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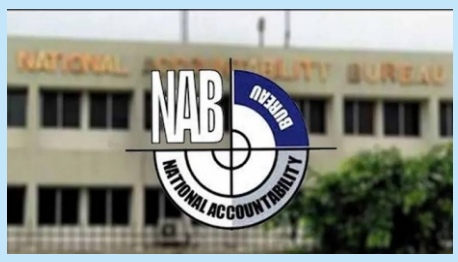
Islamabad to become Pakistan's first cashless city by Dec 31



SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad will become Pakistan's first fully cashless city by December 31, with cash payments set to be discontinued in all departments of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) after November 30. The decision was announced on Friday during a meeting on the "Cashless Islamabad" initiative, chaired by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry.



NAB expands probe into Asad Qaiser and former KP adviser Dr Amjad Ali

Our Correspondent

ISLAMBAD

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has stepped up investigations into former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser and former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister's special assistant Dr Amjad Ali, seeking business records, property payment details and bank statements in two separate inquiries.
In the inquiry into assets allegedly beyond known sources of income involving Asad Qaiser, NAB has issued a notice to the Registrar of Firms, seeking details of partnership firms registered in the names of 10 people.



Supreme Court rules inheritance rights do not expire merely with passage of time

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court has ruled that a person's legal heirs acquire their shares in the deceased's property and assets immediately upon death, and their inheritance rights do not lapse merely with the passage of time.
The court clarified that the limitation period for a claim of deprivation of inheritance begins only when an heir's ownership rights are expressly and openly denied, and the heir becomes aware of that denial. Both the denial and the heir's knowledge of it must be established.



Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir speaks at the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum

Pakistan will join world's major economies before 2050, PM tells minerals moot

- **CDF Munir says Pakistan is aiming to become a competitive destination for long-term mineral investment**

Atif Saeed

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed confidence that Pakistan will become one of the world's major economies before 2050, saying Goldman Sachs has forecast that the country could become the world's sixth-largest economy by 2075.
He was addressing participants of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 on Friday.
Pakistan's economy, the premier said, is moving towards a journey of growth and transformation with renewed confidence.
He said the country aimed to stop exporting its valuable mineral resources in raw form, adding that the resources would instead be utilised for domestic industries.
"The day is not far when Pakistan will utilise its mineral resources for the



country's downstream industries," PM Shehbaz said, adding that the country does not merely want to extract raw minerals and export them abroad.Referring to the Reko Diq project, he said it is one of the world's largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits.
The project, which remained stalled for two decades, is moving towards practical completion and the operational phase, he added.
The prime minister said the establishment of the National Minerals Data Centre and digitisation of geological records would ensure the availability of authentic information.He said the federal and provincial governments would work together to promote the
(Continued on Page-5)

Parliament to decide on creation of new provinces even if referendum held: Rana Sanaullah



GENERAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah has said that parliament would have the final say on the creation of new provinces, even if a referendum was held on the issue.Speaking to a private television channel, Sanaullah said the question of who would hold such a referendum also remained unresolved, adding that the process would have to be conducted by parliament.



Punjab Assembly's session summoned for Nov 16

GENERAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has summoned the 47th session of the Punjab Assembly on Monday,
According to an official notification issued by the Punjab Assembly Secretariat issued on Friday, the session will be held at the Assembly building in Lahore on November 16, 2026, at 2 pm.



Five-year wait ends as 128km Lillah-Jhelum road project completed

- Punjab's 128-kilometre Lillah-Jhelum Road project has been completed after five years, connecting Pind Dadan Khan with the Lillah Interchange.

CITY REPORTER

LAHORE

The 128-kilometre Lillah-Jhelum Road project, launched in 2021, has been completed after five years, providing a major boost to connectivity for residents of Jhelum and Pind Dadan Khan.
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz expressed gratitude over the completion of the project and commended the Communications and Works (C&W) Department for its efforts. She also directed the relevant authorities to take necessary steps to ensure the early completion of the Jhelum-Pind Dadan Khan Road.
The chief minister was given a detailed briefing on the project, which has been completed at a cost of Rs13.538 billion. The road will connect Pind Dadan Khan with the Lillah Interchange.
According to the briefing, the dual carriageway project also includes two bypasses and several connecting roads. The road, previously 20 to 24 feet wide, has been expanded to 76 feet. Paved shoulders will also be constructed along both sides to improve traffic flow and strengthen the road infrastructure.

Security forces kill 74 Indian proxy terrorists in Balochistan, KP operations

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Security forces killed 74 terrorists during multiple intelligence based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, according to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).
In a determined effort to eliminate terrorist threats and dismantle the terrorist networks, security forces are conducting a series of intelligence based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding that these operations have been further expanded to the areas of Mir Ali and Orakzai.
Over the last 48 hours, during the conduct of these series of IBOs, own troops effectively engaged multiple terrorist's locations.
Following intense and fierce exchanges of fire, 35 terrorists belonging to Indian-sponsored "Fitna-al-Khwarij" have been neutralised in Mir Ali and eight were eliminated in Orakzai,
thereby inflicting a significant blow to the khwarij networks operating in these areas. In Kurram area of Balochistan's district, security forces are conducting comprehensive intelligence based area sanitisation operation from 3 November.
During the conduct of these intelligence



based operations, multiple terrorist hideouts were effectively engaged and after multiple engagements, thirty one Indian sponsored khwarij were killed.
ISPR said huge cache of weapons, ammunition and explosives including homemade explosives and improvised explosives devices were also recovered during sanitization, thwarting Khwarij nefarious designs to use these materials in terrorists activities.
"Sanitization operations continue to eliminate holed up khwarij from these areas, as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

TRNC Reaffirms Resolve for Sovereign Equality, Independence and International Recognition

- **Ambassador Buket Kop, addressing reception marking 43rd Anniversary of the Founding of Northern Cyprus in Islamabad, calls for ending Turkish Cypriots' political, economic and diplomatic isolation; appreciates Pakistan's longstanding support and stresses stronger bilateral cooperation.**

Muzaffar Ahmad Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus remains firm in its resolve to secure its statehood, safeguard its independence, and achieve international recognition. For the Turkish Cypriot people, statehood is not a matter of political preference, but a question of security, dignity, equality, and the right to determine their own future. The same resolve was reiterated by the TRNC Ambassador to Islamabad, Ms. Buket Kop in her



keynote address at the reception hosted by her on 43rd Anniversary of the founding of the State. The event commenced with the



National Anthems of both states, followed by address of the Ambassador.It was attended by the Ambassadors of Turkiye , Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.In Her Address, Ambassador Kop highlighted the determination and resilience of the Turkish Cypriot People in Preserving their national identity, safeguarding Their existence, and pursuing their right to self-determination through the establishment of the TRNC.Ambassador Kop's address also acknowledged Turkish President Recept Tayyip Erdogan's Longstanding Calls for the Recognition of the TRNC and The establishment of diplomatic, political, and economic relations with it.Expressing Appreciation
(Continued on Page-5)

Arid University Signs Media Collaboration MoUs with CNN Urdu and The World Ambassador

■ Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman signs agreements to promote academic excellence, research, innovation and institutional achievements at national and international levels; faculty members and students to benefit from research publication opportunities and special media interviews.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with internationally renowned magazine The World Ambassador and CNN Urdu Digital E-Paper and News Channel to strengthen media collaboration and highlight the university's academic, research, extension and institutional activities at national and international levels.The signing ceremony was held at the university, where Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman signed the MoU on behalf of the university, while Abid Siddique Chaudhry represented The World Ambassador and Shahbaz signed on behalf of CNN Urdu.Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman emphasised the vital role of media in strengthening links between educational institutions and society. He said universities were not merely centres of teaching and learning but also played a fundamental role in research, innovation, knowledge creation and addressing societal challenges.He stressed that effective media coverage was essential to bringing universities' academic achievements, research contributions and institutional initiatives to public attention.The Vice Chancellor further said that Pakistani media could play a significant role in promoting educational and research activities, academic achievements and institutional services at national and international levels. Responsible media coverage, he added, could bridge the gap between universities and society by informing policymakers, industry representatives, farmers, students and the general public about scientific discoveries, research findings and educational opportunities.Abid Siddique Chaudhry and Shahbaz appreciated the university's excellent academic environment, modern research facilities and institutional achievements. They expressed their commitment to highlighting the university's educational initiatives, research contributions, innovations and significant accomplishments through their respective media platforms.Under the collaboration. university faculty members and students will also have opportunities to publish their academic and research articles through the media platforms. Special interviews of faculty members and students making outstanding contributions to academia and research will also be conducted to showcase their expertise and achievements.

