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ISPR Highlights Regional Security, Peace Efforts

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) highlighted Pakistan's regional security challenges and efforts to maintain peace during interactive sessions with students.

The DG ISPR visited the University of Lahore, the University of Central Punjab (UCP) and King Edward Medical University (KEMU), where special sessions were organised with students and faculty members.

During the discussions, national and international affairs, the geopolitical situation in the region, particularly Afghanistan, and the Pakistan Army's role in maintaining regional peace came under discussion.

Students and faculty members openly shared their views and raised questions on various issues, to which the military spokesperson provided detailed responses.

The students appreciated the initiative of direct engagement with academic communities and emphasised the importance of holding more such interactive sessions in the future.

They also paid tribute to the armed forces for their victory in Marka-e-Haq and offered prayers for the elevation of ranks of the military personnel who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

Bilawal Wishes Diwali To Hindu Community

● Hindu community plays valuable role in development of country: CM, Governor

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has extended his heartiest congratulations and warm wishes to the Hindu community of Pakistan and to everyone celebrating Diwali around the world.

The PPP chairman said that every lamp lit for Diwali carries a message of peace, hope, love and light, one that rises above distinctions of religion, colour and race to brighten every heart and every home.

He said the Hindu community is an inseparable part of Pakistan, and its contribution to nation-building and development is invaluable. "Our joys and our sorrows are shared," he said.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that under the unanimously adopted Constitution given to the country by Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, all non-Muslim citizens are entitled to equal rights and opportunities.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto struggled to secure an effective role for minorities in national decision-making, he noted, while President Asif Ali Zardari, by marking 11 September as National Minorities Day, drew attention to the services of minorities and the part they play in national life. He said the PPP remains committed to protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of all minorities.

Extending his good wishes to Pakistan's Hindu community, he said: "May the lamps of happiness always stay lit in your lives, and may every home glow with the light of peace, love and prosperity. Happy Diwali!"

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has extended Diwali greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali.

He said that the festival of Diwali brings a message of love, brotherhood, and light.

The Chief Minister of Sindh said that Sindh is the land of Sufi saints, where people of all faiths live in peace.

Interfaith harmony and tolerance are integral to the beautiful culture of Sindh, the Chief Minister remarked.

Shah said that the Sindh government is committed to protecting the rights of all minorities residing in the province.

The Hindu community plays a vital role in the development of Pakistan, particularly in Sindh, he said adding this Diwali, let us dispel hatred and kindle the lamps of love and light, he added.

Meanwhile, Governor of Sindh Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi has extended greetings to the Hindu community in Pakistan and across the globe on the occasion of Diwali.

He said that Diwali is a festival of light, joy, peace and hope.

The Governor of Sindh said that the Hindu community in Pakistan is an integral part of the country's social, cultural, and national life.

Protecting the rights of religious minorities and providing them with equal opportunities is a collective responsibility, he said adding that all citizens in Pakistan enjoy equal rights without any discrimination.

Hashmi said that the Hindu community has played a valuable role in the development, prosperity and nation-building of Pakistan.

He said that Diwali conveys a message that promotes unity, brotherhood, religious tolerance, and interfaith harmony.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a crucial meeting on Sunday at CM House in Karachi to review the Sukkur water supply project. The session, attended by senior officials, focused on evaluating the progress and addressing challenges in the project's implementation. The meeting underscored the government's commitment to improving water infrastructure in the region, a vital issue for local development and public health.

Faryal Talpur felicitated Hindu community on Diwali

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women's Wing President Faryal Talpur has extended heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Hindu community in Pakistan and around the world on the occasion of Diwali.

She said that the hardwork, sacrifices and contributions of Pakistan's Hindu community to national progress are a proud part of our shared history and national identity. Sharing in their joy and protecting their rights and dignity, she said, is not mere tolerance but a requirement of our common humanity and our national responsibility.

Faryal Talpur said that Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, through the unanimously adopted Constitution of 1973, gave constitutional protection to the equal rights of all citizens and to religious freedom, while Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto struggled for a Pakistan where no citizen's rights would be curtailed because of their identity, faith or religion.

She said that President Asif Ali Zardari's declaration of 11 September as National Minorities Day is an important tradition of acknowledging the services of minorities and their place in national life. She added that under the leadership of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the PPP is carrying this democratic, equality-based vision forward.

Faryal Talpur said that Pakistan's real strength lies in its people and in the bonds of love, respect and solidarity between them. "Our dream is a Pakistan where the lamp of no place of worship is put out by fear, where no household's happiness is lost to religious discrimination, and where every citizen can hold their head high and say that this country is mine too," she said.

Addressing Pakistan's Hindu community, she said: "My best wishes are that these bright lamps of Diwali fill your homes with happiness, your hearts with hope and your lives with love and joy.

"May this festival become a message promoting peace, religious harmony, brotherhood and prosperity in Pakistan."

Security forces kill 27 terrorists in intelligence-based operation in Mastung

● Key Militant Commander Yasir Parkani Killed in Mastung Operation



STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Security forces have killed 27 terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Mastung district as part of ongoing counterterrorism efforts under Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad-3, according to security sources.

The operation was conducted in the Kadam Valley area of Mastung, where security personnel targeted suspected terrorist hideouts following intelligence reports.

According to security sources, 15 terrorists were killed during the first phase of the operation, while another 12 were eliminated in the second phase, taking the total number of fatalities to 27.

Yasir Parkani, described by security sources as a key local commander of a proscribed organisation, was also among those killed.

During the operation, security forces recovered a substantial quantity of weapons, ammunition and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from the targeted hideouts.

Security sources said a sanitisation operation was underway in the area to locate any remaining militants and clear possible threats.

Asif calls for creation of new administrative units in Pakistan

● Defence minister calls for decentralisation of powers to improve governance and public services

STAFF REPORTER

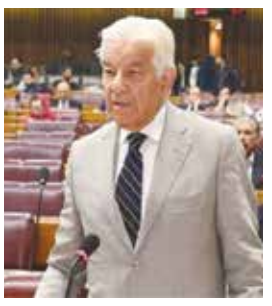
SIALKOT

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has backed the creation of new provinces in Pakistan, saying even 12 could be considered, provided they are established on administrative rather than ethnic or political grounds.

Defence minister said the proposal to create new provinces had been under discussion for the past two months, with opinions emerging from across the country.

"If there is a proposal for 12 provinces, then make it 12, but they should not be created on the basis of language, ethnicity or political interests," he said.

Asif advocated the creation of smaller administrative units, arguing that Pakistan's growing population required a more effective system of governance to ensure the provision of public services.



He said power should not remain concentrated in provincial capitals such as Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar, calling instead for administrative powers to be transferred to smaller units.

The defence minister also criticised the existing distribution of financial resources, saying funds transferred from the Centre remained at the discretion of provincial governments. He maintained that these funds were ultimately intended for local government institutions, which themselves remained dependent on provincial authorities. Asif also called on politicians to reconsider their approach towards exercising authority.

"We politicians want to exercise all the power ourselves," he said, adding that political leaders must recognise that power was a trust bestowed upon them by the people.

Referring to Pakistan's administrative history, he recalled that the country's provinces had previously been merged under the One Unit scheme before the decision was reversed.

He also cited Afghanistan as an example of administrative restructuring, saying its provinces had been increased from around eight or 10 to more than 30.

His remarks come amid reports that a proposal to reorganise Pakistan into 12 provinces is under consideration, with a nationwide referendum envisaged ahead of a possible 28th Constitutional Amendment.

KP will now receive dictation from Islamabad, not Kabul: Kundi

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said on Sunday that previously there was a lack of coordination between the federal and provincial governments in the fight against terror.

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar, he said that now after the imposition of governor's rule in KP, there would be a better coordination between the Center and the province. "Now Islamabad will dictate us the policies, and not Jalalabad, Kabul or Kandahar," he added.

He categorically ruled out any talks with those not accepting the state, constitution and taking up arms.

The governor said that the restoration of law-and-order in restive areas of the province was a priority for the government. He further said that the KP government had demanded Rs160 billion to meet its security needs, which the federal government approved.

Kundi alleged that the Afghan soil was being used to carry out terrorist attacks in Pakistan. "As a matter of fact, India is using Afghanistan for its nefarious designs against Pakistan," he said, adding it was unfortunate that the former PTI government remained tightlipped on statements emanating from Kabul in which Taliban would talk about invading Peshawar. "Similarly, nobody from the PTI government would utter a word to denounce drone attacks carried out by the Taliban."

The governor said that security forces personnel were laying down their lives for the defence of the country. "Those maligning the forces are the country's enemies," he said, adding so far, over 1,000 Pakistan Army personnel had laid down their lives in the fight against terror.

Kundi said the government was improving the monitoring of social media networks in order to expose terrorist networks. He said the government planned to equip the police with latest weapons.

Hafiz Naeem Accuses PPP Over Karachi

● Hafiz Naeem Accuses PPP Of Hijacking Karachi Mandate, Depriving 35 Million People

CORRESPONDENT

KARACHI

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has accused the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of taking over Karachi's public mandate and depriving not only his party but also the city's 35 million people of their rights.

He also alleged that the establishment had imposed people on the city who knew nothing except corruption and looting.

He made these remarks while speaking at an inauguration ceremony for a model neighbourhood and newly built roads at Rifa-e-Aam Chowk, Malir Halt.

The development work was carried out by Town Municipal Corporation (TMC) Model Colony.

Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi chief Muneem Zafar Khan, Airport District chief Muhammad Ashraf, Sindh Assembly member Muhammad Farooq and Model Colony Town Chairman Zafar Ahmed also addressed the ceremony.



Hafiz Naeem said that despite a lack of funds from the PPP-led Sindh government, Jamaat-e-Islami's town administrations had found ways to carry out development work using their own resources.

He said work was underway to build streets, restore parks, clean roads and improve garbage collection points.

Hafiz said the streets were full of dirt, broken roads, and potholes at that time.

He added that the situation had now improved, with paving blocks being installed, cleanliness services getting better, and public facilities being increased.



NCCIA recovers Rs 2.94 mln for woman defrauded of Rs 9.5 million

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has recovered Rs 2.94 million and returned the amount to a woman who had allegedly lost Rs 9.5 million in an online financial fraud case, while efforts are underway to recover the remaining money.

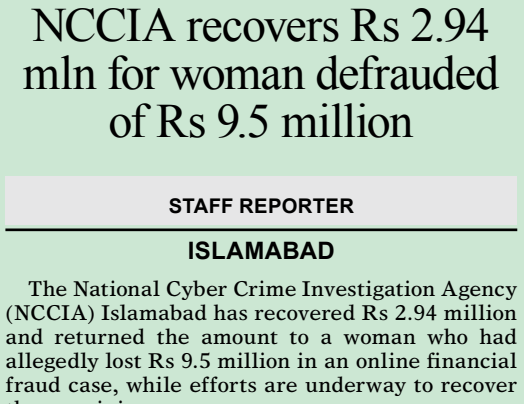
According to an NCCIA official, the recovery was made during an investigation conducted under the supervision of Inspector Waqar Masih Ghouri.

