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Pakistan, UK express concern at threat posed by terrorist groups operating in and from Afghanistan: FO

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the United Kingdom on Wednesday expressed concerns over the ongoing threat from terrorist groups operating in and from Afghanistan, the Foreign Office said.

According to a statement by the FO, the two countries held their annual bilateral dialogue on counter-terrorism in Islamabad, in which they reviewed ongoing bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation and reaffirmed their shared commitment to combatting terrorism in all its forms.

"The two sides discussed in detail the evolving regional and global security environment and exchanged views on the threats posed by terrorist entities, including transnational terrorist networks," it said.

"Both sides expressed concerns over the continuing threat posed by terrorist groups, including the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), operating in and from Afghanistan," the FO said, adding that they underscored the "urgent need for a stable, secure Afghanistan as a cornerstone for lasting peace and prosperity across the region".

The UK delegation also expressed condolences over the loss of innocent lives in terrorist attacks in Pakistan and reiterated that it stood with the country in the fight against terrorism, the statement added.

Another focus of the dialogue was the exchange of best practices and the exploration of new avenues for partnership to counter new trends in terrorism, including campaigns of misinformation and disinformation, exploitation of social media platforms and emerging technologies, it said.



PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif (left) meets Kuwait PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the World Governments Summit (WGS) 2025 in Dubai.

Bilawal holds key meetings with governors, chief ministers

● PM Shehbaz, Bilawal discuss situation in K.P, legislation

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a series of important meetings on Wednesday with senior party leaders, governors and chief ministers at Zardari House, where they discussed the country's political situation.

Those meeting Bilawal included Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

Chief Minister of Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti and Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Advocate Amjad also called on the PPP chairman.

Other party leaders who met Bilawal included PPP Parliamentary Party Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman, PPP Punjab President Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Member of the National Assembly Syed Naveed Qamar.

According to party sources, the meetings focused on the prevailing political situation in the country, with the leaders exchanging views on key national developments.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hosted a dinner in the honour of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and members of his delegation on Tuesday night.

According to sources, both the prime minister and the PPP chairman had a detailed exchange of views over the law and order situation and the issues related to governance in KP, legislation, and the federal government's future course of action.

Sources further informed that Bilawal also raised with PM Shehbaz the issue of giving more say to KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in the affairs of the province.

The country's overall political situation and relations between the government and the opposition also came under discussion at the meeting.

Sources explained that proposed constitutional amendments to be tabled in parliament in coming days were also discussed.

PPP chairman, they said, demanded that the party members of the parliament (MPs) be taken on board and provided drafts of the bills prior to their approval.

Sources disclosed that Bilawal also acquainted the prime minister with PPP reservations over the bills under consideration.

The prime minister assured the PPP chairman that the party's concerns would be addressed and that it would be taken into confidence.

Similarly, both also discussed the constitution of a parliamentary committee on electoral reforms and the selection of its head.

Balochistan, Punjab join for safe cities

● Bugti Now Orders Fast Completion Of Nine Safe City Projects Across Balochistan

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif have agreed to undertake joint initiatives aimed at making Safe City projects in Balochistan more effective, operational and aligned with modern security requirements through institutional cooperation and technical support.

According to an official statement issued on Wednesday, in response to a communication from the Balochistan chief minister, the Punjab chief minister directed the relevant authorities to provide institutional assistance for strengthening the Balochistan Safe City Authority. Both provinces have also agreed to enhance security monitoring systems, technical collaboration and the exchange of expertise through a joint



venture between their respective Safe City authorities.

The understanding was discussed during a meeting of the Balochistan Safe City Authority chaired by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti. Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat briefed participants on the progress of ongoing projects and informed the meeting that work on Safe City schemes was underway in nine cities across the province.

Director General Punjab Safe City Authority Ahsan Younas said the Punjab authority would provide training, capacity-building support and advanced technical assistance to Balochistan's personnel to help operationalise and strengthen Safe City projects across the province.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Bugti said Safe City projects were not merely surveillance systems but constituted a modern security infrastructure designed to safeguard the lives and property of citizens. He emphasized that advanced technology and effective security monitoring were essential for maintaining law and order, preventing crime and ensuring a safe environment for residents.

He said modern monitoring systems would assist law enforcement agencies in tracking the movement of criminal elements, identifying suspicious activities in a timely manner and improving emergency response capabilities. The chief minister directed all concerned departments to further accelerate work on the nine ongoing Safe City projects and ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe through effective coordination and accountability.

Sarfraz Bugti noted that technology-driven security monitoring could substantially contribute to crime prevention and improvements in the overall law and order situation. He added that providing a secure environment for citizens remained one of the government's foremost responsibilities and said he was personally overseeing progress on the projects.

The chief minister also thanked Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and the Punjab Safe City Authority for their cooperation and support, stating that inter-provincial collaboration and the exchange of institutional experience would help achieve shared public safety objectives.

Cabinet committee constituted to resolve issues related to Katchi Abadis: Sharjeel

● Sindh now approves water schemes, tightens traffic enforcement

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the Sindh Cabinet has approved reducing the release price of government wheat from Rs5,000 to Rs4,500 per 40 kilograms, resulting in a reduction of Rs17 per kilogram in flour prices.

He said that the Cabinet had also approved the registration of Lady Dufferin Hospital Trust under the Sindh Trust Act 2020. In addition, ex-post facto approval was granted to a programme, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for preparing an investment programme worth $1 billion for urban development in five divisional headquarters of Sindh. Under this programme, projects related to water supply, drainage, sanitation and solid waste management will be prepared.

The Cabinet also approved the Draft Rules 2026 for the registration and monitoring of charitable organisations under the Sindh Charities Registration and Regulation Act



2019. Addressing a press conference after the Sindh Cabinet meeting in Karachi, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh Cabinet had approved additional funds amounting to Rs502.409 million for five development schemes in Jamshoro district.

These schemes also include funds for the water supply scheme in Sehwan city and the installation of RO plants. Similarly, the Cabinet approved a development scheme worth Rs2 billion, 99 crore, 34 lakh and 26 thousand for the improvement of the water supply and drainage system in Nawabshah Town, Shaheed Benazirabad district. He said that a Cabinet Committee had been constituted to resolve matters related to katchi abadis (informal settlements).

JIT report uncovers serious irregularities in One Constitution Avenue Project

● Cabinet approves JIT report investigating irregularities in project, says Ahsan Iqbal



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) report has uncovered serious irregularities, manipulation, and fraud in the One Constitution Avenue project in Islamabad.

This was stated by Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal while addressing a news conference, alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, in Islamabad today [Wednesday].

Ahsan Iqbal further revealed that the JIT, comprising representatives of NAB, FIA, FBR, SECP, IB, and ISI, conducted a detailed investigation into the project and submitted its report to the Federal Cabinet, which approved its recommendations.

The Planning Minister said the bidding and auction processes were manipulated, rules were relaxed to favour a particular party, and the company awarded the lease was not eligible for it.

He said the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was also found involved in the irregularities, while the requirement for a bank guarantee was removed to benefit the developer. Ahsan Iqbal said apartments were sold illegally, although the project had originally been approved as a five-star hotel.

He said the JIT also identified Abdul Hafeez Sheikh as the mastermind of the scheme, along with several CDA officials, including former CDA Chairman Kamran Lashari, Dr. Faisal Awan, Uzair Ali Chaudhry, Brigadier, Retired, Nasrullah, and the late Rai Nawaz Kharal.

NAB Summons Asad Mehmood In Pakistan Post Recruitment Case

● NAB Questions Former Communications Minister Over Pakistan Post Appointments

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have summoned former federal minister and JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's son, Maulana Asad Mehmood, in an investigation into alleged irregular recruitments in the Pakistan Post Office.

Mahmood was appointed federal minister for communications in the coalition government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), following the ouster of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government through a no-confidence motion in April 2022.

The anti-corruption watchdog directed Mahmood to appear before its investigation team on November 10 at 11am to respond to questions concerning the recruitment process.

The investigation relates to alleged irregularities in appointments made at the Pakistan Post Office during his tenure as communications minister between 2022 and 2023.

According to the NAB notice, the Establishment Division had authorised recruitment against 3,938 vacancies in the Pakistan Post Office.

ECP Objects To Retired Judge's Remarks On Polls

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday objected to remarks made by former senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mansoor Ali Shah, regarding polls in KP and Punjab and the reserved seats case pertaining to the PTI.

Shah made the remarks at an event organised by the US-based Community Alliance for Peace and Justice on October 29, where he was asked about his dissenting opinion in the 2023 SC ruling on provincial elections in Punjab and KP and whether it was a "turning point" and the beginning of a "division" within the SC.

In its 3-2 verdict, the SC, after taking a suo motu notice, directed that elections should be held within 90 days in both provinces. Two judges, including Shah, had dissented from the ruling, saying that the suo motu proceedings initiated by then-chief justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, were "wholly unjustified", besides being initiated with "undue haste".

In their detailed reasoning, they explained that the SC by a majority of 4-3 and not 3-2 had dismissed the suo motu hearing on polls delay in Punjab and KP and therefore the same should be considered as the "Order of the Court".

Two terrorists, including suicide bomber, killed in Lakki encounter

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR



The district police on Wednesday killed two suspected terrorists, including a suicide bomber, during an exchange of fire in Lakki Marwat, foiling a major terrorist attack.

According to police, a suspicious car with tinted windows was spotted at Gandi Chowk. A police team rushed to the spot, but the suspects opened fire on seeing the personnel and attempted to flee.

Police retaliated, killing two occupants, including a suspected suicide bomber, while the third injured suspect managed to escape.

Police recovered weapons, ammunition, a banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) flag, women's burqas and other suspicious items from the vehicle.

The recovery raised suspicions that the terrorists were planning a major sabotage activity. However, police were investigating their intended target and possible plans.

Heavy contingents of police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) reached the site following the encounter.

A search operation was underway to arrest the escaped suspect, while authorities had taken custody of the bodies and started the identification process.



Governor KP, SAPM Fahd discuss digital media, national issues

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi held a meeting with Minister of State/ Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon, here at his residence and discussed the prevailing national situation, digital media, and matters of mutual interest.

During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the evolving digital media landscape and the growing role of technology in strengthening public communication and engagement.

They also discussed broader issues related to public communication, institutional engagement and other matters of mutual interest.

Governor Kundi and Fahd Haroon appreciated the exchange of views and expressed their commitment to maintaining continued engagement and cooperation.

PMYP, ICE sign pact for 100% tuition scholarships

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) on Wednesday signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the International College of Excellence (ICE) Pakistan to provide 100 per cent tuition fee scholarships to talented and deserving Pakistani students and teachers, expanding access to internationally recognised higher education and professional development opportunities.

The agreement was signed at the Prime Minister's Office during a meeting chaired by PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan.

The initiative aims to promote academic excellence, enhance professional skills and improve career prospects among young people through merit-based scholarships covering the full tuition fees for the standard duration of respective programmes.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and attended by ICE Chief Executive Officer Usman Akram, PMYP Director General Dr Syed Shahbaz Shamsi and representatives of both organisations.

Under the collaboration, scholarships will be awarded through a transparent, merit based selection process, enabling talented and deserving students and teachers to pursue internationally recognised academic qualifications and professional development programmes.

Beyond scholarships, the partnership will also facilitate cooperation in career counselling, skills development, internships, international academic activities and professional training opportunities for teachers.