Islamabad Traffic Police Expands Women Empowerment and Road Safety Initiatives

■ CTO Kainat Azhar Khan reviews free scooter training programme for women, while ITP Education Wing conducts road safety awareness session at CUST University; students briefed on traffic laws, driving licences and responsible road practices.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



ITP Continues Initiatives to Empower Women and Promote Road Safety AwarenessAccording to details, following the directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) continues its initiatives to promote road safety, provide safer travel facilities and empower women through practical training and public awareness activities.In this regard, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan visited the Free Scooter Training Programme and reviewed the training being provided to women. She interacted with the trainees and encouraged them to make the most of the opportunity.She emphasized that empowering women through independent and safe mobility is important for building their confidence and providing them with greater opportunities for mobility.The program aims to equip women with scooter-riding skills, promote independent mobility and enable them to travel safely and confidently.Meanwhile, the Education Wing of Islamabad Traffic Police visited CUST University Islamabad and conducted an awareness session for students. Participants were briefed on traffic laws, the procedure for obtaining a driving license and the legal and practical importance of holding a valid license.During the session, students were also educated about compliance with traffic regulations, responsible driving practices and the adoption of safe travel habits. They were encouraged to understand their responsibilities as road users and take practical measures to protect their own lives and those of others.Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) continues to organize awareness activities at educational institutions and public places to promote road safety, particularly among young people and women. These initiatives aim to encourage responsible road behavior, improve traffic awareness and contribute to a safer travelling environment across the federal capital.
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NCCIA Lahore Arrests Suspect for Allegedly Blackmailing Minor Girl Through Social Media

News Desk

LAHORE



Major Action by NCCIA Lahore, Accused Arrested for Allegedly Luring and Blackmailing Minor GirlImmediate action taken on Cyber Tipline Report received from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)According to details, NCCIA Lahore, taking immediate action on the Cyber Tipline Report received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), arrested the accused on charges of allegedly luring a minor girl through social media, obtaining objectionable material, blackmailing her and threatening to make it viral on social media.Upon receiving the report, the NCCIA Lahore team immediately started technical analysis and investigation, as a result of which the accused was identified and his location was traced and a successful operation was carried out. During the operation, the mobile phone and other digital devices used by the accused were also taken into custody, whose forensic analysis is being carried out.A case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway to expose other aspects involved in this heinous crime. Measures have also been initiated by NCCIA for the protection and support of the affected girl and full legal and moral support is being provided to the girl and her family.On this occasion DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that there will be no compromise on the matter of child protection and strict legal action will be taken against such criminals. He appealed to the parents to keep an eye on the online activities of their children and immediately report any suspicious activity to NCCIA.

SSP Operations Islamabad Orders Intensified Crackdown Against Criminal Elements

■ Qazi Ali Raza chairs meeting of City and Rural Zone officers to review crime prevention and law and order situation; directs effective patrolling, arrest of proclaimed offenders and wanted criminals, warning that negligence in protecting citizens' lives and property will not be tolerated.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza Chairs Meeting of City and Rural Zone OfficersAccording to the details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza chaired an important meeting of officers from the City and Rural Zones to review crime prevention measures and the overall law and order situation. The meeting was attended by SP Rural Zone Zeeshan Ali, SP City Zone Khurram Ashraf, along with SDPOs and SHOs from both zones.During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of the law and order situation, crime prevention measures and the performance of police officers in both zones. SSP Operations Islamabad directed officers to further intensify effective and targeted operations against criminal elements, ensure the arrest of accused with previous criminal records, proclaimed offenders and other wanted accused, and make the patrolling system more effective.He also emphasized the need to utilize all available resources to ensure prompt justice for citizens and strengthen effective monitoring of police operations in the field.SSP Operations Islamabad made it clear that negligence or laxity in preventing crime, protecting citizens' lives and property, and maintaining law and order would not be tolerated. He directed all officers to perform their duties diligently and take every possible measure to ensure public safety across the federal capital.

DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi Holds Open Court to Address Citizens' Cybercrime Complaints

■ DG listens directly to complaints regarding online fraud, harassment, social media misuse and other cybercrimes; directs concerned officers to take immediate action, ensure timely justice and keep complainants informed about case progress.

Crime reporter

ISLAMABAD



Necessary instructions issued to concerned officers for timely provision of justice and prompt resolution of issues through Open CourtAccording to details, Director General National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi listened to the complaints and issues of citizens directly during the Open Court and issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers for their resolution.During the Open Court, complaints of various nature related to cyber crime, investigation matters and issues faced by citizens were reviewed in detail. Citizens presented their complaints regarding online fraud, harassment, misuse of social media and other cyber crimes. DG NCCIA listened to each complaint carefully and issued instructions to the concerned officers for immediate action on the spot.On this occasion, DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the purpose of the Open Court is to provide justice to the public at their doorstep and to remove the distance between the institution and the public. He said that every complaint should be taken seriously, action should be taken on merit and progress should be ensured within the stipulated time.He said that the Open Court is an effective means of restoring public confidence and resolving their issues on priority basis. He directed the officers to deal with the complainants politely, keep them informed about the progress of their cases continuously and not allow any complaint to be delayed. He further said that the series of Open Courts will continue regularly so that citizens can present their issues directly before the DG NCCIA without any fear.

BISE Rawalpindi Recommends Promotions for 40 Officers and Employees

News Desk

RAWALPINDI

The Appointment and Promotion Committee (APC) of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Rawalpindi, has reviewed promotion cases of 40 officers and employees and made recommendations in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations.The meeting was chaired by Chairman BISE Rawalpindi, Professor Dr. Iqbal Mahmood, during which promotion cases from different cadres were examined in detail.The committee considered recommendations for the promotion of two Assistant Secretaries to Deputy Secretaries, four Superintendents to Assistant Secretaries, 14 Assistants to Superintendents, and 20 Senior Clerks to Assistants.In addition to promotion cases, the committee also reviewed confirmation cases of officers and employees who had successfully completed their probationary period.



CDA to upgrade 35 traffic signal intersections, add 18 new Pelican crossings

Staff REPORETER

ISLAMABAD

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is upgrading 35 traffic signal intersections across Islamabad, including the installation of 18 new Pelican pedestrian crossings, under a project scheduled for completion by the end of this year.

CDA Chairman and Islamabad Chief Commissioner Sohail Ashraf inspected the ongoing project on Friday and reviewed the progress of work at various locations.

Officials briefed him that the project aimed to improve traffic flow and provide safer and easier road-crossing facilities for pedestrians through modernised traffic signals and new Pelican crossing systems.



PSF, Bahria University explore avenues for research collaboration

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A delegation of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), led by its Chairman, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Akmal, visited Bahria University to explore opportunities for strengthening research collaboration and promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

The delegation included Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Member Science, PSF; Ms. Zaiban Farooq, PSO (International Linkages); and Ms. Sumera Sami, SSO (Research Support).

Rector Bahria University, Vice Admiral Engr. Abid Hameed, HI(M), warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed its members on the university's academic programmes and ongoing research initiatives.

During the meeting, Dr. Mirza Habib Ali highlighted the role and mandate of the Pakistan Science Foundation, outlining its initiatives to promote scientific research, facilitate national and international research collaboration, and strengthen linkages among academia, research institutions and industry.

HEC Advises Universities to Uphold Merit, Institutional Integrity in Faculty, Administrative Appointments

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan has advised the universities to ensure merit and institutional integrity in the faculty and administrative appointments by properly presenting the proceedings of Selection Boards before their Syndicates or other relevant statutory forums for detailed deliberation and decision-making.In a letter addressed to Vice Chancellors and Presidents of universities, HEC has emphasized circulation of agendas of Syndicate and other relevant statutory forum meetings among members in a timely manner, so that the members have sufficient time for due deliberations. The letters reads: "the Commission is committed to ensuring that appointment decisions are made through the prescribed statutory forums in a manner that upholds merit and institutional integrity."The letter underlined that HEC is mandated to guide institutions in establishing minimum standards for good governance and management to provide guidelines regarding minimum criteria and qualifications for appointment and promotion of faculty and to review their implementation, and to cause evaluation of the performance of institutions.HEC has further stressed the need for ensuring no compromise on the integrity and transparency of decision-making in appointments to faculty and administrative positions, warning that any omission "is viewed with serious concern by the Commission."The letter reads: "all universities are advised to ensure that such important and significant agenda items are shared with the members of the Syndicate and other relevant statutory forums strictly in accordance with the timelines prescribed in the Statutes of the university. Members of the Syndicate and other statutory forums shall be given sufficient time to review the agenda items and to prepare adequately for the meeting date and time.



Secretary Information and Broadcasting Ashfaq Ahmad Khalil presents certificates to participants during an event in connection with Iqbal Day organized by the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) at the Information Services Academy (ISA).

Awami Quwat Party Secures Support of Over 500 Councillors Ahead of Islamabad LG Elections

Chairman Khakan Waheed Khawaja says party has completed organisational preparations for upcoming local polls; addresses councillors' convention in Bani Gala, meets political and social delegations and announces emergency meeting to review the latest election developments.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party, Khakan Waheed Khawaja, has said that his party has completed preparations for the upcoming local government elections and achieved its target of securing the support of more than 500 councillors, which, he said, reflects the party's growing strength in Islamabad.He was speaking at a local government election corner meeting in Bani Gala and during interactions with various delegations. The corner meeting was hosted at the residence of Abdul Rauf Janjua in Bani Gala and was attended by several prominent political and social figures, including Babar Hashmi, Raja Sikandar, Nafees Kiyani, Raja Shoaib, Aurangzeb Ahmed, Ibrahim Janjua, Nawaz Ahmed, Iqbal Janjua, Faisal Rehman, Faisal Janjua, Tanveer Ahmed, Jamshed Mughal and others.Khawaja also addressed a councillors' convention of local government election candidates, reiterating that his party had completed its organisational preparations regardless of the prevailing political situation.He said achieving the target of more than 500 councillors was a significant accomplishment and demonstrated the party's position as a major political force in Islamabad.In a separate meeting at his office, the party chairman met several political and social representatives, including Madam Anam Orakzai from Peshawar, Asma Satti, Azhar Mahmood, Adeel Munawar, Qamar Mahmood and others.Khawaja further announced that the party was convening an emergency meeting to review the latest developments and situation concerning the upcoming local government elections.