He said the woman had suffered a financial loss of Rs 9.5 million in the alleged fraud, prompting the agency to initiate an investigation into the matter.

The official said Rs 2.94 million had so far been recovered and handed over to the complainant, while further investigation was underway to trace the remaining amount and determine the involvement of those responsible.

Meanwhile, the woman expressed satisfaction over the recovery of part of her money and thanked NCCIA Islamabad for its timely action and cooperation.

She appreciated the efforts of the investigation team, particularly the assistance provided during the recovery process, and expressed hope that the remaining amount would also be recovered.



ITP steps up efforts to empower women, extends free scooty training till Nov 30

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has extended its free scooty training programme for women until November 30 following an overwhelming response, allowing more women to learn riding skills and gain confidence in independent travel.

According to ITP Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Azhar Khan, the programme has been divided into two phases to accommodate the growing number of women interested in receiving free scooty training. She said the first phase would run from November 1 to 15, while the second phase would be held from November 16 to 30.

The CTO kianat said women who could not secure a place in the first phase would now have an opportunity to receive training during the second phase without paying any fee.

Kainat said the decision to extend the programme was taken in view of the encouraging response from women seeking to learn scooty riding.

She said ITP was committed to empowering women by providing them with opportunities to develop practical riding skills and improve their mobility.

The CTO added that similar initiatives would continue in the future to encourage greater participation of women in safe and independent travel.

"Our commitment is to empower women," she said, reaffirming ITP's resolve to continue such programmes.

Parents urged to vaccinate girls against cervical cancer

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Health authorities have urged parents to ensure vaccination of their daughters aged 9 to 14 years against cervical cancer during the upcoming immunization campaign scheduled to run from November 11 to 24 across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

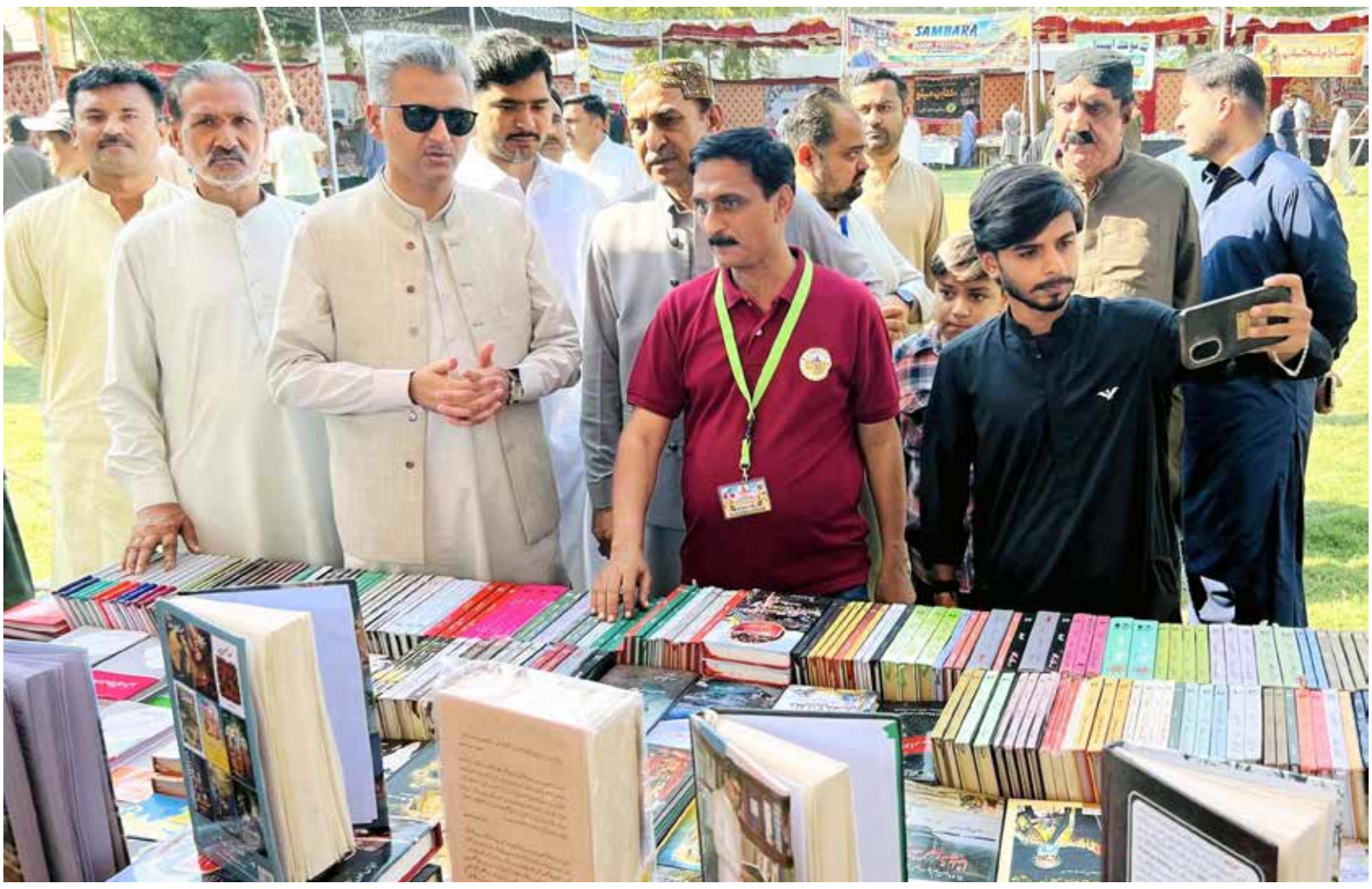
The campaign aims to protect adolescent girls against human papillomavirus (HPV), the primary cause of cervical cancer, through the administration of a safe and effective vaccine.

According to health authorities, the HPV vaccine provides effective protection against cervical cancer and plays an important role in reducing the risk of the disease in later life.

They emphasized that timely vaccination during adolescence is an important preventive measure and urged parents to actively participate in the campaign to safeguard their daughters' health.

Parents have been advised to contact the Sehat Tahaffuz helpline at 1166 for further information about the vaccination campaign and related services.

The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen preventive healthcare and raise awareness about cervical cancer, which remains a major public health concern among women, they added.



LARKANA: Mayor Larkana, Anwar Ali Luhar, attended the Sambhara Book Festival, organised by the Municipal Corporation Larkana and the Culture and Tourism Department of Sindh, at the Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto Memorial Library on Sunday. The event attracted visitors interested in a diverse range of books, including those in Urdu and Sindhi scripts. The festival highlighted Larkana's cultural engagement and literary community spirit, drawing significant participation from both locals and officials. This initiative underscores the region's commitment to promoting literature and cultural activities.

Over 23.8 million children vaccinated

● Pakistan Vaccinates Millions Of Children In Nationwide Polio Campaign Drive This Week

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

More than 23.8 million children have been vaccinated against polio during the first six days of the ongoing sub-national immunisation campaign, which entered its final day on Sunday across 97 selected districts of the country, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) said.

The campaign, which commenced on November 2, is targeting approximately 24 million children under five years of age, with more than 200,000 frontline polio workers participating in the nationwide vaccination drive.

According to the NEOC, the vaccination campaign is being conducted simultaneously in Pakistan and Afghanistan as part of coordinated regional efforts to eliminate poliovirus transmission and protect children against the crippling disease.

The provincial and regional vaccination figures showed that more than 9.126 million children had received polio drops in 13 selected districts of Punjab, while over 7.019 million children were vaccinated in 20 selected districts of Sindh.



Similarly, more than 4.673 million children received polio drops in 27 selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), while over 2.212 million children were vaccinated in 31 selected districts of Balochistan.

In Islamabad, more than 450,000 children were vaccinated, while over 161,000 children received polio drops in three selected districts of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

In Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), approximately 192,000 children were vaccinated in two selected districts during the campaign.

The NEOC further reported that Pakistan had recorded nine polio cases so far this year, warning that the threat of poliovirus continued to persist across the country.

It stressed that polio was an incurable disease and vaccination remained the only effective means of preventing the lifelong disability caused by the virus.

The NEOC urged parents and caregivers to cooperate with vaccination teams and ensure that all children below five years of age received polio drops during the campaign.

It also advised parents to complete their children's routine immunisation schedules on time.

Parents can contact the polio helpline at 1166 or send a WhatsApp message to 0346-7776546 for assistance or information regarding vaccination services.

The NEOC emphasized that sustained public cooperation and repeated vaccination were essential to achieving a polio-free Pakistan.

Week-long anti-encroachment drive reclaims 62 kanals of govt land worth Rs725.6m in DIKhan



STAFF REPORTER

DERA ISMAIL KHAN

The district administration of Dera Ismail Khan has retrieved a total of 62 kanals and 14 marlas of valuable government land, worth an estimated Rs725.6 million, during a week-long anti-encroachment campaign across the city and adjoining areas, removing illegal structures and clearing public rights of way at multiple locations.

The campaign, conducted on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Hikmatullah Khan and led by Assistant Commissioner Dr Muhammad Hamid Siddiq, covered various localities along Main Chashma Road, Multan Road and other parts of the district.

During the ongoing operation along Main Chashma Road, the administration retrieved six kanals of government right-of-way land worth Rs60 million in Mouza Rakh Mandhra near Kokar. Another one kanal, valued at Rs16.8 million, was recovered in Mouza Ratta Kalachi after removing illegal constructions, structures, platforms and encroachments along both sides of the road.

At Kokar Adda on Main Chashma Road, the administration retrieved 7 kanals and 10 marlas of right-of-way land, estimated to be worth Rs75 million. In a separate operation in Mouza Rakh Mandhran, another 8 kanals and 6 marlas of valuable government land worth Rs83 million were recovered.

Similarly, illegal structures, platforms, sheds and other encroachments were demolished on both sides of Chashma Road in Mouza Mandhran Kalan, resulting in the recovery of 3 kanals and 6 marlas of government land worth Rs33 million.

The campaign was also extended to Mouza Ratta Kalachi, where operations from CRBC Chowk to Himmat Adda and Sheikh Yousaf Chowk to Saddar Police Station resulted in the recovery of another 13 kanals and 12 marlas of government land, with an estimated market value of Rs283.5 million, while the public right of way was cleared.

In another operation on Multan Road in Mouza Muriali, illegal structures, platforms and encroachments were removed, recovering 2 kanals and 10 marlas of government land worth Rs50 million.

The administration also retrieved 14 kanals of provincial government land worth Rs56 million near Kotli Imam Hussain by demolishing illegal constructions established on Khasra No. 4213.

Meanwhile, an operation along both sides of Chashma Road resulted in the removal of temporary and permanent illegal structures, platforms, ramps and other encroachments from the road's right of way, recovering six marlas of government land valued at Rs6.3 million.