ICE is a transnational education institution offering foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in partnership with leading UK awarding bodies and universities, with a focus on developing globally competitive graduates.

IHC seeks final arguments in Saidpur Village compensation case

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday sought final arguments on November 10, in a case concerning the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) operation in Saidpur Village and payment of compensation in accordance with a Supreme Court judgment.

Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas, while hearing 127 petitions, directed the parties to assist the court in light of the Supreme Court's 2008 judgment.

Secretary Interior Ahmed Raza Sarwar also attended the hearing and observed the proceedings.

During the hearing, Justice Minhas observed that compliance with court orders was mandatory under the law and not a matter of courtesy. He said no action could be taken without a court order and stressed that no one should be subjected to injustice.

The judge said he wanted to resolve the matter by addressing the genuine rights of the affected people and directed the parties to proceed transparently and focus on the relevant legal points.

CDA counsel Shehryar Tariq informed the court that plots had been allotted and all relevant details were available. He said a list of people who had already received plots was also available, adding that the authority had provided the court with all details concerning the Saidpur matter and responded to every notice.

Justice Minhas directed the lawyers to come prepared with legal arguments on November 10, observing that he would not entertain technical arguments on that date. He also noted that he would not be available after November 11.



HYDERABAD: Villager women preparing dung cake to dry for domestic use at bank of Indus River.

Secretaries Visit Information Directorate Building To Review Affairs

● Visit by Secretary of Communication and Works, Sajjad Haider, and Secretary of Information, Rehman Shah, to the Information Directorate Building

SPECIAL REPORTER/ WEB DESK

GILGIT

Secretary of Communication and Works, Sajjad Haider, and Secretary of Information for Gilgit-Baltistan, Rehman Shah, conducted a detailed visit to the Information Directorate building in Gilgit. During the visit, they reviewed ongoing and proposed construction work, existing facilities, and the departmental requirements.

On this occasion, Secretary of Information Rehman Shah guided Secretary of Communication and Works Sajjad Haider through various sections of the Information Directorate building, providing a comprehensive briefing on its current condition, construction needs, and future plans. The Secretary of Information explained that, in addition to the offices of the Information Department, the building also houses the office of the Provincial Minister for Information and a sub-office of Pakistan Television (PTV). Given the presence of these key offices and the growing demands of departmental operations, the construction of a second floor has become absolutely essential. He noted that the construction of this floor would provide additional space for offices, improve the execution of official tasks, and enable the provision of better facilities to the relevant institutions.

He further emphasized that, considering the expanding administrative and professional requirements of the Information Department, the expansion of the building is a pressing need; therefore, it is imperative to complete this project on a priority basis.



He further emphasized that, considering the expanding administrative and professional requirements of the Information Department, the expansion of the building is a pressing need; therefore, it is imperative to complete this project on a priority basis. On this occasion, Secretary of Communication and Works Sajjad Haider reviewed matters pertaining to the construction.

NCCIA Additional Director Shoaib reviews recruitment, security arrangements at F-9 Park

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Additional Director National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad and Rawalpindi Shoaib Khan, along with Superintendent of Police (SP) City Islamabad Khurram Ashraf and Additional Director NPF, visited F-9 Park to review security arrangements and facilities for candidates appearing in the agency's ongoing physical recruitment tests.

According to an NCCIA official on Wednesday that, the officers inspected the recruitment venue and reviewed arrangements made to ensure the convenience and safety of candidates.

He said the visiting officers received briefings from security personnel and relevant staff regarding security measures, crowd management and other arrangements at the testing venue.

The officers directed the staff concerned to ensure a peaceful, secure and organised environment for candidates throughout the recruitment process.

WHO supports polio campaign targeting 24 million children

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the Government of Pakistan and its partners in the ongoing nationwide polio vaccination campaign, targeting nearly 24 million children across 97 districts.

WHO teams are working on the ground alongside government health authorities and partner organisations to strengthen vaccination efforts and protect children against the crippling disease.

The campaign aims to ensure that every child under five receives polio vaccine, helping prevent the spread of poliovirus and protect communities from lifelong disability.

WHO emphasized that continued collaboration among government institutions, health workers and development partners was essential to achieving the goal of a polio-free Pakistan.

IHC fixes appeals against sentences in £190 million case for November 10

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has fixed for hearing of the appeals of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against their convictions in the £190 million case on November 10.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif will hear the appeals, according to the cause list issued by the IHC Registrar's Office.

The court has sought arguments from counsel for the convicts on their appeals challenging the sentences.

At the previous hearing, the court had adjourned the proceedings without taking up the matter following a request by PTI founder's counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar.

An accountability court had sentenced Imran Khan to 14 years in prison and Bushra Bibi to seven years in the case.

Bringing out-of-school children into education is our mission: VC AIOU



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood inaugurated a tent school in Ali Pur Farash, reaffirming the university's commitment to bringing out-of-school children into the educational mainstream.

The initiative has been launched through a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Basic Education Community Schools (BECS), and National Education Foundation (NEF). Books and school bags were also distributed among children during the inauguration ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood said that education is a fundamental right of every child and no child should be deprived of this basic right. He emphasized that bringing out-of-school children into the educational mainstream is AIOU's mission, adding that the university is making concerted efforts in collaboration with its partner institutions to achieve this objective.

The VC said that establishing a tent school was an important step towards providing educational opportunities to children who were unable to attend regular schools due to various reasons.

PKI announces protest to press for start of crushing season

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI) on Wednesday hinted at a protest in Islamabad to press for the commencement of crushing season within the next 10 days.

The farmers' body chairman Khalid Hussain Banth lambasted the sugar mill owners for failing to start the crushing season on November 01 and flayed the government's delay in fixing the official sugarcane support price for the season. "Normally, crushing schedules are set to begin between November 01 and November 15, but millers have deliberately delayed opening their facilities," he added.

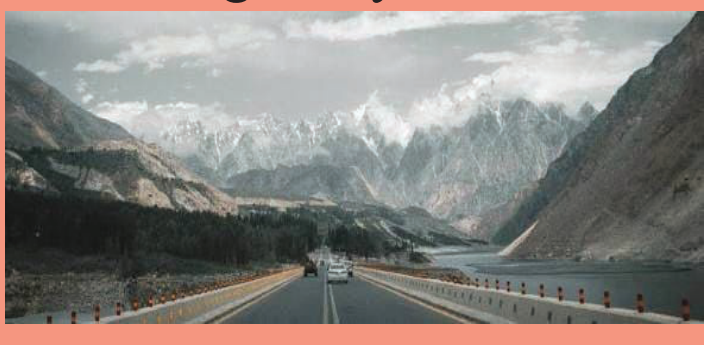
He said PKI had been urging the government to clear the export of 1 million surplus sugar to ensure mills have the liquidity to pay farmers on time and prevent a revenue collapse.

Because of these persistent delays, he said, the PKI would hold nationwide demonstrations, including a protest in Islamabad.

Pakistan, China urged to preserve shared Silk Road heritage for youth

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Muhammad Zamir Assadi, Research Fellow at the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC), has called for enhanced efforts by Pakistan and China to promote their shared cultural heritage and historical links through the ancient Silk Road, stressing the need to transmit this legacy to younger generations through greater awareness of their common history and civilizational ties.

Speaking on the sidelines of an international cultural exhibition on Wednesday, Assadi said highlighting historical and cultural similarities between the two countries is vital to connecting young people with their shared past and encouraging them to preserve this heritage for future generations.

He said that several artefacts displayed at the exhibition bore similarities to those preserved at Pakistan's Taxila Museum, reflecting centuries-old cultural exchanges and historical connections between the two regions.

Both countries, he noted, were linked through the ancient Silk Road, which facilitated the exchange of ideas, art and cultural traditions.

According to UNESCO, Taxila was situated along a branch of the Silk Road connecting China with the West, while artworks at China's Mogao Caves also reflect influences from the Gandhara civilisation.

PSX investor base grows 47.3% in 10 months

● Men Open 85% New Stock Accounts, Women Lag

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Stock Exchange's investor base expanded by 218,894 during January–October 2026, growing 47.3 percent from 463,071 at the beginning of the year to 681,965 at the end of October.

During October, 26,843 new accounts were opened, comprising 26,801 individual accounts and 42 corporate accounts. The net increase in the investor base during the month was 25,747, said a news release.

Pakistan Mercantile Exchange also recorded 1,077 new accounts in October, bringing its total number of investors to 61,915.

Young people accounted for most new individual accounts at PSX. Investors aged 18–30 opened 14,634 accounts, representing 54.6 percent of the monthly individual total.

Those aged 31–45 opened 9,290 accounts, accounting for 34.7 percent. Together, the two age groups opened 23,924 accounts, or 89.3 percent of new individual accounts.

Men opened 22,878 accounts, representing 85.4 percent of new individual accounts, while women opened 3,923 accounts, accounting for 14.6 percent.

Punjab recorded the largest number of new accounts at 14,891, followed by Sindh with 7,643. Together, the two provinces accounted for 83.9 percent of all accounts opened during October.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 1,894 new accounts and Islamabad 1,419. Another 370 accounts were opened from Balochistan, 340 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 150 from Gilgit-Baltistan and 136 from abroad.

SECP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said simplifying access to investment and protecting investors' rights were priorities for the regulator. He said transparency and effective supervision would help strengthen investor confidence.

The SECP is also conducting a nationwide awareness campaign to support its target of expanding Pakistan's stock-market investor base to 2.5 million.

The expansion in participation follows a 43.5 percent rise in the benchmark KSE-100 Index during FY2025–26. The SECP approved 14 initial public offerings during the same fiscal year.



PESHAWAR: Construction at Pir Zakori Bridge in Peshawar is progressing swiftly under the local government department's supervision. This development, observed on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, involves extensive roadwork incorporating heavy machinery, including concrete mixers and cranes, amidst active city traffic. The project is significant as it aims to improve infrastructure and traffic flow in a bustling urban area, highlighting the local government's commitment to enhancing transportation networks. The construction site is marked by intense activity, reflecting the project's importance to the region's economic and social landscape.

Ambassador Highlights Unity At Azerbaijan's Patriotic War Victory



FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H.E. Irfan Davudov has said that the historic victory achieved during the 44-day Patriotic War was made possible by the courage and sacrifices of Azerbaijan's armed forces, the political, diplomatic and military vision of President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, and above all, the unity of the Azerbaijani people.

Addressing a ceremony marking the 6th Anniversary of Victory Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan, held here Wednesday, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, H.E. Irfan Davudov said that November 8 had become one of the most glorious and defining day in Azerbaijan's history, marking the beginning of a new era for the country.

The ambassador said that November 8th, was designated as Victory Day by President Ilham Aliyev through a presidential decree in recognition of the liberation of Shusha, Azerbaijan's cultural capital and one of the most strategically important locations in the Karabakh region.

Recalling the circumstances that led to the 44-day war, Ambassador Davudov said that war had never been the choice of the Azerbaijani state or its people, adding that Azerbaijan had pursued peaceful means for nearly three decades to resolve the conflict arising from Armenia's military aggression and occupation of internationally recognized Azerbaijani territories.

Government seeks two LNG cargoes ahead of winter

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal government on Wednesday has initiated the process of procuring two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes to meet rising gas demand during the winter season.

A tender has been issued, inviting bids from international companies for the supply of the two LNG cargoes.

The deadline for submission of bids is November 6 when the received bids will also be opened.

