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Pakistan, Turkmenistan Agree To Boost Trade, Energy And Air Links

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Turkmenistan have agreed to deepen their friendly ties, as top diplomats met in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a one-on-one meeting with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov. The Foreign Office shared the details.

The two leaders looked back at the long and warm relations between the two nations. They talked about ways to grow trade, investment, energy, regional links and people-to-people contact.

They also shared views on regional events. Mr Dar said that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way to solve disputes and bring lasting peace. Mr Meredov thanked Pakistan for its helpful role in promoting stability in the region.

After the meeting, the 6th Pakistan–Turkmenistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission began. Both ministers co-chaired the session.

The two sides reviewed all areas of cooperation. They spoke about power projects, transit trade and regional connectivity. They also stressed closer business ties and stronger links between institutions.

Talks covered many more fields, such as agriculture, food security, transport, IT, education, health, banking, tourism, sports and culture.

Mr Dar urged both sides to act on what was agreed. He said joint working groups and regular follow-ups will turn friendship into real benefits.

Several federal ministers and senior officials attended the session.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, addressed media representatives at the "Meet the Press" event held at the Karachi Press Club on Tuesday, November 17, 2026. The event provided a platform for Bhutto Zardari to discuss key party policies and upcoming initiatives. The gathering, attended by prominent media personnel, aimed to enhance communication between political leaders and the press, promoting transparency and public engagement. The event holds significance as it underscores the party's commitment to engaging with the media in a formal and structured environment.

Bilawal Calls For Political Reset, Warns Against Forced Division Of Sindh

● Tarar rejects Bilawal's remarks, questions talk of bloodshed in Provincial debate

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has called for a political reset of the country's system, arguing that its deterioration was deliberate rather than accidental.

Addressing an event at the Karachi Press Club on Tuesday, Bilawal said the country's system had not collapsed on its own but had been deliberately weakened. He also acknowledged his share of responsibility for the prevailing situation, admitting that he too was at fault.

The PPP chairman maintained that the solution to Pakistan's challenges required a political approach rather than a non-political intervention. He stressed that a meaningful reset must involve political engagement and efforts to restore public confidence in state institutions.

Bilawal said trust in all national institutions, including parliament and the media, needed to be rebuilt. He also called for a serious discussion on the country's challenges in the context of changing regional and international circumstances.

Highlighting the economic difficulties confronting the public, he said Pakistanis had never experienced hardships of the scale they were facing today. He pointed to rising poverty, unemployment and inflation, expressing particular concern about their impact on underprivileged communities.

"I am frightened about what will happen to the people under these circumstances," he said.

Bilawal warns against forced division of Sindh

Responding to questions about the creation of new provinces, Bilawal warned that any attempt to divide Sindh through force or coercion could trigger serious unrest and bloodshed.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar has responded to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's remarks on the creation of new provinces, saying the debate over provincial restructuring and good governance cannot be stopped.

In a statement, Atta Tarar said discussions about creating new provinces should continue in a democratic and constitutional manner, adding that if people wanted new provinces, their wishes should be respected.

He maintained that elected representatives derived their authority from the people and should not prevent citizens from discussing matters concerning their future.

ECP Approves Two-Phase Local Government Elections In Punjab

● Punjab Local Government Polls to Be Held in Two Phases

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has approved the Punjab government's proposal to conduct local government elections in two phases, covering 18 district groupings in each phase. However, polling dates have not yet been announced.

According to an official letter issued on November 17, the commission accepted the proposal submitted by the Punjab Local Government and Community Development Department on November 16.

The ECP informed the Punjab chief secretary of its decision and directed the provincial authorities to move ahead with election preparations, ensuring that all necessary arrangements are completed within the prescribed timeframe.



Under the approved plan, the first phase will cover Chakwal and Talagang, Pakpattan, Sialkot, Okara, Rajanpur, Narowal, Chiniot, Khanewal, Nankana Sahib, Kasur, Rawalpindi and Murree, Dera Ghazi Khan and Taunsa, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Lodhran, Sargodha, Hafizabad and Bhakkar.

The second phase will include Sahiwal, Gujranwala and Wazirabad, Bahawalnagar, Attock, Khushab, Mandi Bahauddin, Vehari, Jhelum, Sheikhupura, Muzaffargarh and Kot Addu, Toba Tek Singh, Faisalabad, Multan, Mianwali, Layyah, Jhang, Gujrat and Rahim Yar Khan.

The letter, signed by Additional Director General (Local Government Elections) Chaudhry Nadeem Qasim, instructed the provincial administration to proceed with the electoral process and complete all preliminary arrangements without delay.

Copies of the communication were also sent to the Punjab provincial election commissioner and the secretary of the Local Government and Community Development Department.

Despite approving the two-phase arrangement, the ECP has not announced the polling dates for either phase.

Under Article 140A of the Constitution and the Elections Act, local government elections should be held within 120 days of the expiry of local bodies' terms. Since the councils' term ended in Dec 2021, elections were due by April 2022, but they have been repeatedly postponed.

The ECP had initially proposed holding elections in Punjab on Dec 14. However, the provincial government had instead proposed elections in phases in April 2027, citing smog, dense fog and adverse winter weather conditions expected during December and January.

The ECP had rejected the proposal and, earlier this month, decided to hold the first phase of polls in Punjab on Feb 7, 2027. The decision came following a hearing conducted by a four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commission Sikandar Sultan Raja.

During the hearing, an ECP member pointed out that the provincial government had previously proposed holding elections in April.

UK Army Chief Meets Field Marshal Munir To Boost Defence Cooperation

● General Sir Charles Walker visits GHQ Rawalpindi as both countries pledge stronger military ties

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Defence cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom took a new step forward on Tuesday. A high-level British delegation visited General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and met Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, who serves as Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces.

The delegation was led by General Sir Charles Roland Vincent Walker, the UK's Chief of General Staff. He was received with full respect at the military headquarters.

According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the two leaders talked about matters of mutual interest. They also reviewed the current regional security situation.

A major part of the meeting focused on new ways to grow bilateral defence and security links. Both sides agreed that closer military teamwork is good for peace and stability.

The two sides also showed happiness over the long and friendly relations between Pakistan and the UK. They promised to make military-to-military ties even stronger in the coming years.



Field Marshal Munir said Pakistan wants to expand its defence ties with the United Kingdom. He stressed that Pakistan values this partnership.

The British general praised the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He also admired their readiness for operations.

He added that Pakistan's armed forces play an important role in keeping the region safe and stable.

The visit shows that both nations want to keep their strong partnership alive. Regular meetings like this help build trust and share ideas.

Farooq Sattar Calls For Early Referendum On Provinces

● MQM-P Leader Demands Referendum For New Provinces Creation

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) senior leader Farooq Sattar has called for an early nationwide referendum on the creation of new provinces and administrative units, saying the move is essential for the country's political, economic and social development.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Sattar said a public referendum should be held across Pakistan to seek people's views on the formation of new provinces and administrative units.

He proposed dividing Sindh into five administrative regions — North, Central, South, West and East Sindh — while granting Karachi a special status within the province.

The MQM-P leader also called for cities and villages across Sindh to be given direct administrative authority, along with the necessary resources to manage their local affairs.

Sattar also raised concerns over the housing problems faced by government employees living in official quarters in Karachi, particularly in Jahangir Road and Martin Quarters, where employees had settled after independence.



He said serving and retired government employees were facing difficulties regarding their accommodation, adding that the government had assured them that their grievances would be addressed.

He suggested that if official accommodation could not be provided, affected employees should be allotted houses through a properly developed housing society.

According to Sattar, the issue affecting more than 5,000 employees remained unresolved despite repeated concerns.

He stressed that government employees should be granted residential rights on humanitarian grounds and that land reserved for their housing should not be taken away.

Electricity may become costlier by Rs1.34 per unit nationwide

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Electricity consumers across the country, including Karachi, may face an increase of Rs1.34 per unit under the quarterly adjustment for the third quarter of 2026.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has reserved its decision after concluding a hearing on a petition filed by power distribution companies (DISCOs), seeking to recover Rs23.33 billion from consumers.

The proposed increase will apply for three months, from December 2026 to February 2027.

NEPRA will announce its decision later and determine the final increase in electricity prices.

The hearing was chaired by NEPRA Chairman Waseem Mukhtar Chaudhry.

According to the petition, the distribution companies have sought Rs38.92 billion under capacity charges and an additional Rs5.597 billion for operations and maintenance expenses.

However, they have also requested a reduction of Rs29.25 billion to account for the impact of the incremental consumption package.

The quarterly adjustment relates to the period from July to September 2026 and will also apply to K-Electric consumers.

PTI's Taimur Jhagra, Kamran Bangash, Irfan Saleem Arrested

● Arrests made after ATC rejected their bail pleas

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR



Police on Tuesday arrested three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, Taimur Saleem Jhagra and Kamran Bangash, along with Irfan Saleem, in the Radio Pakistan attack case.

The former ministers were taken into custody outside the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

According to police, Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Farhan Khan was present at the high court's main entrance with a contingent when the arrests were made.

They said that three leaders had reached the high court to seek interim bail after an anti-terrorism court dismissed their bail applications in the Radio Pakistan attack case. They were present in the high court's bar room before being taken into custody.

The PHC had earlier approved their applications for interim bail.

Punjab Ombudsman Intervention Helps 77 Pharma Firms Recover Rs387 Million Dues

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



The timely intervention of the Punjab Ombudsman has enabled 77 pharmaceutical companies to recover outstanding payments worth Rs387 million from the provincial government.

According to details, the pharmaceutical companies had approached the Punjab Ombudsman after government hospitals failed to clear their payments despite receiving medicine supplies on time. The companies complained that the prolonged delay in payments had disrupted their business operations and created financial difficulties.

Taking notice of the complaints, the Punjab Ombudsman's office sought a detailed report from the relevant authorities and thoroughly examined the available records.

Following the review, the Ombudsman directed the concerned hospitals to clear all pending payments to the pharmaceutical companies on a priority basis.

As a result of persistent follow-up and clear directives from the Ombudsman, the Punjab government released Rs387 million to settle the outstanding dues of all 77 companies.

The pharmaceutical companies subsequently expressed their gratitude to the Punjab Ombudsman for taking timely action and ensuring the recovery of their long-pending payments.



NUML hosts international conference on CPEC 2.0, Pakistan-China strategic partnership

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A two-day International Conference on "CPEC 2.0 and Pakistan-China Strategic Partnership" commenced at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) on Tuesday, bringing together policymakers, academics, experts, faculty Pakistan-China cooperation.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal attended the inaugural session as Chief Guest, while Vice Chancellor PIDE Dr. Nadeem Javed delivered the keynote address.

Addressing the conference, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal described the present era as a "knowledge revolution", driven by rapid technological advancement.

He termed Pakistan and China natural partners in pursuing shared development goals and highlighted the strategic significance of CPEC.

IHC gives CDA 15 days to comply with court order in plot allotment case

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Islamabad High Court (IHC)'s Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar on Tuesday expressed strong displeasure over the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for failing to implement a court order in a plot allotment case, directing the authority to submit a compliance report within 15 days.

During the hearing of contempt of court proceedings against CDA officials, the chief justice also indicated that the CDA chairman could be summoned in person if the court's directions were not implemented.

CDA Member Estate Zaman Wattoo appeared before the court along with his counsel, Kashif Malik. An affidavit submitted by the Member Estate in a separate contempt matter concerning alleged misrepresentation before the court was also brought on record.

The chief justice, however, said the contempt matter against the Member Estate would be taken up later, adding that the court would first examine the main case.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioner, Hasnain Haider Thaheem, informed the court that the matter was already pending before it, while the CDA had summoned the parties for a personal hearing.

Questioning the CDA's action, the chief justice asked why the authority was holding a hearing when the court had already issued an order. He observed that the authority's conduct amounted to disregard for the court's directions.

