appearances often look alike.

"I don't see much versatility in them," she remarked. "Their looks, styling, dressing, and even their expressions feel repetitive. How can viewers differentiate between them Perhaps directors are responsible for shaping this uniform appearance."



Zoya Nasir shares emotional throwback honoring her father

■ Renowned model and actress Zoya Nasir touched hearts after sharing a nostalgic Instagram story remembering her father and one of his proud achievements.

WEB DESK

KARACHI

Renowned model and actress Zoya Nasir touched hearts after sharing a nostalgic Instagram story remembering her father and one of his proud achievements.

The actress posted a throwback screenshot from seven years ago, recalling the moment he was recognized among celebrities set to receive civil awards in Pakistan.

The old entertainment news post highlighted several prominent personalities who were honored with civil awards on Pakistan Day (March 23). By reposting the memory, Zoya paid tribute to her father's legacy, affectionately captioning the story "Abbu Jaan" along with a heart emoji.

The emotional post served as a reminder of her father's recognition and the pride she continues to feel for his accomplishments. Fans praised the heartfelt gesture, calling it a touching tribute that reflects the actress's deep love and admiration for her father.

A few days earlier, Zoya had also shared a heartfelt tribute for her father on his 86th birthday. Taking to Instagram, she delighted fans with a carousel of pictures and clips showcasing special moments they had shared together.

In her touching post, Zoya wrote, "Happy birthday, my dearest Abbu Jaan my very first superhero." She thanked him for being the true gentleman in her life, for raising her with love and integrity, and for guiding her back to the path of morality whenever she needed it. She added that it was from him that she learned the true meaning of kindness, dignity, and strength.

Zoya also admired her father's presence, writing that he was larger than life in all that he had achieved, but what she admired most was the way he carried himself every single day. She said his greatest achievement, in her eyes, would always be the grace and pride with which he presented himself — always suited and booted, no matter the situation.She further shared that whether it was breakfast, movies, travel, dinners, or simply relaxing at home.

Kinza Hashmi dazzles in serene off-white outfit

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

Celebrated actress Kinza Hashmi recently captivated her fans with a graceful and chic ethnic look, sharing a video on Instagram that highlighted her sophisticated style for the festive season.

In the video, Kinza wore a long off-white kurta featuring delicate self embroidered details, likely including chikankari, The V-split neckline was enhanced with subtle lace or pearl embellishments, adding an understated elegance to the traditional attire.

She paired the kurta with a lightweight dupatta and metallic gold-toned heels, combining classic charm with a contemporary, festive flair. For her makeup, the actress opted for a dewy base complemented by rosy pink blush and matching lipstick, completing her serene and polished look.

Serene whites brought to life with delicate embroidery, made for soft Eid mornings and graceful celebrations.

Fans quickly flooded the comment section, praising Kinza Hashmi's elegance and festive styling, with many admiring how she effortlessly combined tradition with a modern aesthetic.

Her serene off-white ensemble is now being hailed as one of the top inspirations for stylish Eid celebrations this year.

Kinza Hashmi had become the only Pakistani actress to feature in viral international songs, including Tere Bina Na Guzara and Hawa Banke. The collaborations with Indian stars such as Munawar Faruqui, Neha Kakkar, Josh Brar, and Karan Wahi showcased her versatility and widened her global fan base.





Saheefa Jabbar breaks silence in Café controversy fueled by misunderstanding

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress and model Saheefa Jabbar Khattak has broken her silence over the backlash surrounding her hiring preferences for her new Lahore café, Roni's Pizzeria, clarifying that her words were taken out of context.

In an Instagram story posted in March 2026, Saheefa addressed accusations of ethnic discrimination and racism that emerged after she mentioned preferring Pathan staff for their perceived commitment and honesty, while expressing concerns about hiring Punjabi and Urdu-speaking workers based on previous experiences.

She explained that her remarks were twisted into a racial debate, overshadowing the actual challenges she faces as a business owner.

