



PTI Chairman Gohar calls for meaningful talks with government

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has called for meaningful negotiations with the government, saying dialogue is the only way to resolve political issues. Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Gohar said political disputes could be resolved through negotiations and stressed that the government and opposition should engage in meaningful talks. He said political opponents were taking undue advantage of the situation under the pretext of emergency and governor's rule.



Court sends PTI leader Hammad Azhar to jail on judicial remand

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court on Tuesday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former federal minister Hammad Azhar to jail on judicial remand in a May 9 arson and vandalism case. Police produced Azhar before the court after the expiry of his physical remand and requested further custody for interrogation.



Govt, JI form committee to recommend more relief for people: Minister

■ The minister added that the government was also working to end the petroleum levy in phases and would consider increasing the relief currently being provided on petrol.

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal announced that the government and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) agreed to form expert committees to recommend measures for reducing the petroleum levy and easing the public burden. Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, Iqbal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman had agreed to set up the committee. He said the committee would have one member each from the government and Jamaat-e-Islami and would finalise proposals to provide relief to the people. The minister added that the

government was also working to end the petroleum levy in phases and would consider increasing the relief currently being provided on petrol. Iqbal said thousands of people were already benefiting from the prime minister's fuel relief scheme. He added that the government wanted to help people but warned that decisions taken only to gain popularity could create serious economic problems later. Explaining the situation, Iqbal said rising tensions in the region had created a global crisis, while the closure of the Strait of Hormuz had affected oil supplies. He said countries around the world were facing an emergency and trying to secure resources for their future. Rana Sanaullah said the ongoing war in the region had affected the entire world. He said the government was trying to provide maximum relief to deserving people and appreciated Jamaat-e-Islami's focus on helping ordinary citizens.

Sanaullah said Pakistan was the only country making serious efforts to end the war and that the international community was also hopeful about these efforts. He said the government was working sincerely to provide relief to the public. He further claimed that the efforts of Pakistan's political and military leadership had helped defeat what he called a Zionist agenda. The adviser urged all political parties to support the country's political and military leadership in its efforts to deal with the regional crisis and promote peace. Meanwhile, Sanaullah claimed 12.7 million people were benefiting from the Rs100-per-litre petrol relief scheme, adding that the number was expected to reach 20 million in the coming days. "The government is attempting to provide relief to the common and poor man as much as possible, and we (Continued on Page-5)

CPEC connected Pakistan-China economies, information corridor to unite people: Tarar

■ The minister described Pakistan-China friendship as a valuable legacy passed down through generations

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD



was a source of strength and control over narratives was essential for national sovereignty. Nations that fail to tell their own stories risk having others shape their narratives, he added. The minister described Pakistan-China friendship as a valuable legacy passed down through generations, stressing the responsibility to preserve and promote these ties among younger generations.

He said effective use of media, information exchange and digital platforms was increasingly important for further strengthening relations between the two countries. Tarar noted that CPEC had transformed decades of goodwill between Pakistan and China into tangible development through energy projects and infrastructure improvements. He explained that the first phase of CPEC connected the two countries through physical infrastructure, while the next phase would focus on bringing their people closer through greater communication and mutual understanding. Under CPEC 2.0, he said, both countries aim to create new opportunities for development, employment, innovation and environmentally sustainable growth.

Sindh Assembly has put a full stop to debate on new provinces: Bilawal

News Reporter

KARACHI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said the Sindh Assembly has put a full stop to the debate on creating new provinces out of Sindh, adding that the federal government had not held discussions on the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment. Speaking to the media during a visit to the historic Spencer's Eye Hospital in Karachi's Lyari area on Tuesday, Bilawal said that the province's future must be decided by its people. He said politicians should focus on serving the public rather than promoting hatred and division. Bilawal said poverty and unemployment are Pakistan's major challenges, adding that the public was facing economic pressure and his party was striving to provide free healthcare.



Government given 10 days to scrap petroleum levy, says JI chief

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan chief Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has given the government another seven to 10 days to abolish the petroleum levy and provide relief to people struggling with rising living costs. Speaking at a press conference following a meeting between Jamaat-e-Islami's negotiating committee and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Hafiz Naeem said his party had presented the public's case against inflation to the prime minister and his team.



MNAs unanimously pass resolution for peaceful Kashmir resolution

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution emphasizing that lasting peace, security, and stability in South Asia remain contingent upon a just, peaceful and lasting resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The resolution was jointly tabled by Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam and Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon.



National Assembly passes seven bills

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The lawmakers in the National Assembly on Tuesday stamped seven pieces of legislation including the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2025. The House passed seven bills. These included: Pakistan Council for Science and Technology Amendment Bill, 2025, The Corporate Social Responsibility Bill, 2026, The Qanun-e-Shahadat Amendment Bill, 2026, Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Amendment Bill, 2025, The Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, 2024 (Schedule-II), The National Commission on the Rights of Child Amendment Bill, 2025 and The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 2025.

Islamabad Model Jail ready to receive prisoners after PM's inauguration: Mohsin Naqvi

■ Says first batch of 1,500 prisoners to be shifted to new jail in November

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the newly built Islamabad Model Jail in Sector H-16 will soon receive its first batch of 1,500 prisoners transferred from Adiala Jail after its formal opening by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking during a visit to the jail, Naqvi said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was expected to inaugurate the facility within the next two to four days. The first batch of 1,500 prisoners will be shifted to the new jail in November, adding that the second phase would move another 3,000 to 4,000 prisoners. Lists of undertrial detainees and other prisoners from Islamabad had already



been finalised, he added. Naqvi said the government had taken a special interest in completing the long-awaited project and thanked everyone who had worked hard to make it possible. He described the new jail as built to international standards. When asked whether PTI founder Imran Khan could also be shifted to the new jail, the minister said that prisoners belonging to

Islamabad would be moved there. During the visit, Naqvi also tasted the food prepared for prisoners. He ate the daal (lentils) and asked the officers accompanying him to try it as well. Naqvi Reviews Kashmir Chowk Underpass Work In a separate visit, the interior minister inspected construction work on the Kashmir Chowk Underpass in Islamabad and reviewed its progress.

'No one is above the law': Maryam Nawaz warns influential offenders in Punjab

■ The chief minister reiterated that accountability would apply even to members of her own political party, adding that Punjab's government stood with victims of injustice

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MANDI BAHAUDDIN

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has warned that no one, regardless of wealth or influence, will be allowed to escape accountability for committing crimes, stressing that the era of political recommendations and preferential treatment in the province is over. Addressing a ceremony at the University of Rasul in Mandi Bahauddin, where laptops and Honhaar Scholarship cheques were distributed among students, the chief minister said the law would take action against anyone who used their power or wealth to harm ordinary citizens.



She particularly warned those involved in violence against women and children, urging them to abandon criminal activities or face legal consequences. Maryam said she intended to meet the chief justice of the Lahore High Court to discuss cases in which accused individuals secured bail shortly after being arrested. She cited an incident involving an alleged assault at a petrol pump, where the suspect reportedly obtained bail the following day.

The chief minister reiterated that accountability would apply even to members of her own political party, adding that Punjab's government stood with victims of injustice. Speaking about educational initiatives, Maryam said laptops and Honhaar Scholarships were being distributed strictly on merit, without favouritism or political interference. She announced that students would continue to benefit from laptops, electric buses, Chromebooks and scholarship programmes designed to support their education and development. She also referred to incidents involving violence against women and children, including the death of an orphan child in a car-related incident in Multan, saying such cases remained deeply troubling to her.

NHMP Observes Kashmir Black Day, Expresses Solidarity with Kashmiri People

- Special ceremonies, awareness programmes, FM 95 broadcasts and solidarity walks organised nationwide to highlight Kashmiris' right to self-determination



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP) expressed its strong solidarity with the people of Kashmir on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day,

observed on October 27. Special ceremonies were held at Motorway Police zones, sectors and offices across the country to highlight the historical events of October 27, 1947, human rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir, and the Kashmiri people's struggle for their right to self-determination. On the occasion, special

banners and posters were displayed at toll plazas, interchanges and other prominent locations along motorways and national highways. Informational material was also distributed to raise public awareness. Tributes were paid to the Kashmiri martyrs, while special prayers were offered for the elevation of their ranks and the freedom of the

Kashmiri people. To highlight the significance of Kashmir Black Day, special programmes were broadcast on Motorway Police FM 95 Radio. These programmes featured interviews with prominent personalities from various walks of life, who discussed the historical background of the Kashmir dispute, the Kashmiri people's struggle and the human rights situation in the region. Furthermore, the Motorway Police organised special awareness programmes at various schools and colleges. Through these initiatives, students were informed about the historical significance of Kashmir Black Day, the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people, and their right to self-determination. Special solidarity walks were also organised at various locations, with officers, personnel of the Motorway Police and members of the public participating actively. The participants expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed their support for their struggle for the right to self-determination. The National Highways & Motorway Police reaffirmed its commitment to stand with the people of Kashmir and continue supporting their right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

IGP Islamabad Reviews Modern 4C Centre, Awards Commendation Certificates to Traffic Police Officers

- Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry directs improvements in AI-based monitoring, field operations and traffic management to enhance public service delivery

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry visited the modern Command, Control, Communication and Coordination Centre (4C), where he was briefed on the advanced monitoring system, field force monitoring, emergency response mechanisms and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. The IGP directed officials to further improve the monitoring system and enhance the effectiveness of field operations. Furthermore, IGP Islamabad awarded commendation certificates to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan



and traffic police officers in recognition of their excellent professional performance. He appreciated their hard work, dedication and services, directing them to continue working with greater

commitment and responsibility to provide better traffic facilities to citizens and ensure smooth traffic flow. The IGP reaffirmed that Islamabad Police would continue to take measures to

improve public service delivery through the effective use of modern technology, enhanced monitoring systems and encouragement of officers demonstrating exemplary professional performance.

