THE
DESTINATION
NEWS THAT TRAVELS

ABC Certified Vol. 4 No. 358 Pages 8 Rs. 25

Editor: Zahid Husain

Tuesday | 03 November, 2026 | 22 Jumadi-ul-Awwal, 1448ah | Karachi | www.dailythedestination.com | Regd. No. 34303



Pakistan Armed Forces Far Ahead Of India In Operational Preparedness: DG ISPR

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that Pakistan's armed forces are far ahead of India in terms of operational preparedness.

In another part of his interview with Reuters, aired on October 30, the DG ISPR said the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) were proxies of India. He asserted that Pakistan had the capability to counter any threat from India, adding that any response from Pakistan would carry an unbearable cost for its adversary.

Responding to a question about counterterrorism, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said Pakistan had a clear strategy to tackle terrorism. He explained that one component of the strategy was to eliminate all facilitators and enablers of terrorism within the country.

The ISPR chief identified what he described as an incompetent and indifferent government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as one of the factors hampering counterterrorism efforts.

He said Pakistan was conducting around 200 intelligence-based operations against terrorists every day and would continue these efforts.

The DG ISPR further said that terrorists acting on the instructions of their handlers were pursuing an anti-development agenda.

He observed that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had suffered the most from terrorism, describing them as a brave and proud community and an important part of Pakistani society.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman addressing during Symposium on Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building and China-Pakistan seminar on Governance hosted by Embassy of People's Republic of China in collaboration with the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Govt seeks PPP, MQM nominations for parliamentary electoral reforms body

- Govt Seeks Early Nominations From PPP, MQM For Polls Panel

STAFF REPORTER/WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD



The federal government has initiated the process of forming a parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, asking the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) to nominate their representatives following the National Assembly's approval of a motion to establish the committee.

Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has written to the PPP's chief whip, requesting the names of five party members for inclusion in the parliamentary committee.

According to the communication, the PPP has been asked to submit its nominations at the earliest to facilitate the committee's formation.

Similarly, the government has requested the MQM to nominate one member for the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry has also sent a letter to the MQM's chief whip, seeking the early submission of the party's nominee.

The National Assembly had earlier approved a motion to establish the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms under Rule 244(B) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly.

Following the approval, the government began seeking nominations from political parties to ensure their representation in the proposed parliamentary body.

The committee's formation will proceed after the relevant political parties submit the names of their nominated members.

Bilawal vows PPP will keep fighting for press freedom

- Silence Over Crimes Against Journalists Is Tantamount To Suppressing Voice Of Justice: PPP Chairman

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that staying silent over crimes against journalists amounts to suppressing the voice of truth and justice.

In his message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Bilawal said that protecting journalists from serious crimes such as threats, violence, harassment and murder is the shared responsibility of the state and society. He said that allowing those involved in such crimes to escape punishment is tantamount to silencing the public's right to information.

He said journalists play a fundamental role in bringing facts to the public, holding the corridors of power accountable and raising awareness in society.

The escape of those involved in crimes against journalists from the grip of the law, he added, poses a grave threat to press freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

The PPP chairman said the unanimous 1973 Constitution guarantees every citizen the fundamental right to freedom of expression, and protecting this right is the constitutional and moral responsibility of a democratic state.

Referring to the government of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Bilawal said she abolished the draconian laws of the Ziaul Haq dictatorship that were used to stifle press freedom and silence its voice. He said this historic step by Benazir Bhutto reflected the importance of dissent and a free press in a democracy.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the PPP will continue its struggle for press freedom, freedom of expression and the protection of journalists. Without a free press, he said, democracy cannot grow stronger, nor can the people become informed and empowered.

New mechanism keeps petrol Rs15 cheaper, says minister

- Ali Pervaiz says refineries absorbed increase as fuel import premiums surged

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Monday that the government's revised pricing mechanism and cooperation from local refineries enabled it to keep petrol around Rs15 per litre cheaper than international market rates amid the US-Iran war.

Speaking about the recent changes to the petrol pricing mechanism, Malik said the regional conflict had sharply increased costs associated with fuel imports, including freight, insurance and other logistics expenses.

He said the premium on petrol stood at around $5 per barrel before the war but subsequently surged to $20 per barrel. The minister said subsequent PSO tenders showed premiums climbing further to around $25-$30 per barrel and even higher as regional conditions deteriorated.

Malik said the government worked with local refineries to deal with the situation and contain the impact on consumers without disrupting the availability of imported petrol.

Around 70% of the country's petrol requirement comes from the international market while locally produced petrol accounts for about 30%, according to the minister.

He said the government had to ensure that any intervention did not make imported petrol commercially unviable and consequently lead to supply shortages.

"I am grateful that they listened to our appeal and absorbed roughly a Rs15 increase that was coming due for petrol on Friday, helping the government maintain prices," Malik said, referring to local refineries.

He said the arrangement had allowed petrol to be kept around Rs15 per litre cheaper than international market rates, adding that refineries were absorbing a burden of roughly Rs15 billion per month.

Government considers coalition role in electoral reforms panel

- Ahsan stresses continuity of policies for sustainable development

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is considering reducing its representation in the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms to accommodate its coalition partners, government sources said.

According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wants to take all coalition partners on board and ensure their representation in the parliamentary committee.

Consultations are underway to give representation to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and other allied parties in the committee.

Sources said the PML-N may reduce its share in proportion to its representation in parliament to make room for coalition partners.

The possibility of including one member of the National Assembly each from the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Zia is also under consideration.

With the inclusion of coalition partners, the PML-N's representation from the National Assembly in the parliamentary committee is expected to fall below nine members.

Earlier, the government had sought nominations from the PPP and MQM-P for the proposed parliamentary committee on electoral reforms.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry wrote letters to PPP Chief Whip Aijaz Jakhrani and MQM-P Chief Whip Aminul Haque, seeking nominations for the committee.

Under the proposed proportional representation, the PPP is entitled to five members, while the MQM-P will have one representative. The ruling PML-N was initially allocated nine seats in the parliamentary committee.

PTI chairman rejects Barrister Saif's claims, says all efforts made to meet Imran Khan

- Barrister Gohar says party repeatedly denied access to incarcerated founder

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR



PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday rejected party leader Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif's claims, saying the party had made every possible effort to secure a meeting with incarcerated founder Imran Khan.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gohar termed as "baseless" Saif's assertion that PTI leaders had failed to meet Imran despite being offered an opportunity to do so.

"We made every possible effort to meet the PTI founder through the courts and negotiations, but despite all our efforts, we were not allowed even a single meeting," he said. Gohar said access to Imran had also been one of the party's conditions during the negotiation process. He rejected the assertions made by Saif during his interview, saying: "All of Barrister Saif's claims are false. I reject them."

Saif, during an interview on Geo News programme Jirga, had said that Allama Raja Nasir Abbas was in direct contact with important figures in the establishment, but maintained that those contacts were not aimed at securing Imran's release.

Sindh warns schools of action over violations of transport safety rules

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



The Sindh Education Department has issued safety directives to private schools, prohibiting gas cylinders and unsafe practices in vehicles used to transport students.

Acting on the provincial education minister's instructions, the department has prohibited CNG and LPG cylinders in all vehicles used to transport students, including school vans arranged by schools or parents. The department has also prohibited supplying petrol directly to vehicle engines through bottles, cans or other makeshift containers instead of designated fuel tanks, warning that the practice poses serious safety risks.

Under the directives, school vans must not carry students beyond their authorised seating capacity. Students are also prohibited from travelling while standing on footboards, hanging from vehicles or occupying other unsafe positions.

All vehicles used for student transportation must have valid fitness certificates issued by the Sindh Transport Department.

Gilani pledges parliamentary support for water security commitments

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



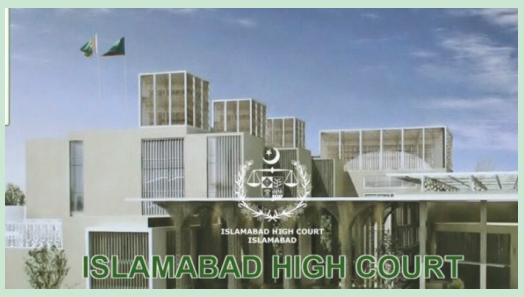
Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday pledged parliamentary support through legislation, oversight and budgetary allocations to advance commitments made at Pakistan Water Week 2026, calling water security a national priority.

Inaugurating the sixth edition of the conference, Gilani said Parliament must ensure that water policies translate into practical improvements for farming communities and people facing floods and shortages.

The five-day event, being held in Islamabad from Nov 2 to 6, focuses on turning commitments into action to strengthen water security and climate-resilient food systems. More than 200 participants attended the opening session.

Senate Chairman identified three areas for parliamentary action: enforceable legislation, effective oversight and sustained funding. He called for the full implementation of provincial water laws and stronger groundwater governance.

Parliament, he said, must ask whether policies were reaching farmers at the tail end of irrigation networks and whether flood warnings were reaching villages in time. Budgets should prioritise prevention alongside disaster relief, he added.



IHC questions CDA's absence in Bahria Town layout plan case

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed an Assistant Attorney General to contact the chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and inquire why no counsel from the authority is appearing in a case challenging the cancellation of Bahria Town's revised layout plan, 16 years after its approval.

Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas heard the petition filed by the private housing society.

As no counsel appeared on behalf of the CDA, the court summoned Assistant Attorney General Mian Faisal Irfan to the rostrum and directed him to contact the authority's chairman to seek an explanation for the repeated absence of its lawyer.

The court subsequently adjourned the hearing, with the next date to be fixed by the Registrar's Office.

Bahria Town has approached the high court against the CDA's decision to cancel its revised layout plan, which had been approved 16 years earlier.

FDA provides relief to 2,358 applicants in 10 months

STAFF REPORTER

FAISALABAD

Faisalabad Development Authority's (FDA) One Window Counter provided prompt departmental relief to total 2,358 applicants during the last 10 months while 150 applications were still under process at various stages.

This was disclosed during a meeting held under the chairmanship of Director General Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA), Muhammad Asif Chaudhry to conduct a detailed review of the performance of FDA's One Window Counter.

During meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given on the applications received at the One Window Counter up to October 31, 2026, their approvals, issuance of notices and applications currently under process during the current year.

According to directorate-wise details, 719 applications relating to Estate Management-I were approved, while the Town Planning-I Directorate disposed of 1,464 applications.

Similarly, 116 applications pertaining to Town Planning-II and 59 applications relating to the Katchi Abadi Directorate were also approved. The progress of the 150 pending applications was also reviewed.

It was informed that progress of less than 50 percent had been made on 55 applications, between 50 and 80 percent on 13 applications, between 80 and 100 percent on 50 applications while progress exceeding 100 percent had been recorded in 32 applications.

