

IG Punjab Reviews Security and Crime Situation During Sargodha Visit

■ Abdul Kareem inaugurates new police facilities, rewards courageous personnel, and visits the family of martyred SHO Aamir Rizwan.



crime reporter

Lahore / Sargodha

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem visited Sargodha, where he was received by RPO Sohail

Akhtar Sukhera and DPOs. IG Punjab visited the Martyrs' Memorial, laid a floral wreath and offered Fateha. A well-turned-out police contingent presented a salute to him. A police meeting was held under the chairmanship of IG Punjab Abdul Kareem, attended by a large number of

police officers and personnel. On this occasion, the IG Punjab said that the Punjab government had provided the police with more resources than ever before. He directed all officers and personnel to play their full role in upholding the Chief Minister Punjab's Safe Punjab Vision. IG Punjab also

distributed certificates and cash rewards among police officers and personnel who had demonstrated courage and bravery. During the visit, IG Punjab Abdul Kareem inaugurated the newly constructed buildings of the Staff Hostel, Police Training School and Traffic Complex in Sargodha. He said that, with the special support of the Punjab government, comprehensive measures had been taken to improve administrative and other affairs. A crime review meeting was also held under the chairmanship of IG Punjab, during which the prevailing crime situation was reviewed and the need for concrete measures to prevent crime was emphasized. Later, IG Punjab Abdul Kareem visited the residence of martyred SHO Aamir Rizwan, where he met the bereaved family and offered special prayers for the elevation of the martyr's ranks.

LHC restores defamation claim dismissed over limitation

■ LHC restores a defamation claim, ruling that citizens cannot lose legal rights because the government failed to establish a special tribunal on time.

Court Reporter

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi Bench has ruled that when a special tribunal is required by law to enforce a legal right, the government's failure to establish it within the prescribed period cannot deprive a citizen of that right.

The court set aside an order dismissing a defamation claim on limitation grounds and remanded the case to the relevant tribunal for a decision on merit. A two-member bench comprising Justice Mirza Waqas Rauf

and Justice Anwar Hussain announced the verdict while allowing an appeal filed by Muhammad Farooq Malik. The appellant had challenged an order issued by the Rawalpindi Defamation Tribunal on January 13, 2026, dismissing his claim as time-barred under the Punjab Defamation Act 2024.

According to the judgment, the appellant became aware of the alleged defamation in April 2025. Although the Punjab Defamation Act had already come into force, special tribunals to hear defamation cases had not yet been established.

The appellant approached a regular



civil court on July 28, 2025, seeking damages. The judgment noted that the Punjab government subsequently established defamation tribunals through a notification dated September 22, 2025, and defined their territorial jurisdiction.

On November 6, 2025, the civil court

returned the claim, directing the appellant to approach the competent forum. After obtaining a certified copy of the order, the appellant filed his claim before the Defamation Tribunal on November 13, 2025. However, the tribunal dismissed it on the grounds that the limitation period had expired.

The high court observed that when the appellant initially approached the civil court to protect his rights, the legally authorised special tribunal did not exist. Following the tribunal's establishment, he approached the relevant forum without unnecessary delay.

Open Court Held by DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

According to the details, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem held an open court at his office, which was attended by a large number of citizens. He listened to their complaints and concerns in detail and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution. DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem stated that the timely resolution of citizens' issues on merit is a top priority of Islamabad Police. He added that citizens can attend the open court directly and present their complaints without any recommendation or reference. An open court is held daily at the DIG Office to facilitate citizens and ensure the timely redressal of their grievances.

Islamabad Police Arrest 65 Suspects in 24 Hours, Recover Stolen Motorcycles and Weapons

■ Five Gang Members Held; 19 Snatched Mobile Phones, Gold Jewellery, Cash and Nine Stolen Motorcycles Recovered

Crime Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Five Members of Three Gangs Involved in Robbery, Motorcycle Theft and House Burglary Arrested; 19 Snatched Mobile Phones, Gold Jewelry, Cash, Nine Stolen Motorcycles and Weapons Recovered. According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police is continuing its extensive crackdown against criminal elements to protect the lives and property of citizens across the federal capital. During the last 24 hours, police teams arrested 65 accused in various operations, including five members of three gangs involved in robbery, motorcycle theft and house burglary. Police teams recovered 19 snatched mobile phones, gold jewelry, cash, nine stolen motorcycles and weapons along with ammunition used in criminal activities from the arrested accused. Similarly, 10 accused involved in illegal possession and display



of weapons were arrested, and 10 pistols along with ammunition were recovered from their possession. Furthermore, three accused involved in drug trafficking were arrested, and 1,255 grams of hashish, 270 grams of heroin and 480 grams of ice were recovered from them. Meanwhile, a special campaign targeting proclaimed offenders and court absconders resulted in the arrest of 47 accused.

DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the foremost priority of Islamabad Police. He said that indiscriminate action against criminal elements would continue and all available resources would be utilized to maintain law and order and ensure public safety across the capital.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

CDA discusses hospitality upgrades ahead of SCO summit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Capital Development Authority (CDA) has held talks with investors, developers and hotel operators on upgrading the capital's hospitality sector ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled to be held in Islamabad in August 2027.

The meeting, chaired by CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf at CDA headquarters, focused on improving hotel facilities and bringing hospitality services in line with international standards to accommodate foreign delegations and other visitors expected for the summit.

Participants included Ducommun Tim Paul, director of development for Asia at the Accor Group, and representatives of major hotel chains operating in Islamabad, including Marriott, Serena, Mövenpick, Best Western and Ramada, as well as investors and developers associated with the hospitality and real estate sectors.

Paul appreciated the CDA's efforts to make Islamabad more attractive to tourists and business visitors, according to a statement issued by the authority. Sohail Ashraf said Islamabad offered significant opportunities for investment in the hospitality industry and modernisation of existing facilities. He said the capital's growing potential as a tourism destination made it necessary to develop services that met international standards.

He said the CDA would facilitate investors and encourage private-sector participation in upgrading the hospitality sector, adding that available resources would be utilised to improve the capital's capacity to host major international events.



Federal Constitutional Court moved against governor's rule in KP

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

A petition was filed in the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Tuesday against the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in KP, Making the federal government, the president, KP governor, the provincial government and others respondents in the case, Muhammad Yousaf Javed Advocate challenged the notification issued under articles 232 and 234 of the constitution, and sought its withdrawal.

He prayed to the FCC to declare the imposition of governor's rule and emergency against the constitution and based on a mala fide intent.

Also on Tuesday, the PHC issued notices to the federal government, the attorney general of Pakistan (AGP), the advocate general and other relevant authorities on petitions challenging the imposition of governor's rule and emergency in KP. APHC division bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Muhammad Faheem Wali heard on Tuesday the petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and others.

German Journalists' Delegation Visits National Press Club Islamabad

■ Delegation Discusses Pak-German Media Cooperation, Professional Exchanges and Capacity-Building Initiatives

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

: Marina Friedt, Chairperson of the German Press Association, Hamburg, affiliated with the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ), along with Moritz Lohmann, a young journalist from Berlin, and Abdullah Dayo, Programme Advisor at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, visited the National Press Club (NPC), Islamabad. The delegation was warmly received by Dr. Furqan Rao, Secretary of the National Press Club Islamabad, who briefed the visitors on the Club's functioning, activities, and role in promoting journalists' professional interests. He also provided an overview of the Club's various facilities and initiatives and gave the delegation a tour of its premises, highlighting its role as a key platform for journalists and media professionals. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on journalism, media cooperation, and the evolving challenges facing journalists in Pakistan and Germany. The discussion focused on



exploring avenues for strengthening ties between the journalistic communities of the two countries through professional networking, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative initiatives. Both sides expressed their commitment to enhancing future cooperation, particularly through capacity-building training programmes, professional exchanges, and opportunities for journalists from Pakistan and Germany to share experiences and expertise. The

leadership of both sides emphasised the importance of international collaboration and dialogue in addressing emerging challenges in journalism and strengthening professional relationships between media practitioners. The visit marked a constructive step towards fostering stronger Pak-German media relations and building lasting bridges of cooperation, mutual understanding, and professional solidarity between journalists of the two countries.

