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## Govt increases petrol price by Re1 per litre, keeps diesel unchanged

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has increased the price of petrol by Re1 per litre while keeping the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) unchanged, according to a notification issued by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday.

Following the revision, petrol will be available at Rs323 per litre, while diesel will cost Rs355 per litre.

According to Ogra, the revised prices will be effective for November 20.

Ogra has also begun publishing daily petroleum prices on its website to



## Mohsin Naqvi welcomes Qatari interior minister in Islamabad

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Qatar's Interior Minister and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani arrived in Islamabad Thursday on a visit to Pakistan, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warmly welcomed his Qatari counterpart at the airport."We welcome our brother to Pakistan with all our hearts.



President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Muizzu and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnesses the exchange of MoUs between Pakistan and Maldives in various sectors at a ceremony in Prime Minister's House in Islamabad

# PM says civil-military partnership creates opportunity for economic growth

■ Pakistan continues working closely with private sector to facilitate investment, expand exports, says premier

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said strong coordination between the political and military leadership had created an opportunity to advance Pakistan's economic interests through collective efforts, stressing the importance of institutional cooperation for sustainable economic development.

Addressing a gathering of the Pakistan-American Business Council (PABC), the prime minister said export-led growth was the only sustainable way forward, stressing that the government was determined to consolidate economic stability gains and create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investors.Premier reaffirmed the government's commitment to placing Pakistan firmly on the path of sustained export-led economic growth, calling for stronger public-private partnerships, investment facilitation and structural reforms to transform the country's economy.

"It has to be export-led, nothing else, export-led growth," he said, highlighting opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and the United States. The premier said the government was exploring greater imports of American agricultural products, including soybeans, while seeking wider market access for Pakistani surgical instruments, sports goods and other manufactured products in the US market.

He assured American investors that the government was ready to address their genuine grievances and remove bureaucratic hurdles, red tape and procedural delays that discouraged investment.

"I am here to listen to you very attentively and, without delay, put in place a mechanism to address your genuine

(Continued on Page-5)



## Qatar interior minister meets Field Marshal Asim Munir at GHQ

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), in Rawalpindi on Thursday, according to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, the evolving regional and global security situation, and opportunities to enhance bilateral security cooperation.



## Pakistan seeks to expand trade, cooperation with ASEAN: Ishaq Dar

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has expressed Pakistan's desire to expand cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly in trade and other key sectors.During a meeting with ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan valued the organisation's efforts to promote dialogue around the world. He stressed that collective efforts were essential for achieving peace, stability and shared development.

# Army firm in defending Balochistan amid challenging conditions: Field Marshal

■ CDF Asim Munir commends troops' professionalism, preparedness during his visit to Turbat

OUR CORRESPONDENT

QUETTA

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has said that the Armed Forces are committed to defend the motherland amid challenging operational conditions,

The Field Marshal said this during his visit to Turbat city in Balochistan, said an ISPR press released issued in Rawalpindi on Thursday morning.

Upon arrival, Field Marshal Asim Munir laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument and offered Fateha.

The COAS and CDF was given a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security environment, operational



preparedness and successful ongoing operations against externally-sponsored terrorism.

During interaction with troops, the Chief of Defence Forces commended their high state of operational preparedness, professionalism and unwavering resolve to defend the motherland amidst challenging operational conditions.

Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Balochistan in their continued pursuit of peace, prosperity and sustainable development. .

## Pakistan's contributions to world peacekeeping highlighted

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has stressed that collective awareness, a common strategy and mutual cooperation are essential for ensuring global peace and security.Addressing the Schuman Security and Defence Forum at the European Parliament in Brussels, the defence minister highlighted Pakistan's longstanding contributions to international peace, particularly through United Nations peacekeeping missions.

He said that around 237,000 Pakistani military and police personnel had served in 48 UN peacekeeping missions over the decades, while 183 Pakistani personnel had laid down their lives in the service of international peace.



## CJP Yahya Afridi summons Judicial Commission meeting on November 23

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi has summoned a meeting of the Judicial Commission for November 23 to discuss proposed rules for evaluating the annual performance of high court judges and amendments to the existing judicial appointment framework.

The meeting, chaired by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, will be held at the Supreme Court in Islamabad at 2:30pm.

# Pakistan, Türkiye Vow to Strengthen Strategic Partnership for Regional Security

■ STRATCOM Forum calls for enhanced cooperation in defence, cybersecurity, trade and countering disinformation



Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), jointly with the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications and the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye in Islamabad, organised a STRATCOM Public Forum titled "Reshaping Regional Security Architecture: Strategic Partnership and Multilateral Cooperation from a Türkiye-Pakistan Perspective."In his opening remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG, ISSI, highlighted the deep-rooted historical, cultural and strategic bonds between Pakistan and Türkiye, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening cooperation in defence, security, trade, technology and regional connectivity, as well as promoting regional peace, stability and a balanced international order.Ambassador Irfan Neziroglu, Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, emphasised the unique people-to-people bonds underpinning bilateral relations. He stressed the need to counter disinformation, strengthen information resilience and explore opportunities arising from growing trade ties and Turkish investment in Pakistan.Professor Dr. Burhanettin Duran, Head of Communications, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, highlighted the growing importance of strategic

(Continued on Page-5)

# CM Maryam approves Phase II of solar panel scheme, increases target to 100,000

■ Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz approves Phase II of solar scheme, raises target to 100,000 panels and backs waste-to-energy projects to expand renewable energy across the province.

City Reporter

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved Phase II of the CM Solar Panel Scheme, increasing the target from 90,000 to 100,000 solar panels to expand access to renewable energy across the province.

The chief minister also approved a pilot project to install 5,000 solar panels in Cholistan and directed officials to prepare a plan for generating energy and biofuel from solid waste in collaboration with the Suthra Punjab initiative.

Chairing a special meeting, Maryam Nawaz ordered energy audits of all major hospitals and directed authorities to install electrical panels



according to their energy requirements.

The meeting also granted in-principle approval for a pilot project to generate energy from 3,000 tonnes of waste. Provincial Minister Faisal Khokhar and the energy secretary gave detailed briefings on various proposed initiatives.

The meeting reviewed bioenergy and biofuel projects involving animal waste, agricultural waste and solid waste. A report was also presented on a biorefinery project in Nankana, which would utilise rice husks and other crop residues.

Officials also reviewed plans for commercial-scale biogas plants, private dairy farms and community-based biogas projects across Punjab.

In addition, the meeting granted in-principle approval to shift 40 water supply sites in Cholistan to solar energy.

During the briefing, officials revealed that Phase I of the CM Solar Panel Scheme had received more than 350,000 applications. A total of 89,869 people received solar panels under the first phase, resulting in savings of one-third on their electricity bills.

# Quaid-i-Azam University Inaugurates 420kW Solar Power Project at Girls' Hostels

## University's Solar Capacity Reaches 1.6MW, Generating Monthly Savings of Up to Rs. 10 Million; Wajiha Qamar Announces Support for Modern Facilities at Girls' Hostels

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar along with the Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal inaugurated the installation of a 420 kW On-Grid Solar PV System at its Girls' Hostels Complex, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.While addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal said that QAU has successfully installed 1.6 MW of solar PV capacity against its total estimated demand of 4 MW. These installations have been made possible through resources provided by the Higher Education Commission and the University own funding. The Vice Chancellor highlighted that solar installations have contributed to a considerable reduction in electricity expenditure, resulting in monthly savings of up to Rs. 10 million. Further savings are expected as the recently installed systems become fully operational."In addition to the 420 kW project, installation of 240 kW and 100 kW solar PV systems is currently in progress and nearing completion. The 100 kW project at the Girls' Hostels is being funded by Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL). Upon completion of these ongoing projects, the entire Girls' Hostels Complex will achieve 100% solarization" added the Vice Chancellor.Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar appreciated the initiative, stating that that Quaid-i-Azam University has taken another significant step towards sustainable energy and financial self-reliance. She said these initiatives reflect Quaid-i-Azam University's commitment to renewable energy adoption and energy conservation which would ultimately reduce its operational expenditure. The Minister also announced her support for upgradation of the Girls Hostel Complex by providing state-of-the-art facilities including the indoor gaming facilities and dedicated study rooms.The Vice lauded the efforts of the Directorate of works, Quaid-i-Azam University, particularly Engr. Muhammad Fayaz Khan, Director Works and Engr. Umair Zulfiqar, XEN (Electrical) and their team for successful execution of the project. A large number of distinguished faculty members and University officers also attended the ceremony.