Under the tender, bids have been invited for one LNG cargo to be supplied between December 14 and 16, while the second cargo is scheduled for delivery between January 9 and 11.

The procurement process is aimed at ensuring gas availability amid increased demand during the winter months.

Holding a press conference on 3rd November 2026 in Islamabad, Ali Pervaiz Malik said, "Seeing people's distress and also knowing that from December and January, winter will be at its peak even if the most expensive fuel has to be purchased for the piped network, we will bring it in and try to meet demand through LNG.

The procurement comes as Pakistan prepares for higher gas consumption during the winter months, when household heating demand typically increases. With spot LNG prices nearing their highest levels since 2022, securing the two shipments could involve an estimated expenditure of around $200 million in total.

The cost of the shipments will ultimately depend on the prices offered by suppliers and the terms of the procurement. The tender notice sets out the required quantities and delivery windows but does not disclose the final purchase price.

Pakistan, Türkiye Discuss Basmati, Mango Exports, Industrial Investment

● Türkiye To Send Trade Delegation To Pakistan Soon

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL



Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a bilateral meeting with Türkiye's Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, focusing on expanding bilateral trade, promoting Pakistani agricultural exports and strengthening Turkish investment in Pakistan.

During the meeting, both ministers held productive discussions on matters of mutual economic and commercial interest, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Türkiye's strong support for Pakistan's legitimate claims concerning Basmati rice and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in protecting and promoting Pakistan's premium agricultural products in international markets.

The Commerce Minister also highlighted investment opportunities for Turkish companies in Pakistan, particularly the 1,000 acres of land earmarked for Turkish enterprises in Karachi Industrial Park. He invited Turkish businesses to capitalize on the opportunity by establishing industrial units and expanding their manufacturing and investment footprint in Pakistan.

Highlighting Pakistan's agricultural export potential, Jam Kamal Khan sought Türkiye's support in facilitating greater market access and increasing exports of Pakistani mangoes to the Turkish market.

Responding to the Commerce Minister, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat emphasized the importance of effective marketing and branding of Pakistani Basmati rice in Türkiye to strengthen its market presence and enhance consumer recognition.

The Turkish Trade Minister also assured his full support for increasing imports of Pakistani mangoes, recognizing the potential for expanding agricultural trade between the two countries.

In a significant development, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat agreed to send a delegation of Turkish officials to Pakistan to review existing bilateral trade mechanisms and explore practical measures to further improve trade relations.

Both sides underscored the importance of sustained institutional engagement, enhanced business cooperation and closer coordination to translate existing economic opportunities into tangible trade and investment outcomes.

Separately, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), on the sidelines of the COMCEC session.

During the meeting, the Director General briefed the Commerce Minister on SESRIC's ongoing activities, research initiatives and reports concerning trade among member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). She highlighted the institution's role in providing statistical information and analytical insights to support economic cooperation among Islamic countries.

Jam Kamal Khan appreciated the work undertaken by SESRIC and emphasized the critical importance of accurate, reliable and clean data in economic research and policy analysis. He noted that credible statistical information and evidence-based assessments were essential for identifying emerging trade trends, understanding market dynamics and evaluating trade potential among OIC member states.

FFC Continues Legacy Of Excellence In ESG Reporting

● CFA Society Pakistan honours the company for clear, honest and responsible sustainability reporting at a Karachi ceremony

FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI



Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has won the Best ESG Reporting Award 2025 in the Corporates category. CFA Society Pakistan gave the award to the company.

The award was presented at a ceremony in Karachi on 02 November 2026. Business leaders and finance professionals attended the event.

This is not the first time the company has earned praise for its reporting. The win shows that its hard work in this area continues to be noticed.

The award recognizes how well the company shares its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) efforts. Clear reports help people understand what a business is doing and why.

For the company, ESG is not just a side task. It is part of the main business plan. Every decision takes care of the environment, society and good governance.

Good reporting also builds trust. Investors, customers, staff and the wider public want to see honest facts. Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited aims to give them exactly that.

The company also believes in strong corporate governance. This means fair rules, open practices and responsible leadership at every level.

Transparency is another key focus. By sharing clear information, the company hopes to keep the confidence of all its stakeholders.

At the same time, it wants to meet the best global sustainability standards. It does not plan to lower its goals while doing so.

The recognition from CFA Society Pakistan adds extra value to this journey. The society is well known for promoting high standards in the investment and finance world.

This award will likely motivate the company to do even more. It also sets a good example for other businesses in Pakistan.

As more firms focus on sustainability, honest reporting will matter even more. Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited has shown that it is ready to lead the way.

Gold prices up by Rs.13,900 per tola

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Gold and silver prices witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Wednesday, according to the rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

According to the association, the price of 24-karat gold per tola increased by Rs13,900 to settle at Rs426,036, while 10-gram 24-karat gold rose by Rs11,917 to Rs365,257.

Similarly, the price of 10-gram 22-karat gold increased by Rs10,925 to reach Rs334,831.

In the international market, gold prices increased by $139 to settle at $4,035 per ounce.

Meanwhile, silver prices also registered an increase of Rs295 per tola to reach Rs5,663, while the price of 10-gram silver rose by Rs253 to Rs4,855.



Pakistan, Türkiye To Cooperate On FMD, Vaccines, Training

● Pakistan To Send 30 Trainees To Türkiye Soon

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and, Türkiye on Wednesday agree to strengthen cooperation in Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control, vaccine production, livestock development and agricultural training.

The consensus to this effect was evolved in a meeting between Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain and Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. Irfan Neziroglu.

They discussed,l concrete measures for strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, vaccine production, human resource development and value-added food exports, said a press release.

Both sides agreed to translate the longstanding strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye into practical initiatives through institutional linkages, technical collaboration and direct engagement between relevant ministries, universities and experts.

A key focus of the meeting was capacity building and technical training.



Pakistan informed the Turkish side of its plan to send an initial group of around 30 participants to Türkiye under the proposed training programme for 100 trainees.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has identified potential Turkish institutions, while coordination with the Higher Education Commission is underway to finalize universities, priority disciplines and training arrangements.

The Turkish Ambassador offered to facilitate direct linkages with relevant Turkish universities, particularly those specializing in agriculture.

Livestock development and domestic production of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine emerged as major priorities.

The Minister highlighted that the Prime Minister had decided to seek Türkiye's technical support for developing Pakistan's indigenous FMD vaccine production capacity.

The Turkish Ambassador expressed his country's willingness to extend technical cooperation and confirmed that a Turkish technical delegation would visit Pakistan to explore avenues for collaboration.

The two sides also discussed the findings of recent exchanges between Pakistani and Turkish livestock experts, including a Pakistani delegation's visit to Türkiye to study its livestock sector.

The delegation is preparing its report to identify practical areas for adopting relevant Turkish expertise in Pakistan.



The temperature of privilege

By Dr Javeria Saleem

Cities are getting hotter, but not equally. As climate change intensifies heatwaves, the burden is falling most heavily on low-income neighbourhoods that have less tree cover, poorer housing, limited access to cooling and weaker public services.

Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping can make these hidden patterns visible by showing where heat, poverty, green space and infrastructure overlap. One scorching afternoon can tell you a great deal about inequality in a city. Walk through a leafy, well-resourced neighbourhood and the heat feels manageable. Walk a few kilometres further into a crowded area of concrete, traffic, and little shade, and it becomes something else entirely. The temperature may be the same on the weather app, but the experience is not.

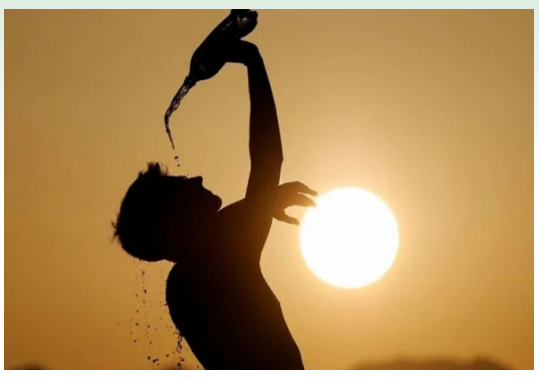
In many cities, the hottest neighbourhoods are also those with the poorest housing, the least public investment, and the fewest economic opportunities. That pattern is rarely a coincidence. It reflects decades of planning decisions that have shaped who benefits from green spaces, quality infrastructure and climate protection. In this sense, extreme heat is not just an environmental challenge. It is a visible expression of urban inequality.

These realities are becoming increasingly difficult for policymakers to ignore. As heatwaves grow more frequent and intense, governments are under pressure to move beyond emergency responses and develop strategies that identify risks before they become disasters. Against this backdrop, COP30's Beat the Heat initiative arrives, placing vulnerability, preparedness and evidence-based action at the centre of urban climate policy.

While the initiative focuses on protecting vulnerable populations, achieving that goal requires something many cities still lack: a clear understanding of where risks are concentrated and who is most exposed. This is where GIS comes in. More than a mapping technology, GIS provides a framework for understanding how environmental hazards intersect with social and economic realities.

Most people think of GIS as a tool for producing maps. While that is certainly true, I believe its greatest value lies elsewhere. GIS can reveal inequalities hidden behind city-wide statistics and average temperatures. A map can show where heat accumulates, but it can also reveal who lives there, what resources they have and how vulnerable they may be when temperatures rise to dangerous levels.

For years, urban governments have relied on averages to understand climate risks. Average temperatures and exposure levels can provide useful insights, but they often conceal profound inequalities. A city may



appear moderately affected by heat when viewed as a whole, while certain neighbourhoods experience temperatures several degrees higher than surrounding areas. Without detailed analysis, these differences remain invisible.

What I find most compelling about GIS is its ability to make climate risks visible in human terms. By combining satellite imagery with data on temperature, vegetation, housing conditions, population distribution and access to services, GIS not only identifies urban heat hotspots but also reveals who is most affected. Maps can show where older adults live alone, where housing is overcrowded, where green spaces are scarce and where access to healthcare is limited. In doing so, they transform climate change from a set of statistics into a story about people, exposing where environmental risks overlap with social vulnerability and inequality.

Yet understanding where heat accumulates is only part of the story. The more important question is why certain communities are consistently more exposed than others. Answering that question requires looking beyond temperature data and examining the political and economic forces that shape urban landscapes.

Looking at these patterns, I find it difficult to view heat as merely an environmental phenomenon. The distribution of risk across a city often mirrors the distribution of wealth, services and opportunity. In many ways, heat maps can also be read as maps of inequality, which is why a political economy perspective becomes impossible to ignore.

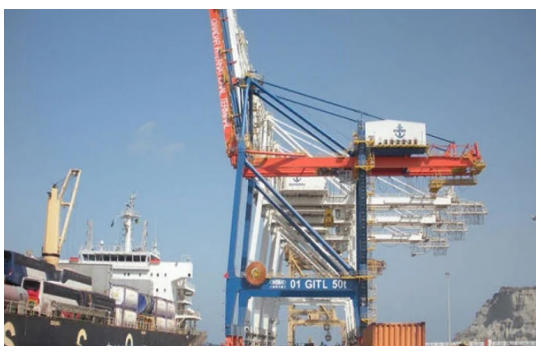
The more I reflect on urban heat, the more convinced I become that it is not simply a climate issue. It is also a governance issue and a development issue. Heat does not affect cities randomly. The distribution of risk reflects decades of decisions about housing, transportation, infrastructure, zoning regulations and public investment. Some neighbourhoods enjoy tree-lined streets, reliable electricity, quality housing and access to parks. Others do not.