The meeting was further informed that the services provided to citizens included approval of property transfers and commercialization, registration of inheritance mutations, implementation of court decrees, issuance of town planning reports, ownership certificates and various No Objection Certificates (NOCs), approval of building plans, matters relating to private housing schemes and other official services.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry directed all concerned departments to utilize available resources to provide maximum facilities to citizens through the One Window Counter and take effective measures to ensure that applications are processed without unnecessary delays.

MIH observes infection prevention week

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Maroof International Hospital (MIH) has observed infection prevention and control week to promote safe healthcare practices and strengthen adherence to infection prevention protocols across its departments.

During the week, departmental rounds were conducted to review infection prevention practices, assess compliance with safety protocols and encourage a culture of responsibility to protect patients, healthcare professionals and visitors.

A special recognition ceremony was also organized at the conclusion of the week to acknowledge departments demonstrating outstanding commitment and vigilance in maintaining infection prevention and control standards.

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) secured first position, followed by the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Labour Room, which jointly achieved second position. The Dialysis Department secured third position.

The hospital appreciated the efforts of all participating teams, recognizing their teamwork, discipline and commitment to maintaining safe clinical practices.

The initiative highlighted the importance of consistent infection prevention measures in improving patient safety and ensuring quality healthcare services.



KARACHI: Students of the South Valley Academy of Performing Arts (SOVAPA) perform in a dance presentation choreographed by Tina Zubovic during the World Culture Festival at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi.

Court proceedings begin against digital traffic challan defaulters in Lahore

● Pending Digital Challans Near 800,000 In Lahore As Motorists Avoid Paying Fines

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Legal proceedings have begun against motorists who have failed to pay digital traffic challans in Lahore, with authorities preparing to issue court summons to citizens who do not clear their fines within 10 days.

According to officials, motorists who fail to pay their outstanding challans despite receiving notices will face legal action. Traffic wardens have been deployed at courts across Lahore to assist judicial authorities and facilitate the recovery of unpaid traffic fines.

Officials said traffic fines were doubled if payments were not made within 10 days, after which the outstanding challans were transferred to the courts for further proceedings.

The increase in penalties has reportedly discouraged several motorists from retrieving their seized documents from the courts.

The number of pending digital challans and documents seized over non-payment has approached 800,000, highlighting the scale of the outstanding traffic violations in the provincial capital.

Officials said some motorists had opted to obtain duplicate identity cards and driving licences instead of paying the increased fines and recovering their original documents.

Authorities have urged motorists to clear their outstanding challans and collect their seized documents through the prescribed legal procedure.



The latest move aims to improve recovery of unpaid traffic fines and ensure compliance with digital traffic enforcement regulations in Lahore.

BISE Rawalpindi sets up 41 centers, command center for Inter 2nd Annual Exams starting Nov 3

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi has finalized all administrative, security, and logistical arrangements for the Intermediate 2nd Annual Examination 2026, which will begin across the division on Tuesday, November 3.

According to BISE spokesperson Arslan Ali Cheema, roll number slips have been issued to all eligible candidates, and invigilation staff have been deployed across 41 designated examination centers in the division's six districts.

The center distribution includes 17 examination centers in Rawalpindi district, 7 in Attock, 5 in Jhelum, 4 in Chakwal, 2 in Murree and 3 in Talagang. Gender-wise allocation comprises 11 centers for male candidates, 12 for female candidates, and 17 combined centers.

Five drug suppliers arrested, over 6.5kg of narcotics recovered

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Police have arrested five drug suppliers in separate operations across the city and recovered more than 6.5 kilograms of drugs from their possession here on Monday.

According to a police spokesperson, Rawat Police held drug supplier and recovered 2.5kg of drugs while Civil Lines Police arrested two suppliers and seized 1.6kg of hashish and 250 grams of ice.

Meanwhile, Dhamial Police arrested a drug supplier and recovered 1.3kg of hashish, while Pirwadhai Police apprehended another supplier and seized 1.06 kg of hashish.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused, the spokesperson added.

Police spokesperson said all possible measures were being taken to eradicate the menace of drugs from society.

Over 1,000 police personnel deployed to ensure security of polio workers

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Police have put in place comprehensive security arrangements for the four-day anti-polio campaign, deploying more than 1,000 police officers and personnel to ensure the safety of polio teams.

According to a police spokesperson on Monday, security is being provided to 686 polio teams and 352 transit points across the district.

Police station mobile units, Elite Force and Dolphin Force personnel are also conducting patrolling in their respective areas to ensure effective security during the campaign.

The spokesperson said foolproof security arrangements had been made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the anti-polio drive. Rawalpindi Police remain committed to protect the lives and property of citizens, the spokesperson added.

Islamabad Launches Same-Day Driving Licence Home Delivery Service

● TCS Begins Same-Day Driving Licence Delivery Service In Islamabad



MUDASSAR IQBAL

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad residents will now be able to receive their driving licences at home on the same day through courier company TCS, while applicants in other cities will receive their licences within 48 hours.

According to an Islamabad Police spokesperson, citizens who complete all required licensing procedures can either collect their driving licences immediately or choose home delivery through TCS.

Chief Traffic Officer Kainat Azhar Khan said licences would be delivered to Islamabad residents within one day, while applicants from other cities would receive their documents within two days.

She said the initiative would save citizens from making repeated visits to traffic police offices to collect their driving licences.

The CTO added that the department would continue introducing public-friendly initiatives to improve service delivery and promote modern policing.

IGP Sohail orders early completion of police barracks renovation at Police Lines Headquarters

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Capt (retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry on Monday visited residential barracks at Police Lines Headquarters and directed the authorities concerned to complete the ongoing construction and renovation work at the earliest while ensuring quality standards.

Women University Sialkot holds smog awareness seminar, walk

STAFF REPORTER

SIALKOT



A smog awareness seminar, a walk and the tree plantation drive were held at Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUS), a release said on Monday.

The Department of Zoology, in collaboration with the Directorate of Student Affairs at Government College Women University Sialkot, organized an awareness seminar, walk and tree plantation drive to promote smog prevention, environmental protection and tree plantation. On this occasion, Ms. Nimra, Inspector at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Government of Punjab, attended as a special guest.

Addressing the seminar, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shazia Bashir highlighted that smog and air pollution are among the major environmental challenges of the present era, requiring collective efforts and public awareness to address them. She emphasized that educational institutions can play a significant role in raising environmental awareness among young people and promoting an eco-friendly lifestyle. She encouraged students to actively contribute to tree plantation, cleanliness and reducing environmental pollution.

Ms. Nimra, Inspector at the EPA, provided valuable information about the causes of smog, its effects on human health and the necessary preventive measures. She also emphasized the importance of reducing air pollution, protecting trees and ensuring compliance with environmental laws.

Following the seminar, participants took part in an awareness walk and planted saplings as part of the tree plantation campaign. The initiative aimed to promote a greener environment and raise awareness about environmental protection.

New administrative units to improve governance, public service delivery: Aleem

● Aleem Khan Claims Growing Consensus On New Provinces To Improve Administrative Efficiency

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday said the creation of smaller administrative units would help address public grievances, improve governance and ensure better service delivery.

He said growing public support for the creation of new provinces and emerging consensus among political parties on the issue was a positive development.

Speaking during a meeting with local party leaders here, he said the country's population had increased substantially over the past eight decades, making new administrative arrangements necessary to improve governance and administrative efficiency.

He added that smaller administrative units would help to address public grievances, improve governance and ensure better service delivery.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that there was already considerable consensus on various proposals, including the Hazara Province in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, separate administrative arrangements for Karachi and Hyderabad in Sindh and South Punjab in Punjab.

Discussions among different political parties on these matters were also moving towards mutual understanding and consensus in a positive way, Abdul Aleem Khan remarked.

He stressed that ground realities must be taken into account to improve public service delivery and administrative efficiency. He made it clear that individual political interests could not be placed above the collective ones, emphasising that all stakeholders must give priority to the broader national interest when addressing important national issues.

Expressing his pleasure over visiting Faisalabad, Abdul Aleem Khan said that the promise to expand the M-4 Motorway had been fulfilled and practical progress had been made on a long-standing demand of the people of Faisalabad.



ISLAMABAD: Workers prepare plastic sheets to install shop-front awnings to protect businesses from rain in the federal capital.

Pakistan's exports to US up by 4.44% to $1.716 bln in 1QFY2027



FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's export of goods and services to the United States (US) witnessed an increase of 4.44 per cent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2026-27) as compared to the exports of the corresponding months of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to US were recorded at US $1.716 billion during July-September (2026-27) against exports of US $1.643 billion during July-September (2025-26), SBP data revealed.

On a year-to-year basis, exports to US increased by 12.46 per cent from $531.269 million in September 2025, against the exports of $597.484 million in September 2026.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, exports to US also increased by 14.09 per cent during September 2026 as compared to the exports of $523.676 million in August 2026, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 7.65 per cent in the first quarter, from US $7.853 billion to US $8.454 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from US into the country during the quarter under review were recorded at US $659.231 million against US $453.285 million last year, showing an increase of 45.43 per cent in July-September (2026-27).

Dawlance Celebrates 103 Years of the Republic of Türkiye, Honouring Pakistan–Türkiye Brotherhood!

FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI



Dawlance, Pakistan's home appliances manufacturer and a subsidiary of Türkiye's Arçelik, joined the celebrations marking the 103rd anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye at [venue]. Dawlance CEO Umar Ahsan Khan attended the event, where the company also hosted a dedicated stall for guests.

Cumhuriyet Bayramı, or Turkish Republic Day, commemorates the proclamation of the Turkish Republic by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on 29 October 1923, when the Grand National Assembly elected him the Republic's first President. The day is also celebrated with enthusiasm in Pakistan, where Turkish enterprises have made large-scale investments and mark the occasion with their Pakistani employees and customers.

At the Dawlance stall, which carried a message marking the occasion, the team served guests traditional Turkish coffee, sweets and Turkish delight, prepared using a Dawlance coffee machine and microwave oven.

Speaking at the event, Umar Ahsan Khan, CEO, Dawlance, said: "It is an honour to join our Turkish brothers and sisters in celebrating 103 years of the Republic of Türkiye. The bond between our nations is one of true brotherhood, rooted in shared history, faith and mutual trust. As part of the Arçelik family, we see this partnership come alive every day, as Turkish expertise and Pakistani talent work side by side to build world-class appliances in Pakistan, for Pakistan and the world."

Mr. Ergül Kodak, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, said: "Today, we do not just celebrate a date on the calendar, but a legacy of resilience, sovereignty and the enduring spirit of the Turkish nation.

