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Attaullah Tarar welcomes Sikh devotees at Daman-e-Koh

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar met here a delegation of Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan to participate in the celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak.

The information minister warmly welcomed the Sikh Yatrees in Punjabi language at Daman-e-Koh, one of Islamabad's popular tourist attractions.

The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, during which the minister engaged in an informal conversation with the pilgrims in Punjabi language.

Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar said that Daman-e-Koh was one of the most beautiful tourist destinations in Islamabad, offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the federal capital.

He said it was a matter of great happiness and pride for Pakistan to have sacred religious sites associated with Sikhism.

Besides taking care of these holy places, he said that Pakistan also had the privilege of welcoming and serving Sikh devotees from around the world.

The Sikh devotees appreciated the natural beauty of Islamabad, describing its scenic views and surroundings as remarkable. They said Pakistan is home to several important religious sites associated with Sikh spiritual leaders and personalities.

They particularly highlighted Nankana Sahib and Panja Sahib, describing them as highly sacred and historically significant places for the Sikh community. The devotees also expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality extended to them during their visit to Pakistan.

Maryam Nawaz Announces Major Housing Projects in Multan

● CM Punjab Pledges Rs312 Billion for Housing, Accelerates Development Across Punjab



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif arrived in Multan on a one-day visit on Thursday, accompanied by a delegation of senior ministers and provincial officials.

CM Maryam travelled from Lahore to Multan by a special aircraft. The delegation included Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Information Minister Azma Bokhari, Minister for Minerals Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, Irrigation Minister Muhammad Kazim Pirzada and Special Assistant Saniya Ashiq. Punjab Chief Secretary, Irfan Daulatana, Principal Secretary Captain (retd) Muhammad Shah Rukh Cheema and Chief Security Officer Hamza Amanullah were also among the officials accompanying the chief minister.

During her visit, Maryam Nawaz attended the eighth convocation of Women University Multan as the chief guest. She was also scheduled to participate in a cheque distribution ceremony under the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" programme, where cheques would be handed over to selected deserving beneficiaries. The chief minister was also set to inaugurate various development projects in the city.

Addressing a public gathering in Multan, Maryam Nawaz said all cities and citizens of Punjab were equally important to her, adding that the development facilities available in Lahore were also being provided in South Punjab.

She said roads were being constructed in South Punjab to the same standard as those in Lahore. Referring to improvements in previously troubled areas, she said places where gunfire once echoed were now peaceful.

Speaking about the "Apni Chhat Apna Ghar" housing scheme, the chief minister said Rs312 billion would be spent on the construction of new houses. She said around 250,000 houses had already been built under the programme, while the government aimed to construct one million houses within five years.

Maryam Nawaz said several hundred thousand more houses would be built in the coming years and urged people across Punjab who did not own a house to apply for the scheme. She described it as the world's largest housing project and said people who had previously lived in rented accommodation were now living in their own homes.

The chief minister also said she had undertaken an unprecedented amount of work, adding that the government would continue its development initiatives across the province.

President Zardari plans emergency Lahore visit for key meetings

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Amid heightened political activity surrounding the proposal for the creation of new provinces, President Asif Ali Zardari is set to make an emergency visit to Lahore on Friday, where he is expected to hold key political meetings, sources said.

The sources said that President Zardari's visit will last two days and is being undertaken specifically to meet key political figures.

President Zardari is scheduled to meet an important political personality in Lahore, while a separate meeting with the head of a political party is also expected.



Fazl Announces Protests Over Sargodha Ban

● Fazl Calls Nationwide Protests After Sargodha Conference Ban, Leaders' House Arrest Restrictions

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Thursday announced nationwide protests against restrictions on the party's planned conference in Sargodha, alleging arrests of party workers and house arrest of senior leaders.

In a video statement posted on X, Fazl called on party workers across the country to stage demonstrations and block major highways, from Kohistan and Chitral to Badin, Turbat, Makran and Chaman.

The confrontation escalated earlier this week after Punjab police deployed a heavy contingent outside his Lahore residence and prevented him from leaving ahead of a scheduled address to lawyers at the invitation of the Lahore High Court Bar Association.

The JUI-F subsequently approached the Lahore High Court, challenging the alleged confinement of its chief and the cordoning off of his residence.

Meanwhile, The Sargodha district administration imposed a 30-day ban on the entry of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and eight others, citing concerns over public safety and the maintenance of law and order.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari: South Punjab Should Be A Province, But Not Punjab's Four-Way Split

● PPP chairman calls for fair accountability, PTI's role in electoral reforms, and a stronger Parliament during Multan press conference

MUDASSER IQBAL

MULTAN

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that South Punjab should be made a separate province, but he has never advocated dividing Punjab into four parts. He said the country's system is in a state of collapse, and it is important to identify the reasons behind this situation.

Addressing a press conference at the Multan Press Club, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that despite the government's repeated claims and efforts to eliminate corruption, allegations of corruption continue to increase. He stressed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should also be included in the electoral reforms process, adding that decisions made outside Parliament would create further problems. He said Parliament must be strengthened, but a lack of trust among political parties remains a major challenge.

He said this was the first election in the country's history that had faced criticism from almost all political parties. Even members of the ruling coalition had alleged that the elections were rigged.



Bilawal said the creation of South Punjab province was the fundamental right of its people. He pointed out that the proposed name of the province had also included Bahawalpur, reflecting the region's demands and identity.

He further said that Pakistan was currently facing serious economic and political challenges. The people were struggling with inflation, unemployment and economic pressure, while there were no immediate signs of improvement in the prevailing situation.

Referring to constitutional amendments, Bilawal said efforts had been made to take all stakeholders into confidence during the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment. He said the 27th Constitutional Amendment had been passed with a two-thirds majority; however, broader political consensus was essential in constitutional and parliamentary matters. Clarifying his earlier use of the term "brute majority," he said he was referring to a two-thirds majority.

Defence Minister Says Makkah Pact Nations Will Discuss Yemen In Islamabad

● Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye meet to talk about Yemen, regional security and the next steps for their young defence pact

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Makkah pact nations are meeting in Islamabad on Thursday. A key topic will be the ongoing fight between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi group in Yemen. Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif shared this news.

Speaking to AFP, Asif said the constant unrest south of Saudi Arabia will be one of the main points on the agenda. He called it a very important issue. He also confirmed that defence and foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan will attend.

The three countries signed the pact in August. Under this deal, each nation has promised to help the others if any of them comes under attack.

Saudi Arabia has faced many attacks from the Houthis in recent months. The group has hit cities, oil sites and ships. These attacks grew after fighting in Yemen's civil war became more intense in July.

Asif made the pact's position clear. He said that under the agreement, any threat to



Saudi Arabia is also a threat to Pakistan and Turkiye. He also praised the way Riyadh has handled the conflict. The Houthis still control large parts of Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa.

The pact was formed as war spread across the Middle East after US and Israeli strikes on Iran in February. Asif said the alliance is still in its early days. He explained that the members need to meet often in the coming months. The goal is to have a clear structure ready soon so the pact can move forward.

Asif did not say how the alliance would respond if Iran directly attacked Saudi Arabia. However, he named Israel as a possible danger to the region. He said the chance of Israeli aggression is real, so regional countries must stand together.

Pakistan has also played a big role in peace efforts. In June, it helped broker a deal that briefly stopped fighting between the United States and Iran. That deal also set out a plan for reopening the Strait of Hormuz and for talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

But the truce later broke down. Both Washington and Tehran blamed each other for breaking it.

12 Terrorists Killed In Balochistan Intelligence-Based Operations: ISPR

● Security Forces Strike Hideouts in Noshki, Sibi, Panjgur and Kech

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA



Security forces have killed 12 terrorists in a series of intelligence-based operations across Balochistan. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) issued the statement from Rawalpindi on Thursday.

The ISPR said the operations took place in the districts of Noshki, Sibi, Panjgur and Kech. It described the dead as members of Fitna al-Hindustan, a group it calls Indian-sponsored. The operations have been going on since November 20 as part of the wider anti-terrorism campaign.

On November 20, forces targeted a terrorist hideout in Noshki. After a heavy exchange of fire, eight terrorists were killed. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from their bodies.

On November 21, forces stopped the movement of terrorists in Sibi, and the ISPR said the militants were killed in the operation.

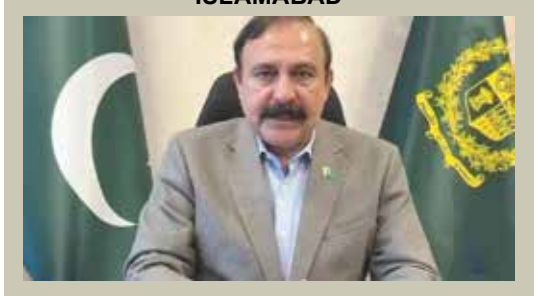
On November 22 and 23, forces destroyed terrorist hideouts in two separate operations in Panjgur and Kech. Two more terrorists were killed in these actions.

The ISPR said the campaign by security forces and law-enforcement agencies will continue at full speed under the National Action Plan approved by the Federal Apex Committee. It added that the operations will go on until foreign-sponsored and foreign-supported terrorism is completely removed from the country.

PML-N govt hints at constituting Electoral Reforms Committee without PTI's participation

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



A deadlock persists between the government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over the formation of the Electoral Reforms Committee, with the government hinting at constituting the committee without PTI's participation.

A third meeting took place between Government Chief Whip Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Opposition Chief Whip Amir Dogar, during which the formation of the Electoral Reforms Committee was discussed, though no consensus could be reached on committee matters.

Amir Dogar stated that PTI has not yet decided whether to join the Electoral Reforms Committee, adding that he is not in a position to submit names for the parliamentary committee on his own without the approval of the party leadership.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry stated that the government has already rejected PTI's demand for equal representation on the committee, urging PTI to clarify whether it intends to join the body or not. He added that the Electoral Reforms Committee can be formed even without PTI's participation.

The federal minister remarked that PTI's non-serious attitude is delaying the formation of the Electoral Reforms Committee, stating that it appears PTI is not serious about the holding of upcoming elections.

Petrol price cut by Rs1, diesel by Rs2 per litre from November 27

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has reduced the price of petrol by Rs1 per litre and high-speed diesel by Rs2 per litre, with the revised rates taking effect from November 27, 2026.

The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), in a press release issued on Thursday, said the price of petrol had been reduced from Rs314 to Rs313 per litre.

The price of high-speed diesel has been reduced from Rs348 to Rs346 per litre.

