

THE DESTINATION

NEWS THAT TRAVELS

Editor: Zahid Husain

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Pakistan, Saudi Arabia ink visa waiver pact for diplomatic passport-holders

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday signed an agreement to abolish visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official/special passports.

The agreement means that those who possess diplomatic passports and official/special ones from both countries will no longer need a visa to enter each other's country.

This agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

"I signed today with my brother, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the 'Agreement between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the abolition of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Special Passports'," Ishaq Dar wrote on social media platform X.

"This important step will further facilitate high-level engagement and institutional exchanges, and contribute to advancing our enduring and brotherly strategic partnership across all areas of mutual interest," he added.



PTI's Salman Akram Raja dissociates himself from party's 'fundraising'

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Uncertainty surrounds fundraising for the PTI's September 27 long march as the party's Secretary General Salman Akram Raja on Tuesday said he had no idea as to who started it and, on whose instructions, Raja said he had nothing to do either with the fundraising or opening of bank accounts.

He said that his name was circulating on social media in connection with the fundraising, but the fact of the matter is that he had nothing to do with it. Now an important question is when the PTI's secretary general has dissociated himself from the fundraising, then under whose supervision and with whose approval it is taking place.

It is pertinent to mention here that such questions have been raised in the past as well, and the same is happening now.



US open to meeting Iran at UN, no meeting scheduled yet: Rubio

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Tuesday the US is open to speaking with Iranians at the UN General Assembly, but no meeting is currently scheduled.

"We're open to that. I don't think anything is scheduled at this point, but we're certainly open to something like that, especially if it has the prospects of leading to something positive and ultimately achieving the goal of what this is all about," Rubio said in an interview with NBC's "Today" show.

"And that is the fact that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon."



PM Shehbaz 'terrific', Pakistan 'great country', says Trump in UNGA speech

● At United Nations General Assembly, Trump also says deciding between deal or driving Iran "into hell"

WEB DESK

New York

President Donald Trump has yet again praised the Pakistani leadership, this time at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), saying that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is a "terrific" man. "Pakistan is a great country. PM Shehbaz Sharif, a terrific man," he said during his speech at the UNGA on Tuesday, where he spoke on wide-ranging issues — from Iran to artificial intelligence.

Trump said the prime minister called him to thank him for the US role in helping Pakistan with "something that was very important". "Pakistan is a great country. PM Shehbaz Sharif, a terrific man, called me to say thank you," Trump said. Trump said that the prime minister told him

that his intervention helped bring an end to the war between Pakistan and India in May 2025 and saved 30 million lives.

Trump also claimed he had "settled eight wars". Turning to the Iran war, the US president used the forum to argue that the war with Iran prevented Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and warned that he could "annihilate the Islamic Republic" if no deal is reached to end the conflict.

While predicting his administration would strike a peace deal with Iran following the November 3 US mid-term elections, Trump called on other nations to join America in isolating Iran economically to force it to the negotiating table.

"I have a big decision to make. Will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country

than it ever was before?" Trump said. "Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again?"

Trump added: "Do I drive them into hell with no chance of survival and no hope of future greatness or generations? But I believe we'll make a deal right after the election."

Int'l supervision of artificial intelligence Trump also rejected calls for international supervision of artificial intelligence, calling them a "globalist scheme" to control the new technology. He announced that the US government would henceforth use the term "super intelligence" rather than "artificial intelligence" in its communications, hoping that the world would follow suit.

Sharjeel Memon accuses MQM leaders of creating division in Sindh

● In a statement, Memon alleged that the MQM was seeking to create unrest and revive what



Staff Reporter

KARACHI

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has strongly reacted to a recent press conference by leaders of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), describing the language used by the party leadership as "intolerable" and warning against what he alleged were attempts to create political unrest and divisions in Sindh.

In a statement issued in response to the MQM leaders' remarks, Memon alleged that the party was

attempting to revive a style of politics associated with the 1990s. He said the statements and political approach of MQM leaders Mustafa Kamal and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui appeared to be following what he described as a similar political path.

The senior minister accused the MQM of contributing to a period of violence and disorder in Karachi during the 1990s. He alleged that the party had been associated with extortion, targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom and incidents of arson during that period. These allegations form part

of Memon's criticism of the MQM's current political position. Memon also referred to the issue of the creation of new provinces, saying that the Sindh Assembly had already expressed its position on the matter through a resolution. He maintained that political issues concerning the province should be addressed through constitutional and democratic forums rather than through rhetoric that, in his view, could create tensions among different communities.

The Sindh senior minister further alleged that the MQM was attempting to exploit linguistic differences and create divisions among the people of the province. According to Memon, efforts to provoke unrest on ethnic or linguistic grounds could undermine social harmony in Sindh. Memon maintained that a majority of Urdu-speaking people living in Sindh consider themselves Sindhis and have remained an integral part of the province's social and political fabric. He accused the MQM of once again attempting to create divisions between communities by raising issues along linguistic lines.

Jl postpones long march until first week of October

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said on Tuesday that the party had postponed its long march until the first week of October at the request of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while making it clear that its protest campaign would continue.

Addressing a press conference in Multan, Hafiz Naeem said the JI was raising issues concerning the basic problems faced by the public and accused the government of using petrol prices and tax collection to conceal corruption. He said sit-ins were continuing in 42 cities and that the party had already asked the government in writing to withdraw the levy, but received a negative response. The JI chief said several meetings had been held with the government and the party had also launched a train march from Karachi to Rohri and onward to Multan as part of its campaign over public issues.

Hafiz Naeem said rising petroleum prices had created a difficult situation across the country, adding that the government's relief package would benefit the government rather than address the concerns raised by the JI.

Tarar warns PTI against disrupting peace in Islamabad

■ Atta Tarar has warned PTI against disrupting peace in Islamabad, saying the government will take strong measures to maintain law and order while questioning the party's leadership and calls for talks.

KARACHI

Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has said the government will not allow Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to travel to Islamabad and disturb the peace under any circumstances.

Speaking to a private television channel, Tarar said the government would take strong measures to prevent anyone from disrupting law whom the government should engage with for talks. He claimed that PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar had little influence within the party. The information minister alleged that PTI had not demonstrated peaceful protest in



the past and warned the party to reconsider its approach, saying otherwise it would face consequences it would remember.

Tarar also addressed the reported arrests of Imran Khan's sisters, saying they were detained based on what he described as credible information that they could cause a law-and-order situation.

Questioning who was currently making decisions within PTI, Tarar asked whom the government should engage with for talks. He claimed that PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar had little influence within the party and said there was no justification or benefit in negotiating with the individuals currently calling for dialogue.

Islamabad march: 'Trust deficit' prevents breakthrough between PTI, authorities



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

With the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) maintaining its call for a September 27 march towards Islamabad, recent contacts between the party leadership and authorities have failed to produce any breakthrough, primarily because of a deep trust deficit between the two sides, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

The contacts, held in the recent past against the backdrop of growing tensions over the proposed march, reportedly revolved around the possibility of de-escalating the situation if the PTI agreed to call off the September 27 mobilisation and gave an assurance that it would not resort in future to protest strategies involving prolonged sit-ins, road blockades or direct confrontations with law-enforcement agencies.

According to people familiar with the discussions, the authorities conveyed that such a commitment could potentially open the way for certain concessions or a relaxation of the treatment of some issues concerning PTI founder Imran Khan and his family.

These included consideration of the shifting of Bushra Bibi to Bani Gala, arrangements for Khan's transfer to a hospital for treatment and greater facilitation of meetings with him.



A shopkeeper on Mission Road is arranging wall clocks to attract the attention of passersby for sell.

