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Pakistan's exports fall $1.3b amid tensions with Afghanistan

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's exports have declined by $1.3 billion over the past 13 months amid trade disruptions linked to tensions with Afghanistan, while transit revenue has also dropped by $200 million,

According to documents from the Ministry of Commerce, Afghanistan has shifted most of its trade and transit business away from Pakistan towards Iran and Central Asian countries, dealing a blow to the country's regional trade connectivity.

The shift has also affected traditional trade routes, with Afghanistan increasingly turning to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan while expanding commercial ties with India, China and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Meanwhile, Pakistan has recorded a modest increase in exports to Central Asian states through the Iranian corridor.



China says ready to deepen cooperation with Pakistan in space, other fields

News Desk

RAWALPINDI

China stands ready to work with the Pakistani side to deepen cooperation in space and other fields and bring bilateral relations to new heights, Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said at a regular press briefing in Beijing.

A Pakistani astronaut will join the Shenzhou-24 mission crew as payload specialist and complete a short orbital flight before returning to Earth aboard the Shenzhou-23 spacecraft.

"We stand ready to work with the Pakistani side to carry forward our traditional friendship, deepen cooperation in space and other fields, and bring bilateral relations to new heights," Guo said at the briefing.

"Exploration of the vast universe and peaceful use of outer space are humanity's shared pursuit and bear on the welfare of all peoples," he added.

The spokesperson said China advocates the peaceful use of outer space, engages in active international space cooperation, and promotes the building of a community with a shared future in the domain of outer space.



Opposition leaders demand immediate shifting of Imran Khan to Shifa Int'l Hospital

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP) leaders, namely Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Asad Qaisar and Mahmood Khan Achakzai, held an emergency meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday, During the meeting, the opposition leaders expressed their serious concern over the health of the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan.

They demanded that the government immediately shift Imran to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad.

A statement issued after the meeting stated that the government should ensure implementation of the verdict of the Supreme Court, dated August 18, 2026.

They further demanded that the government provide best medical facilities to the PTI founder.



Antalya: Group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and other world leaders attending the Leaders' Summit of COP31.

PM Shehbaz meets world leaders at COP31 in Turkiye, set to highlight Pakistan's climate priorities

- PM Shehbaz joins world leaders at COP31 in Turkiye, holds key meetings and calls for stronger global climate action and financial support for developing nations.

News Desk

ANTALYA

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif joined world leaders at the COP31 Antalya Leaders' Summit in Turkiye on Wednesday, where he is set to outline Pakistan's climate priorities and call for stronger international cooperation to tackle the growing threat of climate change.

The prime minister was welcomed at the summit venue by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Shehbaz also met Erdogan and Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan, while the leaders attending the high-level gathering posed for a group photograph.

The summit has brought together delegates from nearly 200 countries in the Mediterranean city of Antalya amid mounting concerns over rising global temperatures, greenhouse gas emissions and increasingly destructive weather events.

Pakistan is expected to use the international platform to highlight the challenges faced by developing countries, particularly those bearing the consequences of climate change despite contributing relatively little to global emissions.

According to the Foreign Office, PM Shehbaz will highlight Pakistan's progress towards rapid solarisation and expanding renewable energy capacity as part of the country's transition to a cleaner and more resilient economy.He is also expected

(Continued on Page-5)

Ishaq Dar, Uzbek foreign minister discuss bilateral cooperation



OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.



ADB approves $500m loan to help Pakistan cope with natural disasters

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $500 million loan for Pakistan.

According to the ADB, natural disasters cost Pakistan about $2 billion every year. The loan will improve the country's ability to deal with such disasters and will provide immediate budgetary support after a disaster strikes.

The bank said floods, earthquakes and other disasters cause economic losses in Pakistan.

Non-separation of judiciary from executive to make former slave to powerful, Jamal Mandokhel

- Outgoing SC judge says only autonomous judiciary can hold all institutions accountable

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, who retired as a Supreme Court (SC) judge today, said that judiciary must be separate from executive or else it will become slave to the powerful,

Addressing a farewell reference held in his honour, he shared his views on judicial independence, the supremacy of the Constitution, parliament's constitutional powers and the role of the executive.

Mandokhel said that judiciary must be completely separate from the executive; otherwise, it would become subservient to the wishes and interests of the powerful class of the time.He said only a completely independent and autonomous judiciary could fearlessly hold all state institutions accountable and compel them to operate within the bounds of the Constitution and law.

He said the supremacy of the Constitution and restoration of moral values were essential for the country's genuine development and stability. Only an independent and autonomous judiciary could ensure the protection of the fundamental and constitutional rights of all citizens. "If judiciary fails to provide timely justice, citizens could adopt illegal means to seek justice, resulting in anarchy, disorder and severe unrest in society," he noted.

Arrested Afghan terrorist confesses to preparing suicide bomber, says security forces

- An Afghan terrorist arrested in an intelligence-based operation in Peshawar has confessed to preparing a suicide bomber and receiving commando training in the Afghan army.

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR



An Afghan terrorist arrested by security forces in an intelligence-based operation has confessed to preparing a suicide bomber and receiving commando training in the Afghan army, officials said during a press conference in Peshawar.

Adviser to the Information Department of the Anti-Regional Disruption Committee (ARDC), Mahmood Jan Babar, said Afghan territory was being used for terrorist activities. He said terrorists attempted to take advantage of darkness at night, while security forces were conducting vigorous operations against them.

Additional Inspector General ARDC Abbas Ahsan said the arrested terrorist, identified as Khareji Hikmatullah alias Hamza, son of Noor Muhammad, was apprehended during an intelligence-based operation.

He said the suspect belonged to Afghanistan's Paktia province and was arrested in a joint operation conducted by security forces and police.

According to Abbas Ahsan, the Afghan terrorist had received commando training in the Afghan army and had also prepared a suicide bomber.

46th PARA Central Meet Concludes in Jhelum; Pakistan Army Wins Combat Shooting

- Field Marshal Asim Munir Emphasises Mastery of Small Arms as Core Component of Military Training; Over 1,500 Shooters Participate in Mega Event

STAFF REPORTER

JHELUM

Pakistan Army has won the 46th Pakistan Army Rifle Association (PARA) Central Meet, with more than 1,500 participants from the armed forces, civil armed forces and civilian shooting associations taking part in the month-long competition.

The closing ceremony of the major shooting event was held at the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) in Jhelum on Wednesday, with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS and CDF), attending as the chief guest.

The competition, which ran from October 7 to November 11, 2026, brought together shooters from the Pakistan Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as civil armed forces and civilian teams from across the country.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Naval Staff, attended the ceremony as the guest of honour. Alongside the army chief, he



presented trophies and medals to winners and runners-up across various categories.

Pakistan Army claimed the championship trophy in the 4th Inter-Services Combat Shooting Championship, while the Army Marksmanship Unit secured victory in the Prime Minister's 'Skills at Arms' Big Bore National Challenge Match.One of the most prestigious awards of the competition, the 'Master at Arms' Trophy, also known as the Doli Cup, was presented to Havildar Fazal Rehman of the Punjab Regiment.

DC Lahore Reviews Cleanliness, Anti-Dengue Operations and Facilities for Special Children in Shalimar

Captain (R) Muhammad Ali Ijaz Directs Zero-Waste Standards Under 'Chamakta Lahore ' Campaign, Inspects Maryam Nawaz School for Special Children

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



To review civic cleanliness, vector-borne disease control, and social welfare facilities, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (r) Muhammad Ali Ijaz paid a comprehensive visit to Tehsil Shalimar. He was accompanied by Chief Officer MCL Kaleem Yousaf and Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Rabia Altaf. During the visit, LWMC officials briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the operational progress of the ongoing "Chamakta Lahore" campaign across main thoroughfares, residential streets, and commercial markets. Inspecting municipal service delivery, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (r) Muhammad Ali Ijaz issued strict directives to maintain zero-waste standards across all highways and neighborhoods. He warned that any negligence regarding the timely collection and transfer of solid waste would not be tolerated. He stated that daily sanitation drives under the Chamakta Lahore initiative are ensuring an odor-free, clean environment for citizens, adding that a centralized control room remains fully functional to resolve public complaints immediately. Reviewing anti-dengue operations, the Deputy Commissioner evaluated anti-dengue surveillance with the Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO), who briefed him on larvicidal actions. It was informed that whenever dengue larvae are detected, immediate chemical spraying is carried out across ten adjoining houses. The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to widen surveillance, maintain strict vigilance over scrap yards and plant nurseries, and conduct daily checks at commercial hubs and hotspots while urging citizens to prevent water stagnation in homes and shops. Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (r) Muhammad Ali Ijaz visited Maryam Nawaz School for Special Children, where he warmly interacted with students. He inspected the computer lab, online earning section, job-seeking desk, basic education classes, autism block, speech therapy unit, psychology room, and physical activity facilities.

Man, travelling On tampered passport, held at Karachi airport

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

The Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Immigration Cell on Wednesday arrested a passenger, who was going to Cyprus on a tampered passport, at Jinnah International Airport,

A spokesman for the Federal Investigation Agency said that the passenger, who was identified as Saifullah, was going to Cyprus via Istanbul on a study visa.

The spokesman further revealed that the passenger had been deported from Cyprus in March 2026.

He was also offloaded from a flight in June 2026 at Allama Iqbal International Airport (AIIA), Lahore. The passenger removed the Turkish visa and offloading stamp from his old passport.