Punjab issues strict smog safety guidelines for schools

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



School Education Department has issued new guidelines for schools across Punjab to protect students and staff from the harmful effects of smog,

Under the directives, students have been advised to wear masks, stay hydrated and avoid unnecessary outdoor activities.

Schools have been instructed to keep doors and windows closed during periods of heavy smog while ensuring classrooms remain clean and well ventilated.

A complete ban has been imposed on burning trash or any other materials within school premises.

Institutions have been directed to ensure proper waste disposal arrangements, and teachers must immediately attend to students showing signs of illness.

The department has also ordered awareness campaigns for students and parents about smog related health risks.

Special care must be taken of students suffering from asthma, particularly during physical activities.

Schools have further been directed to maintain emergency medical records of students with respiratory or heart conditions.

The department has also ordered daily monitoring of the Air Quality Index (AQI) in schools and directed each district to appoint a focal person to coordinate with the Health Department.

Schools will be issued instructions according to prevailing air quality conditions.

Punjab Police's 15th Internship Programme Concludes, IG Abdul Kareem Distributes Certificates Among

A total of 96 students from Punjab University, University of Lahore and Lahore Garrison University complete five-week internship; participants receive practical training in CTD, Special Branch, Safe Cities Authority, Investigation and IT branches to promote education, research and professional development.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

The closing ceremony of the 15th batch of the Punjab Police Internship Programme was held at the Central Police Office. Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem distributed certificates among the students who successfully completed the internship. Addressing the ceremony, IG Punjab Abdul Kareem said that the experience gained during the internship would contribute to the career development of students. He said that internship opportunities were being provided to students to promote a culture of education and research.Giving details, Punjab Police spokesperson said that 33 students from Punjab University, 26 from the University of Lahore and 37 from Lahore Garrison University participated in the internship programme. The students were divided into five groups and attached to different branches of Punjab Police for five weeks, where they received practical training in the CTD, Special Branch, Safe Cities Authority, Investigation and IT branches. The students who completed the internship also presented their reports based on the experiences gained during the programme. The students thanked the IG Punjab for providing them with the opportunity to closely observe and learn about police operations and the challenges faced in the field.Additional IG Training Asim Gulzar, DIG Training Munir Ahmad Zia Rao, AIG Training Zohaib Nasrullah Ranjha and other police officers were present at the ceremony. Assistant Professors Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Safdar and Siddiq Akbar from Punjab University, Associate Dean Kaukab Jamal Zubairi and Head of the Department of Criminology Ms. Sundas Munir from Lahore Garrison University, and Advisor to the Chairman Farrukh Hafeez and Senior Lecturer Hasnain Hameed Awan from the University of Lahore also attended the ceremony



Sindh Records 3,940% Increase in Third-Party Motor Insurance Policies in Eight Months

Web Desk

PARIS

The number of third-party motor insurance policies issued in Sindh has increased from 11,200 in March 2026 to 452,515 by November, representing growth of approximately 3,940% in eight months.The increase follows amendments to provincial motor vehicle legislation in March, making third-party insurance mandatory for vehicles registered in Sindh. The reform was introduced by the Government of Sindh with support from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).To support implementation, the SECP established the Motor Insurance Repository, a digital system that enables authorities to verify insurance policies. The repository enables digital verification of insurance policies and links them with Sindh's vehicle registration and taxation systems. This has helped increase policy issuance following the legal reform.Third-party motor insurance provides financial protection to people affected by road accidents. Subject to the terms of the policy and applicable law, it covers liability for injury, death or property damage caused to others. It does not cover damage to the policyholder's own vehicle.Sindh has nearly 2.6 million registered vehicles, leaving significant scope to expand insurance coverage further.

RPO Rawalpindi Chairs High-Level Meeting to Review Murree Winter Season Preparations 2026-27



STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi Babar Sarfraz Alpa chaired a high-level meeting at the District Police Office Murree to review preparations for the upcoming winter and snowfall season 2026-27.The meeting was attended by DPO Murree Dr Raza Tanveer Supra, Chief Traffic Officer Murree Munir Ahmed Hashmi, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Kamran Sagheer, District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122, SP Motorway Police, Medical Superintendent of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Murree, representatives of Special Branch and other relevant departments, along with SDPOs, SHOs and traffic police officers.

Heinous Crimes Decline for Third Consecutive Week Across Punjab: IG Abdul Kareem

Chairing weekly crime review meeting at Central Police Office, IG Punjab directs RPOs and DPOs to intensify action against crime hotspots, strengthen patrolling and surveillance, and ensure strict accountability against corruption, misuse of authority and negligence.

CRIME REPORTER

LAHORE



A weekly review meeting on crime control was held at the Central Police Office under the chairmanship of Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem. The meeting reviewed in detail the weekly performance of all regions and districts in light of the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. It was briefed that the declining trend in incidents of heinous crimes, including murder, dacoity and rape, continued for the third consecutive week across Punjab. During the briefing, AIG Monitoring informed the meeting that the effective operational strategy of Punjab Police had helped stabilise the declining trend in heinous crimes.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem directed that special attention be focused on crime hotspots and immediate action be ensured against criminal elements to sustain the decline in heinous crimes. He said that curbing murder, dacoity, robbery, crimes against children and women, and organised crime remained the top priorities of Punjab Police. RPOs and DPOs should continue their dedicated efforts to realise the Safe Punjab vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. RPOs should regularly review the performance of district police officers themselves, while ensuring police station inspections, effective patrolling, surveillance and the use of modern IT-based technology.IG Punjab made it clear that abuse of authority, violation of the code of conduct and corruption would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Strict action against officers and personnel involved in corruption and illegal activities would continue without discrimination. He said that the accountability process in Punjab Police is underway effectively and no leniency would be shown to personnel found negligent in their duties or guilty of misusing their authority.Additional IG Punjab Imran Arshad, Additional IG Investigation Muhammad Kamran Khan, AIG Monitoring, SSP Investigation Punjab, AIG Operations, AIG Coordination and AIG Admin & Security attended the meeting. CCPO Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana, Additional IG South Punjab Syed Khurram Ali, MD Safe Cities, RPOs, CPOs, DPOs, DIGs Operations and Investigation Lahore, along with other concerned officers, participated in the meeting through video link.



Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with Mr. George Zhu, Founder and Chairman of Transsion Holdings along with his team, to discuss ongoing operations, future investment plans, and Pakistan's export potential.

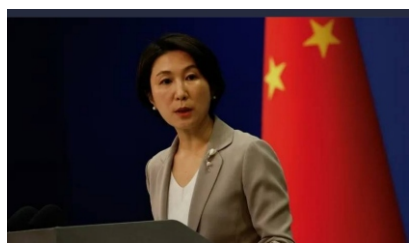
China warns against new export controls on US chips after Nvidia scandal

China warned the United States on Friday against putting additional export controls on semiconductors in the wake of the scandal surrounding AI chip giant Nvidia.

WEB DESK

BEIJING

China warned the United States on Friday against putting additional export controls on semiconductors in the wake of the scandal surrounding AI chip giant Nvidia.
China "has consistently opposed the abuse of export control measures, which disrupts the stability of global industrial and supply chains and serves no party's interests," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular briefing when asked about calls from US lawmakers to impose more limits on exports of chip equipment to China."China and the United States should work together to implement the important consensus reached by their respective heads of state and maintain the stable



development of China-US economic and trade relations," Mao said. Nvidia co-founder Jensen Huang -- who resigned Thursday -- has admitted to an affair, reportedly with Alice Huang, a former senior executive at Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed.
Reports allege the Commerce Department under Secretary Howard Lutnick may have failed to act on suspicions that Megaspeed was helping reroute restricted Nvidia technology to China. US media quoted US lawmakers as saying that they were in favour of imposing additional export controls on chips to China as a result of the snowballing scandal."The export controls on chips to China has been a big issue around here. I'm in favour of limiting those exports," House speaker Mike Johnson was quoted as saying.
"I think there is a developing consensus in Congress that is an important position to take." US intelligence reportedly circulated a memo this spring alleging that Alice Huang -- no relation to Jensen Huang -- was an asset of China's Ministry of State Security.
Beijing has rejected the allegations and on Thursday said that they are a "pretext to for imposing a technological blockade" to stop China advancing in artificial intelligence technology.



Denmark announces $8.9 million in aid for Gaza and occupied Palestinian territories

WEB DESK

COPENHAGEN

Denmark has announced $8.9 million in humanitarian assistance for Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories to support Palestinians facing worsening humanitarian conditions, particularly amid severe winter weather.
According to Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, $3 million will be provided to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to assist Palestinians affected by flooding in Gaza.
An additional $5.9 million will be allocated to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support humanitarian operations in the occupied Palestinian territories.
The Danish Foreign Ministry said harsh winter conditions were further aggravating the humanitarian crisis facing Palestinians.
It stressed the importance of ensuring that essential humanitarian assistance reaches vulnerable Palestinians during the winter months, as deteriorating weather conditions continue to compound their suffering.