The CDA counsel submitted that the relevant order had been issued by the authority's Deputy Commissioner.

In response, the chief justice remarked that he was no longer interested in hearing explanations and wanted implementation of the judicial order. He directed the CDA to verify its orders and documents itself and comply with the court's directions without seeking further assistance.

International Buddhist Monastics Visit Islamabad Museum And Caves

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



An international delegation of senior Buddhist monastics and religious scholars from across Asia visited the Islamabad Museum and the historic Shah Allah Ditta Caves on Tuesday as part of the three-day Gandhara Strategic Dialogue 2026, being held under the theme "Towards a Shared Future."

The delegation, representing Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Japan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea and Bangladesh, is participating in the dialogue aimed at strengthening international cooperation for the preservation, promotion and global recognition of Gandhara's shared Buddhist heritage.

The initiative is led by Imran Shauket, Coordinator to the Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara.

During their visit to the Islamabad Museum, the distinguished Buddhist monastics explored its rich collection of Gandharan Buddhist heritage, including historic Buddha sculptures, Buddhist relics and archaeological artefacts reflecting the region's significance as one of the earliest centres of Buddhist art, philosophy and learning.

The delegation also experienced the museum's immersive digital presentation, providing an engaging insight into the history and cultural legacy of Gandhara.

The delegation also visited the historic Shah Allah Ditta Caves, an important archaeological and cultural heritage site associated with the Buddhist legacy of the region.

The visit provided the Buddhist religious leaders and scholars an opportunity to explore the historical and spiritual significance of the site and gain a closer understanding of Pakistan's rich Buddhist heritage.



KARACHI: Artists took to the stage at the Hospital Ka Haal Acha Hai theatre during the 3rd World Culture Festival 2026, organised by the Arts Council of Pakistan at the Arts Council building in Karachi on Tuesday. The event showcases the country's vibrant cultural scene and highlights the importance of artistic expression in fostering cross-cultural understanding. This year's festival features a variety of performances, including a poignant stage play set in a residential care facility, underscoring the emotional depth and range of contemporary Pakistani theatre.

Chairman CDA Reviews Development Works At Babur Park

● Sohail Ashraf Visits Babur Park For Development Review

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf, accompanied by Member Environment Abdullah Khurram Niazi and other relevant senior officers, visited Babur Park and conducted a detailed review of the ongoing development works.

Relevant senior officers and the architect, while giving a detailed briefing to the Chairman CDA regarding the latest progress on the Babur Park project, said that work on the construction of Babur Park is continuing at a fast pace as a symbol of friendly and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. During the briefing it was apprised that with the collaboration of Uzbek designers and experts, Babur Park is being developed as a world class recreational place.

While briefing Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf, it was informed that to provide a healthy environment to the citizens, high-quality jogging tracks are also being constructed in the park and work is ongoing on various sports facilities in the park including the construction of courts for table tennis, paddle tennis, badminton and other sports.

Chairman CDA was informed that similarly, a kids play area is being developed for children where various swings are being installed, and a state-of-the-art library is also under construction in the park for the citizens. Furthermore, the installation of benches for seating and dustbins for cleanliness in the park is also underway.

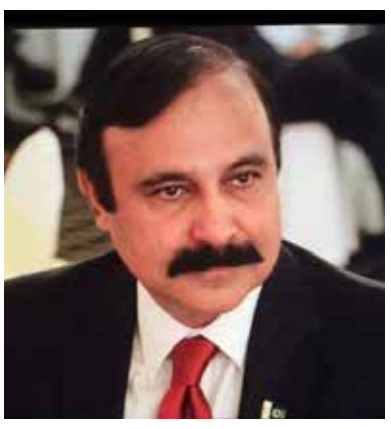


During the briefing, Chairman CDA was further informed that beautiful landscaping and environmentally friendly tree plantation are also being carried out in Babur Park and along with the installation of fencing around all sides of the park, the installation of modern and beautiful permanent lights is also continuing at a fast pace.

Consensus among political parties essential for establishing new provinces: Dr Tariq

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday said that consensus among political parties was essential for the establishment of new provinces.

Speaking to a private television channel, he said political parties should discuss important national issues at appropriate forums. He urged political parties to set aside their differences and come forward to hold discussions on matters of national importance.

Commenting on the health condition of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the best medical experts and treatment facilities were being provided to him.

Responding to a question about PTI's political role, he said the PTI needed to change its political approach to play a constructive role in national politics and added that the party was divided into different groups.

Capt. (R) Ata Ur Rehman Appointed Director General Administration CDA

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has appointed Capt. (R) Ata Ur Rehman (PAS/BPS-18) as Director General (DG)Administration on an operational basis (OPS), with immediate effect.

According to an office order issued by CDA's Human Resource Development Directorate on November 17, 2026, Capt. (R) Ata Ur Rehman, who was previously awaiting posting, has been assigned the responsibilities of Director General (Admin) until further orders in the interest of the Authority's work.

The notification further directs the officer concerned to submit his charge assumption report to the Human Resource Development Directorate, CDA, accordingly.

International Quran Competition In Islamabad From November 24

● Qaris From 31 Countries To Join Islamabad Competition



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, stated that Pakistan is once again set to host a significant and blessed event aimed at the promotion and dissemination of the Holy Quran on a global scale. The 2nd International Quran Recitation Competition will take place in Islamabad from November 24 to 26, 2026, featuring distinguished Qaris (reciters) from 31 countries. The primary objective of this competition is to highlight the grandeur of the Holy Quran, its universal teachings, and the spiritual and scholarly dimensions of its recitation, while also spreading the message of the Quran across the globe.

The Federal Minister expressed these views on Tuesday while addressing a press conference regarding the organization of the 2nd International Quran Recitation Competition. He was accompanied by Secretary for Religious Affairs Abrar Ahmed Mirza, Joint Secretary Shahbaz Mustafa, Deputy Secretary Dr. Shahid-ur-Rehman Marth, and the Chief Judge—renowned Qari and Presidential Award recipient, Syed Sadaqat Ali. He remarked that this event is not merely a contest, but a global platform to express love, devotion, and a deep connection to the Holy Quran; it offers an opportunity for prominent Qaris from around the world to showcase their talents and benefit from one another's experiences.

Sardar Muhammad Yousuf noted that invitations for this international competition were extended to 69 countries, with participation now confirmed from Qaris representing 31 of those nations. The issuance of visas for foreign guests has been completed, and their arrival is expected on November 23. All administrative arrangements for the competition have been finalized.

The Federal Minister stated that transparency, merit, and professional standards will be ensured throughout the competition. To this end, judges have been selected from Iran and Egypt, while the process for selecting the *Qari* (reciter) to represent Pakistan is currently underway. He emphasized that the government is committed to ensuring that all stages of the competition are conducted in accordance with international standards and transparent procedures.

FUUAST, University of Chitral sign MoU to boost research ties

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) and the University of Chitral on Tuesday, November 17, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the FUUAST campus in Islamabad to strengthen academic cooperation, promote joint research and facilitate faculty exchanges, providing teachers and researchers from both institutions with opportunities to collaborate through academic visits, teaching activities and joint research projects.

The agreement was signed by FUUAST Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari and University of Chitral Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hazir Ullah through their respective research.

Renowned writer, poet Dr. Inam-ul-Haq Javed, newscaster Syed Sheheryar Ahmed visit NBF

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Renowned writer, poet, researcher, critic and humorist Dr. Inam-ul-Haq Javed, along with prominent newscaster, compere and analyst Syed Sheheryar Ahmed, associated with Pakistan Television (PTV) and the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Pakistan), visited the National Book Foundation (NBF) Head Office in Islamabad.

They met with Managing Director Dr. Kamran Jahangir and exchanged views on the Foundation's academic, literary and publishing activities, as well as initiatives to promote reading habits.

On the occasion, former Managing Director of the National Book Foundation, Dr. Inam-ul-Haq Javed, presented the research-based literary work "Quaid-e-Azam in the Eyes of Poets" by Dr. Asif Riaz Qadeer to NBF Managing Director Dr. Kamran Jahangir. The book features poetic tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah from poets writing in Urdu, various regional languages of Pakistan and several international languages.

Pakistan, UK Join Hands To Develop Mineral Resources

● UK, Pakistan Agree To Strengthen Mining Sector Cooperation

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

United Kingdom and Pakistan have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the mining and minerals sector to attract investment and promote the responsible development of Pakistan's mineral resources.

According to a statement from the British High Commission, the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) have jointly prepared a draft agreement to work together on geological mapping, research and data sharing.

The proposed partnership aims to improve the quality of geological information, technical expertise and research to support transparent and responsible development of Pakistan's mineral resources.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott highlighted the proposed partnership during the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum in Islamabad.

She said Pakistan had significant mineral potential, but the mining sector currently contributes less than two per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Under the proposed agreement, both countries will establish a long-term framework for cooperation in several areas, including technical knowledge sharing, professional training, geological mapping, scientific research and the development of reliable geological data.

The partnership will also focus on critical minerals, environmental protection and responsible mining practices.

As part of the cooperation, staff members of the Geological Survey of Pakistan have completed a 16-week technical training programme supported by the UK under its Revenue Mobilisation, Investment and Trade (REMIT) programme.

The training provided Pakistani experts with practical skills in digital geological surveys, geochemical sampling and analysis, airborne geophysical surveys, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), modern mapping software and spectral remote sensing.

Speaking about the partnership, Jane Marriott said Pakistan's mineral resources could create sustainable jobs, boost exports and attract investment if developed through reliable geological data, strong institutions and transparent supply chains.

She added that the UK was proud to bring together British expertise and Pakistani talent to strengthen key areas of the mineral sector, build investor confidence and create long-term economic opportunities for local communities.

The proposed partnership is expected to introduce modern technology, research and international expertise into Pakistan's mineral sector. It will also help identify mineral resources, improve planning and encourage transparent investment.

The initiative aims to ensure that Pakistan's mineral wealth is developed responsibly and in an environmentally sustainable way, while creating new opportunities for economic growth, exports and employment.



Pakistan Cotton Arrivals Rise 7 Percent To 4.74 Million Bales



FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan cotton arrivals grew by 7 percent to about 4.74 million bales as of October 31. Last year, the figure was 4,437,256 bales in the same period. The data comes from the Pakistan Cotton Ginners' Association (PCGA).

Ginners have already pressed 4,432,836 bales. Another 309,794 bales are still waiting to be ginned. A year ago, the unginned stock was 312,126 bales.

Sales are moving at a good pace. Ginners have sold 4,094,596 bales so far. Textile mills bought 3,996,596 bales, while exporters and traders took 98,000 bales. No bales were bought under the TCP category.

Ginners still hold 338,240 bales that are unsold. Add the unginned stock, and the total unsold cotton is 648,034 bales. That is lower than last year's 693,818 bales.

Punjab Numbers

Punjab received 1,998,944 bales. Ginners pressed 1,873,774 bales of this cotton.

Sales in the province reached 1,726,641 bales. Textile mills bought 1,723,041 bales, and exporters and traders bought 3,600 bales. Unsold stock is 147,133 bales, and unginned stock is 125,170 bales.

PSX turns bearish, loses over 665 points

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bearish trend on Tuesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index losing 665.21 points, a negative change of 0.37 percent, to close at 177,517.74 points against 178,182.95 points recorded in the previous trading session.

The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 839.224 million shares, compared to 1,339.586 million shares traded in the previous session. The traded value of the ready market stood at Rs20.158 billion, down from Rs32.584 billion a day earlier.

Meanwhile, total market capitalisation decreased to Rs19.290 trillion from Rs19.359 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Out of 498 companies that traded in the ready market, 190 posted gains, 276 suffered losses, while 32 remained unchanged, reflecting a negative trend in the market.