Two Motorcycle Snatchers Arrested in Sanghar

■ Police Recover Stolen Motorcycle, Murder Weapon, Hashish, Liquor and Thousands of Gutka Sachets in Separate Operations

News Desk

SANGHAR

Police claimed on Tuesday to have arrested two alleged motorcycle snatchers and recovered a snatched motorcycle, besides seizing a pistol allegedly used in a murder and narcotics in separate operations across Sanghar district. Khahi police SHO Munir Ali Baladi said that acting on FIR No. 106 of 2026, police recovered a snatched motorcycle and arrested two suspects, Sarang alias Akram Mallaah and Manzoor Mallaah. Police said both suspects had previous criminal cases registered against them at different police stations. In another operation, police recovered a TT pistol from Qalandar Bakhsh Mari, who had been arrested in FIR No. 105 of 2026 registered under Section 302 of the



Pakistan Penal Code. Police said the weapon was allegedly used in the murder. Sanghar SHO Gulzar Ali Mari



arrested alleged drug dealer Mohammad Bilal Pathan and recovered 540 grams of hashish from

his possession. Police also recovered 10 litres of liquor from Saleem Brohi. Tando Adam police conducted separate operations against alleged drug peddlers and recovered 2,970 gutka sachets from Nasir Khaskheli, Mohammad Sultan Khaskheli, Abid Ali Mari, Azar Chakrani, Ghulam Nabi Khaskheli, Sikandar Chakrani and Amir Chakrani. Perumal police SHO Mohammad Ishaq Sangrasi arrested Imam Bakhsh Chandio and Aneel Lohano and recovered 15 bottles of liquor and three quarter-bottles of whisky, while Khipro police SHO Mohammad Sharif Jamali recovered 660 gutka sachets from Rashid Jat, Shezan Jat and Nauman Jat. Chotiyariyon police also recovered 20 litres of liquor from Ali Akbar Indhar. Police said further action against criminal and narcotics networks was continuing.

Pakistan, EU Explore New Avenues for Trade and Investment



News Desk

Faisalabad

Specific discussions were held regarding opportunities in textile value addition, IT and technology, renewable energy, technology transfer, and the SME sector. The Ambassador noted that Pakistan's exports to the EU have reached 8.3 billion, highlighting significant potential for further expanding trade, investment, and business cooperation between the two regions. She emphasized the importance of fully leveraging preferential trade access under the GSP+ scheme, diversifying exports, and enhancing value addition, while clarifying that full and effective implementation of international conventions linked to GSP+ is a fundamental requirement for all beneficiary countries. We welcome the European Union's commitment to continued cooperation with Pakistan and all relevant stakeholders, including the APBF. The robust trade and economic partnership between Pakistan and the EU represents a positive step toward new opportunities for investment and shared growth.

Sukkur Traders Seek Relief from Load-Shedding and Detection Bills

■ SEPCO Chief Assures Delegation of Action Against Consumer Complaints, Vows Steps to Reduce Power Outages in Commercial Areas

News Desk

Sukkur

A delegation of trader leaders—including Haji Muhammad Javed Memon (President, Sukkur Small Traders) and Muhammad Amir Farooqi (General Secretary); Haji Muhammad Shafi Abbasi (President, Traders' Supreme Council) and Mumtaz Lucky (General Secretary); Mir Abdul Rehman Mengal (President, All Sukkur Traders Ittehad) and Muhammad Shabbir Memon (General Secretary); Chaudhry Muhammad Zahid; and others—met with SEPCO Chief Sukkur, Aijaz Ahmed Channa, at his office to address issues such as escalating load-shedding and the imposition of "detection bills." SEPCO officials—including Mushtaq Ahmed Abbasi, Asadullah Mughal, Muhammad Ali, Abdul Haq Siyal, Kashif Gulzar Sheikh, and Muhammad Amir Sheikh—were also present. During the meeting, the trader leaders briefed the SEPCO Chief in detail on the problems facing consumers, specifically the rising load-shedding and the detection bills imposed by SEPCO in both commercial and residential areas. They highlighted that Sukkur is Sindh's third-largest city and a major



commercial hub; consumers in these areas regularly pay their electricity bills, yet they continue to face prolonged load-shedding and the issuance of detection bills. They noted that while extended power outages cause immense distress to domestic consumers, they also severely impact industry and commerce. Furthermore, SEPCO unjustifiably imposes detection bills on consumers—such as those with closed shops, vacant plots, or those using solar power—despite the timely payment of heavy bills; this practice has caused deep anxiety among traders and citizens, and the delegation urged SEPCO authorities to take concrete and effective measures for a permanent resolution. On this occasion, SEPCO Chief Aijaz Ahmed Channa assured trader leaders that their issues and difficulties would be resolved.

151,598 children vaccinated on day one as ICT polio campaign targets 447,614

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The anti-polio campaign in the federal capital completed its first day with 151,598 children vaccinated, while authorities aim to reach 447,614 children during the ongoing drive. Officials informed a review meeting that polio teams achieved 34 percent of the campaign target on the opening day. A review meeting on the anti-polio campaign was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Uzair Ali Khan. The meeting was attended by assistant commissioners and officials from the health department. Participants were briefed on the progress of the campaign and informed that a total target of 447,614 children has been set for the current vaccination drive across Islamabad. According to the briefing,



151,598 children received polio drops on the first day of the campaign. Officials told the meeting that polio workers achieved 34 percent of the overall target during the opening day, marking the initial phase of efforts to vaccinate all eligible children in the federal capital.



NCCIA chief seeks transparency, quality control in construction projects

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has directed officials to ensure transparency, quality control and timely completion of the agency's under-construction buildings and infrastructure projects. He issued the directions while chairing a high-level meeting of senior NCCIA officers at the agency's headquarters here on Tuesday, where progress on ongoing construction and development works was reviewed in detail.

The meeting was briefed on the current status of the projects, quality of construction material, costs, timelines and technical and administrative issues being faced during the execution of the works.

The participants also discussed a comprehensive plan for developing the agency's infrastructure in line with its institutional requirements, besides reviewing measures for effective and transparent utilisation of resources and ensuring quality control in construction works.

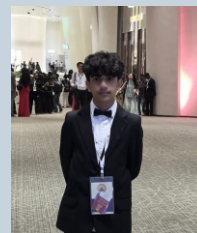
A Award For Pakistan By A Brilliant Student Of Balochistan Land

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The talented son of Executive Engineer IESCO Bhara Kahu, Ghulam Mustafa Baloch, Zaib Mustafa Baloch, has achieved a remarkable distinction at the international level. At the World Scholar's Cup held in Bangkok, Thailand, where more than 2,200 talented students from over 40 countries participated, 14-year-old Zaib Mustafa Baloch amazed everyone by winning five gold medals in the Debate category. Following this historic achievement, he has been ranked among the Top 100 Scholars in the world and has now been selected to participate in the Global Round/Grand Finale at Yale University in the United States, one of the world's leading universities. T

His outstanding achievement is a testament to the



Women's Hockey and Sports Promotion Discussed on 'Shaheen Sargodha'

News Desk

Sargodha

A special discussion on women's hockey, the training of young players, balancing education with sports, and the promotion of sports in the Sargodha Division was held during Radio Pakistan Sargodha's popular programme "Shaheen Sargodha." The programme was attended by Professor Ayesha Siddique, Director of Sports at Government Associate College Mela Mandi Sargodha; Zahira Sadaf; Mah-e-Ramzan; Urooj Fayyaz; Laiba Saeed; and Hassan Shah, founder and Chief Executive Officer of Fatima Women Hockey Academy Sargodha and a former national hockey goalkeeper. Programme host and senior anchorperson Sabtain Baloch held a detailed discussion with the guests about their education, association with sports, hockey careers, achievements, and the challenges faced by women athletes. It was highlighted that Sargodha has tremendous talent in women's hockey, but the players need proper grounds, quality coaching, sports equipment, and regular opportunities to participate in competitions. Zahira Sadaf represented Pakistan in the Women's Under-21 Hockey Team in Oman, while Mah-e-Ramzan represented Pakistan at the Junior Asian Hockey competition in China. Urooj Fayyaz won a gold medal at the Quaid-e-Azam Games, a gold medal at the Inter-University Hockey Championship in Islamabad in 2024, and a bronze medal in Faisalabad in 2026. Laiba Saeed's notable performance at the national level was also highlighted. Professor Ayesha Siddique said that female students should be provided opportunities to develop their abilities in sports alongside their education, as sports play an important role in promoting health, self-confidence, discipline, and leadership skills. The guests urged parents, educational institutions, the government, the Sports Department, and the private sector to provide better sports facilities, training centres, and regular competitions for women so that more talented players from Sargodha can represent Pakistan at national and international levels.

SECP seeks reforms to address complaints of insurance consumers

- A report further stated that SECP received 370,29 complaints on different forums



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has recommended increasing the number of Insurance Tribunals and strengthening the implementation of decisions of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, According to a report by SECP, the number of Insurance Tribunals should be increased to ensure equitable geographical distribution across provinces, thereby improving access to justice.

A report further stated that SECP received 370,29 complaints on different forums

A publicly available and regularly updated list of Session Courts designated as Insurance Tribunals should be published to enhance transparency. Moreover, timely appointment of chairperson and technical member is essential to ensure continuation and effective functioning of the tribunals. The SECP also suggested starting online service for submission of complaints and documents.

