

Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts in Mosques to Address Public Grievances

- On IGP Sohail Chaudhry's directives, zonal SPs, SDPOs and SHOs hear citizens' complaints and issue on-the-spot instructions for their resolution; initiative aims to strengthen police-public relations and promote community cooperation.



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts in Mosques on IGP's Directives to Address Public Grievances and Strengthen Police-Public Relations According to the details, on the special directions of Inspector

General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police organized open courts in mosques across the city. Zonal SPs, SDPOs and SHOs held these sessions in their respective areas, which were attended by a large number of local residents and community representatives. During the open courts, participants highlighted their

issues and shared suggestions for improving public services and maintaining peace and security in their respective areas. The police officers listened to their concerns and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officials for the prompt resolution of pending issues. They also assured participants that their suggestions would be given due consideration and

necessary action would be taken accordingly. Addressing the participants, police officers stated that the IGP Islamabad has directed all officers to regularly hold open courts in their respective jurisdictions to maintain direct communication with citizens and ensure the timely resolution of their complaints and concerns. They further emphasized that Islamabad Police remains committed to protecting the lives and property of citizens and serving the community around the clock. They added that effective strategies and coordinated measures are being taken against criminal elements, while further efforts are underway to prevent crime and improve the overall law and order situation. The primary objective of these open courts is to strengthen police-public relations, provide citizens with direct access to police officers, ensure prompt resolution of public grievances and promote mutual trust and cooperation between the police and the community.

Housing Society Affectees Demand Possession of Plots Within Three Months or Market-Based

- Jinnah Garden, Sohan Garden, Gulberg Greens and other society affectees seek forensic audits, NAB investigations and suspension of demolition notices; urge government to ensure accountability.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Affectees of several housing societies in the twin cities, including Jinnah Garden, Sohan Garden Phase-I and II, Gulberg Greens, Capital Enclave, Kashmir Housing Society and The Life Residencia, have demanded that the government ensure possession of their allotted plots within three months or compensate them according to the prevailing market rates. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad, representatives of the affectees, including Mahira Jabeen, Syed Zafarullah Pasha and Sheikh Naseer, called for transparent forensic audits and impartial investigations into the land ownership, plot allotments, financial transactions, commercialisation and administrative affairs of the housing societies. They alleged that negligence and



irregularities by the CDA and the Cooperative Department had deprived thousands of citizens, including overseas Pakistanis, retired employees and ordinary workers, of their hard-earned savings. Many affected families, they said, had been waiting for decades to obtain possession of their plots or secure justice. The representatives also alleged that land reserved for schools and parks was

being converted into commercial properties, while residents continued to face a shortage of educational institutions, hospitals, electricity and other basic facilities. Expressing concern over demolition notices reportedly issued by the CDA to residents, they questioned why ordinary citizens who had invested their lifetime savings in constructing small houses were being treated

unfairly. They also raised concerns over a proposed recovery of around Rs14 billion in penalties, saying no clear policy had been presented to protect the housing and future of affected families. The affectees urged NAB and other relevant institutions to investigate alleged corruption in housing societies and ensure that ordinary citizens could access justice without unnecessary financial and legal hurdles. They further highlighted the alarming decline in underground water levels, stating that water which was previously available at around 50 feet was now being extracted from depths of nearly 300 feet. They called for an immediate hydrological survey, monitoring of tube-well extraction and construction of recharge wells to replenish underground water reserves. The affectees demanded suspension of demolition notices, protection of residents' legal and human rights, transparent housing society elections and equal representation.

DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem Reviews Office Performance, Administrative Affairs



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim Visits Various Office Branches, Reviews Administrative Affairs, Working Procedures and Performance According to the details, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem visited various branches of his office and conducted a detailed review of administrative affairs, working procedures, staff performance and cleanliness arrangements. During the visit, he interacted with officers and officials and reviewed the overall functioning of different branches, including the maintenance and management of official records. DIG Islamabad directed all officers and officials to ensure the timely completion of official tasks, maintain accurate and up-to-date records, and uphold cleanliness standards in their respective offices. He further emphasized the importance of providing efficient and timely services to citizens and directed the staff to address public complaints and concerns without unnecessary delays or negligence. He stressed that all officers and officials must perform their duties with professionalism, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility to improve office efficiency and enhance the standard of public service delivery.

NCCIA Arrests Two Suspects, Busts Illegal Loan App Network in Shangla

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Peshawar Circle, has busted an illegal loan app network in Shangla and arrested two suspects allegedly involved in blackmailing thousands of citizens through fake loan applications. During the operation, the agency recovered more than 30 laptops and mobile phones, along with sensitive personal data, Call Detail Records (CDRs) and contact records from the suspects. According to the NCCIA, the suspects used fake loan applications available on Google Play Store to deceive citizens by offering small loans. After gaining access to users' contact lists and photo galleries, they allegedly harassed borrowers and their family members through phone calls and WhatsApp messages to extort large sums of money. A case has been registered against the suspects under the Prevention of Electronic



Crimes Act (PECA) 2016, while technical examination of the seized devices is underway. The operation was conducted on the directions of Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and under the supervision of NCCIA Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi. The DG advised citizens not to install unknown or unverified loan applications and never allow apps unnecessary access to their contact lists, photo galleries or personal data. He urged citizens to report suspicious activities through the NCCIA helpline 1799 or at their nearest NCCIA circle.

National Press Club, Kulsum International Hospital Sign MoU for Healthcare Discounts

- NPC members to receive 20% discount on OPD and laboratory tests, 15% on radiology and 10% on consultancy, room charges and other medical services.

City reporter

Islamabad

The National Press Club (NPC), Islamabad, and Kulsum International Hospital have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide special discounts on medical facilities, diagnostic tests and healthcare services to NPC members. Under the agreement, National Press Club members will receive a 20 percent discount on OPD and laboratory tests, 15 percent on radiology services, and 10 percent on consultancy, room charges, cardiology and other non-categorized medical services. The MoU was signed on behalf of the National Press Club by President Abdul Razzaq Sial and Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, while Director Clinical Support Services Syed



Muntazir Mehdi Zaidi and Head of Marketing and Business Development Sheikh Hassan Tahir signed on behalf of Kulsum International

Hospital. Speaking on the occasion, NPC President Abdul Razzaq Sial said the welfare of the journalist community and providing better healthcare facilities to its members remained among the club's top priorities. He said the agreement would help reduce medical expenses and enable journalists to benefit from quality healthcare services. NPC Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao said the press club was expanding cooperation with various institutions to provide better facilities to its members and their families in healthcare, education and other sectors. He also appreciated Geo News cameraman Muhammad Iqbal and the management of

Kulsum International Hospital for their efforts in securing the special healthcare discount package for journalists.



IGP Islamabad pins SP ranks on promoted police officers

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Capt (ret'd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, along with senior police officers, pinned Superintendent of Police (SP) ranks on newly promoted officers and congratulated them on their departmental promotions. IGP Islamabad pins SP ranks on promoted police officers. According to an Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police official, the IGP appreciated the professional services of the promoted officers and extended his best wishes for their new responsibilities. IGP Islamabad pins SP ranks on promoted police officers. He said promotion was an important milestone in an officer's professional career and recognition of their abilities, performance and dedication to duty.



12 Islamabad police personnel selected for Hajj

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Twelve officers and personnel of the Islamabad Police have been selected through a draw to perform Hajj and Umrah this year under the department's arrangements. The draw was held at the Police Headquarters in the presence of the Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP). Those selected include Constables Ghulam Jilani, Muhammad Sarwar, Babar Rahmat and Asim Raza, along with Head Constables Ansar Mehmood and Muhammad Khalid. Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs) Zulfikar Khan and Sajid Mehmood were also selected. The remaining selected personnel are Muhammad Taj, Haroon Jamil, Asif Khan and Irshad Ahmed.