Aurangzeb calls for digital financial innovation to drive sustainable economic growth

● Aurangzeb Says Digital Innovation Must Deliver Real Benefits With Strong Regulatory Safeguards

MUDASSER IQBAL

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday emphasized the need for financial innovation and responsible adoption of digital assets to modernize Pakistan's financial system, facilitate businesses and individuals, and accelerate sustainable economic growth.

"Pakistan needs financial innovation, and digital assets must complement the broader digital transformation to provide ease and convenience to people while introducing innovation into the country's financial system," he said while addressing virtually the "Dialogue on Digital Assets and Future of Banking," organized by the Pakistan Banks' Association (PBA) in collaboration with the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

The finance minister said that the government had successfully achieved macroeconomic stability and was now focused on moving the economy towards sustainable and export-led growth through economic discipline, increased exports, greater foreign direct investment and enhanced private-sector participation.

He emphasized that digital innovation should translate into tangible benefits for individuals and businesses, including lower-cost remittances, faster business payments, accessible financing for entrepreneurs and increased productive investment.

"Digital assets should earn their place in our financial system by helping deliver these outcomes," he said, stressing that the adoption of emerging technologies must be driven by practical economic benefits rather than innovation alone.

Aurangzeb said that an efficient, inclusive and modern banking system was essential for supporting economic growth, adding that banks needed to facilitate businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the agriculture sector, through easier access to financing and improved financial services.

He said that digitization could significantly improve the ease of doing business (EODB), strengthen the country's economic infrastructure, expand financial inclusion and encourage more people and enterprises to become part of the formal economy.

The minister maintained that digital transformation must be accompanied by strong regulatory safeguards, financial stability and effective institutional oversight to ensure that technological advancement did not create unnecessary risks for the financial system.

Referring to international developments, he highlighted JPMorgan's use of deposit tokens to facilitate institutional transactions over blockchain networks and the Bank for International Settlements' Project Agora, which is examining the potential of tokenized commercial bank deposits and central bank reserves to improve cross-border settlements.

These developments, he said, demonstrated the important role banks would continue to play in the evolving digital financial ecosystem, particularly in safeguarding funds, managing risks and protecting customers.

The minister stressed the need to distinguish between different categories of digital assets, explaining that tokenized bank deposits remained claims on banks, while stablecoins carried risks depending on their issuers, underlying backing and redemption arrangements. Unbacked crypto assets, he added, involved a different set of risks and required separate consideration.

Highlighting Pakistan's regulatory progress, Aurangzeb said the country had established a statutory framework through the Virtual Assets Act 2026, assigning the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) responsibility for licensing and supervising virtual asset service providers.

He said the next priority was to ensure effective implementation of the framework through capable supervision, institutional coordination and close engagement among relevant regulatory authorities.

Regarding banking services for virtual asset businesses, the minister said the State Bank had introduced a conditional mechanism for extending banking facilities to PVARA-licensed entities, subject to appropriate due diligence and segregation of client funds.

He clarified that accounts opened for entities holding no-objection certificates (NOCs) would serve a limited purpose until completion of the licensing process. Banks, he added, would remain responsible for ensuring compliance with foreign exchange regulations and all other applicable requirements.

Pakistan advances smart agriculture as NPO, APO lunch int'l workshop

● NPO Hosts APO Workshop, Presents National Productivity Awards To Recognize Innovation, Excellence

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan has taken another step towards modernizing its agricultural sector as the National Productivity Organization (NPO), in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan on Monday inaugurated a five-day international workshop on "Innovative Value-added Products in the Agriculture Sector (Smart Agriculture)".

The workshop, being held from 2–6 November 2026, brings together international delegates, agricultural experts and Pakistani professionals to advance smart agriculture, promote sustainable farming practices and strengthen productivity through innovation, technology and value addition.

The opening ceremony was attended by Nadeem Ur Rehman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production, as chief guest.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of the APO National Productivity Awards 2025, recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions towards productivity improvement, innovation, operational excellence and the promotion of a productivity-driven culture in Pakistan.

Nadeem Ur Rehman emphasized that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, contributing significantly to food security, employment generation, rural development and the provision of essential raw materials to the industrial sector.

He underscored the importance of transforming traditional agricultural practices through sustainable soil management, efficient resource utilization, modern technologies and value addition to enhance productivity and strengthen national economic competitiveness.

He highlighted that agricultural modernization and productivity enhancement are essential to achieving the country's economic transformation objectives under URAAN Pakistan and the 5Es National Economic Transformation Plan.

MG Motor Pakistan reaffirms MG HS Super Hybrid pricing amid proposed auto policy changes

FINANCE REPORTER

LAHORE

MG Motor Pakistan has reaffirmed the current manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of PKR 10,199,000 for the All-New MG HS Super Hybrid, providing clarity amid ongoing discussions surrounding proposed vehicle taxation changes under the draft Auto Policy 2026–31.

When MG introduced the All-New MG HS in April 2026, its Hybrid+ and Super Hybrid variants were launched at introductory prices calculated on the basis of an 8.5% GST rate. Following the expiry of the previous Auto Policy's tax provisions on 1 July, the applicable GST rate for affected hybrid vehicles increased to 25%. MG maintained the Super Hybrid's MSRP at PKR 10,199,000.

Subsequently, a government notification dated 14 September 2026 revised GST to 18% for the relevant category of hybrid vehicles. Following this change, MG revised the price of the HS Hybrid+ to PKR 9,999,000, while the Super Hybrid's MSRP remained unchanged.



The draft Auto Policy announced on 21 October 2026 proposes a 9% GST rate for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs).

Pakistan, Bangladesh explore new avenue for industrial cooperation, economic partnership

● Pakistan, Bangladesh Discuss Industrial Cooperation, Investment Opportunities In Emerging Clean Technology Sectors

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Monday held a meeting with Bangladesh's Minister for Finance and Planning Rashid Al Mahmud Titumir and explored new avenues for strengthening bilateral economic ties, with a focus on industrial cooperation, exportled growth, clean energy, technology transfer and investment.

The advisor received the Bangladeshi minister along with his delegation and discussed bilateral relations, industrial cooperation, exportled growth and opportunities for strengthening economic ties between the two countries, said a news release.

The meeting was attended by Rana Ihsan Afzal, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Industries and Commerce; Humaira Zia Mufti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production; and Freedoon Akram Sheikh, Joint Secretary.

Welcoming the delegation, Haroon said that Pakistan and Bangladesh shared brotherly relations rooted in common cultural heritage and historical connections.



On behalf of the people of Pakistan, he warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed his desire to further strengthen bilateral engagement.

The advisor said that prime minister attached particular importance to strengthening relations with regional countries and promoting economic cooperation through mutually beneficial partnerships.

Highlighting Pakistan's ongoing industrial transformation, Haroon said the government was introducing regulatory reforms to facilitate investment, accelerate industrial development and improve the business environment. He emphasized that the government's approach was to replace red tape with a red carpet for investors, ensuring greater facilitation and ease of doing business.

The advisor briefed the visiting delegation on Pakistan's initiatives in the automotive and clean energy sectors, stating that the country had introduced a New Energy Vehicle Policy to facilitate the transition towards sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies.

He further informed the delegation that work was underway on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy to promote the local manufacturing of lithium-ion and sodium-ion batteries. He added that the government was also facilitating the rapid expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the country.

Highlighting Pakistan's progress in solar technology, Haroon Akhtar Khan said that these emerging sectors offered significant opportunities for collaboration between Pakistan and Bangladesh.



Wake up

By Murtaza Talpur

I was dreaming. I know this because the world I saw was too terrible to be ordinary, yet too familiar to be unreal. It felt like a warning dressed as a dream.

In that dream, I witnessed the extinction of all living beings on Earth. It was the seventh extinction in human history. Not sudden. Not silent. It unfolded slowly, painfully, and publicly.

Before the final moment arrived, the Earth began to mourn. People were crying. Animals were screaming. Birds were falling from the sky. Trees stood still, as if frozen in fear. Everything alive seemed to know what was coming. A word echoed everywhere – 'apocalyptic'. No one spoke it aloud. It rose from the ground, from the air, from the bones of the planet.

Destruction followed without mercy. Bodies covered the land. Cities collapsed into dust. Homes, hospitals, markets, and schools disappeared as if they had never existed. Roads cracked open. Bridges sank. Civilisation lost its memory. The sky turned completely dark, not with clouds, but with something heavier. Breathing became painful. Air itself had turned hostile.

The atmosphere was poisoned. Each breath burned the lungs. The smell of chemicals filled the world. People gasped like fish pulled out of water. Oceans no longer obeyed nature. Some had dried up, leaving behind salt and skeletons. Others had risen violently, swallowing coastlines, villages and history.

In the dream, markets were still open. But they sold no food. They sold oxygen. Cylinders of air were guarded like gold. Only the wealthy could afford to breathe safely. Water was priced beyond imagination. Thirst had become a punishment for the poor. The soil was no longer soil. It burned and smoked. It rejected seeds. Farming had become a memory.

Children were dying in front of their parents. There were no ambulances. No doctors. No hope. The sun felt closer, heavier, angrier. It scorched whatever remained. When winter arrived, it was brutally cold. Seasons had turned into weapons.

The sky was empty of birds. Not a single wing moved. Forests were dry and lifeless. Trees stood like dead witnesses. Decades of extraction had hollowed the Earth from within. Mountains were wounded. Rivers were drained. The planet felt tired. Exhausted. Betrayed. Climate death swallowed everyone.

Then I heard it – a sound I had never heard before. Not thunder. Not wind. It was the sound of collapse. Air began to whisper, violently. It spoke of suffocation and regret. The sky turned red, as if bleeding. I saw tears falling from the Earth onto cracked land.



Have you ever seen the Earth cry? In that dream, I did. Have you ever heard plants speak? They begged to be spared. Have you ever heard animals and birds sob together? Their grief filled the silence. I felt as if I were drowning in an ocean of imagination, yet everything felt real. The Earth was bald. No forests. No grass. No colour. Only scars and ash.

Then I saw the leaders of rich nations. The same nations that had polluted the world in the name of progress. I saw repentance on their faces. I saw fear in their eyes. But repentance had arrived too late. The damage was already irreversible.

I saw the biggest polluters trapped in horrifying encounters. They were chased by floods they once ignored. Burned by heatwaves they had denied. Choked by air they had poisoned. I also saw those who once claimed climate change was not real. Their words offered no shelter now.

The planet began to shake. Something massive was approaching Earth. Perhaps an asteroid. Perhaps the final consequence of human arrogance. It was enormous. It was close. Very close.