OGRA said the revised ex-depot prices had been determined under the petroleum products pricing mechanism approved by the federal government.

The latest revision marks the fourth consecutive day of a reduction in petrol prices and the third consecutive day of a decline in diesel prices.

With the latest reduction, petrol prices have fallen by a cumulative Rs9 per litre and high-speed diesel by Rs11 per litre since November 24.

Before the consecutive reductions, petrol was priced at Rs322 per litre and high-speed diesel at Rs357 per litre.



NCCIA chief orders swift action on public complaints, tighter scrutiny of cybercrime cases

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi chaired a meeting to review the agency's overall performance and directed officers to ensure swift action on public complaints, effective follow-up of ongoing investigations and indiscriminate legal action against those involved in cybercrime.

According to NCCIA compiled by APP on Thursday, the meeting was attended by Additional Director Administration Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, AIG Legal Tahir Kazim, Additional Director Islamabad Shoaib Khan, Deputy Director Operations Iftikhar Aziz and other senior officers.

The meeting reviewed the agency's administrative, legal and operational affairs, ongoing investigations, operations against cybercrime and the overall performance of various departments.

Special attention was given to strengthening the administrative structure, improving coordination among officers, expediting legal matters and modernising operational procedures in line with emerging requirements.

Rizvi directed all officers to ensure timely action on citizens' complaints and effective follow-up of cases under investigation.

The DG Rizvi stressed that all officers must discharge their duties with professionalism, diligence and complete accountability, ensuring legal action against those involved in cybercrime without discrimination.



IESCO Chief To Hear Complaints Via Facebook Live

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chief Executive IESCO Engineer Ch. Khalid Mahmood will conduct Facebook live E-Kachary on Friday 27th November 2026 From 09:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Consumers can contact Chief Executive IESCO via Facebook ID CEO-IESCO E-Kachery or call at Tel No. 051-9253105 according to above given scheduled to register and resolve their electricity-related issues. While registering complaints, customers are required to provide their name, bill reference number, and contact number.

IHC reserves verdict on intra-court appeal against CDA action at Bari Imam House

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday reserved its verdict on the maintainability of an intra-court appeal challenging a single bench decision in a case concerning the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) action against Bari Imam House.

A division bench comprising Justice Azam Khan and Justice Muhammad Asif heard the appeal filed by Muhammad Akmal, represented by counsel Ahsan Bhoon.

During the hearing, the court directed the counsel to read out the concluding paragraph of the single bench judgment.

Ahsan Bhoon argued that the site had not yet been demarcated and requested that a joint demarcation be conducted before any further action was taken.

He said the revenue record showed that the shrine of Golra Sharif had been granted exemption, along with other land. He added that thousands of visitors came to the shrine of Hazrat Bari Imam, but the langar facility had been discontinued.

The counsel maintained that no road existed at the site in the revenue record and that a committee had been constituted to examine the matter.

He clarified that the shrine was not his personal property and that he was its hereditary custodian. He said visitors stayed there and no commercial activity had ever taken place at the premises.

Bhoon also claimed that more than 600 acres of land in the Golra revenue estate had been exempted. He told the court that there was a dispute over the area of the site, with the CDA claiming it measured 60 kanals while he maintained it was 35 kanals.

He requested the court to appoint a local commission to inspect the site and determine the facts.

Justice Azam Khan questioned whether the matter concerned the shrine or a residential property and asked about the status of the land in the revenue record.



SARGODHA: Women browse and purchase jewellery at stalls during the PHA Lok Mela 2026.

Safe Medicine App Helps Pakistanis Spot Fake Medicines In Seconds

- DRAP's new mobile app lets you scan a barcode to check where your medicine comes from, its price and its expiry date

MUDASSAR IQBAL/WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Selling fake medicine in Pakistan is now much harder. People can now download the safe medicine app and check their medicines on their own, right from their phones.

The app works with the barcode printed on medicine packs. You just open the app and scan the barcode on the box. In a few seconds, the app shows where the medicine came from.

It also shows the price and the expiry date in simple words. This means you no longer have to guess if a medicine is real or how much it should cost.

The app uses easy colors to show results. If the medicine is fake or doubtful, your phone screen turns red. If the medicine is real and meets the required standard, a green sign appears.



This simple system helps everyone, even people who cannot read small labels or medical terms. One look at the screen tells you whether the medicine is safe to use.

The safe medicine app is not only for scanning. You can also use it to file complaints. If a medicine is not available in the market, you can report it through the app.

You can also report problems with quality. If a medicine looks strange, smells odd or does not work as it should, you can share your concern.

All complaints go straight to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). This means your voice reaches the right people without delay or extra steps.

Fake medicines are a serious threat to health. They can make illness worse and, in some cases, put lives at risk. This app gives ordinary people a strong tool to protect themselves and their families.

The Safe Medicine app is free to find on both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store. Experts advise everyone to install it and scan their medicines before use.

A few seconds of checking can save you money, time and, most of all, your health.

Over 900 Sikh pilgrims arrive in Hasan Abdal to attend 557th Parkash Purab celebrations



STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

More than 900 Sikh pilgrims have arrived in Hasan Abdal to participate in the celebrations marking the 557th Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

The pilgrims were warmly welcomed upon their arrival in Hasan Abdal and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made for the religious event.

More than 1,500 Punjab Police personnel have been deployed to ensure the security of Sikh pilgrims, while all necessary facilities are being provided to enable them to perform their religious rituals.

Talking to the media, the pilgrims appreciated the support extended by the Punjab government and district administration, expressing gratitude for the warm hospitality, love and excellent arrangements made for them in Pakistan.

Dr Adil Najam for clear decision-making rules & accountable climate finance

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Dr Adil Najam, Dean Emeritus at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University has called for a fundamental rethink of how UN climate conferences are run and judged, seeking clearer decision-making rules and accountable climate finance.

He was speaking at a special talk, "Conversation with Dr Adil Najam: From Antalya to Islamabad in a World in Flux," organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Thursday, said a press release.

Dr Najam, who is also the President of Wold Wildlife Fund (WWF) International, said a successful Conference of the Parties (COP) is not simply one that ends with a signed document. The real question, he argued, is whether an agreement carries meaningful substance. He said many past COPs ended with papers that meant little, and that in his view the Paris Agreement was the last outcome that amounted to a genuine legal document.

He urged participants to remember what a COP is: a Conference of the Parties to a legal framework convention. That legal character, he said, has been forgotten as the event has grown into a large public spectacle with too many spectators. The framework approach was designed so that countries could build binding law step by step through protocols without waiting for perfect science.

Dr Najam said calls to reform the process are not all equal.

FIA Offloads Woman At Multan Airport Over Fake Umrah Documents

- NADRA Verification Exposes Discrepancies in Woman's Umrah Travel Documents

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration on Thursday offloaded a female passenger at Multan Airport who was attempting to travel to Saudi Arabia for Umrah using allegedly fake documents.

The passenger, identified as Nadia Kanwal, was scheduled to travel to Saudi Arabia on flight PF-702.

According to initial investigations, Nadia introduced herself as a married woman during the immigration clearance process. However, discrepancies in her statements and suspicious documents prompted immigration officials to refer her record to the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for verification.

Subsequent verification reportedly revealed that the woman had attempted to travel to Saudi Arabia in connivance with an agent and that the man she had identified as her husband was not her actual spouse.

According to the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) record, her real husband lives in Pakistan and has never travelled abroad.

The FIA handed the woman over to its Anti-Human Trafficking Circle in Multan for further interrogation and legal proceedings.

DIG Ali orders crackdown on car, motorcycle theft gangs, proclaimed offenders

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem on Thursday chaired an important meeting on crime prevention and directed police officers to intensify operations against active gangs involved in car and motorcycle theft and ensure the recovery of stolen property. An official told APP on Thursday that the meeting was attended by SSP Organised Crime Unit (OCU) Hassam Bin Iqbal, SSP Investigation Zain Asim, zonal SPs, Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) of Saddar Zone.

DIG Ali directed the officers to ensure the early completion of investigations into pending cases and take special measures to arrest criminals with previous criminal records and proclaimed offenders involved in serious crimes.

Russia-Pakistan identify new areas of Cooperation following 11th meeting of intergovernmental Commission

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Russian Energy Minister, Sergey Tsivilev and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, co-chaired the 11th meeting of the Russia-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation (IGC).

"Pakistan is an important partner for Russia in South Asia. Our countries share a long-standing tradition of friendship, mutual respect and consideration for each other's interests," Sergey Tsivilev noted.

Energy remains one of the key areas of bilateral cooperation. The two sides discussed prospects for collaboration in the oil and gas sector, the construction of a hydropower plant in Pakistan, and increased supplies of Russian energy resources and equipment, including liquefied natural gas (LNG) and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

An important prerequisite for further progress in this area is Pakistan's recognition of Russian oil and gas standards. According to Sergey Tsivilev, efforts to resolve this issue were already underway, said a release issued here on Thursday.

Space cooperation offers further opportunities for partnership. Russia is interested in expanding cooperation with Pakistan, building on the shared interests and scientific and technological potential of both countries.

Rana Muhammad Bilaal Appointed Chairman of ICCI Standing Committee on Youth Entrepreneurial Potential

● ICCI Entrusts Rana Bilaal with Leading Role in Youth Business Development

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Rana Muhammad Bilaal has been appointed as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Youth Entrepreneurial Potential at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), marking an important milestone in his commitment to youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and economic development.

On this prestigious occasion, Rana Muhammad Bilaal expressed his heartfelt gratitude to ICCI President Zakria Zia, Senior Vice President Ashfaq Chatha, and Vice President Mr. Waqas Khan Swati for their trust, encouragement and unwavering support.

He also acknowledged the prayers and support of his parents, Traders Welfare Association I-8 Markaz, and his friends.

Rana Muhammad Bilaal reaffirmed his commitment to promoting youth entrepreneurship, encouraging innovation, supporting emerging business leaders and creating meaningful opportunities for the younger generation.

He stated that a comprehensive vision and action plan for the committee would be shared soon.

"Empowering youth today means building a stronger economic future tomorrow."

InshaAllah, a new journey of vision, dedication and impact begins.

Pak-Maldives direct flights by May 2027, new investment avenues, stronger trade ties



FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan visited the third day of FoodAg Pakistan 2026 at the Karachi Expo Centre, where he held a high-level bilateral meeting with the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Saeed, and engaged with international delegates, exhibitors and Pakistan's Trade and Investment Officers (TIOs) to explore new avenues for trade, investment and export promotion.