NCCIA registers case against fraudsters targeting InDrive drivers through fake bookings

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad has registered a case against suspects allegedly involved in defrauding InDrive drivers through fake ride and delivery bookings by impersonating senior government officials and demanding money for fabricated emergencies. According to an NCCIA official, the suspects allegedly used fake identification cards and WhatsApp accounts to pose as senior government officials and gain the trust of drivers. He said the suspects booked rides and deliveries through InDrive and then contacted drivers with requests for urgent financial assistance on the pretext of medical emergencies and other unexpected expenses.



Sher Afzal Marwat Calls for Rule of Law, End to Terrorism During Hazara University Visit

- PTI leader urges law students to uphold constitutional supremacy and ensure justice for the oppressed; says terrorism, not governor's rule, is KP's real challenge, condemns arrest and disappearance of Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati.

STAFF REPORTER

MANSEHRA

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) central leader and Senior Lawyer of the Supreme Court, Sher Afzal Khan Marwat Advocate, visited Hazara University on Wednesday and attended a conference organized by the Department of Law. The event was organized by the Law Department and Marwat Students Association under the ongoing Silver Jubilee and Cultural Festival celebrations of the University. Vice Chancellor Hazara University, Prof. Dr. Ikram Ullah



Khan along with faculty members accorded a warm welcome to Mr. Marwat upon his arrival. Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, Sher Afzal Marwat praised the academic and political consciousness of the students. He called upon law students to play their pivotal role for the supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law and



provision of justice to the oppressed segments of society. He said youth are the real asset of the country and the future of Pakistan is linked with their struggle and higher education. Talking to media later, Marwat said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been facing hardships for the last 26 years. Governor's rule is not the

issue for the people of KP. The real issue is terrorism. The rulers should act wisely and purge the region of terrorism in the true sense. The people are enduring all hardships only for the end of terrorism," he said. He condemned the arrest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, saying the arrest and disappearance of the Speaker is a violation of the sanctity of the Speaker's office. He termed the exchange of harsh words between JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and federal ministers as a mere "topi drama" political gimmick.



IG Punjab Reviews Weekly Crime Situation, Orders Crackdown on Heinous Offences

CRIME REPORTER

LAHORE

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem chaired an important follow-up meeting on crime control at the Central Police Office. In light of the directions issued during the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif last week, the weekly performance of all regions and districts was reviewed in detail. During the briefing, DIG Investigation Punjab informed the meeting that heinous crime incidents across Punjab had declined significantly during the current week compared to the previous week. IG Punjab Abdul

Kareem directed all RPOs and DPOs to identify crime hotspots and take immediate action to curb heinous crimes. He ordered special focus on preventing robbery, robbery-murder, sexual violence against women and children, assault, organized crime and other heinous offences. IG Punjab said that, on the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the crime situation was being reviewed regularly on a weekly basis to ensure effective measures for controlling crime and protecting the lives and property of citizens. Directing improvements in challan submission rates to ensure that suspects involved in heinous crimes receive appropriate punishment.

PPP invites Opposition parties to join committee on electoral reforms

- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Senator Ali Zafar, Senator Noorul Haq Qadri and Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai were also present on the occasion.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A delegation of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Friday visited leader of the Opposition's chamber in the Senate and held a detailed meeting with Raja Nasir Abbas and Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Senator Ali Zafar, Senator Noorul Haq Qadri and Hussain Ahmad Yousafzai were also present on the occasion. The delegation of Pakistan People's Party included former Chairman Senate Nayyar Bokhari, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Waqar Mehdhi and Nadeem Afzal Chan. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) delegation, led by Senator Sherry Rehman on the directives of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, invited opposition parties to join the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms and work



together. The PPP delegation, visited the chamber of Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, and discussed the proposed electoral reforms committee. Speaking on the occasion, Sherry said the PPP wanted to develop an electoral system that enjoyed the confidence of all political parties. She urged opposition parties to present their

proposals to the committee.

She said repeated questions about the electoral process affected the credibility of Parliament, adding that free, fair and transparent elections were essential for protecting voters' rights and strengthening democratic institutions. She said a resolution had been passed on the proposal of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for the formation of an electoral reforms committee comprising members of the National Assembly and Senate. The committee would prepare recommendations on electoral reforms and present them before Parliament for approval, she added. Allama Raja Nasir Abbas agreed with the proposal to make the electoral process more transparent. The PPP delegation included Nayyar Bokhari, Nadeem Afzal Chan and Senator Waqar Mehdhi, while the opposition delegation comprised Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Noor-ul-Haq Qadri and Senator Ali Zafar.

KP brings 32 departments And institutions in merged districts under area development secretariats

- The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has placed administrative control of 32 departments and institutions in merged districts under area



COURT REPORTER

PESHAWAR

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to place the administrative affairs of directorates and major public institutions in the merged districts under the control of Area Development Secretariats (ADS). The governor has approved a new administrative control and reporting system under which relevant officers will report to the secretaries of the Area Development

Secretariats.

According to a notification, the new arrangement will not affect government employees' service status, seniority, pensions or other benefits. The transfer of officers and employees between the Area Development Secretariats and the provincial government will require approval from the chief secretary. The notification further states that institutions placed under the secretariats will continue using their existing offices, vehicles and other official facilities. Under the new system, 32 government directorates and institutions have been placed under the Area Development Secretariats. These include archaeology, culture and tourism, higher education, wildlife, food, environment, Rescue 1122 and anti-corruption departments, among others.

Sindh High Court orders removal of fancy number plates, official symbols from private vehicles



STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court has ordered the removal of fancy number plates, government insignia and other unauthorised symbols from private vehicles within seven days, warning that vehicles failing to comply will be barred from entering court premises.

According to the Sindh High Court Registrar, the directive issued on Friday applies to vehicles owned by lawyers, judicial officers, court staff and other relevant individuals. The order requires the removal of

green number plates, government logos, monograms, blue lights, stickers, badges, flags, inscriptions, flashers, revolving lights and fake government or AFR number plates from private vehicles.

The registrar said the unauthorised use of official symbols and illegal number plates on private vehicles posed serious security risks and created a false impression of government privileges.

The Chief Justice has directed judicial staff, judicial officers and lawyers to ensure compliance with the law. However, vehicles covered under Rule 76(f) of the Sindh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Rules 2017 will be exempt from the directive.

The court has warned that vehicles failing to comply with the order within seven days will be denied entry to the Sindh High Court, City Court, and district and sessions courts.

Mohsin Naqvi reviews Kashmir Chowk Underpass as 78pc work completed in 20 days

- Kashmir Chowk Underpass is 78% complete in 20 days, with Naqvi directing timely completion and announcing plans to plant 6,000 trees and install decorative lighting.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Kashmir Chowk Underpass project to review construction progress, where 78 percent of the work has been completed in 20 days. The project has entered its final stages, and the minister directed the concerned authorities to complete the remaining work as soon as possible and ensure the project is finished within the scheduled timeframe of 30 days. During the visit, Naqvi said 6,000 trees would be planted around the Kashmir Chowk Underpass to increase green space and improve the area's appearance. He also directed the installation of decorative lighting around the project. Mohsin Naqvi reviews Kashmir Chowk Underpass as 78% work completed in 20 days. The interior minister said the underpass would provide relief to citizens travelling towards Murree and Muzaffarabad. He added that the project would make travel between Rawalpindi



and Islamabad easier.

Naqvi also said steps were being taken to address traffic congestion on the Expressway. He stressed the need to complete the remaining construction work at Kashmir Chowk within the stipulated period.

During the visit, the minister received a detailed briefing on the ongoing construction activities, progress achieved so far and the timeline for completion.