Just as it seemed inevitable, a loud horn pierced the air. I woke up. It was a truck passing by. Morning had arrived. But the weight of the dream did not leave me. I woke up shaken, disturbed, and deeply afraid. Not because it was a nightmare, but because it felt like a preview.

This dream was not fiction. It was an admonition. Climate change is no longer a future threat. It is a present reality. Floods, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and famines are already turning imagination into experience. Pakistan knows this truth intimately. Our glaciers are melting. Our cities are suffocating. Our farmers are losing seasons. Our children are breathing poisoned air.

The crisis today is not lack of knowledge. It is delay. Science has warned us. Nature has protested. Yet emissions continue. Forests fall. Inequality deepens. Those who contributed the least continue to suffer the most. Climate injustice is no longer theoretical. It is lived, daily, and deadly.

This is not a call for panic but for responsibility. We still have a choice. We can listen. We can change. We can reduce extraction, protect ecosystems, invest in adaptation, and demand accountability from those most responsible. We can stop treating the Earth as a resource and start respecting it as a living system. If we fail, this dream will return – not in sleep, but in reality. And there may be no horn left to wake us.



By Dr Naazir Mahmood

Stretching the law



There was a time when terrorism meant bombs exploding in marketplaces, gunmen attacking schools and militants slaughtering innocent civilians. We know these horrors better than most countries. We have buried tens of thousands of victims, mourned murdered children and endured decades of violence that have scarred our national consciousness.

Yet, on October 29, an anti-terrorism court sentenced two human rights lawyers, Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband, Hadi Ali Chattha, to ten years in prison each over an altercation involving road barriers put up for a visiting English cricket team. Having spent much of my life observing Pakistan's uneasy relationship with democracy, I thought I had developed a reasonable tolerance for the absurdities of its justice system. This judgment challenges even that pessimistic assumption.

No sensible person disputes the importance of protecting international sports teams. We remember the March 2009 attack on Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore. Security arrangements must be respected, and genuine assaults on police officers should be investigated and punished. But the central question is not whether removing a barricade or confronting a police officer constitutes misconduct. It is whether the circumstances justify treating the incident as terrorism, with a decade of imprisonment as punishment.

A legal system that cannot distinguish between ordinary criminal wrongdoing and terrorism risks making the latter category meaningless. The judgment reportedly acknowledged that removing a barrier might ordinarily appear to be a commonplace incident, yet concluded that the defendants' actions threatened the cricket team's security and demonstrated an intention to create terror. A republic cannot defend itself by stretching the meaning of terrorism until it encompasses every confrontation with authority. The couple's prosecution becomes more disturbing when examined against their professional activities. Imaan Mazari and Hadi Chattha have both undertaken human rights litigation.

Neither professional commitment nor political dissent confers immunity from ordinary law. Lawyers must obey lawful security instructions like everyone else. But when advocates repeatedly challenging state institutions face successive prosecutions, the legitimacy of those proceedings depends upon unusually convincing evidence, scrupulous procedural safeguards and demonstrable judicial independence. In January 2026, the couple received 17-year sentences over social media posts under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, or Peca. On September 17, the Supreme Court suspended those sentences and granted them bail pending appeals. Instead of obtaining their freedom, they were arrested again within hours in connection with another case. UN experts subsequently warned that the sequence appeared intended to punish their advocacy and intimidate the legal profession.

There is a particularly troubling aspect to this chronology. Even when a superior court intervenes, the accused can remain incarcerated through proceedings arising from additional cases. The formal availability of legal remedies offers limited reassurance if imprisonment continues regardless of the outcome of individual challenges. The latest trial raises further questions, with the defendants complaining that they had not received essential documents, had been denied effective access to lawyers of their choosing and had been prevented from properly participating in their defence. The couple contested aspects of the proceedings before the higher courts.

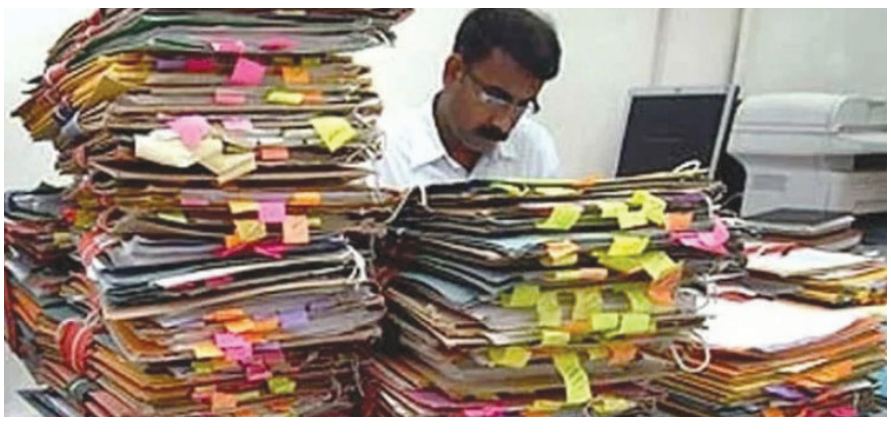
Article 10A of Pakistan's constitution guarantees the right to a fair trial and due process. That guarantee is not a procedural decoration. Nor can it be satisfied merely by appointing a lawyer if the accused has been denied a meaningful opportunity to instruct counsel, examine evidence and challenge witnesses. Justice must be done through procedures that inspire confidence, particularly when the defendants are themselves members of the legal profession. The broader significance extends beyond these two individuals. Pakistan's history contains too many examples of laws introduced for exceptional dangers gradually becoming instruments of ordinary political control.

Colonial sedition provisions survived independence. Preventive detention acquired a familiar administrative convenience. Emergency regulations repeatedly outlived the emergencies supposedly justifying them. Peca represents a modern variation on this tradition. Enacted in 2016 to combat electronic crimes, it has increasingly become a source of concern for journalists, lawyers and digital-rights campaigners. Amendments passed in January 2025 widened the regulatory and enforcement framework and introduced Section 26A, criminalising certain categories of false or fake information.



By Javaid Jehangir

Is a bureaucratic mindset the missing link?



The ongoing debate on governance challenges and reforms in Pakistan raises a fundamental question: why have successive governments, despite repeated reform initiatives and substantial investments of time, money, expertise and institutional resources, failed to achieve commensurate improvements in governance?

The persistence, and in several areas the apparent worsening, of governance problems demands a critical examination of the underlying causes. Are these failures primarily attributable to flawed reform design and weak implementation, or have we overlooked a deeper institutional problem: the bureaucratic mindset, organisational culture and administrative practices through which reforms are conceived, interpreted and implemented?

Successive reform initiatives may have suffered from inadequate planning, unrealistic objectives or weak implementation mechanisms. Yet another possibility deserves equal attention: governments have focused too much on changing rules, procedures, organisational structures and administrative arrangements without adequately addressing the institutional culture that shapes how these changes translate into practice. Revising regulations or restructuring departments is relatively straightforward; transforming entrenched attitudes, behavioural patterns, incentives and power relationships is considerably more difficult. Without such transformation, even well-designed reforms risk producing formal changes without meaningful improvements in governance.

Pakistan inherited an administrative system designed primarily to maintain law and order, exercise control and protect the interests of the colonial state. Centralised decision-making, rigid hierarchies, extensive discretionary authority and a considerable distance between officials and citizens were integral to that model. Although independence changed the state's political status, many features of its colonial administrative culture survived.

Subsequent political and institutional developments reinforced rather than fundamentally transformed these practices. Official authority increasingly became associated with status, privilege, and access to power, while administrative procedures often took precedence over the public purposes they were meant to serve. Citizens seeking routine services or redress frequently encounter cumbersome processes, avoidable delays and officials more concerned with procedural objections than with resolving legitimate problems.

A related institutional weakness is the dominance of the generalist model in Pakistan's civil service. The system has traditionally assumed that broad administrative experience equips officers for leadership across diverse fields, often giving generalists an advantage over professionals with specialised knowledge. Administrative coordination and broad policy understanding are undoubtedly important, but they cannot substitute for technical competence in increasingly complex areas of governance.

Public financial management, taxation, energy, economic planning, engineering, climate change and digital transformation require substantial professional expertise. Effective governance demands a combination of administrative judgement, technical knowledge and the ability to coordinate across disciplines. A system that undervalues specialised competence risks weakening the quality of policy formulation and implementation.

The generalist model is compounded by an informal hierarchy among civil service occupational groups. The 1973 administrative reforms established different services to perform distinct governmental functions. However, certain groups, particularly the Pakistan Administrative Service and the Police Service of Pakistan, have traditionally enjoyed greater prestige, visibility and access to influential policymaking and leadership positions.

The issue is not the importance of field administration or law enforcement, both of which are essential state functions. It is the institutional imbalance that arises when occupational affiliation, rather than relevant expertise, demonstrated performance and professional merit, disproportionately determines career progression and access to senior positions. Such hierarchies can discourage specialists, weaken professional recognition and prevent the state from fully utilising the expertise available within its own institutions.

These structural features are reinforced by a bureaucratic culture in which procedural and regulatory compliance frequently takes precedence over public outcomes. Rules and procedures are indispensable for legality, consistency and accountability, but they become counterproductive when treated as ends in themselves rather than instruments for serving the public interest.

Excessive procedural tilt can delay decisions, discourage initiative, blur responsibility for results and make public institutions less responsive to citizens. Processing files, observing formalities and avoiding procedural objections cannot, by themselves, demonstrate effective administration. Institutional performance must also be judged by the fairness of decisions, the quality and timeliness of services, the efficient use of public resources and the ability to resolve public problems.

THE DESTINATION
Editor's Mail
Send your letter for Letter to Editor THE DESTINATION
Masawat Building, Zero Point, G-7/1, Islamabad
Email: dailydestinationnews@gmail.com
Letters should be addressed to the Destination exclusively
https://dailythedestination.com/
Mudasser Iqbal — **Cheif Editor**
Tahir Chudhary — **Resident Editor Lahore**



ISLAMABAD: Students of Islamabad Model College for Girls, G-14/4, showcase their innovative science projects during the Grand STEAM Exhibition.

China's Xi says Middle East should not become battleground for great power rivalry

● Sultan on first trip to China by an Omani leader



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BEIJING/DUBAI

The Middle East and Gulf region should not become a battleground for great-power rivalry, and China is willing to work with Arab nations to achieve lasting peace, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Oman's sultan on Monday.

China has traditionally played a low-key diplomatic role in the Middle East, but has stepped up efforts to try to help end tensions amid the US-Israeli war on Iran, which has snarled the Strait of Hormuz and driven up global energy and shipping costs.

Xi told Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said that the world is undergoing "profound changes unseen in a century."