Dr Sidra Becomes Pakistan's First Paediatric Surgical Oncologist

● Pakistani Doctor Completes Specialised Cancer Surgery Training in US

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Pakistan has achieved a significant milestone in paediatric healthcare as Dr Sidra-tul-Muntaha has become the country's first paediatric surgical oncologist after completing specialised training in the United States.

Dr Sidra, daughter of Prof Dr Saleem Faiz, completed a fellowship in paediatric surgical oncology at the renowned St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. She is currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Paediatric Surgery at the Children's Hospital Lahore.

Paediatric surgical oncology is a specialised branch of medicine that involves complex surgical procedures to treat cancer in children.

Dr Sidra's achievement is being regarded as an important development for paediatric cancer care in Pakistan, where access to specialised treatment remains a key healthcare priority.

Her international training and experience are expected to contribute to the development of specialised surgical services and improve treatment options for children battling cancer in the country.

FIA nabs woman in Rs 5.2 mln UK visa fraud, recovers Rs 2 million

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Islamabad Zone has nabbed a woman allegedly involved in a Rs 5.2 million UK work visa fraud involving a fake IELTS certificate, marriage registration certificate and other documents, recovering Rs 2 million during the investigation.

According to an FIA official, the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Rawalpindi arrested the accused in connection with FIR No. 285/2026 following a complaint regarding fraudulent promises of arranging a UK work visa.

He said the complainant alleged that the woman received a total of Rs 5.2 million in different payments on the promise of sending him to the United Kingdom.

During the initial investigation, it emerged that the accused allegedly provided a fake International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificate to the complainant against a payment of Rs 1 million.

The official said the woman later allegedly promised to arrange a UK visa through marriage and provided a fake marriage registration certificate and an agreement on e-stamp paper.

Another accused reportedly acted as a guarantor in the agreement. He said when the complainant demanded his money back, the accused allegedly refused to return the amount and threatened him.

The official said Rs 2 million had been recovered from the arrested woman, while efforts were underway to recover the remaining amount and determine the involvement of other suspects.

Realty sector gets Rs34b tax relief

● Real estate contribution down 45% to Rs42b; salaried class pays 360% more

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The government's decision to cut real estate income taxes by half has so far extended Rs34 billion in benefits to the influential sector in this fiscal year, contrary to the marginalised salaried class whose tax payments jumped by Rs13.5 billion to Rs193 billion.

The contrast between declining tax payments by the real estate sector and the growing burden on the salaried class once again exposes the government's unjust tax policies, which have put undue burden on fixed-income people.

According to provisional figures, the realty sector paid a mere Rs42 billion in withholding taxes during the July-October period of the current fiscal year, which was Rs34 billion, or 45%, less than the same period of last year. The reduction is steeper despite an uptick in the real estate sector after the government reversed its policy to discourage speculative investment.

According to real estate sector experts, the number of transactions and the value of properties have started increasing, yet their tax contributions plunged during the first four months of this fiscal year.

As a result, the gap between tax payments by the salaried class and the realty sector, which was favoured by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif through policy reversal, increased by 360% in just four months.

The salaried class paid roughly Rs193 billion in income tax, which was Rs151 billion, or 360%, higher than the realty sector contribution. Last year, the salaried class had paid Rs179 billion in four months.

In June this year, on the request of PM Sharif's government, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)



endorsed a 50% cut for real estate and a fixed tax scheme for retailers.

The influential trading and real estate sectors remained largely outside the net, with the IMF either endorsing tax concessions or keeping its eyes closed. Collecting due taxes from agriculture, real estate and traders was part of the three-year $7 billion loan package. The board is tentatively scheduled to approve the fifth loan tranche next month.

In addition to Rs193 billion in income tax payments, the tax collection from professional services rose 17% to Rs111 billion during the July-October period. Some of the salaried persons are also taxed under this head.

In fiscal year 2026, the realty sector had paid Rs236 billion, but it has now been halved. In the budget, the government reduced the advance tax on sale and purchase of immovable property by 50%. On the sale of property, three slabs have been merged, and a single rate of 2.75% has been introduced against 5.5%. On the purchase of property, the tax rate has been reduced from 2.5% to 1.25%.

Because of this steep reduction, the advance income tax collection on the sale of property decreased from Rs52.7 billion to Rs27.3 billion in four months, a reduction of Rs25.4 billion, or 48%.

Likewise, on the purchase of properties, the income tax collection dipped from Rs23.1 billion to Rs14.7 billion, a reduction of Rs8.4 billion, or 37%, according to these statistics.

Official data showed that the withholding taxes paid by wholesalers and retailers almost remained stagnant during the first four months of the current fiscal year. The combined withholding taxes paid by wholesalers and retailers amounted to Rs24.7 billion. These were Rs600 million, or 2.5%, more than the last fiscal year.

'Tariff hike applies only to package beneficiaries'

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Rs25.30 per unit increase approved by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Friday is the revised marginal rate under the Incremental Consumption Package for industrial and agricultural consumers, the power division said.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the division clarified that this did not amount to an increase in the industrial power tariff, adding that the incremental package had been revised because marginal generation costs rose due to the prevailing US-Iran war. The statement said that the rise in incremental pac¬k¬age rate was temporary and would apply from November 2026.

Commenting on the imp¬act of the Nepra determination, the spokesperson said that the adjustment ensu¬res that the cost of relief under the package is not passed on to other consumers, particularly non-beneficiaries.

Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum to be held in Islamabad



FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan is ready to host global mining companies that will participate in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum from November 12-13 in Islamabad.

All the leading investors, global mining executives, policy-makers and experts, and Pakistan's political and military leadership will attend the forum.

An exhibition of companies, projects, products, services, equipment and technologies related to the minerals and mining value chain will also be held.

The objective of the Forum is to promote domestic and foreign investment in the minerals sector by leveraging Pakistan's valuable mineral reserves and resources.

The Minerals Investment Forum is being organized in collaboration with the SIFC to attract investment into Pakistan's vast minerals sector.

The Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum will pave the way for global technical partnerships, policy reforms, investment, and sustainable mining.

Saudi Aramco building in Riyadh damaged by falling debris after attempted attack, ministry says

● Saudi-led coalition intercepts two Houthi missiles fired towards Riyadh

WEB DESK

RIYADH



An administrative building belonging to state oil giant Saudi Aramco in Riyadh was damaged by falling debris following an attempted attack on Sunday, with no injuries or fatalities reported, the kingdom's Energy Ministry said.

A Reuters witness saw blown-out windows across several floors of the Aramco Tower, one of the tallest buildings in the capital's King Abdullah Financial District.

The incident, which the ministry said caused limited damage, came after the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted two missiles fired by Yemen's Houthis towards Riyadh.

Aramco was not immediately available for comment, and there was no immediate statement from the Houthis.

Multiple loud booms were heard in Riyadh earlier on Sunday, a Reuters witness said, shortly after Saudi Civil Defence issued an early-warning alert of a potential threat in the region. Authorities later announced that the danger had passed.

The Saudi-led coalition that has been fighting the Houthis subsequently said it had intercepted and destroyed two cruise missiles in Riyadh and the kingdom's southern region.

Alerts in oil-rich eastern province

Earlier on Sunday, Saudi Civil Defence issued and later lifted warnings in several areas of the oil-rich Eastern Province, including Dhahran, home to the headquarters of state oil giant Saudi Aramco.

The Eastern Province holds most of the kingdom's oil and gas reserves. Saudi Aramco's headquarters suffered extensive damage in an attack in October.

An attack on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on October 10 killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, according to Saudi authorities.

The renewed hostilities have shattered a 2022 UN-brokered truce that had largely halted fighting between the two sides.

Saudi Arabia led a coalition of Arab states into Yemen in 2015 to restore the internationally recognised government after the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa.

The latest escalation comes a day after Yemen's Houthi-run health ministry said Saudi airstrikes killed at least 33 people near Sanaa. Saudi authorities said they were investigating.

Houthi-run health ministry says airstrikes kill 33 near Yemen capital

At least 33 people were killed and 39 wounded in what the Houthi-run Saba news agency said were Saudi airstrikes on a village near Yemen's capital Sanaa on Saturday, in one of the deadliest reported attacks since fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-aligned group resumed in July.

Reuters could not independently verify the account. Saudi Arabia's Center for International Communication said it was investigating the report.

The renewed fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis has shattered a 2022 UN-brokered truce that largely halted attacks between the Saudi-led coalition and the group, which controls Sanaa. The Houthis have since launched missile and drone attacks on Saudi airports and oil facilities, while Riyadh has carried out airstrikes in Yemen in support of its Yemeni allies.

The ministry said the strikes hit homes in the town of Bani Hushaysh, a Houthi stronghold east of Sanaa, and that most of those killed were women and children.

Abdul-Aziz al-Dailami, director of Sehatuna Hospital in Sanaa, said many victims remained trapped under the rubble, including first responders.

"The strikes keep coming. Just as rescuers arrive, another strike hits. We have even lost some of our own medical responders, who have been martyred," he told Reuters.

Physicians Revenue Group partners with Devsinc

FINANCE REPORTER

LAHORE



Devsinc, one of Pakistan's leading software development and IT services companies led by Founder and CEO Usman Asif, and Physicians Revenue Group, Inc. (PRG) have partnered for a multi-phase enterprise platform programme built on Microsoft Dynamics 365, including Business Central. PRG is a healthcare revenue cycle management and practice services organization headquartered in Downers Grove, Illinois, United States.

The program will bring PRG's sales, service, finance and client experience functions together on a single, unified Microsoft platform across PRG and its family of companies.

The first phase is scheduled to go live later this year, and the platform is designed to scale the operating model behind PRG's work as the organization continues to grow across its service lines.

PRG and its family of commonly held companies serve healthcare organizations across the United States, providing revenue cycle management, value-based care and remote patient monitoring programs, managed back-office and practice support services, healthcare digital marketing, and cybersecurity services.

Under the leadership of CEO Usman Asif, Devsinc has grown into a global technology partner with more than 15 years of experience, over 3,000 projects delivered, more than 230 active clients across 23 countries, and six global offices.

As a Microsoft Solutions Partner with expertise across Dynamics 365 ERP, CRM and Power Platform, Devsinc's partnership for a long-term U.S. healthcare transformation reflects growing confidence international enterprises place in technology sector.

Government To Auction 90% Local LPG

● Petroleum Ministry Reserves 10% LPG For Remote Areas Under New Auction System

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The federal government has decided to sell 90 per cent of Pakistan's locally produced liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through a transparent auction system in a move aimed at ensuring fair distribution and addressing public concerns over availability and pricing.

The decision was taken at the first meeting of a committee established to oversee transparent LPG auctions. The meeting was chaired by the petroleum secretary.

Under the proposed mechanism, each eligible company will be allowed to obtain a maximum of 20 metric tonnes of LPG per day through the auction process. All eligible companies will be provided equal opportunities to participate.

The remaining 10 per cent of local LPG production will be reserved for state-owned marketing companies to meet demand in remote and underserved areas.

Federal Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said addressing public concerns regarding LPG availability and unfair pricing remained a government priority.