# Islamabad Police Announces Massive Promotions of 905 Officers and Officials

## IGP Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry Oversees Promotions in Two Phases; 203 Personnel Elevated in Latest Round, Taking Total to 905

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD





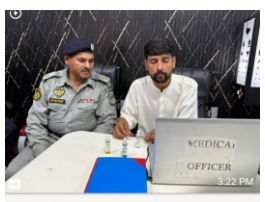


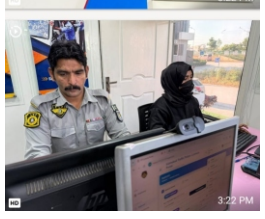
Massive Promotions in Islamabad Police: 905 Officers and Officials Elevated to Next Ranks Under IGP Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry has promoted 203 officers and officials of Islamabad Police to the next ranks. The latest promotions include 90 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), 107 Sub-Inspectors and 6 Lower Division Clerks (LDCs). Earlier, 702 officers and officials had also been promoted under the leadership of IGP Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry. These promotions included 10 Superintendents of Police (SPs), 33 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), 6 Inspectors, 37 Sub-Inspectors, 258 ASIs, 356 Head Constables and 2 Upper Division Clerks (UDCs). On the occasion, DIG Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq and DIG Law and Order Muhammad Atiq Tahir, along with other senior police officers, pinned the new ranks on the promotions at Police Lines Headquarters. Family members of the promoted officers and officials were also specially invited to the ceremony to share in this memorable achievement. Congratulating the promotes, senior police officers said that departmental promotions are a fundamental right of officers and officials and a recognition of their dedication, service and professional capabilities. They emphasized that promotions bring greater responsibilities and urged the officers and officials to perform their duties with even greater commitment, honesty and dedication. They said that the timely promotion of deserving officers and officials on merit and in accordance with prescribed rules remains a key priority of Islamabad Police. They reaffirmed that initiatives aimed at the welfare and professional development of the force would continue. They expressed confidence that the promoted officers and officials would fulfil their new responsibilities with greater dedication and professionalism and play an even more effective role in protecting citizens' lives and property, maintaining law and order, and delivering public services.

# Islamabad Traffic Police Introduces Paperless, Cashless Driving Licence System at G-14

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



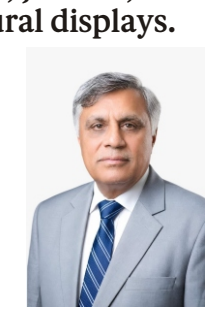

To provide modern, fast, and transparent facilities to citizens, the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has launched a paperless and cashless driving license system at Khidmat Markaz G-14, relieving the public from traditional paperwork, unnecessary delays, and long queues.?At Khidmat Markaz G-14, a dedicated team comprising Incharge ASI Muhammad Nasir, Constable Tahir Mahmood, Dr. Yasir, and Madam Sarah Mushtaq is providing all necessary driving license facilities to the visiting citizens.?Citizens visiting the center hailed this initiative by the Islamabad Traffic Police as highly commendable. They noted that previously, obtaining a driving license required visiting multiple offices for document submission, medical checkups, and verification; however, under the new one-window system, all stages are now completed within a very short time.?According to citizens, after passing the driving test, there is no longer a lengthy wait to receive the license—the entire issuance process is completed in approximately one to one-and-a-half minutes. This not only saves valuable time but also ensures prompt and dignified service delivery.Speaking on the occasion, Incharge of Khidmat Markaz G-14, ASI Muhammad Nasir, stated that his top priority is to facilitate every visiting citizen with utmost respect and courtesy. He added that he personally interacts with citizens to inquire about their issues and oversees all center operations, including the driving test process, to ensure no one faces any inconvenience.ASI Muhammad Nasir remarked that, Alhamdulillah, citizens are satisfied with the current system, and efforts will continue in the future to provide increasingly modern and timely facilities in line with the vision of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Chaudhry Sohail Gujjar and Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Khan.He reiterated that providing easy, transparent, and prompt services to the public is their core motto and resolve, and the Islamabad Traffic Police will continue serving the community with the same dedication.

# Arid Agriculture University to Celebrate Students Week 2026 from November 23

## Week-long event until November 29 to feature academic, literary, cultural and sports activities, job fair, flower exhibition and agricultural displays.

News Desk

RAWALPINDI



: Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi will celebrate Students Week 2026 from November 23 to 29 to provide students with opportunities to showcase their academic, intellectual, creative and physical talents and enhance their overall personality development.The week-long programme, organised by the Directorate of Student Affairs in accordance with the vision of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman, aims to encourage students to go beyond traditional academic activities and gain practical experience while developing leadership skills and confidence.In his special message, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Qamar-uz-Zaman said the fundamental objective of the university was to develop self-confidence, vision, creative thinking and leadership qualities among students so that they could effectively meet future challenges and play their role in the development of the country.He said activities such as Students Week provided students with an excellent opportunity to discover and showcase their hidden talents while learning important values including cooperation, teamwork, discipline and tolerance.During Students Week 2026, a variety of academic, literary, cultural, recreational and sports activities will be organised. These will include seminars, training workshops, sports gala, flower exhibition, job fair, food and agricultural exhibitions, and various competitions among students.The activities will provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their creativity, artistic abilities, research interests and practical skills.

# IG Punjab Congratulates DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar and SP Ayesha Butt on Prestigious International IACP Awards

## Presents Letters of Appreciation, Says Their Achievements Are a Source of Pride for Punjab Police and an Inspiration for Officers, Particularly Women

Crime reporter

Lahore



Deputy Inspector General Sadiq Ali Dogar and Superintendent of Police Ayesha Butt, recipients of international awards from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), met Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem at the Central Police Office. IG Punjab congratulated both officers on receiving outstanding international recognition and presented them with letters of appreciation.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem said that police officers who receive international honours for excellence in public service delivery are a source of pride for the department. Officers like DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar and SP Ayesha Butt are a source of pride and valuable assets for Punjab Police. The achievement of SP Ayesha Butt serves as an example for Pakistani police officers, particularly women officers.Punjab Police spokesperson said that DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar was honoured with an international award for his outstanding performance and service delivery as City Police Officer (CPO) Multan, while SP Ayesha Butt received the award in recognition of her outstanding performance and services in traffic safety policing and strengthening public-police relations during her tenure as City Traffic Officer (CTO) Gujranwala.Punjab Police spokesperson further said that the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annually selects outstanding police officers from thousands of candidates across the world who demonstrate exceptional performance, innovation and leadership in their respective fields.International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world's largest, most influential and professional organisation of police leaders. It is committed to the vision of advancing the protection of people in diverse communities in line with modern requirements. IACP has more than 34,000 police officers as members worldwide

# NCCIA Abbottabad Recovers Rs800,000 in Financial Fraud Case, Returns Money to Victim

CITY REPORTER

ABBOTTABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Abbottabad has recovered Rs800,000 belonging to a citizen who was affected by financial fraud and returned the amount to the complainant.According to an NCCIA spokesperson, the Abbottabad circle took effective action in response to the complaint and successfully recovered the defrauded amount. The recovered money was formally handed over to the complainant.Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the recovery and return of money to victims of financial fraud, along with the effective redressal of their complaints, remained among the agency's top priorities.



# DIG Headquarters Holds Welfare Meeting, Directs Swift Resolution of Police Personnel's Issues

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

DIG Headquarters Holds Welfare Meeting, Directs Prompt Resolution of Police Officers' and Officials' ConcernsAccording to the details, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq held a welfare meeting at his office, where police officers and officials presented their personal, financial and departmental concerns.DIG Headquarters listened to their issues attentively and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure their resolution on a priority basis.He said that police officers and officials are a valuable asset of the force and that their welfare, timely resolution of legitimate concerns and provision of better facilities remain important departmental priorities.



# HSA Appoints General Farukh Seir as Professor of Expressive Arts in Public Health

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

General Farukh Seir has joined the Health Services Academy (HSA) as Professor of Expressive Arts in Public Health, where he will contribute to promoting creative arts, painting, poetry and innovative communication approaches among students and faculty members.His appointment is being viewed as a unique initiative to incorporate creative expression, intellectual development and effective communication into public health education.In his new role, General Farukh Seir will guide students and faculty members in exploring various forms of creative expression, particularly painting, poetry, writing and other artistic mediums, to better understand, articulate and communicate ideas, emotions and social issues.The initiative aims to integrate creative and modern communication approaches with conventional teaching methods.

# CDA Accelerates Beautification and Upgradation of Islamabad's Commercial Centres

## Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf Reviews Development Work at F-7 Markaz and Jinnah Super Market, Directs Timely Completion of Projects

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad



Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Sohail Ashraf, visited F-7 Markaz, Jinnah Super Market and carried out a detailed review of the ongoing uplift and renovation work at F-7 Markaz.During a briefing to Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf, it was informed that uplift and beautification work at various Marakiz, including F-7 Markaz and Jinnah Super Market, is proceeding apace, and the upgradation work in Jinnah Super up to Bhatai Road has been completed, while the remaining upgradation work will also be completed soon.Chairman CDA was apprised that beautiful tiles are being laid on footpaths and walkways, and elegant electricity poles and attractive lights are also being installed on completed footpaths. Similarly, attractive landscaping and horticulture work is also underway at open spaces adjacent to F-7 Markaz, Jinnah Super Market. During the briefing, it was further informed that benches are being installed for the seating of citizens and shoppers visiting the market.Chairman CDA was informed that in addition to F-7 Markaz, Jinnah Super Market, various works including upgradation are also continuing at other Marakaz of Islamabad. In this regard, upgradation work at Kohsar Market has been completed, while upgradation work is also ongoing at F-6 Markaz and Aabpara Market.During the briefing, Chairman CDA was further informed that work is being carried out day and night to ensure the early completion of parking upgradation and other works at the Marakaz and the patchwork on dilapidated roads at the Marakaz is also continuing in phases.

# IGP Islamabad Announces Coaching, Financial Support for 8-Year-Old Chess Prodigy

## Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry meets Abdul Rehman from Quetta, appreciates his exceptional chess skills and pledges professional training and support to help him excel in national competitions.