During his meeting with the Maldivian Minister, both sides discussed a broad framework of economic cooperation encompassing direct air connectivity, maritime links, bilateral trade, tourism, investment, healthcare and human resource development, said a release issued here on Thursday.

The Maldivian delegation indicated that it was targeting "May 2027 for the launch of direct flights between Pakistan and the Maldives", subject to the completion of necessary arrangements. The Chief Executive of the Maldivian national airline also attended the meeting.

Welcoming the proposed initiative, Jam Kamal Khan observed that direct flights, complemented by commercially viable shipping services, could significantly strengthen business exchanges, tourism and trade between the two countries.

Finance Minister, UNDP Discuss Climate Finance Cooperation Initiative

● Aurangzeb, UNDP Discuss Climate Finance Under Türkiye COP31 Bridge Initiative Talks

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday met a delegation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), led by Resident Representative Samuel Rizk, to discuss Pakistan's development priorities, climate finance opportunities and enhanced cooperation with development partners.

Senior Ministry of Finance officials also attended the meeting, according to a press release issued by finance ministry.

The UNDP delegation highlighted Pakistan's progress in developing a pipeline of potential investments aligned with national development and climate priorities.

The portfolio brings together projects from the SDG Investment Pipeline, Climate Prosperity Plans and other climate adaptation initiatives.

It comprises a range of projects covering clean energy and infrastructure, climate resilience, water and food security, ecosystems, and circular economy initiatives.

The UNDP noted that the portfolio could serve as a starting point for identifying investment opportunities and mobilising resources.

The discussion focused on prioritising technically sound, investment-ready projects capable of delivering tangible results within a shorter timeframe.

On the occasion, the Finance Minister underscored the importance of aligning the initiative with national priorities and concrete development outcomes. He emphasised that the next phase should focus on a carefully selected portfolio of projects with clear implementation pathways and the potential to demonstrate timely progress.

The Minister highlighted the importance of close coordination and stakeholder consultation to ensure that the initiative remains aligned with national priorities, drawing on relevant institutional expertise and mandates.

He observed that climate finance requires a coordinated approach to project development, financing and implementation. He emphasised the need to build on existing project pipelines, engage relevant stakeholders and identify opportunities to accelerate projects already under consideration by multilateral development partners.

The Minister also stressed the importance of making effective use of available financing opportunities, including concessional resources, climate funds and private-sector investment, while recognising the time required to mobilise international finance. He called for a focused and manageable set of priority projects.

The UNDP outlined its proposed support in refining the portfolio, undertaking a diagnostic assessment, facilitating project preparation and engaging with global climate financing mechanisms.

The discussion also covered blended finance and public-private partnerships, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, waste management, recycling and climate-smart agriculture.

The meeting also considered lessons from recent climate-induced disasters and the importance of strengthening long-term resilience through institutional preparedness, disaster risk reduction and enhanced institutional capacity.

The Finance Minister welcomed UNDP's continued engagement and reaffirmed the Ministry of Finance's readiness to support a coordinated and results-oriented approach. He emphasised that effective collaboration among government institutions and development partners would be essential to translate priorities into bankable projects and mobilise financing.

Both sides agreed to maintain close engagement, further refine the project portfolio and identify priority projects for focused follow-up. The Minister stressed the importance of maintaining momentum and ensuring practical and measurable progress in climate resilience and sustainable development.

The UNDP delegation included Deputy Resident Representative Ms. Van Nguyen; Assistant Resident Representatives Mr. Shiraz Ali Shah and Ms. Naghma-e-Tehniyat Jerral; and Programme Analyst Ms. Bushra Gul.

Trump Proposes New Tariffs Of 40% On China, 35% On Vietnam, 25% On India

● China, India, Japan and the EU face new duties of up to 40%, while markets slide and partners push back

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON



Trump proposes new tariffs on 14 major trading partners, including China, Japan, India and the European Union. The plan was announced, November 25.

The President blames unfair trade practices and excess factory output abroad. His party's losses in the midterm elections have not slowed his trade push.

The headline tariff rates range from 20% to 40%. However, the administration says duties will be capped at lower levels set under current or pending trade deals.

China faces the highest capped rate at 20%. This comes on top of the roughly 25% in duties from Trump's first term. The rate matches the current US-China trade truce, which ends on January 10. If the truce collapses, the rate could jump to 40%.

Vietnam would pay 20% if it signs a trade deal with the US, or 35% if it does not. India would pay 17% if talks succeed, or 25% if they fail.

Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the EU and Switzerland would each face 15%. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Bangladesh would face 18%. Singapore gets the lowest rate at 10%.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the duties target industrial strategies built around dominating manufacturing. The tariffs are set to take effect after a public hearing on January 25.

China quickly rejected the claims. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun called overcapacity a "false issue" and said Beijing opposes using it for political manipulation.

The European Commission also strongly denied that Europe has an overcapacity problem. It noted that tariffs on EU goods will stay capped at 15%, as agreed last year.

Brazil was handled separately. The US proposed a 10% duty on Embraer aircraft and higher duties on extra Brazilian sugar. Brazil was the only country investigated, while Mexico and Norway were left out.

Ivorian trade delegation arrives in Karachi to explore food and agriculture opportunities

FINANCE REPORTER

KARACHI



A three-member trade delegation from Côte d'Ivoire has arrived in Karachi to participate in the Food & Agriculture Exhibition at the Karachi Expo Centre, aiming to explore business opportunities and strengthen trade relations between Pakistan and Côte d'Ivoire.

The delegation also visited the Honorary Consulate of Côte d'Ivoire in Karachi, where it received a warm welcome. On the occasion, the delegates were presented with traditional Sindhi Ajrak as a gesture of Pakistani hospitality and cultural friendship.

Speaking on the occasion, Honorary Consul of Côte d'Ivoire to Pakistan, H.E. Fazal Kareem Dadabhoy, said that the delegation's visit was aimed at exploring opportunities in the food and agriculture sectors, establishing business connections and promoting bilateral trade.

The visiting delegates appreciated Karachi's renowned hospitality, traditional cuisine and warm welcome. They particularly praised the city's famous biryani, describing it as exceptional.

Rs300 billion SME financing package to unlock industrial growth, create jobs: Javed Sharif

FINANCE REPORTER

FAISALABAD



Chairman All Pakistan Cotton Power Looms Association (APCPLA) Chaudhry Javed Sharif has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement of a Rs300 billion concessional loan package for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), describing it as a significant breakthrough that could strengthen the national industrial base, accelerate economic activity and open up new employment opportunities for youth of the country.

In a statement here on Thursday, he said that small and medium-sized industries were backbone of national economy, playing a vital role in sustaining industrial production, generating employment and supporting business activities. Provision of affordable financing to SMEs on easy terms would enable them to overcome financial constraints, expand operations and enhance their contribution to economic growth, he added.

Chaudhry Javed Sharif said that allocation of Rs300 billion for SME sector was an encouraging step that reflected the government's recognition of the importance of small businesses, traders and industrialists in the country's economic development.

He observed that easier access to credit would provide small entrepreneurs and industrialists with opportunities to expand their businesses, invest in modern technology, improve production capacity and make their enterprises more competitive. It would also encourage new business ventures, stimulate investment and create additional employment opportunities, particularly for young people, he added.

The association chairman expressed hope that the government would ensure transparent, efficient and effective implementation of the financing package so that its benefits could reach genuinely deserving small business owners, traders and industrialists without unnecessary hurdles.

Govt Proposes Fixing Fuel Adjustment At Rs0.83 For Three Months

● Power Division plans to cap the Fuel Cost Adjustment from October to December 2026 to protect consumers from rising global fuel costs

FINANCE REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The govt proposes fixing fuel adjustment charges on electricity bills for three months, from October to December 2026. The Power Division announced the move on Thursday to protect people from the rising cost of international fuel.

Under the new plan, called the Forward-Looking Fuel Cost Adjustment (FFCA), the increase will stay at about Rs0.83 per unit, including taxes. This amount will be added on top of the September 2026 FCA.

The Power Division said it will send policy guidelines to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) once all approvals are in place. Nepra will then put the plan into action.

The goal is simple. The government wants electricity prices to be more stable and easier to predict. It also hopes to shield consumers, especially businesses, from sudden fuel price shocks.

Tariffs Had Been Falling

According to the Power Division, the average electricity tariff was Rs53.04 per unit when the current government took charge in March 2024. By March 2026, it had dropped by Rs8.76 to Rs44.28 per unit.

Industrial users saw an even bigger cut. Their tariff fell by Rs18.49, from Rs62.99 to Rs44.50 per unit, over the same period.

War Pushed Fuel Prices Up

Things changed after the Iran-US war and the energy crisis that followed in the Middle East. Prices of LNG and coal jumped sharply, which pushed monthly FCAs higher.

The Power Division said it saved consumers from an extra FCA rise of Rs6 to Rs7 per unit between April and September 2026. This was done through better fuel use and a public load management plan. As a result, the combined FCA and Quarterly Tariff Adjustment increase was kept to an average of Rs2.38 per unit.

Beyond The Battlefield: Kashmiri Women And The Burden Of Militarization

By Laiba Tariq



Every year 25 November, marked as the International Day for the Elimination of violence against women. People together across the World to condemn violence against women. Governments issue statements, international organizations renew their commitments, do campaigns against the women violence and call for justice, dignity and equality.

Yet in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), face disturbing contradiction continuously. what happens when institutions responsible for protecting citizens are themselves accused of violating their rights? For Kashmiri women, violence cannot be understood only through domestic abuse or patriarchal discrimination. Decades of militarization have exposed them to allegations of sexual violence, intimidation, arbitrary detention and institutional injustice. Their experiences raise a fundamental question about the relationship between state power and human security.

One of the most troubling dimensions of Kashmir's conflict is the legacy of alleged sexual violence by security personnel. The Kunan-Poshpora incident of 23 February 1991, remains a painful incident. Women from two villages accused Indian soldiers of committing sexual assaults during a military operation. But the Indian Army and government denied these allegations. The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, 2018) highlighted the case and the survivors' prolonged struggle for investigation and accountability. More than three decades later, the Kunan-Poshpora continues to raised questions about the treatment of survivors. This incident also illustrates how delayed justice can deepen the original trauma. When credible allegations involving state agents remain inadequately investigated. The consequences extend beyond individual survivors, undermining public confidence in institutions entrusted with protecting human dignity.