WorldCall Telecom led the volume chart with 95.616 million shares, followed by LSE Financial Services with 91.360 million shares and Tasdeeq Information with 57.241 million shares.

Among the top gainers in the ready market, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs229.39 to close at Rs26,216.33, while Khyber Textile Mills Limited advanced by Rs86.12 to settle at Rs1,879.76.

On the losing side, PIA Holding Company LimitedB declined by Rs44.00 to close at Rs14,156.50, while Pakistan Engineering Company Limited fell by Rs41.48 to Rs1,043.51.

In the futures (DFC) market, turnover stood at 121.302 million shares with a traded value of Rs4.372 billion, compared with 242.354 million shares worth Rs8.249 billion in the previous session.

Of the 306 companies traded in the DFC market, 67 advanced, 229 declined, and 10 remained unchanged.

Pakistan, Korea Review Progress In Joint Agricultural Projects

● PARC Chairman Says Pakistan-Korea Partnership Boosts Farmers' Prosperity

MUDASSER IQBAL

ISLAMABAD

The Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture (KOPIA) Pakistan Center, in collaboration with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), convened its 11th Project Planning and Steering Committee meeting at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad, to review progress under three Pakistan–Korea technical cooperation projects aimed at strengthening agricultural productivity, food security and farmers' livelihoods.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Chairman PARC, with Mr. Park Intae, Director, KOPIA Pakistan Center, and representatives of relevant institutions and project teams. Chairman PARC emphasized that Pakistan–Korea collaboration is playing a vital role in introducing modern agricultural technologies, strengthening indigenous research capacity and improving productivity across key agricultural sectors. He reaffirmed PARC's commitment to further strengthening this partnership to ensure effective technology transfer, sustainable agricultural development and tangible benefits for farmers across Pakistan.



The review covered ongoing initiatives in certified seed potato production, fodder crop development and cattle breed improvement, reflecting the growing scope of technical cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

A major focus was the Pakistan–Korea Joint Programme on Certified Seed Potato Production, which is developing domestic capacity to produce high-quality, disease-free seed potatoes and reduce dependence on imported planting material.

The committee was briefed on progress in establishing advanced seed production infrastructure, including aeroponic greenhouses, 36 screen houses, cold storage facilities, solar-powered systems and tissue culture capacity at NARC. The programme has produced approximately 1.47 million G0 seed potato mini-tubers since its commencement, while laboratory surveillance has covered 3,253 samples through more than 16,000 diagnostic tests. Training activities have also strengthened technical capacity among researchers, seed companies and farmers.

The meeting also reviewed achievements under the fodder and forage development project, which promotes improved oat varieties, Italian ryegrass and village-based seed enterprises through farmer participation. The initiative has conducted 39 training events involving more than 1,500 participants and supported the expansion of improved fodder production practices across different agricultural regions of Pakistan.

Progress under the livestock breed improvement project was also presented, focusing on the application of Korean Holstein genetics through artificial insemination services to support improvements in cattle breeding and dairy productivity.

Together, the three initiatives demonstrate a practical model of bilateral cooperation that combines Korean agricultural technologies and technical expertise with Pakistan's research institutions, local production systems and farming communities.

The review provided an opportunity to assess implementation progress and consider priorities for strengthening technology transfer, institutional capacity and the wider adoption of improved agricultural practices.

The partnership between PARC and Korea's Rural Development Administration (RDA), implemented through the KOPIA Pakistan Center, continues to advance agricultural innovation and support the development of more productive, resilient and sustainable farming systems in Pakistan.

Schehzad Highlights Economic Stability, Calls For Private-Sector-Led Growth

● Khurram Schehzad Stresses Reforms For Sustainable Inclusive Growth

FINANCE REPORTER

LAHORE

Advisor to the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Khurram Schehzad on Tuesday highlighted Pakistan's improving macroeconomic stability and investment climate, stressing the need for sustained reforms and private-sector participation to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

Addressing the 6th Future of Retail Conference as guest of honour, he said Pakistan had made significant progress in restoring macroeconomic stability through fiscal consolidation, expenditure discipline, improved external-sector resilience and structural reforms.

He highlighted the reduction in the fiscal deficit, efforts to broaden the tax base and strengthen revenue mobilisation, and the rebuilding of foreign exchange reserves from critically low levels witnessed during FY2022-23.

Despite global challenges, including geopolitical tensions, commodity price volatility and external economic uncertainties,



Pakistan had demonstrated resilience, with stronger macroeconomic fundamentals providing a stable foundation for economic recovery and growth, he added.

Schehzad said maintaining macroeconomic stability and pursuing policy reforms were essential to strengthening investor confidence, attracting domestic and foreign investment and generating sustainable economic growth.

"Over time, these improvements would help create an enabling environment for stronger business activity, employment generation, improved household purchasing power and increased consumer demand," he said.

Highlighting the retail sector's role, he said it was no longer merely a point of sale but a vital economic link connecting farms, factories, financial institutions and households.

A vibrant and competitive retail sector contributed to stronger supply chains, business expansion, employment generation and wider economic activity, he added.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to facilitating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), recognising their role in entrepreneurship, employment generation and economic growth.

In this regard, he said Rs300 billion had been earmarked exclusively for SME exporters under the Export Finance Scheme through the Prime Minister's Access to Finance Initiative to meet their working capital requirements and enhance export competitiveness.

Pakistan records $39M current account surplus in October

FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan's current account turned into a surplus of $39 million in October 2026, reversing a deficit of $371 million recorded in September, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The current account deficit during the first four months of the current fiscal year stood at $850 million, down 20 per cent compared to $1.06 billion in the same period last year.

According to the SBP, workers' remittances increased by 14 per cent year-on-year and 8 per cent month-on-month to $3.9 billion in October.

Meanwhile, imports declined by 5 per cent to $5.87 billion, while exports fell by 4 per cent to $2.90 billion.

The improvement in the current account was mainly driven by higher remittances and a reduction in the trade deficit.

For FY2027, Pakistan's current account deficit is projected to remain between $2 billion and $3 billion, equivalent to zero to one per cent of GDP.



Online Customs Valuation Hearings To Begin At Lahore

FBR Chairman Announces Online Hearing Room In Lahore

FINANCE REPORTER

LAHORE

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial said on Tuesday that a dedicated online hearing room for customs valuation cases will become operational at Lahore, enabling Lahore-based importers to pursue their cases locally without travelling to Karachi.

He also announced that a new online system to address exporters' pending tax refund claims would become operational by December, providing facilities for online submission and processing of documents and resolution of refund claims within defined timelines. He further stated that 30 percent more refunds were being issued this year compared to the previous year.

He was addressing the business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar presented the welcome address and highlighted the key challenges confronting the business community, along with practical proposals for their resolution. Senior Vice President Sardar Usman Ghani, Vice President Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, members of the Executive



Committee, senior business leaders and a large number of traders and industrialists were also present.

The FBR Chairman said the proposal to further empower the Director of Customs Valuation Lahore and provide the office would also be considered. The objective was to facilitate importers and make the customs valuation process more accessible and efficient for the business community.

Talking about the complaints regarding incorrect customs valuation rates and irregularities, he said such matters would be thoroughly examined. A senior officer would conduct hearings in Lahore on a daily basis to review customs valuation complaints. He assured the business community that cases would be examined strictly on merit, responsibility would be determined wherever irregularities were established, and the Lahore Chamber would be kept informed about the action taken.

Langrial also referred to the government's efforts to promote small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), saying that the Prime Minister was taking several initiatives for their growth and development. He said the fixed tax scheme had originally been introduced in response to demands from the traders, and FBR was open to reviewing suggestions and concerns raised by different business sectors regarding the scheme.

LCCI President Ali Hussam Asghar called for stronger cooperation and regular consultation between FBR and the business community to resolve taxation and customs-related problems.

Food waste and climate change the cost of what we throw away



By Ayesha Iftikhar,Sadia Sabir

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Human Nutrition And Dietetics,Superior University

Every day, edible food is discarded in households, restaurants, hotels, and markets, while millions of people struggle to access sufficient and nutritious meals. Food waste is connected to climate change, food security, nutrition, and the sustainable use of natural resources. For Pakistan, where food insecurity and environmental pressuresremain significant concerns, reducing food waste is not merely a matter of responsible consumption; it is an important step towards a more sustainable future.Food production depends on valuable resources, including water, land, energy, fertilisers, and human labour. When food is discarded, the resources invested in producing and delivering it are wasted as well.The environmental consequences are particularly concerning. Producing food that is never consumed creates avoidable greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, when organic waste decomposes in landfills under oxygen-limited conditions, it can release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.The nutritional implications are equally important. Discarded food contains carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, and minerals. When edible food is thrown away, these nutrients are lost instead of being used to support human health. Reducing food waste is therefore not only an environmental priority; it is also an opportunity to conserve nutritional resources and strengthen food security.

Food waste evidences from Pakistan are research by Afzal et al. (2022) examined food waste in Lahore's hospitality sector, including restaurants, hotels, and catering businesses. The study found that restaurants generated an average of 79.9 grams of food waste per customer according to surveys and 73.4 grams according to live tracking. Hotels generated approximately 138.4 grams per customer, while catering businesses recorded around 140 grams. The study also estimated that food waste in restaurants accounted for 15% according to surveys and 17% according to live tracking. Customer plate leftovers, inaccurate customer-demand forecasting, overproduction, and food spoilage were identified as important contributors.

It is also influenced by how businesses purchase, store, prepare, and serve meals. Preparing excessive quantities, serving portions that customers cannot finish, and failing to manage food inventories effectively can all contribute to avoidable waste. Better portion control, more accurate demand forecasting, and appropriate storage practices could help restaurants and other food-service businesses



reduce these losses.

Another study, by Ilmas et al. (2019), investigated greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector in Rawalpindi. The researchers identified solid-waste disposal sites as the largest methane source among the waste-management activities examined. Although the study considered the wider waste sector rather than food waste alone, its findings underline the importance of improving waste management and reducing the amount of organic material sent to disposal sites.

Preventing food waste should always come first. When surplus food is generated, safe redistribution can help ensure that edible meals reach people who need them. Restaurants, hotels, caterers, and retailers can work with reliable food donation organisations to distribute suitable surplus food to communities experiencing food insecurity. Food safety, storage, and transportation must be carefully managed. Food that is no longer suitable for human consumption can be managed through approaches such as composting and anaerobic digestion. Composting turns organic waste into a useful soil amendment. Anaerobic digestion uses microorganisms to break down organic materials without oxygen, producing biogas that can be used to generate energy.

Rasheed et al. (2019) evaluated a waste-to-energy pilot plant in Pakistan that used materials including animal manure and potato waste. The plant reported average energy productivity of 384 kilowatt-hours per day, illustrating the potential of converting suitable organic materials into a useful energy resource. These technologies should complement, not replace, waste prevention.

These losses matter when farmers, businesses, and families face rising costs and climate-related disruptions. Reducing waste can make existing food supplies go further, although it cannot by itself solve hunger or unequal access. Food recovery programmes need clear standards so donations are nutritious and safe.

Households can plan shopping around meals, check storage instructions, and freeze food before it spoils. Retailers can review purchasing practices and donate products that remain safe but may otherwise go unsold. These measures, combined across the supply chain, can reduce the amount of edible food discarded. Reducing food waste requires action by households, businesses, communities, and public institutions. At home, meal planning, responsible purchasing, appropriate portions, and proper storage can prevent unnecessary disposal.



By Malik Muslim Raza Awan

From Hormuz To Lahore: Who Pays The Price Of War?

- Vancouver, Canada
- November 2026



The Iran war reaches a Lahore family living on Rs 30,000 a month through the price of fuel and food and the uncertainty of jobs in the Gulf. Canada's response shows how much difference public relief can make.