Officials informed him that horticulture, road construction and asphalt work were progressing at the site. They also briefed the minister on the installation of light poles and the ongoing work to fit lights around the project.

According to the briefing, 78 percent of the construction work had been completed within the first 20 days. Officials said the remaining work would be completed

within the 30-day deadline set for the project. The minister directed the relevant authorities to speed up the remaining work and ensure timely completion.

The project is aimed at improving traffic flow at Kashmir Chowk and facilitating commuters travelling between Rawalpindi and Islamabad, particularly those heading towards Murree and Muzaffarabad. The planned plantation of 6,000 trees and installation of lighting are also part of the work around the underpass.

IGP Islamabad Reviews AI-Based Security Monitoring Systems at 4C Centre

- Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry inspects citywide surveillance, emergency response and field force monitoring; directs officers to ensure effective use of modern technology and timely resolution of citizens' and police personnel's grievances.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

IGP Islamabad Visits State-of-the-Art 4C Centre, Reviews Security Monitoring and AI-Based Systems; Hears Citizens' and Police Officers' Grievances. According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry visited the state-of-the-art Command, Control, Communication and Coordination Centre (4C) at the Central Police Office (CPO), where he reviewed the citywide security monitoring system, effective monitoring of field forces, emergency response mechanisms and the performance of advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based systems. During the visit, the concerned officers briefed the IGP on various systems operating at the 4C Centre, the use of modern technology and its role in security monitoring and coordination. IGP Islamabad directed the officers to make effective use of modern technology and available resources to further strengthen

security monitoring across the city, improve field force supervision and ensure a prompt response to emergency situations. Furthermore, IGP Islamabad personally listened to the complaints and concerns of citizens visiting the Central Police Office, as well as those of police officers and officials. He issued necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure the prompt and appropriate resolution of their issues. He emphasized that all applications and grievances must be addressed fairly, on merit and within the stipulated time. IGP Islamabad stated that the effective use of modern technology,



timely relief to citizens and the resolution of police officers' and officials' grievances remain key priorities of Islamabad Police. He directed all officers to utilize available resources effectively and perform their professional responsibilities with dedication and a strong sense of responsibility.



Islamabad, October 30, 2026 : Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing the fourth meeting of the Capital Market Development Council to review progress on debt market reforms, investment mobilisation and capital market development.

China ruling party says 'eliminated dangers' after 33 expelled

■ The plenum adopted a decision on "advancing full and rigorous governance of the party", which includes reducing corruption among cadres, state news agency Xinhua said.

WEB DESK
ISLAMABAD

China has eradicated "serious hidden dangers" in its Communist Party and military under President Xi Jinping's leadership, a senior official said on Friday, a day after authorities confirmed the expulsion of a record 33 figures. In more than a decade in charge, Xi has cracked down hard on graft, ensnaring thousands of officials and purging dozens of members of the powerful Central Committee and a string of top military brass. As a four-day plenum of the Central Committee wrapped up on Thursday, state media confirmed 33 more dignitaries had been ejected, including former Politburo member Zhang Youxia, once China's highest-ranking general. The plenum adopted a decision on



"advancing full and rigorous governance of the party", which includes reducing corruption among cadres, state news agency Xinhua said. Proponents say China's corruption purge promotes clean governance, but analysts have said the moves were aimed at paving the way for Xi to extend his rule at a Party Congress due in the second half of 2027. The Central Committee, "with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core", has "eliminated serious hidden dangers within the Party, the state and the military," Zhang Fuhai,

deputy secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), said on Friday. The Party, he told reporters at a news briefing, had been guided by the sense of mission that "we would rather offend thousands than let down 1.4 billion people", referring to China's population. China had previously removed Zhang Youxia, then the highest-ranking general, from his position following a months-long graft investigation, with his expulsion from the party confirmed on Thursday. Ma Xingrui, a former top Xinjiang official whose ouster was also confirmed, had previously been removed from all his posts over corruption allegations, including nepotism, bribery and paying for sex. The CCDI's Zhang Fuhai said on Friday that discipline inspection and supervisory organs in the country have punished 7.9 million people since 2012.



Four killed, 11 injured in Italian military helicopter crash in Bosnia, Herzegovina

WEB DESK
Bosnia

Four Italian military personnel were killed and 11 others injured when an Italian army helicopter crashed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italian news agency ANSA reported, citing Italy's Defence Ministry. The Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter, carrying 15 people as part of the European Union's EUFOR Althea mission, went down near the village of Gorice in the Brcko district. The victims included Italian army Sergeants Simone Ruggia and Claudio Marchesi, as well as Lieutenant Franco Adriano Zecchillo and Sergeant Laura Procacci of the Italian Red Cross Volunteer Military Corps. None of the injured personnel was in life-threatening condition, the ministry said, adding that a medical team had been dispatched from Italy to assist them.

Qatari mediators return to Tehran in renewed push for US-Iran deal

■ IRGC stops two tankers south of Hormuz; one tanker temporarily disabled due to limpet mine explosion

WEB DESK
TEHRAN

Qatari mediators returned to Tehran on Friday in an effort to negotiate an agreement to end the US-Iran conflict, with the diplomatic initiative coordinated with Washington, Al Jazeera reported. The latest push follows a report Wednesday by The Wall Street Journal that US Vice President JD Vance had sent a letter to Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei in an attempt to revive stalled negotiations. Tehran received the message but had yet to respond, a senior Iranian official told the semi-official Fars News Agency on Thursday. US blockade, war of aggression cause of maritime insecurity in Strait of Hormuz: Iran at UNSC Iran's representative to the United Nations Security Council Gholamhossein Darzi condemned the US and Israel for their ongoing military aggression and what he termed an illegal naval blockade, saying that Washington's actions are the root cause of maritime insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, according to Press TV on Friday. He rejected attempts by Western states to blame Tehran for disruptions in the vital waterway, adding that Iran had upheld



freedom of navigation as a responsible coastal state for decades. Regrettably, at today's meeting, some speakers have once again ignored the root causes of the current situation," the envoy said. "The responsibility for any disruption, obstruction, or other interference with maritime navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz lies directly with the aggressors and those who facilitate or assist their act of aggression against Iran." "Attempts to shift this responsibility onto Iran are unfounded and lack credibility," he said. The Iranian diplomat said that the Strait of Hormuz remained entirely open and secure until February 28, 2026. Since then, the US and Israel launched a "brutal war of aggression" against Iran, deliberately targeting the country's civilian and maritime infrastructure, ports, and vessels, according to Press TV.

US plans to ban Chinese telecom firms from direct access to US phone numbers

■ The US FCC plans to restrict Chinese telecom firms' direct access to US phone numbers over national security concerns, targeting robocalls and potential cyber threats.

WEB DESK
WASHINGTON

The United States plans to soon ban Chinese telecom firms from direct access to US phone numbers on national security grounds — a measure designed to prevent scam-related robocalls. The US Federal Communications Commission said that it will vote on November 19 on a proposal to ban China Mobile (600941.SS), China Telecom (601728.SS) and China Unicom (0762.HK) and other IP-enabled service providers from direct access. For telecom firms providing Voice over Internet Protocol — technology that converts voice into digital data and transmits it over broadband connections — direct access is a much cheaper option and makes it easier to offer advanced features. "With this decision, the FCC will be strengthening our first line of defense against bad actors and illegal robocallers," FCC Chair Brendan Carr said in a statement. The Chinese Embassy did not immediately comment. The FCC also said on Thursday that it plans to bar IP-enabled service providers that use equipment from companies on the FCC's list that pose national security risks, including Huawei or ZTE



(000063.SZ). The agency added that it would ban all Chinese labs from testing US electronics in December 2028 and may also revoke direct number authorizations for Chinese companies that it deems to pose national security risks. The FCC has previously barred China Mobile, China Telecom and China Unicom from providing international telecommunications services to the United States. Other measures under consideration include barring them from connecting to US networks and from operating their data centers in the US. Concerns about the potential for spying and other harms to arise from Chinese access to US telecom data and infrastructure have grown in recent years. In late 2024, Washington said a Chinese state-sponsored cyber espionage group known as Salt Typhoon stole consumers' call records, US call data and infiltrated US telecommunications and telecom infrastructure firms.