Legal structures further complicated the accountability. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) of 1958 grants extraordinary powers to security personnel and requires central-government sanction for certain prosecutions. The United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights OHCHR (2019) identified such protections as significant obstacles for accountability. Meanwhile, the Public Safety Act (PSA) of 1978, also permits preventive detention. This law has raised questions over arbitrary detention and insufficient procedural safeguards.

Although these laws perform different functions but the report of UNHCR raised concerns about both laws, particularly their implications for accountability and individual liberties. Whether extraordinary security powers are accompanied by meaningful judicial oversight. National security cannot justify a system in which alleged violations become exceptionally difficult to investigate or prosecute. The consequences reach beyond physical violence. Surveillance, security raids, detentions, violation of basic rights and restrictions on civil freedoms can create an atmosphere of insecurity affecting women, familiesand communities.

After the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack, widespread counter terrorism operations which again bought concerns about detentions and restrictions on civil liberties. The United Nations human-rights experts raised concerns about reported mass detentions, student surveillance and harassment during subsequent counterterrorism operations. While governments have a legitimate responsibility to investigate terrorism and protect civilians. Security responses must remain consistent with human-rights obligations. The collective suspicion risks transforming entire communities into subjects of permanent scrutiny.

However, portraying Kashmiri women exclusively as victims would overlook their political agency and refused to remain silent. Women have organized campaigns, documented abuses and demanded accountability for disappeared relatives. Parveena Ahangar, associated with the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, represented the struggle of countless women for truth and recognition. Niharika Pandit's research in Feminist Theory (2023) highlights how women's activism challenges dominant narratives of conflict and creates political spaces for marginalized voices. Their resistance demonstrates that women are not passive observers of Kashmir's political circumstances although they are active participants in shaping demands for justice.

Kashmiri women confront with deeply rooted patriarchal pressures. Sexual violence can carry social stigma. While economic dependency and restricted mobility may discourage survivors from seeking legal remedies. Research published in International Studies Review (2024) examines how militarization and patriarchy intersect in Kashmiri women's everyday lives. This double burden exposes the limitations of approaches that treat violence against women as merely a private or domestic concern. Protecting women requires confronting both discriminatory social practices and abuses of institutional power.

Militarization and inequalities, leaving many women caught between societal pressures and an insecure political environment. Their experiences cannot be addressed through security policies alone. Security and accountability are not competing objectives. Lasting security depends upon public trust, impartial institutions and respect for fundamental rights.

As the world observes November 25 as women day against violence. So the Kashmiri women deserve more than expressions of sympathy. Their demands call for credible independent investigations, accessible legal remedies, protection for survivors and meaningful participation in decisions affecting their lives. International institutions should continue examining allegations impartially and demanding accountability.

Ultimately, the credibility of any state's commitment to women's rights must be judged by its willingness to investigate allegations against its own institutions. For Kashmiri women, justice should not remain a promise repeated every November. It must become a reality they can experience in their everyday lives. Justice must mean more than surviving conflict, it must mean living with dignity, freedom, and protection under the law.

About Author

Laiba Tariq is a Student of Strategic Studies (SS), pursuing her Bachelor's degree from National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad. She is research associate at Kasmir Institute of International Relation (KIIR) and interested about writing on different issuesaround the world.

Pakistan's Mineral Wealth: New Opportunities for Economic Growth and Global Investment

By Syed Mujtaba Rizwan



Pakistan is among the fortunate countries of the world, blessed with abundant natural resources and immense mineral wealth that offer tremendous opportunities for economic growth and prosperity. Vast reserves of gold, copper, coal, salt, precious stones, iron ore and several other valuable minerals are found across different regions of the country. Unfortunately, in the past, these resources could not be fully exploited due to inadequate planning, limited access to modern technology and insufficient investment. However, Pakistan is now making significant progress towards transforming its mineral resources into a powerful engine of economic stability, industrial development and international investment. In this regard, the successful organization of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 marks an important milestone.

The two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26), held in Islamabad, concluded successfully, attracting considerable international attention. The participation of more than 10,000 individuals from over 60 countries highlighted the growing global interest in Pakistan's mineral sector. During the forum, 13 agreements were also concluded between Pakistani and international companies, reflecting the enormous potential of the country's mineral resources for global investors. This development has the potential to open new avenues for investment, technology transfer and economic cooperation in the years ahead.

The primary objective of the forum was to connect Pakistan's mineral resources with international investment, modern mining technologies and long-term economic development. The participation of investors, industry experts, relevant institutions and business representatives from different parts of the world transformed the event into an important international economic platform. Through this initiative, Pakistan conveyed a clear message to the international community that it is committed to developing its natural resources through organized, transparent and modern approaches.

Pakistan's mineral wealth is not merely a gift of nature; it is a valuable national asset that can transform the country's economic future through wise planning and effective management. The extensive mineral reserves of Balochistan, precious stones found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, mineral resources in various parts of Punjab and natural deposits in other regions demonstrate that Pakistan possesses enormous opportunities to develop a strong mineral-based economy.

By Malik Muslim Raza Awan

Can New Provinces Build A Stronger Pakistan?



For a farmer in South Punjab, the debate over new provinces comes down to whether a milk collection centre will open closer to his village. For a young worker in Faisalabad, it is whether an apprenticeship will lead to a skilled job. A small manufacturer in Karachi wants to know whether goods can reach the port on time. These are the tests by which Pakistan should judge any proposal to redraw its provincial boundaries.

A provincial government closer to its districts can better align schools, training and infrastructure with local needs. Pakistan should also encourage provinces to compete for investment, better jobs and better public services. When one province finds a policy that works, it should help others put it into practice. Both reforms can begin under the existing map.

Bring government closer to the people

Smaller provinces could make it easier to supervise public services and respond to local problems. But bringing the capital closer is only the beginning. Districts need staffed clinics, functioning schools and police stations with the resources to respond promptly. Smaller administrative units could also ease pressure on the courts if judicial resources follow demand. That means filling vacancies, adding capacity where caseloads are heavy and improving case management so families spend less time travelling and waiting for hearings.

If the same political families and local power brokers capture the new offices, Pakistan could create 200 provinces instead of 12 and still leave citizens facing the same problems. Elected governments should set priorities and answer to voters, while qualified professionals chosen on merit should manage health, education, public finance and other public services. Open recruitment, published budgets and regular performance reviews would give citizens a way to hold both their representatives and administrators to account.

What Pakistan can learn from China

After China began its reforms in 1978, provincial and municipal governments had room to experiment within a national reform programme. In Guangdong, Shenzhen became a special economic zone where China tested a wider opening to foreign investment and export manufacturing. Industrial clusters brought manufacturers, suppliers and skilled workers together. Other regions could adapt successful policies to their own circumstances.

Regional experimentation and competition helped China grow rapidly alongside agricultural reform, infrastructure investment and access to global markets. The Chinese experience also warns against duplicated industrial estates and debts incurred by local governments pursuing investment. Pakistan's elected provinces should have room to try different policies, with incentives tied to businesses operating, exports shipped and jobs sustained. India's use of state-level development and export indices offers a closer example of how a federal democracy can measure progress and share what works.

Build on what each region does well

Central Punjab should become an export manufacturing hub built around Lahore, Gujranwala and Sialkot. Gujranwala's engineering and metalworking businesses and Sialkot's surgical instruments, sports goods and leather products provide a starting point. Shared testing laboratories, reliable utilities and technical training can help smaller manufacturers qualify for overseas orders. A motorcycle glove maker in Sialkot, for example, could use a shared laboratory to test its products against a foreign buyer's specifications.

South Punjab should earn more from agriculture and livestock. Multan and surrounding districts can develop mango grading, modern packhouses and fruit processing. Dairy districts can link small farmers to milk chilling centres and processors. Meat exports require veterinary services, inspected slaughterhouses, dependable refrigeration and compliance with importing countries' standards.

By Izmi Herlani

FROM FIGHTER PILOT TO SPACE WALKER



A Pakistani falcon conquers a new frontier — from defending the nation's skies to carrying its dreams beyond the stars. There are moments when a nation's pride seems to rise beyond the limits of geography. On 25 November 2026, as Wing Commander Muhammad Zeeshan Ali stepped aboard China's Tiangong Space Station, Pakistan witnessed such a moment. A son of its soil, an accomplished Pakistan Air Force fighter pilot, had crossed a frontier few ever reach. He was the first Pakistani to enter Earth's orbit and the first foreign astronaut to board Tiangong. For millions watching, it was more than a spaceflight. It was the sight of a Pakistani flag entering a new domain of possibility.

Pakistan Air Force has built its reputation on a distinctive ethos: discipline, courage, professional mastery, intellectual curiosity and a resolve to turn challenges into opportunities. Its fighter pilots are shaped by demanding training, constant evaluation, with preparation as the foundation of confidence. They learn to make critical decisions in seconds, trust their teams and remain composed when the margin for error is almost zero. Those habits do not end at the edge of the atmosphere. The qualities demanded of a fighter pilot—precision under pressure, rapid judgement, technical fluency, teamwork and composure in uncertainty—are equally indispensable in space. Wg Cdr Zeeshan carried that training with him. His achievement reflects an institution that prepares its people for tomorrow's challenges. Under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, PAF has placed renewed emphasis on modernization, technological self-reliance and the changing character of warfare. His strategic outlook recognises that air power can no longer be understood in isolation: cyber, electronic warfare, information networks, artificial intelligence and space-based capabilities increasingly shape the battlespace. The May 2025 conflict offered a sharp reminder of that reality. The contest was not confined to aircraft and missiles; it also unfolded across electronic and information domains. The world witnessed that PAF's offensive space capabilities disrupted Indian military satellite-linked systems. The strategic lesson is clear: future conflicts will be decided not only by what flies, but also by what can sense, connect, protect, disrupt and operate across multiple domains. Space is now consequential to national security.

Against this backdrop, Wg Cdr Zeeshan's selection for the Shenzhou-24 mission carries significance well beyond the symbolism of a launch. Selected under the Pakistan-China human-spaceflight cooperation programme, he undertook seven months of intensive preparation in China. Training covered spacecraft and station systems, specialised operations, scientific payloads, emergency response, crew coordination and malfunction procedures. In space, every checklist and decision must be mastered before the moment arrives. There was another demanding frontier: language. Zeeshan immersed himself in Mandarin, learning mission-related commands and technical vocabulary so he could communicate clearly with Chinese crewmates. He also embraced the culture around him, learning Chinese songs and poetry and practising calligraphy. It was practical preparation for teamwork and safe operations, where communication can be as vital as technology.