NCCIA Sahiwal Holds Cyber Awareness Session at Government Postgraduate College

News Desk

SAHIWAL

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Sahiwal Circle, organised a cyber awareness session at Government Postgraduate College Sahiwal to educate students about emerging cyber threats and ways to stay safe online. The session was held under the special directions of NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi as part of the agency's ongoing campaign to promote cyber awareness among young people. A large number of students and faculty members attended the programme. During the session, NCCIA officers provided detailed guidance on the safe and responsible use of social media, online harassment, cyberbullying, financial fraud, protection of personal information and photographs, fake links, OTP scams, loan app fraud and other cybercrimes. Using practical examples, the officers explained how cybercriminals deceive unsuspecting citizens through fake prize offers, fraudulent job opportunities and malicious links to steal their personal data and money. Participants were also briefed on the role of the NCCIA, the procedure for reporting cybercrimes and the agency's helpline 1799, enabling them to seek timely assistance in the event of a cybercrime. At the conclusion of the session, students raised various questions, which were answered by NCCIA officers. The administration and principal of Government Postgraduate College Sahiwal appreciated the agency's initiative, stating that such awareness programmes were essential for ensuring students' safety in the digital age. They also emphasised the need to organise similar sessions in the future.

Arid Agriculture University VC Conferred Professor Emeritus Title by Canadian University

News Desk

Rawalpindi

Dalhousie University, a renowned Canadian institution, has conferred the honorary academic title of Professor Emeritus on Professor Dr Qamar uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to academia and research. The appointment will take effect from July 1, 2026. According to Dr Nadeem Ahmed Malik, spokesperson for Arid Agriculture University, the achievement is a proud moment not only for the university but also for Pakistan. He said the honour recognises Professor Dr Qamar uz Zaman's decades-long contributions to research, teaching, agriculture and scientific advancement. The spokesperson said the

international recognition would help strengthen academic ties between Pakistan and Canada and promote collaboration in scientific research and higher education. He added that the achievement would also serve as an inspiration for the country's academic and research community, particularly young researchers. Professor Dr Qamar uz Zaman has made significant contributions to agricultural mechanisation and smart farming at the international level. His appointment has been welcomed by academic circles in Pakistan and abroad, who have described the recognition as a testament to the growing international standing of Pakistani scientists.



Lahore tops global pollution rankings as AQI hits 285

- Lahore topped global pollution rankings as AQI reached 285, while Shahdara recorded 500. Rising pollution poses serious health risks, especially for children, elderly people and patients.

STAFF REPORTER

Lahore

Air pollution in Lahore has worsened, pushing the city to the top of the global list of the most polluted cities, while air quality levels in several areas have reached alarming levels.

According to Swiss air quality monitoring organisation IQAir, Lahore recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 285, placing it first in the global pollution ranking. Meanwhile, a report by the Punjab Air Quality Index recorded the city's AQI at 285 at 6am, up significantly from 229 at the same time a day earlier.

According to IQAir's global ranking, India's capital New Delhi was the second most polluted city, with an AQI of 214, followed by Hanoi in Vietnam at 188 and Baghdad in Iraq at 169. Karachi ranked fifth, with an AQI of 166.

The Punjab Air Quality Index report showed that



pollution levels varied considerably across Lahore, with some localities recording extremely high readings.

Shahdara reported an AQI of 500, indicating an exceptionally severe level of pollution. The AQI stood at 366 near the Wagah border, 335 along Multan Road and 306 on Barki Road.

The readings indicate that residents in several parts

of the city are facing particularly poor air quality, increasing concerns over the potential health effects of prolonged exposure to polluted air.

Air pollution can cause eye irritation, coughing and breathing difficulties, particularly when people remain outdoors for extended periods. Children, older adults and those with existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions are considered especially vulnerable to its effects.

General health guidance recommends that residents avoid unnecessary outdoor

activities during periods of severe pollution and limit strenuous physical exertion in open spaces. People who need to go outside should consider using an appropriate protective mask.

Extra precautions are advised for children, older people and individuals with respiratory illnesses, as exposure to heavily polluted air may aggravate existing health problems.



Lahore woman jumps off moving bike after alleged harassment by rider

News Desk

LAHORE

A woman was injured after jumping off a moving motorcycle following an alleged attempt by a ride-hailing rider to engage in inappropriate behaviour in Lahore's Johar Town area.

According to reports, the incident occurred on October 17, when the woman had booked an online motorcycle ride.

CCTV footage of the incident reportedly shows the woman jumping from the moving motorcycle, leaving her injured on the road.

She sustained injuries to her face, nose, throat and head after falling from the bike.

The rider allegedly fled the scene after the woman jumped off the motorcycle.



Government Appoints Shafqat Abbas as DG Internal Publicity Wing

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The government has appointed Shafqat Abbas as the Director General of the Internal Publicity Wing, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB). The appointment has been made with immediate effect, according to an official notification. Shafqat Abbas, a BS-20 officer of the Information Group, was previously posted in Lahore, where he served as Director General (PR) at the Regional Information Office under the Press Information Department.

NCCIA Director General to Hold E-Kachehri on Wednesday

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, will hold an e-Kachehri at 11:00 am on Wednesday to hear public complaints directly and ensure their prompt resolution, according to a

NCCIA spokesperson. The e-Kachehri will address complaints related to cybercrime, online harassment, blackmail, financial fraud and other cyber offences. Citizens can contact the NCCIA helpline at 1799 to report their complaints. They can also submit their questions and complaints directly to the Director General through the agency's official social media platforms. The initiative aims to provide citizens with timely and transparent access to justice and facilitate the swift resolution of complaints, the spokesperson added. NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reiterated the agency's commitment to ensuring timely and transparent justice for the public.



Trump predicts economy to help Republicans in midterms



Web DESK

CORINTH, Mississippi

US President Donald Trump campaigned in Mississippi, predicting victory for a Republican Senate candidate based on what he deemed to be a booming US economy, while also repeating his claim that oil prices would soon plummet. Trump, a Republican, has been on a campaign blitz through normally safe Republican states ahead of the November 3 vote, with party strategists telling Reuters they are on edge about races from Alaska to

South Carolina, in part because of voter discontent over how Trump's tariffs and the Iran war have fueled inflation. Sounding hoarse from his recent series of campaign rallies, Trump remarked, "God didn't make your vocal cords to do a rally every day." Trump is expected to visit Texas, Ohio, South Carolina, Florida and Iowa in the final days of the campaign, with voter concerns over affordability likely to weigh on Republicans, pollsters say. Trump acknowledged the war in Iran has pushed up oil prices, but said it was a small price to pay to stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. "I thought the price of oil was going to go much, much higher," Trump said. "It's worked out fine and it'll be over soon," Trump said about the war. All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are on the ballot, with public opinion polls suggesting the Democrats will regain control of the House and have a chance to retake the Senate.



Commander of the Kuwait Naval Force, Rear Admiral Saif Al-Hamdan called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif

Saudi Arabia Intercepts 3 Ballistic Missiles, 4 Houthi Drones

■ Fighting Intensifies for Yemen's Taiz as Explosions Rock Sanaa and Red Sea Coast; Residential Buildings and Hospital Reportedly Damaged

WEB DESK

Riyadh

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said on Tuesday that it had shot down three missiles and four drones fired by the group toward the Kingdom's eastern and southern regions. "Air defences intercepted and destroyed three ballistic missiles launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward the Eastern Province," coalition spokesman Turki Al-Malki wrote on X. The Saudi-led coalition earlier said that four drones launched by Houthis towards Saudi Arabia's southern region have been intercepted and destroyed.