He said the new auction mechanism would help ensure equitable distribution, strengthen the supply chain and contribute to national energy security.

The government expects the revised mechanism to introduce greater transparency into the LPG marketing system and improve access to locally produced supplies.

LPG is an important alternative fuel in Pakistan, particularly in areas where natural gas infrastructure is unavailable or inadequate. Ensuring reliable supplies and fair pricing is therefore important for households and businesses across the country.

Finance Ministry allocates Rs300bn export financing scheme exclusively to SME exporters

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Ministry of Finance has announced measures to facilitate small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) exporters and boost the country's exports.

According to the ministry's announcement, the entire Rs300 billion allocation under the Pakistan Export-Import Bank's (Pak Exim Bank) Export Finance Scheme has been reserved for eligible SME exporters.

Previously allocated across different business categories, the entire amount will now be exclusively available to small and medium-sized exporters, providing them with access to financing at lower interest rates and opportunities to expand their business activities.

Officials said the fiscal year 2026-27 budget also included measures to reduce the financial burden on businesses through tax cuts and various incentives.

Affordable financing and improved investment facilities are expected to strengthen the competitiveness of Pakistani exporters in international markets, promote business activity and create new employment opportunities.

Pak Exim Bank has issued necessary instructions to the relevant banks to ensure effective implementation of the decision and optimal utilisation of the allocated funds.

China's expanding renewable energy capacity strengthens energy security

WEB DESK

CHINA



China's expanding renewable energy capacity, rising domestic oil and gas production, and accelerating electrification are strengthening its energy security and improving its ability to withstand disruptions in international fuel markets. These advancements offer valuable blueprints for economies seeking to reduce their dependence on imported energy.

According to China's General Administration of Customs, the country's crude oil imports declined by 15.3% year-on-year to approximately 358 million tonnes during the first nine months of 2026.

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that domestic crude oil production increased by 1% to 164.6 million tonnes, while natural gas output rose by 0.9% to 196.7 billion cubic metres, with both reaching record levels for the first three quarters.

The expansion of renewable energy is reinforcing China's energy security. According to the National Energy Administration, installed renewable power capacity reached 2.496 billion kilowatts by the end of August, accounting for 60.8% of the country's total power-generation capacity. Renewable sources generated 2.77 trillion kilowatt-hours during the first eight months of 2026, representing 41.6% of national electricity generation.

Together, these developments highlight China's progress in diversifying its energy mix through domestic production, renewables, and widespread electrification. This multi-pronged approach fortifies energy-system resilience while granting greater flexibility to navigate international market volatility.

Hassan Daud Butt, Senior Advisor at China Energy Engineering Group Co. Ltd and Senior Associate Professor at Bahria University, Islamabad, told Wealth Pakistan that China had steadily diversified its energy mix while expanding renewable technologies and improving energy efficiency.

He said the combination of domestic energy resources, renewables and electrified technologies had strengthened China's ability to withstand periods of international energy-market volatility.

Butt explained that China's leadership in solar manufacturing, electric vehicles and other clean-energy technologies had also contributed to their wider adoption internationally, extending the benefits of its energy transformation beyond its domestic market.

Antalya's finance test



By Irtija Ahmad

By: Izmi Herlani

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

Iqbal does not ask the Shaheen to admire its wings. He challenges it to use them. Beyond achievement lies another horizon; beyond recognition, another responsibility. Yesterday's accomplishment must never become tomorrow's excuse. Here, inspiration meets its test: aspiration must become preparation, confidence must become competence and pride must answer to duty.

The Shaheen's qualities give that pursuit its discipline. High flight demands high purpose; keen sight suggests foresight. Its restless spirit rejects stagnation, while its solitary struggle speaks of endurance and self-reliance. Together, these qualities offer an uncompromising ideal: strength earned through effort, not distinction borrowed from privilege.

That ideal has a contemporary institutional expression in PAF's modernization and indigenization drive under Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Describing a transition towards a "Next Generation Air Force", the Air Chief has outlined changes in operational doctrine and the induction of capabilities in Kinetic domains, Unmanned Systems, Electronic Warfare, and Space & Cyber capabilities. The stated ambition reaches beyond individual platforms towards a connected, Multi-Domain Force.

The connection with Iqbal is not in the terminology. It is in the refusal to stand still. An institution honours that spirit when it encourages inquiry, rewards initiative and prepares its people for challenges that yesterday's methods cannot answer.

For every young Shaheen, the blue uniform therefore marks both an arrival and a beginning. Selection opens the door; character determines what follows. The aircraft commands the gaze, but the instructor's patience, the engineer's ingenuity, the technician's precision and the fighter pilot's preparation make flight possible. There is patriotism in exactness. There is honour in work done faithfully when no one is watching.

The palace offers comfort. The mountain



demands endurance. Iqbal places the Shaheen on the rock, not beneath the gilded dome: stature must be earned, not bestowed. For the Men in Blue, the lesson is not hardship for their own sake. It is the refusal to let convenience outrank duty.

That distinction gives remembrance its purpose. The courage of Air Commodore M M Alam, Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Rafiqui (Shaheed) and Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas (Shaheed) places a demanding inheritance before succeeding generations. The remembrance of 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars & Operation Swift Retort carries its own call to readiness. A legacy is not a shelter beneath which to rest. It is a standard to carry forward.

During the conflict of May 2025, one of the largest Beyond-Visual-Range aerial engagements of the 21st century, PAF demonstrated the significance of preparation, coordination and effective employment of technology. Its success in the air battle included independently corroborated Indian aircraft losses, among them 04 Rafale, 01 MiG-29, 01 Mirage 2000, a Su-30 MKI and a Heron UAV worth nearly USD 09 million. Additionally, the breach of Indian Air Defence Shield in the shape of destruction of 02x S-400 Air Defence Systems speaks volumes of PAF's professional prowess.

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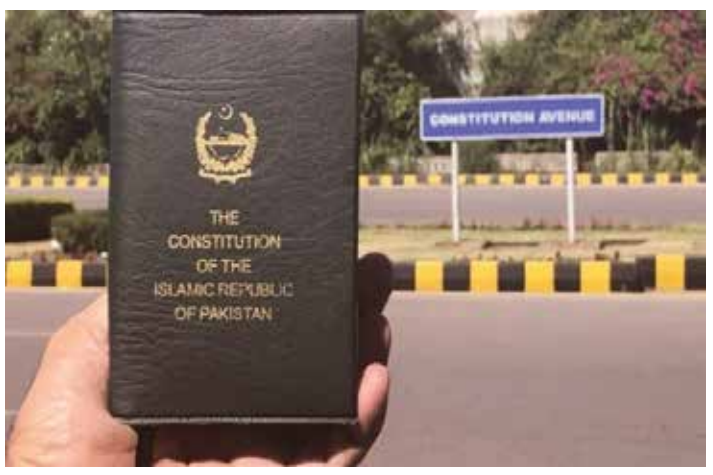
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The impulse here is unmistakable: no station is final while the desire for flight endures. For the professional, that means remaining teachable after success, inquisitive after qualification and alert after recognition. Knowledge loses its power when its possessor decides there is nothing left to learn.

Is the law silent?

By Hamdah Tahir



In 1866, the US Supreme Court sat in judgment on the trial of a civilian by military commission as an emergency measure. It held that the constitution "is a law for rulers and people, equally in war and in peace", and went on: "No doctrine, involving more pernicious consequences, was ever invented by the wit of man than that any of its provisions can be suspended during any of the great exigencies of government. Such a doctrine leads directly to anarchy or despotism".

Our own Supreme Court arrived at the same conclusion. In Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari v Federation of Pakistan, it reckoned that by the fall of Dhaka, Pakistanis had enjoyed their fundamental rights for only seven years, six months and 14 days of the country's 24 years, four months and two days. It tied the fall of Dhaka to emergencies and fundamental rights held in suspension.

Today, after the president proclaimed emergency in 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Article 232 and placed the entire province under governor's rule under Article 234, this is where we stand: the elected head of a province of 40.86 million people is the subject of a habeas corpus petition filed by his own family.

What the moment demands is a return to the fundamental principles. Why does the constitution matter and what becomes of a state whose rulers cease to believe that it does?

Political Science offers a familiar account of how societies escaped anarchy. Individuals surrendered their liberty to a sovereign in exchange for security. American constitutional experience illustrates the other half of the bargain. A sovereign that retains every power entrusted to it becomes an agent of disorder. Anarchy can arise from below, and it can descend from above, through the unchecked exercise of power, which we call tyranny.

A constitution that separates powers, as Pakistan's, is the instrument the prudent part of the world devised to guard against both. James Madison perfectly captured it: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary". And since men are not angels, we have constitutions. Without one, we are left with tyranny and anarchy, each feeding the other. No institution and no citizen is safe without it, for the constitution is what keeps the worst human instincts of tyranny and anarchy in check.

Article 234 has an unflattering ancestry. Its predecessor was Section 93 of the Government of India Act 1935, through which colonial governors assumed control of provinces whose politics displeased the Raj.

The Congress and the Muslim League both denounced it, even on the eve of Partition. India retained it nonetheless; its framers assured the Constituent Assembly that it would remain a "dead letter".

Our own framers were conflicted about it. When the 1935 Act was adapted as Pakistan's interim constitution, Section 93 was omitted; within a year, Section 92A was inserted to perform much the same function. Commenting on Section 92A in Dwarkadas v The State, Justice Cornelius hoped it would not necessarily yield purely authoritarian rule, since the province's will would remain represented in the central cabinet and the central legislature.

That hope rested on an assumption that the centre would itself be a creature of the people's will and therefore a genuine check on the emergency power. After February 2024, one of the most disputed elections in the country's recent history, few could entertain this assumption. The federal check on which J Cornelius relied now rests with the very parliament whose mandate is most in doubt. The hopes were belied.

Madison also identified the same dilemma our framers faced when omitting and reinstating section 93: "you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself". Emergency powers test the second obligation. Our order has discharged the first well enough. What it has never achieved is the discipline to keep that power from encroaching.

Every era since Pakistan's inception has produced its own ingenious schemes to circumvent the constitution: the doctrine of necessity, martial law, presidents dissolving assemblies at will. Each actor sought a loophole to concentrate power in one hand. General Zia dismissed the constitution as a booklet he could tear up. General Musharraf, in the same spirit, called it a piece of paper fit for the dustbin and when the time came to set it aside, he was careful to hold it "in abeyance", a choice of words calculated to keep Article 6 at bay. Interestingly, the booklet outlived them both. History owed them a lesson and it delivered one in 2024, when the Supreme Court upheld that Musharraf had committed high treason.

Today's ingenious scheme is the emergency clause, a power reserved for genuine crises such as the one in 1998, now deployed against a party KP has returned to power three times since 2013.

As much as one might be tempted to dress it in verbose and complex arguments, the case is painfully simple. A constitution exists because people distrust those who wield power, and it bridges that distrust. Erode it and the distrust returns.