Wealthier residents often have more opportunities to adapt. They can afford air conditioning, improve their homes, access healthcare and relocate if necessary. Lower-income households frequently have far fewer options. Their exposure to heat is shaped not only by climate but also by economics. For outdoor workers, informal labourers and those living in overcrowded housing, extreme heat can threaten livelihoods as much as health.



By Afia Malik

From concessions to competitiveness



In Pakistan, exporters often complain about expensive electricity, high taxes or unpredictable tax policy, high interest rates, delays in tax refunds, costly logistics and inconsistent government policies.

These complaints are justified. A country cannot expect its firms to compete internationally if its own policies systematically raise production costs or make long-term investment unpredictable.

But what has Pakistan received in return for the support it has given exporters? Successive governments have offered subsidised export finance, tax concessions, preferential energy arrangements, duty exemptions, and export-development programmes. The results are hard to defend. Exports fell from 16.9 per cent of GDP in 1991 to 9.99 per cent in 2025. In FY2026, merchandise exports fell about 6.0 per cent to $30.1 billion (provisional) while imports rose about 8.0 per cent to $69.8 billion. Roughly three-quarters of what Pakistan sells abroad is still low-value-added textiles and rice.

However, this does not prove that incentives achieved nothing. Export figures might have been worse without them. It also does not mean that exporters alone are to blame. But it raises the question: was public support designed after a cost-benefit analysis and evaluated afterwards, to reward additional exports and productivity gains? The problem may not be that Pakistan has given too little support, but that it has never tied support to the capabilities it expects firms to build.

Support without conditions has a predictable result. An exporter can make money without getting any better at what it does. A firm can sell to the same buyers year after year and earn a decent profit, without spending on new machines, research, or new markets, as long as cheap loans and other help keep coming. This does not mean such firms are lazy or wasteful. Unreliable power and costly credit are real problems. But help that only keeps a business running will keep export earnings steady and nothing more. Policies should help firms grow, improve, sell new things in new places and enable new firms to enter global markets.

Government support also has an opportunity cost. Subsidised credit has a financing cost, tax concessions reduce revenue, and cheap power shifts costs to the budget, other consumers or the power sector. Money spent on ineffective subsidies cannot go to education, health, infrastructure or technology. The question is not whether to scrap export support, but whether each measure justifies its cost.

This points to a distinction that policy often blurs. Two things must be kept apart. Correcting disadvantages the government itself creates, such as delayed refunds of legitimate claims, duties on inputs, or cross-subsidies loaded onto industry, is not a concession and should not hinge on export targets. Discretionary support, such as subsidised credit or extra energy relief, spends public money and should be earned and evaluated.

The evidence points the same way. Pakistan has enjoyed tariff advantages in the European Union under GSP Plus since 2014, and exports there grew, particularly in textiles and clothing. But concentration on traditional products persists, and preferences make exports cheaper to buy, not firms more productive.

Empirical evidence is not different either. A study by Defever, Riano and Varela published in 2025 found that the Export Finance Scheme and the Long-Term Finance Facility raised firms' export growth, but mainly by expanding existing sales; neither significantly increased the number of products or destinations. Another study by Lovo and Varela published in the same year found that the textile duty drawback raised textile exports by only about 1.9 per cent a year, largely by shifting sales toward traditional, higher-rebate products. In other words, support can work, but more sales of the same goods are not diversification.

The key question is whether exports would have happened without assistance. Governments can compare assisted firms with similar unassisted ones before and after support to see whether incentives create new exports or just support existing sales.

Strong export numbers in a month or a year are good news, but they do not tell the whole story. Exports can rise just because world prices went up or the rupee lost value, even when firms have not become any better at their work. For consistent export growth, government support, or, one could say, reforms, should be judged by whether firms are becoming more productive, adopting new technology, selling new products, improving skills and quality and staying competitive after the support ends. Each sector also needs its own yardstick. What counts as progress for rice exporters is different from what counts for garment makers or software firms.

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By Kinza Kanwal

The Missing Link In Pakistan-China Trade



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Investment, Exports and Economic Opportunity

Pakistan's economic ties with China are presents a striking contrast. China is one of Pakistan's biggest trading partners and a significant supplier of machinery, industrial equipment and investments. However, Pakistan's export trade to China is still far less than its imports. In bilateral economic diplomacy, a question needs to be asked as, why the growing trade cooperation has not been matched by the export capabilities of Pakistan.

Trade data is not the key to the answer. It needs to look into the opportunities opened by bilateral dealings and the profile of Pakistan's exports and the hurdles Pakistan businesses face in global competition. Both countries have expanded their economic cooperation, but a key challenge is to make market access a driver of continued export expansion.

Pakistan news analysis

This imbalance is apparent in recent trade figures. According to the statistics in July 2026, Pakistan exported $2.68 billion and imported $19.54 billion from China in fiscal year 2025-26. Exports grew in comparison with the previous year while imports grew as well. The net result of this merchandise trade was around $16.85 billion.

These statistics show the imbalance of two-way trade but a trade imbalance with one trading partner does not necessarily indicate an unsuccessful economic relationship. Machinery, raw materials and intermediate goods imports can help the domestic production and investment. The matter which is more crucial is whether these imports support to build industries that can produce competitive products in the domestic and global markets.

This is especially significant as Pakistan and China have an existing bilateral mechanism to ease trade. In 2007, the first phase of their Free Trade Agreement came into effect. A second phase agreement was signed in April 2019, and tariff cuts took effect January 2020. Its aim was to enhance market access, to fix vulnerabilities of the previous agreement and to enhance trade cooperation.

In the modified deal, China will remove tariffs on 313 lines of products that are considered priorities for Pakistan. These comprised textiles, garments, seafood, meat, leather, chemicals, footwear and engineering goods. The deal also included a more comprehensive timetable of tariff cuts in the future.

The concessions were vital because they sought to resolve a long-standing issue that Pakistani exporters required more competitive access to the Chinese market. But preferential tariffs are not the only element of trade, however. Reduced customs duties can enhance the price of a product, but they cannot offset the lack of reliable supply, product consistency, or high production costs or poor commercial contacts.

This was emphasized in a preliminary evaluation of the second phase of the agreement carried out by the Pakistan Business Council. The study findings showed that the new tariff regime provided significant market access benefits. Meanwhile, in consultation with exporters it found barriers that were not solely due to Chinese tariff policy.

Some challenges cited included insufficient market information, lack of skill to find Chinese buyers, lack of factory infrastructure and lack of knowledge about trade procedures. The results indicated that enhanced access will bring opportunities while the Pakistani businesses will require the ability to compete for customers.

The difference between access and competitiveness is key to the trade relationship. While a company might be favored under a contract, it could still not be able to obtain orders because it is not able to meet the requirements of the buyers regarding the quality, quantity, delivery and pricing. Trade negotiations can be done with favorable conditions, but businesses need to be able to operate effectively within these.

Product diversification is another crucial factor to consider. It is difficult for exporting activities to grow if a country relies significantly on few products or commodities which lack value addition. While there may be buyers overseas for raw materials and semi-processed products, there is potential to earn more when manufacturing skills and processing, specialized production skills are developed.

This increases the significance of identifying products for which there is a demand in China and where a potential for realistic competitive positions exists for Pakistani producers. The Pakistan Business Council made this distinction between goods already exported to China, products exported to other countries but not to China and the products that are imported by China but not exported by Pakistan. It is a good starting point in order to discover opportunities in China, instead of seeing it as one homogeneous market.

It also recommends that trade promotion should be made more specific. Rather than simply concentrating on overall export expansion goals, institutions and business associations could target specific products which have the potential to succeed and look at the competition in specific market segments and assist exporters in understanding the commercial needs of the market.

Market intelligence is a key feature to pay attention to. China's huge consumer and industrial marketplace offer a variety of opportunities, but also poses some challenges. The Pakistani exporters require honest and accurate information regarding their buyers, prices, quality of products, distribution channels, and applicable regulations. New markets can be challenging due to language barriers and unfamiliar business practices.

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan provides a convenient online facility through which businesses can check the preferential tariff rates under the bilateral agreement. These can be used to enhance the availability of information. However, their usefulness relies on whether or not firms are aware of them and can use the information to make commercial decisions.

In other words, trade diplomacy must be more closely linked to the actual process of business development. Diplomatic missions, export promotion agencies and export chambers can help by creating links between exporters and prospective buyers. While trade shows and business meetings can provide introductions, they are best evaluated by ongoing business relationships and actual orders.

Chinese investment is also an important factor. If business conditions are favorable, joint ventures between Pakistani and Chinese companies can help in production, technical training, and the utilization of existing supply chains. JVs can be a way for businesses to create products for the Chinese market or for export.

However, the growth of investment and exports should not be taken for granted. There is a relationship between their production and their sale as well as their added value at the national level. Economic gains from an investment may not necessarily translate to direct improvements in the bilateral trade balance of the country.

The way forward requires attention to both external market opportunities and Pakistan's productive capabilities. Better trade facilitation, more reliable market information, improvements in product standards and closer commercial cooperation are relevant to this objective. Equally important is a realistic assessment of the sectors in which Pakistani exporters can compete.

Pakistan's trade deficit with China should neither be treated as the sole measure of bilateral economic relations nor dismissed as an unavoidable consequence of a larger partnership. It is a reason to examine the structure of trade and the opportunities available for expanding exports.

The two countries have negotiated preferential trading arrangements and developed extensive economic links. The challenge is to ensure that Pakistani businesses can make more effective use of those arrangements.

Ultimately, a trade agreement opens a door; it does not guarantee that firms will enter the market successfully. The next measure of Pakistan-China trade cooperation should be not simply how much the two countries exchange, but whether Pakistan can broaden what it sells, improve the value of its exports and establish a more competitive presence in the Chinese market.

About the Author

Kinza Kanwal is a Lecturer in the Department of Government and Public Policy at the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad, and a PhD scholar in International Relations at Bahria University, Islamabad. She holds an M.Phil. in Public Policy with distinction and specializes in public policy, geopolitics, and international relations, with a research focus on Pakistan's foreign policy and regional security.

Abdul El-Sayed Wins Michigan Senate Seat In A Historic Victory

● Democrat becomes the first Muslim elected to the US Senate, while Adam Hamilton scores a rare win in Kansas



WEB DESK

DEMOCRAT

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed has won Michigan's open US Senate seat, according to media projections. He is the first Muslim ever elected to the Senate.

The win keeps an important seat in Democratic hands. It also blocks Republicans from taking the seat of retiring Democratic Senator Gary Peters.

El-Sayed is 42 and used to work as a public health official. He ran on lowering costs for working families and reducing the power of big money in politics.

His plan included Medicare for All, a government-funded healthcare system. Progressives in his party have pushed for this idea for years.

The race was close. His opponent, Mike Rogers, is 63 and a former congressman and FBI agent. Donald Trump and national Republicans backed him strongly.

Rogers tried to paint El-Sayed as a radical. He pointed to alleged ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. El-Sayed denies this, and no evidence supports the claim. Democrats said the attacks relied on Islamophobic tropes.

Rogers also worked hard to win over Jewish voters. Some of them felt uneasy about El-Sayed's opposition to US military aid for Israel. He has also called Israel's actions in Gaza genocide.