Reports said that the fight for Yemen's third-largest city Taiz, is entering a "make or break" stage, according to Al Jazeera. "The battle for Jabal Sabr is

pretty much make or break in order to capture Taiz," analysts said, referring to a strategic mountain nearby, adding that the fight is, "partially about symbolism but more than

anything it's about simple geography. It's crucial for maintaining control over the city." Explosions have been heard in Yemen's Houthi-controlled capital Sanaa and along the Red Sea coast. Residents in western Sanaa report at least four explosions, but what has been hit remains unclear. A woman, reportedly living near a Houthi base, says a loud blast shattered windows in her home and nearby houses. In the port city of Mokha, recently seized by the Houthis, a resident claims a rocket struck a four-storey residential building, and that at least 10 other houses and a hospital have been damaged. Ship on fire off coast of Iraq The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO)

Pakistan pushes for UN Security Council veto reform to end its paralysis

● The General Assembly convened in line with resolution 76/262, adopted in April 2022, which mandates it to hold a session within 10 working days of a veto being cast in the Security Council.

Web Desk

NEW YORK

Pakistan told the UN General Assembly that reform of the Security Council must tackle the veto power, held by the five permanent members US, Russia, China, France and UK to end the 15-member body's institutional paralysis and make it more effective and equitable. "The misuse of the veto undermines the Security Council's effectiveness and the credibility of the UN, while giving the permanent five unmatched influence throughout the UN system," Pakistani



delegate Gul Qaiser Sarwani told the 193-member Assembly where representatives reiterated calls to restructure the Council to make it more responsive to its primary role of maintaining international peace and security, as they debated use of the veto.

The General Assembly convened in line with resolution 76/262, adopted in April 2022, which mandates it to hold a session within 10 working days of a veto being cast in the Security Council. With the campaign of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan for permanent seats on the Council in mind, Sarwani, a counsellor and political coordinator in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, said more permanent members and more vetoes would deepen existing

inequalities, perpetuate historical privileges, create new centres of power and increase the risk of institutional paralysis. "Let us be clear: the problems cannot be the solution," he said, highlighting that Pakistan/Italy-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group remains opposed to addition of any new individual permanent member on an expanded Security Council. "We believe that the veto should be abolished or at least severely restricted; It must not be expanded," Sarwani said. Pakistan, he said, supported resolution 76/262, saying any measures to restrict or restrain the use of the veto must be consistent with the UN Charter provisions.

Al-Shabaab claims hundreds dead in ambush on Somali troops

■ The toll could not be independently verified, and the government did not immediately offer a response.

Web Desk

Somalia

Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab claimed to have killed hundreds of Somali government troops in an ambush. The Al-Qaeda-linked group has been fighting the government for two decades and still controls large swathes of central Somalia despite a massive international operation against it. According to the SITE Intelligence Group, Al-Shabaab issued a statement late Monday saying it had launched an attack on Turkish-trained government troops and an allied militia -- supported by Turkish fighter jets -- in the Lower Shabelle region, resulting in the deaths of 321 troops. The toll could not be independently verified, and the government did



not immediately offer a response. The fighting, near the city of Leego, continued for three hours and resulted in the seizure of prisoners, weapons and vehicles, according to Al-Shabaab's statement. Local media platform Baidoa Online said the government had called an emergency meeting of the cabinet to discuss the "heavy casualties and substantial military equipment losses during intense fighting with Al-Shabaab militants near Leego".

Mass evacuations as India braces for Cyclone Arnab

Web Desk

Andhra Pradesh

Indian authorities ordered evacuations in southwestern Andhra Pradesh ahead of a severe cyclone expected to make landfall by Wednesday, the national weather office said. Cyclone Arnab is forecast to hit the coast as a "very severe cyclonic storm", with gusts of up to 140 kilometres (87 miles) per hour, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin on Tuesday. Cyclones, called hurricanes in the North Atlantic and typhoons in the Pacific, are a regular menace in the Bay of Bengal and northern Indian



Ocean. The storm season, however, has been turbocharged by the El Nino weather phenomenon that has caused unprecedented warming. Neighbouring Sri Lanka, meanwhile, closed schools with warnings of torrential rain, with the island's Department of Meteorology warning storms could trigger flash floods and mudslides.

Russia, Ukraine begin localised ceasefire to allow for humanitarian operation in Oleshky



WEB DESK

MOSCOW

Russia and Ukraine have started a localised ceasefire to allow for a humanitarian operation to begin in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky, both sides said on Tuesday. Russia's defence ministry said on Telegram it stopped shelling in the direction of the Ukrainian city of Kherson from 4 a.m. Moscow time (0100 GMT) to prepare for the humanitarian operation in Oleshky, just across the Dnipro River from Kherson. Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's parliament commissioner for human rights, confirmed in a Facebook post the ceasefire has started at the same time. "As head of the Ukrainian negotiating team, I confirm that the Ukrainian side is honoring its commitments," he wrote.

Sudan drone strikes kill 21, cause mass outages in east

■ Another said the market was frequented by young men, particularly RSF fighters.

Web Desk

SUDAN

Sudan's warring sides have traded drone strikes that killed 21 people in the western Darfur region and left vast swathes of the country's east without electricity, medics and witnesses said Tuesday. A drone strike on a market in Nyala, the de facto capital of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Darfur, killed 21 people and wounded at least 40 others, a medical source and witnesses told AFP. One Nyala resident said a market in the city's north was struck by a drone around 8:00 pm (1800 GMT). Another said the market was frequented by young men, particularly RSF fighters. "Twenty-one people were killed in last night's bombing, and more than 40



others injured," a medic at Nyala Hospital said, though he was unable to identify how many were RSF fighters. Sudan's military, at war with the RSF

since April 2023, regularly strikes Nyala, where the RSF has declared an administration rivaling the army-backed internationally recognised

government in Khartoum. The RSF has in turn launched repeated strikes targeting Khartoum's airport, as well as dams and power stations across the country's east. On Tuesday, "RSF militia drones targeted the Al-Markhiyat transformer station, disrupting the power supply across large parts of Khartoum and Al-Jazira states," a source in the national electricity company told AFP on condition of anonymity. The strike comes a day after a coordinated RSF drone attack on six power stations left millions without power in Al-Jazira, White Nile, Sennar and Gedaref states. -Famine risk- The war is currently being fought primarily via drones, with both sides launching sophisticated attacks from across the country, killing dozens of civilians at a time.



DOHA, October 27, 2026: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in meeting with the Chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industries and invites Qatari investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones.

SECP Talk Series Highlights REITs’ Potential to Boost Pakistan’s Real Estate Sector

■ Experts call for transparent valuations, stronger governance and simplified tax rules to attract investment and promote sustainable growth in regulated real estate investment trusts

Special Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Regulated Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) can help bring property into the formal economy and connect it with capital markets, but their growth depends on transparent valuations, sound governance and simpler tax rules, speakers said at an SECP Talk Series session. Commissioner Intiaz Haider, who welcomed participants, said REITs could mobilise private investment for infrastructure such as motorways, bridges, energy parks and logistics hubs. He also

suggested exploring REITs to unlock value from existing public assets and finance development projects. Presentations cited 29 REIT schemes registered in Pakistan by March 2026, with an aggregate fund size of Rs173.1 billion in December 2025. Globally, 1,021 listed REITs had a combined market capitalisation of US\$2.04 trillion at the end of 2024. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ISE REIT Management Company Limited, highlighted the US\$2.04 trillion global REIT market and presented the Rs5.67 billion ISE Towers Rental REIT as a local example. He also outlined potential rental, developmental, hybrid and parking REIT

opportunities in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Muhammad Ejaz, Chief Executive, Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Limited, presented Dolmen City REIT and Globe Residency REIT as local examples. He cited Dolmen City REIT’s market capitalisation at Rs86.88 billion as of September 30, 2026, with occupancy above 97% at both properties. He called for rationalising property transfer duties and taxes and reviewing investment limits to support sector growth. Speakers stressed that REIT returns and liquidity are not guaranteed; they depend on the underlying assets, scheme structure and market conditions.



FPCCI rejects hike in policy rate

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) has rejected the decision made by the State Bank of Pakistan’s (SBP) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase the key policy rate by 0.5 percent. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President (SVP) of FPCCI, on Tuesday highlighted the disproportionate impact of this decision on small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as this decision will essentially shut the door on affordable access to finance for SMEs. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon continued that, coupled with exorbitant energy tariffs and heavy compliance costs, this monetary tightening will push many manufacturers toward default or complete closures. The FPCCI SVP said that high interest rates are forcing businesses to limit their activities. He appealed the government to bring the interest at single digit.



Finance Adviser shares scorecard Of Pakistan’s economic gains

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s economy has continued to show signs of improvement during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, marked by stronger foreign exchange buffers, rising exports and investment, improving sovereign ratings, expanding private-sector credit, and progress on reforms. According to a performance scorecard shared by Adviser to the Finance Minister Khuram Schehzad, the country’s central bank foreign exchange reserves reached \$21.5 billion. Exports rose eleven percent to \$11.2 billion, while remittances reached \$10.9 billion.

