



Khawaja Asif calls overseas YouTubers PTI's biggest enemies

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that YouTubers based abroad, whom he described as freeloaders, are in fact the biggest enemies of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Khawaja Asif strongly criticised the YouTubers, saying they were sitting safely abroad and making money, while PTI was paying the price for their negative and provocative posts within Pakistan.



National Assembly passes life insurance bill, refers privatisation amendment to committee

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The National Assembly on Thursday passed the Life Insurance Nationalisation Amendment Bill 2026 by a majority vote, while the Privatisation Commission Amendment Bill 2026 was referred to the relevant committee during the House proceedings.



PM Shehbaz backs emergency rule in KP as security crisis deepens

■ PM Shehbaz defends governor's rule and emergency measures in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Field Marshal Asim Munir and senior officials review security challenges in Peshawar.

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday defended the imposition of governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, describing the measures as a decision taken under "extreme compulsion" amid the province's worsening security situation.

Chairing a provincial apex committee meeting in Peshawar, the prime minister reviewed law and order challenges and measures to strengthen counterterrorism efforts. He also criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), accusing the party of negligence over the deteriorating security situation.

The meeting at the Governor House was attended by Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, other federal ministers and newly appointed provincial advisers. The visit marked Shehbaz Sharif's first trip to the province since governor's rule and the emergency were imposed on October 11.

Addressing the meeting, Shehbaz Sharif described Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a beautiful province and expressed hope that concerted efforts would accelerate its development and prosperity.

"I hope we work hard day and night and speedily make progress towards development and prosperity," he said.

The prime minister also criticised PTI over the province's security challenges, recalling that KP had been a "cradle of peace" six years ago. His remarks came amid mounting concerns over militant violence and the federal government's (Continued on Page-5)



Zardari to visit Germany from Oct 22 to 24 to discuss bilateral ties

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari will visit Germany from October 22 to 24 to discuss bilateral relations as Pakistan and Germany prepare to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic ties.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Foreign Office (FO) said the president's visit was part of high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Germany.



KP Governor Kundi says lasting peace requires federal cooperation

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said maintaining law and order in the province is the government's top priority, adding that the people of KP want peace and lasting stability requires federal cooperation.

Speaking at a meeting of the apex committee chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Kundi said the army, Frontier Corps and police had sacrificed precious lives to maintain peace and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said peace and development could not be halted if all state institutions worked together.

Opposition Leaders Demand Direct Negotiations Invitation from Prime Minister

■ Mahmood Khan Achakzai calls for serious political dialogue, while Barrister Gohar and Senator Raja Nasir Abbas stress democratic principles, parliamentary sovereignty, rule of law and an end to political victimisation.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Opposition leaders have called on the government to demonstrate seriousness about political negotiations, insisting that the prime minister should personally invite them for talks rather than allowing the dialogue process to become a subject of ridicule.

Speaking at a press conference on the prevailing political situation, National Assembly Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and other opposition leaders stressed the need to uphold democratic principles, strengthen parliament and ensure the rule of law. Achakzai said the government must extend a direct invitation through the prime



minister if it genuinely wants negotiations. He questioned the credibility of those who mock the dialogue process and said the opposition could no longer trust such an approach. He stressed that parliamentary speeches should be properly recorded to preserve

the country's political history and enable citizens to assess what their elected representatives say. He also called for the Speaker's powers to be exercised in accordance with parliamentary rules, raising concerns over the selective issuance of production orders for lawmakers. Referring to his recent speech in the National Assembly, Achakzai said he had made no inappropriate remarks against the country, alleging that a four-and-a-half-minute speech had been presented as a nine-minute address.

He said the opposition had demonstrated its sincerity towards political dialogue, adding that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman had met the prime minister as part of efforts to facilitate negotiations.



'Agenda more important than venue', says minister amid dialogue push

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said on Thursday the agenda of a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the opposition leader was more important than its venue, reiterating the government's willingness to hold talks. Chaudhry said the prime minister was ready to meet Opposition Leader in the National (Continued on Page-5)

Pakistan, EU pledge stronger cooperation against terrorism

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and the European Union (EU) have agreed to strengthen cooperation on counterterrorism at multilateral forums, including the United Nations (UN), to promote a coordinated international response to the threat.

The understanding was reached during the 10th round of the Pakistan-EU Bilateral Counterterrorism Dialogue in Islamabad on Thursday, according to an official statement.

Gwadar Operation: Security forces kill three militants as attack on construction camp foiled

■ GOC personally leads operation near coastal highway

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Security forces have killed three militants in southwestern Balochistan province after foiling an attempted attack on an empty construction company camp in Gwadar.

The operation prevented the assault on the vacant facility, while efforts continued to contain other suspected militants in the area.

Security personnel have also launched a separate operation at a hotel near the Gwadar highway, where four militants are reportedly surrounded. According to security sources,

the militants, identified by the sources as members of Fitna al-Hindustan, attempted to attack the vacant camp belonging to a construction company in Gwadar. Security forces responded promptly, thwarting the attempted assault and killing three militants during the operation.

The sources said another three militants had been surrounded as security personnel continued

their efforts to secure the area. Further details about the attempted attack, including the identities of those killed and whether any security personnel were injured, were not immediately available.

In a separate development, security forces launched another operation at a hotel near the Gwadar highway following reports of militants present at the location. According to security sources, four militants are surrounded by security personnel at the hotel as the operation continues. The two operations are being conducted at separate locations in Gwadar, with security forces working to contain the suspected militants and prevent further attacks.

Punjab CM gives police 4-week deadline to combat crimes against women, children

■ Maryam Nawaz warns top cops will face music if law and order situation does not improve: Orders police to check wheat smuggling from all districts: Directs intensifying anti-corruption campaign in police

City Reporter

LAHORE



Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has given a four-week deadline to police for reducing crimes against women and children, warning that officers found negligent of duty will be removed. The deadline was issued as Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chaired a special meeting in Lahore on Thursday regarding law and order situation in the province.

The meeting was attended by Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Rao Abdul Kareem, and all RPOs and DPOs via video link. A detailed briefing on law and order related to each division and district was given during the meeting.

The chief minister directed the top cops that action against the criminal

elements must be expedited as the culture of hooliganism will be not be tolerated in Punjab.

Maryam Nawaz expressed her anguish over the soaring crime numbers against women and children, gave a four-week deadline to eliminate crimes against women and children, improve law and order. The chief minister warned the relevant police officer will be removed if the law and order situation does not improve. Among her key directives,

she expressed concern over the law and order situation in Rawalpindi Division and ordered the police to stop wheat smuggling from all districts, especially the provincial border areas.

Maryam Nawaz said that the culture of hooliganism will not be tolerated in Punjab, no one will be forgiven and all-out action should be taken to eliminate drugs.