At his press interaction before launch, Wg Cdr Zeeshan spoke in Chinese about the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. He read Chinese poetry and described the mission not as an individual triumph but as a journey representing 250 million Pakistanis. His words bridged two nations and gave the occasion its emotional centre. Then came the moment that will live in Pakistan's national memory. After Shenzhou-24 docked with Tiangong, Zeeshan stepped inside the station as its first foreign astronaut. He recited Allama Muhammad Iqbal's immortal verse: "Sitaron se aagay jahan aur bhi hain." Iqbal's Shaheen, forever restless and unwilling to accept the limits of the familiar sky, had found a new expression in a Pakistani air warrior orbiting Earth.

The mission is also a beginning, not a finish line. It demonstrates what becomes possible when national institutions, scientific talent and international partnerships converge around a long-term ambition. As a payload specialist, Wg Cdr Zeeshan is participating in joint scientific work, including experiments in biotechnology and materials science. This work can strengthen Pakistan's research ecosystem and inspire young people towards science and innovation. The challenge now is to turn this moment into sustained capability through education, research, indigenous technology and cooperation.

A fighter pilot is trained to protect the skies above his homeland. An astronaut reminds us that those skies are only the beginning. Wg Cdr Zeeshan Ali has carried the discipline of PAF, the warmth of Pakistan-China friendship and the hopes of a nation into orbit. His journey tells every child looking up at the night sky that ambition need not stop at the horizon. Pakistan's falcon has flown higher than ever before. The stars are no longer just distant points of light; they are invitations. And this time, Pakistan has answered.

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AI Could Improve Interoperability Of NATO Weapons Systems: Commander

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Artificial intelligence could help NATO forces improve communication and information-sharing between their weapons systems, a senior alliance commander said on Wednesday.

NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, French Admiral Pierre Vandier, said AI was already changing the way wars were fought and could help military forces process vast amounts of information while enhancing interoperability.

"For NATO, it's extraordinary news because now we run AI interoperability," Vandier told reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

He said the technology could improve compatibility between different allied combat systems, allowing them to exchange information beyond their existing standards.

"We already have the technology. What we lack is the ability to share classified data at scale," he added.

Vandier said AI was already helping Ukrainian forces identify targets and monitor battlefield activity, potentially reducing reliance on human intelligence.

"You can see, if a leaf moves, if it's a rabbit, or if it's a soldier," he said.

He added that AI-powered drones could now navigate independently without requiring remote control by human operators.

Warning that the fastest developers of the technology would gain a decisive advantage, Vandier identified cloud computing as a major challenge.

He said partnerships with online data service providers such as Microsoft, Oracle and Google were essential for AI operations but raised concerns about protecting confidential information.

"Having the secret on commercial cloud is a big issue," the admiral said.

He explained that AI could help NATO allies share only the information necessary for joint operations while concealing sensitive data and maintaining military cooperation.

India's main opposition party sues Meta, alleging censorship

NEWS DESK

MUMBAI



India's main opposition party is suing Meta and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for alleged censorship on social media, party officials told AFP on Thursday.

Platforms like Meta's Facebook and Instagram are required in India to use automated tools to detect and restrict content identical to that which has previously been taken down.

The Congress party argues that those rules are being used as a pretext to block other content, including its own political material, that is completely lawful.

Its petition, filed at the Delhi High Court, challenges the rules' legality and Meta's implementation of them across its platforms.

Among other claims, it alleges that Meta has "arbitrarily restricted" posts carrying the name or photograph of senior party leader Rahul Gandhi, Modi's main challenger.

"The petition seeks restoration of restricted Facebook and Instagram posts, disclosure of government orders and the criteria used by Meta's automated censorship system," said Manu Jain, the Congress youth wing official who filed the petition.

It "essentially seeks to protect the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression", Jain told AFP.

The court has yet to set a date for the hearing.

The filing follows days of protests by Congress workers over alleged political bias in Meta's content moderation.



British Deputy High Commissioner Alison Blackburne and Deputy Head of Mission Tom Burge call on Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon in Karachi.

Pakistan-China Friendship Has Reached Beyond Earth Into Space: PM Shehbaz

● Pakistan's First Astronaut's Space Journey Reflects National Pride, Says Prime Minister

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House on Thursday, where the premier congratulated China on the successful launch of the Shenzhou-24 space mission carrying Pakistan's first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, to the Tiangong Space Station.

During the meeting, the prime minister extended his congratulations to the Chinese ambassador, leadership and people on the successful launch of the historic mission from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre on November 25.

Shehbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's gratitude to its close ally China for providing the opportunity to participate in the landmark space mission, which has enabled a Pakistani astronaut to become the first foreign astronaut to visit China's space station.

The prime minister said the achievement represented much more than the journey of an individual astronaut, describing it as a collective accomplishment of 240 million Pakistanis. He said the mission reflected the hopes and ambitions of the country's younger generation and scientific community.

He termed the historic development a reflection of the strong and enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, adding that cooperation between the two countries had now reached beyond the Earth and into space.

The premier appreciated Chinese institutions for providing training to both Pakistani astronauts and acknowledged the contributions of SUPARCO, academic institutions, scientists and the armed forces in making the achievement possible.

He said the successful mission would encourage Pakistani youth to pursue ambitious goals in science and technology and inspire them to set their sights on the Moon and beyond.

Shehbaz Sharif also requested the Chinese ambassador to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

Eastern Libya Leader Haftar Visits Erdogan In Ankara As Ties Improve

● Former rivals shake hands as Turkey works to build ties with both sides of divided Libya

WEB DESK

ANKARA



Eastern Libya leader Haftar met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. The meeting shows a big change in ties between the two men, who were once bitter enemies.

This was Khalifa Haftar's first official trip to Turkey. During Libya's civil war, Turkey stood with the UN-backed government in Tripoli and fought against Haftar's eastern forces.

Now, things look very different. Over the past few years, Ankara has tried to build closer links with key leaders on both sides of the divided country.

Photos released by Erdogan's office showed the president with Haftar and his team. His son Saddam Haftar, widely seen as his future successor, was also there. Video clips showed the two leaders sharing a friendly handshake.

The talks were held behind closed doors, and Erdogan's office gave no details. Before that meeting, Haftar also sat down with Turkey's foreign minister, energy minister, intelligence chief and top military officials.

Haftar's office said both sides discussed regional and world events. They also looked at ways to grow cooperation in many sectors that would benefit both nations.

A Look Back at a Tense Past

Libya has faced deep unrest since the 2011 uprising that ended Muammar Gaddafi's long rule. In 2019, Haftar's forces tried to take Tripoli. Turkey stepped in and sent armed drones that helped push the attack back.

In 2020, Erdogan even called Haftar "a mercenary." He also blamed the UAE and Egypt for funding him. Since then, Turkey has mended ties with many regional players.

Turkey's Role in Reunifying Libya

In October, Turkey hosted talks between Haftar's camp and the Tripoli government. It is one of very few countries that talks with both sides. On November 12, Erdogan also met Tripoli Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah in Antalya.

Also in October, Libya's eastern parliament approved a disputed sea border deal signed with Turkey in 2019. The European Union and several Mediterranean states criticized the move.

Rising Tensions in Benghazi

Haftar's visit came just three days after Ukraine attacked two Russian ships near Benghazi. Ukraine said a Russian warship, the Merkury, blew up and sank, while a cargo ship was also hit. Kyiv claimed Russia was moving weapons.

The Tripoli government has asked Ukraine to explain the attack. Eastern officials want an international probe. Haftar keeps close ties with Moscow, while Turkey continues to mediate between Russia and Ukraine.

Cairo Highway Fire: 31 Dead As Fuel Truck Overturns, Torching Dozens Of Vehicles

● A petroleum truck crashed and burst into flames on Cairo's busy Ring Road, trapping passing cars and leaving 21 people injured



WEB DESK

EGYPT

A deadly Cairo highway fire killed at least 30 people and injured 21 others. The blaze started after a truck carrying petroleum products overturned on the city's busy Ring Road, Egypt's health ministry said.

The crash took place in the Al-Warraq area of Giza's Imbaba district. Flames quickly spread to several cars passing by at the time.

Videos shared by people nearby, and verified by AFP, showed huge flames and thick black smoke rising over the crowded area.

Quick Emergency Response

The health ministry sent 39 ambulances to the scene. The injured were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Photos showed burned cars lying along the road as firefighters worked to put out the fire around the overturned truck. A bulldozer was later used to clear away the remains of a destroyed vehicle.

Health Minister Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar followed the medical response closely. He told nearby hospitals to stay on high alert.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly also spoke with senior ministers by phone. He asked officials to care for the injured and offer support and compensation to affected families. He also shared his sympathy with those who lost loved ones.

Investigation Underway

Egypt's Public Prosecution has opened an investigation. Forensic experts are checking the site to find the cause of the fire and measure the damage.

Early findings suggest the driver lost control of the truck. It hit a concrete barrier, flipped over, and caught fire. The flames then reached nearby vehicles.

Local media said the truck was privately owned and was traveling from the Marg district toward Al-Warraq. Officials have also spoken with injured survivors.

Traffic Disruption

The Cairo highway fire caused heavy traffic on the Ring Road. Bus Rapid Transit services along the route were also affected. The BRT operator said it had taken emergency steps to keep buses running.

A Wider Road Safety Problem

Road crashes are common in Egypt. They are often blamed on reckless driving, poor vehicle care, and weak traffic law enforcement.

Nearly 6,000 people died in road accidents in Egypt last year, according to state data.

Nepal moves to declare dead those still missing after August floods

NEWS DESK

NEPAL

Nepal has begun a process to legally declare dead thousands of people still missing after its catastrophic summer floods, authorities said Thursday, three months after the disaster.

A high-altitude glacier on the Nepal-China border collapsed on August 26, unleashing a torrent of water, ice, rock and debris.

In Nepal, the floods killed more than 1,400 people and left over 5,500 missing.

"We have started the process to declare the missing dead by verifying their details," Ram Bahadur KC, spokesman for the disaster management authority, told AFP.

Authorities have issued public notices naming about 4,000 missing people, including 623 foreign nationals, and asked for objections or corrections before formal declarations are made.

Additional names can be added following further verification, with the government expected to issue death declarations once legal procedures are completed.

The move follows a change in Nepal's laws last month, reducing the waiting period to declare disaster victims dead from 12 years to around six weeks.



Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker joined Octus to inaugurate its new office in Islamabad. This investment benefits both our countries. When U.S. companies like Octus expand into new markets, they grow stronger and more competitive, which supports American jobs and innovation at home. In Pakistan, the same investment creates high-quality jobs, brings trusted American technology and strong data-security practices, and helps Pakistani talent build world-class careers. Octus, a U.S. financial data and analytics company, chose Pakistan for its talent and its drive to compete globally. "Young professionals do not have to leave their country to work on global finance," Chargé Baker said. Strong commercial ties make us all more prosperous – Americans and Pakistanis alike. Congratulations to the Octus Pakistan team.



Puerto Rico's Jennifer Barreto wins Miss Universe 2026 on home soil

SHOWBIZ DESK

PUERTO RICO

Jennifer Barreto made pageant history on Tuesday night, becoming the first married mother to win the Miss Universe crown while delivering Puerto Rico its sixth title on home soil.

Competing at a sold-out Coliseo de Puerto Rico before thousands of cheering fans, the 27-year-old outshone 115 other contestants during the milestone 75th-anniversary edition of the competition. Her victory ends Puerto Rico's 20-year wait for another global title.

Tuesday evening's finale opened with an initial cut based on preliminary scores, narrowing the field to 30 semifinalists for the swimwear round and 12 for the evening gown parade. In the final Q&A round, Barreto was asked which human value society should never lose amid the rapid growth of artificial intelligence.

Speaking in Spanish, Barreto emphasized responsible usage: "If artificial intelligence puts our values at risk, then they were never values. Values are found in the consistency between what we say and what we do, especially when upholding those things becomes difficult." Outgoing titleholder Fátima Bosch of Mexico was on stage to crown her successor.

In a dramatic finish, Melissa Núñez of the Dominican Republic was named first runner-up, while Venezuela's Clara Vegas claimed the second runner-up spot.

While the event celebrated historic milestones for both Barreto and the host nation, the competition unfolded amid behind-the-scenes organizational disputes that notably resulted in the absence of six Southeast Asian contestants. Despite the off-stage turbulence, the milestone broadcast drew massive local support as Barreto secured a landmark victory for her country and modern pageantry.

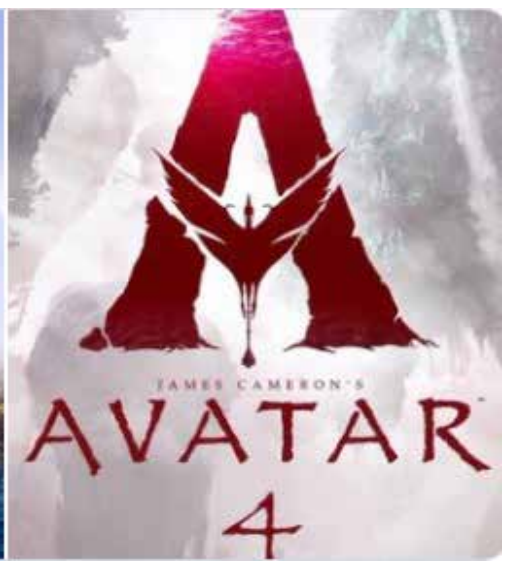
Disney Confirms Avatar 4 And 5 Release Dates

● James Cameron Avatar Franchise Continues With Two Sequels Scheduled For 2029 2031

SHOWBIZ DESK

LOS ANGELES





Disney confirms 'Avatar 4' and 'Avatar 5', with the sequels scheduled for theatrical releases in 2029 and 2031

Los Angeles

Disney has officially confirmed that Avatar 4 and Avatar 5 remain part of its upcoming theatrical release plans, providing an update on the future of James Cameron's blockbuster science fiction franchise.

The two sequels were included in the studio's upcoming film slate during its Upfronts presentation in Buenos Aires, Argentina. According to the announcement, Avatar 4 is scheduled to arrive in cinemas on December 21, 2029, while Avatar 5 is currently set for release on December 19, 2031.

The confirmation comes amid previous uncertainty surrounding the franchise's long-term plans. Both films were listed alongside other major Disney projects, including Black Panther 3 and Incredibles 3.

Cameron launched the Avatar franchise in 2009 with the first film, which introduced audiences to Pandora and its indigenous Na'vi population. The story explores the conflict between the Na'vi and humans seeking to exploit the planet's natural resources.

The series has since become one of the highest-grossing film franchises in cinema history. Across its first three instalments, Avatar has generated approximately $6.75 billion at the worldwide box office.

Shafqat Amanat Ali on carrying his family's musical legacy and forging his own path

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

KARACHI



Shafqat Amanat Ali says carrying his family's musical legacy is a responsibility he takes immense pride in, adding that it has made him more conscious of his work and the expectations attached to his name. The singer believes that representing a family with such a rich musical history means not only honouring its achievements but also raising the bar for the generations that follow.

In a recent interview with Fuchsia Magazine, Ali opened up about his musical upbringing, the lessons he inherited from his grandparents, the pressure of belonging to a celebrated musical family and the personal choices that shaped his career. He also spoke about his journey towards becoming an independent artist, his popular song Aankhon Ke Sagar, the making of Mitwa and the health struggles that affected his ability to perform.

"Whether I want to or not, I am representing my family," Ali said, explaining how he viewed his association with a renowned musical lineage. "It is not that I do not like that this is the case. It is something I am proud of. But as they say, great powers come with great responsibilities."

Elaborating on what this meant for him as an artist, Ali spoke about the standards he believed came with carrying a family name and the example he hoped to set for younger musicians. "It makes you more responsible and more careful. If you have done your homework and know what you are doing, you feel more responsible to raise the bar for the upcoming generation," he said.

For Ali, his relationship with music began long before he entered the industry professionally.

Sahar Hashmi highlights dangers young girls face in post appreciating 'Dar-e-Nijaat' team

● Actor reflects on innocence, exploitation and adults' responsibility to create a safer world for children

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

LAHORE



Actor Sahar Hashmi has spoken about the vulnerability of young girls growing up with limited awareness of the dangers around them, reflecting on the themes of innocence, exploitation and adult responsibility explored through her character in Dar-e-Nijaat.

In a behind-the-scenes video shared on Instagram, featuring footage of her in character, Hashmi expressed gratitude for the appreciation she had received for her performance and acknowledged the cast and crew who had supported her throughout the production.

Looking back on her experience of bringing the character to life, the actor began by thanking viewers for their response to her performance and the people who had helped her along the way.

"I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for all the love and appreciation coming my way. I truly believe it takes a village to bring a story to life and bring out the best in a character," she wrote. She also hinted at the developments awaiting viewers in the coming episodes, adding: "Trust me, you're all in for quite a ride."

Hashmi also discussed the period the drama seeks to portray, drawing attention to the social circumstances and experiences that shaped the lives of young girls at the time.

"We've tried to capture the innocence, naivety and romance of the '90s, a time when young girls were growing up with so little exposure, unaware of the dangers lurking around them, only to fall prey to people who took advantage of that innocence and trust," she wrote.

Beyond the period setting, the actor pointed to a larger concern that she hoped the drama would bring into focus, particularly when it came to the role adults played in shaping children's lives.

"More than anything, I hope stories like these remind us of the responsibility we carry as adults. May we grow into the kind of adults we perhaps needed when we were younger, and create a safer, kinder world for the generations growing up after us," she added.

Hashmi also acknowledged the people who had helped shape her performance, giving a special mention to her co-stars and the creative team behind the production.

Among her co-stars, she singled out Sheheryar Munawar, who plays Abu Bakar, for the support he had extended on set. "A special shoutout to Sherry for always being the easiest and most helpful co-actor," she wrote.

Gangster vibes take over Chitral as Ali Zafar and Feroze Khan shoot together



SHOWBIZ REPORTER

CHIRTAL

Pakistani actors Ali Zafar and Feroze Khan have caught attention with BTS glimpses from Chitral, where their upcoming web series Gangs of Khorasan is being filmed.

A recent look at the sets shows the two stars together against the scenic mountain backdrop, giving fans a glimpse of the crime drama currently in production.

The project has generated interest among drama and film fans, particularly because it brings Ali Zafar and Feroze Khan together in the same production. Ali is stepping into a gangster role in the series, marking an exciting new screen appearance for the actor in the crime-drama genre.

Ali Zafar will play a character named Bostan Khan, who is expected to be part of the series' crime-filled storyline. His rugged look has offered a glimpse of his transformation for the role. Feroze Khan is also among the leading cast members, making their on-set appearance one of the highlights of the latest behind-the-scenes update.

Directed by Hamza Ansari, Gangs of Khorasan has a creative team that also includes Naeem Ali, who is associated with the writing. Anas Ali and Aamir Chottani are serving as executive producers. The series features an ensemble cast, including Humaima Malick, Sonya Hussyn, Aima Baig, Syed Jibran and Farhan Ullah Aziz.

Shraddha Kapoor suffers injury while dancing with 8kg ghungroos

SHOWBIZ DESK

MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Shraddha Kapoor suffered a muscle injury while rehearsing for a song in her upcoming film 'Eetha', filmmaker Laxman Utekar has revealed.

According to Indian media, Utekar shared the details during the launch of the film's song 'Ji Ji Re Ji', praising the actress for her dedication and hard work.

He revealed that Shraddha learned traditional Maharashtrian dance forms, including Tamasha and Lavani, for her role as renowned performer Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar.

The filmmaker said the actress rehearsed for 25 days for each song, practising for up to eight hours daily while wearing 8kg ghungroos (ankle bells).



'Hunger Games' producer teases next plans after 'Sunrise On The Reaping'

● 'Hunger Games' creators reveal which movie they could 're-do'

WEB DESK

LONDON

The Hunger Games movies have now caught up with the books, as Suzanne Collins has not written or introduced the next installment in the franchise as of yet, but the producer shared how she might alter the series.

Nina Jacobson revealed that despite the love for the Mockingjay films, which were split into part one and part two, she would have liked to combine them into one movie.

"Even though I love the Mockingjay films, if I had it to do over again, I think both Francis [Lawrence] and I might try to do it all in one. Mockingjay was such a big book, and it takes you to so many different places. But in the end, I think that Francis and I both felt that splitting them up… even if it did come from an inside-out place of really feeling like we needed two films to tell the story, I think audiences find it cynical," Jacobson said in an interview.

She continued, "Even if its intentions are earnest, which they were. They feel like it's a play to make them see two films instead of one."

Fans reacted to the suggestion on social media, writing, "splitting it was the right choice. people complain that Mockingjay Part 1 was boring but i think if they added a few more scenes and made the finale stronger it wouldn't have been a big problem."