EU leaders seek to tackle challenges at first ever AI summit

The meeting comes amid mounting worries about a technology that promises to transform industries and societies but in recent months has caused alarm

WEB DESK

DUBLIN

European Union leaders gather in Dublin on Friday for their first ever summit on artificial intelligence, to debate how the bloc can catch up with the United States and China and tackle funding issues and other problems.
The meeting comes amid mounting worries about a technology that promises to transform industries and societies but in recent months has caused alarm after a series of incidents involving rogue AI agents. There was further turmoil this week with the resignation of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, leaving the industry without its biggest champion.
Leaders in Dublin will also assess how to overcome ?other problems such as red tape and set guardrails.
"Given the rapid pace of AI development, I believe that a first dedicated discussion, at leaders' level, is now needed on the opportunities presented by AI, as well as on its transformative effect on our economies and societies," European Council President Antonio Costa wrote in an invitation letter to EU leaders last week.
Mistral AI chief executive Arthur Mensch and Nobel Prize-winning AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton will brief EU leaders.



Europe will have to ramp up its efforts if it is to be an AI player. An initiative known as the Chips Act implemented three years ago looks likely to fall short of its goal to attract advanced manufacturing and double the bloc's share of the global chip market to 20% by 2030.
A plan to build seven artificial intelligence gigafactories to house advanced AI processors, software, cloud technology, high-speed connectivity and data centres under one roof has yet to fully take off due to the fight among EU countries over spending on competitiveness in the bloc's 2028-2034 budget.
In addition to AI, leaders are also set to discuss Ukraine, which has since been added as a second major topic to the agenda, a day after US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner flew into Dublin to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy following talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin ?in Moscow.

Iran says another ship hit mine in Hormuz

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Friday that a ship was hit by an explosion after striking a mine in the Strait of Hormuz, where Tehran has sought to restrict navigation.
Since the outbreak of the Middle East war in late February, Tehran has insisted that vessels obtain its authorisation to traverse the strait and has attacked vessels that do not comply.
The United States has in response imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and provides military support to tankers using the vital trade route.
"A few hours ago, a ship carrying liquefied natural gas east of the Strait of Hormuz tried to cross an unauthorised passageway south of the strait, but was hit by a naval mine and exploded violently," the Guards said on Friday.
They did not give the name or origin of the vessel.



In recent weeks, Iran's armed forces have repeatedly reported fires or explosions on board ships in the strait, often saying the vessels struck mines.
The US military, however, claims to have cleared the main routes through the waterway of mines.
The Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of Iran's military, also said overnight that their forces had targeted a US early warning radar system in Bahrain, a US ally in the Gulf that is home to American military installations.
The attack was not confirmed by either the US or Bahrain.

India blocks over 100 speakers from opposition democracy summit

WEB DESK

INDIA

India blocked more than 100 international speakers from attending a democracy summit organised by the opposition Congress party, a senior opposition politician said on Friday.
Those denied visas included a Norwegian journalist who had previously questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi about press freedom.
Shashi Tharoor, a Congress MP and former senior United Nations official, said 115 of the 315 speakers cleared by India's foreign ministry were subsequently refused entry or had their visas cancelled, "apparently on the instructions" of the home ministry.
"It is completely unclear under what



provision of law the government has taken such a drastic step," Tharoor wrote on X. "What a shame that a proud democracy has become so insecure that it must stifle any voices it fears will be critical!" he added.Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng said on Wednesday that her visa was cancelled shortly before she was due to travel to India, where she had been invited to speak on media and press freedom.

Midair water leak floods Passenger Cabin, forces Flight diversion

A faulty bathroom faucet flooded a Frontier Airlines flight, forcing an emergency diversion to Chicago, with no injuries reported.

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK

A passenger aircraft in the United States was forced to divert after a faulty bathroom faucet caused water to flood the cabin during flight.
According to US broadcaster CBS, a Frontier Airlines flight travelling from Denver to Detroit encountered the problem when water began leaking from a washbasin faucet in one of the aircraft's lavatories.
The water gushed from a faucet near the front of the aircraft, spreading across the cabin floor and aisles and leaving parts of the passenger cabin flooded. The incident reportedly frustrated passengers over the disruption.
The pilot alerted air traffic control, warning that the large volume of water could potentially damage the aircraft's electrical systems. The crew subsequently requested an emergency



landing at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.
According to the report, a plumber travelling aboard the flight helped stop the water leak. However, by that time, the cabin floor had already been soaked and the decision to divert the aircraft had been made.
Frontier Airlines confirmed that the flight was diverted due to a malfunctioning bathroom faucet. The aircraft landed safely, and no injuries were reported among passengers or crew members.Passengers were subsequently transported to their destination aboard a replacement aircraft.

Delhi overtakes Lahore as world's most polluted city as air quality drops

Delhi overtakes Lahore as the world's most polluted city, with hazardous smog pushing AQI to 334 and reducing visibility across India's capital.



Web DESK

NEW DELHI

India's capital Delhi overtook Lahore in Pakistan to become the world's most polluted city on Friday, with air quality reaching hazardous levels and visibility dropping as smog blanketed the city of 20 million people.
Air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was "hazardous" at 334, making it the most polluted global major city, according to Swiss group IQAir, which measures air quality levels based on the concentration of toxins
An AQI reading up to 50 is considered good with little or no health risk
India's official Central Pollution Control Board pegged the AQI higher at 403 and rated it "severe"
The Swiss and Indian readings vary due to the different AQI scales and methodologies used to calculate and classify air pollution ?levels

Trump says US does not need Iran deal, directs Vance to focus on domestic corruption

Trump shifts JD Vance's focus from Iran peace negotiations to alleged crime and corruption investigations in Democratic-led US cities and states.

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said the US does not need a deal with Iran and directed Vice President JD Vance, who has played a role in efforts to resolve the war, to focus "his complete and total attention" on alleged crime and corruption in Democratic-run cities and states.
Trump's directive came a day after the Wall Street Journal reported that Vance was considering face-to-face peace talks with a hard-line Iranian security official and a week after the vice president blamed the costly war with Iran for Republicans' midterm elections drubbing.
Vance's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Vance, long seen as skeptical of the war the US and Israel launched on Iran ?in February, led talks with Iranian officials in Pakistan in April that produced a June memorandum of understanding that paused the war but broke down within weeks.
Iranian state media said late last month Tehran had received a letter from Vance seeking renewed talks with Washington. Trump said he had not directed his vice president to make the outreach.
Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Tuesday after talks with US allies in Paris that Iran's demands for a potential deal were "absurd," citing its demand for reparations for the war, and said Trump would not sign a bad deal.
The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday ?that Vance was considering meeting with a senior Iranian security official, a move that would have put Vance at the center of peace negotiations. Reuters has not confirmed the potential talks.
Vance, who is viewed as a leading contender for the 2028 Republican presidential nomination, distanced himself from the war last week after Republicans' midterm election rout by Democrats.
The vice president blamed the costs of the Iran war in part for the party's losses. He also said an earlier recommendation to end the war was "sound advice."

The Silent Rise of Screen Addiction in Pakistan



Ebba Wahid ; Student

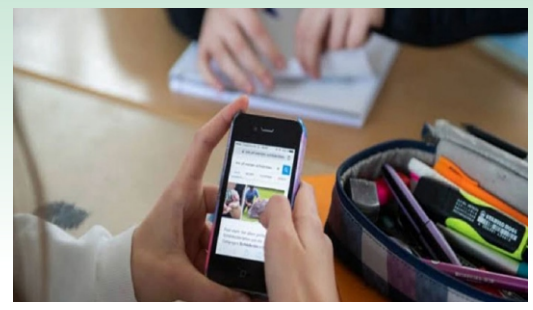
News Reporting & Writing

Dinner tables in Pakistani households were once filled with family conversations, the sound of television, and the clinking of plates. Now, a child watches cartoons on a tablet while his older sister scrolls endlessly through Instagram reels. Their mother replies to WhatsApp forwards between bites, while their father silently checks work emails on his phone. Everyone is sitting together, yet the room remains unusually quiet.

Over the past few years, screen addiction in Pakistan has evolved from being seen as a teenage problem into something much larger. This issue is quietly affecting not only youth but entire households across urban Pakistan. Smartphones, cheap internet packages, and unlimited short-form content have become part of daily life, Pakistanis are spending more time online and less time interacting with one another in real life. Studies conducted globally after COVID-19 have linked excessive screen time with sleep disruption, anxiety, and reduced attention spans among young users. What began during the COVID-19 lockdowns as a necessity for work, education, and entertainment has slowly turned into a lifestyle that does not seem like it will change anytime soon.According to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan crossed 190 million cellular subscribers in 2025. Internet and smartphone usage in Pakistan have continued to rise rapidly in recent years, particularly among youngsters. Apps such as TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Netflix now dominate everyday life, often replacing activities that once centered around conversation, family gatherings, or outdoor gatherings.

For young people, the effects are evident and difficult to ignore."I spend around seven hours a day on my phone," said Ebba Wahid, a student who mostly uses YouTube, Netflix, and WhatsApp. While she admitted that screens sometimes affect her studies, sleep, and mood, she has also acknowledged how difficult it has become to stay away from her phone.

Too much dependence on devices is no longer limited to entertainment alone. Teachers say they are



increasingly noticing changes in students' attention spans and classroom behavior. Teachers also say online classes during lockdown normalized long hours of phone usage for both children and adults.