Sindh govt bans issuance of arms licences



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Sindh government has slapped a ban on issuance of arms licences for an indefinite period in the province, The Arms Section has been closed on the orders of the Provincial Home Minister.

Section Officer Taimoor Altaf Memon has been removed from his position.

The Services, General Administration, and Coordination Department issued a notification in this regard on Tuesday.

Trump slams Nato allies for not helping Washington during Iran war



Web DESK

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has hit out at the Nato allies, saying they "weren't there to help" Washington during its war on Iran. "We stand with Europe despite its flaws, its weaknesses...But if they don't soon find their way, and they have to find their way, we will have no choice but to leave," he said while addressing an election rally in Kansas.

"We spend hundreds of billions of dollars a year on Nato protecting them, but when we said, 'Would you like to help?' 'No,

thank you.' 'Oh, no thank you?' What does that mean, 'No, thank you'?"

US President Donald Trump has said Washington could withdraw from the war against Iran soon, reiterating that Tehran must not be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons.

Trump claimed that Iran's military capabilities and leadership had suffered extensive damage. He said the country's navy, air force, radar networks and air defence systems had been destroyed.

Trump also claimed that 229 Iranian fighter aircraft had been destroyed on runways and that senior figures in the country's first and second leadership tiers had been eliminated. He further alleged that Iranian leaders had sought assurances that they would not be targeted in the same manner as their predecessors.

Referring to Iran policy during his first presidential term, Trump mentioned the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani.

Canada awaits result in Alberta independence vote

Web DESK

Canada

Canada was waiting Monday for the results of a vote on whether the oil-rich province of Alberta wants a binding independence referendum, following a divisive campaign that tested national unity.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has argued the vote has been held "at the worst possible time," citing the need for national stability as US President Donald Trump wages a trade war and levels annexation threats.

Polls indicated less than a quarter of people in the western province want independence.

"We're hoping to win," Sylvestre, who heads the Alberta Prosperity Project, said at a restaurant in the provincial capital Edmonton where his side was watching the returns.

"Tonight isn't the finish line. We've awoken something in this province and that spirit isn't going anywhere,"



he told the crowd.

Alberta's elections authority said all polls had closed by 10:10 pm (0410 GMT Tuesday), but vote counting had been underway for several hours, including tallies of the 1.4 million advance ballots cast. There are 3.1 million eligible voters in the province.

It was not immediately clear when a

projected result would emerge.

At the federalist election night party in Edmonton, a band warmed up ahead of an anticipated positive result. "It was amazing to see the enthusiasm and resolve among Canadians," said Thomas Lukaszuk, who heads Forever Canadian, the group that campaigned across the province for national unity.

Russia, Iran have 'never' worked so closely, says Iran's FM Araghchi

■ Iran says ties with Russia have reached an unprecedented level as Moscow seeks to mediate the Middle East conflict amid stalled US-Iran talks and continued fighting around the Strait of Hormuz.

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tuesday that Russia and Iran have “never” worked so closely, as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role in the Middle East war.

Araghchi hosted his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Iran on Monday, in his first visit since the outbreak of the conflict.

“We covered everything from Europe to West Asia, including Lebanon, Palestine, Ukraine and Yemen. Also focused on expansion of economic and nuclear cooperation,” Araghchi wrote on X.

“Never in our history have Iran and Russia worked as closely as



now.”Lavrov said ahead of the visit that Moscow’s efforts “aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war,” with talks stalled between the United States and Iran.

His visit came after Russian President Vladimir Putin told his

Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian this month that Moscow was prepared to contribute to mediation efforts.

Russia and Iran, two of the most heavily sanctioned nations in the world, maintain close ties.

The Middle East war erupted in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. A ceasefire in April and a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June have failed to stop fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran claims control over the strategic waterway — through which one-fifth of the world’s oil passes in normal times — and regularly targets vessels that cross without its authorization.

In response, Washington has been maintaining a naval counter-blockade on Iranian ports.

The Russian foreign ministry said ahead of Lavrov’s visit to Iran that discussions were expected to focus on “ways to resolve the acute international crisis triggered by the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel” against the Islamic republic.

Seoul vows 'resolute punishment' after North Korea threatens new border measures

● Seoul's Defence Ministry expressed grave concern over Pyongyang's threats to deploy additional tactical strike weapons along the border

Web Desk

North Korea

South Korea on Tuesday vowed a stern response if North Korea acts on threats to strengthen its military posture along the border, which have fueled tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

In a statement, Seoul's Defence Ministry expressed grave concern over Pyongyang's threats to deploy additional tactical strike weapons along the border and resume loudspeaker broadcasts towards the South.

The escalation and exchange of threats has raised the possibility of clashes along the heavily armed border and undercuts



diplomatic gains made by South Korean President Lee Jae Myung soon after he took office.

The ministry said South Korea's broadcasts and warning shots near the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) were a "legitimate defensive measure" aimed at preventing incursions and forcing North Korean troops who crossed the line to withdraw.

"If North Korea uses our legitimate measures as a pretext

to carry out further provocations, we will punish it resolutely," the ministry said.

It urged Pyongyang to stop making what it called groundless claims, halt incursions across the MDL and respond to efforts to resolve differences between the two sides over the line.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Jin Young-seung reviewed military readiness while visiting a frontline army command, and ordered operations aimed at strengthening Seoul's initiative in the Demilitarized Zone, its military said in a separate statement.

"We cannot tolerate North Korea

falsely characterising our legitimate operational measures as provocations and shifting responsibility for heightened military tensions onto our military," Jin said.

He said North Korea was "responsible for planting landmines south of the MDL that seriously wounded South Korean soldiers last month, calling the incident “a clear provocation” and a violation of the armistice agreement.

The warnings from Seoul came after North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, sister of leader Kim Jong Un, accused the South Korean military of endangering North Korean soldiers by firing warning shots during Pyongyang's work to fortify the border.

Rubio heads to India for 'trade diplomacy'

■ The top US diplomat visited New Delhi and Kolkata in May, while also touring the Taj Mahal and meeting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit India on Tuesday as part of an Asian tour focused on diplomacy, trade and strengthening partnerships, amid ongoing tensions between Washington and New Delhi over tariffs, Russian oil imports and regional relations.

Rubio's visit will be his second official trip to India this year. Following a visit to Uzbekistan, where he called for stronger partnerships with Central Asian countries, the top US diplomat is scheduled to travel to Mumbai to hold talks with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and meet business leaders.

The visit comes at a critical time for US-India relations, as both countries continue efforts to finalise a trade agreement that has faced repeated obstacles.

Although Rubio said Washington and New Delhi were "very close" to reaching an agreement, the prospects of concluding a deal during his current visit appeared limited.

Speaking in Samarkand on Monday, Rubio expressed optimism about the negotiations but acknowledged the broader complexities surrounding bilateral relations.

Trade disputes, energy policy and differences over international partnerships have continued to complicate efforts to reach a comprehensive understanding between the two countries.