Saheefa emphasized her own diverse roots, noting she was raised in Punjab and is married into a family with both Urdu and Punjabi heritage.

Ayeza Khan's 'kuch nahi' recipe video leaves fans in splits



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Pakistani superstar Ayeza Khan has once again entertained her fans with a humorous Ramadan themed video, this time sharing a hilarious "recipe" that contains absolutely nothing.

The light hearted clip, posted on her Instagram, quickly went viral as fans praised the actress for her playful sense of humor.

In the video, Ayeza appears to be following the instructions of a content creator's voiceover while preparing a dish called "kuch nahi" (literally meaning "nothing").

The actress jokingly moves around the kitchen, placing an empty pan on the stove, pretending to cut ingredients on a chopping board, and performing cooking steps that involve… nothing at all. At one point, the voiceover suggests letting the "ingredients" soak before adding more "nothing," while Ayeza amusingly follows along.

The comedic clip also shows the actress wandering through different parts of the house, briefly sitting with her dogs, standing near the refrigerator, and even striking a yoga pose on the sofa while the voiceover continues to guide the imaginary recipe. The final instruction jokingly suggests letting the "dish" cool down before adding "nothing" again and serving it.

New research exposes hidden dangers in your makeup bag

● Researchers trace long-term health impact of beauty products over 12 years

HEATH DESK

LAHORE

Women who regularly use makeup and cosmetic products may face a significantly higher risk of developing asthma later in life, according to a new study by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the United States.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal Environment International, are based on data collected over a 12-year period from nearly 40,000 individuals. The study examined the use of 41 different beauty products, including lipstick, blush, mascara, and artificial nails.

Researchers found that women who frequently used products such as lipstick, cuticle creams, blush, and fake nails were 47 per cent more likely to develop asthma.



Even using blush and lipstick alone, five or more times per week, was associated with an 18 per cent increase in asthma risk.

The study did not establish a direct causal link between the cosmetic products and asthma. However, scientists believe that the presence of certain chemical ingredients—shared across multiple beauty items—could be responsible for triggering respiratory issues over time.

"These results suggest that specific chemicals used widely in cosmetics may have long-term health implications," the researchers noted, though they cautioned that further investigation is needed to determine which substances pose the greatest risks.

The study adds to a growing body of research raising concerns about the potential health effects of prolonged exposure to synthetic compounds found in personal care and cosmetic products.

While the beauty industry often assures the safety of its formulations, public health experts have called for stricter regulation and greater transparency about product ingredients.

Experts say 'meal sequencing' can boost health but how?

HEALTH DESK

ISLAMABAD

Forget calories counting for a moment; new advice from nutrition experts suggests that the order in which you eat your food could be a game-changer for your health.

This approach, dubbed "meal sequencing", prioritises fibre-rich vegetables first, followed by proteins and fats, with carbohydrates consumed last.

According to experts, this simple shift in eating habits could lead to significant benefits, including reduced blood sugar spikes, increased satiety, and even support for weight management, Fox News reported.

"Starting with vegetables, protein and healthy fats — before eating starches or sugary foods — may help blunt post-meal glucose spikes," They explain..

This method is particularly beneficial for individuals grappling with insulin resistance, prediabetes, or type 2 diabetes, and its efficacy is backed by scientific research.

Research published in the journal Nutrients showed that people who followed this order for five years saw notable improvements in blood sugar control, while those who didn't made little to no progress.

Eating carbohydrates alone, especially refined ones like white bread or sugar, tends to raise blood sugar levels quickly. But when eaten alongside protein and fibre, the impact is reduced.



Fibre slows digestion, while protein and healthy fats increase feelings of fullness and support the release of GLP-1, a hormone that suppresses appetite and slows gastric emptying.

Experts recommend starting meals with non-starchy vegetables (like leafy greens or broccoli), then moving to lean proteins (like chicken or beans) and healthy fats (such as olive oil or nuts), and eating refined carbs like rice or bread last. This sequence can help keep blood sugar more stable and reduce overeating.