A private-school teacher who has worked with O-level and university students told in an interview that many students now struggle to focus during lectures because they are accustomed to receiving information in quick and visually engaging formats online. "They are so accustomed to getting information in short amounts quickly and in a more interactive way," the teacher explained, adding that even classrooms using study properly. The shift reflects a broader change in how younger generations process information and spend their free time. But the impact is not limited to the classrooms. Parents are also beginning to notice how screens are changing family dynamics at home. Karachi resident Khaula Khan said her children spend too much time on screens and admitted that family bonding is sometimes affected during meals or gatherings. Although she has tried to limit screen usage for her children and herself, she feels her concerns are often ignored. multimedia tools struggle to compete with the constant stimulation students experience on their phones.As attention spans shorten, Educators say students become distracted more easily and often lose focus unless classrooms remain highly interactive. unless classrooms remain highly interactive it is not possible to help the distracted students study properly. The shift reflects a broader change in how younger generations process information and spend their free time. But the impact is not limited to the classrooms. Parents are also beginning to notice how screens are changing family dynamics at home. Karachi resident Khaula Khan said her children spend too much time on screens and admitted that family bonding is sometimes affected during meals or gatherings. Although she has tried to limit screen usage for her children and herself, she feels her concerns are often ignored.



By Muhammad Mohsin Khan (Rajput)

K-Electric: A Chronicle of Illumination Transformation, and Endurance

Among the institutions that have indelibly shaped the economic and civic landscape of Karachi the city's subsequent economic ascendancy.

Following the emergence of Pakistan as an independent state, the



commercial nucleus of Pakistan and one of South Asia's most consequential metropolitan centres few possess a historical significance comparable to that of the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation. Known in contemporary times as K-Electric, this entity transcends the conventional definition of a utility provider; it constitutes an indispensable pillar underpinning industrial productivity, commercial vitality, and the quotidian functioning of millions of inhabitants. Its century-long evolution, extending from the colonial era through nationalization and eventual privatization, mirrors the broader trajectory of Karachi itself. The history of this institution company entered a new phase of institutional development. In 1952, during the administration of Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin, the government assumed ownership of the enterprise and incorporated it into the public sector. Consequent to this transition, the organization was reconstituted as the Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC). For several decades thereafter, it functioned as a wholly state-owned utility, bearing primary responsibility for the generation and distribution of electricity throughout Karachi and its adjoining regions.

By the closing years of the twentieth century, however, mounting economic pressures, operational inefficiencies, and recurring energy-company's shares, thereby assuming effective managerial control. The Government of Pakistan retained a substantial minority holding amounting to 24.36 percent of the corporation's equity.

A further milestone was reached in 2014 when the organization adopted the name "K-Electric," reflecting both a modernized corporate identity and its evolution into a publicly listed, profit-oriented utility enterprise. Today, K-Electric ranks among Pakistan's most significant corporate entities. In 2023, the company reported annual revenues of approximately PKR 519 billion, underscoring its considerable economic scale and strategic importance.

At present, the organization is chaired by Shahryar Arshad Chishti, while Syed Muhammad Talha serves as its Chief Executive Officer.

K-Electric occupies a distinctive position within Pakistan's energy sector by virtue of being the country's sole vertically integrated utility. Unlike many power-sector entities that perform only a single segment of the electricity value chain, K-Electric undertakes generation, transmission, and distribution functions within a unified operational framework.

Pakistan will join world's major economies before 2050, PM tells minerals moot

minerals sector. The prime minister said the government is committed to providing the business community with all necessary support to promote investment. He said the government would work as one team to protect investors' interests, adding that the protection of investors is the government's protection and their security is its security.

PM Shehbaz further stated that the cooperation and trust of local communities were essential for the success of mineral projects.

He said protecting manpower, assets and supply routes is the government's responsibility.

Moreover, he said reliable infrastructure for electricity, water and communications is essential for investment.

He also assured investors that he would ensure the swiftest possible movement of files held up in connection with investment.

Calling the younger generation the country's valuable asset, the prime minister said Pakistan's youth are educated, talented and determined.Mines and miners, investments, industries, projects and all associated people would be provided adequate protection, he added. The CDF said that harnessing Pakistan's mineral wealth is a collective national objective.

He emphasised that the country's goal is not merely to export raw materials but to develop the entire value chain, including refining and manufacturing.

"Pakistan seeks to foster long-term partnerships that create sustainable economic value for the country and its partners."

He stressed that mineral development must benefit local communities, adding that people living in mineral-rich areas should witness tangible improvements in their lives.

He highlighted that the people of Pakistan are hardworking, courageous and determined, with immense potential to turn dreams into reality.

TRNC Reaffirms Resolve for Sovereign Equality, Independence and International Recognition

For Pakistan's Longstanding Support For The Just Cause Of The Turkish Cypriot People, Ambassador Kop described the enduring Bonds of Friendship, Solidarity, and brotherhood between Pakistan and the Turkish Cypriot People as a source of strength and encouragement. She expressed hope for further strengthening political, economic, and diplomatic cooperation between Pakistan and the Turkish cypriot people.Ambassador Kop underscored that at its core the Cyprus Issue is Fundamentally a question of political equality and international status. She recalled the events of 1963, which led to the collapse of the power-sharing partnership established under the 1960 Constitutional Order, as Central to understanding the issue. She observed that, reception decades of negotiations, a comprehensive and lasting settlement had yet to be achieved.The Ambassador Highlighted The Issue of Unequal International Treatment, noting that the Greek Cypriot Administration Continues to be treated by the International Community as though it represents the Entire Island, while the Turkish Cypriot People are regarded merely as "Community" and remain subject to Political, Economic, and Diplomatic Isolation. She stated that this imbalance had created a political comfort zone for the Greek Cypriot side and discouraged meaningful compromise and hidden efforts Towards Achieving a Just and Lasting SettlementAmbassador Kop called upon the International Community to recognize the Sovereign Equality and Equal International Status of the Turkish Cypriot People and the TRNC. She Urged Engagement on the Basis of Equality and Mutual Respect, stressing that ending the isolation and embarrassed by Turkish Cypriots was not merely a Political Necessity But also a moral responsibility.The Reception marked the 43rd Anniversary of the Founding of the TRNC and underscored the Importance of the Longstanding Bonds of Friendship and Solidarity Between Pakistan and the Turkish Cypriot People.



By;Esha Shahzad,Haneen Tariq,Hamna Ahsan Khan

Born on the Wrong Side of the Map

On winter mornings in Sheshi Koh, the road disappears first.

Ice loosens the mountain soil above the valley. Meltwater carries rocks and debris into the narrow paths below. By afternoon, parts of the dirt track crumble into the river, cutting entire villages off from the rest of the district.

Men arrive with shovels, ropes, and wooden planks. Among them is 42-year-old Rahmat Deen, who has spent much of his life rebuilding the same road by hand.

"There is no one else," he said, pressing a rusted shovel into frozen ground. "If we don't fix it, we stay trapped."

More than 300 kilometres away, Islamabad continues to expand. Roads widen, flyovers rise, commercial zones take shape, and delayed infrastructure projects become headline news. But in villages like Sheshi Koh, development arrives differently.

It arrives in survival.

The contrast reflects a divide that has shaped lives for decades. According to World Bank estimates, nearly 61 percent of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas, yet access to healthcare, roads, sanitation, and education remains concentrated only in urban centres.

For Rahmat, that inequality is not measured through policy reports. It is measured through distance.

Six years ago, during winter, his six-year-old son slipped near the edge of a narrow mountain path close to the village. The nearest medical facility was nearly an hour away, and the road had already partially collapsed. Rahmat lifted the unconscious child into his arms and ran downhill, hoping someone would appear with transport.

"I picked him up and ran," he recalls quietly. "I thought if I could just reach the road, maybe someone would help."

Help never came in time.

"Agar road hoti," he said, staring down at his hands, "toh woh zinda hota."

If there had been a road, he would still be alive.

Across rural Pakistan, emergencies are often shaped by the same absence. The World Health Organization estimates that only 25 percent of Pakistan's healthcare facilities are located in rural regions, while most certified doctors live and work in urban areas. In many places, ambulance services are limited or unavailable, turning injuries, childbirth and flood-affected families in Sindh still waiting for full reconstruction after the 2022 floods.

reconstruction after the 2022 floods.

According to Muhammad Ahsan Khan, a Grade-20 officer serving as Collector of Pakistan Customs, geography does make development difficult.

"Infrastructure development in mountainous regions is extremely



complications, and sudden illness into races against geography.

Rahmat now leaves Sheshi Koh every year to work as a construction labourer in Islamabad. His wife and five children remain in the village. He returns only a few times a year. "You miss everything," he says. "Birthdays. School things. They grow up while you are away."

Then he pauses.

"But what choice do we have?"

"Shehar rozi deta hai," he says softly. "Sukoon nahi."

The city gives income, but not peace. For many Pakistanis, migration is not ambition. It is necessity. Twenty-one-year-old Ibrahim, a computer science student from Chitral now studying in Islamabad, says people leave because education, healthcare, jobs, and basic stability are not always available at home.

"Life in Islamabad is very different," he says. "Transport, universities, internet, facilities — everything is easier to access."

The same pattern appears across the country: women in Tharparkar travelling long distances for maternity care, communities in Balochistan depending on damaged roads, costly due to terrain and weather conditions," he explained. "Maintaining roads in such areas remains a persistent challenge."

But for villagers, explanations rarely soften frustration. Rahmat says politicians often visit during campaigns or after disasters, make promises, and leave.