Rubio previously visited New Delhi and Kolkata in May, during which he also toured the Taj Mahal and met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

However, no meeting with Modi is scheduled during the current trip, highlighting the visit's focus on diplomatic



engagement with India's foreign minister and business community.

As part of his itinerary, Rubio is also expected to travel to Jamnagar in Gujarat, a major industrial centre associated with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance conglomerate.

The city is home to Reliance's key oil-refining complex, widely recognised as the world's largest refining complex at a single location.

The visit to Gujarat is expected to provide an opportunity to engage with India's industrial and business sector at a time when economic relations between the two countries remain a central issue in bilateral discussions.

Rubio is also expected to lay a wreath in memory of the victims of the November 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, which killed 166 people.

The attacks remain a significant part of India's security history and continue to influence its counterterrorism priorities and international security cooperation.

Trade negotiations remain a major challenge.

The proposed trade agreement is among the most important issues facing Washington and New Delhi.

Both countries have been seeking ways to reduce trade barriers and improve market access, but negotiations have encountered difficulties over tariffs and other economic concerns.

In February, the two sides reached an interim trade agreement aimed at reducing US tariffs on Indian goods.

Declared dead: Indian voters fight to get back on electoral rolls

■ Voters alleged Election Commission chief Gyanesh Kumar manipulated the revision to benefit Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party

Web Desk

India

Kamta Prasad has been shuttling between government offices in Delhi trying to prove he is not dead.

The 53-year-old tailor is among 130 million names removed from India's electoral rolls under a voter roll revision that has sparked mass protests and posed the biggest challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has led to removals for reasons ranging from "logical discrepancies" to people being recorded as dead, leaving many such as Prasad struggling to get more than just their voting status restored.

He has had to forgo his daily wage of 250 rupees (\$2.63) that supports his family of four to scurry around the city to reverse the error.

"I panicked when I heard about it," said Prasad, who is among 4.2 million Delhi voters struck off the list, according to the draft rolls published



by the poll body on August 31. "Since then I've been going everywhere to prove that I'm alive." The deletions have triggered a political storm, with opposition parties and youth groups

staging near-daily protests in New Delhi and elsewhere, which have been met with force by the police.

They allege Election Commission chief Gyanesh Kumar manipulated the

revision to benefit Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, a charge denied by both the commission and the BJP.

According to Rajendra Kumar, a volunteer with non-profit Jan Sarokar, about 2,000 of the roughly 9,000 voters in Prasad's block were struck off after the revision, classified as absent, shifted, deceased or registered elsewhere.

Prasad is the only person in this block who has been declared dead but several similar cases have been reported by local media across the country.

The Election Commission has said it was removing duplicate, deceased, shifted and otherwise ineligible voters and that anyone excluded in error can file claims, submit supporting documents and pursue appeals before the rolls are finalised.

For voters such as Prasad, however, exclusion leads to a bureaucratic maze, and depending on the circumstances they may have to provide proof of life,

establish residency, correct alleged discrepancies or submit fresh documentation.

That involves repeated visits to election offices, hearings before electoral officials and multiple rounds of appeals, with some spending weeks or months trying to restore their names.

"I told them I voted in the last assembly and general elections and have been voting for 35 years, but nobody listens," Prasad said.

India's Election Commission did not reply to a request for comment for this story.

Following weeks of protests, the Election Commission ordered fresh verification in some states, including Delhi, and Prasad said officials had assured him his name would be restored.

Kamal Lal, a 38-year-old private school teacher in Delhi, was marked as "shifted" even though he still lives in a settlement beneath a flyover with dozens of other families.



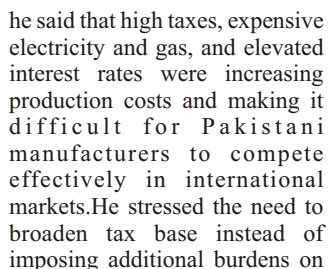
ISLAMABAD

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) tax-to-GDP ratio had increased from 8.8 percent to 10.3 percent, while tax revenues had risen by 40 percent over the last two fiscal years. The minister attributed the improvement to stronger enforcement measures and new tax policy initiatives, explaining that 0.9 percentage points of the 1.5-percentage-point increase in the

The finance minister also pointed to improvements in the country's external position, saying foreign exchange reserves had recovered from a level equivalent to around two weeks of import cover to more than three months, reaching a record high. He said the quality of reserves was as important as their volume, noting that the recent improvement had not been accompanied by a comparable increase in external debt.

FAISALABAD

Recognizing the challenges confronting local entrepreneurs,



He said that energy prices needed to become more

He also announced that efforts would be made to arrange a meeting between the leadership and representatives of business community so that their concerns could be discussed at the highest level. Emphasizing the importance of promoting Pakistani products internationally, the Punjab governor said that goods manufactured in the country should be clearly identified as “Made in Pakistan” to strengthen national brand and improve export reputation of the country.

ISLAMABAD

The minister chaired a meeting of the Fertilizer Review Committee to assess fertilizer availability, market prices, distribution arrangements, and supply requirements for the ongoing Rabi cropping season.

The meeting was attended by senior ministry officials and stakeholders from the fertilizer industry. During the meeting, the Federal Minister emphasized that ensuring the timely availability of fertilizers, particularly urea and DAP, remains a key government priority. He expressed satisfaction over the overall fertilizer supply situation and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining sufficient stocks to meet farmers' requirements throughout the Rabi season.



However, he emphasized that the Government remains focused on protecting farmers from unnecessary financial pressures and ensuring stability in the domestic fertilizer market.

ISLAMABAD

According to CPPA-G's projections, the power purchase price could range from Rs25.883 per unit under the ideal scenario to Rs29.255 per unit under the second-worst-case scenario. The estimates reflect



The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has scheduled a public hearing on the projections for November 3, 2026, at 2pm at NEPRA Tower. Stakeholders will also be able to participate online through Zoom, while interested and

Capacity payments account for the largest

In two worst-case scenarios, CPPA-G has assumed that the rupee will weaken to Rs290 against the US dollar, compared with Rs279 in the other scenarios. Under these assumptions, the projected power purchase price rises to Rs28.835 per unit

Across all six scenarios, the assumptions include a Karachi Interbank Offered Rate (KIBOR) of 11.70%, a Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) of 3.98%, US inflation of 2.10%, domestic inflation of 8.20% and National Grid Company (NGC) losses of 2.50%.

Group chairman / chief editor :

Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice chairman:

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Editor :

Atif Saeed

Head office :

AES Complex , plot no 94 , Street no 4 , Sector H-8/1 , Islamabad

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone no.

+92 51 27 22 123

Pakistan's economic growth rate slowed to 2% during the last quarter of the previous fiscal year due to a contraction in the industrial sector, as the economy struggled to cope with continued fiscal stabilisation coupled with the impact of the Middle East conflict.

the government also on Monday approved a revision of import data for five fiscal years till June 2025, adding cumulatively \$14.8 billion to imports. The National Accounts Committee (NAC) approved the "fresh" economic growth figure for the fourth quarter (April-June) of fiscal year 2025-26 and the revision in import data.

"Due to a high base growth of 6.1% in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2025, the economy has posted a modest growth of 2% during the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026," according to an official statement issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) after the NAC meeting.

It added that in the fourth quarter, the agriculture sector grew 3.7% but there was a contraction of 4.7% in the industrial sector, which pulled down the overall growth rate to a mere 2%.