During the war on terror, the chasm between the people of KP and the government made militancy harder to defeat, because militants fed on grievances the state refused to hear. An elected chief minister held for days, and an entire province's chosen representatives branded as sympathisers and facilitators of terrorism, reopens that space.

With the executive having acted and parliament having acquiesced, all eyes turn to the courts. The common law world long ago abandoned the maxim that the 'laws fall silent when the canons roar', preferring Lord Atkin's dissent: "amid the clash of arms, the laws are not silent'.

After 9/11, in cases concerning detainees at Guantanamo, the US Supreme Court held that even those the government branded enemy combatants could seek habeas corpus. American scholars have criticised those judgments for being toothless.

Measured against our own precedents, I would say they were a considerable feat. Pakistan is still waiting to learn whether a habeas petition for the elected chief minister of 40 million people will evenbe entertained.

Emergency powers must exist. The question is whether a state can be trusted to wield them.

Iqbal's Shaheen and PAF's wings of resolve

By: Izmi Herlani



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

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The National Aerospace Science and Technology Parks initiative brings a practical dimension to this pursuit. By seeking to connect industry, academia and government across aerospace and emerging technologies, NASTP spearheaded by Pakistan Air Force, places research and innovation within the larger ambition of national capability. Its deepest promise lies in the people and institutions able to turn an idea into a working system and to improve, sustain and eventually replace it.

The JF-17 Thunder offers another expression of that ambition through indigenization at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex. Self-reliance is built through such cumulative work: a design refined, a process mastered, a difficult problem solved. Its foundations lie as much in workshops and laboratories as in the aircraft that finally takes to the sky.

And the summons reaches beyond any PAF Air Base. To the young Pakistani Shaheen looking upwards, the first instrument of ascent may be a book, a skill or a question pursued with patience. The future needs those who can fly, but also those who can teach, design, build and discover. Each has a part in making national ambition real.

This Iqbal Day, let remembrance become resolve: excellence in uniform, integrity at work and purpose in youth. Let the child watching an aircraft cross the sky see more than the splendor of flight. Let that child recognize what learning, discipline and courage can make possible and find the resolve to begin.

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Erdogan visits Azerbaijan in bid to ease rift between allies

● Erdogan Visits Azerbaijan To Mend Deep Rift With Aliyev After Diplomatic Tensions



WEB DESK

TURKEY

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Azerbaijan on Sunday for Victory Day celebrations, hoping to ease an unusually public rift between two close regional allies.

Tensions flared in September, when Baku revised school uniform regulations to prohibit additions deemed incompatible with secular education, effectively barring Islamic headscarves from classrooms.

Erdogan's government has dismantled restrictions on hijabs in Turkey.

Baku's move sparked protests at home and drew criticism from Erdogan's Islamist-rooted ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), including presidential adviser Oktay Saral, who demanded that Azerbaijan reverse the restrictions.

Aliyev's ruling party, Yeni Azerbaijan, denounced such comments as "interference in Azerbaijan's internal affairs".

Baku also declared 31 Turkish nationals, including an opposition lawmaker and party leaders, persona non grata over critical social media posts.

Erdogan subsequently dismissed Saral, but Aliyev stayed away from the October 30 summit of Turkic leaders in Ankara -- despite a personal invitation from Erdogan. Instead, he sent Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

On Sunday, Erdogan arrived in Azerbaijan's Fizuli district, which Baku recaptured in 2020 from Armenian separatist forces.

A guard of honour was lined up at the local airport, where Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva welcomed Erdogan and his wife Emine, Azerbaijani media reported.

Erdogan is expected to hold a joint press conference with Aliyev later in the afternoon.

Ahead of his visit, Erdogan congratulated "dear brother" Aliyev, on Azerbaijan's "great victory" in its 2020 war with Armenia.

Baku at the time retook part of the breakaway Karabakh region and surrounding districts, before seizing the rest of Karabakh in 2023.

In the letter, Erdogan expressed confidence that "Drawing strength from our unwavering bonds of friendship and brotherhood, founded on the principle of 'One nation, two states,' the two countries would continue to work in "close cooperation and solidarity."

He said earlier that he hoped the trip would provide an opportunity to take "necessary steps".

"There is no obstacle that the brotherhood between Turkey and Azerbaijan cannot overcome," he told reporters on Thursday.

Deeper rift

Analysts say the quarrel also reflects deeper disagreements over Baku's diplomatic independence and its close ties to Israel.



The site of a train collision in Giza governorate, Egypt. Several passengers were injured when two trains collided in Egypt's Giza governorate on Sunday, causing some carriages to derail, the Egyptian National Railways Authority said.

Immigrant Communities Rally Behind Spain's Socialist Party Candidates

Socialist Party Secures Immigrant Community Support in Barcelona

NEWS DESK

BARCELONA

The Socialist Party of Spain (PSOE) has received strong backing from immigrant communities during a major political gathering held in L'Hospitalet, near Barcelona, ahead of the country's upcoming parliamentary elections. The event attracted a large number of participants from Pakistani, Latin American and Arab communities, reflecting growing political engagement among Spain's diverse immigrant population.

Organised by senior Socialist Party leader Hafiz Abdul Razzaq Sadiq, the gathering took place at Hiba Restaurant and was hosted by its Director, Khurram Shahzad. Several political representatives, community leaders and prominent business figures attended the event, with Barcelona Governor Mari Carmen García attending as the chief guest.



Addressing the gathering, García said the Socialist Party had consistently supported immigrant rights and worked towards promoting integration, equality and social justice. She highlighted the valuable contribution of immigrant communities to Spain's economic and social development, adding that a Socialist government remained committed to protecting their rights and expanding opportunities for them.

Among the prominent attendees were Ernesto Carrión, a member of the Catalan Parliament; Iman Asia, a councillor at L'Hospitalet City Council; and Rachid Sanchez and Paula, representatives of Barcelona Municipality's Immigration Department.

Speakers discussed several important issues affecting immigrant communities, including immigration policies, employment opportunities, affordable housing, education, healthcare and simplifying the process of obtaining Spanish citizenship. They stressed that the Socialist Party stood for unity, peaceful coexistence and equal opportunities, while rejecting politics based on hatred and division.

The gathering also witnessed significant participation from the Pakistani business community, including Chaudhry Ishtiaq Hussain, President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (Spain), and Danish Feroz. Representatives of Latin American and Arab communities also attended in large numbers, highlighting the importance of multicultural cooperation and political participation.

In his remarks, organiser Hafiz Abdul Razzaq Sadiq thanked the guests and participants for their presence, describing the gathering as a clear indication of immigrant communities' support for the Socialist Party.

Karachi-Born Senator Van Hollen Eyes 2028 Presidential Bid

● US Senator Van Hollen, Karachi-Born, Weighs 2028 Presidential Campaign After Midterms Victory

WEB DESK

MARYLAND

US Democrat Senator Christopher Van Hollen, who has set his sights on the 2028 contest for the American presidential office, was born in Karachi.

According to his biography on Maryland Manual Online — a website run by the Maryland state government — he was born in the port city in 1959.

Van Hollen himself spoke of his "special connection" with Pakistan in a clip released on the country's Independence Day last year.

"I am proud to join you in celebrating Pakistan's 79th Independence Day. I am fortunate to have a special connection with Pakistan, having been born in Karachi as the son of an American foreign service officer.

"Throughout my life, I have experienced first-hand the generosity, the goodness and the determination of the Pakistani people. I am proud to celebrate the strong people-to-people ties between our two countries […] I look forward to further strengthening the ties of friendship between the Americans and the Pakistani people," he said in a short message.



In 2021, Van Hollen had thanked Pakistan among other countries for helping evacuate American nationals and others stranded in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover of the country.

In the aftermath of the devastating 2022 floods, he met with then-foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari to discuss how the US can continue to assist efforts to help flood-affected people.

In February 2024, he wrote to Pakistan's then-envoy, Ambassador Masood Khan, urging Pakistani authorities to fully investigate the allegations of fraud and electoral interference in the Feb 8 general elections.

He stressed that respecting the people's mandate was the "only way a new government will be empowered to tackle issues facing Pakistan such as negotiating a new IMF agreement or investing to mitigate future floods".

Apart from Pakistan, the Maryland senator also spent time in India, where he studied at Kodaikanal International School in the Tamil Nadu state. He later studied philosophy at Swarthmore College, followed by his Master's in public policy from Harvard University. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University and was admitted to Maryland Bar in 1990.

He has been a member of the US Senate since January 2017. Previously, he had also been a member of the US House of Representatives from 2003 to 2017.

Following the Republicans' thumping defeat in the recently held midterms, Van Hollen was seen as the potential candidate for the Senate majority leader.

However, he put the speculation to rest by telling Fox 5, which is owned by the Fox Broadcasting Company, that he had "made clear that I'm not looking to be the next Democratic leader. I've been kicking the tyres on a 2028 presidential election".

Iran says 3 tankers caught fire in Hormuz



WEB DESK

IRAN

Three oil tankers caught fire on Sunday in the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran regularly targets ships that transit without its authorisation, the Revolutionary Guards said in a statement.

Since the outbreak of the Iran war in late February, Tehran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, insisting vessels use routes authorised by the Islamic republic.

The United States has in response imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and helped tankers travel the strait, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption.

"Since the early hours of this morning, three non-compliant tankers have exploded and caught fire while they were sailing in the illegal channel in the Strait of Hormuz," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement.

The Guards did not specify the names or nationality of the tankers.

Also on Sunday, British maritime agency UKMTO reported that a tanker had caught fire in the strait -- off the coast of Khasab, Oman -- a day earlier.

"Military authorities reported the tanker is on fire which has resulted in the evacuation of the crew," the agency said in a statement, also reporting another tanker struck by an "unknown projectile" on Saturday.

Emirati state media said on Sunday that 22 people had been rescued from a burning vessel in the Gulf of Oman and were in stable condition.

AFP was unable to confirm if the various reports referenced the same incidents.

Tehran has made multiple announcements in recent weeks saying that ships have caught fire in the Hormuz Strait.

US Central Command said last month that it had helped Gulf countries export 1.5 billion barrels of oil via Hormuz since the summer and has recently said that all mines have been cleared from the waterway.

Iranian state news agency IRNA separately reported late on Saturday that sounds of explosions were heard in parts of the country.

"Sounds resembling explosions were heard in Qeshm, Sirik, Jask and Bandar Abbas. The cause of the sounds remains unknown," the news agency wrote on Telegram.

Officials confirmed an "impact" in the port city of Jask, the IRNA said.

US President Donald Trump previously talked up the possibility of resuming heavy strikes on Iran but has since walked back from the idea.

Nevertheless, the US military has conducted occasional limited strikes.

JD Vance Seeks Distinct Political Identity After Republican Setback

● Iran Conflict Emerges as Key Issue in Vance's Political Strategy

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON

Following the Republican Party's setback in the US midterm elections, Vice President J.D. Vance appears to be making efforts to establish a distinct political identity, with his recent statements offering indications of a possible strategy for the 2028 presidential race.