University of Chitral, KIU and AKU Join Hands to Enhance Quality Teaching and Learning

- Two-Day Leadership Workshop Focuses on Student-Centered Learning, Curriculum Improvement and Faculty Development, with Universities Committing to Institutional Programme Development Targets for 2027



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Leadership Workshop for Quality Teaching and Learning Framework Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah-Vice Chancellor University of Chitral participated in the

Two Days' Workshop on Developing Quality Teaching and Learning Framework for the Mountainous Universities (University of Chitral and Karakorum International University Gilgit) under the "Leadership of the Network of Quality, Teaching and

Learning (QTL) at the Aga Khan University Karachi. The Workshop engaged QTL team- AKU, Leadership and QEC of KIU and the University of Chitral. The main focus of the workshop remained on enhancing quality teaching and learning

excellence in mountainous University by promoting student-centered, innovative, and evidence-based teaching practices. The workshop emphasized on robust cyclical revision of programs, curriculum relevance, active learning, and effective assessment aligned with learning outcomes. The quality teaching and learning framework supports continuous professional development for faculty, encouraging reflective teaching and research in pedagogy. It prioritizes inclusivity, student engagement, and use of technology to create an enriching learning environment. Quality assurance mechanisms and feedback loops ensure ongoing improvement. AKU, KIU and UoCH leadership agreed and committed to impactful teaching and learning, and realistic targets for Institutional Program Development for 2027. The commitment aimed to foster a culture of quality teaching and learning, academic rigor, responsiveness, and holistic development of graduates to meet the local and national needs of education.

Islamabad Police Arrest 24 Suspects in Crackdown, Recover Vehicle, Drugs and Illegal Weapons

- Seven Drug Suspects and 12 Wanted Individuals Among Those Arrested; DIG Ali Waseem Reaffirms Commitment to Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Crime Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Arrest 24 Accused in Crackdown Against Criminal Elements; Vehicle, Drugs and Illegal Weapons Recovered According to details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police continued its indiscriminate crackdown against criminal elements over the past 24 hours to protect the lives and property of citizens and curb crime in the federal capital. In this regard, police teams arrested 24 accused during various operations, including two members of a gang involved in fraudulently obtaining vehicles. A vehicle worth millions of rupees was recovered from their possession. In separate operations, three accused involved in



possessing and displaying illegal weapons were arrested, and three pistols of different calibers, along with ammunition, were recovered. Furthermore, seven accused involved in drug trafficking were arrested, and 2,083 grams of ice, 210 grams of heroin, 635 grams of hashish and 15 bottles of liquor were recovered from their possession. Meanwhile, 12

proclaimed offenders and court absconders were arrested during a special campaign targeting wanted individuals. DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police. He emphasized that indiscriminate action against criminal elements would continue and that all available

resources were being utilized to maintain law and order and ensure public safety. He urged citizens to promptly report any suspicious activity or person to the nearest police station or the emergency helpline Pukar-15. He stressed that cooperation between the public and the police is essential to preventing crime and making the federal capital safer.

Shams Colony Police Arrest Five Suspects in Crackdown on Drug Peddling and Illegal Arms



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Shams Colony Police Crackdown on Criminals: 5 Suspects Arrested for Drug Peddling and Illegal Arms? Effective Operations Underway Under the Supervision of SHO Dilshan Farouqi; Measures Accelerated to Eradicate Crime and Ensure Citizen Safety Islamabad (Rajab Ali, Special Correspondent): Islamabad's Shams Colony Police, under the supervision of SHO Dilshan Farouqi, arrested five suspects during extensive operations against criminal elements, drug peddlers, and individuals possessing illegal weapons. Police operations against criminals are ongoing, aimed at preventing crime in the area, discouraging the spread of drugs, and ensuring the protection of citizens' lives and property. Under the supervision of SHO Shams Colony Dilshan Farouqi, police teams are actively cracking down on lawbreakers. Effective measures are being taken by the police to curb drug peddling and illegal arms, with a firm resolve to continue the crackdown against criminal elements. In his message to the citizens, SHO Shams Colony Dilshan Farouqi stated that maintaining law and order and protecting the lives and property of citizens are among the police's top priorities. Indiscriminate legal actions will continue against drug peddlers, criminals, and those possessing illegal weapons. He appealed to citizens to cooperate with the police in eradicating crime and establishing a peaceful society, and to immediately report any suspicious activity, drug peddling, or illegal weapons in their surroundings to the police.

IGP Islamabad Holds Orderly Room at CPO, Resolves Police Personnel's Grievances

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

IGP Islamabad Holds Orderly Room at CPO, Resolves Police Officers' and Officials' Grievances Police Officers Recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for Outstanding Professional Performance According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry held an Orderly Room at the Central Police Office (CPO), where he listened in detail to the service-related and personal issues of police officers and officials and made on-the-spot decisions for their resolution. He directed the concerned officers to address legitimate grievances on a priority basis and avoid unnecessary delays in departmental matters. On the occasion, IGP Islamabad also encouraged police officers who



demonstrated outstanding professional performance and awarded them certificates of appreciation. He said that recognizing hard work, dedication and professional competence is essential to motivating the police force and further improving its performance. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry stated that police officers and officials perform their duties day and night to protect the lives and property of citizens.

Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts to Address Public Grievances, Orders Swift Resolution of Complaints

- DIG Ali Waseem and SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza Direct Officers to Resolve Complaints on Merit; Citizens Urged to Use IGP Complaint Cell at 1715

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts to Address Citizens' Grievances, Orders Prompt Resolution of Complaints According to details, following the special directions of Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police remain committed to resolving citizens' issues promptly and ensuring timely relief. In this regard, DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem and SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza held open courts at their respective offices, listened to citizens' complaints and issued directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution. DIG Islamabad heard citizens' grievances at his office and directed the concerned officers to resolve their



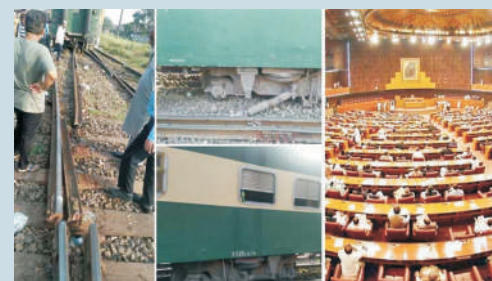
issues promptly and on merit. Similarly, SSP Operations Islamabad held an open court under the open-door policy, where citizens presented their problems and complaints. He directed the

National Press Club Congratulates Haroon Jangjoo on 2026 International Press Freedom Award

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The National Press Club Islamabad has congratulated renowned journalist Haroon Jangjoo on receiving the 2026 International Press Freedom Award presented by the United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). In a statement, National Press Club President Abdur Razzaq Sial, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao and Finance Secretary Abid Abbasi praised Haroon Jangjoo for his outstanding contributions to journalism and his commitment to press freedom. They said Haroon Jangjoo had rendered valuable services to journalism and earned recognition at national and international levels. His achievements, they added, were a source of pride for Pakistan's journalist community. The club expressed confidence that his success would inspire journalists to uphold professional integrity, truth and freedom of expression.



349 train derailments reported since 2022, National Assembly told

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Ministry of Railways has presented details of train accidents over the past five years before the National Assembly. According to the report submitted to the National Assembly, 349 train derailments have occurred since 2022. In its written reply, the Ministry of Railways said 42 derailments were reported in 2022, 58 in 2023 and 95 in 2024. The written response stated that 93 derailments occurred in 2025, while 61 incidents were reported up to September 24, 2026. According to the ministry, 13 trains were targeted in acts of terrorism and sabotage over the past five years, while 120 train accidents occurred due to track defects.