A man in Lahore earns Rs 30,000 a month. Before he pays the rent, he knows where most of his salary will go. There is flour to buy, milk for the children, an electricity bill to pay and petrol for the motorcycle that takes him to work. Then someone at home falls ill. Even a visit to a public hospital can mean paying for transport, a test or medicine. That same month, his niece is getting married. He wants his children to be there and would like to give her a modest gift. He sits down to work out what can wait until payday.

I think of that man when I read the news from the Gulf. A disputed report about a radar in Bahrain seems far removed from his life. But when tankers change course, when diesel costs more to import, or when a Pakistani worker in the Gulf learns that his contract may end, the consequences reach households like his.

A month on Rs 30,000

Petrol fell to Rs 330 a litre on November 14. Even at that lower price, ten litres cost Rs 3,300, or 11 percent of this worker's monthly pay. The rest of this family-of-four budget is illustrative. It shows how a hospital visit and a wedding can stretch a salary already committed to essentials.

Household expense Illustrative cost

Groceries Rs 16,500Rs 16,500

Electricity Rs 3,500Rs 3,500

Motorcycle petrol, 10 litres10 litres Rs 3,300Rs 3,300

Cooking fuel, water and phone Rs 2,500Rs 2,500

Hospital transport, tests or medicine Rs 2,500Rs 2,500

Wedding travel and a modest gift Rs 2,000Rs 2,000

Total before rent and school expenses Rs 30,300Rs 30,300

Even if the family skips the wedding, it has only Rs 1,700 left for rent and school expenses. Pakistan's annual inflation eased from 10.3 percent in September to 9.6 percent in October. Yet the weekly index of essential items was 11.21 percent higher than a year earlier in the week ending November 12. A slower rise in prices still leaves the family paying more if its income stays the same.

Pakistan has a way to get cash to households under pressure. Benazir Kafaalat pays eligible families Rs 14,500 every three months, equivalent to about Rs 4,833 a month. In this example, that would cover the electricity bill and leave roughly Rs 1,300. The government itself faces tighter finances. Pakistan reportedly told the IMF that the war cost it Rs 144 billion in tax revenue from July through September. That loss comes at a time when more families have reason to need help.

What I underestimated about Iran

Before the war, I paid too much attention to the public image of Iran's clerical leadership and too little to its engineers, manufacturers and technical institutions. Years of sanctions had forced Iranian businesses and institutions to adapt to restricted access to foreign goods and finance. I underestimated what the country could produce at home and how much experience it had gained operating under those restrictions. That experience helps explain Iran's ability to withstand pressure. Ordinary Iranians still bear the costs of inflation, isolation and war.

On November 13, Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed they had destroyed a U.S. early-warning radar in Bahrain. U.S. Central Command said it intercepted two drones and reported no damage. The claim of destruction remains unverified. If incidents recur across the Gulf, insurers could raise premiums, airlines could reroute flights and shipping companies could cut sailings. Those decisions can add to the cost of doing business while ports remain open.

Two straits and the Gulf economies between them

At Bab el-Mandeb, the southern entrance to the Red Sea and the route to the Suez Canal, Houthi attacks have disrupted commercial shipping since 2023. Some carriers have diverted vessels around the Cape of Good Hope, adding days at sea and raising fuel and freight costs. Commercial traffic has continued through the strait. A November 12 maritime advisory reported competing claims over nearby positions and found no independent confirmation of complete control over the approaches or key islands. Even a partial disruption can make the passage too costly or risky for some operators.

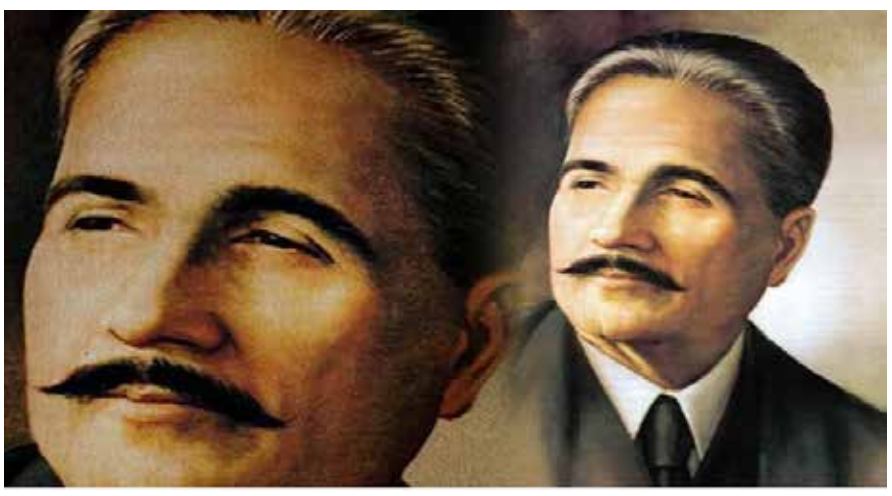
The Strait of Hormuz poses a different risk. Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain are especially exposed to disruption there, and Qatar depends on the strait to ship its liquefied natural gas. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates can send some oil through pipelines that bypass Hormuz. Oman has direct access to waters outside the strait. If both passages are disrupted, some Saudi shipments routed through the Red Sea would also face constraints.

TO BE CONTINUED



By Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan Singhanvi

Allama Iqbal As The Poet Of The East



In the annals of the intellectual and literary history of mankind, there emerge, from time to time, certain exceptional figures whose creative achievements transcend the immediate circumstances of their age and become enduring sources of intellectual illumination, cultural consciousness, and collective awakening for generations yet unborn. Allama Muhammad Iqbal belongs incontestably to this distinguished company. He transformed poetry from a mere instrument of emotional expression, romantic sentiment, or verbal ornamentation into a formidable medium for the elevation of human consciousness, the regeneration of civilisation, and the moral and intellectual reawakening of society. His designation as the Poet of the East rests upon considerations far more substantial than his Eastern ancestry or his mastery of Persian and Urdu. It derives, rather, from that extraordinary synthesis in his thought whereby the spiritual inheritance of the Orient, the intellectual patrimony of Islamic civilisation, and the perplexing philosophical questions of the modern world were brought into a singular and compelling relationship. Iqbal's poetry is, in essence, the imaginative manifestation of a mind that sought to draw strength from the spiritual and intellectual achievements of the past whilst discerning, with uncommon foresight, the possibilities of the future.

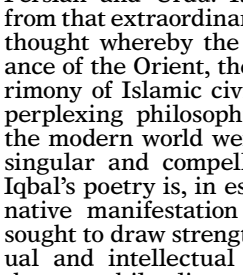
Born in Sialkot on 9 November 1877, Iqbal received his elementary education in his native city before proceeding to Lahore, where he advanced through the higher stages of academic learning. His subsequent sojourn in Europe considerably enlarged the intellectual horizon within which his thought was to develop. His philosophical studies at Cambridge, his doctoral degree in philosophy from the University of Munich, and his legal education in London brought him into direct engagement with Western intellectual traditions, philosophical controversies, and the evolving political and social doctrines of modernity. Yet the ultimate consequence of this encounter was neither an uncritical admiration of the West nor an indiscriminate abandonment of his own cultural inheritance. On the contrary, it strengthened his consciousness of civilisational identity and intellectual independence. He recognised the achievements of Western philosophy and acknowledged the remarkable progress of its scientific and intellectual institutions; nevertheless, he subjected materialism, imperial domination, economic exploitation, and those conceptions of human existence which reduce man to a mere productive instrument or economic unit to searching philosophical criticism.

At the very heart of Iqbal's intellectual universe stands the conception of Khudi, or the Self, a principle which cannot justly be confined to the narrow implications of self-regard, vanity, or individual superiority. In Iqbal's philosophical understanding, Khudi signifies the inward strength of the human personality, its moral autonomy, its capacity for deliberate action, and its awakening to the creative potentialities inherent within its own nature. He refuses to regard man as a helpless spectator, condemned to submit passively to the supposed inexorability of destiny. Rather, he calls upon the individual to discover and realise the possibilities of existence through faith, disciplined conduct, resolute endeavour, and the sustained exercise of will. His ideal of the Mard-e-Momin, or the Man of Faith, emerges from this very philosophical foundation: a personality spiritually awakened, morally steadfast, intellectually vigorous, and conscious of its obligations towards the larger community. For Iqbal, the consummation of the Self does not lie in egotism or self-aggrandisement, but in the recognition of the Divine, devotion to the Holy Prophet Muhammad , service to humanity, and the pursuit of an exalted purpose in life.

The intellectual and spiritual formation of Iqbal's philosophy of Khudi bears the unmistakable impress of the mystical and philosophical tradition of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi. Regarding Rumi as his spiritual guide and intellectual mentor, Iqbal conceived of love, or Ishq, not as a passing emotional sentiment, but as a dynamic and transformative force capable of imparting warmth to knowledge, constancy to the will, and movement to the human personality. Consequently, the relationship between reason and love in his poetry is not merely an abstract philosophical controversy; it constitutes an exploration of two fundamental dimensions of human existence and their respective contributions to the development of the individual. Iqbal does not repudiate reason, nor does he advocate the abandonment of rational inquiry. His concern is with a form of intellect that remains conscious of its moral obligations and receptive to spiritual insight. Knowledge, when severed from character, ethical responsibility, and a worthy conception of purpose, cannot, in his estimation, constitute an adequate instrument of human advancement.

An equally remarkable dimension of Iqbal's literary distinction lies in his ability to articulate profound philosophical reflections in both Persian and Urdu, harmonising the inherited conventions of classical poetry with the intellectual anxieties and spiritual uncertainties of the modern age. His Bang-e-Dara reveals the earlier development of his national, communal, natural, and reformative concerns, whilst Bal-e-Jibril exhibits a greater maturity of philosophical expression.

TO BE CONTINUED



By Shafqat Kakakhel

IWT: Pakistan's options

Owing to its predominantly agricultural economy, arid soils and inadequate precipitation, Pakistan is critically dependent on the waters of the Indus River Basin to irrigate its lands.

Pakistan has also utilised the Indus Basin's waters for hydropower generation. That is why access to the Indus Basin's flows has been recognised as an essential imperative for Pakistan's water and overall national security.

With crucial technical support from the World Bank, India and Pakistan negotiated between 1952 and 1960 on sharing the waters of the Indus River Basin, culminating in the signing of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on September 19, 1960. The IWT defined the rights and obligations of India and Pakistan concerning the water assets of the Indus Basin.

India's illegal suspension of the IWT (which it described as 'holding the treaty in abeyance') in April 2025 has imperilled Pakistan's water and overall national security. Pakistan has described the suspension of the IWT and the several measures initiated by India concerning the western rivers that would reduce their flows into Pakistan. Islamabad has rightly described these violations of the IWT as the "weaponisation of water" and demanded the treaty's restoration.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech from the Red Fort in Delhi on March 15, 2025 declared that "blood and water cannot flow at the same time". He called the Indus Waters Treaty "unjust and one-sided", as it had led to "the waters of the rivers originating in India to irrigate the fields of the enemy, while our soils and our farmers remained parched". Modi declared that, henceforth, the water that belongs to India will be used exclusively for India and Indian farmers. Belgian author and journalist Gie Goris has noted that between mid-August 2025 and the beginning of summer 2026, Modi repeated his anti-Pakistan rhetoric at least 80 times in his public meetings!

Contrary to Modi's claim, the IWT conceded India's unreasonable demand for complete control over the three eastern rivers, which irrigate 80 per cent of Pakistan's cultivated lands. It also allows India to use the waters of the three western rivers allocated to Pakistan for producing electricity before they enter Pakistan. Since 1974, India has built 34 hydropower plants on the western rivers, mainly the Jhelum and Chenab, with a total capacity of 3,500MW.

The IWT has been universally acclaimed as an appropriate template for water-sharing agreements, especially between riparian states having adversarial relations. A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesperson described the treaty as "the gold standard in terms of water-sharing agreements". The treaty survived two major India-Pakistan wars and numerous skirmishes along their long and contested border. The treaty's elaborate dispute settlement mechanism was envied in South Asia and applauded in other developing countries.