Another reasoned, "I see both sides of the argument. Is it an overly long book that could fit into one film? Yes. At the same time, splitting it kinda made sense. Each half of the book is a very different story and where they split it is where that change happens, so it also made sense."



A third chimed in, "they can do 10 parts I'd still watch this saga give me every page detail on screen."

While one suggested, "If they had a chance to redo films they should also add in Madge I'm sure they felt like they didn't have time but she's not like a small part of the story at all and she just gets more relevant with sunrise on the reaping. Not keeping Madge is probably their biggest mistake," and "diva what… it was the right choice… sotr should've been two films as well," added another.

Mishi Khan roasts Hania Aamir's stylist over her Netflix launch look

SHOWBIZ REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistani actress Mishi Khan has taken a sharp dig at Hania Aamir's stylist over the actress's outfit at the launch of Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo in Karachi.

Reacting to Hania's red-carpet appearance, Mishi left a blunt comment on Instagram, writing, "Her stylist should be sent to Timbuktu."

Hania Aamir attended the trailer and music launch of Pakistan's first Netflix Original series at Karachi's historic Mohatta Palace on November 24. The event brought together several prominent stars from the entertainment industry to celebrate the upcoming series.

For the occasion, Hania opted for a custom-made lilac ensemble by Taali AE. Her outfit featured a floor-length gown with a fitted silhouette, full-length sleeves and a dramatic cape-style train flowing from her shoulders.

The neckline was framed with delicate embellishments, while additional detailing around the waist and front added to the overall look. She completed her appearance with sleek, middle-parted hair, subtle makeup and minimal jewellery.

However, the outfit did not seem to impress Mishi Khan. Commenting on an Instagram post featuring Hania's appearance, the actress wrote, "Her stylist should be sent to Timbuktu," followed by grimacing emojis.

Mishi's remark was a pointed criticism of the styling rather than a direct comment on Hania herself. Timbuktu, a city in Mali, is often used figuratively to refer to a distant or remote place.

Through her sarcastic comment, Mishi appeared to suggest that Hania's stylist had made a poor choice in putting the look together.

Punjab Colleges for Women Holds 29th Annual Inter-House Sports Competitions

SPORTS REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Punjab Colleges for Women organised badminton and table tennis competitions as part of its 29th Annual Inter-House Sports Championship, attracting enthusiastic participation from students.

A total of nine teams competed in badminton and eight in table tennis. All teams displayed excellent sportsmanship, enthusiasm and remarkable skills. After a series of closely contested matches, Rabia House of Hill Campus emerged victorious in badminton, while Hafsa House of Ayub Park Campus secured the table tennis title.

The event was attended by President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APPSMA), Rawalpindi, Adnan Nisar, as the chief guest. Other distinguished guests included Vice President of Shalimar Club Naeem Anwar, College Principal Hira Riaz Chauhan, and other college officials and faculty members.

Addressing the ceremony, Director Punjab Colleges Chaudhry Akram said that sports played a vital role in human life alongside education, as a healthy body was essential for a healthy mind. He said Punjab Colleges organised such competitions every year, keeping in view the importance of sports, providing female students with opportunities to actively participate and develop their abilities.

Chief Guest Adnan Nisar said Punjab Colleges was a prominent and well-reputed name in the field of education in Punjab. The institution had established a distinct identity through quality education, excellent academic results and the overall development of students' personalities. He said the position Punjab Colleges had achieved in Rawalpindi and Islamabad was the result of Chaudhry Akram's hard work, dedication and consistent efforts.



Players of Islamabad and Lahore Board teams in action in a final match during Pakistan Inter Board Girls Badminton Championship 2026-27 at Officers Club, organized by Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Larkana.

Pakistan draw 5-5 with Malaysia and exit Azlan Shah Cup final race

● Pakistan finished level in a high-scoring match but missed a place in the final

SPORTS REPORTER

IPOH

Pakistan drew 5-5 with hosts Malaysia in the Azlan Shah Hockey Cup on Thursday in Malaysia. The match was high-scoring, but the result was not enough for Pakistan to reach the final. Pakistan still could not secure a place in the title match despite avoiding defeat against the home side.

The high-scoring encounter kept fans on the edge of their seats as both teams traded goals throughout the match. The result proved enough for Malaysia to advance to the final on goal difference, while Pakistan's hopes of reaching the title match came to an end.

Malaysia's star performer was Faizal Saari, who delivered a hat-trick and provided an assist in a standout display. His decisive contribution came in the 57th minute when he converted a penalty stroke to level the score at 5-5 and secure the crucial point for the hosts.

Pakistan also produced an impressive attacking performance. Ahmad Nadeem scored twice, while Sufyan Khan added a penalty-corner goal as Pakistan repeatedly challenged the Malaysian defense.

Despite Pakistan's five-goal haul, the draw ultimately favored Malaysia, whose superior goal difference earned them a place in the tournament final.



Match Details

– Tournament: Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2026

– Venue: Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium, Ipoh, Malaysia

– Result: Pakistan 5-5 Malaysia

Key Performers

– Malaysia: Faizal Saari (hat-trick, one assist)

– Pakistan: Ahmad Nadeem (2 goals), Sufyan Khan (1 goal)

Pakistan Travel Guides

The thrilling draw capped off one of the most entertaining matches of the tournament and sent Malaysia into the final, while Pakistan were left to reflect on a campaign that ended just short of the championship match.

PCB Announces Fixtures For Ireland's Maiden Tour Of Pakistan

● Ireland will play six white-ball matches at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, including a three-match ODI series against Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE

The PCB announces the full schedule for Ireland's first-ever tour of Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Board shared the details on Thursday. The tour will include six white-ball matches in January.

Ireland will land in Lahore on January 9. This will be a historic trip for the Irish side, as they have never toured Pakistan before.

The visitors will start with three one-day matches against Pakistan Shaheens. These games will be played between January 13 and January 17.

After that, Ireland will face the main Pakistan team in a three-match One-Day International (ODI) series.



The ODI series will run from January 20 to January 24.

All six matches will take place at the famous Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. Every game will be a day match. The PCB will share the exact match timings soon.

This tour is a great chance for Ireland. Their players will gain useful experience in Pakistani conditions before a busy international season.

Pakistan will go into the series full of confidence. Last month, they won the ODI tri-series at home. Under the captaincy of Shaheen Shah Afridi, the Green Shirts lifted the trophy after beating strong sides like England and Sri Lanka. That event was held in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

Past records also favour Pakistan. The two teams have played seven ODIs against each other. Pakistan have won five of those games. Ireland have won only once, while one match ended in a tie.

In T20 Internationals, Pakistan are also ahead. They lead Ireland 4-1 in five completed matches.

Fans in Lahore can look forward to some exciting cricket in the new year. The tour will also be another big step for international cricket in Pakistan.

Noor Ahmad's Four-Wicket Haul Spins Dubai Capitals To First Win

● Capitals bounce back from their opening loss with a 45-run win, as Noor's spin breaks the Vipers' chase on a slow Dubai pitch

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI

Noor Ahmad was the hero for Dubai Capitals as they beat Desert Vipers by 45 runs in the ILT20. The young spinner took four wickets for just 20 runs and helped his side defend 164 on a slow and tricky Dubai pitch.

This was a strong comeback for Capitals, who had lost their first game of the season.

Vipers chose to bowl first, and Capitals made a shaky start. Masood Gurbaz was run out in the very first over, leaving the score at 6 for 1.



Max Holden then fell to Shadab Khan just after the Powerplay, and Capitals were 45 for 2. Faf du Plessis scored 24 from 30 balls before Nangeyalia Kharoti had him stumped.

Sam Billings and Marcus Stoinis then took charge. The pair added 59 runs and gave the innings some much-needed shape.

Billings was the top scorer with 43 off 31 balls, while Stoinis made 27 off 24. Both fell late in the innings to Khuzaima Tanveer, who ended with 3 for 38.

Rovman Powell gave the total a late push. He hit two fours and two sixes in a quick 28 off 12 balls, taking Capitals to 164 for 7.

The Vipers' chase started badly. Dushmantha Chameera removed Babar Azam for just 1 in the second over, with Faf du Plessis taking the catch at slip.

Fakhar Zaman made 12 before Mustafizur Rahman sent him back inside the Powerplay.

Muhammad Asim Khan Qualifies For CAS International Squash Championship Quarterfinals

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Muhammad Asim Khan qualifies for the quarterfinals of the CAS International Squash Championship 2026. He was the only Pakistani player to win on day 2 of the event.

Asim beat Egypt's Adham Roshdy 3-1 in a match that lasted 58 minutes. He took the first game 11-7 and looked calm and sharp from the start.

Roshdy hit back in the second game and won it 11-5. But Asim did not lose focus. He came back with power and won the next two games 11-4 and 11-7 to seal the win.

It was a tough day for the rest of the Pakistani players. Four of them lost their Round 2 matches and are now out of the event.

The biggest shock came when top seed Noor Zaman lost to Egypt's Hazem Hossam. The match went to five games and lasted 51 minutes. Hossam won 11-6, 8-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-5.

Hamza Khan also lost a close five-game match. Malaysia's Yee Xian Siow beat him 3-2 in 57 minutes. The scores were 11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 3-11, 11-6.

Nauman Khan had no answer to Egypt's Mohamed Gohar. Gohar won in straight games, 11-3, 11-7, 11-3, in just 27 minutes.

Nasir Iqbal's match ended early due to injury. Egypt's Marwan Assal was leading 11-7, 11-0 when Iqbal retired hurt after 13 minutes.

Iranian men, women hockey teams to visit Pakistan next month

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Iranian national men's and women's hockey teams will visit Pakistan from December 22 to 29, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) said on Thursday.

In a statement, the PHF said it had received formal confirmation from the Iranian Hockey Federation regarding the week-long visit.

During their stay in Islamabad, both Iranian teams will participate in joint training sessions with their Pakistani counterparts. The programme will also include a series of practice matches between the two countries. The visit aims to provide players with valuable international exposure, facilitate the exchange of technical expertise and strengthen the competitive preparations of both teams.

The PHF said the visit reflected growing sporting ties between Pakistan and Iran and marked another step towards reviving international hockey activities in the country.



Bizarre WBBL Moment As Deandra Dottin Is Bowled Off A "Free Ball"

● Late to the crease, Dottin stood aside as Sarah Glenn hit the stumps, but the Melbourne Renegades still won on the last ball

SPORTS WEBDESK

MELBOURNE

Deandra Dottin was part of one of the strangest dismissals in WBBL 2026. The Melbourne Renegades star was given out off a "free ball" against the Brisbane Heat at Junction Oval.