Govt establishes federal employment facilitation cell for Balochistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has established the Balochistan Federal Employment Facilitation Cell within the Establishment Division to facilitate the recruitment of eligible candidates from Balochistan to federal government jobs and address obstacles in the recruitment process. According to an official notification issued by the Establishment Division, the cell will review existing recruitment procedures across federal ministries and departments and identify difficulties faced by candidates from Balochistan in securing federal government employment. The notification said the cell would propose measures to improve awareness about employment opportunities in federal government departments and facilitate access to these opportunities for eligible candidates from the province.

China slams 'Cold War mentality' after new EU Arctic plan



Web DESK
BEIJING

China opposed on Thursday "using Cold War mentality" to stoke conflict over the Arctic, after the European Union linked Beijing's cooperation with Russia in the region to security concerns. The EU unveiled on Tuesday a push to boost Arctic surveillance and expand icebreaker fleets, alluding to China's growing "strategic ambitions... as it deepens its partnership with Russia". Europe, China, Russia and the United

States are jostling for influence in the polar region that is seen as an important trade route. This summer, a Chinese shipowner began a weekly container service through the Arctic on an express route to Europe, prompting concerns over vessels warming polar ice. Beijing and Moscow agreed this week to "expand cooperation" in Arctic shipping, including increasing the number of routes between Russian and Chinese ports, according to a joint communique released after a meeting between their prime ministers. Asked about the new EU strategy and calls from foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas to bolster the bloc's defences in the Arctic, China denounced what it called a "Cold War mentality". "China's activities in the Arctic are aimed at promoting the Arctic's peaceful, stable and sustainable development, and are in accordance with international law," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said during a regular news conference.



CHAIRMAN SENATE, SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI IN A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES, DR MOHAMED MUIZZU, IN ISLAMABAD ON OCTOBER 22, 2026.

Ishaq Dar to represent Pakistan at R4-E3 meeting in Istanbul

■ Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will host the meeting, the first to bring together the two groups.

Web Desk
Istanbul



Fidan will host the meeting, the first to bring together the two groups. "The seven countries will come together for the first time in the R4+E3 format, at Turkey's initiative," the source said, indicating they would explore "opportunities for cooperation and coordination that could be

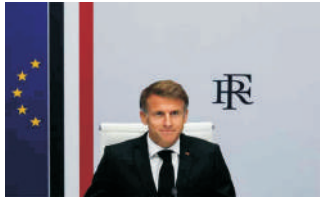
put into practice ... in the coming period." In chairing the meeting, Fidan was expected to focus on the international community "increasing pressure on Israel" in response to its settlement expansion and its "encouragement of settler terrorism", the source said.

Fidan would also underline support for Saudi Arabia's security in the face of attacks by Yemen's Houthis, and stress the need for permanent freedom of navigation in the Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb Straits. And he would reiterate Turkey's ongoing "warnings and proposals" to prevent the Russia-Ukraine war from spreading to the Black Sea and to draw a line under the civilian deaths there. The E3 was set up more than 20 years ago to advance diplomatic coordination over Iran's nuclear programme, while the R4 was formed this year and brings together Egypt with the signatories to the Mecca Defence Agreement -- a mutual defence pact set up by Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in August.

Macron slams 'stupid comments' from world leaders after Trump blames France unrest on migrants

● Emmanuel Macron criticizes Donald Trump and foreign leaders for spreading misinformation about France's nationwide protests, rejecting claims that migrants are fueling unrest.

Web Desk
PARIS



French President Emmanuel Macron has slammed what he called "stupid comments" from some foreign leaders over protests sweeping the country, after his US counterpart Donald Trump claimed migrants were fueling the unrest. "We've had people claiming that we were invaded by hordes of migrants and Islamists, which is completely false," during a tour of Arab states in the Persian Gulf region. "The fact is that all those speaking ill of our country right now are people who don't love our country. And those people irritate me." Trump claimed without evidence

that France was being "conquered, looted and burned to the ground by migrants, jihadists and communists who hate Christianity" and "the Western civilization itself." What started out in September as protests over the state of education and cost of living in the country has since spiraled into nationwide violence and rioting, with more than 2,000 people arrested this past weekend alone. French authorities have imposed

localized curfews and promised a "massive" police presence for more protests expected Saturday, as authorities come under pressure to quell the worst flare-up of rioting in years. However, Macron continued, "there has been foreign manipulation of information, which has led to unacceptable and stupid comments from many people, including foreign leaders." Alongside Trump, Vice President JD Vance has also suggested migrants were behind the unrest. "Western liberals imported the third world into France and other countries in the name of diversity and compassion," he wrote Monday on X. "They ignored fundamental questions of

assimilation and compatibility." Trump referred approvingly to Vance's comments in the Oval while claiming that concerns about education or costs were not fueling the protests. "It's not about education. It's about immigration," he said. "It's about illegal people coming in who basically hate France. They hate the people. They hate everything." In Europe, too, Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar has linked the violence to immigration policies, also without providing evidence. On Sunday, he posted on social media: "In the face of this senseless destruction and unjustified violence, perhaps it is now clear to everyone why Hungary advocates the strictest possible approach to migration."

Man with disability killed by Israeli fire in Syria

Web Desk
Syria



A man with a disability was killed Thursday by Israeli army fire during an incursion in southern Syria, where it has stepped up operations, Syria's state news agency said. Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad in December 2024 and an Islamist coalition's rise to power, the Israeli army has carried out hundreds of strikes in Syria and regular incursions into its territory. "A civilian with a disability was killed Thursday by fire from the Israeli occupation forces during their incursion into the village of Jamla" in Deraa province, SANA news agency said. Israeli forces deployed in one neighbourhood of the village and placed snipers on the rooftops after bombing the area late on Wednesday, the report said. After Ahmed al-Sharaa came to power in Damascus in late 2024, Israel launched hundreds of strikes against Syria.

The IDF also carried out incursions into Syria's south and deployed troops in the UN-monitored buffer zone separating Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan Heights. In recent days, Israeli forces have also uprooted vast olive groves in Quneitra province, near Deraa, according to the agency. Trees were destroyed across an area of about 1.3 hectares by the village of Saida, SANA said. The village faces the buffer zone where the Israeli army has been building fortifications. "Tanks entered my land without any warning," Mohammad Ali al-Chaghla, 58, the owner of the field, told AFP. "They cut down and destroyed some 400 trees during their incursion."

Iran's Guards threaten to hit US bases in retaliation for Hormuz escorts

Web Desk
TEHRAN



Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Thursday threatened to strike American bases across the Middle East if the US military continues to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz. "The US military must know that if this trend continues, the conflict will extend to its bases in the region," the Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement on their Sepah News website. "This is a serious warning," they added. Iran claims control over Hormuz, a strategic shipping route through

which one-fifth of the world's oil supplies passed before war broke out in February. It regularly attacks ships that attempt to navigate the strait without its authorisation. But the US military has been escorting vessels through the waterway in increasing numbers, with Iran responding by stepping up attacks. Four ships were hit in the area overnight as they attempted to pass through the wider Gulf, Iranian forces said on Thursday.

Iran threatens to target US data centres, undersea internet cables if war breaks out

Web Desk
TEHRAN



Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei said negotiations with the United States have

been suspended, warning that undersea internet cables, data centres and AI facilities could be targeted by Iran if war breaks out, IRNA reports. Meanwhile, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said that it had targeted four ships in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf that it said were transferring oil cargoes from one vessel to another. The IRGC's naval forces said in a statement that "fires were still burning on the targeted ships." It added that the four vessels had been spotted transferring oil between ships and were targeted simultaneously for sailing along "unauthorised routes."