The IWT's provisions inspired several principles of international water law, such as reasonable and equitable sharing of benefits; amicable resolution of differences and disputes; the No Harm Principle; and prior informed consent, which were subsequently enshrined in the 1997 UN Watercourse Convention.

India launched its assault on the IWT on January 25, 2023, by demanding intergovernmental negotiations for a new water-sharing agreement. India cited demographic changes, climate change effects and the need to produce renewable energy to justify its call for new negotiations.

THE DESTINATION

Editor's Mail

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Mudasser Iqbal
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Resident Editor Lahore

Bangladesh Garment Workers Clash With Police Over Wages

● Workers Demand 30,000 Taka Minimum Wage Amid Unrest



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BANGLADESH

Bangladeshi police fired tear gas and stun grenades on Tuesday in clashes with thousands of garment workers who were protesting after a key wage board meeting was postponed.

Protesters hurled bricks, torched vehicles and blocked the main highway between capital Dhaka and key financial district Mymensingh as demonstrations demanding higher wages turned violent.

The South Asian nation of 170 million people is the world's second-biggest garment exporter behind China, producing clothes for major international brands including Fruit of the Loom and Levi Strauss.

But growing worker unrest over wages that began in October has threatened to disrupt the industry that generates $38 billion in revenues annually and employs more than four million people.

Workers are demanding a minimum monthly wage of 30,000 taka ($240) -- a 140-percent increase on the current 12,500 taka, as they struggle to cope with rising food, housing, transport and healthcare costs.

Some 500 factories out of 4,500 are shut, sources told AFP, something that is further stoking unrest among workers.

A "no work, no pay" provision of the country's labour laws allows factory owners to suspend operations and withhold wages when production is disrupted.

"The owners seem unwilling to meet our salary demands. They are already dragging their feet," said Khanom, 24, who gave only one name.

Tensions were also running high in the other garment hubs of Savar and Ashulia on the outskirts of Dhaka.

The wage board, comprising representatives of employers and workers, was set up by the government earlier this month to negotiate a pay rise.

- 'Monitoring cell' -

The new minimum wage would be announced in December and take effect in January.

"We want to return to our machines," said Rakib, 28, another garment worker.

"We are not sure if the wage board members are aware of our demands," he said, adding that workers feared their concerns might not be reflected in the revised wage proposal.

Most factories had opened on Tuesday morning but were shut down as protests spread to the highway, Rakib said.

In a joint statement, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) called for a resumption of wage negotiations as soon as possible.

A wage board meeting scheduled for Monday was postponed after a member representing the garment workers said he was unwell, a source in BGMEA told AFP.

The next meeting would be held on November 23, the board said.

In the wake of Tuesday's protest, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) stepped up patrols across the industrial zone, deploying hundreds of personnel.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presenting souvenir to the head of Bangladeshi delegation during their visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Iraq's Kataeb Hezbollah Refuses To Withdraw From Stronghold

● Kataeb Hezbollah Vows Not To Leave Jurf al-Sakher

WEB DESK

BAGHDAD

Iraq's Kataeb Hezbollah will not leave its stronghold near Baghdad, a commander told AFP on Tuesday, after Iraqi authorities called on the Iran-backed militant group to withdraw and allow the army to enter.

"That will not happen, not even over our dead bodies," Abu Taleb al-Saidi said during a press visit to their stronghold in Jurf al-Sakher, south of Baghdad.

Iraq has been facing mounting US pressure to curb Iran's influence and rein in Tehran-backed armed groups, which Washington designates as terrorist organisations -- a difficult task in a country long caught between the two rivals.

On Monday, Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi gave Kataeb Hezbollah a deadline to withdraw from Jurf al-Sakher, after the government earlier said an investigative committee had confirmed oil smuggling in the area.



A security source told AFP that the deadline was Friday.

Kataeb Hezbollah said in a statement on Sunday that Zaidi's office was "fabricating lies".

"Since they were unable in practice to twist our arm with the slogan of surrendering weapons, they resorted to weakening us with the slogan of -- God forbid -- smuggling oil," Saidi told AFP, adding that he held Tom Barrack, US special envoy for Iraq and Syria, responsible for the "escalation".

"I can state decisively and with absolute certainty that the dream they dream of the Kataeb withdrawing from Jurf al-Sakher will not come true, not even over our dead bodies, our blood, our legacy, our wounded and our martyrs," Saidi said.

But Saidi also stressed that "in our record as Kataeb Hezbollah, we do not have any high-level clash with the Iraqi government or the security services".

"They and we are extremely keen to avoid bloodshed."

Successive Iraqi governments have long struggled to balance relations between the US and Iran, whose influence in Iraq has grown significantly in Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled former ruler Saddam Hussein.

Zaidi, who came to power early this year, has pursued closer ties with Washington, with Iraqi political sources telling AFP that his relationship with Tehran has been strained.

Kataeb Hezbollah has recently issued several statements criticising the prime minister, accusing him of corruption and threatening his government.

Senior Iraqi politicians told AFP that Zaidi had repeatedly said he was ready to "confront" groups if they did not disarm.

Taliban supreme leader makes rare visit to Afghan capital

NEWS DESK

KABUL

The Taliban's reclusive Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada made a rare visit to the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, heralding the "extraordinary turn of events" that brought him to power.

Based in Kandahar, the southern heartland of the Taliban movement, Akhundzada has ruled Afghanistan by decree for more than five years.

"Now that Islam has triumphed, an Islamic system has been established, and the Islamic Emirate holds authority -- it is essential to help people understand the true nature of the Islamic Emirate" of Afghanistan, Akhundzada said at Kabul University, according to a government live audio feed.

Akhundzada inherited the Taliban leadership a decade ago and has made only a handful of visits to Kabul in recent years.

A massive security operation was launched ahead of his attendance at the Kabul conference, about the impact of his decrees, with heavily-manned checkpoints installed around the venue.

AFP journalists saw snipers atop buildings surrounding Kabul University, dozens of Humvees guarding the gates and intelligence agents stationed in the area.

Kabul University has been shut since Sunday, staff and students told AFP, while residents in the area said their homes were searched.

Pakistan Urges Sustained Global Aid For Syria's Reconstruction

● At UN, Pakistan Upholds Syria's Sovereignty, Territorial Unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN

Pakistan urged the international community on Monday to deliver sustained, practical aid for war-torn Syria's reconstruction while upholding the country's sovereignty and territorial unity.

"Syria's transition continues despite considerable challenges and a complex regional environment; the progress achieved deserves recognition and sustained support," Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council , which held a briefing on political and humanitarian developments in that country .

"The scale of Syria's needs calls for predictable support and effective cooperation with the Syrian Government," the Pakistani envoy said.

Syria has undergone major political and social shifts since a popular uprising ousted President Bashar Al-Assad in late 2024. The



country's new leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, has engaged more closely with the international community and promised accountability for past atrocity crimes, while undertaking significant government reforms.

Pakistan, Ambassador Haider Shah said, welcomes the Syrian Government's efforts to advance the political transition, rebuild national institutions and strengthen engagement with regional and international partners", as the wider regional escalation adds to these challenges.

"The Syrian leadership's emphasis on diplomacy and engagement in navigating this difficult environment is highly appreciable".

The measures by the United States, European Union and United Kingdom to lift or ease economic sanctions on Syria and facilitate its reintegration into the international economy were welcome, the Pakistani envoy said, noting that those actions opened opportunities for economic investment and reconstruction.

Pakistan, he said, also welcomes Syria's investment and reconstruction initiatives along with regional countries, saying their timely implementation can help restore essential services and ensure that Syrian people experience meaningful improvements in their daily lives.

Sustained humanitarian assistance also remains essential, the Pakistani envoy said.

In the north-east, he said, Pakistan supports continued implementation of the 29 January agreement and the consolidation of progress in integrating security and administrative structures into national institutions. In Sweida, the implementation of the roadmap agreed by Syria, Jordan and the United States provides a viable path forward, he added.

Hungary suspends rail services to Ukraine after Russian drone attack



WEB DESK

BUDAPEST

Hungary has suspended railway traffic to and from Ukraine for Tuesday and Wednesday following a Russian drone attack in western Ukraine, Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar said on Tuesday.

In a Facebook post, Magyar said a Russian drone had recently crashed in Zakarpattia, around 300 metres from Mukachevo railway station. He added that the Hungarian crew of a train arriving from Hungary had been ordered to disembark.

"We are suspending rail traffic between Hungary and Ukraine for today and tomorrow," Magyar said.

Earlier, Hungarian Foreign Minister Anita Orban said Russian drones had attacked Zakarpattia in three waves at around 0900 GMT, primarily targeting areas around Mukachevo and Uzhhorod.

No Diplomatic Ties, Yet Israel And Pakistan Meet At UN Forum In Geneva

● Diplomats from two countries without formal ties meet through the Conference on Disarmament presidency

NEWS DESK

DUBAI

A rare meeting took place at the UN forum in Geneva. Israeli Ambassador Jonathan Peled presented his credentials to Pakistan's ambassador, Tahir Hussain Andrabi.

The meeting stands out because Israel and Pakistan have no formal diplomatic relations.

Andrabi holds the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. In this role, he receives diplomats from all member countries, including Israel.

The meeting took place within the UN's multilateral system. In such forums, countries without bilateral ties can still join official proceedings



and interact through international institutions.

There is also an interesting coincidence. Both Peled and Andrabi have worked as spokespeople for their foreign ministries.

Andrabi once served as spokesperson for Pakistan's Foreign Office. He later became Additional Foreign Secretary for Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security.

He has also been Pakistan's ambassador to Tunisia and Malta. His earlier postings include Beijing and New York.

Peled is a senior Israeli diplomat who has held several important posts. One of them was spokesperson for Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan held the rotating presidency of the Conference on Disarmament from August 17 to September 11, 2026. Pakistan continues to carry out the related presidential duties until the next rotation in 2027.

Pakistan ranks fourth among Dubai airport's busiest passenger markets

WEB DESK

DUBAI

Pakistan ranked as the fourth-largest international passenger market for Dubai International Airport in the third quarter of 2026, with 800,000 passengers travelling between Dubai and Pakistan, according to figures released by Dubai Airports.

The number placed Pakistan ahead of the United States and Germany among the airport's leading country markets during July-September.

India topped the list with 2.6 million passengers, followed by Saudi Arabia with 1.4 million and the United Kingdom with 1.3 million.

Dubai International handled 50.4 million passengers in the first nine months of 2026. Passenger traffic reached 18.8 million in the third quarter, while August was the busiest month, recording 6.6 million passengers.

Dubai Airports expects annual passenger traffic to exceed 70 million by the end of 2026.

The airport is connected to 235 destinations in 101 countries through 57 airlines.

US releases details of Megaspeed probe, says investigation began in 2024

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

The US Commerce Department and Justice Department released information about Washington's investigation into Singapore-based cloud-computing company Megaspeed, Nvidia's Asia-Pacific partner, which the departments said began two years ago.

Megaspeed has come under scrutiny after reports that Nvidia's former CEO Jensen Huang had an affair with Chinese businesswoman Alice Huang, a former top executive at Megaspeed who some US authorities suspect had ties to Chinese espionage



efforts.

Jensen Huang resigned from Nvidia on November 12 and Reuters has not been able to contact Alice Huang for comment.

"After identifying suspicious activity through proactive monitoring of potential sensitive semiconductor diversion, the Department of Commerce initiated an investigation into Megaspeed in 2024 for potential export control violations," the two agencies said in a joint statement.