The 118th meeting of the NAC was chaired by the secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development. It added that the committee approved incorporation of revised imports data in the national

accounts estimates from fiscal year 2021 to 2025, quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates and updated annual growth rates for the last two fiscal years.

Due to a slower growth rate in the last quarter, the government also slightly revised downward the annual growth

rate for the last fiscal year to 3.65%.

Agriculture growth

Due to positive contributions from all constituents, the agriculture sector grew by 3.7% in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year compared with almost flat growth in the corresponding period. Important crops grew by 2.2%, mainly due to increases in the annual benchmark for wheat, rice and sugarcane.

Industry

The PBS reported that industry

contracted 4.7% in the fourth quarter compared with 20% value addition in the corresponding period. The government has attributed the massive contraction to the high base impact, but the prolonged period of fiscal stabilisation has hurt the formal sector. Regional tensions and the consequent increase in fuel prices have also dampened demand in the economy.

The PBS said the mining and quarrying

and water supply industry contracted by 33.2% in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year, according to the PBS.

The construction industry posted growth of 3.52% due to higher cement production and higher spending on infrastructure in the public sector.

Services

The services industry grew by 3.62% in the last quarter of the previous fiscal year. The PBS stated that despite a contraction in the import component, wholesale and retail trade grew by 0.75% due to growth in agricultural and manufacturing output. The transport and storage industry grew by 3.3% due to increased road transport and railways.

Trade data revision

The PBS revised upward the import figures for five fiscal years, 2021 through 2025, due to differences in reporting between the PBS and the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) data, which was more comprehensive. The Express Tribune had reported last year that import figures were underreported by as much as \$11 billion for just two fiscal years.

After the news story, the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) began scrutinising the data, which culminated on Monday in a revision of trade statistics.

The PBS stated that extraordinary revisions in source data also require subsequent revisions to national accounts estimates. The national statistical system has seen significant revisions in import data from fiscal year 2020-21 to fiscal year 2025 due to a systematic shift in import data compilation from Pakistan Revenue

Automation Limited (PRAL) to the PSW, according to the handout.

While differences in data compiled through the two systems were relatively small during the first three years (fiscal years 2021 to 2023), significant variations emerged in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, it added.

The NAC approved that imports in fiscal year 2024-25 were in fact \$64.5 billion, \$6.1 billion more than earlier officially reported. Imports for fiscal year 2023-24 are now officially \$59.9 billion, \$5.1 billion higher than earlier reported figures.

Imports for fiscal year 2022-23 are now \$56.9 billion, also higher by \$1.7 billion. These were \$81.1 billion for fiscal year 2021-22, higher by \$1.1 billion. For fiscal year 2020-21, the new import figure is \$57.3 billion, also up by \$919 million.

The PBS said data on imports is used in compiling value added of wholesale and retail trade through the commodity flow approach, subsequently affecting growth rates of services and the overall economy. Further, changes in trade data also affect the economy as a whole, including overall size and per capita income, it added.

As a result of these revisions, Rs227 billion has been added to the size of the economy for fiscal year 2023-24, which then grew to Rs105.5 trillion. Likewise, the economy for fiscal year 2024-25 was increased by Rs137 billion and the total size amounted to Rs114.2 trillion, according to the PBS.

There was also a marginally positive impact of the revision in the size of the economy on per capita income.

By Nisar Ahmed Thakur

France: The Crisis of Economic Inequality

To apprehend the deeper disquiet of a society, it is not invariably sufficient to examine the deliberations of its governing chambers, the proceedings of its legislatures, or the indices by which its economic condition is conventionally measured. At times, the shattered glass of a shopfront upon an opulent commercial thoroughfare, the merchandise scattered in

democratic thought and the subsequent evolution of political institutions throughout the world. Yet history offers a caution of equal importance: when the emancipatory aspirations proclaimed by a revolution fail to acquire durable expression in the institutional arrangements of society, their moral authority remains vulnerable to recurrent scrutiny. The contemporary unease discernible in France must therefore be considered within its wider historical and

comparatively little about the condition of the citizenry unless it is accompanied by an inquiry into the proportion in which that wealth, and the opportunities arising from it, are made accessible to different sections of society. Economic inequality, moreover, cannot adequately be comprehended as a mere disparity between the incomes of the affluent and the indigent. Its ramifications extend into the unequal possession of opportunity, the accessibility of education and healthcare, the security of habitation, the availability of social protection, and the prospects of advancement which individuals may reasonably entertain for their future. When conspicuous symbols of extraordinary affluence occupy one portion of the social landscape, while another portion remains persistently preoccupied with the satisfaction of elementary needs, a profounder consciousness of deprivation may take root. Such deprivation is not exclusively material; it may also acquire a psychological and moral dimension, particularly when individuals perceive that the prevailing distribution of advantage is incompatible with their understanding of fairness. Nevertheless, intellectual fairness forbids us to attribute a single, uniform sentiment to an entire population. Social responses are differentiated by class, locality, political conviction, and individual circumstance; no society can be reduced, without distortion, to one collective consciousness.

Names such as Louis Vuitton, Hermès, and Rolex signify more than commercial enterprises engaged in the sale of expensive commodities. Within the architecture of the global marketplace, they also represent the accumulated prestige of established brands, the social communication of status, and the culture of luxury consumption. The prices commanded by their products may reflect not only craftsmanship and material quality but also the reputation of the house, the relative scarcity of particular goods, the distinctiveness of their design.

disarray, and the spectacle of plunder disclose, with an immediacy that statistical abstractions cannot attain, those underlying contradictions which the imposing facades of aggregate prosperity may obscure. Reports of disturbances in France and of the pillaging of establishments belonging to internationally celebrated luxury houses accordingly invite reflection upon a question of considerable political and moral consequence: to what extent have modern states succeeded in reconciling economic advancement with social justice and the enduring contentment of their citizens

sociological setting, although intellectual exactitude requires that no particular episode of protest be equated directly with the French Revolution itself. Historical analogy may illuminate a problem; it cannot, without sufficient evidence, establish an identity between events separated by their circumstances, causes, and consequences.

The reports under consideration refer to demonstrations in Paris and other French cities, alongside grievances concerning economic pressures and the provision of public amenities. Should inflation, the erosion of purchasing power, deficiencies in public services, and the unequal distribution of economic advantage constitute among the causes of such discontent, these phenomena would hardly be peculiar to France. Numerous economies across the contemporary world confront analogous difficulties: escalating housing costs, the burden of energy prices, insecurity of employment, and the growing struggle to satisfy elementary material requirements. An increase in gross domestic product may undoubtedly testify to an expansion of economic activity; nevertheless, the more searching criterion of prosperity lies in the distribution of its benefits. The magnitude of national wealth, considered in isolation, reveals

By: Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

New province, new unit or a new system?

Pakistan has entered its 79th year as a state. Eight decades have brought changes in constitutional arrangements, governments, administrative boundaries and centres of power. Yet one question remains unresolved: are Pakistan's recurring governance problems primarily a consequence of its administrative structure, or of the way state institutions exercise power within that structure?

The distinction matters. If the size of provinces, districts and administrative units were the principal cause of governance failures, decades of administrative experimentation should have produced a clearer answer. Instead, Pakistan's history suggests that the more fundamental issue is not simply which system exists, but whether the system established by the Constitution is allowed to function as intended.

The country's constitutional history illustrates the problem. The dissolution of the Constituent Assembly in 1954, followed by the litigation of Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, brought questions of parliamentary authority and constitutional supremacy to the centre of national politics. The Constitution of 1956 established a parliamentary system, but was abrogated in 1958. The presidential system introduced in 1962 was followed by the 1970 elections, whose unresolved political consequences contributed to the crisis that ended in the breakup of Pakistan in 1971.