His previous travel history was not available on his new passport.

During initial interrogation, it was revealed that Saifullah prepared his travel documents through an agent, Harmain, who resides in Cyprus.

Later, the FIA Immigration team shifted Saifullah to the Human Trafficking Cell (HTC) for further legal proceedings.

Rabia Ahsan murder probe: No evidence of marital dispute found in initial phone analysis

Police find no evidence of a marital dispute in the initial analysis of anchorwoman Rabia Ahsan's phones, while forensic examination of three devices remains pending



Crime Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Investigations into the murder of female anchorperson Rabia Ahsan have made significant progress, with police completing the initial analysis of her two mobile phones, while no evidence of a dispute between her and her husband has emerged so far.

According to investigative sources, both mobile phones belonging to the deceased had no passwords or lock codes, allowing police to access their data without difficulty.

Sources said police also examined conversations exchanged between Rabia Ahsan and her husband. However, the initial analysis did not reveal any evidence of a dispute or differences between the couple.

Police sources further confirmed that the preliminary examination of the mobile phones had not identified any evidence supporting the possibility of a marital dispute.

According to investigative sources, the forensic examination of both mobile phones belonging to Rabia Ahsan, along with her husband's mobile phone, is yet to be completed.

The relevant forensic report will be made part of the police investigation report (challan) once the examination process is complete.

Meanwhile, police are continuing further investigations into the case, while the forthcoming forensic report is being considered an important development in determining the circumstances surrounding the murder.

NCCIA Conducts Major Nationwide Crackdown Against Cybercrime in 53 Days

6,672 Inquiries, 442 Cases Registered, 1,749 Accused Arrested; Rs149.8 Million Recovered Under Zero-Tolerance Policy, Says DG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Major and Successful Operations Against Cybercrime in 53 DaysCrackdown Continues Across the Country Under Zero Tolerance Policy Under the Leadership of DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir RizviUnder the leadership of Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, major and successful operations were carried out across the country against cybercrime under zero tolerance policy during the last 53 days.According to details, during the last 53 days, 10,386 complaints related to cybercrime were received, on which NCCIA registered 6,672 inquiries. 442 cases were registered in various incidents of cybercrime while 1,749 accused were arrested during the operations. A recovery of Rs 149.8 million was also made during the operations.The Cyber Patrolling Unit completed technical analysis of 4,530 URLs while 1,186 web links were sent to PTA for blocking. 559 inquiries related to cybercrime were registered while 51 cases were



registered.59 raids were conducted during various operations against call centers, as a result of which 43 cases were registered. 973 accused were arrested in various operations while 15,502 items were taken into custody during operations on call centers. 211 foreigners were also arrested in the crackdown against call centers.On this occasion, Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that there is a zero tolerance policy against cyber fraud networks, operations against cybercrime will be further accelerated and made more effective. Citizens should report any cybercrime on 1799 or report to the nearest circle.

Islamabad Police Arrest Five Members of 'Kalu' Robbery Gang

Stolen mobile phones worth millions, cash, motorcycles allegedly used in robberies and illegal weapons recovered; suspects linked to dozens of cases in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Arrest Five Members of 'Kalu' Robbery Gang; Stolen Valuables RecoveredAccording to details, a team from Industrial Area Police Station, Islamabad, arrested five members of the organized 'Kalu' gang, allegedly involved in multiple robbery incidents across the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The police recovered stolen mobile phones worth millions of rupees, cash, motorcycles allegedly used in the robberies, and illegal weapons along with ammunition from their possession.The arrested accused have been identified as Saqlain,



Abdul Rehman, Qaiser, Hashim and Muhammad Ali. They have previous criminal records and are allegedly involved in dozens of cases registered in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Cases have been registered against them, while further investigation is underway.On the special directions of SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza, Islamabad Police is continuing its crackdown against criminal elements involved in theft, robbery, street crime and other serious offences. Effective operations are being carried out to apprehend offenders and prevent criminal activities across the federal capital.SSP Operations Islamabad has directed all officers to intensify action against criminal elements depriving citizens of their valuable belongings and ensure the arrest of those involved in such crimes.Islamabad Police urges citizens to cooperate with the police in preventing crime and immediately report any suspicious activity or person to the nearest police station or the emergency helpline "Pukar-15".

20 Nigerians arrested for supplying drugs to educational institutions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has arrested 20 Nigerian nationals allegedly involved in supplying synthetic drugs to students in Rawalpindi and Islamabad's educational institutions,

The suspects used to supply drugs to students' hostels and educational institutions, said ANF spokesperson.

During initial interrogation, it was revealed that two of the detained drug suppliers were already on bail.

A large number of foreign nationals arrested for drug smuggling this year are from African countries.

Drug traffickers continue to adopt new and dangerous methods to smuggle illegal drugs, posing a serious threat to society.

NCCIA Multan Recovers Rs711,000 in Online Fraud Case, Returns Full Amount to Woman



CRIME REPORTER

MULTAN

NCCIA Circle Multan's Major and Effective Action, Full Amount of Rs. 711,000 of Woman Victim of Online Fraud Recovered from Accused and ReturnedVictim Woman Thanks NCCIA on Full Recovery of Amount, Protecting Citizens from Online Fraud and Returning Recovered Amount to Victims is Top Priority, DG NCCIAAccording to details, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Circle Multan, in a major and effective action against online fraud, recovered the full amount of Rs. 711,000 of the victim woman from the accused and handed it over to her.The victim woman had lodged a complaint with NCCIA Multan that unknown accused targeted her through online fraud by using forgery and deception and grabbed Rs. 711,000 from her through different tactics. On the complaint of the victim woman, NCCIA Multan immediately started a formal inquiry.During the inquiry, the NCCIA team traced the accused with the help of modern technical means and digital evidence. As a result of continuous investigation and effective strategy, the full amount of Rs. 711,000 of the victim woman was recovered from the accused, which was handed over to the victim woman after due legal process.On the return of the amount, the victim woman expressed satisfaction over the timely and effective action of NCCIA and thanked the agency.On this occasion, Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that protecting citizens from online fraud and returning the recovered amount to victims is the top priority of NCCIA.

Gilani calls for stronger local government system, effective parliamentary oversight

He said parliamentary committees must ensure that resources reached deserving segments of society and were utilized for their intended purposes

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Wednesday strongly advocated the revival of student unions and the establishment of a robust and empowered local government system, describing them as essential for nurturing future leadership and strengthening democracy.

He observed that the nurseries of leadership at the grassroots level had become dormant and needed to be revived to address the leadership vacuum in the country.

Sharing his own political journey, he said he started his career at the local level and rose to become Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving in various constitutional capacities.

He emphasized that strong local governments at district and tehsil levels were vital for good governance, transparency, accountability and effective utilization of public funds.

He expressed these views while addressing a workshop titled "Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of Public Expenditure Management", organized by UNICEF.

Chairman Senate emphasized that transparent, efficient and responsible utilization of public resources was a constitutional responsibility of Parliament and essential for maintaining public trust. He said Parliament's role must extend beyond budget approval to ensuring that national resources were properly utilized and their benefits reached the people.

He stressed that budgetary allocations alone could not guarantee development outcomes unless funds were released timely, institutions fulfilled their responsibilities and public expenditure translated into tangible improvements in people's lives. He underscored that every rupee spent from the public exchequer must deliver measurable results in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Highlighting Pakistan's development challenges and limited financial resources, he stressed the need for effective parliamentary oversight of key sectors, including education, health, nutrition, sanitation and social protection.

He said parliamentary committees must ensure that resources reached deserving segments of society and were utilized for their intended purposes. Referring to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16), he noted that accountable, transparent and effective institutions were fundamental to sustainable development.

Islamabad Traffic Police Organizes Road Safety Awareness Seminar at National Library

Youth Educated About Traffic Rules, Helmet Use, Seat Belts and Responsible Driving Under Voice of Youth Programme

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad



Islamabad Traffic Police Engages Youth in Road Safety Awareness Seminar at National LibraryAccording to details, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), through its Education Wing, organized a road safety seminar at the National Library Islamabad under the Voice of Youth Program. The seminar aimed to raise awareness among young people about traffic regulations and the importance of road safety.During the seminar, participants were educated about the importance of obeying traffic laws, wearing helmets, using seat belts and adopting responsible driving practices. They were informed that compliance with traffic regulations is essential not only for their own safety but also for protecting the lives of other road users.Participants were also reminded that even minor negligence can lead to serious road accidents. They were encouraged to exercise caution while driving, follow safety measures and make compliance with traffic laws an essential part of their daily lives.Islamabad Traffic Police continues to organize awareness activities at educational institutions and public venues to educate citizens, particularly young people, about traffic regulations and road safety. These initiatives aim to promote a responsible road culture, encourage safer driving practices and protect precious human lives.

Punjab Police continues welfare initiatives for its force and their families

CRIME REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Police continues to take measures for the welfare of its force and their families. As part of these ongoing efforts, more than Rs 1.6724 billion has been spent on the welfare and well-being of police personnel and their families during the current year Giving details, Punjab Police spokesperson said that more than Rs 502.3 million had been disbursed as educational scholarships for the children of police personnel. More than Rs 471.3 million had been provided as wedding gifts for the daughters of police employees. Similarly, over Rs 249.1 million had been released to support medical treatment facilities for police personnel and their families, while payments exceeding Rs 248.8 million had been made to police employees in the form of retirement grants Punjab Police spokesperson further said that more than Rs 131.7 million had been provided to the families of police personnel as subsistence allowance. Over Rs 57.5 million had been provided to the families of the force to cover funeral expenses, while more than Rs 11.3 million had been released as immediate financial assistance to police personnel Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem said that efforts to address the difficulties faced by police employees and their families through income generated from the Police Welfare Fund and other welfare sources would continue .