The SECP also sought establishment of a comprehensive digital system to address the complaints and forward the complaints to the Federal Insurance Ombudsman about government insurance companies. Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmad Sidhu said that "we want to address the complaints in minimum time through the use of latest technology." He said that insurance companies should be bound to submit their reply regarding the complaints.



New York: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, speaking at the launch of the COP31 Action Agenda, expressing Pakistan's full support for the agenda and highlighting its alignment with Pakistan's national climate priorities.

K-Electric faces severe crisis as banks decline further financing

- A staggering Rs65 billion in liquidity has been withdrawn from K-Electric accounts, with banks pulling back Rs30 billion directly from the power utility.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

K-Electric, the sole distributor of electricity in Karachi, is facing a severe monetary crisis as banks have halted new financing and are rapidly recalling existing credit lines,

A staggering Rs65 billion in liquidity has been withdrawn from K-Electric accounts, with banks pulling back Rs30 billion directly from the power utility.

Tariff disputes are stated to be the primary factor behind this financial crunch, as K-Electric has yet to secure a finalized tariff framework for the 2024-2030 period. This prolonged delay has placed intense pressure on the company's financial stability.

The National Electric Power



Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) issued a tariff of Rs 39 per unit in 2025 after a two-year delay. However, NEPRA later took a suo motu notice, suspended that tariff, and issued a revised rate of Rs 32 per unit.

This significant reduction

severely impacted K-Electric's financial standing.

K-Electric challenged the revised tariff before the NEPRA tribunal, where a verdict on the petition is still pending.

Sources indicate that as financial pressures mount, K-Electric's operational systems are being

disrupted. Due to a severe cash crunch, procurement and other routine operational activities have begun to stall.

K-Electric has also formally written to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), stating that the ongoing legal dispute over the tariff is the primary reason for the delay in publishing its financial statements.

The letter explains that financial statements cannot be finalized while the tariff matter remains sub judice before the NEPRA tribunal.

Sources warn that if the tariff remains at its current lowered position, sustaining utility operations will become exceedingly difficult. Overall, the company has faced a staggering loss of Rs 80 billion.

Oil rises slightly ahead of potential US-Iran talks

- Oil prices rebounded after four sessions of losses as markets watched possible US-Iran talks at the UN. Brent rose 1.1% to \$101.48, while WTI gained 0.9% to \$96.65 a barrel.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Oil prices gained for the first time in five sessions on Tuesday as investors awaited developments on potential US-Iran talks at the United Nations General Assembly. This week after more supplies emerged through the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend.

The Brent crude futures November contract rose \$1.14, or 1.1%, to \$101.48 a barrel at 0317 GMT. The WTI October contract, which expires on Tuesday, climbed 87 cents, or 0.9%, to \$96.65 a barrel. The more actively traded November contract was up 85 cents, or 0.9%, at \$93.22 a barrel.

Tehran and Washington exchanged threats on Sunday, though US President Donald Trump said he



would be open to meeting Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is expected to be in New York this week for the UN meeting.

"The move higher in WTI and the stronger open in Brent have the appearance of a typical short-covering bounce after the recent decline, rather than a fundamental shift," said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

"Traders who were positioned for

further downside are taking some risk off the table while the diplomatic narrative plays out."

Over the weekend, Iran also conveyed its conditions to

mediators for re-engaging in negotiations, Al Jazeera reported, citing Iran's security chief, Mohsen Rezaei.

Waterer said oil prices were likely to remain range-bound and sensitive to headlines until there was either clear progress or a setback in diplomatic efforts between the US and Iran.

Middle East tensions remained elevated after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis said they attacked Riyadh and a Saudi

Aramco facility in Yanbu and stepped up efforts to cut off Saudi-backed forces from the Red Sea coast.

China has privately urged Tehran to help curb attacks by the Houthis, three Iranian sources said, after Saudi Arabia appealed to Beijing following a recent surge in the group's military operations.

Saudi Aramco has increased exports through the Strait of Hormuz after attacks on its East-West Pipeline forced it to halt some shipments through Yanbu. Around 14 million barrels of its crude oil were loaded on seven supertankers inside the Gulf on Sunday, tanker tracking data showed.

Attendees say the new feature demonstrates the country's eagerness to compete in the booming AI industry.

Next review talks Between Pakistan, IMF to get underway tomorrow

- Sources informed that the talks would review the second six-month performance of the last financial year.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Preparations for the next review talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are complete as negotiations between the two sides will kick off tomorrow,

that the talks under the 37-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and climate financing programmes would continue simultaneously for the next two weeks.

Sources informed that the talks would review the second six-month performance of the last financial year. If talks remained successful, they added, next tranches under both the programmes would be released; fifth tranche under the EFF.

So far, Pakistan has received \$4.60 billion from the Fund under both the programmes.

It is pertinent to mention here that presently Pakistan is in two loan programmes with the IMF; \$7 billion



EFF programme and \$1.40 billion climate financing programme.

The Executive Board of the IMF had on May 9, 2026 approved \$1.32 billion financing for Pakistan under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) programmes.

"The Fund's Executive Board completed the third review of the Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review of the arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), said a statement issued by the money-lending organization. Ob

Yen squeezed as hawkish turn grips central banks

- Yen weakens to 157.33 per dollar as traders assess Japan's dovish stance against hawkish global central banks. Intervention risks limit moves, while the dollar remains firm.

STAFF REPORTER

SINGAPORE



The yen was under pressure from a firm dollar on Tuesday as traders wagered on policymakers in Japan struggling to keep up with a hawkish turn by global central banks, leaving the country's interest rates at a wide gap with major peers.

Moves were contained thanks to a holiday in Japan and because of the risk of intervention, after the Nikkei newspaper reported Japan checked dollar/yen rates on Friday. Such a move is often a precursor to stepping into the market.

After drifting lower on Monday, the yen traded at 157.33 versus the dollar early on Tuesday, while broader financial markets were buoyed by falling oil prices.

Other currency pairs were mostly steady, with the euro at \$1.1467, though cryptocurrencies have rallied in the past day to lift bitcoin to an eight-month high above \$87,000.

Aside from bouncing after the rate check report, the yen has been under pressure since a Bank of Japan interest rate hike on Friday came with two dovish dissents.

That contrasted with the Federal Reserve, which also hiked rates last week, and most other global central banks which are sounding hawkish and have markets pricing more increases this year.

"Unless the BOJ tightens policy

more rapidly than the Federal Reserve, the approximately 275-basis-point US-Japan rate differential should continue to support yen-funded carry trades," said Carlos Casanova, senior Asia economist at Union Bancaire Privée, in a note to clients.

"We expect dollar/yen to rise to 160 by year-end before appreciating moderately to 156 by mid-2027."

Markets are pricing about a 30% chance that the BOJ hikes its benchmark short-term rate to 1.5% in October and a roughly 55% chance that the Fed will lift its funds rate window by 25 basis points to 4% to 4.25%.

Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Michele Bullock is likely to strike a hawkish tone at a fireside chat scheduled later on Tuesday with markets pricing a 90% chance of a rate hike next week, the country's fourth this year.

The Aussie dollar hovered at \$0.7120. Sterling traded around \$1.3372.

The New Zealand dollar was pinned near multi-month lows at \$0.5708 since kiwi rates, sitting at 2.75%, are much lower than peers.



Jhelum : State Minister for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani presides over a review meeting regarding the implementation of the Prime Minister's Fuel Subsidy Scheme in Jhelum.

The Himalayan Fury: From Nepal To Kashmir A Warning We Can No Longer Ignore



By: Muhammad Akeel Anjum

On August 26, 2026, the Himalayas sent a terrifying message from the Nepal-Tibet border. A huge mass of water, ice, rock, mud and debris suddenly came rushing down through mountain valleys in Nepal's Rasuwa district. Within minutes, roads disappeared, bridges were swept away, buildings collapsed and vehicles were carried downstream. The images were shocking. But the disaster should not be dismissed as just another flash flood. What happened in northern Nepal appears to have been a complex chain of hazards involving a major collapse of ice and rock at high altitude, the sudden obstruction

and release of water, and a powerful debris-laden flood that tore through settlements downstream.

The disaster also struck the Chinese side of the border in Tibet, particularly around Gyirong, disrupting roads, infrastructure and a major cross-border route.

As rescue operations continue, the death toll has risen sharply. The latest reports put the number of confirmed deaths in Nepal at nearly 500, with hundreds more still missing. On August 28, Reuters reported 489 deaths in Nepal and five in Tibet, with nearly 1,000 people still missing. The figures remain fluid as rescue teams reach areas that were cut off by the disaster. (Reuters)

The tragedy has also involved people from many countries.

Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on August 27 that 596 foreign nationals from 33 countries were still missing.

The official list included 167 Indian nationals, 66 Americans, 53 Ukrainians, 51 Malaysians, 35 Australians, 33 Britons, 25 Canadians and citizens of a range of European and Asian countries.

The list also included nationals of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, Russia, Singapore and others. (Ministry Of Foreign Affairs)

Behind every missing person is a family waiting for



news. And behind this tragedy lies a much bigger question:

If the glaciers, snowfields, lakes and mountain slopes above us are becoming increasingly unstable, how prepared are the millions of people living below them?

That question is no longer only about Nepal.

It is a question for the entire Himalayan region — including Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Exploring Travel Maps

Where did the water come from?

The exact sequence of events is still being investigated.

Initial reports created confusion about the cause. An earthquake was detected in Tibet around the same time as the disaster, while questions were also raised about acial

rainfall and a possible glacial lake outburst.

But subsequent assessments increasingly pointed towards a major ice and rock collapse in the high mountains near the Nepal-Tibet border.

According to preliminary assessments reported by Nepali scientists and disaster authorities, an avalanche appears to have fallen into and blocked the Lhende River.

Water then accumulated behind the obstruction before the blockage gave way, sending a sudden surge downstream into the Bhote Koshi river system.

Scientists have also been investigating whether a glacial lake outburst may have been involved. (Kathmandu Post)

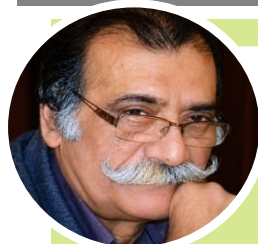
That distinction matters.

This was not necessarily a conventional rain-fed flood.

A large mass of ice, rock and debris can temporarily block a mountain river. Water builds up behind the blockage. Once the natural barrier fails, the accumulated water can burst downstream with enormous force.

And what comes down is not just water.

It can carry boulders, mud, ice, sediment and pieces of the mountain itself.



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

SCO Summit 2026: Prosperity through Connectivity, Development through Cooperation

The important Summit of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is being held in the beautiful Central Asian city of Bishkek on August 31 and September 1, 2026. The summit is taking place at a time when the world is passing through a rapidly changing political, economic and strategic landscape. Competition among global powers is intensifying, new economic alignments are emerging, and Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia are continuously strengthening their role in global politics and the world economy. In such an environment, the SCO platform has assumed exceptional importance. For Pakistan, the Bishkek Summit is particularly significant because following the summit, Pakistan will assume the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation for one year and will host the SCO Summit in Islamabad in 2027. Thus, the 2026 Bishkek Summit is not merely an international conference for Pakistan; it could mark the beginning of a new diplomatic and economic journey. Pakistan became a full member of the SCO in 2017, although its engagement with the organisation had existed even before that. Over the years, Pakistan has played an active role in various institutional forums of the SCO. In 2024, Islamabad also hosted the meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government. Now, with the assumption of the organisation's chairmanship, Pakistan has an opportunity to advance its priorities more effectively within the SCO agenda. Looking at the SCO's present status, it is no longer merely an organisation focused on security cooperation. Its scope has expanded to include trade, investment, energy, transport, science and technology, education, culture, health, agriculture, environmental protection and people-to-people contacts. This is precisely why Pakistan's vision of "Prosperity through Connectivity, Development through Cooperation" appears both timely and appropriate. Pakistan's greatest strength is its geography. The country provides an important link between South Asia, China,

Central Asia, Iran and the Middle East. Access to the Arabian Sea, the port of Gwadar, land connectivity with China and the potential to provide Central Asian states access to maritime trade routes give Pakistan an opportunity to play a significant role in regional commerce. The need of the hour is to transform this geographical importance into genuine economic strength. Merely stating that Pakistan is located at the crossroads of the region is not enough. True success will come when Pakistan develops an integrated system of roads, railways, ports, border trade, customs, logistics and digital connectivity that facilitates the movement of goods, capital and people. The countries of Central Asia are rich in natural resources, but several of them require land routes to access global maritime markets. Pakistan can transform this need into a major economic opportunity. If Central Asian products can reach the ports of Gwadar and Karachi through Pakistan, while Pakistani products gain easier access to Central Asian markets, trade between both sides can increase significantly. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can also become an important component of this broader regional connectivity. If CPEC is linked with the SCO's wider regional connectivity network, Pakistan can emerge as a major commercial bridge between Eurasia and the Arabian Sea. Gwadar is an extremely important asset for Pakistan in this regard, but the port's full potential can only be realised when it is supported by an integrated network of roads, railways, industrial zones and international trade routes. One of the major challenges during Pakistan's SCO chairmanship will be to advance economic cooperation despite the political differences existing among various member states. The SCO includes countries that have significant political and strategic disagreements. Yet the organisation's real strength lies precisely in its ability to keep dialogue alive and focus on areas of common interest despite such differences. During its chairmanship, Pakistan should promote the principles of dialogue, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. The world today needs fewer confrontational fronts and more platforms where differences can be managed through dialogue rather than confrontation. Pakistan's role in the field of security is also extremely important. Terrorism,

extremism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime and terrorist financing are challenges that are no longer confined to the borders of any single country. Regional cooperation, intelligence sharing and coordinated strategies against these threats are therefore essential. Pakistan has extensive experience in combating terrorism. Through cooperation with the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, Pakistan is already playing a role in this field. During its chairmanship, Pakistan can further strengthen joint efforts against terrorism and extremism, cyber security cooperation, border management and collaboration against drug trafficking. However, security cannot be viewed solely from a military perspective. Providing young people with quality education, skills and employment opportunities is also an effective strategy against extremism. During its SCO chairmanship, Pakistan could propose joint educational, vocational training and entrepreneurship programmes for young people. In today's world, technology has become one of the most powerful forces driving economic development. Artificial intelligence, cyber security, e-commerce, fintech, digital payments and advanced industrial technologies are transforming rapidly. If SCO countries cooperate in joint research, training and investment in these fields, the entire region can strengthen its position on the global technology map. Pakistan's young population is its greatest strength in this regard. By equipping young Pakistanis with modern skills in technology, artificial intelligence, programming, digital marketing, e-commerce and other emerging fields, they can be connected with global markets. Joint startup programmes, university exchanges, research networks and technology competitions under the SCO framework could create new opportunities for the younger generation. There is also enormous potential for cooperation among SCO countries in the field of



By: Dr Kaneez Fatima

Climate Change Is Fueling Pakistan's Dengue Crisis

As Pakistan prepares for another monsoon season, the country faces a threat that extends beyond floods and infrastructure damage. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and increasing humidity are creating ideal conditions for dengue-carrying mosquitoes, raising the risk of another surge in

Continuous genomic surveillance is therefore essential to detect emerging viral variants and understand whether these changes are driven by local evolution, repeated introductions from neighbouring countries or changing environmental conditions.

Despite this growing threat, Pakistan's dengue surveillance

opportunity to establish Pakistan's first comprehensive formed molecular surveillance network for dengue. Such a programme could serve as a national model by integrating laboratory diagnostics, genomic surveillance, epidemiological monitoring and climate data into a unified early warning system. climate informed molecular



infections. Climate change is no longer merely an environmental concern, it has become a major public health challenge.

Dengue outbreaks impose a heavy burden on Pakistan's healthcare system, economy and communities. Hospitals become overcrowded during peak transmission periods, children miss school, adults lose valuable workdays and families bear significant medical expenses. As climate change accelerates, these outbreaks are likely to become more frequent and more severe unless preventive strategies evolve accordingly.

Scientific evidence increasingly shows that climatic conditions directly influence dengue transmission. Higher temperatures allow mosquitoes to develop more rapidly and shorten the time needed for the virus to multiply inside them. Increased rainfall and humidity create abundant breeding sites, particularly in densely populated urban areas where poor drainage and inadequate waste management allow stagnant water to accumulate. Together, these environmental changes expand both the geographical range and the duration of dengue transmission.

Climate variability may also influence the evolution of the virus itself. Pakistan has experienced shifts in the dominant dengue virus lineages over the past two decades. While DENV-2 Cosmopolitan Genotype has historically been the most common strain, recent outbreaks between 2022 and 2024 have been increasingly associated with DENV-1 Genotype III.

system remains largely reactive. Public health authorities often intensify control measures only after outbreaks have already begun. This approach limits opportunities for early intervention and increases both healthcare costs and disease burden.