Russia frees retired US schoolteacher in goodwill gesture as Putin meets Witkoff

■ Russia freed retired US teacher Stephen Hubbard after Putin agreed to Trump's request. The release followed talks with US envoy Steve Witkoff as efforts to end the Ukraine war continued.

Web Desk
ST PETERSBURG, Russia

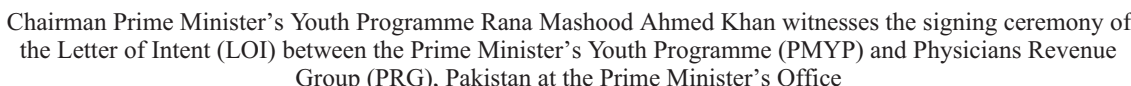
Russia freed Stephen Hubbard, a retired US schoolteacher in custody since 2022, from prison on Wednesday and took him to St Petersburg to fly back to the US, after talks that Washington said were a step toward ending the war in Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin made the announcement at a meeting in St Petersburg with US envoy Steve Witkoff, who later said the talks will continue toward planned technical-level discussions involving the US, Russia and Ukraine. Witkoff called Putin a "humanitarian" in thanking him for the move, a remark that drew sharp rebuke from Republican and Democratic lawmakers given Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The prisoner release comes as



President Donald Trump's recent gestures toward Moscow, including a deal to buy Russian diesel and a waiver of new sanctions, have already sparked bipartisan pushback in the US Congress and worry in European capitals. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said Putin had freed Hubbard, 74, at

Trump's request, and that he had also taken into account the American's poor health. Trump later confirmed he had asked Putin on a call in "recent days, and Putin agreed." "The president sends his thanks, our whole nation sends their thanks, because of Stephen Hubbard," Witkoff told Putin

in the meeting shown on Russian state TV. "Because of you he's going home to his family." In a video shared with Reuters, Hubbard, wearing a dark fleece and clean-shaven, is seen in an undisclosed location in Russia shaking Witkoff's hand and thanking him. Later, Trump posted a picture of Hubbard appearing inside a plane with others and holding an American flag. Trump told reporters late on Wednesday that Hubbard had landed and that he would be visiting the White House "over the next day or so." Hubbard's son, Joseph Coleman, told Reuters earlier in a voice message that he spoke briefly by phone with his father before he boarded the airplane in Russia. "Today he seemed light in his step, a sense of happiness in his voice", Coleman said. Witkoff called the talks with Putin "constructive" and said in a post on X that he had also met Ukrainian and European leaders in Oslo to advance Trump's mission to end the war.



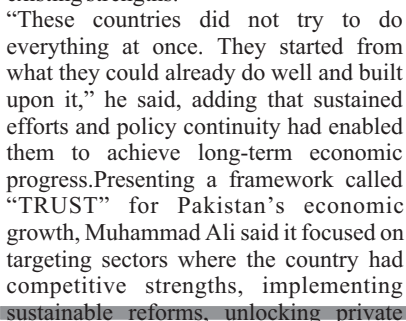
■ Petroleum Division has asked OGRA to take legal and administrative action over fears of LPG hoarding and artificial shortages despite imports meeting domestic demand.

It asked OGRA to take appropriate measures to prevent hoarding and ensure the regular movement of LPG from import terminals to areas where the fuel is needed.

The letter also called for necessary legal and administrative action to maintain uninterrupted supplies and protect consumers from artificial shortages.

The Petroleum Division highlighted the importance of LPG for people living in mountainous and remote areas, as well as regions not connected to the national gas network.

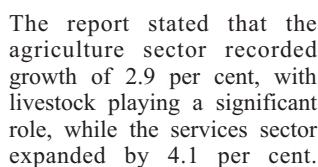
It stressed that preventing supply disruptions and unjustified price increases was essential to ensuring that consumers in these areas continued to have access to the fuel.



The meeting also reviewed industrial energy costs, particularly the gas levy and its implications for export competitiveness.

■ World Bank reports 3.7% economic growth in Pakistan for FY2025-26, while inflation averaged 7.1%. Growth is projected at 3.8% and inflation at 8.2% for FY2026-27.

The World Bank has released its 2026 economic report on Pakistan's development outlook, reporting that the country's economy grew by 3.7 per cent in fiscal year 2025-26, while inflationary pressures intensified amid rising energy prices. According to the World Bank, international credit rating agencies S&P and Moody's upgraded Pakistan's credit ratings. Pakistan also issued Eurobonds worth \$750 million and \$3 billion in the international market.

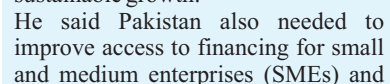


Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves reached \$19.7 billion, while the overall fiscal deficit declined to 2.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). According to the World Bank,



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a sharp downturn on Thursday as selling pressure pushed the benchmark KSE-100 index below the 164,000-point mark. The market initially showed positive momentum at the opening of trading,

with the benchmark index gaining 250 points to reach 166,180 points. However, the upward trend soon reversed as selling intensified across the market. The decline continued until the close of trading, leaving the index down 2,006 points at 163,924. The latest fall erased the previous session's gains, when the benchmark index had risen by 779 points to close at 165,930.



He said Pakistan's exports remained around \$30 billion, while greater access to regional markets could help local industries expand their international presence.

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Closer ties with foreign firms to expand industries

A foreign investor builds a factory in Pakistan, employs local workers and sells its products in the domestic market. Production rises, jobs are created and business activity expands. Yet if the factory depends heavily on imported machinery and materials, earns its revenue in rupees and sends part of its profits overseas, its contribution to the country's foreign exchange position may

survey attributed to a one-time divestment. Anwar argues that Pakistan needs to attract more investment into industries capable of selling internationally, developing local suppliers and reducing dependence on imported goods. The need is underscored by the country's trade performance. Goods exports declined 5.93% to \$30.1 billion in FY26, while imports rose 8.14% to \$69.8 billion, according to the Pakistan



remain limited. Now consider a different arrangement. A Pakistani manufacturer joins hands with an overseas company, adopts its technology, improves production standards and begins supplying customers in international markets. The partnership creates jobs at home while bringing in export earnings. Local suppliers may also benefit as the business expands.

For Pakistan, where the demand for dollars regularly outpaces the economy's ability to earn them through merchandise exports, the difference between these two investment models deserves greater attention. Economic analyst Shahid Anwar believes closer partnerships between domestic manufacturers and foreign companies could help Pakistan make better use of its existing industrial base.

"Pakistan needs to look beyond the headline figure for foreign investment and examine the economic activity it creates over time," said Anwar, a former secretary-general of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

According to the State Bank of Pakistan data, net foreign direct investment (FDI) reached around \$495 million in July and August 2026, compared with \$399 million in the same period a year earlier. The improvement followed a weaker full year, when net FDI fell to \$1.67 billion in FY26 from \$2.48 billion in FY25. World Bank data shows that FDI has remained below 1% of gross domestic product since 2010.