Daanish School Kuri to Become Pakistan's First AI-Enabled Education Pilot Campus

Pakistan Digital Authority and Federal Education Ministry Join Hands to Introduce AI-Based Curriculum

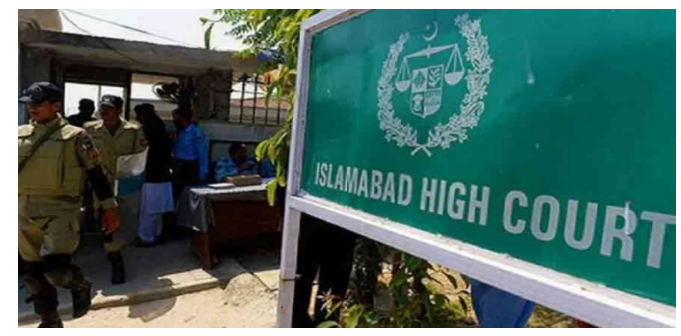
STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Digital Authority Advances AI-Enabled Education Transformation under Prime Minister's VisionDr. Sohail Munir, Chairperson PDA, Visits Daanish School Kuri, Islamabad, Which Will Serve as the Initial Pilot Campus for an AI-Based Personalised CurriculumIslamabad, 11 November 2026: In line with the Honourable Prime Minister's vision of transforming education through emerging technologies, Dr. Sohail Munir, Chairperson, Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA), chaired a high-level consultative meeting at PDA headquarters on 4 November'26 with representatives of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) and Daanish Schools to explore the integration of AI and advanced digital technologies into Pakistan's education system. The consultation was followed by a visit to Daanish School Kuri, where Dr. Sohail Munir assessed the country's first AI-enabled pilot campus.The meeting at PDA was attended by Ms. Sophia Hasnain, Chief of Staff, PDA; Dr. Henna Karamat, Executive Director, National Digital Innovation Lab (Education) and Education Sector Lead, PDA; Mr. Shah Jehan, Deputy Secretary, MoFEPT; Mr. Asghar Awan, Principal, Daanish School Kuri; and Dr. Tabassum, Director Curriculum. The discussions focused on advancing the Prime Minister's directive for an AI-based personalised curriculum and adaptive learning system, with Daanish School Kuri, Islamabad, serving as the initial pilot campus. MoFEPT and the Daanish Schools Authority will lead the initiative, with PDA facilitating technical expertise, digital architecture guidance and coordination. They examined international best practices, including Singapore's, and discussed joint working groups on curriculum integration, AI-enabled education solutions and digital infrastructure.

On 10 November'26, Dr. Sohail Munir led a delegation to the campus to assess digital readiness, review facilities and explore integrating emerging technologies into teaching, learning and school management. He was joined by Dr. Henna Karamat; Mr. Muhammad Salman Iqbal, Head of Citizen Experience; Ms. Sara Obaid Ul Islam, Senior Analyst, Citizen Experience; Mr. Shahab Siddiqi, Director, Tabadlab; Mr. Shah Jehan; and Mr. Asghar Awan.The delegation reviewed the school's digital infrastructure, classrooms, laboratories, technology-enabled learning facilities, teacher training including the proposed Training of Trainers (ToT) programme.



IHC direct Islamabad administration to issue domicile to Lakki Marwat citizen

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed the Islamabad district administration to issue a domicile certificate to Hammadullah, a resident of Lakki Marwat, within five days.The direction was issued during a hearing on the citizen's petition seeking an Islamabad domicile certificate.The court also expressed strong displeasure over the district administration's decision to send a lower division clerk (LDC) to represent the deputy commissioner's office instead of a senior official.

During the proceedings, the clerk informed the court that a domicile certificate is issued one year after obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the applicant's previous district.Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar questioned the clerk about his designation and asked why a junior employee had been sent to represent the district administration.

Lahore tops global pollution rankings as AQI reaches 451

Lahore tops the global pollution ranking with an AQI of 451, as hazardous smog grips Punjab. Rain is expected over the next two days, potentially easing pollution but bringing colder weather.



COURT REPORTER

LAHORE

Lahore has once again topped the global ranking of the most polluted major cities, with air quality reaching hazardous levels and raising serious concerns about public health.

According to an international environmental monitoring website, the provincial capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 451, placing it at the top of the list. India's capital, New Delhi, ranked second with an AQI of 224.

Several areas of Lahore reported exceptionally high pollution levels. Gulberg recorded an AQI of 758, followed by Allama Iqbal Town at 752 and Syed Maratib Ali Road at 613, according to the reported figures.The air pollution situation remains alarming in other major cities across Punjab as well. Multan recorded an AQI of 902, while Gujranwala reported 726 and Faisalabad registered 389.

Despite ongoing anti-smog measures, hazardous air quality continues to affect several parts of Lahore, exposing residents to serious health risks.Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has forecast a possibility of rainfall over the next two days.

ATC reissues arrest warrants for Sohail Afridi in May 9 case



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Peshawar has reissued arrest warrants for Sohail Afridi and Amir Chamkani in connection with the May 9 attack on Radio Pakistan.

The case was heard by ATC Judge Wali Muhammad Khan, with the investigation officer also appearing before the court.

According to the case details, Sohail Afridi, Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Kamran Bangash, Irfan Saleem and Amir Chamkani have been nominated in the case.

Meanwhile, pre-arrest bail applications have been filed on behalf of Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Kamran Bangash and Irfan Saleem.

The court extended the interim pre-arrest bail of Kamran Bangash, Taimur Saleem Jhagra and Irfan Saleem until November 17.

The court adjourned further proceedings until the next hearing date.

Rangers, police arrest four suspected extortion gang members in joint operation

Rangers and Karachi Police arrested four suspected extortion gang members in Paposh Nagar, while three suspects sustained injuries during an exchange of fire.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistan Rangers Sindh and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Karachi Police have arrested four suspected members of an extortion network during a joint operation in the Paposh Nagar area. Three suspects were injured in an exchange of fire, while another was arrested without resistance.

According to a spokesperson for Pakistan Rangers Sindh, the operation targeted members of the Samad Kathiawari and Jameel Chhanga gangs. Three wanted suspects were arrested in an injured condition, while the fourth was taken into custody without any resistance.

The injured suspects were identified as Zameer alias Prince, Muhammad Shakir and Barkat Ali alias Braha. The fourth suspect was identified as Muhammad Zaheem. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from their possession.

Suspects linked to extortion and firing incidentsThe Rangers spokesperson said this was the fourth major joint operation conducted by Rangers and SIU Police against extortion networks in Karachi since October 24, 2026.

The arrested suspects allegedly supplied business-related information to the Samad Kathiawari and Jameel Chhanga gangs and were involved in several shooting incidents aimed at intimidating traders and business owners who refused to pay extortion money.

According to Rangers, Barkat Ali alias Braha is a habitual offender who has previously been arrested and jailed in multiple cases involving drug trafficking and police encounters.

He has reportedly been associated with the Jameel Chhanga gang since 2016 and is considered one of its key operatives. During interrogation, he allegedly disclosed that he had opened fire on under-construction buildings in Tharoline and Naseem Cloth Market in Lasbela on Jameel Chhanga's instructions.

He also allegedly admitted to involvement in targeted killings of rival groups during previous gang clashes. Further investigations into these disclosures are underway.

Arrested Suspects' Alleged Links to Criminal Networks

Rangers said Zameer alias Prince and Muhammad Shakir were key operatives of Samad Kathiawari and Owais Dada.

Zameer had previously been arrested and imprisoned in robbery and illegal weapons cases. According to investigators, he met Owais Dada, an associate of Samad Kathiawari, while in prison. Following their meeting, he allegedly recruited his accomplice Shakir into extortion activities.

Funeral of Sardar Javed and Hafiz Sardar Ansar's Mother Held in Chatha Bakhtawar

President AJK Dr Muhammad Najeeb Naqvi Khan among prominent political, social and business personalities attending the funeral prayers

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The funeral prayer for the mother of Sardar Javed and Hafiz Sardar Ansar, who was also the grandmother of prominent political, social, and business figure of Chatha Bakhtawar, Sardar Shafqat Khan, was offered in her ancestral village of Chatha Bakhtawar, Islamabad.?A large number of political, social, and business personalities, journalists, members of the legal fraternity, relatives, and local residents from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and other areas attended the funeral, including the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqvi Khan.?On this occasion, the attendees expressed their deep condolences and grief to the bereaved family and prayed for the elevation of the departed soul's ranks and her forgiveness. The large gathering of distinguished personalities from various walks of life reflected the high esteem and respect in which the bereaved family is held in the region.?Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the passing, the attendees offered sympathy to Sardar Javed, Hafiz Sardar Ansar, Sardar Shafqat Khan, and other family members, praying that Almighty Allah grant the deceased a high station in Jannat-ul-Firdaus and bestow patience (Sabr-e-Jameel) upon the grieving family.Sardar Javed, Hafiz Sardar Ansar, and Sardar Shafqat Khan expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all the distinguished guests, political and social leaders, business figures, journalists, lawyers, relatives, and locals who attended the funeral prayer, visited for condolence, and stood in solidarity with their family during this hour of grief. They stated that they deeply value the presence, prayers, and sympathies of everyone who supported their family during this difficult time.