In the end, Rogers struggled with voter worries about the economy and Trump's low ratings. In the final weeks, he broke with the president on the war in Iran and the trade dispute with Canada. He said ending both would help bring down costs.

Republicans held a 53-47 Senate majority going into Tuesday's midterm elections. Democrats needed a net gain of four seats to take control.

A Big Surprise in Kansas

Adam Hamilton also won his Senate race in Kansas, according to media projections. He beat Trump-backed Republican Roger Marshall. Hamilton is the state's first Democrat elected senator in 94 years.

It was a striking result. Trump carried Kansas by more than 16 points in 2024, and the race was first seen as safe for Republicans. The projections also suggest Democrats have secured control of the chamber.

Hamilton is the pastor of the country's largest United Methodist congregation. He called himself an independent-minded Democrat and focused on affordability and bipartisanship.

In his victory speech, he wore a pin that read "love one another." He said Republicans, Democrats and independents in Kansas had all sent a message that Washington needs to change.

The race tightened in its final weeks. Trump and Vice President JD Vance both traveled to Kansas to campaign for Marshall. At an October 19 rally, Trump announced an $8 billion "harvest fuel relief program" to help farmers with diesel costs.



KARACHI: Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Joohoon Kim, addressing a press conference at his residence.

Russia Offers Full Scholarship To Talented Students Worldwide Through Olympiad

● Winners and top performers of the Open Doors Olympiad can study in Russia with travel, health cover, housing and monthly support until graduation

WEB DESK

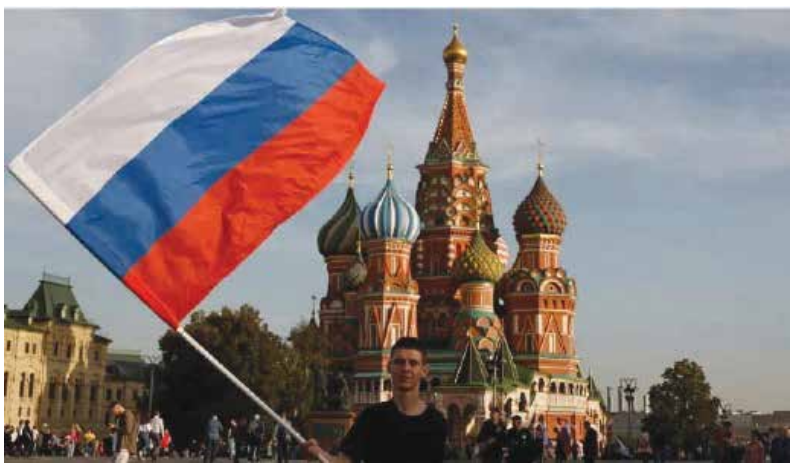
RUSSIA

Russia has opened a new door for talented students worldwide who dream of studying abroad. The scholarship is for those who win or secure a position in the International Open Doors Olympiad and then get admission to a Russian university.

The programme aims to make higher education easier for young people from many countries. It supports students not just for a short time, but for their whole stay in Russia.

Financial help starts from the day a student arrives in the country. It continues until the student graduates.

Successful candidates will receive support for their travel costs. This helps students reach Russia without worrying about the price of the journey.



Health insurance is also included in the scholarship. This means students can get medical care if they fall ill during their studies.

Accommodation costs are covered as well. Students will not have to search for a place to live or carry the burden of rent alone.

On top of this, every recipient will get a monthly stipend of more than 27,000 roubles. This money can help with daily needs such as food, transport and study materials.

The scholarship is meant for bright students from around the world. To qualify, they must meet the programme's rules through the International Open Doors Olympiad.

This means a strong result in the Olympiad is the first big step. After that, students need to secure a place at a Russian university.

For many families, the cost of studying abroad is the biggest worry. This scholarship removes much of that pressure and lets students focus on learning.

It also gives young people a chance to build friendships, learn new skills and understand another culture. Such experience can shape their future careers.

Students who are interested should read the full details before applying. The eligibility requirements and other information are available on the official website of the programme.

Pakistani-Americans Secure Major Victories In US Midterm Elections

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON

Several Pakistani-American candidates have secured victories in the US midterm elections, winning seats in state legislatures and strengthening their representation in American politics.

According to reports, Pakistani-American Democrat Maryam Sabih was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate from District 2, while Saud Anwar successfully retained his seat in the Connecticut State Senate, representing District 3.

In Texas, Pakistani-origin candidate Salman Bhojani won re-election to the State House of Representatives from District 92, securing 67 per cent of the vote.

Similarly, Pakistani-American Suleman Lalani retained his seat in the Texas State House of Representatives from District 76, also receiving 67 per cent of the votes.

Meanwhile, Pakistani-American Farooq Mughal emerged victorious in Georgia's District 105, winning a seat in the State House of Representatives with 60.8 per cent of the vote.

The victories reflect the growing participation and electoral success of Pakistani-origin candidates in American politics, particularly at the state level.

Sardar Yousuf to lead delegation in 6th Hajj Conference, Exhibition in Jeddah

● Global Hajj Conference To Enhance Pilgrim Services Ecosystem

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, along with his delegation, will participate in the sixth Hajj Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to be held in Jeddah from November 8 to 11 under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The conference and exhibition is organized by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in cooperation with the Pilgrim Experience Program.

The event will bring together more than 520 government, private and nonprofit entities, with participation from over 150 countries.

The federal minister will also attend a meeting of heads of Hajj affairs offices with Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah to discuss arrangements for the 1448 AH Hajj season and strengthen coordination with Saudi authorities.



The meeting aims to facilitate Pakistani pilgrims' Hajj journey, improve the services available to them and finalize all arrangements and service contracts well in advance to ensure a smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience, from arrival in Saudi Arabia to their return home.

The Hajj Conference and Exhibition serves as an international platform bringing together leaders, officials, Hajj affairs offices, service providers, and specialists to discuss the development of the Hajj services ecosystem and showcase solutions and initiatives that enhance readiness and service quality.

Discussions will focus on three key areas: infrastructure and operational services, empowerment and integration, and sustainable development, with the aim of enhancing the pilgrim experience and improving services.

Alongside the conference, a specialized exhibition showcasing the Hajj services ecosystem will span an area of more than 67,000 square meters.

It will bring together entities and service providers in aviation, transportation, hospitality, healthcare, infrastructure, technology, innovation, workforce services, investment, and business development.

Participating delegations will have the opportunity to explore firsthand the services and solutions available across the various stages of the pilgrim journey.

The sixth edition will also feature more than 15 main zones and programs, including the Hajj Conference, Hajj Council, Business Center, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Zone, Hackathon, and the inaugural Awareness and Training Forum, alongside the Technology, Health, Media, and Aviation Oases, among other zones and programs.

Ossoff Wins Georgia Senate Seat, Keeping Democrats' Majority Hopes Alive



WEB DESK

GEORGIA

Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff has kept his Georgia Senate seat, according to media projections made. He beat Republican Congressman Mike Collins, who had the support of President Donald Trump.

The win is a big boost for Democrats. They want to take back control of the Senate, and Georgia was a seat they simply had to hold.

The result also stands out because Trump carried Georgia by two points in the 2024 presidential race. Even so, Ossoff came out on top this time.

Many people see Ossoff as a possible Democratic presidential candidate in 2028. He also had a big money advantage, raising $126 million more than Collins.

Collins had some help of his own. Outside groups spent $18 million to back him after he made it through a three-way Republican primary and a runoff.

Trump chose Collins over Derek Dooley, a former college football coach. Dooley was backed by Governor Brian Kemp, who is leaving office soon.

Democrats Win House As Midterm Wave Rocks Trump And Republicans

● Voters send a strong message on prices, tariffs and the Iran war, while the fight for control of the Senate stays open

NEWS DESK

DEMOCRATS

Democrats win House control in a powerful midterm night that shook the Republican Party. CNN and CNBC both projected the result.

The win gives Democrats the power to block President Donald Trump's plans in Congress. It also lets them open wide investigations into his administration for the last two years of his term.

Many voters saw the vote as a verdict on Trump's second term. Rising living costs, tariffs and the war with Iran, which has pushed fuel prices up, hurt Republicans. Trump's approval ratings are also close to record lows.



One of the biggest shocks came in South Carolina. Democrat Annie Andrews, a pediatrician, beat Darline Graham, according to media projections. Graham had Trump's backing and was appointed to replace her brother, Senator Lindsey Graham, after his death in July. Democrats had not won a Senate race in the state since 1998.

Republicans also lost a Senate seat in North Carolina. Former governor Roy Cooper beat the candidate Trump had chosen.

Democrats held key seats too. Jon Ossoff won re-election in Georgia. In New Hampshire, Chris Pappas became the first openly gay man elected to the Senate.

Republicans started the night with a 53-47 Senate majority. Democrats need four net gains to take control. With two seats already flipped, the Senate race is still not settled.

The House results showed how deep the damage went. In Indiana, Democrat JD Ford defeated Republican Victoria Spartz in a district Trump won by 17 points in 2024. Democrats also flipped a House seat in North Carolina. In Florida, new district lines did not bring the gains Republicans expected.

In Georgia, Keisha Lance Bottoms won the governor's race. She is the first Black woman elected governor in US history, and her win ends 24 years of Republican control.

Iran supreme leader says those expecting US policy shift 'seriously mistaken'

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said on Wednesday that anyone expecting a shift in US policy was "seriously mistaken", hours after midterm elections dealt a blow to President Donald Trump.

"Those who still harbour even the slightest hope that the behaviour of the hegemonic system might change through partisan or factional shifts, or who imagine that making concessions to the United States can dissuade it from hostility towards the Iranian nation, are seriously mistaken," Khamenei said in a written statement published on his website.

Democrats seized control of the US Congress in Tuesday's midterms, reflecting anger over living costs, tariffs and the US war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring.

Khamenei's remarks come with diplomatic efforts underway to avert renewed fighting in the war, which broke out on February 28. US and Israeli leaders have in recent days threatened to resume attacks against Iran.

"Should such aggressions be repeated, the war's scope will become much wider," said Khamenei, who has yet to appear in public since he took power in March.

Israel's president accepts certified election results in a blow to Netanyahu's claim of vote fraud

WEB DESK

JERUSALEM

Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Wednesday accepted as legally binding the certified results from last week's parliamentary elections and said he would begin consultations with party representatives on the formation of a new government.

Herzog's acceptance of the results as valid dealt a blow to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's effort to discredit the vote in which his religious-nationalist bloc lost its majority in the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, while Arab-led parties made historic gains.



Netanyahu and his supporters have repeatedly made unsubstantiated claims that the Arab-led parties had "stolen" the election, possibly with foreign assistance.

The Israeli president is required now to sit down with various party leaders to determine who to name as prime minister-designate — a process that could potentially bring Netanyahu's opponents to power.

Fahad Mustafa pays emotional tribute to legendary actor Qavi Khan

● Legends Never Die: Fahad Mustafa Remembers Qavi Khan



SHOW BIZ

KARACHI

Pakistani actor and television host Fahad Mustafa has paid an emotional tribute to legendary actor Qavi Khan, remembering his remarkable contribution to the country's entertainment industry.

Fahad took to Instagram to share a memorable scene from their 2022 film Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad, featuring the late veteran actor holding a framed portrait of Pakistan's founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Sharing the rain-soaked scene, Fahad wrote: "Legends never die. Their legacy lives for ever." His heartfelt message highlighted the lasting impact of Qavi Khan's work and his contribution to Pakistani cinema and television.