The country now needs a climate informed molecular surveillance system capable of detecting outbreaks before they escalate. Such a system would combine routine sample collection from sentinel hospitals with laboratory diagnosis, dengue serotyping, genome sequencing and phylogenetic analysis. Integrating these molecular data with climate information and epidemiological surveillance would enable health authorities to identify high-risk areas, detect emerging viral lineages early and implement targeted interventions before widespread transmission occurs. Investment in surveillance is not simply a scientific priority, it is an economic necessity. Studies have estimated that the 2011 dengue outbreak imposed an economic burden of approximately US\$11-12 million in just four Pakistani cities through healthcare expenditure and productivity losses. By comparison, establishing a provincial molecular surveillance programme would require only a fraction of those losses. Even modest reductions in outbreak size would generate substantial savings while protecting lives. Punjab has already demonstrated strong commitment to strengthening public health programmes. Building on these initiatives, the province has an

surveillance network for dengue. Such a programme could serve as a national model by integrating laboratory diagnostics, genomic surveillance, epidemiological monitoring and climate data into a unified early warning system.

Pakistan should also embrace the World Health Organisation's One Health approach, which recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal, vector and environmental health. Effective dengue prevention requires coordinated action across multiple sectors. Communities must be educated about eliminating mosquito breeding sites and seeking early medical care. Vector surveillance should monitor mosquito populations and insecticide resistance, while urban planners and local governments should prioritise drainage improvement.

sanitation and environmentally sustainable waste management. Climate scientists, epidemiologists and biomedical researchers must work together to develop evidence-based policies that anticipate rather than simply respond to outbreaks. Climate change is reshaping the landscape of infectious diseases across the world, and Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to its effects. Dengue control can no longer rely solely on seasonal mosquito control campaigns. It requires sustained investment in scientific research, climate informed surveillance, resilient urban infrastructure and coordinated public health planning. The cost of prevention is far lower than the cost of repeated epidemics. Pakistan possesses the scientific expertise and institutional capacity needed to build a modern dengue surveillance system.

THE DESTINATION

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Latest Yemen clashes 'kill' more than 150

- More than 100,000 civilians have been uprooted inside Yemen while others have risked dangerous sea crossings to flee the violence.



WEB DESK

Yemen

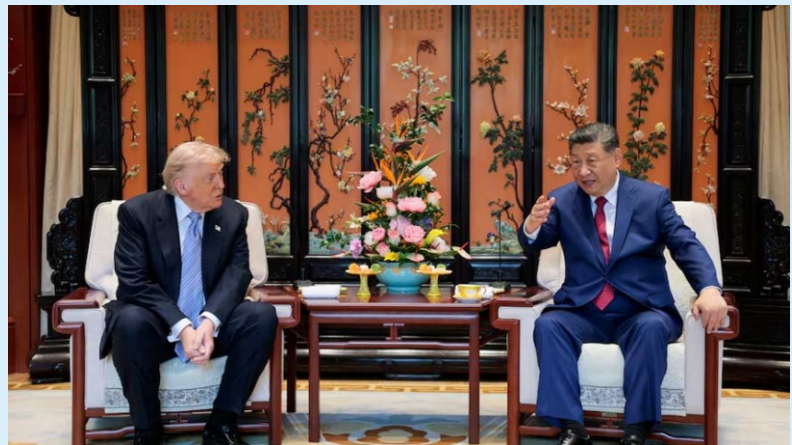
Fighting in Yemen between the Iran-backed Houthis and government forces supported by Saudi Arabia has killed 154 people in the past two days, military sources from both sides told AFP on Tuesday. "The death toll from Saudi airstrikes, clashes and artillery fire in the governorates of Taiz, Al-Jawf, Marib and Saada stands at 118," Houthi military sources said, while government sources reported 36 killed in their ranks. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's civil defence agency issued a warning of potential danger in the country's south on Tuesday, the first alert since the Houthis launched an attack on Riyadh over the weekend. "A warning has been issued by the

National Early Warning Platform in the Najran Province to alert of a potential danger," read a statement posted online by the agency, which asked people to remain indoors and avoid open areas. The alert was lifted a short while later. 10,000 could flee Yemen: UN

Renewed fighting in Yemen could see the number of refugees fleeing across the Red Sea to Djibouti jump to 10,000, while displacement inside Yemen could swell to over 230,000, the UN warned Tuesday.

The Iran-backed Houthis earlier this month seized control of Yemen's Red Sea coastline, in a dramatic offensive that has left hundreds of people on both sides dead, threatened global trade and pushed up energy prices.

The latest fighting between the Houthis and forces loyal to the Aden-based government, backed by Saudi Arabia, has sparked a fresh humanitarian crisis. More than 100,000 civilians have been uprooted inside Yemen while others have risked dangerous sea crossings to flee the violence.



China's Xi expected to press Trump to halt Taiwan arms sales under 1982 agreement, sources say

- China regularly describes the issue of Taiwan as its most sensitive and important diplomatic issue and has repeatedly called for arms sales to stop

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

China's Xi Jinping is expected to press US President Donald Trump to halt Taiwan arms sales under a 1982 joint statement during a visit to Washington this week, which he could do at the US National Archives, sources briefed on the matter said.

China regularly describes the issue of Taiwan, which Beijing views as its own territory, as its most sensitive and important diplomatic issue and has repeatedly called for arms sales to stop. The US is bound by law to provide democratically-governed Taiwan with the means to defend itself, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims.

Three sources familiar with discussions between the US and China ahead of Xi going to Washington this week for a summit with Trump told Reuters that China is likely to bring up

its interpretation of the third of the three "joint communiques" between the two countries, signed in 1982.

Under that, the US said that it intends to gradually reduce its arms sales to Taiwan and does not seek long-term weapons sales to Taipei.

However, in an accompanying memo, then-US President Ronald Reagan said US willingness to reduce arms sales is "conditioned absolutely upon the continued 'commitment of China to the peaceful solution' of differences with Taiwan.

China has sharply stepped up its military activities around Taiwan over the past five years, including staging war games with live missile tests. Its armed forces operate around Taiwan on an almost daily basis.

China's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment. China's official People's Daily on Tuesday said if the Taiwan issue was handled poorly it could push China-US ties "toward a very dangerous situation."



Scenes from the Inauguration Ceremony of WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, where Pakistani candidates, led by Chairman NAVTTC Engr. Qamar ul Islam Raja, proudly represent Pakistan on the global stage for the first time, marking a significant milestone in the country's skills development journey.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia ink visa waiver pact for diplomatic passport-holders

- Ishaq Dar hopes agreement facilitates high-level engagement, promotes strategic partnership with Kingdom

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

The governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday signed an agreement to abolish visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official/special passports. The agreement means that those who possess diplomatic passports and official/special ones from both countries will no longer need a visa to enter each other's country.

This agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

"I signed today with my brother, His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the 'Agreement between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the abolition of visa requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Special



Passports'," Ishaq Dar wrote on social media platform X.

"This important step will further facilitate high-level engagement and institutional exchanges, and contribute to advancing our enduring and brotherly strategic partnership across all areas of mutual interest," he added.

The development reflects the further strengthening of ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Over the past few years, the two sides have signed several agreements to foster growing cooperation in the economic, agriculture, food security and

defence sectors.

As regional tensions surge, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a mutual defence pact in September 2025. In August this year, Islamabad and Riyadh signed a trilateral defence pact that also involves Ankara.

The trilateral defence pact stipulates that an attack on any one country will be considered an attack against all three.

Pakistan, Egypt to further cement cooperation

Ishaq Dar also met with Foreign Minister of Egypt Dr Badr Abdelatty on the sidelines of 81st Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

During the meeting, the two Ministers reaffirmed the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Egypt and expressed commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including trade and investment, economic cooperation, education, cultural exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

Trump, Mamdani discuss housing, affordability at NY meeting

- US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met at Gracie Mansion

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani met at Gracie Mansion on Monday, using Trump's visit to New York for the United Nations General Assembly to discuss housing, affordability and other issues affecting the city.

The meeting was the third face-to-face encounter between the two and the first to take place in New York. Their previous meetings were held at the White House, including one in February focused in part on housing development.

Mamdani said after the meeting that they discussed ways to reduce the cost of living



for New Yorkers and expand housing construction. A central focus was the proposed redevelopment of Sunnyside Yards in Queens, a major rail-yard project that Mamdani said could create around 12,000 homes and 30,000 jobs.

Mamdani said City Hall and the White House had agreed to establish a new level of coordination between their housing and operations teams on the project.

Trump said Sunnyside Yards had been discussed for decades and would likely require federal approvals and funding. He also said a substantial portion of any development should include low- and moderate-income housing.