China denies spying on Nvidia's Jensen Huang

■ Beijing said Friday that claims that Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang was the target of a Chinese spy plot were "groundless speculation".



Staff Reporter
BEIJING

Beijing said Friday that claims that Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang was the target of a Chinese spy plot were "groundless speculation". "The report in question is based on groundless speculation and is nothing more than an attempt to smear China," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a regular briefing, referring to an article in The New York Times. The report said that US intelligence officials concluded that a Chinese executive linked to Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed acted as a Chinese intelligence asset funneling information to Beijing. The firm was under scrutiny for possibly steering advanced Nvidia AI

chips to China, the report said, citing unnamed sources briefed on the investigation. But the executive Alice Huang -- also known as Huang Le and no relation to Jensen Huang -- developed a close relationship with the Nvidia boss, the New York Times said. Nvidia said that Megaspeed was like any other regional customer and that it had previously investigated and debunked claims the Singaporean company was smuggling chips to China, the report added. "Jensen's interactions with Ms. Huang are not unusual or unexpected. Meetings with customers are part of a C.E.O.'s job; Jensen talks with thousands of customer executives every year," Nvidia spokesman John Rizzo told the newspaper.

Yemen's Houthis deny launching drone after coalition reports interception in Makkah region

■ Saudi-led Coalition spokesperson says Houthi drone was intercepted and destroyed as military escalation continues

WEB DESK
Yemen

Yemen's Houthis Makkah launching an attack towards Saudi Arabia on Friday, after the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed a drone launched by the group over the Makkah region. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree dismissed the coalition's account as false in a post on X, saying the group had not carried out any operation towards Saudi territory. He said its operations target Saudi oil facilities and military bases. "A drone launched by the Houthi terrorist militia was intercepted and destroyed in the Makkah region,"

Saudi-led Coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki wrote on X. Earlier on Friday, al-Maliki said the coalition's air defences intercepted and destroyed a Houthi cruise missile that targeted western Saudi Arabia. The incident comes amid escalating hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, with both sides reporting military operations and attacks in recent days. The Houthis also announced Thursday that they carried out six attacks against targets in Saudi Arabia, including oil facilities and airports. The Saudi-led coalition has been involved in Yemen's conflict since March 2015, supporting the internationally recognised government against the Houthis, who seized the capital



Sanaa in September 2014. Yemeni army investigating reports of Houthi use of toxic gases in Taiz. Yemen's armed forces said Thursday that they were investigating reports that Houthi forces had used projectiles suspected of containing toxic substances in the southwestern province of Taiz, resulting in suspected cases of poisoning and suffocation among civilians and resistance fighters. In a statement, the Defence Ministry said it was taking field reports seriously from the Taiz fronts concerning the alleged use of toxic materials. The ministry called for an urgent investigation to determine the nature of the substances, document their effects and

identify those responsible for supplying them. The military said the reports came amid continued Houthi attacks on Taiz, including sniper fire, indiscriminate shelling of residential neighbourhoods and the blockade of roads, preventing access to water, food, medicine and other essential supplies. It warned the Houthis against targeting civilians or using prohibited means of warfare. The armed forces said protecting civilians and breaking the siege of Taiz remained a responsibility of the state and its military, adding that they would take necessary measures in accordance with their constitutional obligations and international humanitarian law.



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

New \$600m loan tied to reform laws

After the failure of previous foreign-funded initiatives, Pakistan has decided to take another \$600 million loan from the World Bank, this time under the "Bold Reforms for Investment-Driven Growth and Employment (BRIDGE) Programme".

In return for the loan, the government has assured the World Bank that it will enact at least two new laws, the Investment Act and the Factoring Law, develop a database of Pakistanis going overseas, allow free international trade in sugar and wheat and increase the share of urea imports by private persons.

According to documents the

World Bank's latest report stated that "driven by an unfriendly business environment, private investment stands at around 10% of GDP, less than half the rate of regional peers, and FDI at around 0.6% of GDP".

The government had established the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to bring foreign direct investment and improve the business environment.

The World Bank stated that with stabilisation largely achieved under an ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, the government is now pivoting towards a credible, growth-focused reform agenda aimed at unlocking private investment-led and export-oriented growth as the primary



Washington-based lender released late on Wednesday, the estimated approval date for the loan is January 29, 2027, and it will be taken by the Ministry of Finance.

The total cost of the programme has been estimated at \$1.2 billion, of which \$600 million will be lent by the World Bank. The remaining \$593 million will be borne by the federal government, according to the programme information document.

Successive governments have taken concessionary and expensive foreign loans to bring reforms that require only strong political will. In addition to this loan, the government has decided to take \$750 million from the Asian Development Bank for pension and private-sector reforms, but the money is used for budget deficit financing.

Despite billions of dollars in past loans for reform, the

engine of job creation and long-term prosperity.

The document claimed the loan will support progress towards Pakistan's target of increasing private investment to 15% of GDP by 2035.

The lender said chronically low private investment reflects decades of regulatory friction, shallow credit markets, high trade costs and sector-specific distortions that have locked firms into informality and low productivity, compounding the challenge of generating sufficient quality employment for the more than three million Pakistanis entering the labour market annually.

The World Bank said the loan will support full operationalisation of the Pakistan Business Portal as a one-stop digital interface for all business authorisations and the enactment of a modernised Investment Act that strengthens investor protections, clarifies rights, obligations and sector

Maryam Nawaz Vows to Transform Punjab into Digital and Industrial Hub

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday said her government has introduced innovative reforms to bring the province into the digital age, improve the business environment and equip young people with modern skills to meet the demands of industry. Addressing the launch ceremony of the Punjab Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology (PIET) initiative, she said Punjab played a significant role in the national economy and that industrial growth depended on modern technology, skilled manpower and a business-friendly environment. She said the government had issued loans worth around Rs200 billion under the Asaan Karobar Scheme, while more than 200,000 people had obtained no-objection

certificates and other approvals through the e-Biz platform. The chief minister said Punjab had a workforce of 36 million, with industries increasingly demanding skilled labour. The government had provided training to 400,000 skilled workers and planned to train another 600,000, she added. (Continued on Page-5)

She said more than 1,200 startups were operating in Punjab, while 50 common facilities had been brought together to develop industrial clusters. The government had also consolidated skill development programmes under one roof to improve access to training. The chief

Safety Is More Than Survival: Why Protecting Women Requires Listening, Leadership and Action



By Ayesha Mateen

A safer future for women begins when their voices shape the policies, services and public conversations intended to protect them. Safety should never be a privilege determined by where a woman lives, the community to which she belongs, or the legal systems available to her. Yet for many, the pursuit of safety is shaped by barriers that extend beyond the immediate experience of violence. Access to justice, culturally appropriate support, secure housing and community-based services can determine whether a survivor is able to rebuild her life or remains trapped in circumstances that threaten her well-being.

Addressing violence against women therefore requires more than raising awareness. It demands a sustained commitment to listening to survivors, strengthening sovereignty, investing in grassroots advocacy and ensuring that the institutions responsible for protection are equipped to respond. Violence is not simply an individual or private matter. It is a community concern, a public policy challenge and a test of whether society is prepared to protect the dignity and rights of every woman. Public conversations about gender-based violence often focus on the incident itself. Equally important, however, are the circumstances that follow: Can a survivor find a safe place to

stay? Does she have access to confidential, culturally respectful support? Can she seek justice without encountering additional barriers? Will her children remain safe? Is there a trusted advocate who can help her navigate the systems around her?