Asim Munir meets Iranian president as Tehran demands US fulfil seven conditions

had further deepened that distrust. "We have nothing new to say," Qalibaf said, adding that Washington must fulfil the seven conditions presented by Iran in New York before it could regain Tehran's confidence. The Iranian parliament speaker said threats and military movements would not influence Iran's decisions. "Threats and military exercises cannot alter Iran's strategic decisions," he said. Qalibaf accused the United States of making miscalculations and becoming trapped in a difficult situation by launching military action against Iran. He said Washington was now responsible for taking the necessary steps to resolve the situation. Earlier, Iranian state television reported that Munir had arrived in Tehran with a delegation of Pakistani

officials for talks with senior Iranian leaders. According to Iran's ISNA news agency, the visit was aimed at strengthening cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad and reviewing regional developments and negotiations between Iran and the United States. ISNA said Munir was expected to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, President Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Qalibaf and the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmael Baqaei confirmed the visit during his weekly press conference, saying the discussions would also cover issues related to Iran-US negotiations. However, he said the talks would primarily focus on bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Iran.

many respects, an attempt to provide such a framework. It established a parliamentary federation, a bicameral legislature, fundamental rights and principles of provincial autonomy. Its durability, however, depends not merely on the words of the constitutional text but on the conduct of political parties and state institutions.

Pakistan's subsequent experience including military interventions, the dismissal of elected governments and repeated institutional confrontations demonstrates the consequences of a weak constitutional culture. The political crisis of 2022 should also be

distinguished between its constitutional mechanism and its political interpretations. On April 10, 2022, the National Assembly voted on a no-confidence motion, resulting in a change of

government. The political causes and competing interpretations of that episode remain matters of political debate; the parliamentary procedure itself should nevertheless

be assessed separately from those interpretations.

The question of administrative restructuring has again become prominent in 2026. In September, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi spoke about a possible "reset" of the administrative structure and the need for new administrative units. Such statements, however, should not be confused with a final government decision, an approved constitutional amendment or an established national plan. They form part of an ongoing political and administrative debate in which different political and provincial positions have emerged.

Punjab govt decides to introduce Khushhaal Dihaat Act 2026

■ The meeting agreed to immediately launch a pilot project across 120 villages.

NEWS REPORTER

LAHORE

The Punjab government has decided to introduce the Khushhaal Dihaat Act 2026' in order to transform villages into model villages. This was decided in a special meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting agreed to immediately launch a pilot project across 120 villages.

The meeting also decided to form a 'Village Committee' in every village, in consultation with public representatives.

In this regard, Chief Minister has granted approval and sought a



comprehensive plan for immediate formation of village committees. The meeting briefed that the relevant Assistant Commissioner will head the Village Committee.

The Deputy Commissioner will oversee all Village Committees and the project as a whole. Each Village Committee will consist of four public

representatives and four government representatives

The Village Committee will include the head teacher, the Union Council Secretary, a doctor from the Basic Health Unit (BHU) or 'Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic,' and others.

Sewerage systems, drainage, and paved streets will be constructed in every village.

"Our resolve to transform all villages into 'model villages' remains unshakable, said Maryam Nawaz.

Maryam Nawaz said development is no longer confined to major cities; its benefits will reach every single village.

Local residents will be consulted regarding the development of their villages, Maryam Nawaz added.

Pakistan, Maldives ink landmark academic pact

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Marking a major leap in educational diplomacy, Pakistan and Maldives have sealed a comprehensive academic alliance, with five top Pakistani universities joining hands with the Maldives National University (MNU). The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan facilitated the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between MNU and National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, University of Wah, Government College University Lahore, and Foundation University Islamabad.

The high-profile MoU ceremony was held at the HEC Secretariat, coinciding with the historic three-day state visit of



Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu to Pakistan. MNU Vice Chancellor Dr. Aishath Shehenaz Adam personally signed the agreements alongside representatives of the Pakistani institutions.

The pacts aim to promote academic collaboration, joint and dual degree programmes, collaborative research, faculty and student exchanges, and knowledge sharing.

HEC Chairman Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar highlighted the strategic potential of stronger Pakistan-Maldives academic partnerships, encouraging joint research, conferences and seminars to deepen institutional linkages.

Azma Bukhari wins defamation case against Moeen Qureshi

■ Azma Bukhari had filed a claim for damages amounting to Rs84 million against Moeen Qureshi.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has won a defamation case against Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Moeen Qureshi. Azma Bukhari had filed a claim for damages amounting to Rs84 million against Moeen Qureshi.

In the defamation case, arguments on behalf of Azma Bukhari were presented by her counsel, Ali Bukhari.

The Defamation Tribunal on Tuesday noted that the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Moeen Riaz Qureshi, himself admitted to making these remarks during a television programme.

The Defamation Tribunal remarked that Moeen Riaz Qureshi failed to present any



evidence to prove that the allegations against him were incorrect.

The Defamation Tribunal further noted that even the lawyers for Moeen Riaz Qureshi were unable to disprove Azma Bukhari's claims during their arguments.

Azma Bukhari had filed the defamation suit in the Lahore Defamation Tribunal under the Defamation Act.

The suit was filed based on statements made by Moeen Qureshi during a private television programme. Moeen Qureshi will be required to pay Rs84 million in damages to Azma Bukhari. Moeen Qureshi had alleged that during the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's visit to the Punjab Assembly, Azma Bukhari had facilitated the entry of 150 to 200 "paid individuals" into the assembly premises.

Moeen Qureshi further alleged that the journalists who questioned Sohail Afridi were also on Azma Bukhari's payroll.

Azma Bukhari dismissed these allegations as entirely false, fabricated, and a malicious attempt to damage her reputation.

Lahore Defamation Tribunal The tribunal has issued a brief verdict in the defamation case; the detailed judgment will be released later.

NCCIA arrests two suspects in Rs1.49 million cyber fraud case

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) in Faisalabad has arrested two suspects allegedly involved in a cyber fraud case involving the unauthorised transfer of Rs1.493 million from a citizen's bank account.

According to an NCCIA spokesperson, the suspects were arrested through technical tracing. Mobile phones recovered from them contained fraudulent transaction records and important digital evidence.

The spokesperson said the suspects allegedly transferred the stolen money into different



accounts before converting it into USDT, a cryptocurrency. Further investigation is underway.

NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reiterated the agency's zero-tolerance policy against cybercrime and commitment to protecting citizens' lives and property.