According to Reuters, during the final phase of the midterm election campaign, Vance placed greater emphasis on his own political priorities rather than closely aligning his message with President Donald Trump's agenda.

His campaign speeches focused on economic nationalism, a cautious approach to foreign policy and public safety, while giving relatively little attention to some of the Trump administration's more controversial positions, including the prospect of war with Iran and mass deportation policies.



The Reuters report noted that Trump's declining popularity had become a challenge for Republican candidates, prompting Vance to distinguish his political messaging from certain aspects of the president's agenda.

On Wednesday, Vance published a detailed statement on social media assessing the Republican Party's electoral defeat and outlining his proposals for the party's future direction.

He identified the prospect of a war with Iran as one of the factors behind the Republicans' poor electoral performance and stressed the need for a swift resolution to the conflict.

Trump offers White House press secretary job to UFC CEO Dana White

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump offered UFC CEO Dana White, his longtime friend and supporter, the White House press secretary position in a social media post.

White, 57, said Saturday in London that he would be travelling to Washington, DC, to meet Trump but gave no further details.

"I've got a lot of jobs already," White said at the post-fight news conference for Saturday's Zuffa Boxing 12 event. "We have a meeting on Monday, so I'm sure I'll have more to talk about after that."

White also posted an image of himself at the White House press briefing podium on his Instagram story with the comment, "On to the next chapter."

CNN reported before White's press conference that he would decline the president's offer.

Trump was at his golf club in Florida on Saturday when he posted his offer for the position, which has been vacant since Katie Zacharia was removed in October after only five days on the job.



"I am pleased to announce that the Great Dana White, a violent Fighter and Warrior, has been offered the job of Press Secretary of the United States," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"I have requested that he bring with him assistants, even though some are not from our Country, [including] Islam Makhachev, Khabib Nurmagomedov, Justin Gaethje, Daniel Cormier, Amanda Nunes, and Kayla Harris," Trump added, referring to UFC bantamweight champion Kayla Harrison. "We need these people to defend us against the Lunatic Left. Dana will be a Press Secretary like none other. Dana, please take the job! President DONALD J. TRUMP"

Karoline Leavitt was press secretary until she left the role in August after the birth of her second child.



ISLAMABAD: Visitors explore the diplomatic pavilions at the three-day Pakistan Tourism, Sports and Family Festival at the Pakistan Sports Complex.

US Measles cases top 5,100 as nation faces loss of elimination status

- US on track to lose measles-free status as cases climb for 13th straight week

HEALTH NEWS

HAWAII

There have been 5,182 confirmed cases of measles in the United States in 2026, with 330 new cases being added to the list this week alone for the 13th consecutive week of triple-digit jumps, according to the CDC.

Fifty-nine per cent of all cases occur in children and teens, while 96% of individuals affected were either unvaccinated or unsure about their vaccination status. Eleven per cent of those affected have been hospitalised so far. There have been no cases of measles in just five states – Arkansas, Hawaii, Mississippi, Nevada, and



New Hampshire – this year.

The US will officially lose its measles-free status, achieved in 2000, when a Pan American Health Organisation commission meets next week in Washington. This step is largely symbolic, as most experts consider measles endemic in the US now.

The most deadly week for measles-related deaths this year was recorded with cases reported in New York and Wisconsin; both states haven't experienced any measles-related deaths since the 1990s. While Pennsylvania is still a hot zone with 1,487 cases and six deaths, health officials believe the outbreak may be waning.

Wisconsin reported a new 35-year peak with 477 cases, and Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky saw a spike in numbers as well. All but 2% of the cases in Wisconsin were in people who were not vaccinated.

Two MMR vaccines provide protection against measles with an effectiveness rate of 97%.

Billo Baji shocked! Noor ul Hassan steals the show with his entry

- DSP Nawaz Khan's Dramatic Entry Shocks Billo Baji In Mitti De Baway

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE



Pakistani actor Noor ul Hassan has joined Mitti De Baway as DSP Nawaz Khan, bringing a new twist to the drama with his tense face-off against Billo (Mahira Khan).

Their meeting takes an unexpected turn when the DSP manages to get ahead of Billo's plans.

In Episode 14, Billo tries to put pressure on DSP Nawaz Khan by using information about his alleged extramarital affairs to blackmail him. However, her plan does not go as expected. The DSP arrives prepared and shows that he already knows about her past, turning the situation in his favour.

Instead of falling into Billo's trap, Nawaz Khan makes it clear that he wants to use her power and influence for his own purposes. Their exchange sets the stage for a new power struggle, with both characters trying to outsmart each other.

The confrontation also features several dramatic moments, including weapons being dropped, Balle's involvement and the unexpected "Bhabhi macha" exchange. These moments bring both tension and humour to the scene.

Some viewers praised Noor ul Hassan's performance alongside Mahira Khan. One fan summed up the scene by writing, "DSP rocked. Billo Baji shocked." Another commented, "Noor ul Hassan did a great job as he enters Mitti De Baway."

One viewer also expressed surprise over the revelation involving Falak and Sitara, writing, "I could not have imagined that Falak and Sitara were his girlfriends."

Chilean Oscar-winning director Sebastian Lelio dies

- Sebastian Lelio's family shared that he died after health complications

SHOWBIZ DESK

BERLINALE



Chile's Oscar-winning director Sebastian Lelio died in Santiago on Friday at the age of 52, his family reported.

The Argentine-born filmmaker, raised in Chile, is best known for his 2017 masterpiece "A Fantastic Woman," which took home an Oscar and a Silver Bear at the Berlinale.

"With great sadness, we announce the death, due to health reasons, of filmmaker Sebastian Lelio," his partner Amalia Kassai wrote on Instagram.

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"With great sadness, we announce the death, due to health reasons, of filmmaker Sebastian Lelio," his partner Amalia Kassai wrote on Instagram.

Not only did it win the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, but it sparked a debate that helped change the law in his native Chile, allowing people to legally change their gender.

Bushra Ansari breaks silence on daughter Nariman's painful family fallout

- Bushra Ansari Expresses Disappointment Over Ex-In-Laws Ignoring Nariman's Children After Her Separation

SHOW BIZ REPORTER

KARACHI



Veteran Pakistani actress Bushra Ansari has spoken about the difficult family situation faced by her elder daughter, Nariman Ansari, following her separation.

In a recent video vlog, Bushra recalled how Nariman had looked after her in-laws during her marriage, including her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law. She said her daughter had treated them with respect and even invited them to Canada, where she took care of them.

However, Bushra expressed disappointment that Nariman's former in-laws never contacted her to ask how she was doing or showed interest in the well-being of their grandchildren.

The actress said she could understand that differences might arise between a husband and wife, but she expected the family to treat Nariman and her children with kindness despite those disagreements.

Bushra also questioned whether Nariman's former husband had influenced his parents against her. She wondered what he could have told them that made them so distant from their own grandchildren.

Sharing her own experience, Bushra said she had also looked after her in-laws and did not hold complaints against them over minor family matters. She added that she had not expected Nariman's former in-laws to become so indifferent after everything her daughter had done for them.

Bushra's remarks highlighted her concern over Nariman's experience after the separation and the challenges of raising her children.

She stressed that disagreements between adults should not affect the relationship grandparents share with their grandchildren.

Bushra also spoke about the challenges her daughter is facing as a single mother. She claimed that Nariman had effectively been managing on her own even during the marriage, alleging that her former husband did not contribute to household expenses.See Indian Cinema

The actress further claimed that she had arranged a home for both her daughter and son-in-law, adding that her former son-in-law had taken full advantage of the arrangement.

Her comments have brought renewed attention to the family situation, particularly the difficulties faced by Nariman and her children following the separation.

'Both are green flags', Hina Afridi jokes about Qamar Un Nisa and Abu Bakr



SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistani actress and social media influencer Hina Afridi have amused drama fans with her hilarious reaction to comparisons between her character Qamar Un Nisa from Mitti De Baway and Abu Bakr from Dar-e-Nijaat.

Hina recently reshared a humorous meme on her Instagram Story featuring her look as Qamar Un Nisa. The meme imagined what would happen if Qamar Un Nisa and Abu Bakr, played by Sheheryar Munawar in Dar-e-Nijaat, appeared together in a drama.

Reacting to the idea, Hina joked that the drama would wrap up in just five episodes because both characters are green flags. She also tagged Sheheryar Munawar in her Story and added laughing emojis, showing that she enjoyed the comparison.

The amusing post caught the attention of drama viewers, who joined the conversation about the two characters. Some also brought Zaryab, played by Durefishan Saleem in Dar-e-Nijaat, into the discussion, describing her as a positive character despite her flaws and emotional struggles.

Fans also joked that Qamar Un Nisa and Abu Bakr would make a peaceful couple, with little room for the misunderstandings and heartbreaks that usually drive television dramas.

Fans red-faced over Sajal Aly's reported exit from 'Lahu'

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistani actress Sajal Aly has reportedly withdrawn from the upcoming drama Lahu, leaving fans uncertain about her much-anticipated on-screen reunion with Bilal Abbas Khan.

The discussion began after a post shared by Dr Ejah Waris reportedly raised questions about Sajal's involvement in the project. However, the actress's departure has not been officially confirmed by the production team.

The possibility of Sajal leaving the drama has caught the attention of viewers who were looking forward to seeing her alongside Bilal again. Their expected pairing had already generated excitement among fans, making the casting rumors a topic of discussion on social media.

Some viewers have also suggested Yumna Zaidi for the female lead if Sajal is no longer part of the project.



Katie Price faces awkward setback in search for new romance

- Katie didn't speak about Lee's claims of having $50 million in cryptocurrency



WEB DESK

DUBAI

Katie Price has made it clear that she is not looking for a new relationship after her recent split from Lee Andrews.

The former model spoke about her love life after revealing that she was blocked from the celebrity dating app Raya.

Katie married Lee in Dubai in January, just days after they first met. Their marriage, however, soon fell apart. She later said that he had made up stories about his life and money.

The ex lovers also sparked questions about their relationship after reports revealed that they are trying to work things out.

But Katie has now shared a message on Instagram saying she is happy on her own and has no plans to date anyone.

The reality star, moreover, shared that she already experienced married life and thought her last marriage would be her final one, adding that she is happy with her friends and family.

The update came after she told her sister Sophie that she wanted to join Raya but could not access her account because she entered the wrong email address years ago.

Katie didn't speak about Lee's claims of having $50 million in cryptocurrency as she said she was not interested in his money at all.

Aamir Khan, wife Gauri Spratt search for new home in Mumbai

SHOWBIZ DESK

MUMBAI



Bollywood actor Aamir Khan and his wife, Gauri Spratt, are looking for a new home in Mumbai just months after their marriage.

According to Indian media reports, the couple is expected to move into their new rented home by the end of this year or early 2027.

Reports said Aamir is currently living with his family in four rented apartments in a building in Mumbai's Pali Hill area.

However, the building management has finalised a redevelopment agreement, requiring the actor and his family to move out.