However, nutritionists emphasise that everyone's body reacts differently. Those with diabetes or specific health conditions should consult a registered dietitian for personalised guidance.

For people looking to improve their blood sugar levels or lose weight naturally, changing the order of food on your plate may be a simple and effective first step.

CamScanner

England crush Australia to level ODI series

● Banton's 121 and Atkinson's four-wicket haul seal a commanding win for the tourists

SPORTS DESK

SYDNEY

England opener Tom Banton struck a superb century and fast bowler Gus Atkinson claimed four wickets as they beat Australia by 135 runs in the second One-Day International in Adelaide on Sunday to level the three-match series at 1-1.

Australia won the toss and elected to bowl, but Banton set the tone for England's imposing total by taking the attack to the hosts from the outset.

The right-hander reached the second ODI century of his career from just 86 balls before finishing with 121 off 99 deliveries, including 12 fours and ?four sixes. After England lost Ben Duckett with the score at 19-1, Banton and Joe Root (62) rebuilt the innings with a 137-run second-wicket partnership, the highest stand for that wicket by an England pair in a 50-over match on Australian soil.

Australia briefly worked their way back into the contest with three wickets in the middle overs, but wicketkeeper-batter Jordan Cox counterattacked with 67 off 49



deliveries and all-rounder Will Jacks struck an unbeaten 54 from 40 balls to propel England to 355-6,

their highest ODI total on Australian soil.

Xavier Bartlett was the pick of Australia's bowlers with figures of 3-72. Set 356 to win, Australia slumped to 29-4 after Atkinson ?ripped through the top order.

Matt Renshaw (63) and Cameron Green (64) mounted a spirited fightback to keep Australia in contention, but spinner Liam Dawson removed both batters to extinguish the home side's hopes. Australia's lower order offered some late resistance through Jack Edwards (17), Adam Zampa (18), Spencer Johnson (14) and Riley Meredith (17 not out), but they were eventually bowled out for 220.

220.

"We obviously bowled first thinking there might have been a little bit in the ?wicket, which probably sounds weird to say at the Adelaide Oval, and try to maximise those early overs," Australia captain Mitch Marsh said at the presentation.

"I thought they batted really well. We tried a lot through the 50 overs, a few different plans with Meredith bowling bumpers, and all sorts of stuff. "Credit to England. They played well. We know they are a good side. A really rounded side and they showed that tonight."

England's attack maintained the pressure throughout, with Atkinson finishing with outstanding figures of 4-28. Dawson and all-rounder Sam Curran chipped in with two wickets apiece as the tourists wrapped up a comprehensive victory.

Svitolina stuns Sabalenka to reach WTA Finals semis

● Elina Svitolina defeats Aryna Sabalenka in a three-set upset to reach the WTA Finals semi-finals, where she will face Linda Noskova.

Sports Desk

California

Elina Svitolina overwhelmed Aryna Sabalenka in the deciding set to ?seal a 6-3 3-6 6-1 upset to reach the semi-finals of the season-ending WTA Finals in Indian Wells, where she will face Linda Noskova.

Svitolina absorbed and redirected Sabalenka's power effectively, breaking the Belarusian six times before sealing ?her first victory over her opponent in more than six years with a forehand winner on her fourth match point. With the win, Svitolina improved to 2-6 against Sabalenka in their career meetings.

"It was a bit of a roller-coaster match," Svitolina told reporters.

"I played ?well in the first set but lost a little bit of rhythm. She played well in the ?second and served much better. I was really happy with the way I could come back in the third after losing the first game."

The Ukrainian again did not shake hands with Sabalenka after the match, maintaining her ?policy of not doing so with Russian and Belarusian players following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Svitolina, the ?2018 WTA Finals champion, will face Noskova on Saturday for a place in the final.

The defeat ended Sabalenka's season ?on a ?disappointing note. The second seed won Brisbane International in January and then Indian Wells and the Miami Open in March to complete the



"Sunshine Double" but did not claim another title after that.