Drone attack causes fire in Russia's Baltic Sea port of Ust-Luga, governor says



Web DESK

MASCOW

A drone attack has caused a fire in the port area of Ust-Luga by the Baltic Sea in Russia's northwest, injuring three workers, regional governor Aleksandr Drozdenko said on Telegram on Wednesday.

He said that a power station was also cut off as a result of the attack, during which 150 drones were shot down over the Leningrad region that is also home to a major oil refinery and the city of St Petersburg, the hometown of President Vladimir Putin.

The Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia warned of a drone ?threat on Wednesday, and neighbouring Finland has adopted temporary partial airspace and maritime curbs, amid the attack.

Ust-Luga is a major oil, oil products and grain export outlet, along with other commodities.Reuters could not immediately independently confirm the report.



Islamabafd:Professor Dr. Carlo Masala, a distinguished defence analyst, addressing the ceremony held to mark the German Armed Forces Day hosted by Col. Joern Rist, Defence Attaché of Germany.

Ukraine's Zelensky welcomes 'changes' in US approach during talks with Russia

■ US envoys, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and businessman Steve Witkoff, are mediating the talks.

Web Desk

Ukraine



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was "happy" with US mediators' change in approach during talks with Russia in Abu Dhabi, set to continue into a second day on Wednesday, but emphasized the need for security guarantees for his country.

Representatives from Kyiv and Moscow began negotiations in the Emirati capital on Tuesday, the first since February when discussions reached a stalemate and Washington was sidetracked by the Iran war.

US envoys, including President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and businessman Steve Witkoff, are mediating the talks.

The first meeting lasted several hours and aimed to make progress towards resolving the war in Ukraine and -- according to Washington -- working on a "new" security framework that includes Europe.

Kushner told delegates the United States had "narrowed the gaps" between the warring sides, without providing details, and hoped to move towards a "solution" to Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

Zelensky, speaking in Copenhagen on Tuesday, said the talks were "constructive and quite substantive", adding his team had reported that humanitarian issues and security guarantees were among the topics discussed.

Asked about changes in the approach to peace talks by Kushner and Witkoff, Zelensky said: "I see changes. I'm very happy with what I hear."

The Ukrainian president said negotiators in Abu Dhabi were working on a "large-scale exchange of prisoners", adding that US officials would travel to Russia to discuss the matter further.

However, fighting continued overnight.

The governor of Russia's Leningrad region, Aleksandr Drozdenko, posted on Telegram that a Ukrainian drone attack had sparked a fire at Ust-Luga, a key Baltic port for oil exports.

Russian air defences also downed 146 drones during "continuing" combat operations, he added.

In Paris, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hailed this week's discussions as "very productive" and called for Europeans to be eventually included at the negotiating table "because they are part of solving this problem".

Iran designates Argentina's navy and air force as 'terrorist organizations'

■ Iran has designated Argentina's navy and air force as terrorist organisations in retaliation for Buenos Aires listing Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist entity.

Web Desk

DUBAI



Tehran has designated Argentina's navy and air force as "terrorist organizations," Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday, in a reciprocal move following Buenos Aires' designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity in April.Argentina had designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, following a push from US President Donald Trump's administration for allies to do so.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that Tehran considers the Argentinian air force and navy terrorist organizations "based on the principle of reciprocity".

Argentina's President Milei leads National Flag Day Ceremony

"It is evident that the responsibility for all consequences arising from this matter will lie with the Argentine government," the ministry added, without elaborating. It made no mention of Argentina's army.

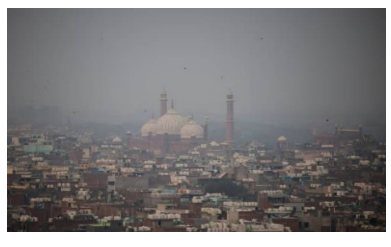
Argentina said in April that the measure it took against Iran's IRGC was due to its backing for Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which ?Buenos Aires blames for the deadliest bombing in the South American nation's history, a 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish community centre in the Argentinian capital that killed 85 and injured hundreds.

India pollution monitors over Whelmed by toxic smog

● But the missing readings meant official data failed to capture the full extent of the pollution at its worst.

Web Desk

PARIS



India's air pollution monitors were overwhelmed this week by toxic smog so severe that concentrations exceeded their upper measurement limit, equivalent to 66 times the World Health Organization's recommended daily maximum, regulators said.

The admission comes after opposition politicians accused authorities of deliberately allowing gaps in official readings for several hours overnight Sunday into Monday, just as pollution surged with a barrage of fireworks for Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

New Delhi is one of the world's most polluted capitals, where winter smog from vehicle emissions, farm fires and industry already chokes millions.

But the missing readings meant official data failed to capture the full extent of the pollution at its worst.

"The government which shuts down air quality monitoring stations on the night of Diwali, the government that does data fraud, how will you trust such a government" Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj said in a video posted on X.

"If Diwali night's PM2.5 (toxic particulates) is not in the record, who will answer for that air" senior Congress party lawmaker Ajay Maken said in a social media post.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) rejected accusations of deliberate under-reporting, saying the gaps reflected "differences in measurement of pollutant concentration" rather than an attempt to conceal pollution.

- 'Extreme episodes' -

Particulate matter analysers, installed when the National Air Quality Index (NAQI) was introduced in 2015, were calibrated to measure concentrations of up to 1,000 micrograms per cubic metre.

The WHO recommends a daily maximum of 15 micrograms per cubic metre for PM2.5, fine particles small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and linked to cancer.

"The designed system of automated data validation treats hourly readings beyond the calibrated range as outside range, and such readings are not used in the computation," the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) said in a statement late Tuesday.

Marco Rubio rejects Iran reparation demand

Web Desk

Washngation



Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States would not pay Iran for war damages, rejecting one of Tehran's stated conditions for ending the more than eight-month war.

They're demanding pallets of cash, which the president made clear is not going to happen," Rubio told reporters after a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Paris on Tuesday.

The top US diplomat also said there is "no need" to return to major combat operations because the Trump administration's sanctions and naval blockade were imposing sufficient costs on the Iranian economy.

Rubio spoke a day after President Donald Trump said there was "positive momentum for a deal" to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and constrain Iran's nuclear programme.

After meeting with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani at the White House Monday, Trump told reporters that the war he launched in late February was "effectively over."

US Defense Secretary Hegseth survives impeachment threat



Web Desk

Washngation

Republicans in the US House of Representatives blocked an effort to impeach Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, winning a reprieve for the polarising Pentagon chief before Democrats take control of Congress next year and possibly try again. The vote on a procedural motion came just hours after Hegseth blasted efforts to impeach him as a farce and delivered a defiant defence of his record at the helm of the US military, winning praise from President Donald Trump.The chamber voted 211 to 204 in favour of a motion to refer eight articles of impeachment to the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee, a move that the sponsor of the impeachment push, US Representative Thomas Massie, warned would kill it.

Workers across Spain stage first general strike in 14 years in anger over housing

■ Spanish workers staged their first joint general strike in 14 years, protesting soaring rents , housing shortages and evictions ahead of the November 29 snap election.

Web Desk

MADRID



Spanish workers went on a general strike on Wednesday, setting up picket lines despite stormy weather in a mass protest against the country's housing affordability crisis a few weeks before a snap general election.

It is the first general strike in 14 years to be jointly backed by Spain's two largest unions, UGT and CCOO, as well as other labour organisations and tenants' associations angry about rising rents and evictions.

"We won't stop until we transform this country's housing model from top to bottom so that houses are for living instead of being at the service of the rentier minority," said Alicia del Rio, spokesperson for the Madrid Tenants' Union, as the strike began at midnight.

Spain has a deficit of about 750,000 homes, which is set to grow to more than a million by 2028, according to the central bank.

With fewer people able to afford a home, renting has increased sharply, putting pressure on that market. The average rental price of 1,176 ($1,315) is equivalent to about 98.7% of a young person's average monthly salary in Spain, according to the Youth Council of Spain.

Plans for massive protest marches in the afternoon were threatened by two storms, dubbed Charles and Bruna, that led weather agency AEMET to issue alerts for 14 regions over strong winds, rough seas and heavy rains.

According to UGT and CCOO, early participation in the strike reached 90% at ports and in the automotive sector, with "total stoppages" reported at factories including Volkswagen's (VOWG.DE), opens new tab in Navarre and SEAT's in Barcelona.

The unions also put early turnout at 85% in the meat industry, 82% in waste collection and 75% in the energy sector. They said participation was lower in healthcare and social services, at 38%, and at 35% in the postal service.

Tensions flared at the start of the strike at Madrid's Mercamadrid wholesale market, where about 1,000 protesters gathered. CCOO's Madrid branch said on X that police fired pepper spray at pickets and arrested one of them, with 13 people requiring medical attention.

A police spokesperson confirmed the arrest but not the use of pepper spray, although he said it was used to disperse a separate picket line in the Carabanchel district.

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Remittances nearly cover trade gap

Pakistan's workers' remittances rose to a four-month high of $3.9 billion in October, taking cumulative inflows during the first four months of FY27 to $14.77 billion, almost enough to cover the country's entire merchandise trade deficit of $14.6 billion during the same period.