AJK PM Vows to Accelerate Development Across Liberated Territory

■ Iftikhar Gilani says improving healthcare, education, roads, clean drinking water and employment opportunities remains a top priority of the PML-N



NEWS DESK

KARACHI

The prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Iftikhar Gilani, has said that concrete steps were being taken, in line with the vision of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif, to accelerate the process of construction and development in the liberated territory. He made these remarks while talking to public delegations that called on him here on Tuesday. Highlighting his government's priorities, the prime minister said that providing basic amenities of life, improving people's

living standards, and creating employment opportunities for youth were among his top priorities. He reiterated that the PML-N government was pursuing an agenda of public service, better governance, and development. The main focus, he said, was on ensuring that the benefits of development reached all areas of Azad Kashmir. He added that improving healthcare and education, constructing and repairing roads, and ensuring the supply of clean drinking water remained at the top of his reform agenda. The prime minister expressed his determination to implement the development agenda in line with the vision of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and with the guidance and cooperation of Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Punjab Disburses Rs14.5 Billion to Imams Under Honorarium Programme

■ Over 76,000 Mosques Registered Across Province; Annual Honorarium Allocation Exceeds Rs20 Billion

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The fifth meeting of the Steering Committee on the Chief Minister Punjab's Imam Masjid Sahibaan Honorarium Programme was held at the Punjab Home Department under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister and Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, Khawaja Salman Rafique. Secretary Home Punjab Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi briefed the meeting on the progress and performance of the programme. The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Home Faisal Farid; Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Countering Extremism, Ghulam Sagheer Shahid; Director General, Punjab Information Technology Board, Syed Qasim Afzal; Head of Transactions, Bank of Punjab, Sharjeel Raza Khan; Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Charities Commission, Colonel Shehzad Amir; Additional Secretary Special Initiatives Nisha Ishtiaq; Additional Secretary Internal Security Javeria Maqbool; Additional Secretary Auqaf Nabeela Javed; DIG CTD Tariq Wilayat; SSP Special Branch Sahibzada Umar Bilal; Deputy



Secretary Local Government Kamran Afzal; Deputy Secretary Finance; and other relevant officials. The meeting reviewed various aspects of the Chief Minister Punjab's Imam Masjid Honorarium Programme. Participants were informed that since January 2026, an amount of Rs. 14.5 billion had been disbursed to Imam Masjid Sahibaan as honorarium through a dignified and convenient process. The Punjab Home Department has completed the registration of more than 76,000 mosques across the province, while the geotagging of mosques is progressing rapidly with the support of field administrations. The meeting directed the Bank of Punjab and the Punjab Information

Technology Board to resolve issues related to the online application promptly. Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister and Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique said that the Government of Punjab was providing more than Rs. 20 billion annually in honorarium under the programme. He expressed confidence that its positive impact would benefit generations to come. He said that registering mosques across the province had been a major challenge, which the Punjab Home Department had successfully addressed. He commended all relevant departments and officers who had contributed to completing this task. Khawaja Salman Rafique added that

Punjab govt to amend Arms Ordinance 1965

■ The new arms laws will help to curb the sale, purchase, and manufacturing of illegal arms. A new Section 14-A will be introduced in the new law.



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Government of Punjab is considering amending the Punjab Arms Ordinance 1965 and introducing the Punjab Arms Amendment Act 2026,

The new arms laws will help to curb the sale, purchase, and manufacturing of illegal arms. A new Section 14-A will be introduced in the new law.

The law will declare possession of an illegal weapon as a non-bailable offence and withdraw the section on mutual agreement.

The cases of illegal weapons, murder, and snatching will be heard in the same court. All the cases that are being heard in different courts will be shifted to the Central Court.

KP's worsening security situation demands action against terrorism: Danyal Chaudhry

■ Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, on Tesday said that conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been worsening for years, while the provincial leadership had failed to take effective measures against terrorism.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, on Tesday said that conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been worsening for years, while the provincial leadership had failed to take effective measures against terrorism.

Talking to the media outside the Parliament House, he said the government had continued negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) until the last moment in an effort to resolve the issue through dialogue.

He said that governor's rule or emergency was the least preferred option for any democratic government, but the sacrifices of martyrs and the rise in terrorism had compelled the



government to take this step.

He said that personnel of law enforcement agencies were being martyred daily in the fight against terrorism, while their families, widows and orphaned children repeatedly asked how many more children would be orphaned and how many more mothers would be separated from their loved ones.

He said PTI was repeatedly asked to give a practical commitment against terrorism, but no satisfactory response was received.

He said that coffins draped in the Pakistani

flag were arriving daily in Rawalpindi and other areas, while negotiations with terrorists and a policy of leniency had further worsened the situation.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry raised several questions regarding Maulana Fazlur Rehman and said that PTI had previously levelled various allegations against him, including those relating to permits, land of martyrs, training camps and support for terrorists.

He asked whether those allegations were wrong at the time or whether Maulana Fazlur Rehman's current defence of PTI was wrong. He said Maulana Fazlur Rehman had described PTI in 2012 as the creation of Jews and Western powers, while in 2021 he alleged that PTI founder and his party had received foreign funding.

He said that in 2023, Maulana had claimed that foreign agencies had used PTI founder to bring him into power.



Shastri urges India to use Bumrah sparingly ahead of ODI World Cup

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI

India should keep Jasprit Bumrah fresh for next year’s one-day international World Cup by selecting him mainly for test cricket and using the pace spearhead sparingly in other formats, former coach Ravi Shastri said.

Bumrah was recalled to India’s test squad for their two-match series in New Zealand last week, but will not play in the five ODIs and five Twenty20 internationals that precede the tests.

Bumrah’s career has been disrupted by back injuries, with the 32-year-old having to undergo surgery in 2023.He was ruled out of a two-test series against Sri Lanka in August due to a left knee injury, but returned to T20 action at the Asian Games and helped India win gold.“I don’t think he should play all three formats till the ODI World Cup,” Shastri, who coached India from 2017 to 2021,told Indian media.

“He should play test cricket and should play sporadically between one-day internationals and T20 cricket. He also shouldn’t be playing the whole lot.

“I would rather preserve him for the test matches. That’s very important. He becomes a key member of that Indian side.

Arafat Minhas stars as Pakistan thrash England by 87 runs in ODI tri-series

● All-rounder takes six wickets after scoring valuable half-century; chasing 303, England bowled out for 215

SPORTS REPORTER

Rawalpindi

Arafat Minhas delivered an all-round performance to help Pakistan defeat England by 87 runs, securing their second win in the ongoing ODI tri-series at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing a target of 303, England were bowled out for 215 in 38.4 overs despite a strong start from openers Tom Banton and Ben Duckett.

The duo stitched together a 91-run opening partnership, finding boundaries with ease as they took the attack to Pakistan’s bowlers during the early stages of the chase.

However, Haris Rauf broke the stand in the 15th over by dismissing Duckett, who fell five runs short of his half-century after scoring 45 off 46 deliveries, including eight boundaries.

Banton continued to bat sensibly, building a steady partnership with Harry Brook to take England past the 100-run mark. During the stand, Banton also brought up his third ODI half-century.

The right-handed batter eventually fell



to Arafat Minhas in the 19th over after scoring a fighting 57 off 53 deliveries, including five boundaries and two sixes. His dismissal left England at 120-2 in 18.3 overs.

In the 21st over, Minhas struck again to remove England captain Brook, who managed just five off seven deliveries.

Sam Curran and Joe Root then attempted to revive the chase, building a partnership that took England past the 150-run mark.

However, Naseem Shah provided Pakistan with a crucial breakthrough

by bowling Root for 33 off 35 deliveries, including five boundaries. England were reduced to 165-4 in 28.5 overs.

Pakistan continued to tighten their grip on the contest as Rauf struck again, dismissing Curran for 27 off 39 deliveries, including a six, to put England under further pressure.

England continued to lose wickets at regular intervals as Minhas claimed his third wicket by dismissing Jordan Cox for 18 off 16 deliveries, including a boundary and a six. The visitors were

left struggling at 197-6 in 34.5 overs.

Minhas continued his impressive spell, claiming his fourth wicket by dismissing Jamie Overton for one off four deliveries to leave England reeling at 198-7.

The all-rounder then struck twice in consecutive deliveries during his ninth over, dismissing Will Jacks for 19 before removing Adil Rashid for a first-ball duck to complete his second five-wicket haul in ODIs.

Minhas capped off his outstanding performance by running out Gus Atkinson following a mix-up, bowling England out and sealing an emphatic victory for Pakistan.