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry Meets Young Chess Prodigy from Quetta, Announces Coaching and Financial SupportAccording to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry met eight-year-old Abdul Rehman, a talented young chess player from Quetta, Balochistan. DIG Security Rana Umar Farooq, along with the child's father and brother, was also present on the occasion.The IGP Islamabad appreciated Abdul Rehman's exceptional chess skills and described him as a highly intelligent and talented child currently studying in the second grade. He said that meeting gifted young children was a matter of great pleasure for him. He added that he had seen Abdul Rehman playing chess and defeating experienced players.IGP Islamabad also appreciated DIG Security Rana Umar Farooq for recognizing the children's abilities and bringing their talent to light.He assured the family that Islamabad Police would take all possible practical measures to encourage and support the young chess player.

# IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Meets Police Employees and Families, Orders Immediate Relief on Welfare Issues

## Promotion, Medical Assistance, Recruitment and Transfer-Related Applications Reviewed at Central Police Office

Crime Reporter

Lahore



Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem met police employees and their family members at the Central Police Office. IG Punjab listened to the problems faced by police employees and their families and issued immediate directions to the concerned officers for providing relief.According to details, on an application regarding the promotion of three traffic wardens, IG Punjab directed the Additional IG Punjab to consider the matter. On a request for financial assistance for the medical treatment of Head Constable Tariq Iqbal, directions were issued to the DIG Welfare and Finance. On an application seeking financial assistance for the hearing treatment of Constable Waqar Azeem's son, DIG Welfare and Finance was directed to provide relief. On an application regarding the recruitment of the son of late ASI Muhammad Adil Hussain, directions were issued to the DIG Welfare and Finance. On a transfer request submitted by Junior Clerk Muhammad Shahzaib, AIG Admin and Security was directed to provide relief. On an application seeking cancellation of the transfer of Inspector Shahzad Ameen, Additional IG Punjab was directed to consider the matter, while on a request for financial assistance submitted by the father of martyred Constable Muhammad Saddam, directions were issued to the DIG Welfare and Finance.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem also issued orders on other applications related to discipline, administration, promotion and welfare measures

# Man Arrested for Extorting Rs2 Million by Impersonating NCCIA Inspector

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Lahore has arrested a man for impersonating an agency inspector and extorting Rs2 million from a citizen by threatening him with arrest.According to an NCCIA spokesperson, the complainant, Syed Hamza Irshad Bukhari, a resident of Sahiwal, reported that two individuals, Shahid Bashir Cheema and Mian Waseem, had been blackmailing him by claiming influence within the agency and threatening him with action in connection with a fictitious complaint. The main suspect, Shahid Bashir Cheema, impersonated an NCCIA inspector and threatened to have the complainant arrested.The suspects also turned up at the wedding ceremony of the complainant's son and threatened to have him arrested before the wedding if their demand was not met.

# DIG Islamabad Directs Prompt Public Relief, Expands Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign

## Ali Waseem hears citizens' complaints at daily open court, orders immediate action and emphasizes awareness among students to protect youth from drug abuse.




STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Promotes Public Relief and Anti-Drug AwarenessAccording to details, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem is overseeing initiatives to address citizens' complaints promptly and protect young people from drug abuse.In this regard, he held an open court at his office, heard citizens' complaints and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution. He said that resolving public complaints on merit is a top priority and citizens can approach the open court directly without any recommendation. Open courts are being held daily at the DIG Office to ensure timely relief.Meanwhile, Islamabad Police organized an anti-drug awareness seminar at Islamabad Model College for Girls, F-7/4. The SHOs of Kohsar and Women Police Stations briefed students on the harmful physical, psychological and social effects of drug abuse and urged them to stay away from drugs.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said that public outreach and awareness initiatives in educational institutions would continue to ensure citizens' relief, protect the younger generation and promote a drug-free society.

# Pakistan, Türkiye Agree to Strengthen Cooperation in Digital Media and Online Safety

## Fahd Haroon hosts high-level Turkish delegation; discussions focus on countering misinformation, child protection online, digital media regulation and institutional collaboration.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Minister of State / Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media Fahd Haroon received a high-level delegation from the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, led by Prof. Ferhat Pirinççi, Deputy Head of Communications at its Directorate of Communications. His Excellency Dr. Irfan Neziroglu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, was also present on the occasion.Discussions centred on strengthening institutional collaboration, sharing expertise and best practices and exploring new avenues for bilateral exchanges. Key areas included combating misinformation and disinformation, promoting online safety, safeguarding children in the digital environment and addressing emerging challenges posed by digital platforms. Both sides also discussed digital media regulation, responsible online communication and effective institutional responses to the evolving digital landscape.Fahd Haroon emphasised that responsible governance of the digital space, the protection of citizens online and countering misinformation and disinformation are essential to building a safe, credible and accountable digital ecosystem. He underscored Pakistan's commitment to strengthening institutional capacities, promoting responsible digital engagement and working closely with Türkiye to address emerging challenges through closer institutional collaboration and the exchange of expertise and best practices.The Turkish delegation also included Kasim Ileri, Head of the Department of Strategic Communications and Crisis Management at the Directorate of Communications, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, along with other senior officials.Also in attendance from the Pakistani side were Ms. Ambreen Jan, Chairperson PEMRA; Barrister Sikandar Chaudhry, Executive Member PEMRA; representatives of media institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.Both sides expressed their shared desire to further strengthen bilateral ties through continued dialogue, closer institutional engagement and expanded exchanges of expertise in areas of mutual interest, building on the longstanding bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Türkiye.

# Kazakh Ambassador Assures Addressing Trade Hurdles, Visa Issues.



Tazeen Akhtar

ISLAMABAD

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan Dr. Yerkin Tukumov, has assured Pakistani business leaders that he will work to address their reservations and the hurdles they face in doing business, including visa matters. He said the future of bilateral cooperation is bright. He noted that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is expected to visit Astana, and the President of Kazakhstan is expected to visit Islamabad for the SCO Summit in February 2027. He added that further developments are expected during these high-level engagements.The Ambassador made these remarks at a business meeting held at Hotel Mövenpick, Islamabad, on 18 November 2026.The participants raised issues relating to direct flights, tariffs, Free / Preferential Trade Agreements, and an easy visa regime.Responding to them, the Ambassador said these matters have to be addressed from both sides."We will work on the elimination of the impediments.

# Muslim Ummah United for Defence of Saudi Arabia and Two Holy Mosques: Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad

## Paigham-e-Pakistan Peace Conference in Sargodha calls for religious harmony, national unity and protection of holy sites; speakers condemn Houthi attacks and urge public support for anti-drug campaign.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE




The entire Muslim Ummah is united for the defence of Saudi Arabia and the Two Holy Mosques; we strongly condemn the attacks by the Houthi militia.The security of Saudi Arabia and the Two Holy Mosques is the foremost priority of the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Armed Forces.The protection of the Two Holy Mosques is part of our faith, and Saudi Arabia is the custodian of the leadership of the Islamic world.Religious seminaries should promote respect for humanity, religious harmony and Paigham-e-Pakistan through the platform of mosques and pulpits.Religious seminaries, mosques and Sufi shrines are the fortresses of the Islamic world and promote peace and security.The inclusion of the names of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Hafiz General Asim Munir among the world's 500 most influential personalities is a great honour for Pakistan.The efforts of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the development of Punjab are commendable.Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan want to damage our national unity by spreading unrest in Pakistan.The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave Armed Forces and national security institutions for the security of Pakistan.The general public should fully support the awareness campaign against drugs launched by the Government of Punjab.Addressing the Paigham-e-Pakistan Peace Conference in Sargodha were Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan and Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad, Commissioner Sargodha Hafiz Shaukat Ali, Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Hussain Ahmed Raza Chaudhry, Mufti Fatah Muhammad Rashdi, Pir Syed Saadat Ali Shah, Allama Mukhtar Ahmed Nadeem, Maulana Saifullah Khalid, Allama Intizar Hussain Naqvi, Qari Abdul Waheed, Allama Shabbir Anjum, Mufti Muhammad Ahmed, Mufti Shafiq Awan, Qari Ahmed Ali Nadeem, Mian Bilal Tariq, Chaudhry Khalid Hayat Musarrat, and other religious scholars, spiritual leaders and social personalities.Sargodha (PR): A Paigham-e-Pakistan Peace Conference was organised at Circuit House Sargodha. The theme of the conference was the protection of the Two Holy Mosques, religious harmony, respect for humanity, the role of religious seminaries, mosques and pulpits, and the promotion of Paigham-e-Pakistan. The purpose of the conference was to highlight Pakistan's role in establishing global peace, the success of the Battle of Haq, the mutual defence agreement between Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan and Türkiye for the defence of the Two Holy Mosques, and the promotion of Paigham-e-Pakistan. Other objectives included national unity in Pakistan, religious harmony, the elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan, taking the voice of Paigham-e-Pakistan, Pakistan's great national narrative, to every household, and highlighting the role of mosques, pulpits.

# Houthi missile threat towards Riyadh causes damage, Saudi-led coalition says



Web DESK

Riyadh

A Saudi-led coalition said on Thursday it had dealt with a missile threat launched by Yemen's Houthis towards Riyadh, after a loud boom was heard in the Saudi capital, as the kingdom faces escalating attacks by the Iran-aligned group.

An initial assessment showed debris had fallen and material damage had been reported, the coalition said, adding that the extent of the damage was still being assessed. The Saudi Civil Defense agency earlier warned residents of a potential danger in the capital, without providing details. It later said the danger had passed.

The boom was heard shortly after Saudi state news agency SPA reported that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had met US Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper in Riyadh. The two discussed military relations and regional developments, SPAsaid.

Fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis has intensified since the group captured strategic areas along Yemen's Red Sea coast last month, advancing ?towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key global shipping route for Gulf oil producers on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula from the Strait of Hormuz.