In Quaid-e-Azam Zindabad, Qavi Khan portrayed Munawwar Maharaj, the father of Fahad Mustafa's character, Inspector Gulab. His character represented honesty and responsibility, contrasting with his son's initial involvement in corruption.

Released in 2022, the action-comedy film also starred Mahira Khan and featured one of Qavi Khan's final film performances before his death in March 2023.

Born in 1942, Qavi Khan began his acting career as a child performer at Radio Pakistan in 1952. Over the decades, he established himself as one of Pakistan's most recognised actors, appearing in more than 200 films and hundreds of television productions.

His memorable performances in television dramas, particularly Andhera Ujala, remain an important part of his celebrated career.

In recognition of his services to the entertainment industry, Qavi Khan received the Pride of Performance in 1980 and the Sitara-i-Imtiaz in 2012. He was also awarded the Nishan-i-Imtiaz posthumously.

Qavi Khan passed away on March 5, 2023, but his performances and legacy continue to be remembered by fans and fellow artists.



'Mitti De Baway' Amar Khan celebrates Zarina's musical legacy with children

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistani actress Amar Khan has celebrated the musical legacy of her character Zarina from Mitti De Baway by sharing a special moment with talented young performers at Sur Taal Music Academy in Lahore.

She expressed happiness at seeing the songs she once performed on screen being enjoyed by the next generation of music lovers.

Taking to Instagram, Amar shared a video from the event, showing her spending time with the young performers.

The video featured the words, "POV: Zarina's songs found a life beyond the screen," highlighting how the music from the drama continues to reach people beyond television.

Reflecting on the experience, Amar described it as magical to see a character's music find a place in real life. She shared how the gathering gave her an opportunity to experience a little more of Zarina's world outside the drama.

"There's something magical about a character finding a life beyond the screen. And today, I got to experience a little more of Zarina's magic," she wrote.

The actress also recalled singing the songs for the drama and expressed her gratitude for being able to celebrate them with the talented children at the Lahore-based academy. She described the experience as a beautiful and unexpected part of her journey with Mitti De Baway.

Amar further shared how much the drama had given her, saying it had offered more than she could have imagined. She ended her heartfelt note by writing, "Alhamdulillah. Forever grateful."

Musical Celebration: Amar Khan met and spent time with talented young performers at the academy who sang songs she performed on-screen for the drama.

Shared Moments: She shared clips from the gathering on her social media, expressing joy over seeing the music and character resonate with a new generation.

Acclaimed Performance: Her role as Zarina in Mitti De Baway has drawn widespread praise for her acting, Punjabi dialogue delivery, and emotional depth.

Usman Mukhtar Shares Heartfelt Birthday Tribute For Wife

● Pakistani Actor Usman Mukhtar Praises Wife Zunaira on Her Birthday

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Usman Mukhtar has shared a heartfelt birthday message for his wife, Zunaira Inam Khan, praising her intelligence, kindness and ability to balance multiple responsibilities with ease.

The actor took to Instagram to celebrate his wife's birthday, sharing a video featuring some of their memorable moments together.

Alongside the video, Usman penned a touching note in which he described Zunaira as a loving mother, caring sister, wonderful daughter and incredible wife.

He also called her one of the most intelligent people he had ever known, appreciating the way she manages different roles in her personal life.

Adding a humorous touch to his message, the actor joked that her ability to handle so many responsibilities so effortlessly was becoming a little annoying for everyone else.

Usman further wished his wife a life filled with the same happiness she brings to those around her. He ended his message with an expression of love, saying words could not fully describe how much she meant to him.

The birthday tribute received attention from fans, who appreciated the actor's affectionate message for his wife.

Usman Mukhtar and Zunaira Inam Khan tied the knot in an intimate Nikah ceremony on March 31, 2021, attended by close family members and friends amid COVID-19 restrictions. The couple later held traditional wedding festivities, including a Mayoun ceremony in October 2021.



They welcomed their first child, a daughter named Siera Inam Mukhtar, in February 2025.

Pakistani Actor Umar Shehzad Welcomes Baby Boy, Names Him Ismail

● Actor Umar Shehzad and Shanze Lodhi Welcome First Child

SHOWBIZ DESK

KARACHI



Pakistani actor Umar Shehzad and his wife, social media influencer Shanze Lodhi, have welcomed their first child, a baby boy.

The actor shared the happy news with his fans on Instagram, posting pictures featuring his wife and their newborn son.

Umar also revealed that the couple had named their baby boy Ismail, prompting an outpouring of congratulatory messages from fans and fellow showbiz personalities.

Social media users extended their best wishes to the couple, celebrating the arrival of their first child and sharing messages of happiness for the growing family.

It is worth mentioning that Umar Shehzad tied the knot with social media influencer Shanze Lodhi in February 2025.

Hurmat's Changing Feelings For Tabish Leave Drama Fans Divided

● Dananeer Mobeen's Hurmat Faces Criticism Over Tabish's Past

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani drama serial Hurmat has sparked debate on social media, with viewers sharing mixed reactions to the growing tension between its lead characters, Hurmat and Tabish.

Portrayed by Dananeer Mobeen and Shahveer Jafry, respectively, the couple's relationship has come under scrutiny after Hurmat begins having second thoughts about their future following the revelation of Tabish's childhood trauma.

The latest developments have surprised viewers, particularly because Hurmat had previously stood firmly by her relationship with Tabish despite facing opposition. However, learning about his troubled past appears to have changed her perspective, leaving fans questioning why she is reconsidering the relationship after fighting so hard to be with him.

One social media user expressed frustration through a humorous comparison, joking that people do not change their mobile phones as quickly as Hurmat seems to change the men in her life. Another viewer tagged Dananeer and questioned why Hurmat appeared to be choosing someone else over Tabish, adding heartbreak emojis to express disappointment.

However, not everyone has criticised Hurmat's decision. Some viewers believe her hesitation may be linked to her childhood experiences and her mother's difficult marriage. Having grown up witnessing a troubled relationship, Hurmat may fear facing a similar situation in her own married life.

These viewers argue that her concerns should be understood rather than dismissed, as her past experiences may be influencing the way she sees her future with Tabish.

Tabish's behaviour has also become a subject of discussion. Reacting to his repeated focus on the engagement ring, one viewer suggested that his attachment to it reflects insecurity about his relationship with Hurmat. This perspective indicates that some fans believe responsibility for the couple's growing problems does not rest solely with Hurmat.

The mixed reactions have turned the latest storyline into a major talking point among drama fans. While some sympathise with Tabish and criticise Hurmat's changing feelings, others believe both characters have their own fears and emotional struggles.

Featuring Dananeer Mobeen and Shahveer Jafry, Hurmat continues to explore family pressures and complicated relationships. With the future of Hurmat and Tabish's engagement uncertain, viewers are now waiting to see what the upcoming episodes reveal.

KATSEYE explains last-minute cancellation of Detroit concert amid backlash



WEB DESK

DETROIT

Katseye is apologising to the Eyekons after leaving thousands of fans disappointed with a last-minute concert cancellation.

The iconic girl group issued a statement to their Instagram Stories, explaining that they were forced to postpone their Wildworld Tour concert in Detroit on Tuesday, November 3, due to bandmember Megan Skiendiel falling ill.

"Unfortunately, Megan is unwell and unable to perform tonight, and we want to make sure she has the time she needs to rest and recover," they revealed, adding, "We know so many of you have traveled, made plans, and been looking forward to tonight. We are disappointed that we won't get to see you, and we're truly sorry for the inconvenience."

"Thank you for your patience, understanding, and for always showing us so much love. We love you and can't wait to see you soon," the statement concluded.

Fans who were already present at the venue shared videos of the message that flashed on stage: "We're sorry to share that the KATSEYE show scheduled for tonight at Little Caesars Arena has been postponed due to illness. If you're already at the venue, please follow instructions from venue staff."

One concertgoer, Alliz Nguyen, revealed that VIP ticket holders got to see the band perform a sound check and join them for photo ops. However, the concert itself was cancelled about half an hour prior to starting.

Eyekons had noticed Megan was not feeling well during their last concert in Hamilton on November 1. Despite their sympathies, a majority of the fans expressed their disappointment with Katseye, noting that they could have at least announced the cancellation earlier.

With Megan under the weather, only two of the six girls, Daniela Avanzini, Lara Raj, and Yoonchae Jeung remain. Frotwoman Sophia Laforteza will return from her hiatus and join the girls on the road in January, while Manon Bannerman's hiatus remains indefinite.

Judi Dench reveals in memoir that Daniel Craig pushed to kill off M in 'Skyfall'

WEB DESK

ENGLAND



Dame Judi Dench, who starred as 007's boss M in eight James Bond movies over two decades, reveals that Daniel Craig was behind M's death in 2012's Skyfall.

Dench recalled how she came to know that her character M would be killed off in her upcoming memoir, Is It Too Late to Make a Run For It?, an excerpt of which appeared in Variety.

"I was taken to the Wolseley restaurant by Barbara, Michael and Sam (Mendes, the director)—I don't think Daniel Craig was there—and they outlined the plot and told me they were going to bump me off. My fault, I suppose," Dench said.

"Ever since GoldenEye, when the entire film unit went off to Monte Carlo and St. Petersburg and I only had three days in Watford, I'd been begging them to let me out from behind my desk," she continued.

"Well, they did finally let me out from behind my desk…and they shot me."

"Apparently, it was Daniel's idea to have me killed. But first I had to suffer the indignity of being sacked by Ralph Fiennes. Arsehole (laughs)," Dench quipped.

Dench, who first took on the role in 1995's GoldenEye opposite Pierce, then revealed that the decision had been made to kill off her character.

Ed Sheeran releases first Bollywood song for Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film 'King'

WEB DESK

MUMBAI

British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran has released his first Bollywood song for superstar Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film 'King'.

Titled 'Tu Mila Jaye', the song features Ed Sheeran alongside renowned Indian singer Arijit Singh, while music has been composed by Sachin-Jigar.

The lyrics have been penned by Kumar, with Madhubanti Bagchi also contributing to the project.

On November 3, Sheeran shared a video on Instagram showing him recording the song in a studio.

In his post, the British singer revealed that during his first meeting with Shah Rukh Khan, the Bollywood superstar had expressed his desire for him to create a song for his upcoming film, describing it as Sheeran's first Bollywood track.

Sheeran said their friendship grew over time and recalled visiting the actor's residence during his previous trip to India, where Shah Rukh introduced him to music composer duo Sachin-Jigar.

Kim Kardashian thought one TV role could destroy her career

● Kim Kardashian shares how Sarah Paulson helped her deal with the negative comments

WEB DESK

ENGLAND

Kim Kardashian once thought her acting career might be over after her new show, All's Fair, received harsh comments from viewers and critics.

The reaction was so bad that she even worried the other actresses on the show would face hate because of her.

But things took a turn when people started watching the show just to see what all the criticism was about.

Kardashian said she found it funny that people who wanted to hate the show ended up helping it get more viewers. "I just thought it was so funny that people came in and wanted to hate on it so much that the hate turned into viewers wanting to see how bad it was."

The actress, however, also shared how Sarah Paulson helped her deal with the negative comments. Paulson sent her kind voice message and gave her the confidence to continue.

The reality star shared that message changed how she felt about the whole situation.