James Bond: The Man, the Women and the World of 007

● Fascinating story of the world's most famous secret agent, his leading ladies and the films that changed cinema forever

SHOW BIZ DESK

LONDON

Few film characters have enjoyed the popularity, fame, and long life of James Bond. Known by his famous code number 007, Bond is a British secret agent who travels around the world, fights dangerous criminals, saves lives, falls in love and takes on missions that ordinary people can only imagine.

He is famous for his stylish suits, exciting car chases, beautiful locations, clever gadgets, thrilling fights and unforgettable theme songs. His favourite drink, a martini, is also part of his worldwide image.

But James Bond is much more than an action hero. Over more than six decades, the character has become one of the biggest names in the history of world cinema.

The Bond films have introduced generations of audiences to a special mixture of action, adventure, suspense, romance, humour and technology.

Let's explore the history of 007, the men who played him, the actresses who became famous as Bond girls, the most successful films and the impact of the series on international filmmaking.





1. How did James Bond begin?

The story of James Bond began with British writer Ian Fleming, who introduced the character in his first spy novel, Casino Royale, published in 1953.

Fleming had worked in British naval intelligence during the Second World War. His experiences and interest in international espionage helped him create a fictional British secret agent who worked for MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence service.

Bond was given the code number 007. The two zeroes meant he had a special licence to kill during dangerous missions.

The first screen version appeared in 1954 in an American television adaptation of Casino Royale, starring Barry Nelson.

However, the real cinema journey began in 1962, when producers Albert R. Broccoli and Harry Saltzman brought Dr. No to cinemas, with Scottish actor Sean Connery playing Bond.

The film became a success and opened the door to one of the longest-running film series in history.

How many men have played James Bond?

Barry Nelson the first man to play James Bond in 1954 Casino Royale.

Eight actors have appeared as James Bond in released screen productions since 1954. Six played the character in the official EON film series, while two appeared in separate productions.

Here is the complete list:

Barry Nelson, Sean Connery, David Niven, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig.

How many are alive and how many have died?

Four heroes are alive, including Lazenby, Dalton, Brosnan, and Craig, while 4 have died, including

Nelson, Connery, Niven and Moore.

A little-known fact is that Barry Nelson was the first actor to play Bond on television, eight years before Sean Connery appeared in Dr. No. David Niven played a humorous version of the secret agent in the 1967 comedy Casino Royale.

Robert Pattinson becomes the new James Bond

There is exciting news for Bond fans.

On November 16, 2026, Amazon MGM Studios officially announced that British actor Robert Pattinson would take over the role of 007.

The new film will be directed by Denis Villeneuve, known for Dune and Arrival, with a screenplay by Steven Knight.

Pattinson will become the seventh actor to play Bond in the official EON film series. He will be the ninth screen performer to portray the character once his film is released.

How many actresses have played Bond girls?

The women appearing alongside James Bond have become an important part of the series. They are popularly known as Bond girls, although many of them are much more than romantic partners.

Some are secret agents, intelligent investigators, brave allies, criminals or powerful villains. Several have played important roles in saving Bond and helping him complete dangerous missions.

There is no official final count because the term includes leading actresses as well as supporting characters.

A broad franchise count reported in 2026 puts the number at around 75 women.

Some of the actresses who have played Bond girls in the James Bond films include:

Ursula Andress, Daniela Bianchi, Honor Blackman, Shirley Eaton, Claudine Auger, Luciana Paluzzi, Diana Rigg,

Jill St. John, Jane Seymour, Barbara Bach, Carole Bouquet, Maud Adams, Tanya Roberts, Grace Jones, Maryam d'Abo, Carey Lowell, Famke Janssen, Izabella Scorupco, Michelle Yeoh, Denise Richards, Sophie Marceau, Halle Berry, Eva Green, Olga Kurylenko, Gemma Arterton, Bérénice Marlohe, Léa Seydoux, Monica Bellucci and Ana de Armas.

Which James Bond films were the most successful?

The Bond series has earned billions of dollars through cinema ticket sales around the world.



Babrik Shah Recalls Terrifying Experiences Inside His Former House

● Pakistani Actor Reveals Why He Eventually Left His Former Home

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistani actor Babrik Shah has shared a series of unsettling experiences he claims to have encountered while living in his former home, revealing how the incidents left him frightened and unable to sleep alone.

During an appearance on Tabish Hashmi's talk show, the actor recalled several unexplained occurrences that made his stay at the house increasingly uncomfortable.

Babrik said he would sometimes place his mobile phone on charge, only to find it unplugged and moved to another location later. He also recalled hearing the toilet being flushed while he was working, despite nobody being inside the bathroom.

Describing his nighttime experiences, the actor said he sometimes felt someone pulling or shaking his legs while he was trying to sleep. On other occasions, he claimed to feel fingers gently moving through his hair.

However, the most frightening incident, according to Babrik, involved what he described as his body rising a few inches above the bed.

He said that when he opened his eyes and regained awareness, he felt himself slowly being lowered back onto the bed. The experience led him to believe that the unseen presence was small in size.

The actor also claimed that the doors of the house would shake violently, giving him the impression that something was attempting to enter his room.

Babrik said the repeated incidents frightened him to such an extent that he stopped sleeping alone and began spending nights in his sisters' room.

He added that he tried to cope with the situation by regularly reciting the Azaan and offering prayers. However, as the experiences continued, he eventually decided to leave the house and move elsewhere.

Nabeel Zafar's Witty Caption About Humanity Wins Attention

● Nabeel Zafar Compares Fallen People To Newton's Apple

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistani actor and producer Nabeel Zafar has shared a witty Urdu message that offered a different perspective on humanity.

The quote read, "If Newton had seen fallen people instead of a fallen apple, today instead of Gravity, we would be studying Humanity."

Through this humorous comparison, Nabeel highlights how people's behaviour towards one another can sometimes raise bigger questions about humanity than scientific theories.

Nabeel Zafar has enjoyed a long career in Pakistan's entertainment industry.

He became widely recognised for playing the memorable character of Nabeel in the popular sitcom Bulbulay, which earned him a strong connection with television audiences.

Nabeel has worked as an actor and producer, building a reputation through comedy and family entertainment shows.

His contribution to Bulbulay remains one of the most recognisable highlights of his journey in showbiz.

Saba Qamar Wins Praise From Daniyal Raheel For Professionalism

● Daniyal Raheel Calls Saba Qamar a Genuine Artist, Praises Professionalism

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani actor Daniyal Raheel has praised actress Saba Qamar for her confidence, professionalism and dedication to acting, describing her as a genuine artist who brings out the best in her co-stars.

During his recent appearance on actor Ahmed Ali Butt's podcast, Daniyal discussed the difference between passionate artists and individuals who allow insecurity and ego to influence their professional behaviour.

He described two types of people in the entertainment industry: artists and narcissists. Praising Saba as an example of a genuine performer, he said, "When you meet an artist, it makes your heart happy. Saba Qamar is an artist."

Daniyal further highlighted Saba's confidence, saying she does not feel threatened by her fellow actors or attempt to overshadow them. Instead, she creates an environment in which those working alongside her can deliver their best performances.



Recalling an experience from a nighttime investigation scene, Daniyal shared how Saba instinctively gestured for him to be quiet while he was delivering a loud dialogue. Since their characters were supposed to be investigating discreetly, her spontaneous reaction helped maintain the realism of the scene.

Sahar Hashmi Joins Dar-E-Nijat As Belaa, Durefishan Saleem Welcomes Her

● Sahar Hashmi to Reveal Khushbakht Apa's Mysterious Past in Dar-e-Nijat

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE



Pakistani actress Durefishan Saleem has welcomed fellow actress Sahar Hashmi to the popular drama serial Dar-e-Nijat, where she will portray the much-anticipated character of Belaa. Her entry is expected to reveal important details about the mysterious past of Khushbakht Apa.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Durefishan reshared the latest teaser introducing Sahar in her new role and extended a warm welcome with the caption, "Ajao Belaaa, Bismillah for you."

Her heartfelt message has added to viewers' excitement, as Belaa's arrival marks a significant development in the storyline.

The character's name was first disclosed towards the end of the previous episode when Zaryab, played by Durefishan Saleem, came across old photographs of Khushbakht Apa. While admiring one of the pictures, Zaryab commented on the young girl's beauty.

In response, Khushbakht Apa, portrayed by veteran actress Sania Saeed, identified the girl as 'Bad-Bakht Belaa'. She also revealed that her parents had originally named her Khushbakht, adding another intriguing dimension to her mysterious past.

Belaa's introduction is particularly important because audiences have been eagerly waiting to learn about Khushbakht Apa's early life, family background and the circumstances that changed her destiny.

Viewers are now looking forward to discovering why she left behind her wealthy family and what events shaped her journey into the woman portrayed in the drama.

With Sahar Hashmi taking on the role, the serial is finally set to explore a backstory that has remained one of its biggest mysteries. Durefishan's enthusiastic welcome has further increased anticipation for the upcoming episodes.

Written by renowned novelist Umera Ahmed, Dar-e-Nijat features Sheheryar Munawar, Durefishan Saleem, Sania Saeed, Sahar Hashmi and Nameer Khan in prominent roles.

The drama has reportedly crossed 3.1 billion views across social media platforms, while its highest television rating (TRP) has reached 17.8. Its average digital viewership is reported to stand at 51 million.

The serial has also attracted audiences beyond Pakistan, generating discussions in Bangladesh and India, while international viewers, including Korean fans, have shared content inspired by the show.

With Belaa's arrival, viewers are now eagerly anticipating the revelations surrounding Khushbakht Apa's past and the secrets that could change the direction of the story.

Hania Aamir Shares Heartfelt Message About Self-Love And Growth

● 'You'll Always Be You': Hania Aamir Shares Meaningful Life Message

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistani actress Hania Aamir has shared an emotional message about personal growth, self-love and self-acceptance, encouraging her followers to embrace every version of themselves throughout life's journey.

The actress took to Instagram to share a thoughtful carousel post reflecting on the process of growing up, changing as a person and remaining connected to one's true identity.

In her message, Hania highlighted how different experiences, relationships and challenges continuously shape people's personalities, often turning them into someone new while preserving the essence of who they have always been.

Reflecting on the realities of growing up, she wrote, "I think one of the strangest parts of growing up is realising that you're constantly becoming someone new, while somehow always remaining yourself."

She also emphasised the importance of trusting life's unpredictable journey and allowing personal development to unfold naturally rather than feeling pressured to have everything figured out.

According to the actress, change can be both beautiful and heartbreaking, but every experience and phase of life contributes to shaping an individual's identity.

One of the most touching aspects of her message focused on accepting every version of oneself, including the person who made mistakes, the one who tried their best and the individual one is still becoming.

Hania encouraged her followers not to judge their past selves or believe they need to transform into someone else to deserve love and appreciation.

Concluding her heartfelt reflection, she wrote, "Because at the end of it all, they're all you. And I hope you never make any version of yourself feel like she had to become someone else to deserve your love."

She ended her message with the simple yet meaningful words, "You'll always be you."

Her Instagram post highlights the importance of self-worth, kindness and embracing personal transformation, reminding people that every stage of life deserves acceptance and compassion.

'Overwhelmed' Ariana Grande reacts to 2027 Grammy nominations: 'Crying'

WEB DESK

MIAMI

Ariana Grande is overjoyed after receiving four nominations in the upcoming 69th annual Grammy Awards.

The pop icon took to Instagram to celebrate after receiving her first-ever Song of the Year nomination for Hate That I Made You Love Me, as well as her record seventh Best Pop Vocal Album for her 8th studio album, Petal.

"Hellow, good day, crying !!!!!!!!!! petal !!!!!!!!" Grande, 33, wrote. "i am so overwhelmed, it is hard to find words at the moment, but for now, simply… thank you so, so, so much @grammys for recognizing my sweet Petal and Hate That I Made You Love Me in this way… i'm so irrevocably proud of this body of work and it is such an honor to receive this acknowledgement from you.