The renewed conflict between the two sides has shattered a 2022 UN-brokered truce that largely halted attacks between ?the Saudi-led coalition.



BANGKOK, 19 NOVEMBER 2026: CHAIRMAN SENATE SYED YOUSAF RAZA GILANI RECEIVING SOUVENIR AT THE SAVE THE CHILDREN POLICY DIALOGUE IN BANGKOK.

# West presses Iran at IAEA to let Inspections resume at bombed nuclear sites

■ Iran has not granted the International Atomic Energy Agency access to those nuclear facilities since the military strikes against them in June 2025

Web Desk

VIENNA

The United States, Britain, France and Germany jointly pressed Tehran at a meeting of the UN atomic watchdog's board on Thursday to let inspectors return to its nuclear sites bombed by the US and Israel last year, accusing Tehran of "stonewalling".

Iran has not granted the International Atomic Energy Agency access to those nuclear facilities since the military strikes against them in June 2025.

While the strikes destroyed or badly damaged Iran's three uranium-enrichment plants known to have been operational at the time, Tehran has not said what happened to its stock ?of highly



enriched uranium, which included material close to weapons grade and remains unaccounted for.

"It should be of concern to all Members of this Board that for a year and a half, the Agency has lost continuity of knowledge regarding Iran's previously verified stockpile of high-enriched uranium," the four Western powers said in a joint statement to the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors.

The board is holding a quarterly meeting this week. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi informed it that the only inspections in the last quarter were at the undamaged Bushehr nuclear power plant.

"The DG has repeatedly made clear that there is no current technical reason preventing the Agency from accessing the affected nuclear facilities and that inspectors have been ready to return for a long time now," the four countries said.

"It is up to Iran to seize this opportunity, change course, and address the international community's long-standing concerns regarding its nuclear program," they added, referring to "Iran's stonewalling strategy".

The US and Israel have not launched major strikes on Iranian nuclear sites since their 12-day campaign last year, but the US has been at war with Iran for nine months and speculation about fresh strikes is mounting while talks on a negotiated solution are deadlocked.

Iran says the US and Israeli attacks caused the current standoff over inspections.

"The root causes of the impossibility of normal safeguards implementation in Iran are the ?acts of aggression and the continuing threats of renewed attacks at the highest political level of the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran," Iran said in a statement sent to member states on Wednesday.

# Bangladesh deploys paramilitary as unrest grows over Hasina's return

■ Awami League party announced a week-long programme of protests and rallies to mobilise support for Hasina's return

Web Desk

DHAKA

Bangladesh stepped up security and deployed hundreds of paramilitary troops nationwide on Wednesday as the planned return of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sparked clashes, bomb blasts and arson attacks blamed on supporters of her banned party.

Hasina, who has lived in exile in neighbouring India since she fled Dhaka following violent protests demanding her resignation in August 2024, has requested a new passport and identity card, saying she plans to return in December.

But the government has so far rejected her request, leading to members and supporters of her Awami League party taking to the



streets in protest.

Last week, the party announced a week-long programme of protests and rallies to mobilise support for Hasina's return, culminating in a nationwide lockdown on November 19. Police have recorded dozens of crude bomb blasts and incidents of vehicles being torched in at least 28 districts over the last 10 days, with several police personnel and civilians injured, local media has reported.

# Top UN court finds Myanmar committed state-sponsored genocide against Muslim Rohingya

● The court said Myanmar had an obligation to compensate the Rohingya for the violations it had committed

Web Desk

THE HAGUE

The top United Nations court ruled on Thursday that thousands of killings and widespread sexual violence by Myanmar's security forces against the Rohingya Muslim minority population in 2017 amounted to state-sponsored genocide.

The decision, seven years after the case was filed by predominantly Muslim Gambia, marked only the fourth time since the Nazi Holocaust that an international court ruled that the legal threshold to prove genocide had been met. It was the first time the court held a state responsible for genocide.



"The court finds that Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, perpetrated widespread acts of sexual violence as well as acts of extreme violence against children and attacked fleeing Rohingya," presiding Judge Yuji Iwasawa said in a reading of the decision.

The panel found "that the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has committed genocide against the Rohingya group in Northern Rakhine State." Judges found that Myanmar's military carried out mass executions of men and boys, committed widespread rape and sexual violence against Rohingya women and burned or razed hundreds of villages during so-called clearance operations. The military actively spread hate speech targeting the Rohingya population, they said.

The court's ruling is final and cannot be appealed.

Genocide has rarely been established in international courts, largely because prosecutors must prove a specific intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The decision by the International Court of Justice, or World Court, is expected to have repercussions far beyond Myanmar, including for South Africa's 2023 case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

# Israel forces kill 3 Palestinians in fresh Gaza push

Web Desk

GAZA

Israeli tanks advanced in an area of the central Gaza Strip on Wednesday and the Israeli military said its forces were targeting Hamas infrastructure outside areas that Israel controls in the enclave.

Witnesses said some Israeli tanks rolled onto the main Salahudeen road, west of the Yellow Line that marks the boundary of the two-thirds of the Gaza Strip still under Israeli control despite a ceasefire that has lasted more than a year.

An Israeli airstrike near the army raid killed one person, Palestinian medics said.

The medics said separate Israeli airstrikes had killed two other people earlier in the day in Deir al-Balah and Gaza City.

An Israeli military spokesperson claimed the military was carrying



out an operation targeting "Hamas infrastructure" west of the Yellow Line in central Gaza and that it had struck a Hamas fighter in southern Gaza earlier on Wednesday.

The spokesperson had no immediate comment on other strikes.

An October 2025 ceasefire halted major fighting in the Israel-Gaza war but has not stopped Israeli attacks in Gaza.

Israel, which claims Hamas has recently been regrouping and rearming, has stepped up attacks against Hamas.

# Ukraine says it hit 2 Russian oil refineries as Zelenskyy hails domestically made weapons



NEWS DESK

KYIV, Ukraine

Ukraine struck two oil refineries in southern Russia, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised the effectiveness of domestically produced weapons used to damage the key Kerch Bridge linking Russia to the occupied Crimean Peninsula.Both sides have continued their attacks as delegations await word on another round of U.S.-mediated talks. U.S. President Donald Trump says he plans to discuss the nearly five-year war with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday during a visit to China.Ukraine's General Staff said the strikes hit storage tanks at the Ilsky refinery and a processing unit at the Afipsky refinery, both in Russia's Krasnodar region.

# Xi, Donald Trump and Putin begin unprecedented summit in China

■ Trump is bogged down by his war with Iran that has choked oil supplies and pushed up consumer prices worldwide, while an ascendant China is looking to strengthen its hand in East Asia

STAFF REPORTER

CHINA

The leaders of China, the United States and Russia kicked off their first trilateral talks on Thursday, aimed according to Beijing as "safeguarding world peace" but sparking alarm and derision elsewhere.

The meeting between Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen, which analysts expect to be heavier in symbolism than breakthroughs, comes with Russia's Ukraine offensive approaching the five-year mark.

Trump is bogged down by his war with Iran that has choked oil supplies and pushed up consumer prices worldwide, while an ascendant China is looking to strengthen its hand in East Asia.

The Kylin Villa summit has stoked fears that the three powerful men want to divide the globe into spheres of



influence, for example by making decisions impacting Ukraine over the heads of Kyiv or Europe.

Earlier Thursday, Trump and Putin held a meeting — their first since August 2025 — with the 80-year-old US president calling the Russian his "friend", who responded in English: "Nice to meet you."

Trump and Xi then came together — for the third time this year — for one-on-one discussions, with the US leader highlighting their "very special relationship".

The two men's talks were expected to touch on trade and potentially common rules for artificial intelligence, under the cloud of the Nvidia spy scandal.

"During this period, China-US relations have remained generally stable and improved, bringing tangible benefits to the people of both countries and injecting stability and certainty into the world," Xi said.

Putin, 74, and Xi, 73, held talks on Wednesday — their 50th meeting, the Chinese president said.

Beijing, Washington and Moscow have given different accounts of the agenda for the three-way meeting on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Washington initially signalled that Ukraine was off the table, before Trump said the war would feature. Xi does not view the conflict as China's problem to solve. Trump said in his meeting with Xi however that both China and the United States were "looking to both help with respect to the war with Russia and Ukraine."

Daily The Spokesman

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# Tax split to widen informal economy

An independent economic think tank has faulted the government's decision to separately administer sales tax and income tax collections, saying the move will weaken a critical link in checking evasion and could increase the share of the informal economy.

The Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME) on Wednesday commented on the government's decision last week to reverse a 17-year-old reform, which at the time had been dubbed a US-style reform, of merging the collection of income tax, sales tax and federal excise under the Inland Revenue Service. The 2009 move aimed to provide tax-related services under one roof and have a single taxman handle a company's sales tax and income tax matters to avoid duplication and evasion and facilitate compliant taxpayers.

However, last week, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) separated the sales tax and federal excise duty and the income tax departments within the Inland Revenue Service, said PRIME. The FBR posted Dr Muhammad Sarmad Qureshi as the first member of sales tax and federal excise duty and Muhammad Anwar as chief of these taxes. A separate stream of officers will also be posted from next month to operationalise the new administration mode.