These questions reveal why a single intervention is rarely enough. For a survivor, leaving an abusive situation may involve difficult decisions about housing, financial security, childcare, family relationships and personal safety. When support services are inaccessible or disconnected, seeking help can become another exhausting challenge. In Indigenous communities, these concerns must also be understood within the broader context of Tribal sovereignty and the historical and institutional barriers that have constrained Tribal Nations' ability to protect their citizens. Meaningful progress requires recognizing the authority, knowledge and leadership of communities rather than imposing solutions designed without their participation.

The objective must be clear: every survivor deserves access to safety, justice and support that respects her identity, circumstances and choices. Effective support begins with trust. For survivors of violence, trust can determine whether they disclose abuse, seek assistance or remain connected to services during recovery. Culturally grounded advocacy recognizes that safety cannot be separated from a person's community, identity, traditions and understanding of healing. It does not assume that one approach will work for every survivor. Instead, it creates space for Indigenous women, Tribal leaders, community advocates and survivor-serving organizations to shape responses that reflect their communities' needs.

This is where grassroot organizations play an essential role. Community-based advocates often understand local realities, recognize gaps in services and build relationships that larger institutions may struggle to establish. With adequate resources, training and institutional support, they can help survivors navigate complex systems while contributing to lasting community change. Public awareness is essential, but the way stories are

told matters just as much as how widely they travel. When violence against women is discussed only through statistics, headlines or isolated incidents, the public may understand the scale of a problem without understanding the systems that allow it to persist. When coverage repeatedly portrays women only as victims, it risks overlooking their leadership, resilience, expertise and right to define their own experiences.

Responsible storytelling must do more. It should explain the structural barriers that survivors encounter, recognize the work of community advocates and make clear what institutions and policymakers can do differently. It should also protect survivors' privacy, respect informed consent and avoid sensationalizing trauma for attention or engagement. No survivor should have to disclose painful personal experiences to make a public issue worthy of attention. Nor should a woman's story be treated as organizational content without consideration of her safety, dignity and control over how it is shared. These principles matter in journalism, advocacy campaigns and digital communications alike. A powerful story is not necessarily the most dramatic one. It is one that deepens understanding, respects the people at its centre and gives audiences a meaningful way to engage with the issue.

Digital platforms offer organizations an opportunity to bring difficult conversations into public spaces, connect communities with resources and amplify the work of advocates. But visibility alone is not a measure of progress. A campaign may generate thousands of views and still leave audiences uncertain about where to seek help, how to support local services or what policy changes are needed. Strategic communications must bridge that gap between awareness and action. Most importantly, communication teams must work in partnership with the communities whose experiences they seek to represent. Engagement should create opportunities for voices to lead the conversation, rather than simply placing their stories within a narrative developed elsewhere.

Digital Hegemony and the Global Order



By: Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

The architecture of international power is undergoing a profound transformation. For centuries, the strength of nations was measured by territorial possessions, military supremacy, control of natural resources, and economic influence. In the twenty-first century, however, the foundations of power are increasingly to be found in the less visible domains of artificial intelligence, semiconductor technology, data infrastructure, and algorithmic supremacy. Whereas the empires of former ages extended their dominion through conquest and

occupation, the emerging digital order exercises influence through the systems that organise information, shape human behaviour, and mediate the intellectual and economic activities of entire societies.

This transformation has

fundamentally altered the meaning of national sovereignty. A state may retain its territorial integrity and political independence while remaining dependent upon foreign-controlled technologies for essential economic, educational, administrative, and security functions. The decisive question is no longer merely who governs a territory, but who controls the technological infrastructure upon which its institutions and citizens increasingly rely.

The intensifying rivalry between the United States and China illustrates this new contest for global supremacy. Their competition extends beyond trade and conventional geopolitics into advanced semiconductors, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and large language models. The United States has employed export controls and technological restrictions to preserve strategic advantages in sophisticated computing capabilities, while China has invested heavily in domestic innovation and alternative technological systems to reduce external dependence. The eventual outcome remains uncertain, but this confrontation raises the prospect of a fragmented internet, commonly

described as a splinternet, in which competing technological standards, regulatory frameworks, and digital ecosystems increasingly reflect geopolitical divisions. The ideological frontiers of the twentieth century may thus acquire a technological counterpart in the twenty-first.

ideological frontiers of the twentieth century may thus acquire a technological counterpart in the twenty-first.

The consequences are particularly significant for the Global South. Many developing countries participate extensively in the digital economy without possessing comparable capabilities in technological research, industrial production, or intellectual property development. Their populations generate valuable data and consume digital services, while much of the infrastructure, expertise, and commercial value associated with those activities remains concentrated in foreign corporations. This imbalance creates the conditions for a new form of digital colonialism, in which technological dependence may reproduce established patterns of economic

subordination.

patterns of economic subordination.

Data sovereignty is therefore not merely a technical or administrative concern. When essential public services and economic activities depend upon foreign cloud infrastructure and externally governed systems, questions arise concerning security, continuity, accountability, and national autonomy. Foreign technology does not invariably compromise sovereignty, nor does data localisation alone guarantee independence. Nevertheless, a nation that lacks the capacity to protect its information, evaluate its technological dependencies, and exercise meaningful control over critical systems may find its freedom of action increasingly constrained. Algorithmic power also influences the social and intellectual foundations of political life. ies can distort public understanding and undermine confidence in authentic evidence. Recommendation algorithms and targeted communication may influence which ideas receive attention and how political debates develop.

Pakistan, Singapore move to deepen economic ties after high-level talks

Pakistan and Singapore have agreed to strengthen their longstanding diplomatic relations and explore fresh opportunities for economic cooperation following a series of high-level meetings between Singaporean Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Pakistan's political and military leadership on Friday. During his engagements in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Balakrishnan met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. Discussions covered trade, investment, regional security, institutional cooperation and stronger people-to-people connections.

The diplomatic engagements come as Pakistan and Singapore mark 60 years of diplomatic relations in 2026, with both countries looking to translate their established political relationship into stronger economic and commercial partnerships. During his meeting with Balakrishnan at the Prime Minister House, PM Shehbaz reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding bilateral relations and strengthening cooperation across multiple sectors.

The two sides discussed opportunities to increase trade and investment, with particular attention to the digital economy, financial technology (fintech), infrastructure development, logistics, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the services sector.

The prime minister praised Singapore's economic transformation,

PSX posts modest gains amid cautious trading

- PSX edged higher on Friday, with the KSE-100 gaining 75.88 points to 167,269.31 amid cautious trading, following a strong 1,456-point rally in the previous



News DESK

Karachi

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) registered modest gains on Friday amid cautious trading. The KSE-100 gained 75.88 points during intraday trading to reach 167,269.31 points, reflecting a positive change of 0.05 percent compared to previous close

of 167,193.43 points.

A day earlier, the benchmark index surged by 1,456.68 points, a positive change of 0.88 percent, to close at 167,193.44 points against 165,736.76 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 816.834 million shares, compared to 578.124 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value increased to Rs 31.541 billion from Rs 26.203 billion.

Market capitalisation increased to Rs 18.492 trillion from Rs 18.329 trillion recorded a day earlier.

Out of 499 companies that traded in the ready market, 232 posted gains, 232 suffered losses, while 35 remained unchanged.



Islamabad, October 30, 2026 : Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with the new Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Rajeh bin Tami Al-Baqami.

Pakistan's annual SPI inflation jumps 11.32%

- The SPI measures weekly price movements of 51 essential commodities collected from 50 markets across 17 cities in Pakistan.