The latest figures highlight the growing importance of overseas Pakistanis in supporting the external account, as inflows continued to cushion the widening trade gap and helped contain pressure on foreign exchange reserves.



According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday, October remittances increased 13.8% year-on-year from $3.42 billion and rose 8.5% month-on-month from $3.59 billion in September, the highest monthly inflow recorded so far in FY27. During July to October, remittances increased 14% to $14.77 billion, against $12.96 billion in the corresponding period last year.

JS Global Head of Equity Research and Senior Vice President Waqas Ghani said, "Overseas Pakistanis just covered almost the entire trade deficit, again." He pointed out that remittances of $14.8 billion during the first four months compared with a merchandise trade deficit of $14.6 billion, which had widened 16% year-on-year.

Sustained inflows, particularly from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) economies, are helping contain pressure on the current account, support foreign exchange reserves and strengthen the country's external financing position, he said. He added that channel checks indicated economic activity in the Gulf was also recovering, reinforcing the resilience of remittance flows from GCC economies and providing continued support to the external account. "Remittances are buying Pakistan time. The question is whether exports can catch up or nah," he remarked.

Gulf economies remain the biggest source

Country-wise data showed Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates remained the largest sources, contributing $3.67 billion and $3.05 billion respectively during July to October.

Together, the two accounted for around 45.5% of total inflows. Including other GCC countries, the region contributed approximately $8.09 billion, or 54.8% of the total.

Saudi Arabia's remittances increased 16.5% year-on-year, while inflows from the UAE grew 13.5%. Among other GCC economies, Bahrain recorded growth of 15.8%, Kuwait 13.9% and Qatar 13.6%. Within the UAE, Dubai remained the dominant contributor, with remittances rising 28% to $2.51 billion. Inflows from Abu Dhabi, by contrast, declined 29.5% to $443.2 million, indicating diverging trends within the country's major corridors.

UK outpaces US as European inflows grow

Outside the Gulf, the United Kingdom emerged as the largest source, sending $2.23 billion during the first four months, up 19.2% from a year earlier.

Inflows from the United States increased 13.8% to $1.26 billion, while remittances from European Union countries rose 9.6% to $1.87 billion.

Italy contributed $565.2 million, Spain $339.9 million and Germany $282.5 million during the period.

Australia and Canada also maintained positive growth, with remittances rising 12.9% to $386.9 million and 11.5% to $268.9 million respectively. The figures indicate that while the Gulf remains the backbone of remittance inflows, overseas Pakistanis in the UK, Europe, North America and Australia continue to provide an important source of foreign exchange.

Sustained growth offers some relief to the external financing position, though the widening trade deficit underscores the need to strengthen export earnings and reduce reliance on overseas transfers to finance external payments. The rupee continued its marginal appreciation against the US dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday, closing at Rs276.65, up Rs0.01 from the previous session. It had gained 0.03%, or Re0.09, last week to settle at Rs276.66, against Rs276.75 a week earlier, according to SBP data.

Gold prices declined on Tuesday, tracking losses in the international market, with 24-karat gold falling Rs1,500 per tola to Rs430,836.

The Person Within Me, the Persona the World Sees



By : Malik Muslim Raza Awan



Maaye ni, main kinnu aakhaan, dard vichhore da."

Mother, whom can I tell of the pain of separation

Whenever I hear these words, I think of a separation that has accompanied me through my own life: the distance between the person I am within and the person I have learned to present to the world.

It is a difficult absence to explain. I am present in my daily life, fulfilling responsibilities, meeting people and carrying on conversations. Yet beneath that activity, a quieter part of me waits for attention. Sometimes I find myself missing who I am, even while going through the familiar motions of being myself.

The world knows my name and recognises my face. It also has expectations. Over the years, I have developed a persona that understands those expectations: when to speak, when to remain silent, what to reveal and what to conceal. That public self helps me function in society. But he does not always represent the person who lives within.

My inner self feels pure in his immediate response to life. He sees suffering and feels compassion before asking whether helping will bring any benefit. He recognises injustice without first checking the status of the person responsible. He wants honesty, fairness and affection without calculation.

He is also braver than the person I sometimes allow the world to see.

He can admit a mistake, acknowledge hurt and ask for love. He does not regard an apology as a loss of dignity. My outward self is more cautious. He thinks about reputation, relationships, family expectations and the consequences of disagreement. He fears being judged or misunderstood.

My inner self says, "Speak the truth." My outward self replies, "You do not understand what it might cost."

Much of my personal struggle lives inside that exchange.

There have been moments when I have smiled while hurting, agreed while unconvinced, or remained silent when my conscience asked me to speak. Sometimes the outward person tells a convenient lie. At other times, he offers a more persuasive explanation: that I had no choice.

But my conscience remembers the choice. It remembers the apology I could have offered, the kindness I postponed and the words I swallowed because they might have disturbed an otherwise comfortable conversation.

When the company leaves and the distractions end, those moments return. I may have explained my behaviour successfully to everyone else, yet something within me remains unsatisfied.

Still, I cannot dismiss my outward self without understanding his burdens. He carries responsibilities and must consider how decisions affect other people. Some of his caution comes from experience. Some of his fear comes from disappointment. The habits through which I conceal myself may once have helped protect me.

The difficulty begins when protection becomes a way of life, and concealment becomes so familiar that I struggle to recognise my own feelings.

In family and community life, questions of reputation can carry considerable weight. I can become preoccupied with what is expected of someone of my age, background and position. I can observe every custom and maintain every appearance, while quietly wondering where my own convictions belong.

There is a particular loneliness in receiving respect for an image that does not fully represent me. I want to be understood, yet I sometimes hide the feelings through which understanding might become possible.

The person within seems free of that concern with appearances. What fascinates me is that he also seems to contain every age of my life.

He is a child in his desire for uncomplicated affection. He wants to laugh freely, ask honest questions and trust without constantly preparing for disappointment. He wants to feel valued without having to prove his usefulness.

He is a young man in his courage and hope. He still believes I can change. He questions why a fear I have carried for years should be allowed to govern the years ahead.

And he is an elder in his understanding of time. He knows that many arguments consume more peace than they deserve. He values a sincere conversation, a clear conscience and the opportunity to show kindness while it is still possible. The child preserves my tenderness, the young man my courage, and the elder my perspective. Yet my public self sometimes listens more closely to passing opinions than to any of them.This is the separation I hear in the kalam. Its words give expression to the pain of becoming distant from someone deeply loved. In my own reading, that longing reaches inward: how can I explain that the person I want to find has been living within me all along

Listening to him requires care. Every inward feeling is not necessarily conscience. Anger, desire and wounded pride can also sound convincing. I have to become quiet enough to recognise the voice that asks me to be fair when fairness offers no advantage, and truthful when honesty is uncomfortable.

When Graduate Research Gets Lost in Administrative Delays



By: Zahid Mushtaq Qureshi



Graduate education is meant to prepare students to become researchers, scholars and professionals capable of producing new knowledge. After completing the required coursework, students should be able to move into research within a clear and reasonable timeframe. Unfortunately, for many MS, MPhil and PhD students in Pakistan, the transition from coursework to research can become a long administrative journey involving multiple committees, repeated approvals and months of waiting. The problem is not the existence of academic oversight. Research proposals must be evaluated, supervisors must be qualified, research methodology must be appropriate and ethical requirements must be fulfilled. The real concern is that necessary academic safeguards can become excessive when students have to pass through several committees sequentially, with months between meetings. In many universities, after completing coursework, students are required to appear before a Graduate Research Committee (GRC). After GRC approval, the case may proceed to the Board of Studies (BOS), followed by the Faculty Board and, in some universities, the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) or an equivalent body. Everybody may have a legitimate academic role. However, the problem arises when students must wait several months between each stage. A student may have completed all coursework and be ready to conduct research, yet remain unable to proceed simply because a committee has not met. Consider students who completed their coursework in Spring 2025 but, even after more than a year, were still waiting for the Faculty Board, with no clear date announced. Such a delay is not a minor administrative inconvenience. It consumes a substantial portion of a student's degree period. The situation becomes even more concerning when BASR is another stage after the Faculty Board. HEC's Graduate Education Policy 2023 recognizes the importance of graduate research governance, while

HEC guidance identifies BASR or an equivalent body as having responsibilities related to the quality and governance of graduate programmes. If BASR identifies an issue with a research proposal, students should receive the comments immediately and be able to work on the required corrections. Instead, in a highly bureaucratic system, students may have to wait for official minutes, written observations or another committee meeting before they can even determine what needs to be changed. A simple academic correction can consequently become another cycle of delay: committee meeting, waiting for minutes,

receiving comments, making corrections, waiting for another meeting and then seeking reconsideration. Students should spend their time solving academic problems, not waiting for the administration to communicate what the academic problem is. This issue is particularly important under HEC's Graduate Education Policy 2023 (GEP-2023), which provides the national framework for MS/MPhil and PhD programmes. The policy establishes prescribed periods for degree completion and places significant emphasis on quality, research, governance and academic standards. These time limits make

PM Shehbaz meets world leaders at COP31 in Turkiye, set to highlight Pakistan's climate priorities

to draw attention to efforts to strengthen disaster preparedness and early-warning systems, while calling for predictable, adequate and accessible climate financing to help developing nations improve their resilience and pursue sustainable development.