Investment has also remained concentrated in a narrow range of activities. Pakistan Economic Survey for FY26 shows that the power sector attracted 52.7% of net FDI in the first nine months of the fiscal year, while financial businesses accounted for 43.5%. Telecommunications recorded a net outflow of \$465.5 million, which the

Bureau of Statistics.

September brought some improvement in exports, which increased 17.6% year-on-year to \$2.94 billion. But imports also climbed by more than 11% to approximately \$6.49 billion. The trade deficit for July-September reached \$10.79 billion, about 15% higher than a year earlier. The World Bank estimates that Pakistan has nearly \$60 billion in untapped export potential. Yet exports have fallen from 16% of GDP in the 1990s to around 10%, leaving considerable room for improvement.

"Many Pakistani manufacturers can produce at scale, but entering overseas markets requires consistent quality, modern processes and reliable buyers. A foreign partner who brings those capabilities can help a local business move beyond the domestic market and compete internationally," said Arshad Zia, a mid-scale businessman. Joint ventures could help achieve these objectives by combining established Pakistani factories and workforces with overseas technology, technical expertise and access to customers. The approach will not replace investment in new factories where additional capacity or new units are required. Instead, it will provide another route for expanding businesses that already have productive facilities.

Zia added that though this transition for Pakistani industries was not that easy, already some joint ventures were underway and were providing good results. "Such JVs, however, are largely for high-end industries, where money is not an issue, but for an average businessman, JVs are still not accessible."

Anwar, on the other hand, proposes assessing major investment projects through what he calls a "dollar test". Under this approach, authorities will examine projected export earnings, purchases from local suppliers and expected foreign exchange payments for imported inputs, profits and dividends over a 10-year period. The results will be reviewed annually.

The Migration of Talent and the Destiny of a Nation

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

The true wealth of a nation is measured neither exclusively by the abundance of its natural resources, nor by the magnitude of its foreign-exchange reserves, the volume of its industrial production, or the fluctuations of its financial indices. It resides, no less fundamentally, in the intellectual and technical endowments of its people in the accumulated powers of their understanding, the refinement of their professional accomplishments, the fertility of their inventive faculties, and the practical wisdom acquired through experience. When a society, having devoted a substantial portion of its collective resources to the education and cultivation of its citizens, subsequently proves incapable of furnishing them with opportunities commensurate with their abilities, the resulting predicament transcends the ordinary phenomenon of migration. It becomes symptomatic of a deeper dislocation within the very architecture of national development. The figures concerning the departure of Pakistani citizens in pursuit of employment abroad, as presented before the National Assembly, therefore invite a searching examination of the structural conditions that govern the relationship between human potential and the national interest.

According to the information furnished in response to a question by Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro during the National Assembly's Question Hour, the Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis, Muhammad Aun Saqlain, disclosed that more than 1.871 million Pakistanis had proceeded abroad in search of employment during the preceding three years. Among them were individuals possessing advanced academic qualifications, alongside citizens engaged in a broad spectrum of technical, administrative, and professional occupations. Physicians, engineers, information-technology specialists,



accountants, teachers, pharmacists, nurses, systems analysts, and financial experts represent fields indispensable to the productive capacity of a modern

economy, the effective provision of public services, and the sustained advancement of society. Nevertheless, intellectual exactitude requires that the aggregate number of departing workers should not be conflated with the separate category of highly qualified professionals. These figures represent distinct classifications and must be interpreted accordingly if the conclusions drawn from them are to retain their evidential integrity.

The particulars supplied indicate that 45,830 highly qualified Pakistanis proceeded abroad in 2024, followed by 28,726 in 2025 and 15,850 during 2026 up to the date covered by the reported figures. Any rigorous interpretation of these statistics must, however, establish the precise date to which the figures for 2026 pertain and ascertain the definition of highly qualified persons employed within the relevant official classification. A diminution or augmentation in annual totals, considered in isolation, can establish neither an unequivocal alteration in the underlying pattern of migration nor the causes responsible for it. Such determinations require a comprehensive comparative assessment incorporating

occupational classifications, destination countries, the character of the employment undertaken, and other pertinent variables. Statistical evidence, when detached from its methodological foundations, may furnish an appearance of certainty without warranting the conclusions subsequently imposed upon it.

Yet, notwithstanding these necessary qualifications, the fundamental question remains inescapable: why does Pakistan struggle to establish conditions in which the knowledge, skills, and professional capacities of its educated citizens may be effectively harnessed for the advancement of their own country? To attribute this phenomenon exclusively to unemployment would be to mistake one manifestation of the problem for its entire substance. The availability of employment is important, but equally consequential are the character of the work offered, the adequacy of remuneration, the prospects of professional advancement, the transparency of institutions, the accessibility of research opportunities, and the degree of confidence that individuals may reasonably repose in their future. For a physician, access to advanced medical facilities and specialised training may determine the trajectory of an entire career; for an engineer, opportunities.

A Significant Step Toward Export Promotion

By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

Exports have always held fundamental importance in Pakistan's economy because, for any country, selling goods and services in international markets not only generates foreign exchange but also strengthens industrial development, employment opportunities, business activity, and overall economic stability. Alongside large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can also play a significant role in Pakistan's export economy. However, these businesses face a number of risks when entering international markets, some of which can affect their entire business strategy. One of the most important risks is the possibility that a foreign buyer may fail to make payment. This is where Export Credit Insurance can emerge as an effective protection mechanism for Pakistani exporters.

The basic objective of Export Credit Insurance is to protect an exporter against the risk of non-payment by a foreign buyer after the exporter has supplied goods or services. In such circumstances, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, Pak EXIM Bank may provide compensation for the loss. The most important aspect of this facility is that an exporter does not have to enter international trade entirely exposed to uncertainty. Instead, the exporter can expand business with the support of an institutional risk-protection mechanism. A large number of SMEs in Pakistan have the potential to sell their products abroad, but risks associated with new buyers, new markets, and international payments often compel them to remain cautious. Many businesses limit themselves to buyers with whom they already have established relationships because of concerns about payment risks. As a result, their export activities remain confined to a relatively

narrow circle. Export Credit Insurance can help change this situation because when an exporter has protection against the risk of non-payment, the business may feel more confident about establishing relationships with new buyers and entering new international markets.

This facility is particularly important for small and medium-sized exporters because large companies can sometimes manage different risks through their financial resources, legal expertise, and international business experience. For a small business, however, non-payment of a large amount by a foreign buyer can create a serious financial crisis. Export Credit Insurance seeks to reduce this risk and thereby expand the ability of SMEs to participate in international trade.

Another important benefit is that exporters can move toward conducting business on an open-account basis. In international trade, open-account transactions mean that, in certain

circumstances, goods are supplied to the buyer first and payment is made later. Although this method can make business relationships easier and more competitive, it also exposes the exporter to the risk of non-payment. By providing protection against this risk, Export Credit Insurance can help Pakistani exporters adopt more flexible trade terms with international buyers.

It is also important to understand that Export Credit Insurance is not merely an insurance policy; it is a mechanism for creating confidence within the export environment. In international trade, buyers also seek suppliers who can provide products consistently, reliably, and on competitive terms. When a Pakistani exporter has institutional protection against the risk of non-payment, the exporter may be in a better position to offer more acceptable trade terms to buyers. This can create opportunities for increasing business volumes and establishing long-term commercial relationships.