PRIME said the FBR justified the move by stating the new structure would address the sales tax revenue gap, noting the FBR reported a 1.7% reduction in domestic sales tax in the last fiscal year compared to a 17% increase at the import stage. However, it said the division of tax departments would carry a cost for taxpayers, as a company's turnover appears on both its income tax and sales tax forms. "A firm that hides sales to lower its sales tax is also hiding income. When one officer handles both, catching the first exposes the second. Separate officers break that link," PRIME said.




# Casablanca 1994: When Collective Efforts Turned the Impossible into Possible

By: Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai




An inspiring lesson from the past for the Kashmiri diaspora: collective action, timely diplomatic initiative and open channels of communication can produce outcomes that once seemed beyond reach.

Today, I came across a social media post by Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani, a distinguished jurist and President of the Jammu Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR), an NGO accredited with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). His post recalled some important developments surrounding the Seventh Islamic Summit, held in Casablanca, Morocco, from December 13 to 15, 1994.

Dr. Gilani referred to the important role played by the Kashmiri delegation in preparing a substantive OIC resolution on Kashmir, which called for urgent humanitarian assistance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He also recalled that aide-mémoires were presented to the heads of state attending the Summit.

His post brought back fond memories of an extraordinary diplomatic initiative in which a small group of Kashmiris, working together at a critical moment, helped secure an outcome that initially appeared almost impossible.

I was invited by Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid, the then Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), to attend the Seventh Islamic Summit in Casablanca. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) had been formed in Kashmir just a year earlier, on March 9, 1993. I felt that it would be particularly significant if an APHC delegation could also participate in this important international gathering.

I subsequently learned that invitations had also been extended to Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Maulana Abbas Ansari, Sardar Mohammad Qayyum Khan, then Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, then President of Azad Kashmir, and Khalid Hasan, a well-known journalist. I contacted Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who confirmed that the invitations had been received.

Although the Summit was scheduled to begin on December 13, I decided to arrive in Casablanca a day earlier. Soon after my arrival, I met one of the senior diplomats from Pakistan's Foreign Office. To my surprise, he was not even aware that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Chairman of the APHC, would be attending the Summit.

The diplomat explained that securing a reference to Kashmir in the Casablanca Declaration would be extremely difficult. The usual practice was that all declarations and resolutions were drafted in advance by senior officials of the foreign ministries of OIC member states, approved by foreign ministers and ultimately adopted by the heads of state and government.

I impressed upon him that the Chairman of the APHC was attending an OIC Islamic Summit for the first time. It would be unfortunate if such an important occasion passed without any meaningful reference to Kashmir. He advised me to approach Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Chairman of Pakistan's Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, who was also attending the Summit.

Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani and I met Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and explained the importance of securing a meaningful reference to Kashmir. He immediately understood the seriousness of the situation. Without wasting time, he called Jalil Asghar Jeelani, who had been deputed by the Foreign Office to assist him, and asked him to arrange a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Dr. Gilani and I subsequently briefed Prime Minister Bhutto. We emphasized that the presence of the APHC Chairman at the Summit should translate into tangible progress on Kashmir.

What happened next demonstrated the power of timely diplomatic intervention. We later learned that Prime Minister Bhutto had personally contacted the office of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. Her intervention had a remarkable impact. Multiple resolutions on Kashmir, extending to twenty-one pages, were adopted, and the Kashmir issue became an important part of the Casablanca Declaration.

Most significantly, seven consecutive paragraphs, Items 53 to 59, were devoted to Jammu and Kashmir. The Declaration recognized the APHC as the "True Representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Item 58 was particularly significant. It welcomed the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations and called upon the Contact Group to continue its efforts to promote the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with United Nations resolutions and to safeguard their fundamental human rights.

Two important institutional developments followed from this diplomatic initiative. First, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir was established. Its membership included Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Niger, Morocco, the OIC Secretary General and the APHC, in accordance with the arrangements made at the time.

The inaugural meeting of the Contact Group was held at the heads-of-state level. It was chaired by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and attended by the President of Niger, Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, OIC Secretary General Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid, representatives of Morocco and the APHC delegation. Crown Prince Abdullah addressed the Kashmir Contact Group in Arabic, with his remarks translated into English by Prince Saud Al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister.

It was also decided that the OIC would convene three Contact Group meetings on Kashmir every year: one during the United Nations General Assembly in New York, another during the United Nations human rights proceedings in Geneva, and a third during the annual OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting.

This institutional arrangement provided Kashmir with a continuing platform for diplomatic engagement.

# Cannibalism in Pakistan: A Legal Vacuum Behind One of the Country's Most Disturbing Criminal Cases

By: Hina Azam



Cannibalism, disgusting? Pakistan has witnessed many criminal cases over the years, but few have raised questions as serious as the cannibalism cases reported in Darya Khan, a town in Bhakkar District of Punjab. This incident, which first came to public attention in 2011 and resurfaced in 2014, drew international media attention.

This case involved two brothers, Mohammad Arif Ali and Mohammad Farman Ali, who were arrested in April 2011 after police discovered evidence that they had dug up graves and consumed human flesh. According to contemporary news reports, the discovery involved the remains of a woman who had recently been buried. The brothers were later arrested, convicted, and sentenced to two years in prison, with a Rs. 50,000 fine each, according to reports published at the time.

In April 2014, police once again raided their residence after receiving complaints from neighbours. This time, investigators discovered the remains of a young child who had been buried in a nearby graveyard. Police arrested one brother immediately, and later apprehended the other. The incident brought the brothers back into the national spotlight. In June 2014, an AntiTerrorism Court sentenced both brothers to 12 years of imprisonment each. Their prosecution just involved offences relating to the desecration of graves, destruction of property and spreading fear.

Now, what actually is the creepiest thing about all that? It's not the consumption of human flesh , it's not the disrespect of the dead and not even the murder. It's actually that there is not a single law against cannibalism till now.

In Pakistan, where burial traditions and respect for the deceased hold considerable religious and cultural importance, disturbing a grave is particularly offensive. When that expectation is violated, the consequences extend beyond the immediate criminal incident. The psychological dimension cannot be ignored. Though it would be incorrect to automatically classify every person involved in cannibalistic behaviour as mentally ill.

Section 297 of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, provides protection against the desecration of burial places and indignity towards human corpses. However, its failure to explicitly address cannibalism raises questions about the adequacy of Pakistan's existing criminal legislation. The Bhakkar incidents exposed the need to examine whether existing legal provisions are sufficient to address such extraordinary criminal conduct.

The Bhakkar incidents were not simply isolated criminal events. The recurrence of similar allegations involving the same individuals, even after imprisonment, exposed serious questions about the effectiveness of Pakistan's criminal justice response.The 2018 reports further intensified concerns about whether existing legislation was adequate to address such conduct. The question, therefore, is not merely how such incidents occurred, but why the legal and institutional response struggled to prevent their recurrence. Even after 12 years, no law still exists against this atrocious crime.

# Pakistan, Türkiye Vow to Strengthen Strategic Partnership for Regional Security

communication amid geopolitical and technological transformations. He underscored the challenges posed by disinformation and digital manipulation, emphasising international cooperation, information integrity and public trust, while highlighting the STRATCOM Summit's role in fostering dialogue and societal resilience.A panel discussion followed, moderated by Dr. Hayati ÜNLÜ, Faculty Member, Turkish National Defence University.Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, highlighted the longstanding Pakistan–Türkiye partnership and called for institutionalised cooperation in strategic communications to counter disinformation and digital threats. He proposed a bilateral strategic communications agreement and a joint working group comprising government institutions, academia and think tanks.Fikri Isik, Former Minister of National Defence of Türkiye, emphasised accelerating bilateral cooperation against hybrid threats, cyberattacks and technological competition. He called for moving beyond traditional defence cooperation towards joint research, development and production, alongside stronger institutional mechanisms and inclusive regional security partnerships. Burhan Kayatürk, Member of Parliament and Chair of the EU Harmonization Committee, Türkiye, underscored the historical bonds and mutual solidarity between the two countries. He called for greater economic cooperation, including achieving the $5 billion bilateral trade target, and highlighted the Makkah Accord's significance in strengthening regional security and collective security partnerships.Mr. Zarrar Hasham Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, highlighted emerging threats from cyberattacks, disinformation and vulnerabilities in critical information infrastructure. He stressed institutionalising Pakistan–Türkiye cybersecurity cooperation through a bilateral agreement, strengthening digital connectivity and infrastructure resilience, and establishing sustained mechanisms for dialogue and coordination.Prof. Muhittin Ataman, Member of the Security and Foreign Policies Council, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, described Pakistan and Türkiye as key pillars of an emerging regional security architecture. He highlighted regional initiatives, including the Makkah Accord, and emphasised regionalism, complementarity, strategic autonomy and regional ownership as essential to addressing regional challenges and promoting lasting peace and stability.Earlier, a closed-door STRATCOM Roundtable titled "Türkiye and Pakistan in a Changing Regional Security Architecture: Strategic Cooperation in an Age of Global Crises" brought together senior policymakers, diplomats, security experts and academics from both countries.In his opening remarks, Prof. Ferhat Pirinççi, Deputy Head of Communications, Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, stressed enhanced cooperation against hybrid threats, cyberattacks, terrorism and disinformation. Ambassador Moin ul Haque, Director General ISSI, highlighted the longstanding strategic partnership and called for greater cooperation in defence, emerging technologies and counterterrorism. Dr. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, moderated the discussion and highlighted the need for sustained dialogue, closer coordination and stronger Pakistan-Türkiye cooperation amid evolving regional security dynamics. The roundtable focused on the evolving regional security architecture, particularly the Makkah Accord, collective security and regional cooperation. Participants emphasised strengthening cybersecurity, strategic communications, economic ties and institutional cooperation to promote regional peace and stability.