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's annual inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), increased by 11.32 percent for the week ended October 29, 2026, as higher food and energy prices continued to put pressure on household budgets. According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday, the combined SPI declined by 0.35 percent week-on-week, providing some short-term relief to consumers. The SPI measures weekly price movements of 51 essential commodities collected from 50 markets across 17 cities in Pakistan. The PBS reported that electricity charges for the first consumption quintile declined by 3.92 percent during the



week. Chicken prices fell by 2.95 percent, eggs by 2.81 percent, wheat flour by 0.83 percent, and LPG by 0.73 percent. Prices of bananas, rice, pulses, petrol, sugar and powdered milk also recorded decreases. However, tomato prices surged to more expensive. Diesel prices increased by 2.53 percent and gram pulse by 2.11 percent. by 34.91 percent week-on-week, while potatoes became 3.27 percent more

expensive. Diesel prices increased by 2.53 percent and gram pulse by 2.11 percent. Of the 51 monitored commodities, prices of 15 increased, 12 declined, and 24 remained unchanged. On a year-on-year basis, LPG recorded the highest increase of 106.86 percent, followed by electricity charges for the first consumption quintile at 52.38 percent. Diesel and petrol prices increased by 45.13 percent and 43.61 percent, respectively, while wheat flour became 34.87 percent more expensive. Chicken prices also rose by 31.72 percent. Conversely, potato prices declined by 38.67 percent annually, followed by tomatoes (27.99 percent), eggs (26.70 percent) and sugar (25.21 percent). The annual SPI increase highlights the continuing impact of higher essential commodity and energy costs on consumers, despite the marginal weekly decline

NEPRA reserves verdict on Rs2.56 per unit electricity hike

- NEPRA reserves its decision on a Rs2.56 per unit electricity hike under September's fuel adjustment, with consumers facing a potential additional burden of Rs32.66 billion.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has reserved its decision on a request to increase electricity prices by Rs2.56 per unit under the September fuel price adjustment, potentially transferring an additional burden of Rs32.66 billion to power consumers across the country, including Karachi.

During the hearing, officials of the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) informed NEPRA that the average fuel cost of electricity stood at Rs10.02 per unit in September, against an estimated cost of Rs7.46 per unit.



According to the CPPA, the total cost of electricity generation during September amounted to Rs127.87 billion. Electricity generated from local coal cost Rs7.95 billion, while power production through imported coal

amounted to Rs37.14 billion.

The cost of electricity generated through diesel stood at Rs13.26 billion, while furnace oil accounted for Rs11.81 billion. Electricity production through local gas cost Rs13.89 billion.

CPPA officials further informed the authority that electricity generation through liquefied natural gas (LNG) incurred a cost of Rs31.93 billion. Meanwhile, power distribution companies (DISCOs) collectively sold 12.76 billion units of electricity during the month.

The Power Division maintained that the September fuel price adjustment was feared to reach Rs5 to Rs6 per unit. However, various measures, including two hours of load management, helped limit the proposed increase to Rs2.56 per unit.

It is pertinent to mention that the Central Power Purchasing Agency had already submitted a request to increase electricity prices by Rs2.56 per unit under the September fuel price adjustment.

SBP injects over Rs one trillion to maintain liquidity in the market

Web Desk

KARACHI

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Friday, injected Rs 1,075.9 billion through Reverse Repo Purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operations (OMO) for maintaining liquidity in the market.

The central bank conducted the Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) for 7 and 14-day tenors on October 30, 2026, and injected Rs 886.15 billion against 17 quotes while other Rs 189.75 billion were injected through Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based OMO.

The central bank, for the Reverse Repo Purchase of 14-day tenor, received 14 bids cumulatively offering Rs 1,046.8 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.03% to 12.10%. The SBP accepted Rs 575.05 billion against

12 quotes at 12.05% rate of return. The total amount offered at 12.05% was Rs 530.5 billion, out of which SBP accepted Rs 293.85 billion on a pro rata basis.

Moreover, the SBP also received 5 bids for the 7-day tenor, cumulatively offering Rs 311.1 billion at the rate of return ranging between 12.01% to 12.10%. The SBP accepted the entire amount against all the 5 quotes at a 12.01% rate of return.

Meanwhile, SBP also conducted Shariah Compliant Mudarabah-based Open Market Operation for the 7 and 14-day tenors. The central bank received no bid for the 7-day tenor, while 5 quotes were received for the 14-day tenor offering Rs 189.75 billion at rate of return ranging between 12.05% to 12.06%. SBP accepted the entire amount against the 5 bids at 12.05% rate of return.

Pakistan-made Sazgar rickshaws enter Philippine market



Pakistan's automotive manufacturer Sazgar Engineering Works Limited has entered the Philippine market with its locally manufactured three-wheeled passenger and commercial vehicles, marking a significant development in the country's automotive exports.

Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. inaugurated Sazgar Engineering Works Limited's assembly plant on Friday, paving the way for the introduction of Pakistani-made vehicles in the Southeast Asian market. Founded in 1991, the Lahore-based company specialises in the

assembly of cars and rickshaws and became the first in Pakistan to obtain a licence to produce electric three-wheelers in 2024.

Sazgar is introducing its passenger, commercial and electric vehicles (EVs) to the Philippine market with the support and facilitation of the Pakistani Embassy in the archipelagic country in Southeast Asia.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the Philippines, Dr Asma Rabbani, congratulated the company on the development, describing it as an important achievement for Pakistan's industrial exports. She said the initiative would help Pakistani products gain access to international markets and strengthen the country's presence in the global automotive industry.

Dr Rabbani added that the development would further reinforce trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and the

FBR extends working hours at major tax offices until October 31



NEWS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has extended working hours at its major tax offices across Pakistan, directing them to remain open until 8pm on Saturday, October 31. According to an official announcement, the extended timings will apply to Large Taxpayer Offices (LTOs), Corporate Tax Offices (CTOs) and Regional Tax Offices (RTOs). The FBR has instructed all LTOs, CTOs and RTOs to continue their operations until 8pm on Saturday under the revised schedule. The tax authority has also issued a formal notification regarding the extension of working hours.

NPO stresses global regulatory compliance to boost Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports

- Industry experts call for stronger GMP, PIC/S and US FDA compliance, technical capacity building and government-industry collaboration to enhance product quality and access to international markets.

NEWS DESK

KARACHI

Mr. M. Alamgir Chaudhry, Chief Executive Officer, National Productivity Organization (NPO), emphasized the need to strengthen international regulatory compliance and quality standards to enhance the global competitiveness of Pakistan's pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industry and expand its access to international markets. Speaking at an industry dissemination seminar held at the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) Office in Karachi on October 30, 2026, he highlighted the importance of technical capacity building, improved productivity and effective government-industry collaboration in promoting sustainable industrial development and export growth. He also briefed participants on the mandates, initiatives and services of NPO Pakistan and the Asian



Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, and encouraged pharmaceutical manufacturers to benefit from their technical assistance, training and capacity-building programmes. Mr. Adnan Hirani, Chairman PPMA, highlighted the significance of technical capacity building and

industry-wide collaboration in enabling pharmaceutical companies to meet international regulatory requirements. He emphasized the need to explore new international markets and expand pharmaceutical exports, noting that this would require continuous improvements in manufacturing

practices, production capabilities and quality standards. Dr. Shaikh Kaiser Waheed, Former Chairman PPMA, welcomed the guests and participants and appreciated the initiative undertaken by NPO and PPMA to strengthen the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industry. He stressed the importance of aligning pharmaceutical manufacturing practices and quality management systems with international standards to improve product quality, ensure regulatory compliance and enhance the sector's export readiness. The seminar was organized by NPO, under the Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan, in collaboration with PPMA and the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), as part of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Technical Expert Service (TES) on Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Industry Development, being implemented from October 20-30, 2026.