Paulson also praised her work in the new series, saying Kardashian become more confident and was showing more of her own personality through her character.

Created by Ryan Murphy, the show also stars Glenn Close, Naomi Watts and Teyana Taylor. Although the first series received poor reviews, it became a hit on Disney+.



Classy Kohli leads India to crushing win over New Zealand

● Kohli's 81 Guides India To Victory Over New Zealand In Rain-Affected ODI

WEB DESK

AUCKLAND

Virat Kohli hit a brilliant 74 to lead India to a five-wicket win over New Zealand in their first one-day international at Auckland's Eden Park on Wednesday.

The veteran right-hander hit his 80th ODI fifty off just 35 balls, showing his enduring class on a night when no other batsman was able to flourish.

In a rain-affected match, India chased down a reduced 143 for victory with 56 balls remaining after New Zealand stuttered to 185 all out in the first innings, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-game series.

Kohli, who turns 38 on Thursday, strode to the middle at the end of the first over, after former captain Rohit Sharma departed for a duck.



He immediately found his timing on a quick and bouncy wicket, playing a stunning array of pulls and hooks which left New Zealand's pace attack flummoxed.

Kohli hit 13 fours and a six in his 51-ball stay, frequently attacking the short ball.

Indian captain Shubman Gill and Kohli combined for a 113-run partnership, Gill adding 37 from 56 deliveries.

Rain interrupted the chase in the 11th over, when India were at 54-1, and then again an over later at the end of the 12th, with the tourists having added a further 10 runs.

When they returned a third time, India were targeting a total of 143 runs in 32 overs under Duckworth Lewis -- that is, a further 79 runs in 20 overs.

Kohli hit double digits from the next three overs to effectively kill the chase.

Jacob Duffy took three wickets for New Zealand.

India won the toss and chose to field, after brief showers caused a 10-minute delay to the start.

New Zealand steadily reached 73-2 in the 14th over despite Will Young and Henry Nicholls both falling cheaply.

Tim Seifert, playing in place of Devon Conway after he was concussed in a freak collision with Matt Henry in training on Tuesday, departed for 38, mistiming a pull shot to mid-on.

His would be the highest score for New Zealand, with Daryl Mitchell's 28 and Glenn Phillips's 30 the next-best scores until a blistering 34 from 23 balls by last man Blair Tickner.



Real Madrid set to appoint tennis great Nadal to board

SPORTS DESK

MADRID

Real Madrid plan to appoint retired tennis superstar Rafael Nadal to their board of directors, the club said on Wednesday.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam winner, has been an honorary club member since 2011 and shares a strong relationship with Madrid president Florentino Perez.

"For Real Madrid and for all Madrid supporters, it is a source of immense pride that a figure of his sporting and human stature -- a benchmark of Spanish and world sport -- should become part of our board of directors and, in this role, contribute to the present and future of our club," said Los Blancos in a statement.

Real Madrid's socios -- members -- are expected to ratify Nadal's appointment at the club's general assembly on November 21. "I want to thank president Florentino Perez and the board for proposing that I join the board of directors of Real Madrid," wrote Nadal on social media platform X. "I have accepted this proposal with great excitement, I'm eager to learn and to contribute everything I can."



Top shuttlers advance to quarterfinals in National Ranking Badminton Tournament

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Top players advanced to the quarterfinals of the All Pakistan National Ranking Badminton Tournament as the pre-quarterfinal matches in men's and women's singles and doubles events concluded on the third day of the competition on Wednesday at Rodham Hall, Pakistan Sports Complex.

In men's singles, Murad Ali (KP) defeated Abdul Haseeb Khan (WAPDA) 15-10, 15-12, while Abdullah Siddique (WAPDA) overcame Hamza Khan (WAPDA) 15-13, 8-15, 15-6.

Awais Zahid (WAPDA) edged past Aashan Tanveer (WAPDA) 11-15, 19-17, 17-15 in a closely contested encounter. Other players advancing to the quarterfinals were Shoaib Riaz (Army), Raja Zulqarnain Haider (Army), Muhammad Adnan (WAPDA), Rai Abdul Manan (Army) and Muhammad Ali Larosh (WAPDA).

In women's singles, Mahoor Shahzad (WAPDA) defeated Bushra Qayum (WAPDA) 15-2, 15-7, while Sana Hanif (SNGPL) beat Wardha Gouhar (Punjab) 16-18, 15-10.

Umama Usman (SNGPL), Roshanay Ihsan (Punjab), Alja Tariq (Army), Khadija Manzoor (Punjab), Amal Munib (SNGPL) and Ammarah Ishtiaq (Army) also secured quarterfinal berths.



Hamza Roman storms in quarterfinals of J-60 Jr World Tennis Championships

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Hamza Roman storms into quarterfinals of the J-60 Bard Foundation Junior World Tennis Championships Islamabad-2026 here at the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) Tennis Complex.

Pakistan's Hamza Roman defeated Sweden's Nils Preger in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, to advance to the quarter final stage. Meanwhile, three other Pakistani players – Ahtesham Humayun, Amir Mazari and Muhammad Hassan Usmani – will be in action tomorrow in their respective second-round matches, aiming to progress further in the competition.

A total of 58 players, comprising 36 boys and 22 girls, from 14 countries are participating in the championship. The participating countries include Russia, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Serbia, Australia, Spain, Canada, Belarus, Sweden and Pakistan.

The championship is sponsored by the Bard Foundation, whose valuable support is contributing significantly to the promotion and development of junior tennis in Pakistan and providing young players with an opportunity to compete at the international level.

Boys Singles 2nd Round: Hamza Roman (PAK) beat Nils Preger (SWE) 6-3,6-3; Nikita Dogadin (RUS) beat Napat Pattanalertphan (THA) 6-3,6-1; Aahil Kaleel (SRI) beat Muhammad Shayan (PAK) 6-1,6-4; Haoxuan Xu (CHN) beat Muhammad Yahya (PAK) 6-3,6-4.

Girls Singles 2nd Round: Ploypetch Daungkhiaw (THA) beat Evelina Dzepa(RUS) 6-4,6-4; Pimpisia Wongwanitkajon(THA)beatPolinaSushkova(KAZ) 6-2,1-6,6-4; Victoria Gruntova(RUS) beat Daixi Hu (CHN) 3-6,6-1,6-4; Anyawee Paisarnpanuwong (THA) beat Yijia Wang (CHN) 6-2,5-7,6-3.

Pakistan's Maliha Ali stuns Russian champion at MMA World Championships

● Hunza fighter advances to quarter-finals after split-decision victory over Russia's Veronika Drozdova

SPORTS DESK

TBILISI

Pakistan's Maliha Ali pulled off a major upset at the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia, defeating Russia's Veronika Drozdova by split decision in the women's featherweight (65.8kg) category.

The 24-year-old fighter from Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan, overcame the two-time European champion in a closely contested bout on Tuesday. Drozdova, 19, was among the competitors representing Russia, which arrived at the championships with a squad of more than 60 athletes and substantial institutional backing.

Maliha, a wushu champion and national kickboxing gold medallist, entered the competition after securing a silver medal at the IMMAF World Cup in Angola earlier this year.



She began the contest cautiously but gradually took control, using her southpaw stance to close the distance and pin her opponent against the cage. She landed several clean strikes towards the end of the opening round, although Drozdova also managed to connect with a few powerful punches.

Maliha strengthened her position in the second round by securing a takedown and moving into full mount, from where she delivered a series of heavy strikes.



India vs Pakistan 2027 World Cup tie has 8.4 million applications for tickets

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI

The Pakistan-India group-stage clash at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 has attracted unprecedented interest, with around 8.4 million ticket applications received for the highly anticipated encounter.

According to tournament organisers, Pakistan and India are scheduled to face each other on October 10, 2027, at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa. The venue has a seating capacity of approximately 34,000 spectators.

The World Cup final has also generated massive interest, with around eight million ticket applications received for the title clash, scheduled to take place at the same stadium on November 21, 2027.

The tournament, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, has attracted around three million applicants from 193 countries. More than 120 million ticket applications have reportedly been received overall.

The ticket application window will remain open until November 21.

The 14-team tournament will run from October 2 to November 21, 2027, with the opening match scheduled for October 7. Australia and India, the finalists of the 2023 World Cup, will face each other in the opening fixture.

Pakistan last defeated India in the 2022 Asia Cup.

In the group-stage draw, Pakistan have been placed alongside Australia, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and one qualifier.

The other group comprises England, South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and one qualifying team.

Azadi Football League Season-I concludes at FATA University

● FATA University VC Hails Sports For Youth Unity

SPORTS DESK

PESHAWAR

The first season of the Azadi Football League, organised by the Directorate of Sports Affairs at FATA University in collaboration with Dostan Coal Company, concluded with Atarwal FC winning the title after defeating Shah Eleven in the final.

Vice Chancellor FATA University Professor Dr Mohsin Nawaz attended the final ceremony as chief guest.

Principal Government Degree College Darra Adam Khel Professor Jawas Khan, university faculty members, administrative officers, students, district administration officials, District Sports Office Kohat representatives, local elders and a large number of spectators also attended the event.

Both teams displayed impressive skills, determination and sportsmanship during the final, while spectators enthusiastically cheered the players.

Addressing the ceremony, Professor Dr Mohsin Nawaz appreciated the Directorate of Sports Affairs and Dostan Coal Company for successfully organising the league.



He said sports played a vital role in promoting discipline, tolerance, unity, teamwork and leadership qualities among young people.

He said FATA University gave equal importance to sports and co-curricular activities alongside academic pursuits and remained committed to providing students with opportunities to showcase their talents.

The vice chancellor said sporting events encouraged healthy competition, brought people from different areas closer and strengthened ties between the university and local communities.

Novak Djokovic battles through Paris Masters opener

SPORTS DESK

PARIS

Novak Djokovic battled from behind to beat Valentin Vacherot 6-7(5/7), 7-5, 6-1 in the first round of the Paris Masters, while Ben Shelton opened his campaign with a comfortable win.

For the Serbian 24-time Grand Slam champion, it marked a return to winning ways at ATP 1000-level tournaments for the first time since his run to the fourth round at Indian Wells back in March.

Djokovic also exacted his own bit of revenge on Vacherot in just the second meeting between the pair — the Monegasque downed the 39-year-old on his way to a sensational Shanghai Masters title last season.

"I knew that coming into the court it was going to be a very tight match as it was," Djokovic told reporters.

Wonderkid JJ Gabriel set to leave Man Utd for Real Madrid, reports suggest

SPORTS DESK

MADRID

The 16-year-old prodigy, Man United forward JJ Gabriel, is reportedly inching closer to sealing the deal with Real Madrid.

Gabriel informed United he wanted to cancel his registration in order to become a free agent with immediate effect, in a notice posted on September 15, 2026.

Gabriel, who faced Altetico Madrid on United's pre-season tour, had been expected to become the club's youngest debutant in September's Carabao Cup tie against Brighton.

However, he has chosen to look to elsewhere for senior football and has been training on his own while staying in Spain.

Europe's leading clubs raced to select the United wonderkid after Gabriel travelled with his family to Barcelona in September.

Multiple UK media outlets reported at the time that Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, and Paris St-Germain are vying to sign JJ Gabriel, whose real name is Joseph Junior Andreou Gabriel.

After Gabriel obtained a European passport, the way is not clear for him to ink a deal with any club outside England.