Arafat Minhas spearheaded Pakistan’s bowling attack with impressive figures of 6/40 in 8.4 overs. Haris Rauf claimed two wickets, while Naseem Shah chipped in with one.

Earlier, half-centuries from Hasan Nawaz and Arafat Minhas helped Pakistan recover from an early batting wobble to post 302.

Pakistan endured an early batting collapse as Gus Atkinson struck off the first ball, dismissing opener Fakhar Zaman, while Sonny Baker removed Saim Ayub for eight after a 31-run second-wicket stand.

Coach of England's test team should be English, says New Zealander Fleming

● Fleming also highlighted the importance of having a good working relationship with former New Zealand teammate McCullum

WEB DESK

England



by a national representative,” Fleming told the BBC in a podcast released on Monday.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity, but there will be some development in terms of the coaching, and you can see by our staff,” added the 53-year-old, who

named former England players Marcus Trescothick, Richard Dawson and James Foster among his backroom staff last week.

Fleming also highlighted the importance of having a good working relationship with former New Zealand teammate

McCullum, who remains in charge of England’s limited-overs team, with the Ashes and Cricket World Cup looming next year.

“At some stage you’re going to have to give up some of your key assets. We look at what’s coming up, there’s a test series for us against South Africa,” he said.

“We then move to the Ashes, which is obviously the milestone event for the summer next year, and then there’s the World Cup.

“Making sure that the players are as fit as can be for each of those marquee events and that we turn out good sides is going to be a challenge.” England visit South Africa in a three-test series beginning in December.

Bangladesh appoints Nahida Akter as women's T20I captain

SPORTS Desk

DHAKA



Bangladesh has appointed left-arm spinner Nahida Akter as the new captain of its women’s T20 International team.

Nahida will replace Nigar Sultana, who decided to step down from the role. Nahida will lead the team for one year.

Nigar captained Bangladesh in 82 T20 International matches, securing 32 victories during her tenure. However, she stepped down following disappointing results in the Asia Cup and Asian Games.

Middle-order batter Shobhana has been appointed vice-captain. She recently made

headlines by scoring a historic century in a One-Day International against Australia.

The 25-year-old Nahida made her international debut in September 2015. She is Bangladesh’s leading wicket-taker in women’s T20 International cricket.

She has taken 132 wickets at an average of 17.38, with her best bowling figures being five wickets for eight runs. She has also claimed 81 wickets in One-Day Internationals.

Bavuma hits 179, Rabada strikes as South Africa dominate

■ Australia were three for one at the close after Rabada had Nic Maddinson caught at third slip for a duck with the fourth ball of the Australian innings.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Temba Bavuma hit a career-best 179 and Kagiso Rabada took an early wicket as South Africa dominated the third day of the second Test against Australia at St George's Park on Tuesday.South Africa declared their first innings on 425 for nine.

Australia were three for one at the close after Rabada had Nic Maddinson caught at third slip for a duck with the fourth ball of the Australian innings.

Bavuma shared century partnerships with Marco Jansen (85) and Simon Harmer (82) as the world Test champions posted a total which



seemed improbable after they were 97 for five overnight.It was Bavuma's third day at the crease after battling through bowler-friendly conditions on the first two rain-shortened days.The South African captain batted for more than nine hours, faced 334 balls and hit

18 fours and a six.The situation looked dire for South Africa when the sixth wicket fell on 110 early in the day but the tall Jansen changed the tempo of the match as he hammered nine fours and three sixes off 100 deliveries.Jansen dominated a seventh-wicket partnership of 132 off 186 balls with Bavuma.

The contrast in height between the 1.62m Bavuma and the 2.06m Jansen made it difficult for the bowlers to settle on a length and the Australians were hampered by Josh Hazlewood being unable to bowl until after lunch because he had been off the field with illness on Monday.

Bavuma became more assertive when he was joined by Harmer after Jansen clipped Scott Boland to midwicket in the first over with the second new ball.

ICC fines Pakistan and Sri Lanka for slow over-rates

■ ICC fines Pakistan 10 percent and Sri Lanka five percent of match fees for slow over-rates in the tri-series opening match.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has fined Pakistan and Sri Lanka for maintaining slow over-rates in the opening match of the tri-nation One-Day International series.

According to the ICC, Pakistan were fined 10 percent of their match fees, while Sri Lanka received a five percent penalty.

Pakistan fell two overs short of the required rate, while Sri Lanka were one over behind.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah

Afridi and Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis admitted their respective offences. The match between the two teams was played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by 37 runs in the series opener. Chasing a target of 307 runs, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 268.

Juan Martin del Potro tops list of '27 Hall of Fame candidates



SPORTS DESK

ARGENTINA

Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open men's singles champion, heads the list of player nominees for the 2027 International Tennis Hall of Fame class.

del Potro, of Argentina, was joined on the ballot by former WTASTars Ash Barty of Australia and

Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, del Potro won 22 times on the ATP Tour, with his most notable triumph coming 17 years ago in Flushing Meadows. He took down Rafael Nadal in the semifinals and then Roger Federer in the final for his lone Grand Slam title. Against Federer, del Potro rallied from two sets to one down to dethrone the five-time defending champion.

The Argentine experienced international glory in 2016 when he led his country to its first Davis Cup championship. He also earned a silver medal in singles at the Rio Olympics that year.

Barty won three majors and stood atop the WTA rankings for 121 weeks in her career. She won the French Open women's singles title ?in 2019, the Wimbledon singles title in 2021 and the Australian Open women's title in 2022. Her international resume included a bronze medal in mixed doubles at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

McCullum warns England of challenges in Pakistan ODI tri-series

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI



England must adapt quickly to subcontinent conditions and produce their best cricket against Pakistan and Sri Lanka to reach the final of the ODI tri-series, white-ball head coach Brendon McCullum has said.

Speaking ahead of England’s campaign in Pakistan, McCullum acknowledged the challenges of facing two strong opponents in conditions that demand flexibility and quick adjustments.

‘Pakistan are a very strong side, obviously. When you come to this part of the world, you have to do things differently. Playing

subcontinent teams in subcontinent conditions has its own challenges,’ McCullum said.

‘We want to be a team that can compete in all conditions against any opposition. That’s a challenge we need to embrace. We need to make sure we’re able to adjust to whatever the conditions are.’

McCullum said the tri-series would test England’s ability to adapt to

different opponents, adding that his side would need to perform at its best to secure a place in the final.

‘Particularly in a tri-series, you’re going to have to bounce between two different oppositions as well. It’s a real opportunity for us. We’re respectful of how strong both Pakistan and Sri Lanka are. We’re going to have to be at our best to give ourselves a chance of making the final,’ he said.

The former New Zealand captain also expressed his pleasure at returning to Pakistan, praising the hospitality and competitive cricket the team had experienced during previous visits.



Rs200 billion allocated for projects in Balochistan, NA told

■ **Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that the government is prioritizing the development of Balochistan.**

News Desk
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that the government is prioritizing the development of Balochistan. Responding to points raised by different members in the National Assembly today, he said two hundred billion rupees have been allocated in the development budget for projects in Balochistan, describing it as the highest allocation for any province. The Minister for Planning announced that an additional five thousand scholarships would be awarded to students from Balochistan and the tribal districts under the second phase of the programme, enabling them to pursue education at leading universities. He emphasized that education is the key to overcoming backwardness. Ahsan Iqbal also informed the House that the government would launch a solarization project in the tribal



Azma Bokhari wins defamation case against Moeen Qureshi

■ **Moeen Qureshi had alleged that Bokhari arranged for between 150 and 200 paid individuals to enter the assembly premises during KP CM visit**

Staff Reporter
LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has won a defamation case against Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Moeen Qureshi, who has been ordered to pay her Rs84 million in damages. Azma Bokhari had filed a defamation suit against Moeen Qureshi before the Defamation Tribunal in Lahore under the Defamation Act over remarks he made during a television programme. Her lawyer, Ali Bokhari, presented arguments on her behalf during the proceedings.