"The Middle East Gulf region should not become an arena for great-power rivalry and geopolitical conflict. Peace and stability in the region require joint nurturing and protection by all parties," Xi said, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

China has consistently been committed to stopping the war, and hopes to contribute "wisdom and solutions to resolving the region's security dilemmas," he added.

China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Arab countries, including the Gulf Cooperation Council states, to work together toward restoring peace and achieving lasting stability and security, Xi said.

Last week, China's Foreign Ministry said the country will soon be dispatching its special envoys to the Middle East to promote engagement and de-escalation.

First China trip

Haitham arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a two-day visit, the first by an Omani head of state since the countries established ties in 1978.

Haitham told Xi his government had deep appreciation for China's positions on key issues concerning the region, Omani state media reported.

"We believe that development and stability are inextricably linked," he said.

"The prosperity of nations requires an environment defined by security, peace, respect for state sovereignty, and adherence to international law — an environment where disputes are resolved through peaceful means."

He also said Oman was open to entering into a preferential bilateral trade and investment agreement with China.

"We are confident that such an agreement would open new avenues for trade and investment, facilitate and enhance commercial and investment exchanges between our two nations," Haitham said.

China is Oman's largest trade partner, with tourism and business links boosted by direct flights between Beijing and Muscat since November last year.

Oman, which exports crude oil and energy products to China, has also been looking to further develop its renewable energy supply chains and digital commerce.

The Omani leader, who was welcomed on the tarmac in Beijing by People's Bank of China Governor Pan Gongsheng, also emphasised cooperation between investment and financial institutions.



ISTANBUL: Pakistan's Consul General in Istanbul, Khawaja Khurram Naeem, welcomes Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan upon his arrival at Istanbul Airport to attend the 42nd COMCEC Session.

Trump's Republicans Scramble To Stop A Big Democratic Midterms Wave

● Polls show Democrats close to winning the House, while the fight for the Senate stays tight on the eve of Tuesday's vote

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

US



Democratic midterms are only a day away, and both parties are chasing every last vote. Polls show Democrats are very likely to win the House of Representatives on Tuesday. They also have a real chance of taking the Senate.

Republicans fear a heavy loss. On Sunday, President Donald Trump held rallies in Iowa and Kansas. His party should win these states easily, so the visits show how worried it is.

Trump told the crowd his party will win. He called Democrats dangerous radicals and promised $5,000 payments to everyone if Republicans succeed.

Democrats feel hopeful, but they are also nervous. Senator Raphael Warnock said the mood is a mix of excitement and fear.

A new rift in Michigan added to the worry. A Democratic congresswoman backed Republican Mike Rogers instead of her own party's candidate, Abdul El-Sayed.

Still, most experts say Democrats have the momentum. An NBC News poll found that 60 percent of Americans disapprove of Trump's work. High prices and the eight-month war with Iran are big reasons.

Voters are very active this year. A record 54 million people have already voted early.

A Democratic win in the House would give the party control of the federal budget. It would also let Democrats lead powerful committees that could investigate corruption claims and Trump's links to Jeffrey Epstein.

The Senate race is harder to call. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority, and only one-third of the seats are up for election. Even so, Democrats are making strong challenges in Republican states like Texas and Kansas.

The final New York Times/Siena poll shows Democrats ahead in all seven of the closest Senate races. Five of those leads are within the margin of error.

A Democratic Senate could also block Trump's picks for the courts, including the Supreme Court.

The campaign has been costly and bitter. About $11 billion has been spent on ads, and Elon Musk has given nearly half a billion dollars to help Republicans.

Many people also worry that Republicans may not accept a loss. On Sunday, a federal judge threw out a strange Trump administration lawsuit in Alaska. It tried to stop certification if Democrat Mary Peltola beats Republican Dan Sullivan.

Canada's Carney Hails Good Talks With Trump On Trade Deal

NEWS DESK

MONTREAL

Canada's Carney hails a "good conversation" with US President Donald Trump as the two leaders try to repair their strained trade ties. Carney shared the news on social media on Sunday, November 1.

He said the call followed recent helpful talks about the basic shape of a trade deal. In his view, such a deal would benefit both countries.

Carney also said officials from both sides will now work in the coming weeks. Their goal is to turn those ideas into a real agreement.

Since returning to office, Trump has shaken up global trade. He has placed tariffs on friends and rivals alike. Canada is one of America's biggest trading partners, and it has often been in his sights.

High-level trade talks between the two nations broke down in August. After that, Trump placed a series of new taxes on Canadian goods. He has since removed some of them ahead of the important US midterm elections.

The timing matters. Cost of living is a top concern for American voters, and the tariffs have pushed prices higher across the country.

The tariffs that followed the August breakdown affected about US$20 billion worth of goods. The list ranged from hockey sticks to cement.

Canada hit back with taxes on the same value of American products. Trump then answered with another round of tariffs of up to 50 per cent on certain goods.

UAE Hopes For Diplomatic Breakthrough Between US And Iran, Prepares For Worst

● Emirati Official Backs Diplomacy, Warns Region Must Prepare for Worst

WEB DESK

MANAMA



The United Arab Emirates is hoping for a diplomatic breakthrough in negotiations between Iran and the United States while remaining prepared for the possibility of renewed conflict in the Middle East, a senior Emirati official said.

Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the UAE president, made the remarks during a conference in Manama, saying another round of fighting would not serve the interests of the region.

"We're hoping that there is a diplomatic breakthrough," Gargash said, adding that the UAE was also "braced for the worst", as it had demonstrated previously.

His comments came amid renewed concerns over a possible resumption of hostilities between Washington and Tehran.

Following a visit to Tehran this week by a Qatari delegation, Iran has sent envoys to Qatar to continue consultations as part of indirect negotiations with the United States aimed at ending the war.

However, US President Donald Trump renewed his threats on Saturday, saying Washington still had to "take care of" one or two targets in Iran.

Speaking at the Manama conference on Sunday, US Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Donald Blome said Washington would not allow Iran to hold the region and the global economy hostage.

"The hand of negotiation has been extended, and those channels have continued to be open and active at the same time," Blome said, while adding that the United States was also prepared to pursue another course of action.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Trump had not made a decision on launching fresh strikes against Iran and that Washington remained open to a diplomatic solution.

The conflict began on February 28 with joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran. Tehran retaliated by targeting several locations, including countries in the Gulf allied with Washington.

Bangladesh garment workers clash with police protesting higher wages



WEB DESK

BANGLADESH

Thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers blocked a major highway and clashed with police on Monday, demanding a monthly minimum wage more than double their current pay, as protests spread across industrial hubs.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people is the world's second-biggest garment exporter behind China, manufacturing clothes for some of the largest international brands.

Hundreds of workers in Gazipur, north of the capital Dhaka, blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway, vandalising several vehicles, while large groups took to the streets in the Mirpur district, where police dispersed demonstrators with tear gas, AFP reporters saw.

The protests came despite the government's announcement on Sunday that it would establish a wage board to review the minimum wage in the vital garment industry, which employs millions of people and generates the bulk of Bangladesh's export earnings.

Qatar LNG Tanker Hit In Arabian Gulf, Crew Safe, No Pollution Reported

● Nakilat says the crew is safe and the vessel is still operating while the damage is checked

NEWS DESK

QATAR



A Qatar LNG tanker named Al Mayeda was hit by unknown objects while sailing through the Arabian Gulf on Friday evening, October 30. The ship's operator, Qatar Gas Transport Company, known as Nakilat, shared the news in an official statement.

The company said all crew members are safe. No one was hurt in the incident.

Nakilat also said the event caused no harm to the environment. This is good news, as any damage to a gas carrier can raise serious worries.

The vessel is in a safe condition and is still working. The company is now checking how much impact the strike had on the ship.

Nakilat posted the statement on the Qatar Stock Exchange. Qatar News Agency also reported that the company is in direct contact with the vessel and its crew.

It is also working with regional maritime security authorities. Its main goal is to keep everyone on board safe while it watches the situation closely.

So far, no one has said who or what struck the ship. The company has not shared any details about the objects.

The incident comes at a tense time for the region. Shipping in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz has faced higher risks since the Middle East conflict began in February.

Iran has said that ships must get its permission before passing through the Strait of Hormuz. The United States has answered by blocking Iranian ports.

Qatar has been acting as a mediator in this dispute. In recent days, it has worked harder to bring the United States and Iran back to the talking table.

This latest event adds to fears about the safety of trade ships in the Gulf. The waterway is one of the most important routes for the world's energy supply.

Many countries depend on gas that moves through these waters. Any threat to ships here can affect fuel markets far beyond the region.

Nine people dead in Learjet crash in south Florida, say officials

WEB DESK

FLORIDA

A Learjet crashed on Sunday afternoon in a residential area in Palm Beach County, Florida, killing all nine people on board, US transportation officials said.

The private jet had taken off from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas and was headed to North Eleuthera Airport in the Bahamas, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. Videos on social media showed the jet slamming into the ground next to a road and exploding.

"It was a big-time tragedy that happened," Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said at a press conference near the crash site in Lake Worth Beach. "When you see that video, it's a jarring thing. It was like a missile coming down, and a massive explosion, debris going everywhere."

The National Transportation Safety Board said it had launched an investigation into the crash, which Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy called a "horrific tragedy."

FAA records list the Bombardier-made BBDb.TO Learjet 60's owner as a Delaware corporation. Canada-based Bombardier said it would fully support the investigation and cooperate as needed.

The crash left a "massive crater" by the road near the entrance to a mobile home park, Palm Beach County Commissioner Joel Flores said at the news conference.

Taliban govt voices 'serious concern' over US Afghan deportation plans

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Afghanistan's Taliban authorities voiced concern on Monday over reported plans by Washington to deport scores of Afghan immigrants to Pakistan with the aim of their eventual return to their home country.

More than 150 Afghans in the United States would be deported via Pakistan to Afghanistan, including relatives of those who assisted US forces before their 2021 withdrawal, according to US media reports and an advocacy group.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan expresses its serious concern over reports that the United States intends to deport some Afghan refugees to Pakistan who have not yet been able to obtain legal residency documents in that country," foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said in a statement.

After regaining power, Taliban authorities announced a general amnesty for Afghans who worked with Western-backed forces and governments and have repeated promises this year that their former foes could safely return home.

Janhvi Kapoor channels late mother Sridevi's iconic Nagina avatar for Halloween

● Janhvi Pays Loving Tribute To Sridevi, Channels Nagina Character For Halloween

SHOW BIZ DESK

MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor turned Halloween into a nostalgic tribute to her late mother, legendary actress Sridevi, by recreating her iconic look from the 1986 fantasy film Nagina.