Work is also underway to renovate their new rented home according to Aamir's needs and personal taste.

This is not the first time the actor has had to move because of redevelopment work.

He had earlier shifted from his permanent home in Mumbai's Union Park area for the same reason.

His permanent residence is located in the Bella Vista and Marina Apartments complex, where construction work is currently underway.

Media reports suggested that the project may take several years to complete, with the home expected to be ready around 2030.

PHF Distributes Hockey Equipment To Schools Across Lahore Region

SPORTS DESK

LHAORE

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has distributed complete sets of hockey equipment to schools across all districts of the Lahore region as part of its efforts to promote the national sport among students and encourage the younger generation to take up hockey.

A formal distribution ceremony was held at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore, attended by Director General Punjab Sports Board Tariq Qureshi, Coordinator to the Punjab Sports Minister Anosh Khokhar, Prime Minister's Youth Programme Focal Person Malik Akbar, Olympians Khawaja Junaid and Saqlain, Lahore Coordinator Tariq Khokhar and PRO Babar Pasha.

A large number of school principals, teachers and students also attended the event.

Addressing the ceremony, the speakers stressed that restoring hockey's former glory required providing children with basic sports facilities and opportunities at the school level.

They said the distribution of hockey sticks and other equipment aimed to develop interest in the sport among students, identify promising talent at the grassroots level and prepare skilled players for the future.

The speakers described educational institutions as important nurseries for sports development, emphasising that schools could play a key role in identifying and nurturing young athletes.

They further said initiatives promoting sports could encourage young people to engage in healthy activities, spend more time on sports grounds and stay away from negative influences.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, hockey equipment was handed over to representatives of schools from across the Lahore region.

Educational and social circles welcomed the PHF initiative, describing it as a step towards encouraging young talent and strengthening the future of hockey in Pakistan.



OFFICIALS, Olympians and school representatives attend a ceremony at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore where hockey equipment was distributed to schools across the Lahore region.

23rd Asian team squash championship concludes with Pakistan & Hong Kong claiming men's and women's titles

● PAF Patronage Powers Pakistan Squash Revival As Team Wins Asian Championship Title

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

In a spectacular display of skill, resilience and sporting excellence, Pakistan clinched the Men's Team title at the 23rd Asian Team Squash Championship-2026, defeating Korea 2-0 in a thrilling final at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. Hong Kong China emerged victorious in the Women's Team event, overcoming Malaysia 2-1 in a fiercely contested final. The electrifying encounters brought the curtain down on five days of exhilarating Squash action, featuring some of Asia's finest talent.

Organized by Pakistan Squash Federation under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force, the prestigious continental championship was held from 03 to 07 November, 2026. The tournament witnessed intense matches, exceptional athleticism and remarkable displays of determination, as participating teams battled for continental supremacy. Pakistan's commanding victory in the Men's Team Final marked a proud moment for the nation, reaffirming its determination to reclaim its illustrious place in international Squash.



Mr Adel Jassim Al-Ghareeb, Vice President, Asian Squash Federation, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest and awarded trophies and medals to the triumphant teams and outstanding players. The ceremony was attended by Squash legends, senior officials of Pakistan Squash Federation, representatives of participating nations, players, coaches and an enthusiastic gathering of sports enthusiasts.

Speaking on the occasion, Air Marshal Kazim Hammad, President Pakistan Squash Federation, hailed Pakistan's historic triumph, highlighting that the national team had reclaimed the prestigious Asian title after a decade. He attributed this remarkable achievement to the unwavering patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, who has consistently played a pivotal role in promoting Squash across Pakistan. He particularly acknowledged the Air Chief's steadfast commitment to nurturing emerging talent, providing opportunities to young players and extending sustained institutional support to restore Pakistan's standing in international Squash.

Pakistan Air Force continues to remain at the forefront of efforts to revive the nation's glorious Squash heritage. Through sustained institutional patronage, world-class sporting infrastructure and dedicated support for emerging talent, PAF has been instrumental in reinvigorating Pakistan's Squash landscape. Under the patronage of Chief of the Air Staff, concerted efforts to restore Pakistan's historic dominance in international Squash have gathered renewed momentum. The successful staging of this prestigious Asian championship, crowned by Pakistan's emphatic triumph in the Men's Team event, stands as a testament to PAF's unwavering commitment to sporting excellence and the resurgence of Pakistan Squash.

Pakistan Beat India By Three Wickets In Under-19 Asia Cup

● Hamza Zahoor's Unbeaten Century Helps Pakistan Defeat India in Under-19 Asia Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan secured an impressive three-wicket victory over arch-rivals India in the Under-19 Asia Cup match played in Muscat, thanks to a brilliant unbeaten century by Hamza Zahoor.

After winning the toss, India elected to bat first but struggled against Pakistan's disciplined bowling attack. The Indian batting line-up was bowled out for 208 runs in 46.3 overs.

Arjun Rajput was the standout performer for India, scoring 107 runs off 85 balls, while the other batters failed to make significant contributions.

Pakistan's bowling attack delivered an impressive performance, with Ali Raza claiming three wickets for 37 runs. Naqab Shafiq also picked up three wickets for 42 runs, while Rizwanullah took three wickets for just 24 runs.



Chasing a target of 209 runs, Pakistan reached the winning total in 48.1 overs, losing seven wickets in the process.

Hamza Zahoor emerged as Pakistan's hero, playing a match-winning unbeaten knock of 100 runs to guide his team to a memorable victory over India.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan had also defeated India in the final of the previous edition of the Under-19 Asia Cup, further strengthening their record against their arch-rivals in the tournament.

However, Arjun Rajput steadied the innings with Manal Chauhan, putting together a crucial 64-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Arjun went on to register his maiden Youth ODI century, scoring an impressive 107 off 85 deliveries, including 11 fours and five sixes.

Rizwanullah broke the partnership by dismissing Chauhan for 11 before removing the well-set Arjun, leaving India at 170-7 in 35.2 overs.

Hammad's Stunner Inspires Pakistan's Comeback Win Against Sri Lanka

● Second-Half Goals Help Pakistan Secure Impressive Victory Over Sri Lanka

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan made a flying start to their AFC Under-17 Championship 2027 qualifying campaign, defeating Sri Lanka 3-1 in their Group D opening match on Sunday after producing an impressive second-half comeback.

Pakistan dominated the early stages and created several scoring opportunities but were unable to find the net. Sri Lankan goalkeeper Imadh Mohamed Shareeq made a series of important saves to deny Pakistan's attacking players, including Hazrat Abbas and captain Abdul Samad.



Despite Pakistan's attacking pressure, Sri Lanka took the lead against the run of play when Ndarsha Denuvan capitalised on a defensive mistake and scored on a counterattack.

Pakistan continued to push forward after conceding, with Muhammad Rafay also coming close to scoring, but Sri Lanka maintained their 1-0 advantage until half-time.

The Green Shirts returned with renewed determination after the break and eventually found the equaliser in the 56th minute. Muhammad Moosa, who came on as a half-time substitute, forced another excellent save from the Sri Lankan goalkeeper, leading to a series of corner kicks.

Following the resulting pressure, Muhammad Hammad produced a spectacular scissors kick to send the ball into the net and bring Pakistan level at 1-1.

We aim to build a strong team for next World Test Championship: Babar Azam

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



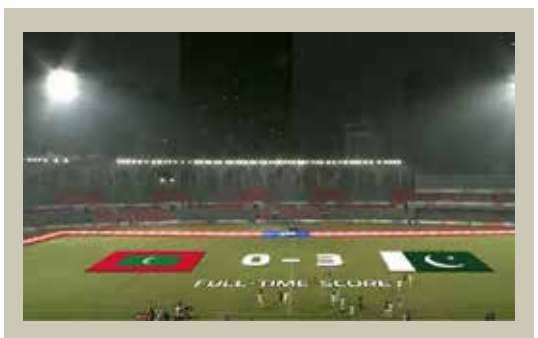
Pakistan Skipper Babar Azam has said that the inclusion of young and talented players in the squad aims at preparing a strong team for the next World Test Championship, adding that the blend of senior and junior players will give new energy to the team.

Speaking at a press conference at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday, Azam said that after the tour of England, it was decided to adopt a new strategy keeping in view the future of the team.

"In the current World Test Championship, Pakistan's position is such that now our focus is on preparation for the next championship. For this purpose, six to eight new players have been included in the team. These players have been selected keeping in view their performances in first-class and A team cricket," he said.

"All players have come after playing domestic and first-class cricket and are ready for the competition. Our effort will be to give opportunities to young players so that they can express their talent and take the team forward through good performances," Babar said.

He said as captain, it is his responsibility to get the best performance from the players, take correct decisions on the field, use the bowlers in an appropriate manner and give every player responsibility according to his role. "We will learn lessons from past performances, focus on the future and try to play positive cricket," he added.



Pakistan Thrash Maldives 3-0 To Move Closer To Semi-Final Qualification

McKeal Abdullah and Najeebullah Inspire Pakistan's Comfortable Victory Over Maldives

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan delivered an impressive performance to defeat the Maldives 3-0, moving a step closer to securing a place in the semi-finals of the tournament.

McKeal Abdullah opened the scoring from the penalty spot, while Najeebullah Bettani struck twice to put Pakistan firmly in control. All three goals came in the first half as the Green Shirts dominated the contest.

Najeebullah doubled Pakistan's advantage with a well-executed finish after Junaid Shah delivered an excellent cross from the left flank.

Making a perfectly timed run into the penalty area, Najeebullah got ahead of his marker and calmly guided the ball into the net.



IHC Suspends Pakistan Badminton Federation, Directs PSB To Review Affairs

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has reportedly suspended the Pakistan Badminton Federation (PBF) while hearing a petition challenging the federation's controversial elections, marking a significant development in the dispute over its governing structure.

According to sources, the court issued the suspension order and directed the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) to immediately review the federation's affairs and establish an interim administrative arrangement until transparent elections are conducted.

The federation's elections had faced objections from different quarters, with petitioners raising concerns over the electoral process and alleging irregularities in the formation of the governing body.

The court's reported intervention has drawn attention within the badminton community, where stakeholders are hoping that the dispute will be resolved through a transparent electoral process and a representative leadership.

The controversy has also renewed debate over the governance of sports federations in Pakistan, particularly allegations of questionable club registrations, disputed voter lists and irregularities in election procedures.

Athletes and sports stakeholders have long called for greater institutional accountability, improved training facilities, international exposure and effective utilisation of resources to strengthen badminton in the country.

The Pakistan Sports Board is now expected to play a key role in addressing the dispute. Sports stakeholders have called for an impartial review of registered clubs and affiliated associations, followed by elections in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations.

They have also stressed that the interests of players should remain central to any administrative or electoral reforms, arguing that disputes over federation leadership should not undermine the development of the sport.

The latest development is likely to intensify scrutiny of governance practices across national sports bodies, with calls for transparent elections, accountability and greater opportunities for athletes.



KARACHI: A massive accumulation of garbage and debris at a construction site for new development projects on University Road in Karachi has raised concerns over government negligence.