Yen slips ahead of central bank bonanza, dollar firms on tech rebound

■ The yen weakened against the dollar as risk appetite improved ahead of key central bank decisions. BOJ inflation pressures persist, while eurozone fiscal concerns weighed on the euro.

WEB DESK
SHANGHAI/SINGAPORE

The Japanese yen eased against the US dollar on Tuesday, further eroding last week’s safe-haven gains, underpinned by a risk-on mood and a weaker euro ahead of key central bank meetings this week that will influence the global rates outlook. The yen was 0.16% weaker at 157.73 per dollar, inching further away from the one-month high it touched last week ahead of the Bank of Japan policy decision later this week. The yen had lost ground on Monday too. The BOJ is set to keep interest rates steady at 1.25% in a two-day meeting concluding on Friday, but signal its readiness to continue raising borrowing costs on mounting price pressures. A key gauge of Japan’s service-sector inflation rose 3.7% in September from a year earlier, data showed on Tuesday, a sign of increasing price pressures that will likely keep the central bank on track for further interest rate hikes. “We expect the BOJ will conclude that the underlying rate of consumer price inflation is at a level generally consistent with the 2% price stability target,” analysts at MUFG said in a note.



However, simply touching the target once is not enough, the analysts said, adding that the BOJ will now shift from a focus on the downside risks to inflation to a stance of monitoring risks in both directions. The yen was among the best-performing major currencies last week, as AI jitters in the equity market spurred a haven rush into the currency. Markets price slightly better-than-even odds of a December BOJ hike, so there is plenty of room for a rebound in the yen should Governor Ueda strike a hawkish note, said Ebury analysts in a note. “We still favour another hike at the last meeting of the year, though whether the BOJ will be prepared to commit to that just yet is unclear.” Apart from the BOJ, four other major central banks will announce policy decisions this week. The BOJ’s meeting follows that of the Fed, which is seen skipping a hike at its two-day meeting concluding on Wednesday.

Engro Fertilizers, Mari Energies sign MoU to improve farm productivity, support communities

News Desk
ISLAMABAD

Mari Energies Limited and Engro Fertilizers Limited have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help farmers improve crop yields and incomes through better access to quality agricultural inputs and balanced nutrient use, alongside community development initiatives. The collaboration will combine Mari Energies’ experience in community development across its areas of operation with Engro Fertilizers’ agricultural expertise. It establishes a framework for the companies to jointly plan, implement and review programmes for farmers and local communities. Agricultural initiatives will focus on improving access to

quality inputs and promoting informed nutrient management practices to support farm productivity and livelihoods. The partnership will also cover education, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning, vocational training, youth employability, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. Sports, cultural and leadership programmes are also included in its scope. Faheem Haider, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Mari Energies Limited, said the agreement would build on the company’s existing community development work. “Supporting the communities around our areas of operation has long been a priority for Mari Energies. This partnership with Engro Fertilizers allows us to build on that commitment by



combining our community development experience with their agricultural expertise,” he said. “Together, we aim to help farmers improve productivity and income through quality

inputs and balanced nutrient use, while creating greater opportunities for communities through education, youth employability, healthcare and sports.” The initiative builds on Mari

Energies’ work in education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and infrastructure. Through joint planning and programme reviews, the companies aim to deliver measurable outcomes and

FBR offices to remain open on Saturday to collect duty and taxes

Business Reporter
ISLAMABAD

All offices of the Federal Board of Revenue and its field formations will remain open on Saturday, October 31, 2026, for the collection of duty and taxes. According to the FBR’s latest notice, the relevant Large Taxpayer Offices (LTOs), Corporate Tax Offices (CTOs) and Regional Tax Offices (RTOs) will observe October 31, 2026 as a normal working day. The move also provides taxpayers and businesses with an additional opportunity to complete pending tax payments and other tax-related



transactions before the end of the month. Guidance will be provided to taxpayers regarding any technical glitches. The Federal Board of Revenue directed all chief commissioners to ensure routine operations on October 31, 2026, and facilitate taxpayers.



PSX gains over 1,000 points as investors look past rate hike

■ Hopes of Iran war resolution support sentiment amid easing oil prices

Staff Reporter
KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) carried its upward momentum into Tuesday’s session, with sentiment remaining upbeat despite the State Bank of Pakistan’s decision to raise the policy rate by 50 basis points to 12%, as hopes of progress towards resolving the United States-Israeli war on Iran offered some relief to investors. The benchmark KSE-100 Index opened on a firm note, jumping 875.75

points, or 0.54%, to 163,914.21 within the opening minutes at 9:34am. As the session progressed, the upward momentum continued, with the index climbing to 164,068.67 by 12:54pm, up 1,030.21 points or 0.63%. During the session, the benchmark KSE-100 Index touched an intraday high of 164,368.47 and a low of 163,545.69. Meanwhile, traded volume reached 63.83 million shares, with turnover at Rs4.96 billion. The positive sentiment was also reflected in buying interest across cement, commercial banks.

Crude oil prices fall on Iran peace hopes

■ Iranian state media reported that the four countries agreed to continue discussions to strengthen cooperation on peace and security.

Commerce Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Crude oil prices fell on Tuesday as diplomatic efforts to resolve the US-Israeli war on Iran eased concerns over potential supply disruptions, although fresh attacks on Saudi Arabia kept prices near six-month highs. Currently, Brent crude futures is down, 1.17%, at \$114.64 per barrel. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures is down by \$1.04, or 1.02%, to \$100.72 per barrel. Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran on Monday to reduce regional tensions. Saudi Arabia said the visit aimed to establish open channels for negotiations and prevent a renewed military escalation, according to CNBC. Iranian state media reported that the four countries agreed to continue discussions to strengthen cooperation on peace and security.



The diplomatic engagement offered some relief to oil markets by reducing fears of prolonged disruptions to energy supplies. However, the prospect of an immediate return to stability remained uncertain following renewed attacks by Iran-aligned Houthi forces on Saudi Arabia, limiting the decline in prices. Security risks have also intensified around the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waterways. October has recorded the highest number of attacks on commercial shipping in the area, according to data compiled by a Washington-based think tank that has monitored maritime security incidents since 2017.

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Business bodies reject 50bps rate hike

Pakistan's leading business organisations have criticised the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) decision to raise the policy rate by 50 basis points to 12%, warning that higher borrowing costs could weaken industrial activity, discourage investment, erode export competitiveness and hamper economic recovery.

The Federation of Pakistan

Sheikh Umer Rehan said the 50-basis-point increase could undermine industrial activity, business growth and economic recovery.

While acknowledging that the decision appeared to reflect inflationary pressures, the current account position and external financial challenges, he warned that higher interest rates would make borrowing more expensive and discourage businesses from



Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) expressed concern over the monetary tightening, arguing that businesses were already struggling with high energy tariffs, heavy taxation, expensive raw materials and limited access to affordable financing.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh termed the rate hike counterproductive, saying it could undermine economic stabilisation efforts and further weaken the competitiveness of Pakistani products in international markets.

He argued that manufacturers and commercial enterprises were facing substantial operating costs and liquidity constraints, leaving them with little capacity to absorb additional borrowing expenses.

Sheikh said persistently high interest rates had turned borrowing from a business-enabling tool into a financial burden. He maintained that inflation was being driven largely by structural supply-side constraints, rising energy costs and fiscal weaknesses rather than excessive domestic demand.

According to the FPCCI chief, monetary tightening penalises productive industries without adequately addressing these underlying sources of inflation, potentially forcing formal businesses to scale down operations or shut down. He called for the policy rate to be brought into single digits, arguing that affordable financing was essential for businesses to upgrade technology, increase value addition and compete with regional manufacturers. He also urged policymakers to consult the business community before introducing measures affecting economic activity.

Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) President

expanding production capacity or undertaking new projects.

Rehan said the industrial sector was already under pressure from high operating costs and international economic uncertainty, including tensions surrounding the Iran-US conflict. He added that further increases in financing costs could constrain small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), weaken employment generation and slow export growth.

He argued that inflation should also be addressed through lower energy costs, improvements in the taxation system, more business-friendly regulations and effective industrial policies rather than relying predominantly on monetary tightening.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Talat Mahmood also opposed the rate increase, saying inflationary pressures were largely linked to higher energy and fuel prices, geopolitical uncertainty, supply-chain disruptions and rising essential commodity prices.

He said raising interest rates would increase the cost of financing without directly resolving international oil-price movements, expensive electricity and gas tariffs or supply-chain problems. Mahmood warned that higher borrowing costs could push up production expenses, raise prices of locally manufactured goods and weaken their competitiveness abroad. He urged policymakers to adopt a balanced, growth-oriented approach that controls inflation without compromising industrial development and business sustainability.