Her transformation brought back memories of the classic movie, while her sister Khushi Kapoor was quick to praise the special recreation.

Janhvi shared a series of pictures and videos on Instagram, showing herself dressed as Sridevi's famous ichchadhari naagin character. She recreated the pink outfit, jewellery, makeup and hairstyle that made the original look so memorable.



Her friend Orhan Awatramani, popularly known as Orry, also joined the Halloween recreation in a look inspired by Rishi Kapoor's character. Vaishnav Praveen took on the appearance of Amrish Puri, bringing another familiar face from the film into the celebration.

Sharing the pictures, Janhvi wrote, "Happy Halloweeeeeny had to recreate one of the most iconic movie moments everrrrr.

She went on to reflect on how Halloween has become an opportunity for people to dress up as their favourite fictional characters and celebrate moments from popular culture. The actress added that costumes can be spooky or funny, but they can also honour characters and personalities that hold a special place in people's hearts.

Explaining her choice of characters, Janhvi wrote, "And who could possibly be more iconic than Mumma, Rishi uncle and Amrish sir!!"

Her reference to Sridevi as "Mumma" made the post especially personal, as she brought her mother's memorable screen appearance back to life through the Halloween look.

The pictures also received a sweet reaction from Janhvi's sister Khushi Kapoor, who commented, "You have won Halloween", showing her appreciation for the recreation.

Released in 1986, Nagina featured Sridevi as an ichchadhari naagin, a mythical serpent capable of taking human form. The film also starred Rishi Kapoor and Amrish Puri, with Puri playing the antagonist.

Sridevi's performance, particularly her expressions and dance sequences, became one of the film's biggest highlights. The popular song "Main Teri Dushman" remains closely associated with her role and is still remembered by Bollywood audiences.



Romaisa Khan takes a hilarious dig at TikTokers begging for award votes

SHOWBIZ DESK

DUBAI

Pakistani TikToker and social media personality Romaisa Khan has grabbed attention with her latest Instagram video, in which she pokes fun at fellow TikTokers who ask their followers to vote for them in award shows.

In the entertaining clip, Romaisa initially appears serious as she announces that she has been nominated for an award. She then asks her followers to vote for her, saying that their support would mean a lot. However, she soon switches to her comic persona and turns the request into a hilarious performance.

Romaisa then jokes about creators who repeatedly seek votes, saying that asking for support in this way makes them look desperate. Calling herself a queen, she claims that she does not need to beg for votes because people will choose their favourites on their own.

Sharing the video, Romaisa wrote in the caption, "Guys, is tarah bheek mat mango votes ki, y'all look way too desperate. And I am different, I am the Queen who doesn't need to beg. Log khud apni pasand se vote krenge and may the best win! (Me) :)"

Through her sarcastic caption, Romaisa continued the joke, suggesting that she was confident enough to let people decide who deserved their votes. She also added hashtags such as #peaceout, #pickme and #girlsgirl to match the playful mood of the post.

The video received an amusing response from fans and fellow social media users, who joined in with laughing emojis and funny comments. Sehar Khan showed her support by writing, "My only vote is for youu," while Rimha Ahmed also expressed her love for Romaisa.

Another user played along with the joke, saying that all three of their votes had already gone to Romaisa and asking her to vote for them in the culinary category. Several others also reacted with laughter, adding to the fun surrounding the post.

The Instagram post has received more than 101,000 likes, with Romaisa's humorous take on award-season voting entertaining her followers.

Coke Studio Nu.WAV releases fifth track Qasam

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Coke Studio Nu.WAV continues with its fifth release, Qasam, bringing together Shae Gill and Afusic on an experimental pop track produced by Abdullah Kasumbi. Qasam pairs contemporary electronic production with a distinctly South Asian sound of the sarangi. Written by Afusic, the song explores the uncertainty of a relationship caught between hurt, attachment and the desire to hold on. While the lyrics carry that emotional weight, Abdullah Kasumbi's production keeps the track energetic and moving, creating a beautiful contrast between what the song is saying and how it feels musically. That contrast also comes through in the vocals. Afusic brings his familiar rhythmic phrasing to the track, while Shae Gill explores a vocal range and style that audiences have heard less often from her, giving the two voices distinctly different textures. Gul Khan's sarangi runs through production, adding another emotional layer to its electronic sound. Kusumbi's direction focuses on movement, exploring the relationship that sits at the heart of Qasam. Rather than telling the story literally, the choreography follows different stages of connection: two people drawing closer, pulling apart, trying to trust one another and finding their way back again. At one-point, invisible strings appear to connect and control the dancers; elsewhere, their bodies move almost like stitches, repeatedly coming together and separating again. These ideas echo the song's central theme of a relationship that is trying to repair itself even as it threatens to come apart, and that is the magic of the Movement Director, Shams Mansur. The music video was shot inside Karachi's century-old Bristol Hotel, with Hammad Sohail's production design using the building's existing character as part of the visual world.



Amar Khan pens a touching birthday tribute to mother Fareeha Jabeen

SHOW BIZ

KARACHI

Pakistani actress and screenwriter Amar Khan has shared a heartfelt birthday tribute to her mother, veteran actress Fareeha Jabeen, posting a nostalgic throwback picture on Instagram along with warm wishes and prayers for her happiness and good health.



Sharing a black-and-white portrait of her mother, Amar wished her a very happy birthday and called her "the most beautiful Amma in the world." She also prayed for Allah Almighty to bless her mother with happiness and good health.

In her Instagram story, Amar encouraged her followers to send their duas and love to Fareeha, adding a personal touch to the birthday celebration.

Her affectionate words reflected the special bond she shares with her mother, while the vintage photograph brought a nostalgic feel to the post.

Fareeha Jabeen is a veteran Pakistani television actress who has appeared in several television productions. Amar Khan has also made her mark in the entertainment industry as an actress and writer, appearing in various television projects and films.

Bushra Ansari opens up about harsh reality of modern relationships



SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI

Veteran Pakistani actress Bushra Ansari has opened up about the changing nature of relationships, sharing her views on how money and expensive gifts are influencing bonds between family members, children and friends.

In a recent YouTube vlog, she spoke about how some people seem to expect financial support in return for love and attention.

Bushra expressed concern that even blood relationships are becoming strained, with people seemingly giving more importance to what others can provide for them. She suggested that spending money and giving expensive gifts have become important factors in maintaining certain relationships.

Speaking about the situation, she said, "Real blood relationships are becoming cruel. Now, I think you have to buy love from your relationships or loved ones. If you keep spending on them and giving them expensive gifts, your relationship with them will remain stable."

She further explained that similar expectations can also affect relationships with children and friends. According to Bushra, spending money on children alongside giving them love may influence how much attention they give in return. She also pointed out that some friends may drift away when a person can no longer spend money on them.

Through her remarks, the actress questioned the sincerity of relationships in which financial contributions appear to matter more than genuine care and affection. She suggested that people are increasingly expected to spend money to maintain love, loyalty and closeness.

However, Bushra also shared that she has a few genuine friends who have never expected anything from her. She said these friendships have remained strong throughout her life, showing that sincere bonds can exist without financial expectations or expensive gifts.

Known for her candid opinions and decades-long career in the entertainment industry, Bushra Ansari regularly shares her experiences and thoughts on relationships and everyday life through her YouTube vlogs.

Leonardo DiCaprio, Vittoria Ceretti dress in Red Riding Hood couples costume

● The Oscar-winner, 51, and the model, 28, attend Kendall Jenner's Halloween party/ birthday bash

WEB DESK

NEW YORK

Leonardo DiCaprio and Vittoria Ceretti brought a darker and sultry twist to a classic fairy tale for Halloween.

The couple, who have been together since 2023, attended Kendall Jenner's star-studded Halloween party dressed up as the Big Bad Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood, according to photographs obtained by Daily Mail.

The event also celebrated Jenner's upcoming 31st birthday, which falls on November 3. Other celebrity guests included Charli XCX, Cara Delevingne, Tate McRae, Rita Ora and Zoey Deutch.

DiCaprio, 51, opted for casual clothing and his signature black baseball cap topped with a wolf mask. Ceretti, 28, put a sultry spin on Little Red Riding Hood, wearing a long red cape, black corset, white blouse and matching skirt. She completed her look with special effects makeup resembling a bruise around her right eye.



DiCaprio's costume choice was fitting, given his connection to the fairy tale. He produced the 2011 dark fantasy film Red Riding Hood, starring Amanda Seyfried.

The couple have largely kept their relationship private. However, Ceretti previously addressed the challenges of dating a "very, very famous actor," telling Vogue France, "If what you're experiencing is real, if you know you love each other, then there's no reason to be alarmed. Because love protects and gives confidence."

Mr Patloo's first wife claims he changed after gaining fame and wealth

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Famous TikToker Mr Patloo's first wife has made serious allegations against him, claiming that he changed his behaviour after gaining fame and wealth and eventually divorced her without informing her.



In an interview shared on social media, she said she married Mr Patloo on November 10, 2021, and their marriage lasted for around four years before ending in divorce.

She claimed that she stood by her husband when he was facing financial difficulties, but his attitude changed after he became famous and wealthy.

According to her, Mr Patloo started developing relationships with other women, after which he began treating her badly.

She alleged that he would scold her, stop calling her, and gradually cut off contact, leaving her under severe mental stress.

She further claimed that she had been taking sleeping pills for the past one and a half years because of the emotional distress and that her medical records were available in the United Kingdom.

The allegations have attracted attention on social media.

Ali Zafar surprises fans with rugged new look as Bostan Khan in 'Gangs of Khorasan'

SHOW BIZ REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistani singer and actor Ali Zafar has surprised fans by unveiling his new look as Bostan Khan in his upcoming project Gangs of Khorasan.



The actor shared a glimpse of his character on social media, sporting a rugged appearance with a thick moustache and glasses.

His striking transformation has left fans wondering whether Bostan Khan will be a hero or a villain in the upcoming series.

Known for his soulful singing, charming screen presence and natural sense of humour, Ali Zafar appears to have taken a different direction with this new character.

Victoria's Secret star Leomie Anderson lands another role after success

WEB DESK

LONDON

Victoria's Secret model Leomie Anderson could soon be facing a new challenge as she is reportedly set to join I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!

The 33-year-old model is said to be preparing for a trip to the jungle after leaving her job as the host of BBC's Glow Up.

Leomie spent years working in the fashion world but she can now be getting ready to face a very different kind of experience on television.

A source told The Sun that show bosses are very happy about the possibility of having her in this year's series as they also believe that there is more to Leomie than her glamorous looks.

"Though Leomie looks sensational, she's also a tough cookie underneath," the source said.