# PM says civil-military partnership creates opportunity for economic growth

grievances," he said, emphasising that transparency, efficiency and timely decision-making were essential to attracting investment.

The prime minister appreciated American companies for maintaining confidence in Pakistan's economy and described them as important ambassadors of the country, acknowledging their contribution to investment, employment generation, exports and national revenue.

Highlighting the improvement in key economic indicators, he said Pakistan's total foreign exchange reserves had reached around $27 billion, including holdings of commercial and central banks, compared with the difficult economic situation in 2023 when the country was facing a serious threat of default.

He said inflation, which had stood at around 32%, had declined to 11.5%, while the policy rate had been reduced from 23.5% to 12%.

The prime minister said these improvements had been achieved through hard work, fiscal discipline and collective efforts despite regional and global economic challenges, including the ongoing Gulf crisis. He acknowledged the sacrifices made by people of Pakistan during the difficult economic transition, particularly vulnerable segments of society, and said the government had introduced targeted subsidies to provide relief to deserving people.

PM Shehbaz said the government had also provided tax relief worth Rs400 billion in the current budget to stimulate economic activity, adding that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had expressed confidence in the country's economic management.

He said he personally reviewed the implementation of key economic decisions with his team every week to ensure that policy commitments translated into practical results.

Emphasising the need to empower the private sector, the prime minister said governments did not conduct business but were responsible for facilitating entrepreneurs, encouraging investment and creating opportunities for businesses to expand.

# Finance Minister Aurangzeb meets Pakistani community, business leaders in Singapore

■ Attacks on oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz and on Saudi energy facilities added to worries about regional oil flows.



Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Federal Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has met members of the Pakistani community and business leaders in Singapore to discuss Pakistan's economic reforms, investment opportunities and bilateral business cooperation,

The meeting was held at Pakistan House in Singapore during a dinner hosted by Pakistan's High Commissioner to Singapore, Rabia Shafiq.

During the interaction, the finance minister briefed the Pakistani community on government initiatives aimed at improving the country's economy and ensuring economic stability. He said the government remained committed to fiscal discipline, economic reforms and promoting investment.

Aurangzeb described overseas Pakistanis as a valuable national asset and important partners in the country's economic development. He urged the Pakistani diaspora to help present Pakistan as an attractive destination for investment.

The minister also highlighted investment opportunities in various sectors of Pakistan's economy and stressed the need to strengthen business connections between Pakistani and Singaporean business communities.

Discussing the government's privatisation programme, Aurangzeb said the privatisation of state-owned enterprises would help reduce the financial burden on the national exchequer, lower government expenditures and improve the performance of public-sector institutions.

Members of the Pakistani business community also shared proposals to promote investment in Pakistan and attract foreign investors.

The meeting further discussed opportunities to expand business relations and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Singapore.



# Gold price plunges by Rs3,600 per tola in Pakistan

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The government has signed an agreement with the EY Middle East Consortium for financial advisory services to outsource Karachi's Jinnah International Airport and Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport under its privatisation programme.

The agreement between the Privatisation Commission and the consortium marks a step towards involving the private sector in the operations and management of the country's two major airports.

Under the agreement, the EY consortium will provide comprehensive advisory services covering technical, financial, legal and environmental aspects of the outsourcing process.

The government plans to explore concession and management agreements to involve private operators in airport management. The initiative aims to improve operational performance, strengthen airport management and expand commercial activities at both airports. The advisory consortium will assist in developing the framework for private-sector participation and evaluating suitable arrangements for the two airports.

# FTO uncovers multimillion-rupee sales tax fraud, orders nationwide crackdown on fake invoices

■ However, the FTO said the available technical evidence could not conclusively identify the actual perpetrators.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) has uncovered a multimillion-rupee sales tax fraud involving fake invoices, unauthorised access to a taxpayer's account and serious weaknesses in the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) registration and digital security systems.

In a ruling on the case, the FTO directed authorities to initiate legal action against companies benefiting from fraudulent invoices, conduct criminal investigations and review companies involved in fake invoicing across the country over the past year.

According to the FTO, fraudsters gained unauthorised access to a taxpayer's account and filed fake sales tax returns for two tax periods, declaring supplies for which no actual business transactions had taken place.

The investigation found that virtual private network (VPN) connections were used in the fraud, with recorded internet protocol (IP) addresses traced to Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates.

However, the FTO said the available technical evidence could not conclusively identify the actual perpetrators.

The ruling revealed that a newly established company had benefited from suspicious transactions worth millions of rupees. The company obtained sales tax registration just one day after registering with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), without effective verification of its business viability and supporting documents.

The FTO said the company had uploaded the same document to fulfil different registration requirements, which the automated system accepted.

The company was also identified as a beneficiary in another case involving fake invoices.

The investigation further revealed that transactions purportedly involving the Ministry of Defence and the Sindh Health Department did not exist in the respective departments' records.

The FTO said the fraudulent transactions had also resulted in the utilisation of the complainant's existing input tax credit.

Highlighting regulatory weaknesses, the ombudsman said Rule 5 of the Sales Tax Rules, 2006, did not effectively cover all corporate entities.

# PSX rallies as benchmark KSE-100 gains over 1,300 points in early trading

■ The benchmark KSE-100 Index rallied by more than 1,300 points, climbing to 177,762 points as buying activity picked up across key sectors

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Strong bullish momentum returned to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday as investors stepped back into the market at the start of the fourth trading session of the week.

During early trading, the benchmark KSE-100 Index rallied by more than 1,300 points, climbing to 177,762 points as buying activity picked up across key sectors.

The strong rebound follows a bearish session on Wednesday, when the index shed 1,223.41 points to close at the 176,294-point mark.

# SECP orders transfer of unclaimed dividends to govt account

■ PSX opened higher on Wednesday as the KSE-100 Index gained 398 points to reach 165,500, recovering after falling 814 points to close at 165,151 in the previous session.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has directed all companies to deposit unclaimed or unpaid dividends, profits and interest into the federal government's account after a period of three years, Companies are required to transfer any dividends on company shares or Modaraba certificates that have remained unclaimed or unpaid for three years from the date they became due and payable, under Section 244 of the Companies Act, 2017.

Similarly, any profit or interest due on Term Finance Certificates (TFCs) or Sukuk that has remained unclaimed or unpaid for three years from the date of maturity of the instrument must also be deposited into the government account.

The SECP on Thursday directed companies to deposit such amounts into Account No. G1120G titled "Companies Unclaimed Instruments and Dividend and Insurance Benefits and Investors Education Account," maintained under the Public Account of the Federation.

The directive has been issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 40B of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan Act, 1997, read with Section 510 of the Companies Act, 2017.

Companies are required to comply with the provisions of Section 244 of the Act and the Unclaimed Shares, Modaraba Certificates, Dividend, Other Instruments and Undistributed Assets Regulations, 2017.

# Pakistan imports 55,417 tonnes of LPG ahead of winter season

■ The sixth vessel, Sea Shine, reached the port on November 18, carrying 21,866 metric tons of LPG.

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



Pakistan has imported 55,417 metric tons of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) through six vessels that arrived at Port Qasim between November 12 and 18, as authorities move to strengthen gas supplies ahead of increased winter demand, According to the import details, the first vessel, Gas RGA, arrived on November 12, carrying 1,621 metric tons of LPG. The second vessel, Victoria Kusan, docked on November 14 with 4,387 metric tons of gas. On November 16, the vessel Pacific Star One arrived at Port Qasim with 20,115 metric tons of LPG. Two more vessels brought a combined 7,428 metric tons of gas on November 17.

The sixth vessel, Sea Shine, reached the port on November 18, carrying 21,866 metric tons of LPG.

The increased imports are expected to improve LPG availability in the local market and strengthen supplies before the peak winter season. Rising demand for alternative fuels during colder months makes timely imports important for maintaining market supply.

# Rana Tanveer orders cancellation of licences of fertiliser dealers overcharging farmers

■ Hussain questioned why dealers were charging higher prices when rates at the factory level remained stable.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain has ordered the immediate cancellation of licences of fertiliser dealers involved in profiteering, warning that farmers would not be left at the mercy of traders charging arbitrary prices during the wheat sowing season.

Chairing a high-level meeting of the Fertiliser Review Committee, the minister directed district administrations and fertiliser companies to strictly monitor prices and take legal action against dealers violating regulations.

The meeting reviewed the prices, supply, demand and availability of urea and diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilisers across the country.

Hussain questioned why dealers were charging higher prices when rates at the factory level remained stable.

He said fertiliser companies must take full responsibility for their dealership networks and ensure that farmers received fertilisers at reasonable prices.

The minister criticised fertiliser companies for remaining silent over arbitrary pricing by their dealers, describing the practice as unacceptable.

He also expressed serious concern over weak monitoring and administrative negligence by district administrations.

Hussain directed the relevant authorities to strengthen market surveillance and take immediate action against dealers involved in overcharging.

During the meeting, officials briefed the committee that there was no shortage of DAP fertiliser in the country.

The minister warned that strict action would be taken against anyone creating artificial shortages or manipulating fertiliser prices.

He said ensuring uninterrupted fertiliser supplies at reasonable prices during the wheat sowing season was a government priority.

Hussain reiterated that the economic exploitation of farmers and illegal profiteering in fertiliser sales would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

He directed fertiliser companies and district administrations to ensure effective price monitoring and take action against violators.