"They come in big cars," he says. "They look around, make promises, then leave."

When disasters strike remote areas, national attention briefly turns toward them. But failing roads, healthcare shortages, and educational inequality rarely remain in public conversation for long. In Islamabad, a delayed flyover becomes news. In Sheshi Koh, a collapsed road may never be reported at all.

Still, Rahmat speaks with loyalty, not resentment.

"Yes," he said firmly. "This country is ours too."

What he wants is simple: nearby hospitals, proper roads, schools close to home, and a future where his children do not have to leave simply to survive.

By evening, mountain fog begins swallowing the road again. The men keep working as temperatures drop, pushing loose earth back into place before the next snowfall arrives.

"Har saal wohi kaam," he said quietly.

Every year, the same work.

Daily The Spokesman

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Weekly inflation decreases 0.46%

■ **The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.**

Business Reporter

Islamabad



The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation decreased by 0.46 percent during the week ended on November 12, 2026, for the combined consumption group, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported here on Friday.

According to PBS data, the SPI for the week under review decreased to 372.90 points from 374.61 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 11.21 percent.

The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

However, the SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.03 percent to 361.12 points from 361.00 points.

Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733–22,888, Rs 22,889–29,517, Rs 29,518–44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 0.09 percent, 0.17 percent, 0.32 percent and 0.68 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 19 items (37.25 percent) increased, nine items (17.65 percent) decreased, while 23 items (45.10 percent) remained unchanged.

On a week-on-week basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included petrol (7.42%), diesel (6.10%), onions (1.70%), bananas (1.03%), gur (0.59%), sugar (0.43%), powdered milk (0.36%), pulse moong (0.32%) and pulse gram (0.08%).

Govt increases limit of currency transaction report to combat money laundering

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



The government has increased the limit of a currency transaction report under the Anti-Money Laundering Act from Rs2 million to Rs3 million,

In a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on Friday, a report will have to be submitted to financial monitoring units on at least Rs3 million of transaction, while banks will have to report on over Rs3 million of transaction.

The National Executive Committee Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing Terrorism gave the approval.

The notification will come into effect immediately.

Pakistan committed to ensuring security for mining sector: Minister

■ **The government was now advancing copper smelting to capture greater value across the supply chain, from mining to finished metal.**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday said the government was committed to ensuring security and safety at mine sites, along logistics routes and, above all, for trained human resources to support uninterrupted mining operations in a conducive environment, Addressing the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2026 (PMIF26) in Islamabad, Ali Pervaiz Malik said special arrangements had been made to strengthen the security framework for mining operations.

He said the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was investing in improving geological data through the Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP), recognising that investors could not accurately assess project risks without reliable scientific information.

He said more than 40 mineral exploration licences had recently been granted in the Chagai and Khuzdar districts of Balochistan alone, reflecting growing private sector participation in strategic and critical minerals.

The minister said the government was developing road connectivity between Chagai's mineral-rich belt and Gwadar Port, as well as linking Thar coal resources with power plants, to facilitate transportation and connect Pakistan's mineral resources with international markets.

He said Pakistan had traditionally exported raw ore and concentrates while importing finished products to meet domestic requirements.

The government was now advancing copper smelting to capture greater value across the supply chain, from mining to finished metal.

He said the government was also strengthening the scientific foundation of the mineral sector through accelerated geological mapping, including detailed surveys at a scale of 1:50,000, to identify mineral prospects across the country.

He said exploration efforts were increasingly focusing on minerals of strategic importance to global investors, including copper and gold in Chagai and western Balochistan, lithium, tin and tungsten in Gilgit-Baltistan, and antimony and base metals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister said these efforts were being complemented by modern geochemical and geophysical surveys, exploratory drilling and the upgrading of advanced geoscience research laboratories with sophisticated analytical technologies.



Vehicles sales soar 48% in Pakistan

NEWS DESK

KARACHI

Vehicles sales in Pakistan continued their upward trend, rising 48 percent during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal year (FY27) compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, reported

According to Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) data, car sales increased by 48% to 63,418 units.

Sales of trucks went up by 51% to 3,476 units, and the sales of farm tractors surged by 41% to 8,263 units.

Two- and three-wheelers, including motorbikes and rickshaws, sales rose by 27% to 753,902 units.

However, sales of jeeps-cum-pickups and buses went down by 32% to 11,391 units and by 16% 269 units respectively.

All other segments registered a healthy YOY growth during the period July-October, Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) Director General (DG) Razi-ur-Rahman said in a statement.

During the first four months of FY27, passenger cars registered YOY growth of 24% in production and 48% in sales.

Conversely, jeeps, and pickups experienced stagnant momentum, posting a 5% decrease in production alongside a sharp 32% decline in sales.

KP Secretary Tourism directs for early completion of 14 new tourists destinations

■ **He was accompanied by Additional Secretary Rahimullah Mehsud, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Basit, Director Admin and Finance Shahryar Mahmood and other staff.**

حکومتِ خیبرپختونخوا

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Secretary Department of Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museums Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Raja Fazal Khaliq said that instructions have been issued to accelerate measures on priority basis for promotion of tourism and culture in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to introduce adventure tourism at international level and to benefit youth from it to the maximum. Measures should be accelerated for early construction of 14 new tourist destinations in the province and construction of rest areas at tourist places.

He expressed these views during his visit to the office of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority KP CTA. On this occasion, Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Shahid Khan Mohmand gave him a detailed briefing.

He was accompanied by Additional Secretary Rahimullah Mehsud, Chief Planning Officer Abdul Basit, Director Admin and Finance Shahryar Mahmood and other staff.

During the briefing, Secretary Tourism Department Raja Fazal Khaliq, while speaking, said that like Tirich Mir Summit, Falak Sair Summit should be introduced at international level.

While increasing the number of existing Tourist Facilitation Centers in the province, he said that more new rest areas should be constructed for tourists at tourist places, while 14 new tourist destinations should also be completed as soon as possible.

Appreciating the performance of Tourist Services Wing, he said that they have collected excellent revenue in a short time, however, along with making SOPs at district level, registration of unregistered hotels, restaurants, rent-a-car, tour operators and tour guides should also be completed.

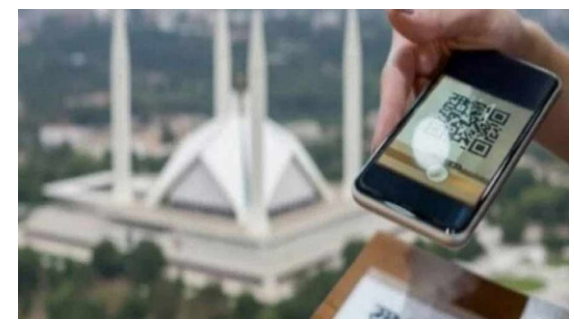
Director General Tourism Authority Shahid Khan Mohmand, while reviewing the performance of Tourism Authority.

Islamabad set to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city

■ **Islamabad aims to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city by December 31, with digital payments replacing cash across businesses and government departments.**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The federal capital is set to become Pakistan's first fully cashless city, with the government setting December 31 as the final deadline for bringing all businesses and traders into the digital payments system.

The target was announced during a high-level meeting chaired by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, attended by Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Sohail Ashraf, representatives of the banking sector and senior government officials.

Addressing the meeting, Talal Chaudhry said work on the Cashless Islamabad initiative was progressing rapidly under special directives from the prime minister and Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

He said the interior minister had pledged to the prime minister that Islamabad would become not only Pakistan's first cashless city but also the world's first cashless capital.

Chaudhry said all relevant institutions were working together to achieve this vision, adding that consultation and recommendations from all stakeholders were essential to the project's successful implementation.

Outlining the government's strategy, he announced that cash payments would no longer be accepted at any department of the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration or the CDA after November 30. All government transactions would instead be conducted through digital payment channels.

He revealed that approximately 26,000 merchants in the capital had already been integrated into the digital payment system.

The government aims to extend digital payment facilities to every level of commercial activity by December 31, ranging from street vendors and pushcart operators to major business establishments.

According to the minister, the transition to a cashless economy would significantly improve financial transparency, tax monitoring and the overall transaction system.

Representatives of the banking sector welcomed the government's Cashless Islamabad initiative and assured the authorities of their full cooperation in ensuring its successful implementation and transforming the capital into a modern digital city.

Gold, Copper reserves discovered in Chagai



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Gold and Copper reserves have been found in Chagai district of Balochistan, prompting Mari Energies to write a letter to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to inform it of the development,

In the letter, the company has written that its subsidiary firm Mari Minerals has made the discovery.

"The area where the discovery has been made is 50 kilometers east of the site of Reko Diq project, and 25 kilometers north-west of Naukundi," the company said, adding that drilling had been completed up to 25,000 meters. "All drill holes are 500 meters long and are vertical," it informed.

Mari Energies told PSX that SGS Pakistan had checked the samples.

These reserves spread over 1.4 square kilometers of area.



Japan has announced a $4.3 million grant to support Pakistan's polio eradication programme, with the funding to be used to procure more than 28 million doses of the vaccine,

Pakistan, Sri Lanka play out draw in weather-hit opening Test

● Saud Shakeel falls three runs short of century as hosts build 272-run lead

SPORTS REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



Pakistan and Sri Lanka played out a draw in the weather-hit opening Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday after the hosts declared their second innings at 284-8, extending their overall lead to 272 runs.