The prime minister is scheduled to address a high-level dialogue on clean energy transition and electrification, convened by the COP31 presidency under the title 35 by 35: Powering the Future. The session is scheduled for 3pm local time (5pm Pakistan time).

A dedicated Pakistan Pavilion has also been established at the conference venue, where 54 events will be organised around various climate-related themes.

Meetings with regional leaders

Alongside his participation in the summit, Shehbaz held a series of bilateral and informal meetings with international leaders and representatives of global organisations.

One of the key engagements was his meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his delegation. The discussions covered bilateral relations, opportunities to expand mutual cooperation, the regional situation and matters concerning peace and stability.

The prime minister also held separate meetings with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

His engagements included Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al Saud and Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel bin Ahmed al-Jubeir.

PM Shehbaz also met Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary-General Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa and World Bank President Ajay Banga.



Farmers harvest cauliflower, a seasonal vegetable, for supply to local markets..

FBR waives Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers

■ **The FBR has waived the Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers joining the ATL, subject to an undertaking not to purchase or acquire property for six months.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has abolished the Rs25,000 surcharge for new taxpayers, allowing them to join the Active Taxpayer List (ATL) without paying the additional fee, subject to certain conditions.

According to the FBR, taxpayers seeking the exemption must undertake not to purchase or acquire any property for the next six months.

Individuals wishing to join the Active



Taxpayer List will be required to submit an undertaking to the FBR. The authority has introduced a new form, ATL-U, for this purpose.

Taxpayers will be able to submit the undertaking electronically through the FBR's IRIS system.

Under the new procedure, individuals submitting the undertaking will be restricted from purchasing or acquiring property for six months. The FBR will also monitor property transactions during this period.

The FBR said that if a taxpayer purchases or acquires property within the stipulated six-month period, the surcharge exemption will be withdrawn.

Through this initiative, new taxpayers have been given the opportunity to join the Active Taxpayer List without paying the Rs25,000 surcharge, provided they comply with the prescribed conditions.



Punjab govt collects record Rs114.76 billion during first two months of current FY

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Punjab government has recorded a staggering growth in its revenue collection driven by record tax receipts during first two months of the ongoing fiscal year, 2026-27,

During the period, July-August 2026, the Punjab Revenue Authority collected Rs114.76 billion, marking a 31.6 per cent increase compared to the Rs. 87.18 billion collected in the same period the previous year.According to the Finance Department report, growth has come from bringing untaxed service sectors into the formal system rather than burdening existing taxpayers.

The government has received additional Rs 81.28 billion in taxes while Rs 33.47 billion under non-tax form. It collected Rs 53.81 billion under the head of Sales Tax, Rs 12.62 billion under the head of Motor Vehicle Tax, and Rs 9.11 billion under the head of Stamp Duty.

Pakistan's textile exports reach $18 billion in FY2025-26

■ **Overall exports contract by 5.9 per cent**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's textile and apparel exports increased by 0.3 percent to reach $18 billion in FY2025-26, the highest in four years despite a 5.9 percent contraction in the country's overall exports,

In its first Annual Export Performance Report, covering the period from July 2025 to June 2026, shared with the government's decision-makers, PTC stated that Pakistan's total exports declined to $30.14 billion from $32.04 billion in FY 2025-26, whereas textile and apparel exports edged up from USD 17.95 billion to USD 18 billion, increasing the sector's share in national exports to approximately 60 percent.

The report provides a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of Pakistan's export performance, with a detailed analysis of textile and apparel exports at chapter, product and market levels based on HS-6 data obtained from the Pakistan Single Window and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The analysis highlights a continuing structural shift towards value-added textile products, which increasingly dominate Pakistan's export basket, while raw materials and intermediate products continue to face declining performance.



Exports under HS Chapters 61-63, covering apparel and made-up articles, reached USD 14.98 billion, registering 1.1 percent growth year-on-year.

These products accounted for 83.2 percent of textile exports, compared with 77 percent in FY2021-22.

Woven apparel under Chapter 62 emerged as the strongest performer, increasing 3.9 percent to USD 4.295 billion, the highest level ever recorded.

Other made-up articles under Chapter 63 rose 0.6 percent to USD 5.705 billion, while knitwear under Chapter 61 declined 0.7 percent to USD 4.979 billion.

In contrast, exports of raw materials and intermediate products under HS Chapters 50-60 declined 3.4 percent to USD 3.03 billion, the lowest level in five years.

These exports have fallen substantially from USD 4.50 billion recorded in FY2021-22, reflecting persistent weaknesses in Pakistan's upstream textile value chain.

Bullish momentum continues as PSX gains over 300 points

■ **Pakistan Stock Exchange opened higher on Wednesday, with the KSE-100 Index gaining 309 points to reach 179,600. The market had surged**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened in positive territory on Wednesday, with the benchmark KSE-100 Index gaining 309 points during early trading.

The index climbed to 179,600 points as bullish momentum continued in the market at the start of the third trading day of the business week.

The latest gains follow a strong performance in the previous session, when the stock market maintained its upward trend throughout trading.

At the close of Tuesday's session, the KSE-100 Index had surged by 5,448 points to settle at 179,335 points.

Dollar gains traction as Fed speakers warn of risks from inflation

■ **The US dollar held near a two-week high as stronger-than-expected inflation and hawkish Federal Reserve comments boosted expectations of an interest rate hike in**

WEB DESK

SINGAPORE

The dollar held gains near a two-week high in early Asian trade on Wednesday as a hotter-than-expected inflation report and hawkish comments from Federal Reserve officials fuelled bets the central bank will raise rates next month.The US dollar index , which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was steady at 102.22, closing in on its highest level since October 28.

The gauge traded up 0.5% on Tuesday after data showed US consumer prices increased by more than expected in October amid higher costs for food and accommodation.

"The rates market isn't simply pricing another hike," said Chris Weston, head of research at Pepperstone Group Ltd in Melbourne. "It's questioning how restrictive US monetary policy may ultimately need to become, and that's a far more consequential debate for risk assets."The dollar held onto its gains against its major peers in early Asian trade. The euro and the British pound were flat at $1.1168 and $1.3345, respectively. Against the yen , the US dollar was unchanged at 158.715 yen. The Australian dollar was up 0.1% at $0.6870, edging back from a seven-month low, while the New Zealand dollar was flat at $0.5605.

Comments from voting members of the Federal Reserve's rate-setting committee signalling unease over high inflation have firmed expectations for further rate hikes, prompting traders to all but abandon bets that the US central bank will stand at at its next policy meeting, which concludes on December 9.

OGDCL announces discovery Of oil, gas reserves in Khairpur

■ **OGDCL operates the exploration block with a 95% working interest, while Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) holds the remaining 5%.**

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Wednesday announced the discovery of oil and gas at its Bitrisim Northwest-1 exploratory well in Khairpur district, Sindh, with initial testing yielding 12.8 million standard cubic feet of gas and 175 barrels of oil per day,

In a notification, the company said the discovery was made in the Basal Sands of the Lower Goru Formation within the Bitrisim Exploration Licence.

OGDCL operates the exploration block with a 95% working interest, while Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) holds the remaining 5%.

According to the company, the well produced the reported gas and condensate flows during testing through a 32/64-inch choke at a wellhead flowing pressure of 3,020 pounds per square inch (psi).

Drilling at Bitrisim Northwest-1 began on August 21, 2026, and reached a total depth of 3,732 meters in the Sembar Formation.

Following an assessment of well logs, a drill stem test was conducted in the Basal Sands of the Lower Goru Formation, confirming the presence of gas and condensate.

OGDCL said it was accelerating work to connect the well to the national gas gathering system to enable early commercial production.

Smart meters to be installed on transformers across all DISCOs to curb theft, overbilling: Cheema

■ Pakistan plans to install smart meters on transformers across all DISCOs to curb electricity theft and overbilling, with funding arrangements underway.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Ahad Cheema chaired a meeting on Power Distribution Companies (DISCOs) where it was decided that smart meters will be installed on transformers across all DISCOs to curb theft and overbilling.

The meeting reviewed development programs for DISCOs and discussed the Economic Affairs Division's (EAD) efforts to arrange funding for installing smart meters on transformers across all DISCOs. Participants noted that positive progress had been made so far in arranging funding for the smart metering system, which is intended to help curb electricity theft and overbilling.

The meeting discussed the continuation of the smart metering project after privatisation. Ahad Cheema said the government would put in place arrangements to ensure that private investors carry the project forward. Smart meters on transformers can help curb electricity theft, improve billing accuracy and protect consumers from overbilling, while safeguarding the interests of consumers, investors and the government.



Negotiations with multilateral partners for development programmes would continue until privatisation is completed. If a DISCO is privatised while negotiations or programme preparations are under way, the relevant financing and development programmes would be transferred to the private investor as part of the handover, subject to agreed arrangements.

Ahad Cheema further emphasised that any new project undertaken by a private investor within a DISCO must be processed through competitive bidding and receive approval from the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), as applicable.

He stressed that the purpose of privatisation was not to shift costs or undue pressure onto consumers. The government would facilitate the process while safeguarding consumers' interests and ensuring that investors meet their financial and contractual obligations.

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Privatisation, and senior officials from the relevant ministries also attended the meeting.