Meanwhile, SITE Association of Industry President Abdul Hadi described the increase as an additional setback for manufacturers already operating under severe financial pressure. He said many industrial units were running well below their installed capacity and struggling with expensive utilities and rapidly changing global economic conditions.

From Borders to Narratives: Pakistan, Kashmir and the Information Age

By: Taha Jabbar

In every battle fought with India, Pakistan had to hold the lines, obliterate the tanks and protect national borders. Years have passed, and we still instinctively remember those wars as a story of soldiers, sacrifice, and territorial resolve. The dilemma is that the strategic environment in which those soldiers fought has changed absurdly and is no longer what it was decades earlier. Now nuclear arsenals have left limited space for large-scale wars and typical conflicts lie below the threshold of total war. States contest in cyberspace, in diplomatic statements and in algorithms that decide which perspective of the conflict the world hears first. Kashmir has been central to Pakistani military thinking since it gained independence, but today the Kashmir conflict isn't just limited to the "Line of Control". It is contested today in UN Chambers, newsroom rundowns and in the social media feeds of people who have never visited either side of Kashmir. Today, defence is multifaceted; you don't just have to defend the borders, you defend your country at tables, in courtrooms, and in information spaces where national interests are debated.

By what I said above, none should conclude that the military is now irrelevant. It is the epicentre of our diplomatic voice; without a credible and hard-core military, there is no room left for negotiation, only room for loss. The history of Kashmir-linked conflicts tells us exactly why military capability is so important; in 2019, the strike and the counter-strike nearly threw both states into a nuclear conflict, showing restraint depends on capacity rather than sentiments. What military capability cannot address is the underlying political dispute that is producing the conflicts.

Kashmir has never been only a dispute over territory. It is political, because the aspirations of Kashmiris rarely sit at the centre of debates held in their name. It is also legal, shaped by UN Security Council resolutions and by arguments drawn from international humanitarian law, with each side tending to cite the parts that suit its position. And it is a human issue, visible in civilian harm and in the way that harm affects



how outside audiences judge claims to legitimacy. A state can have significant military capability and still struggle to turn that into political outcomes if it cannot convince others what is happening and why it matters.

More and more, the dispute is being contested in a space where Pakistan's performance has been uneven: narrative formation. International news coverage, think-tank writing, diplomatic messaging, and competing readings of history often determine how a crisis is understood long before any negotiation produces results. Pakistan may have defensible legal arguments on certain points, but arguing is not the same thing as presenting it effectively. A weak narrative position does not erase realities on the ground, but it can reduce their political and diplomatic weight. It is not that Islamabad lacks commitment; rather, it has held a firm stance for decades. The gap is sustained, evidence-based communication, and the habit of responding after attention has already moved elsewhere.

A similar pattern appears in Pakistan's diplomacy. For years, Pakistan has tried to internationalise Kashmir through the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and bilateral channels. At different moments, each forum has offered some room to raise the issue. The harder question is whether this effort has produced lasting external pressure on India. A more effective

approach would expand outreach beyond the usual partners and lean more consistently on documented evidence rather than rhetorical assertion. It would also mean more direct engagement with international media and research institutions, instead of relying mainly on embassy statements that tend to receive limited attention outside the region.

There is also an implication that needs to be stated plainly: external credibility is partly tied to domestic practice. A state asking for international backing on political rights, self-determination, and civilian protection in Kashmir needs to be able to point to its own record on comparable principles. This is not meant to dismiss Pakistan's stated position. It is about the conditions under which that position becomes durable rather than simply declaratory. One reading of past crises is that Pakistan endured by holding its position on the ground. The more relevant lesson now is wider than that. Security is not just territorial control. It also involves sustaining influence across diplomatic, legal, and informational domains. Military forces at the border still matter, but in a dispute like Kashmir, outcomes may also turn on legal processes, public communication, and the judgments of international audiences who have no direct exposure to the Line of Control.

Pakistan-China Hockey Match at Narowal Sports City Celebrates Friendship and Sports Diplomacy

By: Chaudhry Ehsan-ul-Haq
District Information Officer

Narowal Sports City witnessed a memorable sporting occasion on October 26 as Pakistan faced China in an exciting hockey match that celebrated the enduring friendship between the two countries. Pakistan won the match, while an enthusiastic crowd turned the occasion into a vibrant celebration of sports, national pride and international friendship. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary attended the event, highlighting the significance of the international sporting encounter hosted in Narowal. His presence reflected the importance attached to promoting sports, strengthening Pakistan-China relations and providing opportunities for communities in smaller cities to witness international sporting events. The match attracted

considerable enthusiasm from spectators, who gathered at the international-standard hockey ground of Narowal Sports City to support the teams and enjoy the competition. The lively atmosphere demonstrated the public's passion for hockey and the excitement that international sporting events can generate at the local level. The district administration played an important role in the successful organisation of the event. Comprehensive arrangements were made to facilitate the participating teams, guests and spectators. The administration's coordination and efforts helped ensure that the match was conducted in an orderly and welcoming environment. The successful hosting of the event reflected the commitment of the local administration to facilitating major public and sporting activities in the district. The occasion also highlighted the importance of Narowal Sports City, a modern sporting facility that has brought international-standard infrastructure to the district. The hosting of a Pakistan-China hockey match at this venue provided an opportunity to showcase the facility and highlight Narowal's potential as a destination for significant sporting events. Federal

Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary's efforts in promoting the development and use of modern facilities in Narowal have contributed to creating opportunities for such events. The hockey match was a notable occasion for the district, bringing together sports enthusiasts, local residents and distinguished guests in an atmosphere of excitement and goodwill. Pakistan and China enjoy longstanding relations based on mutual trust, cooperation and friendship. Sporting encounters further strengthen these ties by encouraging people-to-people interaction and fostering mutual understanding. The participation of the Chinese hockey team in Narowal provided a practical expression of this friendship, with the sporting contest serving as a platform for goodwill and sports diplomacy. Pakistan's victory added to the excitement of the occasion, making the match particularly memorable for the home crowd. At the same time, the contest reflected the spirit of international sportsmanship and the role of sporting events in bringing people from different countries together. Hockey holds a special place in Pakistan's sporting history. The country has achieved remarkable success on the international stage, earning

recognition for its performance in the game. The match at Narowal Sports City brought renewed public attention to the national sport and provided local spectators, particularly young people, an opportunity to experience international hockey at close quarters. The event also brought positive attention to Narowal, highlighting the district's sporting infrastructure and its capacity to host an international competition. The enthusiastic participation of spectators, the presence of the federal minister and the arrangements made by the district administration contributed to the significance of the occasion. The Pakistan-China hockey match was therefore more than a sporting contest. It was a celebration of friendship, community enthusiasm and the positive role of sports diplomacy. Pakistan's victory, the energetic response of the spectators and the successful arrangements made by the district administration made October 26 a memorable day for Narowal. The occasion reflected the spirit of Pakistan-China friendship and highlighted Narowal Sports City's importance as a venue for international sporting activities. It was a proud moment for the district and a testament to the value of coordinated efforts in bringing major sporting events to local communities.

Govt, JI form committee to recommend more relief for people: Minister

Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal announced that the government and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) agreed to form expert committees to recommend measures for reducing the petroleum levy and easing the public burden.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah, Iqbal said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman had agreed to set up the committee. He said the committee would have one member each from the government and Jamaat-e-Islami and would finalise proposals to provide relief to the people. The minister added that the government was also working to end the petroleum levy in phases and would consider increasing the relief currently being provided on petrol. Iqbal said thousands of people were already benefiting from the prime minister's fuel relief scheme. He added that the government wanted to help people but warned that

decisions taken only to gain popularity could create serious economic problems later. Explaining the situation, Iqbal said rising tensions in the region had created a global crisis, while the closure of the Strait of Hormuz had affected oil supplies. He said countries around the world were facing an emergency and trying to secure resources for their future. Rana Sanaullah said the ongoing war in the region had affected the entire world.

He said the government was trying to provide maximum relief to deserving people and appreciated Jamaat-e-Islami's focus on helping ordinary citizens. Sanaullah said Pakistan was the only country making serious efforts to end the war and that the international community was also hopeful about these efforts.