PM Shehbaz backs emergency rule in KP as security crisis deepens

stated need for stronger cooperation in counterterrorism operations. The apex committee meeting focused on the overall security situation, law and order challenges and steps to restore peace and stability across the province. Rs160bn development package announced for KP Separately, PM Shehbaz has announced Rs160 billion for development projects in KP, pledging to empower the province and ensure its people receive their rights. Addressing a development council comprising representatives of the tribal districts in Peshawar, the prime minister said the federal government stood with the people of KP and would provide them with full support. The PM said tribal elders had always stood by Pakistan and made immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He said the government would provide all necessary resources to combat terrorism and accelerate work on development projects.

The prime minister said tribal elders had told him that development work in the tribal districts had been negligible, while terrorism and corruption had increased.

PM Shehbaz said he had directed the governor and chief secretary to ensure the province received as much wheat as it needed. He said discussions had also been held on wheat supplies to the tribal districts and police training.

'Agenda more important than venue', says minister amid dialogue push

Assembly Mahmood Khan Achakzai to discuss matters of national interest and fulfil constitutional requirements.

Earlier today, opposition alliance Tehreek Tahaffuz Aiyen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) proposed the Constitution Room in Parliament for a potential meeting between the premier and Achakzai. "If the prime minister comes to the opposition chamber, we will take him to the Constitution Room," TTAP spokesperson Akhunzada Hussain told Geo News, adding that the opposition wanted negotiations to take place at a neutral venue without ego or stubbornness obstructing dialogue.

Achakzai had previously declined to participate in talks at the National Assembly speaker's chamber, saying he would attend if the negotiations were held at a neutral location. The latest developments came as PM Shehbaz visited Peshawar and chaired a meeting of the federal apex committee to review the security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

It was his first visit to the province since President Asif Ali Zardari proclaimed emergency and governor's rule on October 11 on his advice.

Punjab boards announce class 11 annual exam results 2026

■ Punjab boards announce Class 11 results for 2026, recording pass percentages of 60.03% and 54.23%, respectively, with girls outperforming boys in Rawalpindi.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Educational boards across Punjab, including Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur and Gujranwala, have announced the annual examination results for Intermediate Part-I (Class 11) 2026, with pass percentages varying across the boards.

Lahore Board
According to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Lahore, the pass percentage in the Intermediate Part-I examinations stood at 60.03



percent.
A total of 165,245 candidates appeared in the examinations, of whom 99,191 passed, while around 66,000 candidates failed.
Rawalpindi Board
According to the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi, 55,834 candidates appeared in the Class 11

examinations. Of these, 30,280 passed and 25,554 failed, taking the overall pass percentage to 54.23 percent.
Female students outperformed male candidates, with girls recording a pass percentage of 62.13 per cent compared with 38.54 per cent for boys.
A total of 7,205 boys and 23,075 girls passed the examinations.
Faisalabad Board
The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Faisalabad also announced the results of the Class 11 annual examinations 2026.
According to the board, 105,663 candidates appeared in the

examinations, of whom 65,178 passed. The overall pass percentage stood at 61.68 per cent.
Bahawalpur Board
The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Bahawalpur announced the results of the Intermediate Part-I examinations 2026, recording an overall pass percentage of 53.46 per cent.
A total of 49,658 candidates appeared in the examinations, while 26,548 were declared successful.
The pass percentage among regular candidates was 54.33 per cent, compared with 36.62 per cent for private candidates.
Gujranwala Board

Two Jhelum Elite Force Personnel Martyred in Traffic Accident, Four Injured

■ IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Expresses Grief, Seeks Incident Report and Directs Best Medical Care for Injured Personnel; Martyrs Laid to Rest with Full Police Honours

crime reporter

Lahore

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two Jhelum Elite Force personnel in a traffic accident while on duty. IG Punjab has sought a report on the incident from the Additional IG Elite Police Force. He also directed that the injured police personnel be provided with the best medical treatment facilities. He said that the brave police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty were a source of pride for the force. Punjab Police stands firmly with the bereaved families in this hour of grief and will not leave them alone. The welfare of police personnel and their families remains the top priority, he added. According to details, an Elite Police vehicle met with an accident near the Qureshi Interchange on the Sheikhpura Motorway,



resulting in the martyrdom of Driver Constable Asghar Ali and Elite Constable Naveed Afzal, while four other police personnel sustained injuries. The funeral prayers for the martyrs were offered with full police honours at Police Lines Jhelum. The funeral was attended by DPO Jhelum Shafique Ahmad Chaudhry, senior Army officers, Senior Civil Judge Jhelum Qadeer Hussain

Butt, Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Mir Raza Ozgen, SSP RIB Chaudhry Shoaib Aqeel, SP Investigation Jhelum Muhammad Sikandar Gondal, district officers of CCD, Motorway Police and Punjab Highway Patrol, DSPs, SHOs, police officers and personnel, members of the District Peace Committee, religious scholars representatives of the business community, the bereaved families and local dignitaries. Following the funeral prayers, floral wreaths were laid on the bodies of the martyrs, and special prayers were offered for their elevated ranks in the hereafter. Senior police officers also visited the injured personnel receiving treatment at Mayo Hospital Lahore, inquired about their health and prayed for their speedy recovery. DPO Jhelum Shafique Ahmad Chaudhry said that the martyrs embraced martyrdom while performing their official duties. Jhelum Police will always remember the sacrifices of its brave personnel. The bodies of the martyrs were dispatched to their native areas for burial with full police honours.

Jhelum Police Seek Complainant's Assistance in Long-Pending Investigation

NEWS DESK

Jhelum

Jhelum The above-mentioned case was registered on the complaint of Piran Dutta, son of Manzoor Ahmad, resident of Dhabhi Lal Beg, Tehsil Arifwala, District Pakpattan, presently residing at Chhanger Mohalla, Bypass, Tehsil Dina, District Jhelum. When the Investigation Officer contacted the address provided by the complainant in the FIR, the complainant was not present, and calls made to his mobile number could not establish contact. Due to the



unavailability / lack of follow-up by the complainant, the case has remained under investigation for a long period.



Two Islamabad Traffic Police Officers Injured in Road Accident, CTO Visits Hospital

■ DSP Ghazi Shahbaz Ahmad Butt and Head Moharrar Muhammad Ramzan Reported Out of Danger as CTO Qainat Azhar Khan Directs Best Possible Medical Care for Their Speedy Recovery

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

DSP Ghazi Shahbaz Ahmad Butt and Head Moharrar Muhammad Ramzan Injured in Traffic Accident; CTO Visits Hospital to Ensure Best Medical Care Islamabad: Two key officers of the Islamabad Traffic Police were severely injured in a traffic accident while performing their official duty. Upon receiving news of the incident, top police officials promptly responded, ensuring

timely medical assistance. As a result, both officers are now reported to be out of danger. According to sources, the officers injured in the road accident include DSP Ghazi Shahbaz Ahmad Butt and Traffic Headquarters Head Moharrar Muhammad Ramzan, who met with this sudden accident while carrying out their official duties. Immediately following the incident, both officers were rushed to PIMS Hospital for emergency medical treatment.