Grande, who is already a 3-time Grammy winner from a total of 24 nominations, thanked her co-producer Ilya Salmazadeh and Max Martin as well as her longtime collaborator and director for the Hate That I Made You Love Me music video, Chris Breslauer.

She continued, "Everything about creating and releasing this project has been such a meaningful experience for me already and this acknowledgement is such a sweet and unexpected honor and an extraordinary addition to that. So thank you, thank you, again… petal forever."

Grande also received nominations for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance for her Wicked: For Good collaboration For Good with Cynthia Erivo, and Best Video of the Year for Hate That I Made You Love Me.



Pakistan Edge India In Last-Ball Thriller At Blind Asia Cup

● Ali's 64 and a cool-headed finish give Pakistan a one-wicket win over India at ABG Sports City

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DHAKA



Pakistan edge India in a nail-biting contest at the Asia Cup Cricket for the Blind on Tuesday. The match was decided on the very last ball, and it left fans on the edge of their seats.

The game took place at Anvir Cricket Stadium, ABG Sports City. Both teams gave their all, but Pakistan held their nerve when it mattered most.

India won the toss and chose to bat first. Their openers set a steady pace, and the team ended on 179 for 6 in 20 overs.

D Tompaki was the star of the Indian innings. He stayed not out on 62 from 47 balls and hit five fours along the way.

S Shah gave him good support with 30 runs off 22 balls. Venkateswara Rao added a quick 26 from just 18 deliveries.

Badanayak made 13 and Behera chipped in with 10. India also got a big boost from extras, which added up to 29 runs.

Pakistan's bowlers shared the wickets well. Ali, Munir and Idris took one wicket each and kept the total within reach.

Chasing 180 was never going to be easy. Still, Pakistan began the chase with clear intent and kept the scoreboard moving from the start.

Ali led the way with the bat. He scored 64 off 51 balls and hit four boundaries. His calm play gave the innings a strong base.

Safdar played a useful hand too. He made 31 off 26 balls and helped keep the run rate under control.

Idris also made a key contribution. He hit 14 runs from only nine balls, and those quick runs eased the pressure at a vital moment.

Other batters added small but important scores. Every run counted in a chase that stayed close until the end.

India fought back hard with the ball. Venkateswara Rao was their best bowler, taking two wickets for just 14 runs in two overs.

R Singh, P Sharma and Deepak picked up one wicket each. Together, they kept Pakistan under pressure and pushed the game to the final delivery.

Wickets fell regularly, and Pakistan lost nine of them. With only one wicket in hand, every ball felt like a turning point.



New Zealand All-Rounder Santner Out Of India Test Series

SPORTS DESK

AUSTRALIA

New Zealand all-rounder Mitchell Santner has been ruled out of the two-Test series against India. He broke a bone in his hand, and the team confirmed the news on Tuesday.

The injury happened on Sunday. Santner was batting in the fifth one-day international against India when the ball struck his hand.

A scan later showed a fracture in his right hand. This is his non-bowling hand, but the injury is still serious enough to keep him out.

The first Test starts in Wellington on Thursday. The second Test will follow in Christchurch from November 27. The setback also casts a shadow over the next tour. New Zealand play four Tests in Australia, starting in Perth on December 9. That is only eight days after the India series ends. New Zealand Cricket said his recovery plan is still being worked out. The board will share an update on his Australia availability in due course.

Dean Foxcroft will take his place in the 14-man squad. The spin-bowling all-rounder made his Test debut against Ireland in May.

Spin rarely plays a big part on New Zealand pitches, as they usually help the fast bowlers. Because of this, the team can cope without its left-arm spinner. Captain Tom Latham may pick a four-man pace attack. Part-time spinners Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra could then give him extra options.



Spain Insists 2030 FIFA World Cup Final Will Be Hosted

SPORTS DESK

SPAIN

Spain has reiterated its intention to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup final, with Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) president Rafael Louzan ruling out the possibility of withdrawing the country's bid.

Spain is co-hosting the 2030 World Cup alongside Portugal and Morocco. However, the final venue has yet to be decided, with FIFA expected to make an announcement in 2028.

Spain is backing Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to host the tournament's showpiece event. Meanwhile, Portugal does not currently have a stadium considered suitable for the final, while Morocco has proposed the 115,000-capacity Hassan II Stadium, currently under construction in Benslimane near Casablanca.

"There is no other plan than for the final to be held in Spain," Louzan said during a conference at the RFEF's Ciudad del Futbol headquarters on the outskirts of Madrid.

He also dismissed suggestions that Spain could withdraw from the hosting race, saying he was not considering such a possibility because the prospect of the country missing out on the final was not under consideration.

Louzan's remarks came in response to comments by Alberto Núñez Feijóo, leader of Spain's right-wing People's Party.

During a television interview on November 5, Feijóo said that if he became prime minister following the November 29 general election, he would support withdrawing Spain's bid to host the tournament if Morocco were awarded the final.

However, Louzan described the possibility as entirely hypothetical, insisting that no such scenario was being considered.

Pakistan Reach 121-3 After Strong 80-Run Opening Partnership

● Tayyab Arif shares 80-run opening stand with Awais,Sri Lanka bowled out for 98 in 35.3 overs,Abbas, Jamal and Razaullah claim three wickets each.

MUDASSAR IQBAL

RAWALPINDI



Pakistan finished the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in a commanding position, securing a 23-run first-innings advantage after reaching 121 for three in 37.2 overs at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Young opener Azan Awais was the standout performer for the home side, remaining unbeaten on 47 at the close of play. Saqib Khan was alongside him on two runs, with Pakistan looking to extend their advantage when play resumes on Wednesday.

Pakistan's innings began positively, with the opening batters putting together an encouraging stand that kept the Sri Lankan bowlers at bay. Tayyab Arif played an attacking knock of 46 from 82 balls, striking six fours, while Azan provided stability at the other end.

Sri Lanka eventually broke through when Asitha Fernando sent Tayyab back to the pavilion, bringing an end to the opening partnership after 80 runs.

Mohammad Taha then joined Azan at the crease, and the two continued Pakistan's progress, taking the scoreboard beyond the visitors' first-innings total of 98. However, Prabath Jayasuriya halted their stand by removing Taha for eight off 29 balls, leaving Pakistan at 103-2.

Pakistan Takes Early Lead Against India In SAFF Champion Football Final

● Alamgir Khan scores a brilliant first-half goal to put Pakistan ahead in Dhaka

SPORTS DESK

DHAKA



Football fans across South Asia are watching a massive game right now. Pakistan holds a thrilling 1-0 lead against India during the SAFF Champion Football Final in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Both teams stepped onto the grass with huge dreams today. Pakistan is playing in its very first senior title match, while India is fighting to win its tenth regional trophy.

The match started with fast passing and high energy from the very first whistle. Pakistan surprised the loud crowd by taking control of the early attack. Star player Alamgir Khan found the back of the net to give his team a huge 1-0 lead in the opening half.

The Pakistani defense is working very hard to protect this early advantage. Every player is running fast and blocking Indian shots near the goal. Meanwhile, the Indian team is pushing forward to find an equalizing goal before the halftime break.

Both sides faced tough tests to reach this big stage in Dhaka. Pakistan shocked the home supporters by beating Bangladesh 1-0 in their semi-final game. India earned its spot by defeating Bhutan 2-1 after winning its group matches.

Right now, all eyes are on the National Stadium as the first half continues. With Pakistan leading by one goal, the rest of this match promises pure excitement for every football lover.

Rashid Malik storms into 55+ doubles semifinals at ITF Masters Mt700 in Pattaya

SPORTS DESK

PATTAYA

Pakistan's seasoned tennis star and former Davis Cup player Rashid Ahmad Malik, partnering Germany's Axel Hampe, advanced to the Men's 55+ Doubles semifinals of the ITF Masters MT700 Tennis Tournament being held at the Royal Cliff Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand.

The pair delivered an impressive performance in the quarter-finals, defeating fourth seeds Muhamed Mahmutovic (MNE) and Balan Ramadass (IND) 6-3, 6-2 in a commanding display lasting just one hour and 20 minutes. Rashid drew upon his vast experience, displaying exceptional court awareness, precise shot-making and tactical brilliance to outplay the seeded opponents.

Well supported by his German partner, the duo maintained control throughout the encounter to secure a convincing.

H.M.S. Chaudhry Amateur Golf Cup set to draw Pakistan's top talent at Defence Raya

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan's amateur golfing elite will converge on Lahore next week as the 12th Vice Admiral H.M.S. Chaudhry Amateur Golf Cup 2026 gets underway at Defence Raya Golf & Country Club from November 19 to 22.

The prestigious championship is expected to showcase some of the country's finest amateur players, with competition spread across amateur, senior amateur and ladies' categories.

Addressing a media briefing in Lahore, Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie outlined the event's format and underscored the Pakistan Navy's long-standing commitment to promoting sporting activities nationwide.

He noted that the Navy has consistently supported healthy competition and youth engagement through sports, helping establish the H.M.S. Chaudhry Amateur Golf Cup as one of Pakistan's premier amateur golf tournaments.

The championship has been designed to maintain a high level of competition through strict handicap requirements.



Pakistan And Sri Lanka Hit With Major WTC27 Points Deductions For Slow Over-Rates

SPORTS REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have both been punished by the ICC for bowling too slowly in the first Test of their series. The penalty has changed the World Test Championship table.

Sri Lanka took the bigger hit. They were 15 overs behind the required rate, so they lost 15 WTC points. Their points percentage fell from 33.33 to 15.47, and they slipped from seventh to eighth place.

Pakistan were five overs short, so they lost five points. They remain ninth and last on the table, with a points percentage of 3.33.

The ICC deducts one point for every over a team falls short. Players are also fined under Article 2.22 of the Code of Conduct. The fine is five per cent of the match fee for each over, up to a maximum of 50 per cent.

Because of this rule, Pakistan's players lost 25 per cent of their match fees. Sri Lanka's players received the full 50 per cent fine.

Match referee Dean Cosker handed down the sanctions. The charges came from on-field umpires Adrian Holdstock and Rod Tucker, third umpire Allahuddien Paleker and fourth umpire Faisal Afridi.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis both pleaded guilty.



Sherbaz Marri Wins Gold Medal At Nomad MMA World Championship

SPORTS DESK

KAZAKHASTAN

Sherbaz Marri wins Gold Medal at the Nomad MMA World Championship in Kazakhstan, bringing great pride to Pakistan and the people of Balochistan.

Sherbaz belongs to Kohlu district of Balochistan. His victory has made his hometown, his family and his whole province very happy.

The win did not come overnight. Sherbaz has worked for sixteen long years to reach this stage.

His journey began with Wushu. Later, he moved to boxing and learned new skills in the ring.

Over time, he took up kickboxing as well. Each sport made him stronger, faster and more confident.

Speaking about his feelings, Sherbaz said these years of effort have finally earned him recognition on the international stage. He felt proud that his hard work had paid off.

His story shows that talent can come from any corner of the country. With belief and daily practice, young people from small districts can also compete with the best in the world.

Many fans and friends have shared warm wishes after the news spread. People are calling his gold medal a big moment for Baloch youth and for sports in Pakistan.

Sherbaz's success also sends a clear message to young athletes in Balochistan. Dreams are possible when a person stays patient and keeps working.

Sports lovers hope that more support and better facilities will help other young fighters follow his path. A gold medal on a world stage can inspire a whole generation.

For now, Kohlu is celebrating. Sherbaz Marri has made his people proud, and his story will motivate many young athletes in the years ahead.

Pakistani Women Chefs Win Silver Cup At Istanbul Culinary Event

● Eat Guild team brings home eight more medals after strong show in the display, team and Asian cuisine categories

SPORTS DESK

ISTANBUL



Pakistan's women chef team has won the Silver Cup at the 6th International Culinary Competition in Istanbul. The squad also picked up three gold, two silver and three bronze medals during the event.