The meeting took place at a politically significant moment, with Trump in New York for a series of diplomatic engagements surrounding the UN General Assembly. Trump is scheduled to address the assembly on Tuesday and is expected to hold meetings with several foreign leaders during his visit.

At a news conference following the meeting, Trump said he hoped Mamdani would become a "great mayor," despite the sharp political differences between the two men. Mamdani, for his part, said he would leave it to New Yorkers to judge his performance.

Iran's Araghchi accuses Israeli lobby of influencing US policy toward Tehran

- Abbas Araghchi alleged that the Israeli lobby was pressing Washington to prioritize Israel's interests in shaping its policy toward Iran

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has claimed that the Israeli lobby is exerting growing influence over US policy toward Iran.

In a statement posted on X, Araghchi alleged that the Israeli lobby was pressing Washington to prioritize Israel's interests in shaping its policy toward Iran.

He said the time had come for US policy to be freed from what he described as Israeli pressure.

According to Araghchi, there were calls for the United States to bear the consequences of even minor actions taken against Israel.

The Iranian foreign minister further called on Washington to break free from what he described as the "chains" of Israeli pressure.



Araghchi's remarks come amid continued tensions between Iran, Israel and the United States, with disagreements over regional security and Iran's nuclear programme remaining key issues in relations among the three countries.

Iranian officials have repeatedly criticized Washington's approach toward Tehran and accused the United States of aligning its regional policies with Israeli interests.

Browse Topics .



Minister of State and Chairman Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority, Bilal Bin Saqib, addressing at the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly at Social Business, Youth and Technology Forum in New York on September 22, 2026, arguing that Artificial Intelligence and Tokenisation can become the developing World's most powerful engines of Financial Inclusion.

Rajkummar Rao, Pratibha Ranta Reportedly Join Vishkanya

■ Dharma Productions Reportedly Brings Rajkummar Rao, Pratibha Ranta Together



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Bollywood actors Rajkummar Rao and Pratibha Ranta are reportedly set to share the screen in Vishkanya, an ambitious fantasy project being developed by Dharma Productions. According to Bollywood Hungama, the project will feature the Stree star alongside Laapataa Ladies actress Pratibha Ranta. While details of the plot are being kept under wraps, the film is expected to create an original fictional universe blending fantasy, horror and elements of existential terror. Reports suggest that Vishkanya will move beyond conventional horror

formulas and introduce a mythical world with its own rules, supernatural forces and mythology. The concept is reportedly designed to offer a setting rarely explored in Hindi cinema. The film will be directed by Sonal Joshi, who made her directorial debut with Shilpa Shetty's Sukhee in 2023. Dharma Productions appears to be expanding its slate across fantasy and horror, with several projects in development. Its upcoming theatrical lineup reportedly includes the Malayalam folk fantasy thriller Odiyan: The Age of Illusion, the fantasy comedy Naagzilla and two horror films, including one featuring Aditya Roy Kapur.

With Vishkanya joining the lineup, the production house appears to be exploring a broader range of supernatural and fantasy storytelling. Rajkummar Rao, 42, already has experience in the horror-comedy space through the successful Stree franchise, produced by Maddock Films. Pratibha Ranta, 25, made her Bollywood debut with Kiran Rao's acclaimed film Laapataa Ladies, marking another major step in her emerging career. If confirmed, Vishkanya will bring together two performers from different stages of their careers in a fantasy-horror setting that promises a distinctive fictional world.

Zara Noor Abbas Opens Up About Body Insecurities

■ 'You look at your body negatively': Zara Noor Abbas recalls director's advice

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Zara Noor Abbas has spoken candidly about the body insecurities she faced while filming Gear Up, a story from the action-based project Sheroes. She revealed that she was around 12 kilograms heavier during the shoot and initially felt uncomfortable about wearing certain costumes for the role. Recalling her experience, Zara said she was often hesitant about how particular outfits would look on her body. She said she repeatedly shared her concerns with director Saqib Khan, telling him that some costumes might not



suit her appearance. According to Zara, Khan helped her overcome those reservations by encouraging her to view herself differently. He assured her that her physique was appropriate

for the character and explained that he specifically wanted an actress with her build for the role. The actress also questioned the commonly held perception that women portraying strong and

powerful characters must have a particular body shape. She stressed that women have diverse physiques and that stories should reflect people from different backgrounds and ethnicities. Zara's remarks highlight the pressure actors can face because of conventional beauty standards within the entertainment industry. Her experience also reflects a broader discussion about body image and representation, particularly when women are cast in physically demanding roles. In Gear Up, Zara takes on a challenging action-oriented character involved in high-risk police operations, car chases and bomb-disposal scenes. The story is written by Hashim Nadeem and directed by Saqib Khan.

Mawra Hocane leaves fans swooning with sweet message for Ameer Gilani

■ The fan-made edit featured a collection of Mawra and Ameer's wedding pictures with the caption, "When your best friend is also your spouse."

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane has shared a sweet message for her husband Ameer Gilani after reposting a romantic fan-made edit featuring their wedding moments. Calling herself lucky to have her best friend as her spouse.

The fan-made edit featured a collection of Mawra and Ameer's wedding pictures with the caption, "When your best friend is also your spouse." The post focused on the couple's journey from close friends to husband and wife.

Mawra reposted the edit on her Instagram Story and added her own message, writing, "When luck is on your side," followed by "Allahumma Barik." Her words appeared to express how fortunate she feels to have married someone who was already her best friend.

"Allahumma Barik" is a prayer asking for blessings and is commonly said when admiring something while seeking protection from the evil eye. Mawra's use of the phrase added a personal touch to her response to the fan-made post.



Mawra Hocane and Ameer Gilani first crossed paths as law students before entering the entertainment industry. The two later worked together in dramas including Sabaat and Neem, while their friendship continued to draw public interest. The couple tied the knot on February 5, 2025, with their Nikkah taking place at Lahore Fort.

Their wedding celebrations included several events and memorable details, including Mawra wearing a wedding dupatta that had previously belonged to Ameer's mother. The couple later shared several wedding and post-wedding photographs, capturing different moments from their celebrations and family festivities.

More dream sleep may lower risk of dozens of diseases

■ Study finds link between sleep stages and disease risk

Web desk

ISLAMABAD

Getting enough quality sleep may have implications for long-term health beyond simply helping the body and mind recover, with a new study finding that higher levels of dream sleep, or Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep, were associated with a lower risk of 83 diseases.

The study, published in the medical journal PLOS Medicine, analyzed sleep and health data from 95,559 adults in the UK. Researchers also found that higher levels of deep sleep were associated with a lower risk of seven diseases. The findings add to previous research linking poor sleep with a



range of health problems, while providing a more detailed look at how different stages and patterns of sleep may be associated with disease risk. Researchers track sleep more

accurately. Unlike studies that rely on participants to recall how long they slept, the researchers used wrist-worn devices to monitor participants' physical activity and

estimate their sleep patterns. Participants wore the devices for one week, allowing researchers to assess total sleep duration as well as the amount of time spent in different sleep stages, including light, deep and REM sleep. The participants had an average age of 56.2 years and were followed for an average of 8.9 years, with researchers monitoring them for disease diagnoses and death. Researchers found that higher levels of REM sleep at the beginning of the study were associated with a lower risk of developing more than 80 diseases. These included heart failure, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, coronary artery disease, Parkinsonism, multiple sclerosis and several conditions affecting memory and cognitive function.



Alizeh Shah drops cryptic warning about '40 year old' singer

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Stunning actress Alizeh Shah has issued a strong warning about alleged inappropriate online behaviour by a UK-based singer. In her Instagram story, the Ehd-e-Wafa actress, requested young girls to remain cautious when approached by unfamiliar social media accounts. In a warning shared, Alizeh claimed that a singer in his mid-40s, who publicly identifies himself as strictly British while distancing himself from his Pakistani heritage, uses social media direct messages to approach young girls. According to Alizeh, the individual invites

girls, including those who are barely 18, to hotels while making promises involving marriage or other commitments.

She further alleged that the reported behaviour extends beyond online messages, claiming that the singer is verbally and physically abusive behind closed doors. Without naming the individual in the warning, Alizeh also claimed that such behaviour is not limited to one person and alleged that other singers and public figures also take advantage of young girls.

The barbie beauty urged social media users, specially young girls, not to engage with suspicious or unfamiliar accounts and advised them to immediately block such profiles.