Karachi mayor inspects uplift works, vows early completion

■ Says efforts were underway to complete the ongoing development projects as soon as possible, paving the way for the rehabilitation of another 140 roads across



STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited ongoing development projects across the city late at night to review the progress of construction and infrastructure improvement works here on Wednesday. During the visit, the mayor inspected power block development work in Bhangoria Town, located in Karachi's Central District, and reviewed ongoing projects in other areas, including the Small Industrial Area. Wahab said efforts were underway to

complete the ongoing development projects as soon as possible, paving the way for the rehabilitation of another 140 roads across the city.

Commenting on criticism of the development initiatives, the mayor said some critics were

unhappy with the pace and scale of work being carried out in Karachi. He maintained that serving citizens and resolving their problems remained the top priority of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), adding that the city administration was working in line with the vision of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The mayor further said measures were being taken to improve conditions in areas of the Central District that, according to him, had remained under the administration of previous rulers for an extended period.

Lahore to register cases over serious traffic violations

■ Lahore traffic police will register criminal cases against serious violators, including one-way drivers, speeders, reckless motorists and those concealing vehicle identities.



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Lahore traffic police will now register criminal cases against people committing serious traffic violations instead of issuing challans alone.

According to details, cases will be registered against motorists violating one-way restrictions, speeding, driving dangerously in a zigzag manner and performing

drifting stunts. The chief traffic officer has also ordered the registration of cases, rather than issuing challans, against those using police flasher lights, unauthorised blue lights and green number plates, according to officials.

Cases will also be registered against individuals who obscure, alter or tamper with number plates or attempt to conceal a vehicle's identity. According to the chief traffic officer, legal action will also be taken against those blocking roads, speeding, driving recklessly or operating vehicles negligently. Officials said action would also be taken against people involved in dangerous zigzag driving, drifting and hooliganism on the roads.

CASS Lahore Hosts Seminar on Pakistan's Population Growth, Urbanisation and Human Security Challenges

■ Experts Call for Integrated Population Management, Women's Empowerment, Improved Healthcare and Sustainable Urban Planning to Turn Demographic Pressures into Opportunities for National Development

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) Lahore, organised a seminar titled "Managing Pakistan's Population Growth: Dissecting Demographic Pressures, Urbanisation and Human Security Challenges," on October 21, 2026. CASS Lahore organises academic events for scholars and practitioners interested in exploring the critical dimensions of security, technology, and policy within their broader context. Academics, intellectuals, and domain experts attended the event. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmad (Retd), a Director at CASS, Lahore, delivered the opening address. Mr Minhaj ul Haque, Chief Executive Officer of the Population Centre Pakistan, spoke on "Pakistan's Demographic Trends Driving Its Population Growth: Strategic Implications for the Country." He highlighted Pakistan's rapid population growth and its growing pressure on public services, natural resources and socioeconomic development. He urged stronger family



planning, girls' education, women's empowerment, healthcare and skills development, emphasising coordinated population management and effective policies on education, employment and resource allocation for Pakistan's sustainable future. Dr Razia Safdar, Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Centre for Health Policy Innovation (CHPI) at SDPI, Islamabad, shared her insights on "Population Growth, Urbanisation and Human Security: Emerging Challenges for Pakistan." She highlighted how rapid population growth, urbanisation and climate

change are intensifying pressure on Pakistan's health systems and essential resources. She stressed the importance of domestic health financing, integrated population management and women's empowerment, alongside adopting a One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health. Dr Shabana Haider, Member (Population) in the Planning Commission in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan expressed her thoughts on "Building a Resilient Pakistan: Way Forward for Managing Population Growth and Sustainable Urban Development." Dr Haider discussed the challenges of rapid population growth and urbanisation, calling for investment in healthcare, education, skills development and women's economic participation. She emphasised integrated population management, stronger governance, institutional coordination and sustainable urban planning to transform demographic pressures into opportunities for inclusive growth and a more resilient Pakistan. Concluding the seminar, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President, CASS, Lahore, noted that Pakistan's growing

Bani Gala Police Arrest Drug Suspect, Recover 1,510 Grams of Heroin

■ Police register case against Habib Fazal under the Control of Narcotic Substances Act; officials say crackdown on drug peddling will continue.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Continuing its crackdown on drug dealers under the directives of senior officers, the Bani Gala Police Station team arrested a suspicious individual and recovered 1,510 grams of heroin from his possession. Police have registered a case against the suspect and initiated further investigation. According to details, on the directions of SP Rural Zeeshan Ali and under the supervision of SHO Bani Gala Police Station Inspector Asif Khan, a police team comprising ASI Liaquat Ali, Head Constable Muhammad Akram, and Head Constable Waheed Abbas conducted an operation in the A.Q. Khan Road area of Bani Gala, arresting the suspect Habib Fazal, son of Ajab Gul. According to the police, 1,510 grams of heroin was recovered from the suspect's possession. Consequently, Case No. 508/26 dated October 22, 2026, was registered against him under Section 9(1)6C of the Control of



Narcotic Substances Act (CNSA) at Bani Gala Police Station. A background check of the accused revealed that he has a prior criminal record and has previously been nominated in theft and narcotics cases across various police stations. His criminal record

includes FIR No. 143/23 at Kirpa Police Station, FIR No. 1182/24 at Shahzad Town Police Station, and FIR Nos. 294/25 and 213/25 at Bani Gala Police Station. Police confirmed that the suspect is a habitual offender who has been challenged/submitted to court in past cases. Police officials stated that further interrogation of the arrested suspect is ongoing, and all aspects of the case are being thoroughly examined. SHO Bani Gala Police Station, Inspector Asif Khan, stated that indiscriminate action against drug dealers and criminal elements will continue unabated. "The menace of drugs poses a grave threat to our youth and the future of society; hence, strict legal action will be taken against those involved in this heinous trade," he said. He emphasized that protecting the lives and property of citizens and maintaining law and order in the area remains the top priority of the police. He also appealed to citizens to report any suspicious activities or drug peddling in their surroundings to the police so that effective measures can be taken to make society crime-free.



Islamabad : Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with President of the Republic of Maldives Dr Mohamed Muizzu.

Govt decides to form JIT on judicial commission's findings in Mir Raza case

■ Sindh govt decided to form another investigative team in addition to JIT to identify negligence of teams that conducted initial investigation of case.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

The Sindh government has decided to form a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in the Mir Raza case on the recommendations of the Judicial Commission, the notification of which will be issued within 24 hours. Members of the cabinet sub-committee established regarding the Mir Raza case met with Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. The



committee includes provincial ministers Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar, Saeed Ghani and Advocate General Sindh Jawad Dero. After reviewing the recommendations of the

Judicial Commission in detail, the committee members informed the Sindh Chief Minister about the first review meeting held on the report and the progress made.