They, however, added that she wants to show people that anything is possible when they put their minds to it.

Leomie made history in 2019 when she became first Black British model to become Victoria's Secret Angel, also joining Glow Up in 2023, replacing Maya Jama as the show's host.

In September, moreover, she announced that she was leaving after three series. She thanked the show's judges, contestants and viewers for being part of her journey.

Now, her reported move to I'm a Celebrity could give fans a chance to see a completely different side of the model.



Saudi Pro League Matchday 12: 5 Key Takeaways From A Thrilling Weekend

● Felix sets up four goals, Al-Qadsiah smash six and Al-Ahli suffer a heavy defeat in a busy weekend of football

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON



The Saudi Pro League gave fans a busy and exciting weekend. Al-Qadsiah went top for a short time, but Al-Hilal soon took the lead back and finished October in first place.

Ronaldo takes the spotlight

Cristiano Ronaldo had a goal ruled out early for offside. It was a close call, but it seemed to fire him up. He scored three times as Al-Nassr beat Al-Kholood 5-3.

The Portuguese star now has 985 career goals, so the 1,000 mark is getting nearer. It was also his 11th perfect hat trick, with a goal from his left foot, his right foot and his head.

Joao Felix was just as important. He made four assists in the match. Only one other player has done that in the league, Moussa Diaby in 2024.

Felix now has eight assists and three goals in nine games this season.

Al-Ahli lost 6-1 at Al-Shabab. Their goalkeeper, Abdulrahman Al-Sanbi, was sent off early, and the game was hard to recover from.

Coach Marino Pusic said sorry to the fans after the match. He also spoke sharply to a reporter who asked about his future. Ivan Toney, who has 13 league goals, missed the game because he had to attend a court hearing in London.

Al-Hilal stay on top

Al-Hilal beat Al-Fateh 2-0 for their fifth win in a row. Ollie Watkins scored the first goal, and Ruben Neves added a penalty.

Four days earlier, the team lost 3-1 to Al-Shamal in the AFC Champions League Elite. Coach Simone Inzaghi had rested many key players for that trip. He knows his team can afford a loss or two in Asia, but home games in the league cannot be thrown away.

Al-Qadsiah bounce back

Al-Qadsiah answered their recent defeat in the best way. They won 6-0 at Al-Riyadh and now sit two points behind the leaders.

Tijjani Reijnders scored a hat trick and has eight goals in 10 games. Yannick Carrasco also scored three. With Mateo Retegui and Julian Quinones in the squad, the title race looks open.

Hamdallah keeps scoring

Al-Taawoun drew 1-1 with Al-Ettifaq. They are still in the relegation zone and have not won in 12 games.

Abderrazak Hamdallah scored the goal. He has 160 league goals, just one short of the record held by Omar Al-Somah.



KP wheelchair tennis team leaves for national championship in Lahore

SPORTS DESK

PESHAWAR

A three-member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wheelchair tennis team has departed for Lahore to participate in the National Wheelchair Tennis Championship being organised by the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) at Model Town.

The provincial team comprises Ehsan Danish, Zakir and Taj Meena, while coach Jawad Khan is accompanying the players.

International tennis player and KP Wheelchair Tennis Coordinator Ijaz Ahmed Khan contributed Rs20,000 to support the team's participation and meet some of its expenses.

The KP Tennis Association also acknowledged the support of Khalid Rehaqi, Rashid Malik and Ehsanul Haq Qureshi for their contributions to promoting wheelchair tennis in the province.

The team's participation aims to provide athletes with disabilities an opportunity to showcase their talent at the national level and promote wheelchair tennis in the country.



Chapman, Ravindra to miss India ODIs, Seifert called up

SPORTS DESK

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand batters Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman were ruled out Monday for the upcoming five-match ODI series against India due to injury.

Ravindra had been recovering from a freak shoulder injury suffered during a promotional shoot prior to the Indian series, which starts on Wednesday, and has been deemed unfit to field.

Chapman had a hamstring strain which needs a further two weeks of rehabilitation, according to MRI scans.

"Everyone knows what an asset Mark and Rachin are to this side so it's a shame they have to miss this series," New Zealand coach Rob Walter said.

Walter said Chapman was "disappointed" to miss the series, and Ravindra "hasn't quite recovered to a position where he could field comfortably".

He said Ravindra would return for the two-Test series starting later this month.

Tim Seifert was initially named for the fourth and fifth matches of the series but will now be available for all matches, while Henry Nicholls has been called up days after scoring his 13th List A century for Canterbury in the domestic Ford Trophy.

Dean Foxcroft has also been called up for the last two matches of the series.

Misbah raises safety concerns as Pakistani players leave Nepal Premier League

● Misbah Criticises Nepal Premier League Over Captain Snub, Player Fee Payment Controversy

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The controversy surrounding the Nepal Premier League has intensified, with seven of the eight Pakistani cricketers taking part in the tournament leaving Nepal and returning home.

Pakistani cricketer Hussain Talat is the only player who remains in Nepal.

Former Pakistan captain and coach Misbah-ul-Haq has strongly criticised the poor condition of the ground's outfield and faulty floodlight towers, saying players' safety cannot be compromised under any circumstances.

The dispute also grew after the decision to hold matches over five overs, prompting Sudeurpaschim Royals to protest.



The match was eventually played after negotiations, with Biratnagar Kings defeating their opponents by 35 runs.

Misbah also expressed disappointment that the team's captain was not invited to the post-match ceremony.

Another controversy emerged over a reported $25,000 fee for each Pakistani player participating in the league.

However, sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) clarified that the fee had been demanded from the franchises, not the players themselves.

A total of eight Pakistani cricketers were part of the Nepal Premier League.

They included Sahibzada Farhan, Hussain Talat, Haider Ali, Hunain Shah, Iftikhar Ahmed, Hasan Ali and Usama Mir, along with one other Pakistani player.

The tournament is scheduled to continue until November 21.

23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026 to commence in Islamabad

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026 will commence on 03 November, 2026 at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad, under the auspices of Pakistan Squash Federation. The prestigious continental championship will feature men's and women's team events, bringing together leading squash players from across Asia. The championship will feature six men's teams comprising 24 players and five women's teams comprising 20 players. The event will also witness the participation of 36 foreign players, 12 foreign officials and 10 technical delegates and referees, reflecting the international significance and competitive stature of the championship.

Pakistan Air Force has remained at the forefront of promoting Squash in the country, playing a pivotal role in nurturing talent, developing world-class sporting infrastructure and sustaining Pakistan's rich legacy of excellence in the sport. Under the patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, concerted efforts are being undertaken to revive Pakistan's glorious standing in international Squash. The Air Chief's unwavering commitment towards the promotion of squash, particularly through grassroots development, talent identification and provision of international exposure to emerging players, continues to provide renewed impetus to the sport.

Senior officials of Pakistan Squash Federation, representatives of participating countries, players, coaches, officials and sports enthusiasts are also expected to attend the prestigious sporting event.

The championship will provide an important platform for Asian Squash players to showcase their talent and compete at the continental level. Hosting of this prestigious championship under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force reflects the nation's resolve to reclaim its historic prominence in Squash, while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promoting international sporting cooperation and providing aspiring athletes with opportunities to excel at the highest level.

The championship will conclude on 07 November 2026, with the final matches scheduled for the concluding day.

Mohammad Amir 'registers' as UK national for Afghanistan Premier League draft

● PCB is unlikely to issue NOCs to its players for the tournament, suggest media reports

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI

Former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir has registered as a UK national for the Afghanistan Premier League (APL) draft, scheduled to take place in Dubai on Tuesday, according to media reports.

Amir, who currently resides in England and has acquired British citizenship, has been listed as a UK national in the draft register, with Pakistan mentioned as his country of residence. He has been placed in the Platinum category.

Amir has represented Pakistan in 36 Tests, 61 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and 62 T20 Internationals. His last appearance for the national side came against Ireland during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Lauderhill, Florida, in June 2024. Registering as a UK national could also give Amir an advantage regarding his availability for the APL, as he may not require a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), unlike his former Pakistan teammates.



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

However, the participation of Pakistani players remains uncertain amid reported diplomatic tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Media reports suggest that the PCB is unlikely to issue NOCs to its players for the tournament.

Almgren wins debut marathon in New York, Chepkirui wins women's race

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK

Sweden's Andreas Almgren won the New York City Marathon, clocking 2hr 6min 1sec in a spectacular debut at the distance.

The 31-year-old Almgren, in the spotlight after setting a European half-marathon record in Copenhagen in September, powered through the final mile to capture the victory over Italian Yemaneberhan Crippa.

Kenyan Sheila Chepkirui won the women's race for a second time, repelling the challenge of last year's winner Hellen Obiri — who faded to finish third behind American Jessica McClain.

Almgren, who won his first international athletics title in August with 10,000m gold at the European Championships, ran comfortably in a large lead group that also included defending champion Benson Kipruto.



ICC penalises Pakistan for slow over-rate in tri-series final

● Skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi admits slow over-rate offence and accepts ICC sanction

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

Pakistan have been fined 5% of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate during the final of the Pakistan ODI Tri-Series against Sri Lanka in Lahore on Saturday.

The hosts were found to be one over short after time allowances were taken into account by match referee Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel.

The offence falls under Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which deals with minimum over-rate offences. Under the provision, players are fined 5% of their match fee for every over their team fails to bowl within the allotted time.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Wayne Knights, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Rashid Riaz levelled the charge.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi pleaded guilty and accepted the proposed sanction, avoiding a formal hearing.

Pakistan won the tri-series final by three wickets, chasing Sri Lanka's total of 325 for eight with nine balls to spare.

Fakhar Zaman led the chase with 127 off 99 balls, including 11 fours and six sixes, recording his 12th ODI century.

Mohammad Yousuf gives Babar Azam key advice to improve his declining form

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE

Former captain Mohammad Yousuf has advised star batter Babar Azam to seek specialist coaching in England or Australia, given his recent form and technical flaws.

The recently concluded ODI tri-series, featuring Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka, was disappointing for Babar. Across five matches, he scored just 118 runs at an average of 23.60 and a strike rate of 74.21, without making a single half-century.

His individual scores in the tournament were 45, 34, 10 and 29, while in the final against Sri Lanka he was dismissed for a duck.

Writing on X, Yousuf said Babar should not play first-class cricket until he has fixed his technical problems through specialist coaching. He said that struggling in domestic cricket could further damage Babar's confidence and career. He urged that Babar be sent to an academy in England or Australia, adding that he is still Pakistan's best player and, with proper guidance and a little effort, can return to his best form.

The former cricketer added that he had made the same point four years ago, but no one listened, and he asked that people please listen now.