Sabalenka also surrendered the world number one ranking to Elena Rybakina at the US Open. She had entered the ?season finale among the ?favourites after Rybakina withdrew ?on the eve of the tournament because of illness.

Sabalenka declined to speak to the media following Friday's loss.

ANDREEVA ROLLS

Earlier in the day, tournament debutant Andreeva ?continued her impressive run with a 6-2 6-1 win over fellow Russian ?Diana Shnaider, her ?third straight-sets victory of the week.

Shnaider, Andreeva's friend and doubles partner, replaced Karolina Muchova, who withdrew before the final day of round-robin matches with a gastrointestinal illness.

Andreeva had already secured her place in the ?semi-finals before ?facing Shnaider and will meet American Jessica Pegula on Saturday.

The ?eight-day, $10 million tournament was moved from Riyadh to Indian Wells Tennis Garden due to the US-Israeli war on Iran. The event ?will be played in Charlotte starting next year.

Denmark thrash Portugal 4-1 on night of Ronaldo tributes



SPORTS Desk

BRAGA, Portugal

Portugal's first match since Cristiano Ronaldo's international retirement ended in a crushing 4-1 home defeat by Denmark in the Nations League on Saturday, with Rasmus Hojlund scoring twice as a night of tributes in Braga turned sour for Jorge Jesus and his players.

Norway beat Wales 3-1 in Oslo in the other League A Group Four match, with Antonio Nusa and Andreas Schjelderup scoring before Erling Haaland's late penalty sealed victory.

Portugal remain top on 12 points, three ahead of Denmark, with Norway third on six and Wales bottom on three. One round of league-phase matches remains, with Wales hosting Portugal and Denmark at home to Norway on Tuesday.

In front of a packed stadium, Portugal's players wore shirts bearing Ronaldo's name and number seven ?during the national anthem.

Supporters unfurled a banner reading "Obrigado, capi7ão" — "Thank you, captain" — alongside images of him lifting the European Championship and Nations League trophies.

Ronaldo announced his international retirement on social media last week following a public falling-out with manager Jesus.

DENMARK RUN ?RIOT

Portugal dominated much of the first half in pouring rain but fell behind shortly before halftime.

Hojlund had a header ruled out ?for a foul by Joachim Andersen in the build-up before another aerial effort struck Ruben Dias' hand.

Following a VAR intervention and pitchside review, the referee awarded a penalty which Denmark captain Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg drove into the top-right corner shortly before halftime.

Hojlund doubled Denmark's advantage five minutes after the interval, slipping ?behind the defence to meet a cross from the right with a powerful volley.

The striker scored again seven minutes later, cutting ?inside Renato Veiga on a counter-attack before firing a right-footed shot past Diogo Costa from the edge of the box. Andersen completed the rout in ?the ?75th minute, rising to power home a towering header from i.nside the area after Mathias Jensen delivered a free kick from the right.

Bernardo Silva scored a consolation goal for Portugal three minutes into added time, firing home from close range after the goalkeeper parried the ball.

Pakistan stun Bangladesh to reach historic SAFF Championship Final against India

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan have made history by qualifying for the SAFF Football Championship final for the first time, defeating hosts Bangladesh 1-0 in a thrilling semi-final in Dhaka.

The national team secured the historic victory at the National Stadium in Dhaka, overcoming a strong home crowd and a determined Bangladesh side to book their place in the title decider.

Bangladesh enjoyed considerable support from spectators at their home ground and maintained greater possession throughout much of the contest. However, Pakistan produced a disciplined defensive performance, successfully frustrating their opponents and keeping several dangerous attacks at bay.The decisive moment came in the 86th minute when Abdul Samad displayed impressive individual skill to break through the Bangladesh defence. The Pakistani forward outmanoeuvred opposition defenders before firing a left-footed shot into the net to give his team a crucial 1-0 lead.The late goal proved decisive as Pakistan held on to their advantage despite intense pressure from Bangladesh in the closing stages.The hosts launched a determined effort to find an equaliser during the final minutes, but Pakistan's defence remained organised and denied them a clear opportunity to restore parity.