Pakistan, Turkmenistan Agree to Strengthen Religious and Cultural Cooperation

● Religious Affairs Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Meets Turkmen Ambassador Atajan Molamov; Both Sides Vow to Promote Religious Exchanges, Interfaith Harmony and Bilateral Ties

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf met with Turkmenistan's Ambassador, Atajan Molamov, to discuss ways to strengthen religious, cultural and bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Federal Secretary for Religious Affairs Abrar Ahmed Mirza was also present at the meeting. During the meeting, both sides agreed to promote exchanges of religious delegations, enhance cooperation in religious education, and continue joint efforts to foster interfaith harmony, tolerance and peace in the region. They emphasized that expanding religious and



cultural ties would open new avenues for strengthening bilateral relations. Sardar Muhammad Yousaf welcomed the anticipated visit of Turkmenistan's Grand Mufti, Rahman Kurban Miradov, to Pakistan and said that arrangements would be made to warmly receive the distinguished guest. He

expressed hope that exchanges of religious scholars and delegations would promote greater understanding, closeness and mutual respect between the peoples of the two countries. Federal Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza highlighted the wide-ranging opportunities for cooperation between Pakistan and Turkmenistan in religious

education, culture and other fields. He emphasized the importance of sharing experiences to further strengthen religious and cultural relations. Turkmenistan's Ambassador Atajan Molamov expressed his country's interest in Pakistan's religious education system and curriculum. He said the Turkmen leadership attached great importance to bilateral relations with Pakistan and was keen to further expand cooperation. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to work together to promote religious harmony, peace, tolerance and mutual respect, while expanding cooperation in religious, cultural and economic fields.

LHC summons Punjab home secretary, Kot Lakhpat jail chief in Imran Khan's sisters' detention case

■ The petitioner's counsel informed the court that the 30-day detention orders for the three women had expired on October 19 and 20

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday summoned the Punjab home secretary and the superintendent of Kot Lakhpat Jail in person on October 28 in a case challenging the detention of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's three sisters.

Justice Abher Gul Khan heard a petition filed by Shahrez Khan, son of Aleema Khan, seeking the recovery of Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan, who remain in custody under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance in connection with the PTI's anti-government protest. During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel informed the court that the 30-day detention



orders for the three women had expired on October 19 and 20. However, they continued to remain detained at Lahore's Kot Lakhpat Jail. Justice Abher Gul Khan questioned the counsel about why the Lahore deputy commissioner had not been made a respondent in the petition. In response, the counsel explained that the deputy commissioner had not been included

because the detention notification issued by the official had expired. During the proceedings, Ahed Khan, husband of Uzma Khan, requested that the court also summon the Lahore deputy commissioner. The judge observed that the official could not be summoned because he had not been made a party to the case. According to the petition, the sisters remain in custody despite the expiry of their 30-day detention period. Noreen Niazi and Dr Uzma Khan were detained on September 21, ahead of the PTI's planned September 27 protest, which was later rescheduled for October 4. Aleema Khan was detained a day earlier, on September 20. Shahrez Khan filed a fresh petition in the LHC a day before Thursday's hearing, challenging the continued detention of the three sisters and seeking their release.

Prove allegations or tender apology, Gandapur tells Salman Akram Raja

■ He questions Akram Raja's statement about alleged undemocratic decision-makers and a conspiracy within the party

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has demanded an apology from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Salman Akram Raja over his remarks concerning alleged undemocratic decision-making and a group accused of influencing key party appointments. Gandapur questioned Raja's statement about alleged undemocratic decision-makers and a conspiracy within the party, asking him to identify the individuals involved and clarify the basis for his allegations.

He also asked which members of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were allegedly seeking to decide the provincial party president and the next chief minister without the approval of the party's political committee. Raising questions about the appointment of Ali Asghar Khan as acting provincial president in the absence of Junaid Akbar, Gandapur asked whether an official notification had been issued and who had authorised the decision.



He stressed the need for a transparent review of the party leadership's performance, decisions and responsibilities, saying the KP parliamentary party wanted to resolve the ongoing crisis through constitutional and political consultation. Gandapur further questioned the authority of a few individuals to label elected representatives as traitors, calling for clarity and accountability amid the party's internal disagreements. Meanwhile, Salman Akram Raja had alleged that undemocratic decision-makers were undermining PTI's internal consensus. He said a narrative was being circulated that a group of 68 members of the KP Assembly was preparing to announce candidates for the provincial party presidency and the office of chief minister.

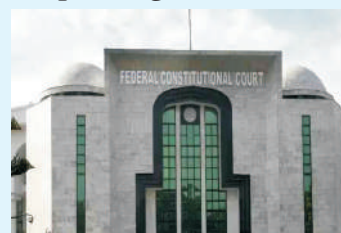
FCC rules out departmental action against police officer without evidence of misconduct

■ FCC has ruled that disciplinary action against government employees must be based on credible evidence, fair inquiry and due process, while reaffirming executive authority over postings.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) has ruled that departmental action against a government employee requires credible evidence, a fair inquiry, and compliance with legal requirements, holding that a High Court cannot assume the executive's role in matters relating to an officer's posting and disciplinary proceedings. A bench comprising Justice Rozi Khan and Justice Syed Arshad Hussain Shah issued the judgment on an appeal filed by police officer Munir Samo, examining an order passed by the Sindh High Court's Circuit Court at Larkana on June 30, 2026. Justice Rozi Khan authored the written judgment. The FCCP observed that the inquiry report had not established



Inspector Munir Ahmed Samo's involvement in the alleged raid. According to the report, his role was limited to that of a group officer issuing intelligence reports, and no further action against him had been recommended.

The judgment stated that the Sindh High Court had ordered an inquiry into the matter on April 16, 2026. Subsequently, expressing dissatisfaction with the initial inquiry, it directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Larkana, to conduct a fair and comprehensive investigation.

Anmol Pinky seeks acquittal in two drug recovery cases

■ Anmol Pinky seeks acquittal in two drug recovery cases as a Karachi court adjourns hearings in three cases until October 31.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Anmol, alias Pinky, has filed an acquittal application in two drug recovery cases pending against her in Karachi.

A court in Karachi heard three drug recovery cases against the accused, who appeared before the court via video link.

During the hearing, statements of three witnesses, including the investigation officer, were recorded. The defence counsel sought time to cross-examine the witnesses. The court adjourned further hearings in the cases until October



31. Meanwhile, an application seeking Anmol Pinky's acquittal in two of the cases was filed, requesting the court to discharge her from the charges.

According to the court proceedings, Anmol Pinky has already been acquitted in five of the 22 cases against her.

Balochistan division imperative: Bugti

STAFF REPORTER

QUETTA

Balochistan Chief Minister Saffraz Bugti has called for a review of the country's administrative structure, citing the province's vast geographical expanse and governance challenges. He said additional administrative units, stronger local governments and a revised resource-sharing framework were needed to improve public service delivery in the province. Speaking at a national dialogue on administrative reorganisation and the creation of new provinces in the country, the chief minister said governing a vast province like Balochistan solely from Quetta posed significant administrative challenges. He called for a review of the



country's administrative structure, governance models and the question of establishing new provinces. Bugti welcomed the ongoing national debate on governance reforms, describing it as a positive development. However, he said discussions on such important issues should not remain confined to seminars and hotels but should be taken to parliament, where broader political consensus could be developed.

ADB, Health Minister discuss ways to boost Pakistan's healthcare system

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal and a delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) discussed avenues for technical cooperation to strengthen Pakistan's healthcare system. The discussion was held with a particular focus on local vaccine manufacturing, pharmaceutical regulation and institutional capacity-building. The discussions covered local vaccine manufacturing, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), the National Institute of Health (NIH), 13 vaccines, Universal Medical Record (UMR), population-related challenges and the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA). The meeting also focused on modernizing Pakistan's healthcare system, promoting domestic vaccine production, strengthening pharmaceutical quality standards and improving the effectiveness of the regulatory framework.