Solano backs Pakistan's talent, targets saff success and professional league

● Pakistan Football Coach Solano Backs Grassroots Growth, Hails U-15 Team's World Cup Journey

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan men's national team head coach Nolberto Solano has expressed confidence in the Green Shirts ahead of the SAFF Championship 2026, promising a strong performance against arch-rivals India while setting semi-final qualification as the team's immediate target.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, Solano said Pakistan were ready to compete in the regional tournament and expected an intense encounter against India, acknowledging the significance of the rivalry for football fans in both countries.

He stressed that the team would approach the competition with determination, focusing on delivering positive results and giving Pakistani supporters reasons to be proud.



Solano also praised the country's emerging football talent, saying Pakistan's historic participation in the FIFA U-15 World Cup and Festival 2026 had demonstrated that considerable potential exists within the country.

He said the performances of the young players had raised hopes for the future and highlighted the importance of providing them with proper opportunities, consistent training and international exposure.

Foreign Office briefs youth delegation on Pakistan's Kashmir policy

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday briefed a 40-member delegation of the Youth Forum for Kashmir on Pakistan's foreign policy priorities, diplomatic initiatives and its position on the Kashmir dispute.

According to a Foreign Office statement, the delegation was led by Youth Forum for Kashmir Executive Director Zaman Bajwa.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan welcomed the delegation and briefed its members on Pakistan's diplomatic activities, with particular emphasis on the Kashmir issue.

During the briefing, the spokesperson said Pakistan remained committed to supporting the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

He said Pakistan was continuing diplomatic efforts to highlight the Kashmir dispute at international forums and seek a peaceful resolution.

Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan said a just and lasting settlement of the Kashmir dispute should be consistent with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The delegation was also briefed on Pakistan's broader foreign policy objectives and diplomatic priorities.

An interactive question-and-answer session was held during the visit, allowing delegation members to discuss foreign policy matters and Pakistan's diplomatic engagement on the Kashmir issue.

According to the Foreign Office, the visit was aimed at familiarizing young people with the country's diplomatic activities, foreign policy priorities and efforts to raise international awareness about Kashmir.



HYDERABAD: Students from various schools participate in a skating competition during the 6th Students Olympic Games at Shah Latif Girls College Ground.

SCP and Republic of Korea forge new pathways of judicial cooperation

● Supreme Court Signs Landmark Pact With Korea To Boost Smart Courts, AI Integration

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



In a significant step towards strengthening international judicial partnerships, the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea on Monday signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Judicial Cooperation, opening new avenues for institutional collaboration, judicial knowledge exchange and technological innovation.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan, who is on official visit to Korea, was warmly received by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Justice JO Hee-de, at the Korean Supreme Court in Seoul. The two Chief Justices held substantive discussions on strengthening institutional relations, fostering mutual learning and exploring opportunities for closer cooperation between the two judiciaries. The meeting culminated in the signing of the MoU by the two Chief Justices, marking an important milestone in judicial relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

The MoU provides a comprehensive framework for sustained institutional engagement, covering judicial exchanges, professional capacity building, judicial education, collaborative research and the sharing of institutional experiences and best practices. It places particular emphasis on judicial reform and modernization, electronic court systems, digital justice, artificial intelligence and its responsible use in judicial administration, smart courts, judicial analytics and cybersecurity.

The framework also envisages reciprocal judicial delegations, professional attachments, study visits, expert exchanges, joint conferences and seminars, as well as periodic high-level judicial dialogue. It provides an institutional mechanism for coordinating and advancing mutually agreed initiatives, thereby translating the commitment to cooperation into practical and sustained engagement.

During the visit, the Chief Justice of Pakistan also had a meeting with Justice NOH Gyeongpil, Minister of the National Court Administration of the Republic of Korea.



Islamabad police announce 790 vacancies

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Police Foundation has announced 790 vacancies in Islamabad Police, inviting eligible candidates to apply for positions ranging from Sub-Inspector to Constable.

According to the recruitment announcement, the vacancies include 2 posts of Sub-Inspector (BS-14), 38 posts of Assistant Sub-Inspector (BS-11), and 750 posts of Constable (BS-07).

The foundation said the recruitment process would be based on merit and transparency, encouraging eligible candidates to apply for the available positions.

The last date for submitting applications is 15 November 2026.

Candidates seeking further information, e.g., age limit, minimum qualification, mandatory requirements, and general instructions, can contact the National Police Foundation through its helpline or email. Helpline: 051-8466800, Email: info@npftas.pk

The recruitment process is being managed by the National Police Foundation, which says it is committed to merit-based selection and transparency.



Gul Plaza demolition: SBCA invites bids from contractors

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has invited bids from contractors for the demolition of Karachi's fire-ravaged Gul Plaza building.

According to an advertisement published in newspapers, the SBCA has sought bids from contractors for the demolition of the damaged building.

The SBCA's demolition team will supervise the demolition process. Contractors can submit their bids until November 20, while technical and financial proposals have been invited separately.

The tender will be awarded after the bids are submitted and evaluated.

A devastating fire broke out at Gul Plaza on the night of January 17, killing more than 73 people. The blaze continued for over 32 hours before it was brought under control.

Earlier, a city court rejected a plea filed by Gul Plaza President Tanveer Pasta and other co-accused seeking the formation of a Joint Investigation Team (JIT), observing that JITs are constituted exclusively for terrorism cases.

The court continued hearing the Gul Plaza fire case, with Tanveer Pasta and other accused appearing before it.

During the hearing, defence counsel Javed Mir argued that despite previous court orders to include government institutions in the investigation, the new investigation officer (IO) had attempted to shield government organisations.

He said no action had been taken against the builder by the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA), while the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC), SBCA and Fire Brigade had been given a clean chit.

The lawyer also pointed out that the IO had failed to record the statement of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) South.

Mir told the court that although the fire had erupted on the ground floor, a father and son were nominated as accused despite the father not being present at the scene.

He further argued that around 5,000 people managed to evacuate the building, while several others lost their lives due to what he described as severe negligence and incompetence on the part of government institutions.

Digital service delivery key to modern governance & efficient public service provision: Dr Rubaba

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA



Adviser to the Chief Minister of Balochistan on Women Development, Dr Rubaba Khan Buledi, on Monday underscored the importance of digital service delivery, describing it as a fundamental requirement of modern governance that can enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public service provision while strengthening citizens' trust in government institutions.

Addressing the inaugural workshop on digital service delivery at the Balochistan Civil Services Academy, Dr Rubaba Buledi said the promotion of modern technology and digital systems was particularly important for a vast province like Balochistan, where remote and geographically dispersed populations often faced challenges in accessing public services.

She said digital service delivery could help bring government services closer to citizens, reduce bureaucratic hurdles and improve coordination among government departments, thereby ensuring more effective and timely public service delivery.

Dr Rubaba Buledi emphasized that digital governance was not merely about adopting technology but represented a comprehensive approach aimed at introducing reforms, accountability, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery within government institutions.

"The present era is driven by data and modern technology. It is essential for government officers to continuously enhance their professional capabilities in digital governance, administrative innovation and the use of artificial intelligence to make public administration more efficient, responsive and people-friendly," she said.

She noted that the Balochistan government was actively pursuing the digitalization of official processes and modernizing public service systems.

KP Audit Uncovers Rs3.58 bn in suspected financial Irregularities

● Audit Uncovers Rs3.58 Billion In Suspected Irregularities During PTI's KP Tenure

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

An audit of various departments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has identified suspected financial irregularities and questionable expenditures exceeding Rs3.58 billion during the tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in the province.

According to the audit report, irregularities included the suspicious and non-transparent approval of contracts worth more than Rs1.205 billion, excess payments exceeding Rs908.1 million for development and construction projects, and unauthorised expenditures of over Rs600 million.

The report also identified financial losses of more than Rs378.5 million, allegedly caused by the failure to take action against contractors who breached their contractual obligations.

The findings emerged during the first phase of the audit for the fiscal year 2024-25, which focused on compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

During this phase, 14 administrative departments were audited out of 28 Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs) selected for review.

The report further stated that recoveries amounting to Rs117.009 million were made between January and December 2025, a figure also verified by the audit authorities.

Important meeting of Pakistan Ulema Council's Central Shura, executive committee held

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Central Shura and Executive Committee of the Pakistan Ulema Council, while reviewing the national and international situation, decided to organize nationwide conventions of religious scholars and spiritual leaders to eliminate extremism, promote inter-sect harmony and strengthen national unity.

A landmark initiative was also taken to establish "Dar-ul-Sulh" (Centres for Reconciliation) in all mosques affiliated with the Council to prevent growing family disputes, divorces and violent social attitudes.

The meeting strongly condemned attacks by Houthi terrorists on Makkah Mukarramah, Madinah Munawwarah and Saudi Arabia. It fully endorsed the Government of Pakistan's policy regarding the security of the Two Holy Mosques and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, expressed solidarity with the Saudi leadership and people, assured all possible cooperation, and reaffirmed support for the legitimate government of Yemen.

The meeting also paid glowing tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his ongoing conciliatory and courageous efforts for global peace, unity of the Muslim Ummah and regional stability, and unanimously adopted several comprehensive resolutions.

The important meeting was held at Jamia Manzoor-e-Islamia, Lahore, under the chairmanship of Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi.

UMT Awards Degrees To 4,363 Graduates At 29th Convocation

● Over 4,300 Students Graduate At UMT's 29th Convocation Ceremony

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore conferred degrees on 4,363 graduates during its 29th convocation, celebrating academic achievements while announcing new initiatives to expand artificial intelligence education, scholarships and career opportunities for young people.

The graduates included 3,570 bachelor's degree holders, 21 master's graduates, 723 MS/MPhil scholars and 49 PhD scholars. The university also awarded 62 gold medals and 68 silver medals to students in recognition of their outstanding academic performance.

Additionally, 16 academic excellence gold awards, 13 certificates of excellence, five certificates of merit and six research publication awards were presented to deserving students.

UMT President Ibrahim Murad presided over the convocation ceremonies, which featured three sessions attended by Punjab Chief Minister's Adviser on Artificial Intelligence Ali Dar, Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti as special guests.

UMT Offers Free AI Tutoring To Punjab Students

Addressing the first session, Ibrahim Murad described educated, skilled and talented young people as the country's most valuable asset and a source of hope for its future.

He offered the Punjab government free access to UMT's artificial intelligence technology, proposing round-the-clock AI tutoring and career guidance facilities for students across the province.



Publisher Muhammad Mudasser Iqbal Office No 1 Mashraq Press Building 106 Court Road, Printed by Khurram Printing Press 5-8-ID Demelo Road Gobind Gava Building Pakistan Chock Karachi