The case stemmed from allegations made by Qureshi regarding an incident during a visit by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister to the Punjab Assembly. Moeen Qureshi had alleged that Bokhari arranged for between 150 and 200 paid individuals to enter the assembly premises during the visit. He had also claimed that journalists who questioned KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi were paid employees of the Punjab information minister. Azma Bokhari challenged the allegations through a defamation suit, seeking Rs84 million in damages. Following the tribunal's decision in her favour, Moeen Qureshi is required to pay the awarded amount to Bokhari.

Workers' welfare, protection of rights among Govt's top priorities: Salik

News Reporter
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain has said that the welfare of workers, protection of their rights and provision of quality education to their children are among the government's top priorities. "Respect for the worker is respect for Pakistan. When labourers prosper, Pakistan prospers," the Federal Minister said while addressing the Foundation Stone laying ceremony of Labour Complex Phase-II in Taxila. The ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Law and



Justice Barrister Aqeel Ahmed Malik, Member of the Provincial Assembly Mohsin Ayub Khan, former MPA Haji Malik Umar Farooq, Secretary Workers Welfare Fund Zulfiqar Ahmed, Central Information Secretary of

Pakistan Muslim League (Q) Ghulam Mustafa Malik, President Federal Capital Rizwan Sadiq, President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Intikhab Khan Chamkani, board members, senior officials and

representatives of political and social circles. Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that the total approved cost of Labour Complex Phase-II was Rs1.106 billion, and the project would be completed within, and preferably before, the stipulated period of 24 months. The project includes the construction of high schools for boys and girls, a junior primary school, a mosque and a mini market, he said. The Federal Minister further said that 504 flats had already been constructed at the Labour Complex Taxila at a cost of Rs1.314 billion. Out of these, 70 flats had been earmarked for the families of martyrs of Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Wah Cantt.

Pakistan announces new date for implementing e-passport policy



STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The Directorate General of Immigration and Passports has revised the implementation date for Pakistan's transition to an e-passport-only issuance system, setting October 23, 2026, as the new deadline. The policy will apply to passport offices throughout the country as well as Pakistani diplomatic missions operating abroad. From the effective date, new passport applicants will be issued electronic passports instead of machine-readable passports. According to the revised schedule, the issuance and renewal of machine-readable passports will remain available until October 22. The mandatory transition had previously been scheduled to begin on October 15. Officials have confirmed that machine-readable passports issued before October 23 will continue to be accepted as valid travel documents until their expiry.

PM ready to hold talks with all parties on counterterrorism: Rana Sanaullah

● **Sanaullah said KP government had not been cooperating with the federal government over the province's terrorism situation**

NEWS DESK
ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Senator Rana Sanaullah has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is ready to hold talks with all political parties on counterterrorism efforts. Speaking during a Senate session on Tuesday, Rana Sanaullah invited political parties to meet the prime minister and discuss ways to address the country's security challenges. He said the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had not been cooperating with the federal government over the province's terrorism situation, while the ernment was extending full cooperation to the Centre. Balochistan government was extending full cooperation to the Centre. "The prime minister is ready Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai to meet the prime minister, saying he had personally approached him and asked him to set aside his differences and engage in talks. Rana Sanaullah said Achakzai had assumed the office of



opposition leader after his appointment was signed by the National Assembly speaker, but had been reluctant to visit the speaker's chamber. Achakzai had assumed the office of opposition leader after his appointment was signed by the National Assembly speaker, but had been reluctant to visit the speaker's chamber. He stressed that the country was confronting terrorism and referred to the recent martyrdom of an army major.

appointment was signed by the National Assembly speaker, but had been reluctant to visit the speaker's chamber. The adviser added that opposition representatives did not attend meetings of the apex committee, where security matters were discussed openly. He stressed that the country was confronting terrorism and referred to the recent martyrdom of an army major.

PHC seeks AG's response on PTI petitions against governor's rule, emergency in KP

● **The bench issued a notice to the Attorney General's Office and adjourned further proceedings until November 10**

STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday sought a response from the attorney general on petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). A two-member bench, comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Faheem Wali, heard separate petitions filed by PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and Advocate Salman Khan. The petitioners have asked the court to declare the measures

unconstitutional and strike them down. The federal government imposed governor's rule and an emergency in KP on October 11, citing an increase in terrorist incidents and the provincial government's alleged lack of cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. Following the move, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi assumed responsibility for running the province on behalf of the federal government, with the assistance of an 11-member technocratic advisory council. During Tuesday's hearing, Barrister Gohar told the court that governor's rule and the



emergency were imposed simultaneously, along with the establishment of the advisory council and the transfer of 38 deputy commissioners. He also alleged that 12 PTI members of the National Assembly and 13 members of the provincial assembly had been abducted. The PTI chairman further claimed that his party's offices had been

demolished and plaques commemorating development projects had been damaged, alleging discriminatory treatment of the party. Earlier, the petitioners' counsel argued that a constitutional emergency could be imposed in circumstances involving war or external aggression, neither of which, he maintained, existed in the province. The lawyer said the provincial government had the authority to address terrorism and questioned why emergency measures had not been introduced during previous periods when terrorism was at its peak.

Corps Commander Inaugurates Sports Complex Project at University of Chitral

■ **Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Football and Futsal Grounds to Promote Youth Development**

STAFF REPORTER
Chitral

Lieutenant General Omer Ahmed Bukhari, Corps Commander 11 Corps, Peshawar, visited the University of Chitral on 17 October 2026 and performed the groundbreaking ceremony of a state-of-the-art sports complex, marking an important step towards strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting youth development in the region. Upon his arrival, the distinguished guest was warmly received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah, senior university officials, faculty members, and students. The Vice Chancellor delivered a welcome address, highlighting the significance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, physical



fitness, and the holistic development of students. The welcome address was followed by a detailed briefing by senior officials of the 107 Engineer Corps on the technical design, planned facilities, and execution of the project. The proposed sports complex will comprise a football ground and two futsal grounds, along with essential



supporting facilities, including a stage, team rooms, a first-aid room, restrooms, and other necessary sports infrastructure. The facility is envisioned as a modern sporting venue that will provide students with improved opportunities for recreational activities, competitive sports, and the development of athletic talent. During the visit, the Corps Commander

directed the concerned officials to complete the project within the shortest possible time, emphasizing its importance for the students and the University. He expressed his intention to return to inaugurate the completed sports complex, underscoring the significance attached to the timely completion of this initiative. The Vice Chancellor and the University administration expressed their gratitude for the support and cooperation of the Pakistan Army, particularly the Honoured Chief Guest for his personal interest in advancing the development of sports facilities. At the University of Chitral. The initiative reflects the value of institutional collaboration in promoting education, sports, youth empowerment, and community development in the remote and geographically challenging region of Chitral.

PTI decides to take disciplinary action against Mishal Yousafzai



STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD
Pakistan Tehree-e-Isaaf (PTI) decided to take disciplinary action against Senator Mishal Yousafzai, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar stated in a statement that instructions have been issued to Firdous Shamim Naqvi to serve a notice to Mashal Yousafzai. Barrister Gohar said that Firdous Shamim Naqvi will issue the notice to Mishal Yousafzai.