Centurions De Silva, Mendis foil Pakistan as Sri Lanka dig in

De Silva scores unbeaten 167 while Mendis makes 117 as Sri Lanka reach 404-4



SPORTS REPORTER

Rawalpindi

Dhananjaya de Silva and Kusal Mendis showed great staying power as both posted centuries to lift Sri Lanka to 404-4 on day three of the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi on Wednesday.De Silva was unbeaten on a polished 167 while Mendis was 117 not out as the pair frustrated Pakistan in an unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 249, bringing Sri Lanka within 30 runs of the home team's total of 434-9 declared.

Mendis became the first Sri Lankan to score a century in his maiden Test as captain, after taking the reins from De Silva before this series.

Their stand is a record for Sri Lanka against Pakistan, improving upon the 207 by Thilan Samaraweera and Tillakaratne Dilshan in Lahore in 2009.

De Silva, lucky to be dropped on 38 by Saud Shakeel off pacer Razaullah, took full advantage of the reprieve and has so far struck 20 boundaries in his 241-ball knock.Mendis was more aggressive with four sixes and 10 boundaries as Sri Lanka added 290 in the day, before bad light ended play 15 minutes early.

De Silva cracked a boundary off spinner Arafat Minhas to complete his 14th Test hundred, fourth against Pakistan and second at the venue.

Mendis brought up his 11th century with a ramp boundary off Razaullah.

After a day of toil for Pakistan's bowlers, Mohammad Abbas has figures of 2-64 while debutant Saqib Khan is 2-105.

Sri Lanka lost just one wicket in the first session of the day's play as De Silva and Kamindu Mendis put on a 90 for the fourth wicket, ensuring Sri Lanka built up from an overnight total of 114-3.

Kamindu completed his eighth Test fifty before edging Abbas to wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori to leave Sri Lanka 155-4.



Bethell ruled out of Australia tour

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

England batter Jacob Bethell will miss the white-ball tour of Australia after a setback in his recovery from a knee injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board said on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old has not played since England's one-day series win over India in July, having suffered discomfort in his knee while scoring 91 at Lord's. He had surgery in September and travelled to Australia in anticipation of a return, but a scan has ruled him out of the tour.

"Jacob Bethell has been ruled out of the white-ball tour of Australia following a scan on his right knee," the ECB said.

England have called up James Coles and Eddie Jack to the ODI squad as replacements for Bethell and fast bowler Josh Tongue, who was already out with a left big toe injury. England begin the three-match ODI series on Friday before playing five Twenty20 internationals.

A world champion without a visa

'Most of my time is wasted running after visas.'



SPORTS REPORTER

KARACHI

Two-time WBA bantamweight world gold champion and former three-time WBC world silver flyweight champion Mohammad Waseem has been finding it difficult to pursue major boxing opportunities due to persistent visa issues.

"Yes, it's a big issue," Waseem told The Express Tribune on Wednesday.

"You know, I submitted my passport to the Spanish Embassy in July, and I am still waiting for a visa," Waseem said."Had I been in any other country, I would have won several world titles. But here, most of my time is wasted running after visas," the boxer added.

Over the past year, Waseem has won two WBA gold titles, with both bouts held in Pakistan, as Quetta and Lahore hosted the events.

Since turning professional in 2015, Waseem has repeatedly faced difficulties due to visa restrictions. More recently, he missed out on fight offers in Europe because of visa-related problems. In the past, he also missed a world title fight in Dubai due to UAE visa issues. Before that, he encountered difficulties obtaining a visa for a Central Asian country where he intended to undergo training.

Waseem first requested a diplomatic passport from the federal government during the PTI regime. He has also approached the current government several times with the same request, but his appeals have so far gone unanswered.

The Quetta-born boxer, who has trained in Las Vegas, Florida and Mexico, has earned a reputation for his smart boxing and ability to attract crowds. However, he believes he has not received the recognition and support he deserves in Pakistan, considering his achievements as one of the country's most successful professional fighters.

Waseem's contribution to Pakistani boxing is not limited to his professional career. He also represented the country in amateur boxing for more than a decade, earning several international accolades.

His achievements include a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and a bronze medal at the Asian Games in Incheon the same year.

Since Waseem won bronze at the Asian Games, no Pakistani boxer has managed to secure another medal in the competition, highlighting the significance of his achievement in the amateur circuit."Yes, it's a fact that I was regarded as a global star when I used to train in Las Vegas and Mexico, as people there love boxing. But things are different here, and I don't know why a boxer like me does not receive the status I deserve," Waseem lamented. "Had the state supported me, even in visa matters, I could have filled Pakistan's trophy cabinet with major titles, as I received several opportunities that went to waste.

Pakista nedgedout by Iran in U17 qualifier

The Green-shirts come close to a late equaliser but Iran escape with a 1-0 victory

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan played some superb football, showing grit and character in a narrow 1-0 loss to Iran in their AFC Under-17 Championship 2027 Group 'D' qualifier at the Laos National Stadium on Wednesday.

Having fallen behind in the ninth minute, Pakistan came back strongly at Iran, forcing their opponents on the back foot and creating several chances but they couldn't find the back of the net.

Spearheaded by Muhammad Essa's superb running on the right and Hasnain Ali's tenacity on the left, Pakistan were the better team and were left aggrieved in the 89th minute of the match when they felt they had the ball over the goalline, only for the referee to deem it as no goal.



Iran opens the scoring in the ninth minute with Amir Mohamed Zarei slotting in after an attack down Pakistan's right. Muhammad Habib's side responded with Nadeem Hussain heading a corner straight at the goalkeeper after Hasnain had produced a dazzling piece of skill down the left.

Goalkeeper Samar Razzaq pulled off a superb save in first half injury time and Pakistan came back strongly in the second half.

Having opened with a 3-1 win over Sri Lanka, Pakistan produced waves and waves of attacks with Hazrat Abbas missing a one-on-one.

Gauff upset at WTA Finals, Pegula back on track

Czech defeats Gauff 6-3, 6-3 to reach last four

SPORTS DESK

INDIAN WELLS

Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova upset Coco Gauff to storm into the last four of the WTA Finals at Indian Wells as Jessica Pegula reignited her challenge with victory over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk.

Czech eighth seed Noskova took advantage of a shaky serving performance by Gauff to complete a 6-3, 6-3 victory in group one to book her place in the semi-finals.

Noskova broke Gauff's serve four times on her way to claiming the first set, and then grabbed the decisive break early in the second before sealing victory with her ninth ace of the match.

"I'm very happy, obviously every win counts in this competition," Noskova said afterwards. "Coco is a big
competitor so I had to be ready for everything that would come my way today.

"You have to play to the very last point with Coco because she can always help herself out with her serve and fighting spirit. I felt like I played great to put some pressure on her,"

The defeat leaves Gauff and Pegula vying for the last remaining semi-final berth from group one.



Pegula, beaten by Gauff in her opener Sunday, overcame a topsy-turvy second set to defeat Kostyuk 6-2, 7-5. Kostyuk is eliminated following Tuesday's defeat.

"I feel like I'm playing well," Pegula said. "I felt my match against Coco was a super high-level match and that was a great match today.

"It's so tricky with her because you just don't know what's gonna come -– she will just step in and inject pace, she'll come and kamikaze the net, she goes for returns or her serve can get hot. That's what makes it difficult to play her."

The 32-year-old American had looked in complete control in the first set, breaking Kostyuk in the first and seventh games to take the opener 6-2.

A chaotic second set began with four consecutive service breaks before Kostyuk held for a 3-2 lead.

The Ukrainian then had a break point in the next game but was unable to take advantage as Pegula held for 3-3.

The next four games went with serve but Pegula finally grabbed the decisive break in the 11th game. She converted her fourth break point to take a 6-5 lead before holding for the match, sealing victory when Kostyuk smacked a forehand long.

Abdullah, Azeem and Imam score centuries on second day of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Centuries by Imam-ul-Haq, Abdullah Shafique and Azeem Bari highlighted the second day's play of the second round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold at four venues .

At Diamond Cricket Ground, Multan resumed their first innings at the overnight score of 2-2 and were bowled out for 216 in 62.5 overs. Imam-ul-Haq remained unbeaten on 137, while Asad Umar bagged six wickets for 45 runs.

Karachi Blues, who scored 214 in their first innings were 72-1 when stumps were drawn.

At Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Abdullah Shafique scored 112 and Abdul Rehman contributed 53 as Sialkot Blues reached 316-9 in 71 overs in reply to Faisalabad's 222.

At Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Islamabad extended their overnight score of 113-1 to 403-6 in 109 overs against Lahore Whites. Azeem Bari scored 105, while Raja Hamza Waheed (74), Sarmad Bhatti (70 not out) and Sudais Ulfat (67) made valuable contributions.

At National Ground, FATA resumed at 94-3 and were dismissed for 230, with Salman Khan Jnr scoring 71. Peshawar Blues were 150-4 in their second innings at stumps, leading by 140 runs. Shaheen Shah Afridi took three wickets for 36 runs.



Giannis Antetokounmpo recorded 30 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Miami Heat to a 115-109 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night in Salt Lake City.

Daily The Spokesman

Thursday
November 12,2026



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan presents a degree to a position-holding student during the COTHM Annual Convocation 2026 at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA).

FBR chief urges administrative reforms for better urban development in Pakistan

■ **FBR Chairman Rashid Langrial calls for modern urban governance as Pakistan's urban population grows 60% and major cities expand beyond existing administrative boundaries.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Langrial has called for a revamped administrative system to manage Pakistan's rapidly expanding cities, saying urban governance must reflect changing demographic and geographical realities.