Experienced batter Saud Shakeel narrowly missed out on a century, falling for 97 as Pakistan consolidated their position before both teams agreed to a draw.

The hosts resumed their innings in the final session with Shakeel closing in on his fifth Test century. However, Lahiru Kumara ended his impressive knock by clean bowling the left-hander for 97 off 210 deliveries, including seven boundaries.

Razaullah remained unbeaten at the other end as Pakistan declared their innings at 284-8, after which both teams agreed to a draw.

Earlier, Shakeel and Ghazi Ghori continued Pakistan's batting charge in the second session, putting together a crucial 92-run partnership to take the hosts' lead beyond the 200-run mark.

Shakeel registered his 13th Test half-century, while Ghori provided valuable support before Milan Rathnayake broke the partnership by dismissing the latter for 35 off 69 deliveries, including three boundaries.

Arafat Minhas joined Shakeel and contributed to a 44-run stand, taking Pakistan past the 250-run mark. However, Dhananjaya de Silva ended the partnership by dismissing Minhas for 16 off 29 deliveries after hitting three boundaries.

Earlier, Pakistan resumed day five at 57-1, holding a 45-run lead, but suffered a top-order collapse. Azan Awais fell for 22 to Lahiru Kumara, while Asitha Fernando dismissed Mohammad Taha for 24.

Babar Azam and Shakeel then added a valuable 50-run partnership before Rathnayake removed Babar for 34 and Salman Ali Agha for 13, reducing the hosts to 125-5.

Earlier in the match, Sri Lanka recovered strongly after Pakistan's bowlers made early inroads. However, debutant Saqib Khan's sensational seven-wicket haul helped the hosts regain control, although the visitors secured a 12-run first-innings lead.

In reply to Pakistan's first-innings total of 434-9 declared, Sri Lanka were reduced to 65-3 before Kamindu Mendis scored 58 and shared a 90-run partnership with Dhananjaya de Silva.

De Silva and captain Kusal Mendis subsequently combined for a remarkable 249-run partnership, with both batters scoring centuries to put Sri Lanka in a commanding position.

However, Pakistan fought back on the fourth morning, bowling out the visitors for 446.

Saqib was the standout performer with figures of 7-130, dismissing De Silva for 167, Kusal for 119 and three lower-order batters. Mohammad Abbas claimed two wickets, while Razaullah chipped in with one.

Batting first, Pakistan declared their opening innings at 434-9, with five batters registering half-centuries, including three debutants.

Saud Shakeel top-scored with 93 off 199 deliveries, while Tayyab Arif contributed 57 off 51 balls. Arafat Minhas scored 52 off 72 deliveries, Mohammad Taha made 51 off 105, and captain Babar Azam added 50 off 58 balls.



Cristiano Ronaldo ventures into TV industry, begins production of debut series

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Portuguese football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has embarked on a new journey beyond the football field, announcing the start of production on his first television series, titled Day 1s.

According to foreign media reports, Ronaldo shared the news on Instagram, confirming that production of his debut TV series had begun and that further details would be announced soon.

Day 1s is a football-themed drama series that will explore the business operations, power struggles, contracts and personal relationships within a major football agency.

British actor Damian Lewis is set to play football agent Stanley Dalton, while former French footballer Thierry Henry and British rapper Dave are also associated with the project. Henry is expected to make a brief appearance in the series.

Ronaldo is serving as an executive producer on the project and is also expected to make his acting debut in a scripted television drama.

NCCIA investigation into Rizwan, Imam-ul-Haq nearing completion: Naqvi

● PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi says the NCCIA probe into Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq is nearing completion, while new central contracts will be announced soon.





SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency's (NCCIA) investigation into Pakistan cricketers Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq is nearing completion, while the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is preparing to announce new central contracts,

Speaking to the media in Lahore, Naqvi said he had contacted the NCCIA, which had sought further clarification from Rizwan before finalising its findings.

He said the investigation was expected to conclude within a few days, although he could not provide an exact timeline.

The PCB chairman confirmed that both players had been allowed to resume domestic cricket despite the investigation remaining pending.

Rizwan and Imam came under scrutiny following allegations that confidential information and dressing-room matters were leaked during Pakistan's 0-3 Test series defeat in England.

s, ts e y, adding that their announcement would be made soon.

The announcement is already around three months behind schedule, as the previous central contracts expired on July 31.

Responding to concerns about the financial prospects of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), Naqvi highlighted the substantial amounts paid for the newly introduced franchises and Multan Sultans.

He said franchise owners should not expect to generate profits within just one or two years and should have conducted proper feasibility studies before investing in the league.

Naqvi added that existing or prospective franchise owners interested in selling their teams at a profit were free to do so, provided they followed the prescribed rules and regulations.

When asked about the selection of several players for their Test debuts and the subsequent dropping of some after only a few opportunities, the PCB chairman expressed satisfaction with the overall state of Pakistan cricket.

Beardman, Marsh lead Australia to crushing win

● Pacer takes 6-24 on debut to dismiss England for just 131

SPORTS DESK

PERTH

Mahli Beardman took 6-24 on debut before Mitchell Marsh smashed a 29-ball 50 as Australia crushed England by seven wickets in the first ODI in Perth on Friday.

After Marsh won the toss and chose to bowl, 21-year-old Beardman tore through the England batting as the visitors slumped to be all out for 131 off just 33.4 overs.

Marsh then put the game beyond doubt with a devastating half-century, hitting four boundaries and clearing the fence another four times to the delight of his home crowd.

Earlier, Beardman bowled with real pace and aggression to record the best ODI bowling figures by an Australian on debut.

Marsh said Beardman was one of a number of young pace bowlers ready to step up when the ageing trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood retired.

"It's a fantastic start to his career," Marsh said.

"It's a glimpse into the future. There's some really good young talent around the country and hopefully we see them get an opportunity at some stage."



Beardman tore through the England upper order, most of whom fell to poor shots, playing at balls they didn't need to.

He was well supported by left-armer Spencer Johnson, who took 3-42 as England fell apart on the drop-in wicket at Optus Stadium.

"We've spoken a lot about adaptability and how we want to adapt to different surfaces," England captain Harry Brook said.

"We prepared really well, we knew certain shots weren't going to work on this wicket, but the Australian attack bowled extremely well.

"They put the ball in the right areas and we didn't execute our skills well enough."

The three-match ODI series got off to a low-key start, with most eyes on the Sandpapergate ball-tampering scandal following the launch of former Australian opener Usman Khawaja's autobiography.

Jessica Pegula Saves Match Point to Reach WTA Finals Semi-Finals, Eliminates Coco Gauff

■ American defeats Linda Noskova 7-6(2), 4-6, 7-5 in a thrilling 2-hour, 45-minute contest; career-high 16 aces help Pegula secure semi-final showdown with Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva, while Noskova tops the group.

SPORTS DESK

INDIAN WELLS, California

Jessica Pegula saved a match point en route to a gritty 7-6(2) 4-6 7-5 win over Linda Noskova to advance out of her round-robin group at the WTA Finals and send fellow American Coco Gauff packing from the season-ending championships.

Pegula had a career-high 16 aces while Wimbledon champion Noskova had a career-high 15 double faults in a see-saw battle that spanned 2 hours and 45 minutes at ?the tournament, which was moved from Riyadh to Indian Wells due to the US-Israeli war on Iran.

"I've learned that sometimes the serve feels good and sometimes it doesn't, and how to



manage the days when it doesn't and to ride it when you are serving well," Pegula told reporters."I don't think I served that well in my first couple matches and I served great today. Sometimes there's no rhyme or reason."

In the end, Noskova, Gauff and Pegula all finished 2-1 in the group while alternate Marta Kostyuk went 0-3.

Noskova went 5-2 in sets to win the group, followed by Pegula at 5-3 and Gauff at 4-3.

The win sets up a first meeting between Pegula and Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva in the semi-finals on Saturday.

"It's the match people wanted, well now you are going to get it," said Pegula. She had earlier called Andreeva "a diva" who "needs to be humbled," but didn't realise that her remarks were being livestreamed during a practice session before the tournament. In the same comments Pegula also praised the world number three, and she apologised afterward to those involved."She's fast, she has a great serve, she's strong, she hits the ball pretty hard and she's smart,"."I'm going to do my best."Earlier, Gauff rallied to beat Kostyuk 6-4 7-5 on a sun-soaked Stadium Two.After sealing the first set with a stab volley that sent fans leaping to their feet under sunny California desert skies.

Henry tears India top order apart as New Zealand romp to 244-run win

Henry tore India's much-vaunted top order apart with the visitors, needing a massive 334 for victory, rolled for just 89.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Matt Henry produced a scintillating opening over to remove Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer all without scoring as New Zealand thrashed a ragged India by 244 runs in the fourth ODI at Mount Maunganui on Friday.

The fast bowler took a career-best 6-27 and Will Young struck a century as the hosts pulled the series back to 2-1 down with a game to play this Sunday.

Henry tore India's much-vaunted top order apart with the visitors, needing a massive 334 for victory, rolled for just 89.

New Zealand made 333 all out in the last over after being asked to bat, Young punishing two simple drops by Indian fielders to bring up his fifth ODI hundred.

India never stood a chance of chasing the total after Henry's heavenly opening over.

Rohit edged his first ball to slip, Kohli was bowled facing his fourth ball, and then Iyer was pegged on his back leg to fall lbw.