# Sri Lanka fightback delays Pakistan victory in second Test

● Milan Rathnayaka, Sonal Dinusha and Kusal Mendis help Sri Lanka avoid innings defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Sri Lanka mounted a resilient rearguard to stave off an innings defeat and frustrate Pakistan on Thursday, reaching 309-9 on day three of the second and final Test in Rawalpindi.

Milan Rathnayaka hit an unbeaten 60 while Sonal Dinusha (54) and Kusal Mendis (53) defied Pakistan's pace attack, avoiding an innings defeat and delaying a result.

At close, Asitha Fernando was the other unbeaten batter on two as the tourists batted in all three sessions to add 235 runs after resuming on 74-3.

The visitors now lead by 82 runs and will hope for a miracle to avoid a defeat or pull off a win.

Sri Lanka's fightback was aided by a hamstring injury to Pakistan fast bowler Saqib Khan, who was unable to bowl on Thursday, weakening the hosts' attack as the Pindi Stadium pitch became easier to bat on.

Pakistan wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori praised the home side's bowlers despite the injury to Saqib Khan.

"Unfortunately one of our bowlers got injured but the other three strived hard and made up for that loss," said Ghazi.

"We are confident that we can chase the target but we will need to do it with discipline."

Sri Lanka batter Sonal Dinusha said his team still had a chance of pulling off an upset.

"I am happy with the way we batted," said Dinusha. "We have an 80-run-plus lead so if we could add another 15-20 then it's game on."

On 167-5 at lunch, Sri Lanka were staring at an innings defeat, but Dinusha and Sri Lanka skipper Kusal put on a fighting 81-run stand for the sixth wicket, leaving Pakistan frustrated.

Kusal hit a miscued sweep off spinner Salman Agha onto his stumps, trudging off in disappointment. He hit eight boundaries in his 24th Test half-century.

Kusal, who reached 5,000 Test runs when on 13, became the 12th Sri Lankan to achieve the milestone, doing so in his 77th Test.

Dinusha and Rathnayaka then prolonged the fight as the duo erased Pakistan's 227-run lead, adding 53 for the seventh wicket.

It was Aamer Jamal who broke the stand with the second new ball, getting Dinusha caught at mid-wicket by Azan Awais off a miscued pull shot.

Dinusha's resolute knock had seven boundaries.

Jamal was the pick of the bowlers with 3-67, while Mohammad Abbas took 2-54. Earlier in the morning, Jamal had provided Pakistan with an early breakthrough when he trapped Dhananjaya de Silva (37) lbw with a sharp incoming delivery.

Razaullah also had Pasindu Sooriyabandara (38) caught brilliantly by wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori diving to his left.



# Nicholls leads fightback as New Zealand 140-5 in first India Test

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Henry Nicholls led a fightback with an unbeaten 66 as New Zealand recovered to 140-5 at tea on the opening day of the first Test against India on Thursday after losing four wickets in the first session. Nicholls strode to the crease in the first over in Wellington after captain Tom Latham's dismissal third ball to Jasprit Bumrah, who was playing his first Test for a year.

He was still there at the second interval having put on an unbroken 70 for the sixth wicket with Glenn Phillips, who was 42 not out.

Bumrah took his third wicket of the day soon after lunch, Tom Blundell for five, to leave New Zealand in trouble at 70-5 but India were frustrated by Nicholls and Phillips.

Nicholls has hit eight fours in his 135 ball stay so far and brought up his 50 with one of them, a pull forward of square.

# Pakistan pacer Saqib Khan ruled out of second Sri Lanka Test

■ Saqib Khan has been undergoing treatment under the supervision of the team's medical staff.



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan pacer Saqib Khan will not bowl further in the ongoing Test match against Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi due to a strain in his left hamstring,

Saqib Khan has been undergoing treatment under the supervision of the team's medical staff.

Saqib Khan left the field during the second over after dismissing Lahiru Odara at the start of Sri Lanka's second innings on Wednesday, a PCB spokesperson said.

Sri Lanka were 74-3 at the close of play on day two, with Dhananjaya de Silva and Pasindu Sooriyabandara were unbeaten on 24 and 18, respectively.

Chasing Pakistan's first-innings lead of 227, Sri Lanka lost three wickets for just 39 runs before Dhananjaya joined Pasindu Sooriyabandara to halt the slide. The pair put together an unbeaten 35-run partnership for the fourth wicket to steady the visitors' innings.

Saqib Khan, 31, bowled only 1.2 overs before limping off the field. The injury occurred during the third over of the game when Saqib dismissed opening batter Lahiru Udara and hurt himself while celebrating the wicket. Razaullah bowled the remaining balls of the over.

The right-arm pacer's shoe struck his ankle, forcing him to leave the field, with Razaullah completing the over.

Speaking at the end-of-day press conference, Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson also provided an update on the pacer's injury, saying that he was being closely observed by the medical staff. "We will find out and he is with the medics at the moment and it generally takes about 24 hours before you get informed about those kinds of things," he shared.

The right-hander also made a useful contribution with the bat, scoring 37 off 78 balls in Pakistan's first-innings, playing a crucial role with the bat to help his side build a substantial lead over Sri Lanka.

Saqib Khan has made headlines since making his Test debut, claiming seven wickets in the first innings of first Test and earning the player of the match award.

# Pakistan Shaheens begin ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars campaign against UAE on Friday

● The 50-over tournament, featuring eight teams, commenced today and will run until 29 November. The 15-member Pakistan Shaheens squad will be led by Abdul Samad.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Defending champions Pakistan Shaheens will begin their campaign in the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars 2026 against UAE on Friday, 20 November at the University of Doha for Science and Technology in Doha, Qatar.

The 50-over tournament, featuring eight teams, commenced today and will run until 29 November. The 15-member Pakistan Shaheens squad will be led by Abdul Samad.

Afghanistan 'A', Bangladesh 'A', Hong Kong and Sri Lanka 'A' are placed in Group A, while Pakistan Shaheens, India 'A', UAE and Nepal form Group B.

Following their opening fixture against UAE, Pakistan Shaheens will face India 'A' at the West End Park International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, 22 November. Shaheens will conclude their group-stage fixtures against Nepal at the same venue on Tuesday, 24 November.



The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semi-finals, scheduled to be played on 26 and 27 November, while the final will take place on Sunday, 29 November.

Talking to PCB Digital ahead of the tournament, head coach Ijaz Ahmed Jnr said: "Our focus has been on assessing the local conditions, particularly the pitches. We have worked across batting, bowling and fielding to prepare the players for the tournament. The experience of winning last year also gives us confidence heading into this event. "Although we are the defending champions, this is a new tournament and a different challenge. We will have to play good cricket to retain our title.

# Pat Cummins defiant as 'Sandpapergate' roils Australian cricket

■ It came just days after Cummins held a 70-minute press conference to rebut the same allegations by Usman Khawaja in his autobiography, calling them "100 percent wrong".

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pat Cummins remained defiant on Thursday as his position as Australia Test captain was called into question after he was dragged back into the "Sandpapergate" scandal by Cameron Bancroft's explosive revelations.

Bancroft, a central figure in the 2018 ball-tampering plot in South Africa that rocked world cricket, dropped a grenade late Wednesday in a lengthy newspaper column by claiming the whole team knew what was going on.

It came just days after Cummins held a 70-minute press conference to rebut the same allegations by Usman Khawaja in his autobiography, calling them "100 percent wrong".

Bancroft was the player who used sandpaper during a Test in Cape Town to make the ball swing, with a Cricket Australia probe concluding only he, then-skipper Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner were responsible.



They were all sent home in disgrace and banned.

In a statement to several Australian media outlets, Cummins' manager Neil Maxwell said: "Pat's position hasn't changed in eight years. He's been consistent and adamant from day one. "Pat feels for Cam of course. He has been through a lot. We would urge people to again read Pat's interview transcript. There is nothing he hasn't answered. And that includes in response to what Cam has now said.

"Pat has rebuilt the Australian cricket team. That 24-year-old in Cape Town resolved to fix the team and spent eight years doing it," he added. Despite the defiance, calls are mounting for his position to be reviewed.

"Pat Cummins' future as Test captain should be placed under immediate review after Cameron Bancroft's stunning accusation that the skipper didn't tell us the truth," The Australian newspaper said in an opinion piece.

"Cummins' press conference in Sydney last week when he forcefully denied any knowledge of the plot to use sandpaper in a Test in 2018 could become the worst strategic move of his career."

National broadcaster ABC agreed with the sentiment, saying "his position as captain of the Australian Test team is now questionable", while the Sydney Morning Herald stated: "Cummins' captaincy in peril".

# Alcaraz calm over hamstring scare at ATP Finals after injury-hit season

■ Carlos Alcaraz revealed a lingering hamstring problem after his ATP Finals win over Medvedev but remained optimistic about his fitness ahead of Friday's match.

SPORTS DESK

TURIN




Carlos Alcaraz said he was still feeling a hamstring problem that he picked up in his ATP Finals victory over Daniil Medvedev, but a recent spell on the sidelines had taught him to stay composed when his body throws another obstacle in his path.

The world No. 3 needed a medical timeout to have his left thigh strapped midway through his meeting with Medvedev in the season finale on Wednesday, but completed a ?6-2 6-4 win."I feel it a little bit," Alcaraz said. "I'm not going to lie. But, you know, unfortunately I was playing great and suddenly I felt a little problem of my hamstring.

"I could play really good tennis since that moment till the end of the match. I was focused on other things. I was trying to stay relaxed, to move not too aggressive. I'm thinking about being aggressive and thinking about my shots all the time.