It happened in the 15th over of the Renegades' run chase. The home side was 97/4, chasing a target of 138 runs.

Dottin was due to bat at No. 6. However, she did not reach the crease in time.

Under the WBBL Timed Out rule, which was changed before the 2021-22 season, the new batter must be ready to face the ball within 75 seconds of the last wicket.

If the batter is late, there is a penalty. She has to stand to the side of the pitch, at least 5 metres away on the leg side, for the first ball. The bowler is then free to bowl at the open stumps.

That is exactly what happened. Dottin stood near square leg while Heat spinner Sarah Glenn bowled. The ball hit the unguarded stumps, and Dottin was out bowled for a duck.

The good news for the Renegades was that the wicket did not cost them the game. They chased down the 138-run target on the very last ball. It was their fourth win of the season.

Captain Sophie Molineux was named Player of the Match after taking four wickets. After the game, she spoke openly about the mix-up.

She admitted the team was a little late in telling Dottin to pad up and walk out. Still, she saw it as a useful lesson.

"It was something I had never seen before in cricket," Molineux said at the post-match presentation.

She also praised the Heat bowler. "Hats off to Glenny for executing that," she said.

Molineux added that it was a good lesson for her side and for every other team watching. She also joked that fans may not see another one like it for ten years.

For now, Deandra Dottin's odd exit will be one of the most talked-about moments of the WBBL 2026 season.



FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T.I.), visits an arts exhibition at the university's Art Gallery.

CJP meets Lahore Bar representatives, highlights Public Facilitation Centre at Lahore Branch Registry

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Representatives of the Lahore Bar Association and the Lahore High Court Bar Association called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, at the Lahore Branch Registry of the Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday.

The delegation included Babar Murtaza Khan, President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, Malik Ali Raza Khokhar, Advocate and Finance Secretary of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, and Malik Tanveer, Advocate.

During the meeting, the Chief Justice and the Bar representatives discussed matters of mutual interest, including ways to strengthen cooperation between the Bar and the Bench, facilitate litigants and support the smooth conduct of court proceedings. The representatives assured the Chief Justice of their full support and cooperation in advancing these shared objectives.

The Chief Justice informed the Bar leadership that a Public Facilitation Centre had been established at the Lahore Branch Registry to improve access to court services for all litigants and lawyers. He said that the Centre would provide all 35 services available at the Public Facilitation Centre of the Supreme Court in Islamabad, following the same one-window model.

The Centre will give litigants and lawyers a single point of access to court-related information, procedural guidance and assistance with service requests. By bringing these services under one roof, the Centre will make it easier for court users to obtain timely assistance, navigate court procedures and complete routine formalities with fewer visits to different counters.

The Chief Justice welcomed the Bar representatives' assurance of support and assured them of the Bench's full cooperation in matters concerning the administration of justice.

He emphasised the importance of regular dialogue and close coordination between the Bar and the Bench in addressing practical difficulties faced by court users and ensuring the smooth and efficient administration of justice.

Naqvi Sets Deadline To Finish Convention Centre Before SCO Conference

● Naqvi Lays Foundation of New Islamabad Convention Centre

MUDASSAR IQBAL

ISLAMABAD



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has laid the foundation stone of a new Convention Centre in Islamabad, 24NewsHD TV reported on Thursday. The centre will have a convention hall, two head-of-state lounges and two VIP lounges.

Speaking at the event, Naqvi called the project a test for him and his team. He said a strategy is ready and the work for each day has already been planned.

He said formal work will begin on November 28 and the project will be completed before next year's Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference. He admitted that building such a large convention and expo centre in six to seven months is a big challenge, but said he fully trusts his team. He added that today is not just a groundbreaking, but the start of a test.

The new centre will be 180 feet wide and able to host major exhibitions. Along with it, the existing Jinnah Convention Centre will be fully renovated. The project therefore has two main parts: the new convention and expo centre, and the renovation of the Jinnah Convention Centre.

Naqvi said machinery and other arrangements will be brought to the site over the next two days. Construction will formally start on the 28th or 29th. A countdown clock will be installed, like the one at the Kashmir Interchange. Daily targets have been set on a 24-hour basis, and the media will be shown the progress every two or three days.

He wished the CDA team and contractors success in finishing on time. He said completing the project is a test for him, the CDA chairman and the whole team, and he hopes they will meet the challenge together.

ECP sets February 26 deadline for delimitation in Nine KP districts

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced a schedule for delimitation of village and neighbourhood councils in nine districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with the process set to begin on December 1 and conclude with the notification of final council boundaries by February 26, 2027, as part of preparations for local government elections.

According to the schedule issued by the commission, all preliminary administrative arrangements, including the procurement of maps and training of delimitation committees and authorities, will be completed between December 1 and December 9.

The delimitation committees will prepare initial lists of village and neighbourhood councils from December 10 to January 9, 2027.

Objections to the proposed delimitations can be submitted before the designated delimitation authorities between January 11 and January 27.

The authorities will decide on all objections by February 15, while the communication of their decisions to the delimitation committees will be completed by February 23.

The ECP will issue the final notification of village and neighbourhood council boundaries by February 26, 2027.

Chalawein Roti keeps South Punjab's centuries-old wedding culture alive

STAFF REPORTER

MULTAN



At a time when extravagant wedding halls, lavish buffets and glittering celebrations have increasingly become symbols of social prestige, an age-old tradition in the villages of South Punjab continues to tell a different story one in which a simple meal, shared responsibilities and neighbourhood solidarity matter more than grandeur and display.

Known as Chalawein Roti, this distinctive wedding custom transforms a family celebration into a community-wide occasion, bringing food to the doorsteps of neighbors and relatives while preserving the spirit of collective participation that has defined rural life for generations.

Unlike conventional wedding receptions, where hundreds of guests gather under one roof, Chalawein Roti follows a remarkably simple yet meaningful arrangement.

The bridegroom's family prepares food at home, while households across the village bring their own cooking pots and utensils to collect meals according to the number of their family members.

The practice ensures that almost every household becomes part of the festivities, even without attending a formal reception.

Arrangements are generally settled in advance between the wedding family and participating households, while relatives and guests arriving from distant areas are welcomed into the wedding home and served with traditional hospitality.

Food is also delivered to nearby relatives who cannot collect it themselves.

The enduring custom was recently witnessed in Chak Inam Wala, a rural locality on the outskirts of Multan, where a wedding family prepared and distributed meals among nearly 50 households, demonstrating how an inherited tradition continues to flourish despite changing social trends.

Muhammad Javed, brother of the bridegroom, told APP that Chalawein Roti was deeply embedded in the area's cultural fabric and had been observed by local families for generations.

"We do not arrange wedding receptions in marriage halls. Instead, we prepare food at home, and families with whom we have marriage and social ties bring their own utensils and collect meals according to the number of their household members," he said.

He explained that the village elders had also established a mutual understanding under which participating families contributed a fixed amount of money to the wedding household whenever the traditional arrangement was observed.

"This contribution helps reduce the financial burden on the wedding family to some extent. It is a collective arrangement based on mutual understanding and cooperation," he added.

PIA restores flight operations between Pakistan and UK

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has restored flight operations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom after cancellations caused by its wet-lease partner a day earlier.

The airline said its teams assisted all affected passengers in London and Manchester.

Passengers whose flights were cancelled were accommodated on later flights according to their travel preferences.

PIA also offered full refunds without any penalty to passengers who chose to change or postpone their travel plans due to the disruption.

Under a contingency plan introduced last night, PIA shifted its UK operations to its own widebody Boeing 777 aircraft.

The airline said all scheduled flights to the UK and operations across its domestic and international network were running on time on Thursday.

Ayaz Demands Stronger Laws To Protect Women's Rights

● Ayaz Calls For Stronger Laws, Enforcement To Protect Women's Rights Effectively Now

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Thursday called for stronger legislative measures and effective implementation of existing laws to safeguard women's rights, ensure their protection and promote their leadership in political and public life.

Addressing as chief guest and delivering the keynote address at the launch of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), National Assembly of Pakistan's Gender KaravanWapa initiative, titled "Ghar Se Assembly Tak — Aurat Ki Qiyadat", at Parliament House, he urged parliamentarians to translate their commitments into tangible legislative action.

The initiative was launched as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence.

The event was convened under the leadership of WPC Secretary Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA, in collaboration with the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women.

The ceremony featured the launch of the Parliamentary Expert Network (PEN), unveiling of the WPC Annual Report 2025–2026 and inauguration of the orange illumination of Parliament House as a symbol of solidarity with the campaign.

In his address, Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the contributions of Dr. Shahida Rehmani, WPC Treasurer Ms. Shahida Begum, members of the Caucus, parliamentarians, development partners and National Assembly Secretariat officials towards advancing women's empowerment.

Welcoming the establishment of PEN, he emphasised that specialised knowledge, research and evidence-based recommendations should guide parliamentary processes to strengthen legislation, introduce necessary amendments and ensure effective protection of women's rights, lives and dignity.

The Speaker formally inaugurated the orange illumination of Parliament House, describing it as a reflection of Parliament's commitment to building a society where women can live free from violence, abuse, intimidation and discrimination.

Referring to the tragic murder of Ms. Hina Javed, he called for collective efforts to ensure justice and accountability in cases of violence against women.

Expressing concern over the growing challenges of cybercrime, misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, the Speaker stressed the need for coordinated action by Parliament, law enforcement agencies and regulatory authorities to address these emerging threats.

Pakistan, Kenya Discuss Enhanced Bilateral Health Sector Cooperation

● Pakistan, Kenya Discuss Health Cooperation, Medical Education, Research And Patient Care Together

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan and Kenya have discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the health sector, focusing on medical education, research, patient care and exploring opportunities for joint healthcare initiatives.

It was discussed in a high-level Kenyan delegation, led by the country's Minister of Health met Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal here on Thursday.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) and the Director General of Health.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on strengthening institutional collaboration, sharing expertise and promoting cooperation in medical education, research and healthcare delivery.

The discussions also covered opportunities for future joint initiatives aimed at improving healthcare services and benefiting people in both countries.

Syed Mustafa Kamal said Pakistan and Kenya could benefit from each other's experiences and expertise, adding that joint efforts would help improve the provision of quality healthcare facilities to their respective populations.

The engagement reflected the shared commitment of both countries to strengthening health diplomacy and expanding bilateral partnerships in the healthcare sector.

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