Pakistan will bring its 'A Game' to Tri-Series Final, says Salman Ali Agha

● Captain and coach to make final call on playing XI

SPORTS REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan batter Salman Ali Agha has expressed confidence that the national team will deliver its best performance in the final of the tri-nation cricket series, saying the players are fully aware of their responsibilities ahead of the decisive clash against Sri Lanka. Speaking at a press conference ahead of Saturday's final, Salman said the team was hopeful of lifting the trophy, with preparations focused on improving areas that had not gone according to plan during the tournament. He said the pitches used throughout the series offered different playing conditions, requiring the players to adapt their approach. The squad had worked hard during practice sessions and focused on addressing individual weaknesses in collaboration with the coaching staff. "Hopefully, tomorrow's final will belong to Pakistan. All the players understand their responsibilities," Salman said. Acknowledging Sri Lanka's



performances in the competition, Salman said the opposition had earned its place in the final through good cricket. He added that Pakistan were keen to adopt a modern approach to the game and agreed with the coach's assessment that the team had yet to produce its best cricket in the series. However, he backed the players to raise their performance levels in the final. "The coach is right that we have not played our best cricket so far, but Pakistan will bring its A game to the final," he said.

Salman also described representing Pakistan as a matter of great pride, adding that his focus remained entirely on the match whenever he stepped onto the field. Admitting that his personal performance had not been up to expectations, the batter said he would look to make a significant contribution in the final. He also spoke about the pressure associated with captaincy, saying it was an unavoidable part of the responsibility but that he now felt less

pressure than before. Salman expressed hope that the stadium would be packed with spectators for the final, describing the tri-nation series as a successful competition. The Pakistan batter also defended the performances of senior players Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman, pointing out that both had played crucial roles in securing victories for the country over the years. He said the two experienced batters understood what was required to improve their performances, adding that every cricketer went through periods when runs were difficult to come by despite putting in maximum effort. "International cricket is not easy. There are times when a player tries everything but still cannot score runs," Salman said. He stressed the importance of giving players sufficient opportunities to demonstrate their abilities at international level rather than judging them solely on short-term performances. Salman also highlighted Shadab Khan's contribution against England, recalling that the all-rounder had helped Pakistan secure a major victory in a match that would remain memorable for both the players and supporters.



Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza creates history with record-breaking T20I century at 40

SPORTS DESK
DUBAI

Zimbabwe captain and brilliant T20 all-rounder Sikandar Raza produced a sensational batting performance at the age of 40, smashing a blistering century against Afghanistan in the second match of their three-game T20I series. Raza scored an unbeaten 106 off just 56 deliveries at Sharjah Cricket Stadium. His explosive innings featured nine sixes and five boundaries, showcasing his remarkable power-hitting ability. Although Raza's magnificent knock was not enough to guide Zimbabwe to victory, he created history by becoming the first cricketer aged over 40 to score a century in men's T20 Internationals. Before Raza's achievement, the record was held by a Gibraltar batter who scored a T20I century against Bulgaria at the age of 39 years and 272 days. With this remarkable milestone, Raza once again demonstrated that age is no barrier to sporting excellence, proving that exceptional talent, dedication and hard work can produce extraordinary achievements even at 40.

Abbas Afridi's blitz powers Pakistan to sink India in Hong Kong Sixes



SPORTS DESK
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan registered a dominant victory over India in their Hong Kong Sixes 2026 encounter after producing a sensational batting performance at the Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok on Friday. Chasing a target of 89 runs, Pakistan got off to a blistering start, smashing 31 runs without losing a wicket in the very first over. Batting first, India managed to post 88 runs in their allotted six overs. The Men in Blue looked to put up a competitive total in the fast-paced six-a-side format, but their efforts with the bat were overshadowed by Pakistan's incredible response. However, Pakistan came out all guns blazing during their run chase. The Men in Green got off to a sensational start, smashing 31 runs without losing a wicket in the very first over. Abbas Afridi took charge of the proceedings and went after Krunal Pandya, dispatching the Indian captain for five

sixes in the over. The onslaught put India under immediate pressure as Pakistan raced towards the target easily. As usual, India captain Krunal Pandya avoided the customary handshake with Pakistan skipper Abbas Afridi at the toss ahead of their Hong Kong Sixes 2026 Group C encounter on Friday. The moment caught attention as the two teams renewed their rivalry at the Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok, Hong Kong. Krunal, who is leading the Indian side in the six-a-side tournament, did not exchange the traditional pre-match greeting with Afridi during the toss proceedings. The incident comes amid India's continued stance of avoiding handshakes with Pakistan players in recent cricketing encounters. A blazing batting display from Abbas Afridi was not enough to save Pakistan from a dramatic opening defeat as defending champions lost to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by one wicket in their Group C clash at the Hong Kong Sixes at Mission Road Ground on Friday.

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan becomes first men's player to claim 200 T20I wickets

● The leg-spinner brought up the landmark when he trapped Tadiwanashe Marumani lbw for two in the ninth over

SPORTS DESK
ISLAMABAD

Former Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan became the first bowler to claim 200 wickets in men's Twenty20 Internationals, reaching the milestone during Afghanistan's second T20 against Zimbabwe in Sharjah. The leg-spinner brought up the landmark when he trapped Tadiwanashe Marumani lbw for two in the ninth over. Rashid achieved the feat in his

120th T20 international, with the 28-year-old boasting an average of 13.96 and an economy rate of 6.13 in the format. His record includes two five-wicket hauls, with best figures of 5-3. The Afghan sits comfortably atop the list of leading wicket-takers in men's T20 internationals with 200 wickets, 29 clear of England's Adil Rashid in second place.



Pakistan Police Hockey Team Defeats Chinese Guangdong Province Hockey Team 7-6 After Thrilling Contest

■ IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Congratulates Pakistan Police Hockey Team, Coaches and Officials on Outstanding Victory

SPORTS REPORTER
LAHORE

Pakistan Police Hockey Team defeated the hockey team of China's Guangdong Province by 7-6 after a thrilling contest. The closely contested friendly match between the two teams, organised by the Pakistan Hockey Federation, was played at the Manzoor-ul-Hassan Hockey Stadium, Lahore. Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem, who is also President of the Pakistan Police Sports Board, was the chief guest at the match, while Chief Sports Officer Pakistan Police, DIG Athar Ismail, was also present on the occasion. Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem met players and officials of both teams and highly appreciated their outstanding performance. IG Punjab



congratulated the players, coach and officials of the Pakistan Police Hockey Team, as well as Chief Sports Officer DIG Athar Ismail, on their victory and commended them for their achievement. Senior officials of the Chinese Consulate, AIG Administration Qazi Farooq,

hockey legends and Olympians Manzoor-ul-Hassan, Shahbaz Ahmad Senior, Tahir Zaman and Khawaja Junaid, along with other renowned hockey players, were also present on the occasion. PHF Director Administration Colonel (Retd.) Nasir Akhunzada, PHF Media Manager Waqas Sheikh and a large number of hockey enthusiasts also attended the match. At the conclusion of the match, Chief Sports Officer Pakistan Police DIG Athar Ismail distributed medals among players of both teams and shields among team officials, national hockey legends and Olympians. During the match, the Punjab Police Musical Band presented melodious tunes, making the event even more memorable.

PSL 12: Franchises agree core framework governing squads, player movement and auction

■ All eight PSL franchises agree on key operational rules for PSL 12, with player retentions set for January 13, 2027, and the player auction scheduled for January 23.