"Right now I'm just feeling okay. We'll see with my team, with my physio, but I think the rest of the day and tomorrow is really going to be important days ahead of me."

The 23-year-old Spaniard reached the semifinals and will continue his quest for a maiden ATP Finals title. He takes on the already eliminated Flavio Cobolli in his last round-robin match in Turin on Friday.

Alcaraz said a near-five-month layoff with a wrist injury had reshaped his perspective, with the seven-times Grand Slam champion winning titles in Tokyo, Vienna and Paris after his return to action at the US Open in late August.

"The injury made me realise what's really important," Alcaraz said. "It's not winning or losing finals of tournaments. It's just about playing tennis. It's a gift every time I can step on the court and compete healthy.

Daily The Spokesman

FRIDAY
November 20,2026

# Security forces kill 22 Indian-sponsored terrorists in KP operations

■ Security forces kill 22 Indian-sponsored terrorists in KP operations



Our Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

The security forces personnel set to hell 22 Indian-sponsored terrorists in a string of operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cities,

According to an ISPR press release issued in Rawalpindi on Thursday, on 16-17 November, 22 Khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khwarij were killed in multiple engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

On reported presence of khwarij, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces personnel in South Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location and after intense exchange of fire, 14 khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna al-Khwarij were sent to hell.

In two separate encounters in Bannu District, own troops effectively engaged khwarij hideouts. As a result of precise and skilful engagement, six khwarij were neutralized.

One more kharji was effectively neutralized in an encounter in Tank District.

Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from the slain Indian-sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization operations were being conducted to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored Kharji found in the area as relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision "Azm-e-Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by the security forces and the law-enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and -supported terrorism from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvihave commended security forces for successful operations against terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, the President said that operations under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam would continue until foreign-backed terrorism is completely eradicated from the country.

The Prime Minister said the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave armed forces and security personnel in the fight against terrorism. He said Fitna al-Khawarij and their facilitators would never be allowed to spread unrest in Pakistan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also paid tribute to security forces for successful intelligence-based operations against Khwarij in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He commended the professionalism and determination of the security forces for killing 22 Khwarij.

The nation is proud of the brave sons of security forces, Mohsin Naqvi said and added the entire nation stood with security forces to eliminate terrorism.




Ethiopian Ambassador H.E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, accompanied by a diplomatic delegation, met with Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt, at PBM Head Office, Islamabad. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in social welfare and humanitarian assistance, with an understanding to develop a mechanism for future collaboration.

## Punjab Assembly illuminated blue to mark World Children's Day

Our Correspondent
LAHORE

The Punjab Assembly building was illuminated with blue lights on November 20, 2026, to mark World Children's Day, symbolising solidarity with children and a commitment to protecting their rights, dignity and well-being.

The initiative was organised by the Punjab Assembly's Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights to raise awareness about children's rights.

The blue illumination reflected the commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of background or circumstances, has equal opportunities for education, healthcare, protection and development.

The message issued on the occasion emphasised that state institutions and society share the responsibility of providing a safe, equal and supportive environment where every child is heard, their rights are respected and their potential is nurtured.

# Romanian Soprano Georgiana Costea-Gluga Honoured with Cultural Diplomacy Award in Islamabad

● 8th Global Ambassador Awards Recognise Her Contributions to Strengthening Romania-Pakistan Cultural Ties Through Music Education and Performances

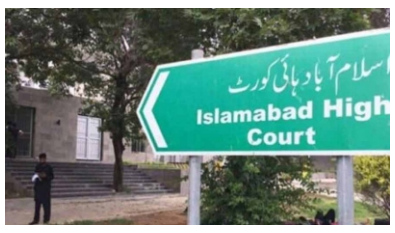
Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti
ISLAMABAD




Romanian soprano and music educator Georgiana Costea-Gluga received Award for Cultural Diplomacy through Music at 8th Global Ambassador Awards Ceremony by a private media group at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Ambassadors and community leaders also received awards for their contributions to Pakistan's international partnerships. National Coordinator to Prime Minister Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood, Ambassador Dan Stoenescu were present.The awards jury recognised Costea-Gluga for strengthening cultural ties between Romania and Pakistan through her teaching and performances. Since April 2025, she has taught weekly opera singing classes in Islamabad through a partnership between the Embassy of Romania and the Pakistan National Council of the Arts. The classes give young Pakistani singers an opportunity to develop their vocal technique and explore Romanian and other European classical music.Costea-Gluga has also brought this repertoire to audiences in Islamabad and Karachi. Her work in Pakistan draws on her training at the National University of Music Bucharest and the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, as well as a performing career that has taken her across Europe and Asia. In her hometown of Constana, Romania, she teaches piano at the same cultural centre where she took her first lessons. .

# IHC orders CDA to complete NADRA e-balloting within 15 days

■ IHC directs CDA to complete NADRA e-balloting within 15 days, warning its chairman may be summoned personally if the court's order is not implemented within the deadline.




Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to complete the NADRA e-balloting process within 15 days, warning that its chairman may be summoned in person if the court's order is not implemented.

The written order was issued in a contempt of court case against CDA officials over the alleged failure to comply with judicial directions.

Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar issued the order while hearing a petition filed by citizen Muhammad Sharif. The court directed the CDA Member Estate to complete the NADRA e-balloting process and the balloting exercise under the relevant policy within 15 days.

The court warned that if the directions are not implemented within the stipulated period, the CDA chairman will be required to appear personally and explain the reasons for non-compliance.

According to the written order, the CDA's counsel had stated on January 29, 2026, that the applications would be considered within one month and included in the NADRA e-balloting process. Following this statement, the contempt petition had been disposed of. The court was informed that certain aspects of the matter required further clarification and that the authority intended to submit additional material before the court.

The petitioner's counsel also presented a letter dated January 26, 2026, issued by the CDA's Deputy Director of Land and Rehabilitation. According to the letter, a decision had been taken, with the approval of the Member Estate and CDA Deputy Commissioner, to allot plots through NADRA balloting within one month.

The court observed that since the decision had been approved by the competent authority, the CDA was bound to implement it.

CDA counsel Kashif Malik and petitioner's lawyer Hasnain Haider Thaheem represented their respective sides in the case..

# PIA privatisation to be completed by December, Senate panel told

● Four consortia currently reviewing PIA's accounts, fleet, and routes

Tazeen Akhtar
ISLAMABAD



The Ambassador of Kazakhstan Dr. Yerkin Tukumov, has assured Pakistani business leaders that he will work to address their reservations and the hurdles they face in doing business, including visa matters. He said the future of bilateral cooperation is bright. He noted that the Prime Minister of Pakistan is expected to visit Astana, and the President of Kazakhstan is expected to visit Islamabad for the SCO Summit in February 2027. He added that further developments are expected during these high-level engagements.The Ambassador made these remarks at a business meeting held at Hotel Mövenpick, Islamabad, on 18 November 2026.The participants raised issues relating to direct flights, tariffs, Free / Preferential Trade Agreements, and an easy visa regime.Responding to them, the Ambassador said these matters have to be addressed from both sides."We will work on the elimination of the impediments, but these issues are supposed to be addressed by both sides. We have to see what our reservations are. This is all about a roadmap," Dr. Tukumov noted.Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, National Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism, was also present at the meeting and shared his insights on the promotion of bilateral cooperation.The meeting was attended by heads of chambers of commerce and leaders of business groups from Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore and Karachi, officials of the concerned organizations of Kazakhstan.

# DG PSQCA Visits University of Sufism and Modern Sciences, Bhit Shah

■ Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool discusses institutional collaboration to strengthen industry-academia linkages and promote awareness of standards and quality through joint initiatives.

STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Dr. Sayeda Zia Batool, Director General, PSQCA, visited the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences Bhit Shah and held discussions on establishing mutual collaboration between PSQCA and the University. PSQCA expressed its commitment to extending full support to the emerging university for bridging the gap betweenindustryandacademia.Furtherm ore ,PSQCA will collaborate with the university for awareness activities on standards and quality.DG PSQCA was welcomed by Registrar Syed Imdad Ali Shah, Director Academics Dr. Akhtiar Ali, Director Sufi Studies Dr. Zaffar Iqbal Junejo, Advisor Quality Enhancement Cell Dr. Dhani Bux Talpur, Head of Department of English Dr. Sania Memon, Dr. Qammarunisa Jatoi, and Deputy Director ORIC Mr. Atta Muhammad Chopan. The meeting was also attended by Engr. Junaid Ahmed Wassan, Incharge PSQCA CA Liaison Office Hyderabad & Mr. Shaharyar Shaikh PSQCA CA Liaison Office Hyderabad.



# Armed forces ready to meet modern warfare challenges, says naval chief

STAFF REPORTER
RISALPUR



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that modern warfare is undergoing significant changes, with artificial intelligence and information technology transforming traditional methods of combat. Addressing the graduation parade at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan in Risalpur on Thursday, he said the armed forces are aware of emerging trends in warfare and prepared to meet the evolving challenges.

The naval chief congratulated the graduating cadets and said it was an honour for him to attend the passing-out parade.

Admiral Ashraf said the PAF had a proud history and had achieved success on numerous occasions. He said that its capabilities and skills were recognised around the world.

The Pakistan Navy, he said, has also made significant progress in adopting new technologies.

The naval chief said modern conflicts were no longer confined to traditional battlefields, extending into electronic warfare, cyberspace, space and cognitive domains.

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