India's rebuild never happened, Ishan Kishan top-scoring with just 27. "It's quite funny isn't it, the wind was quite strong so it was about keeping things simple," Henry said of his incredible spell.

"A bit of luck as well. It was about



trying to hit the strings, be as simple as possible, and when it moves sharply like that in the first over it's pretty tough."

Henry was returning to the Black Caps after a head clash with Devon Conway in training last week which concussed the batter and kept Henry out of the first three games.

"It wasn't ideal," Henry said of the head clash, "But thankfully we're doing alright now."New Zealand's imposing total came off the back of Young's 125 from 108 balls, including 14 fours and four sixes.

Young and Tim Seifert combined for an 85-run opening partnership.

While Young rode his early luck -- dropped twice in two balls when on five in the second over, first by slip Rohit and then by wicketkeeper Kishan -- Seifert played the aggressor with a brisk 39-ball 50.

Daily The Spokesman

Saturday
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Algeria-Pakistan Reaffirm Strong Ties at 72nd Anniversary of Glorious Revolution

■ **Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry attends reception as chief guest; Ambassador Dr. Brahim Romani highlights sacrifices of Algerian freedom fighters and stresses stronger political, economic and cultural cooperation with Pakistan.**

Muzaffar Ahmad Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

The Embassy of Algeria in Islamabad hosted a grand reception to celebrate the National Day of Algeria — the 72nd Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Glorious Revolution of 01 November 1954. The evening brought together a remarkable gathering of senior government officials, diplomats, business leaders, media representatives, and members of civil society, reflecting the warm and growing friendship between Algeria and Pakistan. President Asif Ali Zardari sent a message of congratulations to President Abdelmadjid Tebboune few days ago. Hosted by the Ambassador H.E. Dr. Brahim Romani the reception attracted remarkable attention and participation. He highlighted the historic significance of 01 November 1954.He recalled the sacrifices of the Algerian people for



freedom, dignity and independence, and underlined Algeria's commitment to peace, sovereignty, and strong bilateral relations with Pakistan.Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry graced the occasion as Chief Guest.In his address, he congratulated the Government and people of Algeria on their National Day, paid tribute to the heroes of the Algerian freedom struggle, and reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen political, economic, cultural and people-to-people ties with Algeria.Coordinator to Prime Minister on Industries Rana Ehsan Afzal was also present.Speeches were delivered by the host Ambassador, the Chief Guest, focusing on:The historic importance of the 1st November Revolution, Algeria-Pakistan friendship and brotherhood,Prospects for trade, investment, education and cultural exchange,Peace, mutual respect and cooperation among nations. The speakers noted that Algeria and Pakistan share common values, a history of support for just causes, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.A special documentary on the Freedom Revolution of 01 November was screened for the guests.The documentary traced the courage, unity and resilience of the Algerian nation during its struggle for independence, and received keen interest and appreciation from the audience.One of the highlights of the evening was a special exhibition of traditional Algerian dresses.The colorful and elegant display showcased the rich cultural heritage, craftsmanship and diversity of Algeria, attracting large numbers of guests who admired the



costumes and took photographs.Delicious DinnerThe reception concluded with a delicious dinner featuring authentic Algerian dishes and desserts, along with Pakistani cuisine.Guests enjoyed the traditional flavours, warm hospitality, and friendly atmosphere, and exchanged views on further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

PPP determined to regain its position in Punjab: Faryal Talpur

■ Several political and social personalities from Lahore and other parts of Punjab announced their decision to join the PPP

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Faryal Talpur has said the PPP is the only federal party in the country and its doors are open to all democrats.

She said PPP is determined to regain its political position in Punjab.

During her visit to Lahore, Faryal Talpur held a series of meetings with party leaders, workers and delegations at the People's Secretariat in Model Town on Thursday.

Faryal Talpur directed divisional presidents to identify suitable candidates for upcoming local government and general elections and prepare reports on the political and organisational situation in their respective



districts.

She also called for exploring possible electoral alliances with smaller political parties and organisations at the local level.

During the visit, she also met PPP leaders from Nankana Sahib, political and social figures, journalists and Lahore-based field reporters.

Several political and social personalities from Lahore and other parts of Punjab announced their decision to join the PPP.

The new entrants expressed confidence in the vision of President Asif Ali Zardari and the manifesto of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Faryal Talpur welcomed them into the party.

Speaking informally with journalists, Talpur said she had visited Punjab to meet newly formed party organisations and, particularly, interact with party workers. On the question of creating new provinces, she said the PPP believed in the supremacy of the Constitution and maintained that the matter should be discussed in accordance with constitutional and legal requirements. She added that no constitutional discussion or draft regarding the establishment of new provinces had so far been presented to her.Commenting on development in Sindh, Talpur said the province should not be compared with Punjab and suggested visiting Tharparkar to assess development initiatives.

IHC suspends Islamabad local government election schedule and ECP notification

■ Islamabad High Court suspends local government election schedule and ECP notification, seeking reports and paragraph-wise comments from respondents by November 26.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the local government election schedule for the federal capital and the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) October 21 notification, issuing a stay order and seeking reports and paragraph-wise comments from the commission and other respondents.

Justice Umer Majeed Malik issued a written order after hearing a petition filed by Amjad Ali. Barrister Adil Aziz Qazi appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

The petitioner argued that, under the law, each union council was divided



into nine wards. The ECP had issued a delimitation schedule on December 12, 2024, and announced an election programme on December 26, 2025, after completing the delimitation process. However, that programme was subsequently withdrawn.

The petitioner submitted that the promulgation of the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Ordinance 2026 led to the establishment of three town corporations and an increase in the number of union councils from 125 to 130. Under the ordinance, the nine-ward structure of union councils was abolished and a new delimitation mechanism based on census blocks was introduced.

The ECP issued a revised delimitation schedule on August 25, 2026, and published the final list of 130 union councils on October 14, 2026.

The petitioner argued that, after a 120-day extension, the Local Government Ordinance 2026 ceased to have effect under Article 89 of the Constitution, resulting in the revival of the Local Government Act 2015. The ECP subsequently decided, through its October 21, 2026 order, to hold elections under the revived law and issued the election schedule on the same day.

According to the petitioner, the ECP's order did not determine delimitation for 125 union councils under the revived law, including their nine-ward structure, or the boundaries of the Metropolitan Corporation. The petitioner maintained that delimitation carried out under the amended law could not serve as the basis for elections under the restored Local Government Act 2015.



Islamabad, First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari inaugurating the PNWA Annual Grand Festival 2026 by cutting the ribbon. Begum Chief of the Naval Staff, Fouzia Naveed, is also present.

77pc of Pakistanis want new provinces, survey reveals

■ New findings reveal rising demand for South Punjab, Bahawalpur and Hazara

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

A growing majority of Pakistanis want the country to have more provinces, with fresh survey findings highlighting increasing public support for dividing existing administrative units to improve governance, accelerate development and bring government services closer to citizens.

The demand has gained momentum amid persistent concerns that large provincial administrations are struggling to address the needs of distant districts and smaller communities.

The Meridian National Barometer 2026, conducted by Meridian Analytics among 5,000 citizens, found that 77% of respondents support the creation of additional provinces, representing a significant 23-percentage-point increase since November 2022. Support stood at

54% in 2022 and rose to 66% in 2024 before reaching 77% in the latest survey.

The findings underline how the debate over new provinces is increasingly linked to everyday governance



concerns rather than political boundaries alone, with citizens expecting smaller administrative units to improve the delivery of essential services and ensure more balanced regional development.

units to improve the delivery of essential services and ensure more balanced regional development.

South Punjab, Bahawalpur in focus

The demand for new provinces has remained a prominent issue in Pakistan's political landscape, particularly in

Punjab, where calls for separate South Punjab and Bahawalpur provinces have repeatedly surfaced.

Supporters of a South Punjab province argue that a separate administrative structure would give the region greater attention in development planning, budget allocation and public service delivery.

Ahsan Iqbal Calls for Transparent and Sustainable Salary Structure for TTS Faculty

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has called for a permanent, transparent and sustainable mechanism to address disparities in the salaries of university teachers working under the Tenure Track System (TTS).He said a clear and consistent formula should be developed to determine salaries and future increments so that repeated meetings would not be required to resolve salary-related issues.He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting convened to review the salary structure and existing disparities among TTS faculty members. Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kiani, senior officials of the Ministry of Finance, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Ministry of Planning, Member Science and Technology, and nominated representatives of universities attended the meeting.Ahsan Iqbal emphasised that a fair salary formula should maintain an appropriate pay differential among professors, associate professors and assistant professors. He stressed that the mechanism must address existing disparities while also providing a clear framework for future salary increases.The minister expressed serious concern over the departure of several highly qualified and talented Pakistani professors in



search of better professional opportunities abroad. He said the government had invested considerable resources in their education and training, making it essential to retain their services by offering competitive remuneration and a conducive professional environment.He directed the relevant authorities to develop a practical salary adjustment mechanism based on existing pay disparities, inflation rates and future increments linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The proposed framework should also clearly assess its financial implications and the resources required for each teaching position.The federal minister further directed the HEC to ensure that all figures and information presented before the forum were complete, accurate and authentic. He warned that action would be taken against the commission if it was found to have provided misleading or incorrect information to the meeting.The meeting also discussed measures to eliminate existing salary disparities among TTS faculty members and establish a permanent, equitable and financially sustainable mechanism for future salary revisions. .

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