Governor calls for improved rail services, revival of Landi Kotal tourist train

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has called for improving the railway system in the province and emphasized the revival of the Landikotal Tourist Train to promote tourism, facilitate passengers and boost economic activity.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi in Islamabad, where they discussed measures to make the railway network in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa more efficient, modern and responsive to public needs.

The meeting reviewed proposals aimed at upgrading railway facilities across the province, improving passenger services and enhancing the overall quality of railway operations.

The two sides also held detailed discussions on restoring the Landi Kotal Tourist Train, describing it as an important initiative to promote tourism, strengthen the local economy and provide better travel opportunities for visitors.

Governor Kundi said an improved railway system would not only provide better transportation facilities to the people but would also contribute to the promotion of trade and tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He termed the revival of the Landi Kotal Tourist Train vital for the region's tourism development.

The meeting also discussed the overall political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ongoing development initiatives and the importance of effective coordination and cooperation between the federal and provincial governments for addressing public issues.

The Governor stressed the need to further strengthen cooperation between the federal government and relevant institutions to accelerate the province's development, improve public services and bring underdeveloped areas into the national mainstream.

Both sides agreed on the need for joint efforts to improve railway infrastructure, promote tourism and address public issues in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Iqbal's philosophy of self-respect, unity key to national progress: Aleem Khan

● Aleem Khan Pays Tribute To Armed Forces On Iqbal Day For Sacrifices

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Sunday said that the philosophy of selfhood (Khudi), dignity, honour and self-respect preached by Allama Muhammad Iqbal continued to serve as a guiding light for the nation, particularly the younger generation.

In his message on the occasion of Allama Iqbal Day, he said the Poet of the East had envisioned the Muslims of the subcontinent as a self-respecting, dignified and sovereign nation, whose aspirations and struggle ultimately led to the creation of Pakistan.

Abdul Aleem Khan stated that Iqbal's thoughts and teachings form the foundation of national progress, sovereignty and unity. He emphasized that a strong national defence, a stable economy and national solidarity are essential to realizing Iqbal's vision of Pakistan. A strong, prosperous, sovereign and invincible Pakistan, he added, represents the true fulfillment of Allama Iqbal's dream.

Aleem Khan said that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are the guardians of the country's sovereignty, security and national honour. He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for its unparalleled sacrifices in safeguarding the country's defence and stability.

He added that the courage, professionalism and bravery of the armed forces are a source of pride for the entire nation. He further stated that Pakistan's Armed Forces



have demonstrated exceptional courage and professionalism in fulfilling their responsibilities towards national defence and security during every challenging situation.

The IPP President said that Allama Iqbal's message to the Shaheens continues to inspire the younger generation with courage, self-confidence, determination and perseverance. He stressed the need to incorporate Iqbal's teachings into practical life and collectively steer Pakistan towards progress, prosperity and stability.

Abdul Aleem Khan further said that the entire nation stands firmly alongside its national institutions and the Armed Forces of Pakistan for the country's security, stability and development. He said that Allama Iqbal Day provides an opportunity to renew our commitment to building a strong, prosperous and invincible Pakistan through unity, self-respect and national determination.

Earlier, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Adviser on Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs, Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Qureshi said on Sunday that Allama Muhammad Iqbal's message of self-respect, hope, hard work and unity continues to serve as a guiding light for the younger generation.

In his message on the occasion of Iqbal Day, he said that Allama Iqbal was a great thinker who awakened political and intellectual consciousness among the Muslims of the subcontinent and played a historic role in strengthening the ideological foundations of the Pakistan Movement.

PML-N candidate leads in NA-77 by-election as results from 32 stations pour in

● PML-N takes narrow seven-vote lead in PP-203 by-election

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Rashid Bashir Virk is leading in the NA-77 by-election, securing 1,915 votes in unofficial and unconfirmed results from 32 polling stations.

According to the initial results that came an hour after polling closed on Sunday evening, Markazi Muslim League candidate Qazi Ibrahim Gujjar is trailing with 1,113 votes.

Rashid Bashir Virk, son of late PML-N MNA Mahmood Bashir Virk, is contesting the by-election on the party's ticket.

The NA-77 seat fell vacant following the death of Mahmood Bashir Virk, who won the constituency in the 2024 general elections with 109,704 votes.

His close rival, Rashida Tariq, secured 91,825 votes in the previous election, finishing second with a margin of 17,879 votes.

Vote counting is continuing, and unofficial results from the remaining polling stations are awaited.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Chaudhry Asad Hanif Jutt secured a narrow lead over Tehreek-e-Ehsas Pakistan's Awais Mahmood Gujjar in unofficial results from 10 polling stations in the PP-203 by-election.

According to the unofficial initial results received roughly an hour after polling closed, Asad Hanif Jutt received 1,744 votes, while Owais Mahmood Gujjar secured 1,737 votes, trailing by just seven votes.

A total of seven candidates are contesting the by-election, which is being held to fill the seat vacated following the death of PML-N MPA Chaudhry Muhammad Hanif Jutt.

Asad Hanif Jutt is contesting the election on the PML-N ticket, while Awais Mahmood Gujjar is representing Tehreek-e-Ehsas Pakistan.

Polling Underway In By-Elections In Chichawatni And Gujranwala



STAFF REPORTER

GUJRANWAL

Polling began at 8:00 AM on Sunday for by-elections in Punjab Assembly constituency PP-203, Chichawatni, Sahiwal, and National Assembly constituency NA-77, Gujranwala.

According to a private news channel, voting will continue uninterrupted until 5:00 PM.

In PP-203, a total of 258,000 registered voters are eligible to cast their ballots, including 122,000 women. A total of 185 polling stations have been established, including 54 exclusively for women.

Authorities have declared 11 polling stations highly sensitive and 37 sensitive. More than 1,100 police personnel have been deployed to ensure security during the polling process.

The seat fell vacant following the death of PML-N MPA Chaudhry Muhammad Hanif Jaat. His son, Asad Hanif Jaat, is contesting the by-election on the PML-N ticket. Seven candidates are competing for the provincial assembly seat.

Meanwhile, 11 candidates are contesting the by-election in NA-77, Gujranwala, where 518,000 registered voters are eligible to exercise their right to vote. The constituency has 277,000 male and 241,000 female voters.

A total of 333 polling stations have been established, including 142 for male voters, 137 for female voters and 54 combined polling stations.

Twelve polling stations have been declared highly sensitive, while 34 have been classified as sensitive. More than 2,100 police officers and personnel have been deployed across the constituency to maintain law and order.

A close contest is expected between PML-N candidate Rashid Bashir Virk and Pakistan Markazi Muslim League candidate Muhammad Ibrahim Gujjer.

The NA-77 seat became vacant following the death of PML-N MNA Mehmood Bashir Virk.

CMU renews nationwide campaign to promote HIV awareness

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Common Management Unit (CMU), under the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, has renewed its nationwide efforts to strengthen HIV awareness, prevention, testing, and treatment by reviving its landmark campaign.

The initiative is being carried out in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), with the support of national and international health partners.

Originally launched in 2022, the campaign aims to encourage open and informed discussions about HIV, improve access to prevention and treatment services, and address the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with the virus. The renewed initiative focuses on raising public awareness, promoting HIV testing and early diagnosis, improving access to treatment and highlighting the experiences and voices of people affected by the disease.

BISP supports over 10 million families, helps KP women obtain CNICs: Rubina Khalid

● Rubina Highlights BISP Transparency And Women Empowerment Through Skills Development Initiatives

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, has said that more than 10 million families, comprising approximately 60 million people, across the country are benefiting from the program, emphasizing that the financial assistance is not charity but a government initiative aimed at supporting poor and deserving people in overcoming their financial difficulties. She expressed these views while talking to the media at the Deputy Commissioner's Office during her one-day visit to Badin.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that BISP was being implemented in a highly transparent manner in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, adding that the program was also monitored at the government level to ensure accountability and transparency.



Without naming any political or other organizations, she said that some groups collected donations without having proper audit systems or other established procedures.

She described the National Identity Card as a gift from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to the people of Pakistan. She added that in the past, many women in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa did not have CNICs, but BISP had encouraged a large number of women to obtain identity cards and register for the program.

The BISP chairperson said the government was also planning to introduce various skills-development initiatives for women so they could acquire professional skills, become more empowered and contribute to the country's development.

She revealed that approximately 12 million children were benefiting from the Benazir Kafalat Program, while around 2.2 million women were receiving support through the Benazir Nashonuma Program.

Senator Rubina Khalid reiterated the government's commitment to maintaining complete transparency in BISP and ensuring that deserving families, particularly women, could benefit fully from its financial assistance and welfare initiatives.

On the occasion, Members of the Provincial Assembly Haji Taj Muhammad Mallah, Mir Allah Bux Talpur, Arbab Amanullah, Tanzila Umm-e-Habiba Qambrani and Bibi Yasmin Shah were present.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Kashif Raza Mangi, Zonal Director (Central Zone) Karachi and In-charge District Director BISP Badin Abdul Qadeer Mahesar and District Information Officer Sarfaraz Samoon also attended the meeting along with other political and social leaders and relevant government officials.

Naqvi Inspects FC Passing-Out Parade Ceremony

● Mohsin Naqvi Inspects FC Special Protection Anti-Riot Wings First Passing-Out Parade Ceremony

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

The passing-out parade of the first batch of the Special Protection Wing and Anti-Riot Wing of the Federal Constabulary was held on Sunday at the Shabqadar Training Centre, Charsadda district, with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi attending the prestigious ceremony as chief guest.

For the first time in the history of the force, a total of 983 personnel, including 35 women, belonging to all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, successfully completed their professional training.

The Interior Minister inspected the parade, while a smartly turned-out contingent presented him with a salute. He also witnessed demonstrations of professional training by the Special Protection Wing and Anti-Riot Wing and distributed prizes among personnel who demonstrated outstanding performance.



The minister appreciated the high standards of professional training and the capabilities displayed by the newly trained personnel.

Addressing the ceremony, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the impressive parade had demonstrated that the personnel were united, well-organised and fully prepared to accomplish their mission.

He said their performance reflected not only their practical training but also their determination, courage and spirit of serving the country.

"You are the practical representatives of a major transformation taking place in the Federal Constabulary. You are the first soldiers of a new era founded on responsibility, clear direction, modern requirements and a renewed spirit of national service," he remarked.

The Interior Minister said the conduct and performance of the personnel would translate these reforms into reality.

Federal Constabulary, formerly known as the Frontier Constabulary, was a force with a history spanning more than a century and had always maintained a distinguished position because of its heritage, traditions and professional role.

The force, he said, had continuously adapted itself to changing national circumstances and emerging security challenges, remaining at the forefront of counterterrorism operations, protection of government installations, security of national projects and maintenance of law and order.

Highlighting the government's initiatives to improve training standards and facilities, Mohsin Naqvi said the Ministry of Interior had taken practical measures to enhance the professional capacity and welfare of the force.

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