The high-pressure encounter also witnessed moments of unrest among spectators in the stadium, along with heated exchanges between players. However, Pakistan maintained their composure and successfully protected their lead until the final whistle.

The victory marks a significant milestone for Pakistan football, with the national side reaching the SAFF Championship final for the first time in the tournament's history.



South Africa Recall Hamza for Bangladesh Test

Web Desk

Web Desk

Zubayr Hamza will play in his first Test match in more than two years when he lines up for South Africa against Bangladesh in the first Test starting at the Wanderers Stadium on Sunday.

Captain Temba Bavuma said Hamza would bat at number three in place of David Bedingham, who was dropped after the series against Australia last month.

In the only other change from the team that clinched the series against Australia with a 176-run win in the third Test in Cape Town, seam bowler Dane Paterson replaces Gerald Coetzee, who is also dropped.

Fast bowler Anrich Nortje, who played in the first two Tests against Australia, is in the squad but has still not fully recovered from a groin injury, Bavuma said. Off-spinner Simon Harmer, who was man of the match in Cape Town, remains as the sole specialist spinner ahead of long-time incumbent Keshav Maharaj.

Hamza, 31, played for a below-strength South African team in a series in New Zealand in 2023/24 but has not played in a home Test since appearing against England in January 2020.



Spain will host 2030 World Cup final, federation president insists

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The 2030 World Cup final will be in Spain, Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) head Rafael Louzan reiterated on Saturday, adding that he is not considering "withdrawing" should he be wrong.

Spain is organising the next World Cup with Portugal and Morocco. The decision on the venue for the final will be made in 2028, Louzan said.

Spain favours Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium for the final. Portugal does not have a suitable stadium but Morocco has suggested the 115,000-capacity Hassan II Stadium being built in Benslimane near Casablanca.

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
DAANISH SCHOOLS AUTHORITY

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

i. The Daanish Schools Authority invites Proposals through EPADS v2.0 from eligible consulting firms registered on EPADS v2.0 for the provision of the above consultancy services.

P197253	Consultancy Services for Third-Party Validation (TPV) of the Establishment of Daanish Schools at Skardu, Gilgit-Baltistan
P198249	Consultancy Services for Third Party Validation (TPV) of the Establishment of Daanish School at Tando Muhammad Khan - Sindh

ii. A firm may submit Proposals for one or both assignments. A separate Proposal shall be submitted against each EPADS reference number, and each assignment shall be evaluated and awarded separately.

iii. The procurement will be conducted through Open Competitive Bidding using the Single Stage – Two Envelope procedure and the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method. It will follow the Public Procurement Rules, 2026, the Procurement of Consultancy Services Regulations, 2010, and the regulations and instructions issued by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority from time to time.

iv. Each Proposal must be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. **500,000/- (Rupees Five Hundred Thousand only) for each assignment**, in the form of a Pay Order, Banker's Cheque, Call Deposit, Bank Guarantee or Demand Draft in favour of **DDO, Daanish Schools Authority.** A scanned copy must be uploaded on EPADS with the Technical Proposal. The original, in a sealed envelope marked with the title and EPADS reference number of the assignment, must reach the address given below before the proposal submission deadline. Proposals without a valid Bid Security shall be rejected.

v. The RFP documents containing the detailed terms and conditions, Terms of Reference, evaluation criteria and requirements are available on EPADS:

- P197253: **https://epads.gov.pk/opportunities/federal/procurements/197253**
- P198249: **https://epads.gov.pk/opportunities/federal/procurements/198249**

vi. Proposals for both assignments, prepared in accordance with the respective RFP, must be submitted through EPADS v2.0 on or before **Tuesday, 24 November 2026 at 02:00 PM.** Technical Proposals will be opened the same day at **02:30 PM,** through EPADS. Manual submission of Proposals shall not be entertained.

vii. An online pre-proposal meeting for both assignments will be held on Tuesday, **17 November 2026 at 11:00 AM** via Zoom (Meeting ID: 891 8568 2583). The joining link is available on EPADS with the RFP documents.