In a post on social media platform X, Langrial said Pakistan's urban land area had increased by approximately 25 percent



over the past 14 years, while the country's urban population had grown by nearly 60 per cent between 2012 and 2026.He highlighted significant urban expansion in several major cities, noting that the urban footprints of Faisalabad, Multan and Sialkot had doubled during the period.Islamabad and Rawalpindi recorded a 1.8-fold expansion, while Lahore's urban area grew 1.5 times. Karachi witnessed a 40 per cent increase in its urban footprint, whereas Peshawar recorded 20 per cent growth.

The FBR chairman also pointed out that urban expansion had connected several neighbouring cities and towns.He said Lahore, Gujranwala and Kasur have increasingly merged through urban development, while Sheikhupura, Muridke and Kamoke have also become part of Lahore's wider urban expansion.

At least 10 policemen, including DSP, martyred in terrorist attack on Kohat police team

● Spokesperson says sub-inspector also among those killed as attackers set fire to five police vehicles

SPECIAL REPORTER

Kohat

At least 11 police personnel, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) and a sub-inspector, were killed and 12 were injured when terrorists attacked a police team during an operation against illegal gold mining in the Gambat area of Kohat in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Wednesday, according to officials.A statement from Rescue 1122 said the number of personnel martyred had reached 11, while 12 were injured.

Kohat police spokesperson Muhammad Nauman Zeb said the team was heading to conduct a raid against illegal mining when it came under fire in the Darbokach



Jalandhar Banda area, located between Kohat and Karak.

Initial reports suggested that the attackers opened fire on police personnel from hilltops, resulting in casualties and damage to police vehicles.

Zeb identified Gambat Deputy Superintendent of Police Haider Zaman and Sub-Inspector Mukhtiar among those killed in the attack. Five police mobile vehicles were also set on fire during the assault.The police spokesperson said the attackers continued firing at police personnel, resulting in a heavy exchange of fire. Additional police vehicles were dispatched to the scene, while a heavy police contingent was called in to respond to the attack.

Security was placed on high alert in the area as further reinforcements were sent to the scene. Following the attack, an emergency was declared at the District Headquarters Teaching Hospital, he added.

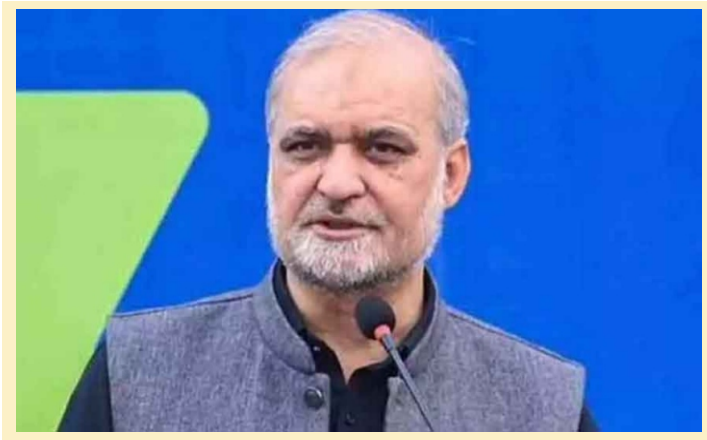
K-P Governor Faisal Karim Kundi strongly condemned the attack, expressing grief over the martyrdom of police personnel.

The governor described the attack as a highly condemnable and cowardly act and paid tribute to the martyred policemen, extending his condolences and sympathies to their bereaved families.Kundi also sought a detailed report on the incident from police authorities and directed that those involved in the attack be brought to justice.

He stated that the sacrifices made by police personnel in the fight against terrorism and criminal elements were a "source of pride for the entire nation and would never go in vain".

Expressing solidarity with the families of the martyrs, Kundi said the entire nation shared their grief during this difficult time.

K-P Adviser on Information and Public Relations, Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement, Samar Haroon Bilour also strongly condemned the terrorist attack.



JI announces Nov 29 rally at Minar-e-Pakistan over petroleum levy

■ **Jamaat-e-Islami announced a November 29 rally at Minar-e-Pakistan, demanding petroleum levy abolition and greater relief for ordinary consumers.**

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced a major public rally at Minar-e-Pakistan on November 29 as part of its ongoing campaign against the petroleum levy and rising fuel costs.

JI Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman announced the decision while addressing a press conference at the party's headquarters in Mansoorah, Lahore. He reaffirmed that the party would not withdraw its protest until the government abolished the petroleum levy.

He said protests and negotiations with the government would continue simultaneously. The party will also hold a major public gathering in Quetta on November 22, followed by rallies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Karachi.

Hafiz Naeem claimed that Jamaat-e-Islami's campaign against rising petroleum prices had begun producing results, adding that the government's relief measures were the outcome of pressure exerted by the party.

However, he maintained that further steps were needed to provide meaningful relief to the public. Referring to the government's announcement that approximately 15 million people would receive financial relief, he demanded that the benefits also be extended to owners of vehicles with engine capacities of up to 1,300cc, in addition to those with 800cc vehicles.He also called for relief for farmers using tractors and operators of public transport.

JI Proposes Shifting Petroleum Levy to Larger Vehicles

The JI chief revealed that nine rounds of negotiations had taken place between the party and the government.

According to him, government representatives had described the petroleum levy as an issue linked to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said the party had submitted clear proposals seeking the abolition of the levy. JI has proposed increasing import duties on larger vehicles and shifting the petroleum levy burden to their owners instead of placing it on ordinary consumers.

Hafiz Naeem claimed that the government had previously indicated that petrol prices could reach Rs1,000 per litre, but prices had started declining following Jamaat-e-Islami's campaign.

Foolproof Security Arrangements Planned for Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 557th Birth Anniversary

■ **Around 30,000 Sikh Pilgrims, Including 3,000 from India, Expected to Visit Punjab from November 22 to December 1; Khawaja Salman Rafique Directs Departments to Ensure Best Facilities**

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

A high-level meeting was held at the Punjab Home Department to review arrangements for the 557th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Provincial Minister and Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique and Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora jointly chaired the meeting. Special Secretary Home Faisal Farid and Chairman of the Evacuee Trust Property Board Sajid Chauhan attended the meeting and gave a detailed briefing. The meeting was also attended by the Commissioner Lahore, Additional Secretary Internal Security, Additional Secretary Shrines, Director General Public Relations Punjab, Chief Coordinator PIFTAC, and representatives of Pakistan Customs, the Federal Investigation



Agency (FIA), Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department, Pakistan Rangers Punjab, Transport Department, Rescue 1122, Electricity supply company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited and other relevant departments. The meeting was informed that Sikh pilgrims would be visiting Punjab from November 22 to December 1, 2026, to participate in the 557th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Around 30,000 pilgrims from Pakistan and different parts of the world are expected to attend the celebrations, including 3,000 Sikh pilgrims arriving from India. The pilgrims will visit Nankana Sahib, Farooqabad in Sheikhupura, Hasan Abdal, Kartarpur in Narowal and Lahore. Speaking on the occasion, Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique said that, in line with the vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, foolproof security arrangements would be ensured for the 557th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, as in previous years. He said the occasion provided an excellent opportunity to project Pakistan's positive image internationally. He directed all relevant departments to ensure exemplary arrangements for pilgrims, including transportation, medical facilities and food.

Court sends JUI-F Islamabad Ameer on 15-day physical remand

■ **ATC Judge Abual Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain conducted the proceedings.**



WEB DESK

LAHORE

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Wednesday sent Mufti Awais Aziz, Ameer Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) Islamabad chapter, on 15 days physical remand in a terrorism-related case,

Earlier, Aziz was taken into custody in Islamabad and presented before an ATC.

ATC Judge Abual Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain conducted the proceedings.

The police had initially requested remand for 30 days for interrogation.

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered at the Sangjani Police Station under anti-terrorism laws. Police accused the JUI-F leader of leading illegal gatherings, blocking roads, clashing with police personnel.

Defence Counsel Senator Kamran Murtaza, in his arguments, said that patriotic citizens are being implicated in cases of terrorism, saying they are followers of the Constitution and could not even contemplate attacking public properties or blocking GT Road.

He said that an FIR was registered three days after the event.

Prosecutor Raja Naveed Hussain told the court that JUI-F backed mob held a political gathering, blocked the GT road and forced the residents to confine to their houses and broke window panes of vehicles.

The defence asked the prosecutor to present proof if any; otherwise, remand would be illegal and violation of the human rights.

National Government Need of the Hour to Address Pakistan's Crises: Imran Ismail

New provinces can help resolve administrative issues, says Fawad Chaudhry; national consensus essential for economic recovery, says Mahmood Maulvi

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Leaders of the National Dialogue Committee have emphasised that a national government has become the need of the hour to steer Pakistan out of its prevailing political, economic and administrative crises.Speaking on the occasion, Imran Ismail said that the country was facing multiple challenges which required collective wisdom, political reconciliation and a national approach. He stressed that political differences should be set aside in the larger national interest.Fawad Chaudhry said that the establishment of new provinces could help address administrative challenges and improve governance by ensuring more effective



delivery of public services. He emphasised the need for administrative reforms to strengthen the country's institutional structure.Mahmood Maulvi said that national consensus was essential for economic stability and sustainable development. He stressed that all political stakeholders should work together to formulate a common strategy for economic recovery.The leaders underscored the importance of dialogue, political stability and collective efforts to safeguard Pakistan's national interests.

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