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi Congratulates Pakistan On Over-40s World Cup Win

● Pakistan beat Australia in the final in Guyana, and the whole nation is celebrating the veteran stars

SPORTS REPORTER

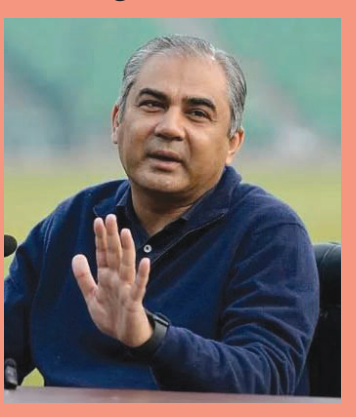
LAHORE

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday congratulated the Pakistan Over-40 cricket team for winning the IMC Over-40s World Cup 2026. The tournament was played in Guyana.

Pakistan beat Australia in the final and lifted the trophy. The big win has made the whole country proud.

In his message, Naqvi said it is a great honour for Pakistan to win this event in Guyana. He said the players showed their skills in front of 15 teams, and that is a proud moment for the nation.

The PCB chief also praised the people working behind the scenes. He said Fawad Ijaz Khan and the Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association have done a great job. In his view, their hard work is helping veterans' cricket grow in the country.



Veterans' cricket gives older players a chance to stay close to the game they love. It also shows that passion and talent do not fade with age. This win proves that Pakistan's senior players can still compete with the best teams in the world.

Fans across the country are happy with the news. Many people are sharing the good news on social media and wishing the players well.

Naqvi once again offered warm wishes to every member of the squad.

He said he was congratulating them from the bottom of his heart.

The victory in Guyana adds another bright chapter to Pakistan's cricket story. It will also give young players new hope and a reason to dream big. With good support and planning, Pakistan can keep winning on the world stage.

Anti-Corruption Court to indict Parvez Elahi for recruitment violations

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Anti-Corruption Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing of the Punjab Assembly illegal recruitment case until November 18, 2026.

The court directed former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to ensure his appearance on the next date so that he could be indicted.

The proceedings were conducted by Anti-Corruption Court Judge Javed Iqbal Warriach, with the accused, former Principal Secretary Punjab Assembly Muhammad Khan Bhatti. Other accused individuals, who are out on bail, also appeared to register their attendance.

During the proceedings, Parvez Elahi did not appear while his counsel submitted an exemption request, citing his client's illness and need for rest.

The court granted a one-day exemption but expressed concern over the accused's repeated absences, noting that such actions were delaying the indictment process. The court warned that all accused must be present at the next hearing, emphasising that continued absence was hindering progress in the case.

The court also called for arguments regarding the acquittal of co-accused Mukhtar Ranjha on the next date.

Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab had instituted the case against former chief minister Parvez Elahi, Principal Secretary Muhammed Khan Bhatti and others for alleged illegal recruitments and influencing the recruitment process in the Punjab Assembly.



KARACHI: The Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum held a meeting at the headquarters of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC).

ECP appoints 17 officers to monitor Islamabad LB polls

● CDA Officers Assigned To Monitor Islamabad Local Polls

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has appointed Additional Deputy Commissioner Uzair Ali Khan as District Monitoring Officer (DMO) and 16 other officers as monitoring officers to oversee compliance with the code of conduct during the December 20 local government elections in Islamabad and ensure transparency throughout the electoral process.



According to a notification issued by the ECP on Wednesday, the 16 monitoring officers have been assigned specific groups of union councils across the federal capital to monitor electoral activities and report violations of the code of conduct.

Assistant Director Anjum Hayat has been assigned Union Councils 1 to 3 and 122 to 125, while Research Officer Javed Iqbal will monitor Union Councils 4 to 10.

Assistant Director Abdul Razzaq has been assigned Union Councils 11 to 15 and 17 to 19. Assistant Director Shahid Hussain will oversee Union Councils 16, 20 to 25 and 53, while Assistant Director Ghulam Murtaza will monitor Union Councils 26 to 31.

CDA Assistant Director Usman Rashid has been assigned Union Councils 32 to 38, while CDA Assistant Director Syed Muhammad Osama Wasti will oversee Union Councils 39 to 46.

CDA Town Planner Shaoor Ahmed will monitor Union Councils 50 to 52 and 54 to 59.

Similarly, CDA Assistant Director Shabbir Hussain Sandhu has been assigned Union Councils 47 to 49 and 60 to 64; Zafar Ali Baloch, Union Councils 65 to 73; Ijaz Mahmood, Union Councils 74 to 80; and Ali Asghar, Union Councils 81 to 87.

CDA Assistant Director Arif Ali will monitor Union Councils 88 to 95, while Azizur Rehman has been assigned Union Councils 96 to 100, 116 to 118 and 120.

CDA Assistant Director Nisar Muhammad Khan will oversee Union Councils 101 to 108, while Muhammad Altaf has been assigned Union Councils 109 to 115 and 121.

The ECP has also issued terms of reference (ToRs) for the DMO and monitoring officers, requiring them to take an oath under Section 56 of the Elections Act before assuming their responsibilities.



PTI dreams of regaining power but will have to account for corruption: Amir Muqam

STAFF REPORTER

BATAGRAM

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, here Wednesday said that the public's enthusiasm on Youm-e-Nijat was remarkable, adding that the people have rejected the previous PTI government and that the party, despite dreaming of regaining power, will have to answer for its alleged corruption.

He expressed these views while addressing a large public gathering in Battagram on Wednesday, marking the end of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) 14-year rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Thousands of PML-N workers and local residents attended the gathering, organised as a Day of Gratitude to celebrate the end of PTI's 14-year poor rule in the province.

The participants raised enthusiastic slogans in favour of Engineer Amir Muqam, PML-N Quaid Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief Minister, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the Pakistan Army. They also expressed their support for peace, national security and stability.



Pakistan, Saudi Arabia to strengthen education, cultural ties

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy, paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

The meeting was also attended by the Federal Secretary for Education, Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, along with senior officials and other professionals from the education sector.

During the meeting, both sides held constructive discussions on matters of mutual interest and explored avenues for further strengthening the longstanding and brotherly relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly in the fields of education, higher education, cultural exchange, and professional development.

The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral educational cooperation through academic exchange programmes, institutional partnerships, capacity-building initiatives, and the promotion of collaborative opportunities between universities and higher education institutions in both countries.

Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening cooperation in higher education, facilitating academic mobility, and creating opportunities for students, researchers, faculty members, and education professionals to benefit from shared knowledge and expertise.

Both sides exchanged views on expanding opportunities for scholarships, student exchange programmes, faculty development, joint research initiatives, and academic collaboration.

They also highlighted the importance of establishing stronger linkages between universities and educational institutions to promote innovation, research excellence, and the international exchange of academic experiences.

The meeting also explored prospects for enhanced cultural cooperation, particularly through the promotion of Arabic language education, Arabic literature, and cultural exchange initiatives.

Kundi, SIFC discuss investment opportunities, industrial development in KP

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi discussed investment opportunities and measures to harness the province's economic potential during a meeting with senior officials of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), accompanied by a delegation of provincial officials.



During the meeting, the governor was briefed on SIFC's mandate, institutional role and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving Pakistan's investment climate through a coordinated, investor-centric approach, a news release said on Wednesday.

The briefing highlighted SIFC's role in bringing federal and provincial stakeholders onto a common platform, facilitating investors and addressing procedural and regulatory impediments to business development.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on diverse business and investment opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with particular emphasis on tapping the province's economic potential, promoting industrial activity and attracting greater private-sector investment.

The optimization of existing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was also discussed, focusing on their effective utilization and the creation of an enabling environment for industrial development.

The delegation was further briefed on regulatory reforms being pursued under SIFC's facilitation framework, particularly initiatives aimed at simplifying business procedures, reducing regulatory burdens and improving coordination among relevant government institutions.

These reforms are intended to make the business environment more facilitative, transparent and conducive to investment and enterprise development.

The engagement highlighted the importance of effective coordination between SIFC and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in identifying investment opportunities, addressing business-related challenges and translating the province's economic potential into tangible development outcomes.

Modi can't crush Kashmiris' freedom spirit with brute force: IIOJK civil society

● Kashmiris Vow To Continue Freedom Struggle Despite Repression

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Civil society activists in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have said that Modi regime can't crush the Kashmiris' spirit for freedom by using brutal force and muzzling voices of dissent.



According to Kashmir Media Service, the activists, including lawyers, academics and human rights defenders who wished not to be named due to fear of reprisal, said Modi can kill Kashmiris but cannot kill their dreams for freedom and right to self-determination as mandated by UN resolutions.

They said India must bear in mind that those yearning for freedom can't be subdued through brutal tactics and military oppression, and popular movements can never be defeated by force.

"India can't stop the Kashmiris' march for freedom by muzzling their voices of dissent. Kashmiris will prefer death over submitting to Indian military might," said a Srinagar-based civil society member.

The activists said Kashmiris will continue sacrificing their lives till freedom from Indian clutches and their sacred blood shed to achieve freedom from Indian yoke will not go in vain.

They maintained that resolution of the Kashmir dispute is only possible through realization of the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the world must come forward to pressure India to honour its commitments.

Health ministry launches Care1166 digital complaint management system

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal on Wednesday launched the Care1166 Health Complaint Management System at the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), introducing a centralized digital platform to facilitate public complaints and strengthen accountability across the health sector.



Under the new system, residents of Islamabad will be able to register complaints regarding the Ministry of National Health Services and its attached departments and institutions through a single helpline number, 1166, without having to visit different government offices.

The portal aims to provide citizens, particularly those living in remote areas, with convenient access to relevant authorities through telephone calls, ensuring that their health-related concerns are formally registered and addressed.

According to the ministry, complaints will be automatically forwarded to the concerned departments or designated officers, while their progress will be monitored from registration to resolution.

A central dashboard has been established to maintain a record of every complaint, its assignment to the responsible officer and the action taken for its resolution.

The health minister will also be able to review complaints and their progress through the dashboard from his office, enabling direct oversight of the performance of relevant departments.

British Council, PASHA Partner To Boost Digital Jobs In Gilgit-Baltistan

● British Council and PASHA Join Hands to Advance Digital Employment Opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan Under the EU-Funded TVET Sector Support Programme

STAFF REPORTER

GILGIT

Under Team Europe's TVET Sector Support Programme, British Council, in partnership with the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA), convened a roundtable on Industry Linkages and Graduate Employability at Serena Hotel, Gilgit.



The roundtable brought together representatives from government, academia, the IT industry and development partners to strengthen collaboration between training institutions and employers and explore opportunities to improve employment prospects for young people, particularly women, in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The roundtable featured two thematic sessions addressing the relationship between digital skills development, industry requirements and employment opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan. A panel discussion brought together Sher Ali, Director, GB Technical Education and Skills Department; Mr Muhammad Zohaib Khan, Chair of Special Initiatives at P@SHA; Prof. Dr Abdul Razaq, Acting Vice Chancellor of Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit; Naeem Sardar Vice chairman GBSHA, Co founder Uconnect technologies and Mr Zameer Abbas, Secretary IT, Gilgit-Baltistan.

The roundtable provided a platform for dialogue between public institutions, training providers and the private sector, supporting efforts to align skills development with emerging economic opportunities.

Through the TVET Sector Support Programme, the European Union and its implementing partners continue to support Pakistan's efforts to strengthen the quality, relevance and inclusivity of technical and vocational education and training.

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