Why Imran Aslam Left Karachi for Lahore? Reason revealed

Web Desk

KARACHI

Talented actor and writer Imran Aslam has opened up about his decision to leave Karachi and raise his children in Lahore. Imran disclose that his own traumatic experiences in the city played a major role in the decision. Speaking during an interview with Ahmed Ali Butt, Imran Aslam said that raising children peacefully in Karachi had become difficult for him as he did not want his children to grow up surrounded by fear and violence. The actor remembered his own experiences in Karachi, saying that he had witnessed people losing their lives and had even



faced situations where bullets were fired at him. According to Imran, he feared that a child growing up in such an environment could either become extremely fearful or turn rebellious, while the harsh circumstances could also put their lives at risk. "I have seen people dying, bullets have been fired at me, I have experienced everything in Karachi," he said while recalling the difficult experiences he had witnessed.

Hania Aamir joins Nameer Khan's hilarious dig at Zamil

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani stars Hania Aamir and Nameer Khan have shared a fun social media moment after the Dar-e-Nijaat actor jokingly targeted his own character Zamil using Hania's song Pablo.

Nameer shared a video on his Instagram Story with Hania's Pablo playing in the background and wrote, "Hania ki baat he sun lo ZALIM." The actor appeared to be jokingly telling Zamil to listen to Hania's message, turning the song into a humorous warning for his fictional character.

Hania Aamir soon reposted Nameer's story on her Instagram and added her own reaction. She wrote, "Zamil ? Nameer ?", making it clear that while Zamil may be the character viewers dislike, her support was firmly with Nameer. The light-hearted



exchange gave fans a fun moment involving the actor and the character he plays in Dar-e-Nijaat. Nameer's post also showed how he has embraced the reactions surrounding his negative role instead of taking the character too seriously outside the drama. Hania's response added to the joke as she separated the actor from his on-screen character in a simple and humorous way. Their exchange has since added another entertaining moment to the ongoing buzz around Dar-e-Nijaat.

Pakistan women's cricket team claim bronze medal at Asian Games 2026

■ Umm-e-Hani's three wickets help Pakistan defend 145 against Bangladesh in bronze medal playoff



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan secured the bronze medal in the 2026 Asian Games women's cricket competition after defeating Bangladesh by 31 runs in the third-place playoff at Korogi Sports Park, Nisshin, on Tuesday.

Batting first, Pakistan were restricted to 145-8 in their allotted 20 overs as Bangladesh produced an impressive bowling performance to contain the Green Shirts' batting lineup.

Captain Fatima Sana top-scored for Pakistan with an unbeaten 45 off 30

deliveries, smashing three boundaries and three sixes. Opener Gull Feroza contributed 31 off 23 balls, hitting six boundaries.

Aliya Riaz played a valuable knock of 25 off 22 deliveries, including one boundary and two sixes, while fellow opener Shawaal Zulfiqar scored 17 off 27 balls without hitting a boundary.

Saira Jabeen was dismissed for five off six deliveries, with one boundary, while Ayesha Zafar scored nine off seven balls, including one boundary. Eyman Fatima was dismissed for a duck after facing three deliveries, while Tuba Hassan contributed four

off two balls, hitting one boundary. For Bangladesh, Ritu Moni, Shorna Akter and Nahida Akter claimed two wickets each, while Sanjida Akter Meghla chipped in with one wicket.

Chasing 146, the Tigresses were restricted to 114-7 in their allotted 20 overs as Pakistan staged a fighting comeback with the ball after struggling with the bat.

Shamim Akhter remained unbeaten with a fighting 46 off 45 deliveries, including four boundaries. Skipper Nigar Sultana contributed 25 runs off 30 deliveries, hitting three boundaries, while opener Dilara Akter scored 12

off eight deliveries with two boundaries.

Shorna Akter scored six off eight deliveries, while Juairiya Ferdous and Rabeya Khan contributed four runs each. Ritu Moni and Sobhana Mostary added three and two runs respectively, while Nahida Akter remained unbeaten on 10.

Umm-e-Hani starred with the ball for Pakistan, claiming 3/10 in her four overs, while Tasmia Rubab, Fatima Sana, Nashra Sandhu and Ayesha Zafar chipped in with one wicket each.

LHC directs cricketer Rizwan to cooperate in NCCIA probe

■ Court dismisses Rizwan's plea against NCCIA probing online betting and gambling allegations

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has disposed of a petition filed by national cricketer Mohammad Rizwan against an ongoing inquiry by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and directed him to cooperate with the agency regarding the inquiry.

LHC Chief Justice Justice Aalia Neelum on Tuesday issued the written order on Mohammad Rizwan's petition. The decision said that the NCCIA was investigating allegations related to online betting and gambling against Mohammad Rizwan.

According to the government lawyer, the



matter falls within the scope of Section 14 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, concerning unlawful financial



gain. Information obtained during cyber patrolling revealed Mohammad Rizwan's connection to the matter. The decision said that, at

this stage, it was appropriate to allow the relevant agency to continue investigating the allegations. The ICC Anti-Corruption Code does not affect or end proceedings under other applicable laws. The ICC's own code also requires cooperation with the relevant criminal or regulatory authority, and the existence of the ICC disciplinary framework does not obstruct a lawful inquiry by a state-authorized agency.

The court observed that a call-up notice, by itself, does not accuse a person of committing a crime. The purpose of the inquiry is to detect and eliminate corruption in sports. The court cannot intervene at this preliminary stage before the inquiry is completed and the need for further action is determined.



England fast bowler Mark Wood retires from international cricket after battling injuries

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

England fast bowler Mark Wood announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday after an extended battle with injuries, bringing the curtain down on an 11-year career during which he took 253 wickets across all formats.

The 36-year-old Wood, who played 38 tests, 70 one-day internationals and 38 Twenty20s, last featured for England in November in the first test of the 4-1 Ashes series defeat by Australia.

"Although this may not come as a surprise given the past year, it just feels like a natural time at the end of my contract," Wood, who has also dealt with persistent ankle and elbow injuries in his career, wrote on social media. "I've always tried to be resilient and come back from injury to prove people wrong and show everyone what I can do. Unfortunately, this time I lost the battle." On medical advice, test cricket and 50-over cricket are not possible, so the England dream has slowly been ground out of me over the last year.

Wood, capable of bowling ferociously fast spells, broke into England's test squad in 2015 and bowled Australia's Nathan Lyon at Trent Bridge to seal their last Ashes victory 11 years ago.



Pakistan to host several int'l hockey events in next six months, says PHF

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani has announced that Pakistan will host a series of international hockey events over the next six months, with multiple foreign teams expected to tour the country.

Speaking to Geo News, Mohyuddin Wani said that following Korea's visit, the Chinese hockey team is scheduled to tour Pakistan in November 2026.

He added that Canada will also visit Pakistan after the Chinese team's tour, while three European teams are also ready to visit the country.

The PHF president said the arrival of international teams would help promote and revive hockey activities in Pakistan.

Mohyuddin Wani further revealed that Pakistan is planning to host an international hockey event featuring 10 countries in December next year.

Luis de la Fuente Secures Long-Term Spain Future

■ Luis de la Fuente Extends Spain Tenure Until Euro 2032



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

When Luis de la Fuente was appointed Spain's national team coach, he was largely seen as a low-profile federation figure following the high-profile tenure of Luis Enrique. Some fans were even unfamiliar with his name, while sections of the media jokingly referred to him as "Luis de la Who?"

Three major trophies, 50 matches and a World Cup later, that uncertainty has disappeared. De la Fuente has established himself as the long-term leader of Spain's national team.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced on Monday that De la Fuente has signed a six-year contract extension, keeping

him in charge until the end of the 2032 European Championship.

The agreement, which was reached during Spain's successful World Cup campaign, represents the longest contract ever approved for a Spain head coach. It will keep De la

Fuente at the helm through the 2028 European Championship, the 2030 FIFA World Cup and Euro 2032.

Sources close to the federation said the new deal also includes a significant salary increase, rewarding De la Fuente for transforming Spain into one of international football's most successful sides.

Under his leadership, Spain have won the 2023 UEFA Nations League, Euro 2024 and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Their only major disappointment came in the 2025 Nations League final, where they lost to Portugal on penalties.

Spain are also enjoying the longest unbeaten streak in their history, having gone 38 consecutive matches without defeat.

Nigar Sultana Asian Games Flag Moment Touches Hearts In Pakistan

■ Bangladesh's captain earns praise for a simple act of respect during her team's Asian Games clash with Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

A story about Nigar Sultana and the Asian Games is now the talk of cricket fans in Pakistan. The tale is simple, warm, and full of heart.