(Shah Jehan)
Deputy Secretary
Daanish Schools Authority
Room No. 227, 2nd Floor, Block-D, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad
Phone: 051-9103915

PID (I) No.4457/26

CamScanner



Punjab ensuring economic empowerment for youth: Azma Bukhari

NEWS DESK

LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that empowering young people and ensuring their economic independence are among the top priorities of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Azma Bokhari said the CMIT Internship Programme reflects the chief minister's vision of equipping youth with practical skills and creating employment opportunities in the information technology sector.

She said thousands of young people have already received IT training through the four-month internship programme, with each intern receiving a monthly stipend of Rs50,000 from the Punjab government.

The provincial information minister added that registration for the third phase of the programme is currently underway, providing more graduates with opportunities to acquire professional IT skills and establish sustainable careers.

CJ interacts 25 top-performing judicial officers selected for judicial exchange and training programme in China

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, on Sunday briefed the first batch of 25 top-performing judicial officers selected from across the country for a bilateral judicial exchange and training programme in China, aimed at recognising professional excellence and strengthening the capacity of the district judiciary.

The pre-departure briefing was held to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism and outstanding performance of judicial officers, particularly those serving in underserved, remote and conflict-affected areas under challenging circumstances, said a press release.

The judicial officers have been nominated in consultation with the respective High Courts. The delegation represents Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, and also includes officers serving at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Judicial Academy.

During the interaction, the Chief Justice appreciated the professionalism and resilience of the selected officers and described them as ambassadors of Pakistan's judiciary.

He urged them to uphold the dignity and values of the judicial institution while gaining insights into China's judicial practices, technological advancements and case management systems.

He emphasised that exposure to international judicial systems would broaden their professional perspectives and introduce them to innovative approaches in adjudication, court administration and institutional efficiency.He encouraged the participants to translate their learning into practical improvements in the administration and delivery of justice in their respective jurisdictions.

The delegation will participate in the "Seminar for Judges from Pakistan", organised by the National Judges College of China from November 18 to December 1, 2026.

The two-week programme will feature specialised interactive discussions with senior Chinese judges and legal experts, along with visits to courts in Beijing and other designated locations, including Quanzhou.

The initiative is being undertaken under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme People's Court of China, providing a framework for enhanced bilateral judicial cooperation through professional exchanges, institutional engagement and capacity building.

The selection of the first batch marks an important step towards expanding international exposure and professional development opportunities beyond the superior judiciary, recognising the district judiciary as the foundation of the justice system.

PTI founder wants direct talks on 28th Amendment, says Salman

- PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja says Imran Khan wants decision-makers to approach him directly for talks on constitutional amendments and other issues.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja has said that party founder Imran Khan conveyed through lawyer Salman Safdar that anyone wishing to discuss the 28th Constitutional Amendment or other matters should speak to him directly.

Tonight with Samar Abbas", Raja questioned why decision-makers were not approaching Imran Khan directly if a three-hour meeting could be held with someone else.

He said discussions were taking place about the provinces, adding that no progress could be made without consulting the PTI founder. He also pointed out that the text of the proposed constitutional amendment had not yet been made public.

Raja said the establishment of new provinces should also be discussed with Imran Khan. He described PTI as the country's largest representative political party and said consultations with its founder were essential before moving forward.

He maintained that Imran Khan would not support anything contrary to his principles.

According to Raja, Imran Khan had told Salman Safdar that anyone wishing to discuss an issue should meet him directly. He said a meeting with only one member of the National Assembly was not sufficient and that the party leadership should also be allowed to meet the PTI founder.