The all-female team took part from November 10 to 14 under the Eat Guild banner. Chef Faiza Bilal led the group, while chefs Nadia Khurshid and Fouzia Saeed joined her in the kitchen.

The team won gold in the display category. Its table showed Pakistan's culture and traditional heritage through food and presentation.

The chefs also won silver in the team category. In the Asian cuisine category, they took home bronze.

This is not the first time Pakistani chefs have done well in Istanbul. In February 2016, the national culinary team won 15 gold medals, 13 silver medals and one bronze medal at the 14th International Istanbul Gastronomy Festival. The team also took home four trophies and 30 certificates.

In February 2017, the national team finished first at the same festival.

Rangers, Police Decide To Intensify Joint Operations Today

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) and police have decided to intensify joint operations against terrorists and criminal elements, strengthen security at Karachi's entry and exit points and step up intelligence-based operations to improve law and order.

The decisions were taken during a high-level security meeting at the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Headquarters, jointly chaired by the inspector general of Sindh Police and the director general of Rangers (Sindh).

The meeting reviewed the overall security situation in Sindh, particularly Karachi, and discussed measures to strengthen coordination among law enforcement agencies.

Participants directed security agencies to enhance joint operations against terrorists and miscreants and tighten checks at the city's entry and exit points.

The meeting also called for stronger security arrangements at sensitive installations and intensified search, combing and intelligence-based operations.

Officials devised a strategy to accelerate action against extortion, illegal transportation of weapons and other criminal activities.

The meeting also discussed the handling of unverified extortion reports and measures to make operations against habitual offenders more effective.

Participants said no individual or group would be allowed to disrupt law and order or take the law into their own hands.

They said strict legal action would be taken against violators without discrimination, while the supremacy of law and the writ of the state would be maintained at all costs.



KARACHI: A significant fire erupted at a garments factory warehouse in Karachi's Baldia Town on Tuesday, igniting during the refilling of an underground oil tank by a tanker. Fire brigade officials swiftly responded to the incident, combating the flames and conducting rescue operations. The fire, which produced thick smoke and visible flames, underscores the vulnerabilities in industrial safety protocols. Rapid response by emergency services helped prevent further damage or casualties. This incident highlights the need for stringent safety measures in industrial operations.

Ahsan Calls For Integrated One Health Disease System

● Minister Urges One Health System To Prevent Outbreaks

STAFF REPORTER

PAKISTAN



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday stressed the need for an integrated 'One Health' approach to strengthen disease surveillance, prevent infectious disease outbreaks and protect public health.

He was speaking during a briefing on the progress, achievements and future roadmap of the One Health Project, delivered by Professor Tariq Mahmood Ali of the Health Services Academy and other relevant stakeholders.

The briefing highlighted that nearly 60 percent of infectious diseases globally are transmitted from animals to humans, underscoring the need for coordinated action across human health, animal health and environmental sectors.

Pakistan has prioritised six diseases, including rabies, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever and influenza, in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

Proposed in 2022, approved in 2024 and launched in 2025, the project has completed 25 percent of its planned activities. A major achievement is the development of South Asia's first One Health curriculum by the Health Services Academy, covering human health, livestock, slaughterhouse operators and community-level awareness and training.

The minister was also briefed on the development of an integrated digital disease surveillance dashboard to facilitate rapid reporting of disease outbreaks and ensure timely responses, with alerts reaching relevant authorities within minutes.

Highlighting the economic significance of the initiative, the briefing noted that the One Health approach could generate economic benefits of up to $30 billion and reduce healthcare expenditure by 35 percent.

It was further informed that Pakistan reported 962,575 dog-bite cases between January 2024 and March 2025, while excessive antibiotic use in fish farming had resulted in the rejection of 45 percent of fish exports.

Ahsan Iqbal called for stringent quality control, continuous monitoring and micro-level inspection mechanisms in line with international best practices for food safety standards.

Emphasising institutional coordination, he endorsed the proposal to establish a joint Steering Committee to strengthen collaboration among human health, veterinary and environmental institutions.

He also supported the establishment of a One Health Centre of Excellence at the Health Services Academy to promote long-term research, enhance disease preparedness and build institutional capacity.



Islamabad Expressway Service Road to be completed in 60 days: Naqvi

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said the Islamabad Expressway Service Road project will be completed within 60 days, with 40 per cent of construction work already finished.

Talking to reporters during a visit to the project site, Naqvi said obstacles that had delayed construction, including a gas pipeline, had been removed.

He said the government was developing the Islamabad Expressway along motorway standards to improve traffic flow and reduce travel time between Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

The interior minister said the service road would benefit a large population, while plans to extend it beyond Koral were also under consideration.

During the visit, Naqvi reviewed the progress of construction work and received a briefing on the project's implementation.

Officials said 40 per cent of the work had been completed and the remaining construction would be finished within the stipulated timeframe.

Speaking about environmental initiatives, Naqvi said a report by the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) showed that the number of trees in Islamabad had increased by 28 per cent over the past 18 months.



ITP sets Nov 30 deadline for smoke-emitting vehicles, makes fitness certificates mandatory

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has made vehicle fitness certificates mandatory for all vehicles in the federal capital and directed transporters to make their vehicles smoke-free by November 30, warning of strict legal action against violators after the deadline.

An ITP official told APP on Tuesday that the decision was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan with representatives of the Islamabad-Rawalpindi Goods Transport Union and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce.

He said the meeting discussed vehicle fitness, prevention of smog and measures to reduce air pollution caused by smoke-emitting vehicles.

The CTO Kainat directed transporters to ensure their vehicles met the required fitness and emission standards by November 30, warning that a crackdown would be launched against smoke-emitting vehicles after the deadline.

She said vehicles carrying sand, gravel and cement must be properly covered with tarpaulins to prevent dust pollution, adding that violations would also invite legal action.

Kainat said smoke-emitting vehicles posed a serious threat to human health and stressed the need for collective efforts to make Islamabad smog-free.

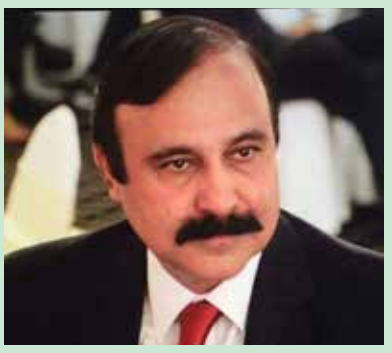
She said action against overloaded vehicles was already underway without discrimination, while enforcement against vehicles violating environmental and traffic regulations would be further strengthened.The CTO Kainat emphasized that protecting human lives remained among the top priorities of Islamabad Traffic Police.

Representatives of the transport union assured ITP of their full cooperation in implementing the measures to reduce smog and improve road safety in the federal capital.

Construction Of Layyah-Taunsa Roads To Be Completed Soon

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday said construction of roads connecting both sides of the Layyah-Taunsa Bridge over the River Indus had formally started and would be completed within two months.

During an inspection of the ongoing work, he said the bridge had been completed nearly a decade ago, but the absence of connecting roads had deprived residents of Layyah and Taunsa of direct access, forcing them to travel several hours to reach the opposite side.

To address this long-standing issue, the National Highway Authority has initiated practical measures and the construction of the new roads will be completed within two months.

Aleem Khan said that the completion of these roads would establish direct connectivity between the residents of Layyah and Taunsa, reducing a journey that currently takes several hours to just a few minutes. He also announced that proper lighting arrangements would be made on the bridge while Prime Minister will inaugurate the newly constructed roads upon completion.

Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that the people of South Punjab have an equal right to development, prosperity and basic facilities, just like any other area or city of the country. He said that addressing the longstanding deprivations of the region and ensuring the provision of people's legitimate rights remain among the Government's key priorities. He further stated that the people of South Punjab deserve their constitutional, political and administrative rights, including the establishment of a separate province, to ensure sustainable development and a lasting solution to the region's challenges.

Romina Alam To Represent Asia In Climate Group

● Pakistan's Romina Alam Joins Climate-Vulnerable Nations' Parliamentary Group

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has been invited to represent Asia in the Global Parliamentary Group (GPG) of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)-V20, a move that could give Pakistan a regional platform to raise the concerns of countries most exposed to climate risks.

The invitation, conveyed in a letter by Sarah Jane Ahmed, managing director and finance adviser at the CVF-V20 Secretariat, calls on Romina to work with parliamentary representatives from other regions to strengthen the voice of climate-vulnerable countries in international decision-making.

Under the proposed role, she would engage with parliamentarians and legislative institutions across Asia, facilitate regional cooperation and identify common priorities to inform the group's global agenda.

The Global Parliamentary Group brings together legislators from climate-vulnerable countries to push for stronger parliamentary action on climate change, including through legislation, public financing, oversight of government policies and international diplomacy.

Its agenda covers access to affordable climate and development finance, adaptation, resilience, loss and damage, energy transition and climate prosperity, alongside greater cooperation between developing countries and their international partners.

The invitation comes as climate-vulnerable nations seek a stronger voice in global climate policymaking and greater financial support to address the consequences of rising temperatures, extreme weather events and other climate-related risks.

District court reviews security, judicial affairs and prosecution matters

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



A high level meeting of judges, police officers and prosecution officials was held at the District and Sessions Court to discuss judicial matters, court security and coordination between relevant departments.

The meeting was chaired by Sessions Judges Nasir Javed Rana and Allah Yar Gondal.

Prosecutor General Manzoor Jajja, Special Prosecutors Adnan Ali and Raja Naveed Hussain, along with other officials, also attended the meeting.

Senior police officers were also present. During the meeting, participants discussed ways to improve coordination and cooperation between the judiciary, police and prosecution departments to ensure the smooth functioning of the judicial system.

Court security arrangements and the protection of judges, lawyers and visitors were also reviewed.

Officials discussed improving coordination between police and prosecution teams to ensure effective follow-up of cases and address legal matters.

The participants also reviewed challenges faced in judicial proceedings and discussed possible solutions through mutual consultation.

At the conclusion, judges, police and prosecution officials stressed the need for joint efforts to improve the judicial system and ensure the timely delivery of justice.

Rubina Khalid Visits BISP Office In Pattoki Today

● 10 Million Digital Wallets Created For BISP Beneficiaries

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid, today visited the BISP office and Dynamic Registration Centre in Pattoki, where she met with women beneficiaries, listened to their concerns and directed the concerned staff to resolve their issues promptly.

She informed the beneficiaries that under BISP's new digital payment system, women can now withdraw their payments at any time, seven days a week, from authorized retailers of any of the six partner banks, including Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Bank Alfalah, Bank of Punjab (BOP), Habib Microfinance Bank, Easypaisa and JazzCash, anywhere across Pakistan. She added that BISP has successfully achieved a major milestone by establishing over 10 million digital wallets for women, marking significant progress towards digital financial inclusion.

The Chairperson advised women beneficiaries to preserve the separate SMS notifications received from the bank upon transfer of funds into their digital wallets and withdrawal of payments, as these messages serve as proof of transactions. She emphasized that there was no need to withdraw the money immediately after receiving it, as beneficiaries could collect their payments at their convenience. She also advised them not to hand over their mobile phones or Benazir SIMs to retailers or any unauthorized person.

Senator Rubina Khalid further stated that under BISP's new policy, unmarried women aged 45 years and above will also be included in the Benazir Kafaalat Programme, subject to the prescribed eligibility criteria.

Later, she visited the Dynamic Registration Centre and reviewed the ongoing survey process. She directed the staff to treat women with dignity and respect, provide them with accurate information and resolve their concerns without delay. While interacting with the beneficiaries, Senator Rubina Khalid reiterated that all BISP services are completely free of charge. She urged women not to pay anyone for surveys, registration or financial assistance, and not to tolerate any deductions from their payments. She stressed that no individual has the authority to unlawfully withhold their financial assistance.

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