He said the government was working sincerely to provide relief to the public. He further claimed that the efforts of Pakistan's political and

NCCIA Gilgit Organises Cybercrime Awareness Session at School in Danyor

■ Students briefed on online safety, cyberbullying, financial fraud, identity theft and personal data protection; helpline 1799 introduced for complaints

STAFF REPORTER

Gilgit

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Gilgit, organised a cybercrime awareness session at The Legends Higher Secondary School for Boys in Danyor, Gilgit, to educate students about online safety and the responsible use of digital platforms. The session was held under the special directives of NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and the supervision of the In-charge NCCIA Gilgit Circle. During the session, senior



NCCIA officers briefed students and faculty members on emerging cybercrime challenges. The lecture covered the safe and responsible use of social media, online harassment, child pornography, cyberbullying, financial fraud, identity theft, personal data protection, and the harmful effects

of fake news and disinformation circulating on social media. The officers explained how children and young people can unknowingly become victims of cybercriminals and highlighted practical precautionary measures to protect themselves from online threats. Participants were also

informed about the NCCIA helpline 1799 and the procedure for filing complaints online. Students actively participated in the session and raised various questions, which were addressed by NCCIA officers with detailed and satisfactory answers. The administration and principal of The Legends Higher Secondary School appreciated NCCIA Gilgit's efforts in organising the informative programme, describing such awareness sessions as an essential need of the time. They also expressed their desire to host similar sessions in the future.

Govt plans to raise threshold for protected power consumers to 250 units, Senate informed

■ Tariq Fazal Chaudhry says govt implementing national AI ecosystem

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Senate was informed today that government is implementing a national AI ecosystem, encompassing AI infrastructure, human capital, research, startups, financing and responsible AI governance.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry told the House during the Question Hour that the National Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem Development Programme is one of the government's most significant upcoming interventions for AI development.

The minister said the government has announced one billion dollars investment for Pakistan's AI



Ecosystem by 2030. He said the government is also implementing the National AI advancement initiative to accelerate AI adoption and build practical AI capacity.

Responding to a supplementary question, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar informed the House that

Pakistan had joined the World AI Cooperation Organization, a China-led initiative aimed at promoting transparency, openness and cooperation in artificial intelligence. He said around 50 members had joined the organization and Pakistan had signed its founding document and

its headquarters would be in Shanghai and its first council meeting is expected in mid-December.

Responding to a calling attention notice, Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Leghari said the government will soon introduce a system with regards to provision of targeted subsidy to the power consumers. He said there is also a plan to increase the threshold for protected consumers to 250 units.

The Minister for Power said circular debt has declined to around 1.6 trillion rupees over the past two and a half years.

Responding to a Point of Order, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry assured the House that efforts are underway to soon reopen 'Sunday Bazaar' at Peshawar Mor in Islamabad.

Azad Kashmir govt reshuffles senior bureaucrats

NEWS DESK

AJK

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday reshuffled senior secretaries in various departments. According to a notification, Mohammad Zafar Khan is appointed as Secretary to the President, and Zafar Mehmood Khan is posted as Secretary, Higher Education Commission. Mohammad Tayyab is posted as Senior Member, Board of Revenue, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Mohammad Farid is appointed as Secretary Energy and Water Resources, and Ansar Yaqoob is appointed as Secretary Horticulture, Wildlife and



Fisheries.

Javed-ul-Hassan Javed is appointed as Secretary for Kashmir Cause, Arts, and Languages.

Rafaqat Hussain Khan entrusted with the responsibilities of Secretary for Sports, Tourism, and Culture.

Sohail Azam appointed as Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education.

Chaudhry Abdul Rehman appointed as Secretary for Industries, Commerce, and Labour Welfare.



Naqvi inspects work on Kashmir Chowk Underpass project in Islamabad

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Kashmir Chowk Underpass Project early Tuesday morning and reviewed the ongoing construction work. During his visit, Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the project's progress and pace. The construction of the project started 17 days ago. The Interior Minister expressed

his complete satisfaction with the pace of development work.

Mohsin Naqvi said that "I am pleased to see the walls and lanterns of the project". The minister expressed the hope that if the construction work continues at the same pace, then it will be completed in less than 30 days.

Earlier, on October 21, 2026, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the Kashmir Chowk underpass will be opened to traffic soon.

Cuba Urges International Community to Support UN Resolution Against US Blockade



Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

The Cuban Embassy in Pakistan has urged the international community to support a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for an end to the decades-long US economic blockade against Cuba, citing economic losses exceeding \$8 billion and serious humanitarian consequences. Addressing a press conference titled "The Human and Economic Cost: Why the World Must Vote to End the US Blockade on Cuba" in Islamabad on Tuesday, Cuban Ambassador Damian Cordero Torres said the economic damage caused by the blockade had reached \$8.083 billion between March 1, 2025, and February 28, 2026. The ambassador said recent US measures had further intensified economic pressure on Cuba, particularly by restricting oil supplies and expanding sanctions targeting key sectors, including energy, mining, finance,

security and defence. He highlighted the impact of these restrictions on Cuba's healthcare system, saying that more than 100,000 surgical procedures had reportedly been postponed or cancelled because of power outages and shortages of fuel for backup generators. According to figures shared by the embassy, more than 118,000 cancer patients, including 1,200 children, were facing difficulties accessing first-line treatments due to supply chain restrictions. The ambassador also cited an infant mortality rate of 9.3 per 1,000 live births and warned that shortages of fuel and medicines were threatening essential healthcare, food and water services across the country. Ambassador Torres described the intensified restrictions as a violation of international law, arguing that their consequences amounted to collective punishment of the Cuban population. He also criticised Cuba's continued inclusion on the US list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, saying the designation restricted the country's access to international banking services and increased financial costs. He maintained that Cuba had fulfilled its international counterterrorism commitments and described the country as a victim, rather than a sponsor, of terrorism.

Punjab govt mulling legislation to ban use Of vapes, e-cigarettes

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Punjab government has decided to enact tough laws in order to prevent youth from getting addicted to vapes and E-cigarettes, and in this connection is mulling a ban on their consumption.

In this connection, there is a proposal to consult the concerned departments.

In this regard, the role of police, the

health department and the district administration will be important.

Under the proposed legislation, it is being contemplated to impose restrictions on the sale, use and marketing of vapes across the province.

The purpose of the legislation is to keep youth from getting exposed to the hazards of the products containing nicotine.

The legislation will also determine punishments for those found violating the ban.

Senate panel warns Railways officials over incomplete case records

■ Awan said the committee had already sought information about a particular case on three occasions but the relevant officials had failed to present it.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Senate Standing Committee on Railways expressed serious dissatisfaction over the failure of Pakistan Railways officials to provide complete records of legal cases and warned of action if the required details were not submitted at the next meeting. Chairing the committee meeting, Senator Shahadat Awan criticised Railways officials for their lack of information about 55 cases and directed them to present complete records at the next meeting. He said the failure of officials to provide information about 55 cases reflected incompetence and raised questions about the handling of legal matters by Pakistan Railways.

The committee chairman questioned the contradictory figures presented by different railway authorities, saying the Inspector General of Railway Police had reported 163 cases while other officials had provided details of only five.

Awan said the committee had already sought information about a particular case on three occasions but the relevant officials had failed to present it.

He said the committee was granting a fourth opportunity to submit the required record and warned that action would be taken if the information was not provided at the next meeting.

The chairman directed the relevant railway officials to improve coordination in legal matters and ensure that statements presented before the committee were based on official records rather than contradictory information.

During the meeting, railway officials briefed the committee on the department's legal system and the procedure for engaging lawyers to represent Pakistan Railways in different courts.

They said civil cases were assigned to a panel of lawyers,



while criminal cases involving Pakistan Railways were handled through the Inspector General of Railway Police and the relevant railway divisions.

The officials said cases pending before the high courts and Supreme Court were handled through the Attorney General's office, while the department's panel of lawyers represented Pakistan Railways exclusively in civil courts.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi said the government would not allow even an inch of Pakistan Railways land to remain under illegal occupation.

He said there would be no compromise on the recovery of

railway property from illegal occupants and that a uniform policy was being implemented across the country to address encroachments.

Abbasi said approximately 450 railway sites had been recovered in the Sukkur Division, while land recovery operations had also been carried out in the Faisalabad and Lahore divisions.

The minister said an incident involving the construction of a road on Pakistan Railways land in Karachi had also come to light and that no compromise had been made on the matter.

He said no action would be taken against individuals or institutions holding railway land legally, but those occupying the department's property illegally would face action.

Abbasi said efforts were underway to resolve issues concerning railway land held by provincial governments and other institutions.

He said matters relating to the transfer and mutation of Pakistan Railways land were also being reviewed.



Chairman NAB Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed and NAB officers in Group Photo with visiting participants of 140th Senior Management Course, NIM, Islamabad at NAB (HQ), Islamabad on 27th October, 2026.