Raja further said Imran Khan had asked that meetings be arranged with individuals whose names he provided. However, he alleged that other names were being added instead of those on the list. Repeatedly sending the same names for meetings, he said, raised suspicions.

Commenting on his position within the party, Raja said certain individuals had minor personal ambitions, but he had no intention of leaving his post. He said Imran Khan had personally appointed him to protect his narrative and ideology, adding that he would defend the party founder's ideology until his last breath.

He urged party workers not to pay attention to what he described as the remarks of irrelevant individuals..

PA speaker calls for comprehensive reforms in justice system

- He said differing proposals regarding the creation of new provinces, including holding a referendum or following constitutional procedures, were part of the democratic discourse

Staff Reporter

LAHORE



Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan has stressed the need for comprehensive reforms to make the country's justice system more effective, noting that the number of pending cases in Pakistani courts has reached hundreds of thousands.

Addressing a dinner hosted by the District Bar Association Kasur, he said several proposals were under discussion, including separating the constitutional court from the Supreme Court, creating new provinces, establishing additional high court benches and strengthening local government systems.

He said differing proposals regarding the creation of new provinces, including holding a referendum or following constitutional procedures, were part of the democratic discourse.

"Democracy is all about dialogue. Everyone has the right to express their opinion, but respecting and listening to opposing views is equally important," he said, adding that disagreements should be expressed through reasoned arguments and mutual respect.

Malik Ahmad Khan praised the intellectual capabilities and debating skills of Kasur's legal fraternity, expressing confidence that the bar association would play a leading role in important national discussions.

He said providing lawyers with a better working environment was a responsibility of the government and announced that Rs1 billion had been allocated for the Kasur Bar Association through joint efforts involving Malik Rashid Ahmad Khan and Malik Ahmad Saeed Khan.

He added that construction of lawyers' chambers, improvement of facilities, beautification of the bar premises and welfare initiatives would be undertaken, assuring continued support for the development of Kasur Bar and the welfare of its members.

Ahsan Iqbal stresses administrative reforms to meet new challenges



WEB DESK

NAROWAL

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need for comprehensive reforms in the country's administrative structure, saying the existing system must evolve in line with changing public needs and prevailing circumstances.

Addressing a gathering at the District Bar Association in Narowal, his hometown, the minister said retaining an administrative system designed five decades ago was no longer appropriate, as the country's population, resources and global environment had undergone significant changes. He emphasised that administrative reforms were a continuous process and should not be halted under any circumstances. He also called on political leaders to engage in dialogue and develop consensus on key national issues, saying collective efforts could pave the way for meaningful reforms in the country's administrative framework.Ahsan Iqbal reaffirmed the government's commitment to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, describing the rule of law as a fundamental guarantee of national development.

Highlighting the role of the legal community, he said lawyers were a strong pillar of democracy and played a vital role in ensuring the provision of justice to the public.



Lahore's air quality remains unhealthy as AQI reaches 269

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Air pollution continued to grip Lahore, with the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 269, indicating unhealthy air quality.

Wind speed in the city was recorded at 5 kilometres per hour, blowing from the northwest. Winds are expected to pick up to 11 kilometres per hour by the afternoon, potentially bringing some improvement in air quality.

On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, an anti-smog operation is underway across the province, with authorities intensifying action against local sources of pollution.

During the past 24 hours, enforcement teams took action against industrial units, brick kilns, plastic-related businesses and commercial cooking points over violations of environmental regulations, imposing fines worth millions of rupees.

Authorities inspected 272 industrial units across Punjab, sealing 11 and demolishing two for violations. Fines amounting to Rs1.325 million were also imposed.

In a crackdown on brick kilns, 513 units were inspected, 24 sealed and six demolished, while eight cases were registered. A total of Rs1.8 million in fines was imposed.