It is said that during the recent Asian Games in Japan, a flag was about to fall on the field. Reports claim Nigar Sultana, the Bangladesh captain, reached out and caught it before it hit the ground.

She did not brush it aside. She is said to have held it with care, then gently let it go. Fans who heard about the moment called it a small act with a big meaning.

This came at a time when Pakistan and Bangladesh women's teams met on the field in Japan. Pakistan went on to win the bronze medal match by 31 runs, a result that has been confirmed by cricket boards and news wires.

Nigar Sultana herself had a solid game with the bat. She scored 25 runs off 30 balls before being dismissed leg before wicket. Her partner

Sharmin Akhter stayed strong till the end with 46 runs, but it was not enough to close the gap.

While the match result is clear, the flag story is still being talked about more than the score itself. Many social media users have shared a quote linked to Nigar Sultana. She is said to have told reporters that a flag should always be treated with respect. She also reportedly said there is little real difference between the flags of Pakistan and Bangladesh, since both nations share so much history and heart.

Words like these travel fast. Sports fans often remember such moments longer than they remember scorelines. A win or a loss fades with time. A kind act tends to stay in people's minds much longer.

It is worth noting that this part of the story is still doing the rounds online, and has not yet been fully confirmed by major news outlets. Readers are advised to treat it as a widely shared account for now, rather than an officially verified statement.



Even so, the response from fans has been warm. Many Pakistanis have praised Nigar Sultana for showing grace on a big stage. Some say gestures like these matter more than who wins or loses a match. Sports has always had the power to bring people closer. A single small act on the field can

sometimes say more than any trophy. This is one of those moments that people are choosing to hold on to.

As more details come out, this story may be confirmed, updated, or corrected. For now, it stands as a feel-good tale that has added a little more warmth to a tense sporting rivalry.

Over 22,000 security personnel to be deployed in Islamabad ahead of protests

- More than 22,000 security personnel are being deployed in Islamabad under the supervision of eight deputy inspectors general



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security preparations have been intensified across Islamabad and the Rawalpindi Division as authorities make arrangements to maintain law and order amid planned protest rallies and marches by several opposition groups.

More than 22,000 security personnel are being deployed in Islamabad under the supervision of eight deputy inspectors general (DIGs), while around 30,000 personnel are being assigned to Attock district, a key route connecting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Punjab.

Additional police personnel have started arriving in Attock from other districts to assist local law-enforcement authorities. The Rawalpindi police have also requested around 9,000 additional personnel to reinforce security arrangements during the expected protests. Authorities are also preparing to restrict access to the twin cities if necessary. Around 30 entry points are expected to be blocked, including 11 points in Rawalpindi, with a large number of shipping containers being positioned along highways and other locations. Several political and farmers' groups

have announced demonstrations in Islamabad in the coming days. Jamaat-i-Islami has announced a long march against increased petroleum product levies, while Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has announced a march on September 27 calling for the release of its founder, Imran Khan. The Kissan Ittehad has also announced a protest march seeking relief for farmers.

According to the security plan, the more than 22,000 personnel assigned to Islamabad will operate under eight DIGs, 10 senior superintendents of police (SSPs), 40 superintendents of police (SPs) and 58 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs). Accommodation arrangements have been made for officers arriving from outside the capital.

In Attock, approximately 30,000 security personnel have been called in from various parts of Punjab, including Sheikhupura, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan and Faisalabad. Personnel from the Punjab Constabulary, Riot Management Police and other specialized units are also being deployed. Meanwhile, all types of leave for police personnel in Rawalpindi district have been suspended until October 1, except in cases of extreme emergency.

Two policemen guarding polio team martyred in Noshki gun attack

- The police personnel came under fire in the Killi Jamalabad area while providing security to the polio vaccination team.



Staff Reporter

QUETTA

Two policeman guarding a polio vaccination team was martyred in a gun attack by unidentified assailants in in Noshki district of Balochistan on Tuesday.

According to security sources, the police personnel came under fire in the Killi Jamalabad area while providing security to the polio vaccination team.

The bodies of the martyred policemen were shifted to Noshki Teaching

Hospital. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemned the attack and expressed grief over the deaths of police personnel Muhammad Yasir and Abdul Rauf.

Naqvi said attacking a team working to

protect the future of children was a "heinous and unforgivable" act, adding that those responsible deserved punishment.

Balochistan government adviser on home affairs Babar Yousafzai also condemned the attack, describing it as an assault on the future of children in the province.

He said that Fitna al-Hindustan was an enemy of peace and the future of children in Balochistan. He said such elements did not want peace and development in the province or an end to diseases..



Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council, Coordinator for Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Muslim Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi addressing seminar on "Tazeem-e-Haramain Sharifain" at Jamia Masjid Bilal G-6/3.

Foreign nationals among 100 arrested as NCCIA raids illegal call centre in Islamabad

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has taken action against an illegal call centre in Islamabad, detaining 100 people during the operation.

According to an NCCIA spokesperson, 17 foreign nationals were among those taken into custody during the raid. he spokesperson said evidence related to an unethical application was found at the call centre. Investigators also recovered evidence concerning financial schemes linked to India and Brazil.

Following the operation, the call centre was sealed, while all data and gadgets found at the premises were taken into custody, according to the NCCIA. The NCCIA spokesperson said action against illegal call centres is continuing across the country.

Pakistan launches joint military exercises with Russia, Oman

- The two-week exercises bring together contingents of the Pakistan Army with troops from the Russian Army and the Royal Army of Oman.

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

The ninth edition of the Pakistan-Russia Joint Exercise Druzhba-IX and the second edition of the Pakistan-Oman Joint Exercise WashaqAl Jabal-II, also known as Mountain Lynx-II, commenced on Tuesday at Cherat and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi, respectively.

The two-week exercises bring together contingents of the Pakistan Army with troops from the Russian Army and the Royal Army of Oman.

The participating forces will share operational experience, refine counter-terrorism drills and procedures, and work to enhance interoperability during the exercises.



The training will also focus on improving combat skills and tactical expertise through joint drills and the exchange of best practices.

The exercises are aimed at strengthening professional interaction among the participating forces while further enhancing Pakistan's

bilateral defence cooperation with Russia and Oman.

Through joint training and the exchange of best practices, the participating forces will hone their combat skills and tactical expertise while further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

50pc National Assembly staff to work from home amid austerity drive

- 50% of National Assembly employees will work from offices while the remaining half will perform their duties remotely

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Assembly and Senate have introduced a series of austerity measures aimed at reducing fuel consumption and government expenditure, including allowing half of the National Assembly Secretariat staff to work from home.

Under the new arrangement, 50% of National Assembly employees will work from offices while the remaining half will perform their duties remotely. Employees working from home will remain available

through telephone, email and WhatsApp and will be required to report to the office within one hour if directed. The National Assembly Secretariat said employees would not be allowed to leave their station without prior approval from the competent authority. Fuel allocations for official vehicles will be reduced by 50% for three months, while the purchase of all types of vehicles has been completely banned.

The non-salary budget for fiscal year 2026-27 will also be reduced by 5%, with the cut to be implemented on a monthly basis. Meetings will preferably



be conducted through teleconferencing, except for intra-city meetings. The number of meetings will also be kept to a minimum as part of the austerity measures. Meanwhile, the Senate has also introduced measures to reduce fuel consumption and control expenditure, with Senate

Chairman approving the new austerity plan.

According to the Senate Secretariat, employees will work from home on Fridays when the Senate is not in session. They will remain available through telephone, email and WhatsApp and may be asked to report to the office on one-hour notice. From Monday to Thursday, Senate Secretariat office hours will be from 9am to 4pm. The Senate will also reduce fuel allocations for official vehicles by 50% for three months and has imposed a complete ban on the purchase of vehicles.



Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases.

AJK Government Appoints Raja Shahid Tourism Director General

- AJK Reshuffles Tourism Department Leadership With New Appointment

WEB DESK

MUZAFFARABAD

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government has appointed Senior-most Additional Secretary (BS-19) Raja Shahid Hussain as the new Director General of the Department of Tourism and Archaeology.

According to a notification issued by the AJK Services and General Administration Department, the government relaxed existing restrictions on transfers and postings to facilitate the appointment.

Raja Shahid Hussain was previously serving as Additional Secretary in the Higher Education Department. He has also held several key administrative positions, including Additional Secretary in the Home Department. He has further served as



the head of an attached department under the Information Department during his administrative career. Meanwhile, BS-20 officer Shaukat Ali, who was serving as Director General of Tourism and Archaeology, has been transferred and attached to the Services and General Administration Department until further orders.