Tri-series: Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by eight wickets to reach final

● Pakistan, Sri Lanka set for final on Sunday as England crash out

SPORTS REPORTER
LAHORE

Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by eight wickets in the fifth match of the tri-nation ODI series in Lahore on Tuesday, chasing a small target of 111 runs in just 18 overs, which ends England's hopes of reaching the tri-series final. Sri Lanka reached 111 for two, thanks to a brilliant unbeaten knock of 62 by Kamindu Mendis. Avishka Fernando scored 16, while Kusal Mendis made eight runs. Earlier, Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bowl. Pakistan's batting line-up failed once again, as the hosts were bowled out for just 110 in 25.3 overs. Babar Azam was the top scorer for Pakistan with 29 runs. Shadab Khan managed only two runs, while Haris Rauf scored one. Pakistan's total of 110 was the third-lowest score in ODI matches between the two teams. Sri Lankan fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka delivered a career-best performance, taking five wickets for 34 runs. Sahan Arachchige claimed two wickets, while Asitha Fernando,



Eshan Malinga and Dunith Wellalage took one wicket each. Despite the heavy defeat, Pakistan have already qualified for the final of the tri-nation series. The victory is Sri Lanka's second in three games, enough to deprive the third team, England, of a spot in Sunday's final, for which Pakistan have already qualified with three wins. The English, who have contrived to lose successive matches against Sri

Lanka and Pakistan from winning positions, needed the hosts to win to have any hope of joining them in the final. Consequently, Thursday's match between Sri Lanka and England is a dead rubber. Recalled Farhan to sit on bench. Sri Lankan captain Kusal Mendis won the toss and decided to field first, saying there is no change in the team. Pakistan skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi

said two changes have been made in the side. Maaz Sadaqat and Naseem Shah came in for Saim Ayub and Razaullah. Recalled Sahibzada Farhan who joined the team Tuesday morning after his return from Nepal was not selected. Shaheen Afridi said he would have bowled first had he won the toss, saying last game was a good sign for Pakistan that any player can come in and win the game for them. He said he expected a score of at least 300 to be competitive. Kusal, who just keeps winning tosses, said the dew is the primary reason for chasing. TEAMS
Pakistan XI: Maaz Sadaqat, Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam, Saad Baig (wk), Hasan Nawaz, Salman Ali Agha, Arafat Minhas, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi (capt), Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf
Sri Lanka XI: Avishka Fernando, Kamindu Mendis, Kusal Mendis (capt, wk), Pavan Rathnayake, Sahan Arachchige, Janith Liyanage, Dasun Shanaka, Dunith Wellalage, Eshan Malinga, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka
Team Pakistan has already qualified for the final of the tournament. Sri Lankan cricket team, which did practice at the Qaddafi Stadium, desperately needs a win today to secure its place in the final.



Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka ruled out of Pakistan Test

SPORTS DESK
Islamabad

Sri Lanka batter Pathum Nissanka will miss the upcoming two-match Test series against Pakistan as he continues to recover from a left hamstring injury. The Sri Lanka Cricket Selection Committee has named Lahiru Udara as Nissanka's replacement for the series, according to the team update. Udara is already in Pakistan as a member of Sri Lanka's ODI squad, making him available to join the Test team. Nissanka's absence comes as Sri Lanka prepare for the two-Test contest against Pakistan. His ongoing recovery from the hamstring injury has prevented him from being included in the squad for the upcoming matches.

14-member Pakistan squad unveiled for ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy

■ Wicketkeeper-batter Muneeba Ali to lead Pakistan team in tournament, which begins in UAE on Nov 12



SPORTS REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Muneeba Ali will lead Pakistan in the upcoming ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026 as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced a 14-member squad on Tuesday for the tournament which is set to be staged in Ajman, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 12 to 25 November. Batter Ayesha Zafar has been named vice-captain, while Eman Naseer, Eyman Fatima, Sadaf Shamas, Saira Jabeen and Shawaal Zulfiqar are the batters named in the squad. Gull Feroza, who was named best wicketkeeper-batter in the recently concluded National Women's T20 Tournament, is also part of the team. Left-arm spinner Nashra Sundhu will lead the bowling attack with Momina Riasat, Tuba Hassan and Umm-e-Hani forming the spin bowling quartet. Tasmia Rubab and Waheeda Akhtar are the frontline pace options in the squad. Pakistan women's team most recently won the Bronze Medal in the Asian Games in Japan. 12 players have retained their place in the squad from Pakistan's last assignment, while Sadaf and Waheeda have been recalled. Pakistan will also be without regular captain Fatima Sana as she will be in Australia to feature in her

maiden Women's Big Bash League season. The 30-match tournament comprises of 10 teams divided into two groups. Pakistan are in Group B alongside Bangladesh, Thailand, Netherlands and Zimbabwe. Group A consists of Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland Papua New Guinea and hosts United Arab Emirates (UAE). Following single-league round-robin stage, three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six stage, where they will play three matches each. The top two teams of the Super Six stage will play the final on Wednesday, 25 November. Pakistan squad will assemble in Lahore on 6 November and will undergo a pre-tournament training camp on 7, 8 and 9 November before departing for UAE. 14-member squad
Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (captain, wk), Ayesha Zafar (vice-captain), Eman Naseer, Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza (wk), Momina Riasat, Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Saira Jabeen, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani, Waheeda Akhtar
Player support personnel
Wahab Riaz (mentor), Ayesha Ashar (team manager), Abdur Rehman (spin bowling coach), Umaid Asif (fast bowling coach), Abdul Majeed (fielding coach), Imran Farhat (batting coach), Waleed Ahmed (performance analyst), Moeen (strength & conditioning coach) and Dur Samand (physiotherapist)

Kane beats Yamal and Mbappe to taste Ballon d'Or glory

● Alexia Putellas claims women's prize for a third time to extend Spain's domination of the award

SPECIAL REPORTER
London

Harry Kane became England's first Ballon d'Or winner in 25 years in his native city of London beating Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe. Alexia Putellas claimed the women's prize for a third time to extend Spain's domination of the award, thanks to her role in leading Barcelona to last season's Champions League before moving to London City Lionesses. The first ever Ballon d'Or ceremony on English soil got off to an inauspicious start as the London traffic caused a delay of nearly an hour, with many of the star names arriving late. But there was a happy ending for



the hometown hero as Kane collected the crowning glory of his career to date, becoming the first Englishman to win the award since Michael Owen in 2001. The 33-year-old Bayern Munich forward struck a remarkable 73

goals in 65 games for club and country last season, propelling the German giants to a league and cup double. He also scored six times as England finished third at the World Cup.

"I love to represent my country and to bring this trophy back to them and have an English winner I think is something that's really, really special, especially here in London," Kane told AFP. "What a crazy night and I'm really, really happy." Despite being England and Tottenham's all-time record goalscorer, Kane's medal collection is limited to German domestic triumphs. He was on the losing side for Spurs in the 2019 Champions League final against Liverpool and twice tasted bitter defeat in the final of the European Championship with England. But joining Bayern in 2023 and his remarkable goalscoring consistency have earned him the highest individual award in football.

Arshad needs a fresh start

■ Former coach urges fitness, focus and modern training

SPORTS DESK
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's senior javelin coach Fayyaz Hussain Bukhari has said that Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem needs modern training, proper injury management and a renewed focus on athletics to return to his form. Bukhari, who played a key role in Arshad's early development, said the seasoned athlete possessed exceptional natural talent but had struggled to maintain consistent performances because of a series of injuries. Talking exclusively to Daily Express Bukhari "Arshad is blessed with extraordinary talent," said Bukhari, who serve as WAPDA coach.



"His injuries have affected his performance, but with the right attention and training in line with modern requirements, he can overcome these difficulties and return to winning ways." Born on January 2, 1997, in a village in Mian

Channu, in Punjab province's Khanewal district, Arshad initially played cricket, football and kabaddi. "His height, strength and natural athletic ability made him well suited to sporting competition, Bukhari said. Arshad came to WAPDA seeking employment and better financial prospects. Recognising his potential, Bukhari guided him towards javelin and worked to develop his technique and competitive ability. Arshad responded with determination, gradually establishing himself as one of Pakistan's leading athletes. He won bronze at the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati, India, with a throw of 55.33 metres, a result that strengthened his confidence and encouraged him to work harder. His progress continued at the Asian Athletics Championships the following year.



Pakistan Police Athletes Win 13 Medals at Asian, World Masters and National Championships

■ Police athletes secure 8 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals in weightlifting and athletics; IG Punjab Abdul Kareem lauds their outstanding achievements

SPORTS REPORTER
LAHORE

Athletes of the Pakistan Police Sports Board delivered an outstanding performance at the Asian & World Masters Grand Prix Weightlifting Championship 2026 and the 54th National Athletics Championships, winning a total of 13 medals. Pakistan Police athletes secured 11 medals in weightlifting events and 2 medals in the National Athletics Championships. Male and female athletes and weightlifters of Pakistan Police achieved remarkable success

by winning 8 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals. Weightlifters Majeed, Muhammad Rizwan, Zubair and Iram Khanum won two gold medals each, while weightlifter Nadeem secured two silver medals and Bilal won one bronze medal. Athlete Muhammad Ahmad won a bronze medal in the marathon, while Mubashir secured a bronze medal in the 3,000-metre race. Teams from across the country, including the Army, WAPDA, Pakistan Navy, Air Force, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, participated in the

championships. IG Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulated the Pakistan Police athletes on their outstanding performance, stating that the department is proud of its athletes who have brought honour to the department through their achievements in national and international events. Director General Pakistan Police Sports Board, Additional IG Imran Arshad, and Chief Sports Officer, DIG Athar Ismail, also appreciated the outstanding performance of the winning athletes and paid tribute to their achievements.