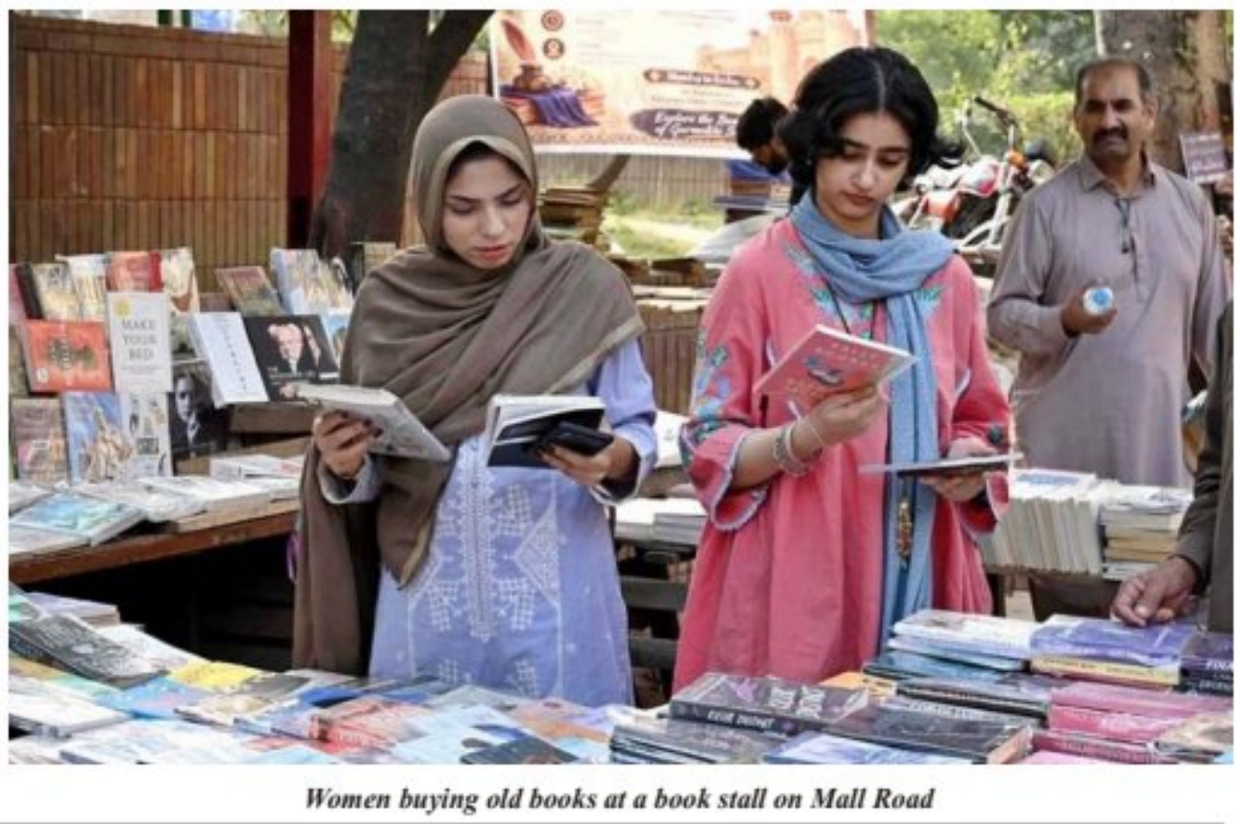
As part of the campaign against substandard plastic, officials inspected 183 locations and seized 294 kilogrammes of plastic, imposing an additional fine of Rs30,000.

To control smoke emissions, 92 barbecue outlets and commercial cooking points were inspected. Suction hoods were installed at 58 locations, while three establishments were sealed.

Authorities said monitoring had been tightened to ensure that suction hoods installed at commercial kitchens and barbecue outlets were functioning effectively.

On the chief minister's directives, drone squads, night squads and Hawk Eye field teams are also actively monitoring the situation, with round-the-clock surveillance and immediate action against violations.

Wind speed, direction and air pollution levels are being continuously monitored using scientific data from Climate Watch, while anti-smog measures are being implemented in accordance with prevailing weather conditions.



Women buying old books at a book stall on Mall Road

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