SPORTS REPORTER
LAHORE

All eight Pakistan Super League franchises convened at the Gaddafi Stadium Lahore on Thursday for a landmark tournament operations workshop that produced unanimous agreement on the core framework governing squads, player movement and the upcoming Player Auction for PSL 12. The workshop was led by PSL CEO Salman Naseer and marked the most



substantive collective session between the league and its franchise partners in the current cycle. Discussions were open, candid and wide-ranging - covering Direct Signings, Player Retentions, Trade Windows, Squad Sizes and Salary Caps. By its conclusion, all eight franchises had reached full agreement on every major operational parameter for the season. The deadline for franchise player retentions has been set for 13th January 2027, ten days before the

Player Auction. The timing is deliberate. It falls after the completion of the National T20 Silver tournament and during the National T20 Gold - meaning franchises will make their final retention calls with a full set of Silver results behind them and live Gold performances unfolding in front of them. A domestic player in form on 13 January could force his way into franchise thinking in real time. This is what the pathway from national circuit cricket into HBL

PSL looks like in practice: not a theoretical ambition, but a live, data-driven link between the two competitions. Each franchise may retain a maximum of seven players, inclusive of their Direct Signing. As a condition of exercising maximum retentions, any franchise retaining seven players must return one player from the highest price tier of the last auction to the general player pool, ensuring the HBL PSL 12 Auction features elite-level talent available to all franchises.

Audit flags Rs222b irregularities in Communications Ministry during Asad Mahmood's tenure



OUR Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

An audit report has identified alleged financial and administrative irregularities worth Rs222.0668 billion in the Ministry of Communications during the period associated with former federal minister Maulana Asad Mahmood. According to the report, the irregularities involved recruitment, financial management and cases of alleged fraud and nepotism in departments operating under the ministry. The audit findings revealed that the Finance Division issued instructions on September 30, 2022, following which the Establishment Division

permitted recruitment against 3,938 vacant posts in the Pakistan Post Office Department. However, 4,252 appointments were made in grades 1 to 15 during the caretaker government's tenure, exceeding the approved number of positions by 314. The report raised objections to the additional appointments, alleging that they were made on political grounds and in violation of recruitment rules and regulations. The audit also identified irregularities amounting to Rs48.8 million in 40 cases involving alleged fraud, misappropriation and other administrative violations. The findings have raised questions about financial oversight, recruitment procedures and compliance with government regulations during the period under review. The reported irregularities relate to the ministry and its departments. The audit observations do not, by themselves, establish personal criminal liability against Maulana Asad Mahmood.



Women purchase traditional chana chaat (spicy chickpea salad) from a street vendor in the provincial capital.



Pakistan, Singapore lay focus on deepening trade, tech, education ties

- The two foreign ministers agreed to hold regular bilateral political consultations and promote high-level exchanges to strengthen cooperation between the two governments and institutions.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Singapore on Friday emphasised further strengthening bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors, particularly focusing on trade and investment, education, technology, culture, people-to-people contacts and disaster management. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed during the restricted meeting and delegation-level talks between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Dar underscored the long-standing and friendly relations between the two nations, with Pakistan having been among the first countries to recognise Singapore's independence in 1965, and that Singapore's Foreign Minister's visit to Pakistan was the first in over two decades. The deputy prime minister said that during the talks, both sides welcomed the growth in bilateral trade and agreed to encourage closer business-to-business engagement, leveraging chambers of commerce and business delegations. He said both sides recognised the considerable untapped potential in relations and stressed the importance of sustained engagement.

The two foreign ministers agreed to hold regular bilateral political consultations and promote high-level exchanges to strengthen cooperation between the two governments and institutions. Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that the reopening of Pakistan Trade and Investment Office at Pakistan High Commission in Singapore was a testament to the country's resolve to promote stronger B2B ties. He said that beyond trade and investment, Pakistan and Singapore discussed expanding cooperation in education, research, digital technologies, and artificial intelligence, besides agreeing to deepen cooperation in human resource development, agriculture, and climate domains. Both sides discussed strengthening institutional linkages between their universities and research institutions, as well as promoting cultural, academic, youth, and people-to-people exchanges, alongside the potential resumption of direct flights to facilitate travel. He told the media that both countries exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding on disaster management between Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF).

Pakistan will be polio free by June next year, says minister

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal has vowed to make Pakistan polio-free by June next year. Mustafa Kamal was addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Friday in connection with the launch of a sub-national anti-polio vaccination campaign. The Minister said the campaign will run from the 2nd to the 8th of next month in 97 selected districts across the country. He highlighted that around 24 million children under the age of five will be administered anti-polio drops during the campaign.

PPP invites opposition to join parliamentary committee on electoral reforms

- PPP invites opposition parties to join the electoral reforms committee, seeking joint proposals from political stakeholders to ensure transparent, free and fair elections in Pakistan.

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has invited opposition parties to join the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, urging the government and opposition to develop joint proposals to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. In connection with the formation of the parliamentary committee on electoral reforms, a PPP delegation met Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai. During the meetings, the PPP delegation invited opposition parties to become part of the

parliamentary committee on electoral reforms. The delegation also called for joint recommendations from the government and opposition to ensure transparent, free and fair elections. PPP senior leader Sherry Rehman said the party aimed to establish an electoral system that enjoyed the confidence of all political parties. She urged opposition parties to present their proposals before the electoral reforms committee, adding that repeated questions over the electoral process affected the credibility of parliament. She said transparent, free and fair elections were essential for protecting voters' rights and strengthening democratic institutions. Rehman further said that, on the proposal of PPP



Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, a resolution had been passed for the formation of an electoral reforms committee comprising members of the National Assembly and Senate. She added that the committee would present its recommendations before parliament for approval. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Senator Allama Raja Nasir Abbas agreed with the PPP delegation's proposal to improve transparency in elections.

LHC orders abolition of traditional patient slip system in Punjab hospitals within four weeks

- The Lahore High Court ordered Punjab government hospitals to replace traditional patient slips with a modern management system within four weeks.

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court has ordered the abolition of the traditional patient slip system in all government hospitals across Punjab within four weeks. The court directed authorities to ensure that patients visiting emergency departments and outpatient departments are not forced to stand in lengthy queues for registration and slips, but instead receive prompt medical examinations and treatment. Justice Malik Javed Iqbal Wains issued a written order on a petition filed by the Judicial Activism Panel. The court



directed the Punjab Health Department to introduce an effective, technology-based patient management system to eliminate unnecessary delays, overcrowding and long queues at registration counters. According to the order, a petition concerning the lack of basic healthcare facilities in

government hospitals has been pending since 2020. Despite several judicial notices and directions, none of the parties has submitted a compliance report so far.

The court observed that continued failure to implement its orders reflected an irresponsible and non-serious attitude on the part of the relevant government officials. During the hearing, Special Secretary Health Nabeela Irfan assured the court that the traditional slip system would be

abolished in Punjab's government hospitals within four weeks and replaced with a modern and efficient patient management system. The court also directed the Health Department to submit a comprehensive report detailing the medical facilities available in government hospitals, their quality and measures taken to improve them. The Lahore High Court ordered all relevant authorities to submit detailed compliance reports at the next hearing, warning that legal action could be initiated against officials who fail to implement judicial orders without justification.



Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, chairing a review meeting on the National Highway Authority's (NHA) portfolio under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in Islamabad

Facilitators of Fitna al-Hindustan announce disassociation from terrorist elements

- Two former BLA facilitators in Turbat have disassociated themselves from the group, confessed to aiding attacks on security forces and pledged loyalty to Pakistan.

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Facilitators of the proscribed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), referred to as Fitna al-Hindustan, have announced their disassociation from terrorist elements and made important revelations about their involvement with the militant organisation. Muhammad Sohail Behram and Muhammad, alias Mehroan, who have left Fitna al-Hindustan and joined the national mainstream, confessed to their involvement and pledged loyalty to the state.



During a press conference, the two Turbat residents admitted that they had established contact through social media with Sabit, alias Kamandan, a terrorist associated with Fitna al-Hindustan, also known as the proscribed BLA. They said they had facilitated the terrorist organisation in carrying out attacks against security forces.