Islamabad: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Dr. Rajeh Tami Albugamy called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

DG NCCIA Directs Modernisation of Complaint Management System, Strengthening of IT Infrastructure

■ Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi orders 100% digital registration of complaints, transparent monitoring and timely resolution, with daily performance reviews to ensure citizen-friendly services

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti
ISLAMABAD

Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, has chaired a high-level meeting at the agency's headquarters in Islamabad to review measures for modernising and improving the efficiency of the Complaint Management System (CMS) and IT infrastructure. The meeting was attended by officials of

the Complaint Management System, the IT team, deputy directors and other relevant officers. The participants held detailed discussions on improving the CMS to make it more efficient, modern and citizen-friendly, upgrading IT infrastructure, strengthening data security, and ensuring the prompt and timely resolution of digital complaints lodged by citizens. During the meeting, the DG NCCIA issued clear directives to the CMS and IT teams to ensure 100 per cent digital registration of public

complaints, transparent monitoring, timely responses and an effective feedback mechanism so that complainants do not face unnecessary difficulties. He emphasised that the effective use of modern technology was essential to address the growing challenges of cybercrime. He said that transforming the NCCIA along modern lines and ensuring prompt access to justice for citizens at their doorstep remained the agency's top priority.

MoFA holds solidarity walk to reaffirm Pakistan's support for Kashmiris

● Participants in the walk carried placards and chanted slogans in support of the Kashmiri people's struggle against illegal foreign occupation.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday held a solidarity walk here on Constitution Avenue to mark the 79th Kashmir Black Day, commemorating the illegal landing of Indian occupation forces in Srinagar on October 27, 1947. Led by Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the officials of the foreign ministry participated in the walk which culminated at D-Chowk where the leaders including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the gathering. The rally aimed to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their struggle for justice and freedom.



Participants in the walk carried placards and chanted slogans in support of the Kashmiri people's struggle against illegal foreign occupation. Addressing the rally, Deputy Prime Minister Dar urged the international community to play its due role in alleviating the

suffering of the Kashmiri people and ensuring the realisation of their inalienable right to self-determination. He emphasised that sustainable peace in the region depended on resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security

Council (UNSC) resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's resolute commitment to continue extending all-out moral, diplomatic, and legal support to the Kashmiri people until they achieve their right to self-determination. Earlier, in a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan, said that Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of IIOJK, honouring their courage, resilience and enduring aspirations for dignity, peace and self-determination. "Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering political, moral and diplomatic support and calls upon the international community to facilitate a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions," he added.

CJP Yahya Afridi urges lawyers to embrace modern technology, strengthen legal skills

■ CJP described the lawyers as ambassadors of the FJA and the judiciary, emphasising their role in promoting public confidence in the justice system

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi has stressed the need for continuous legal education, professional ethics and modern technology to strengthen the country's justice system during a meeting with 51 lawyers from Balochistan at the Supreme Court. The delegation was participating in a continuing legal education programme organised by the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA). The lawyers were nominated by the Balochistan Bar Council and represented Quetta, Turbat, Khuzdar, Pishin, Zhob, Chaman, Kalat, Sibi and other districts.



Welcoming the delegation, CJP Afridi appreciated the academy's efforts to enhance lawyers' professional capabilities. He urged participants to apply their training in legal practice, maintain high ethical standards and share their knowledge with colleagues. He described the lawyers as ambassadors of

the FJA and the judiciary, emphasising their role in promoting public confidence in the justice system. The chief justice also briefed the delegation on judicial infrastructure improvements under the Access to Justice Development Fund. Facilities provided at judicial complexes and bar rooms include solar power systems, internet-connected e-libraries, clean drinking water and dedicated facilities for women. He said infrastructure development projects had largely been completed, with work remaining at six judicial complexes due to technical issues. CJP Afridi encouraged lawyers to utilise these facilities and benefit from the FJA's online training programmes to improve their professional expertise.

Private Hajj scheme bookings reach 80pc, 15,000 seats remain



STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs said on Tuesday that about 80 per cent of the national quota under the private Hajj scheme for 2027 had been booked, leaving only 15,000 seats for intending pilgrims. Private Hajj bookings accelerated in the days after the October 20 deadline to deposit the second instalment under the government Hajj scheme. Private Hajj pilgrims have deposited Rs57.5 billion towards their dues, including Rs30 billion through the One Link PSID system and bank cards and Rs27.5 billion through manual bank challans. The ministry said the cost of sacrificial animals, Rs55,000 per pilgrim, is already included in this year's private Hajj packages. It urged intending pilgrims to complete their bookings promptly through the Pak Hajj App or the official Hajj portal, as only a limited number of seats remain available.

Balochistan orders destruction of poppy crops, intensifies anti-drug operations

NEWS DESK
QUETTA

Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove has ordered the destruction of poppy crops across the province and intensified operations against narcotics, warning that land belonging to those involved in illegal poppy cultivation would also be seized. The directives were issued during a high-level meeting on narcotics prevention and eradication chaired by the home minister in Quetta. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Hamza Shafqaat, senior officers of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and other relevant officials attended the meeting. Langove said poppy cultivation would not be tolerated anywhere in Balochistan and that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in growing and trading narcotics. He said land belonging to individuals involved in poppy cultivation would also be seized as part of the government's measures against narcotics. The home minister directed law enforcement agencies and relevant institutions to intensify anti-narcotics operations and take action without discrimination against those involved in the cultivation and trade of illegal drugs.



He said an effective and coordinated strategy was necessary to eliminate narcotics from the province and directed officials to improve the process of identifying and destroying poppy crops. Langove said all relevant institutions must coordinate their efforts to ensure the effective implementation of anti-narcotics measures. He said negligence or laxity in operations against narcotics would not be tolerated and that strict measures were necessary in the broader interests of Balochistan. The home minister said no one would be allowed to destroy the future of Balochistan through narcotics cultivation and trafficking. He said the provincial government would make no compromise in its campaign against narcotics and directed the relevant authorities to ensure effective implementation of the decisions taken during the meeting.

New provinces will be created after December 15, says Fawad Ch

■ Ex-PTI leader says Imran Khan is biggest supporter of new administrative units

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



Ex-PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Tuesday that a constitutional amendment would be introduced by December 15, and new provinces would be created afterwards. Speaking to reporters at an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore, he claimed that the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan was a biggest supporter of new provinces in the country. "It is time for the state to settle its disputes with the PTI," Fawad said. He was of the view that governor's rule in KP could not continue for more than six months. "After that, these are the elected representatives who will have to take over."

He asked the PTI leadership whether they had a plan in their minds. "Initially, they say they want to talk to the government, and later they talk about bringing a revolution," he said, adding that they did not have any idea what to do. Seasoned politician opined there was nobody in the PTI with whom negotiations could be held. "The present leadership of the party is immature," Fawad said. He said that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's reservations were right. "His party workers are being martyred."

Another audio of ex-KP CM Ali Amin Gandapur leaked

STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR



Another audio of former KP chief minister and PTI leader Ali Amin Gandapur has leaked in which he can be heard using harsh words against another PTI leader Shandana Gulzar. However, the audio was deleted from social media only 10 minutes after it was leaked. In the audio, the ex-CM says to Shandana, "Madam, mind your own business. Don't interfere in others' affairs." He further says to her, "Presently, you don't hold any office in the party. That's why, I cannot hold you accountable. If you had a

position in the party, I would have asked you questions, leaving you speechless." Gandapur goes on to say that he has worked a lot for the PTI workers, and even provided counsels to those languishing in prisons. "I have also looked after their families," he said, adding, "If you are still not satisfied, then show your performance."

Govt approves key changes to anti-money laundering framework

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The National Executive Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) has approved a proposed revision to the threshold for Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs) and the inclusion of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority in Schedule IV of the Anti-Money Laundering Act. The decisions were taken during a meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb, where participants reviewed progress in Pakistan's anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing regime. According to a statement issued after the meeting, the committee agreed to keep the country's AML/CFT framework aligned with emerging financial risks. The committee approved a

proposed revision to the threshold for Currency Transaction Reports, which are used to report cash transactions under the anti-money laundering framework. It also approved the inclusion of Section 28 of the Pakistan Maritime Zones Act in Schedule I of the Anti-Money Laundering Act. The committee approved the inclusion of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority in Schedule IV of the Anti-Money Laundering Act. During the meeting, participants reviewed the performance and institutional capacity of the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), which handles financial intelligence related to money laundering and terrorist financing.