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Federal Minister Musadik Malik arrives in India for SCO meeting

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister Musadik Malik has arrived in India to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) forum, where he was received by Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires, Saad Warraich. According to a Foreign Office spokesperson, a Pakistani delegation will participate in the SCO Forum on Dialogue of Civilisations in New Delhi. The delegation is visiting India from November 20 to 22 at the invitation of India's Minister of Culture and Tourism.Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik will lead the Pakistani delegation and present Pakistan's position on the importance of dialogue among civilisations and the country's role in diplomacy.

Pakistan will also highlight its constructive role in the SCO and its diverse civilisational and cultural heritage.The spokesperson said Pakistan's participation in the forum reflects its commitment to the principles of the "Shanghai Spirit".



Pakistan rejects India's UN remarks targeting country's mineral sector

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Friday rejected the Indian claim at the United Nations accusing the country's military of exploiting its mineral resources for personal gain, describing the allegations as unsubstantiated and an interference in its internal affairs.In a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO), Pakistan said the remarks were "undiplomatic and irresponsible" and had been effectively rebutted by its representative during the same UN meeting.

"Such diatribe, so typical of India, can only be rubbished," the statement read further.

The statement also said New Delhi had resorted to unsubstantiated insinuations against Pakistani institutions and leadership instead of addressing Islamabad's concerns over India's hydro-terrorism.Pakistan also accused India of attempting to undermine its mineral development and stability through alleged support for terrorist activities in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).



Moscow Ready to Facilitate Talks Between Islamabad and Kabul: Maria Zakharova

WEB DESK

MOSCOW

Russia has reaffirmed its commitment to continued counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan and offered to mediate to restart talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova described Pakistan as an important partner in the fight against terrorism in South Asia. She said the activities of terrorist groups on Afghan soil threaten regional security.

Responding to questions from Dunya News correspondent Shahid Ghuman, Zakharova said Moscow is ready to help facilitate negotiations if both Islamabad and Kabul request it. She said Russia considers both countries friends and views dialogue between them as essential for regional peace and security.



Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir interacts with officers and troops during his visit to Miran Shah in North Waziristan on Friday.

CDF Munir vows to 'decisively eliminate terrorism' from K-P in North Waziristan visit

ISPR says field marshal received comprehensive briefing on security situation, ongoing intelligence-based operations

Atif Saeed

ISLAMABAD

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir reaffirmed the security forces' resolve to "decisively eliminate terrorism" and preserve the "hard-earned peace and stability" in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa during a visit to Miran Shah in North Waziristan, the military's media wing said on Friday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), "COAS and CDF was given a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation, ongoing intelligence-based operations and measures being undertaken to consolidate the gains achieved through sustained counter-terrorism efforts and ensure lasting peace and stability in the area."

The visit to North Waziristan comes a day after CDF Munir visited Turbat in Balochistan, where he was briefed on the prevailing security environment, operational preparedness and ongoing operations against what the military described as externally sponsored terrorism. He was also apprised of progress on socio-economic development initiatives in the province, according to the ISPR.

CDF Munir also interacted with officers and troops and appreciated their "high level of

(Continued on Page-5)

Naqvi provides 20 new vehicles to Islamabad Police SWAT Force

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has provided 20 new vehicles to the Islamabad Police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Force to enhance its operational capabilities and enable it to respond promptly to emergency situations.

A ceremony was held to hand over the vehicles to the SWAT Force on behalf of the Ministry of Interior. The vehicles were formally handed over to the force to support its operational activities.



North Waziristan: Militants disguised as women killed while attempting to flee

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MIR ALI

Security forces have killed militants who were attempting to escape disguised as women in North Waziristan, according to security sources.

The operation took place in the Mir Ali area as part of the "Azm-e-Istehkam" campaign against "Fitna al-Khawarij," the term Pakistani authorities use for the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and affiliated militants. During the action, the militants were killed while trying to flee in a rickshaw, dressed in women's clothing.

Bilawal says PM Shehbaz has not been given time to focus on public issues

Addressing an event in Karachi on Friday, Bilawal remarked that every citizen in Pakistan is bearing the economic burden resulting from the conflict involving Iran

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has not been given the opportunity to focus on the issues faced by the public.

Addressing an event in Karachi on Friday, Bilawal remarked that every citizen in Pakistan is bearing the economic burden resulting from the conflict involving Iran.

He emphasized that providing relief to the public remains the top priority for the Pakistan Peoples Party.

He noted that, due to the conflict involving Iran, people across the globe—including in Pakistan—are grappling with inflation and economic hardships.



"Every Pakistani is carrying the economic weight of this conflict. The economic crisis has driven up the prices of diesel and fertilizers, and there is a risk that the public's difficulties will intensify until the conflict concludes," PPP chairman said.

He stated that the PPP is fully aware of the economic crisis, inflation, and unemployment plaguing the country.

The PPP Chairman highlighted that small-scale farmers constitute 90 percent of the agricultural sector, and the PPP has consistently supported them.

Arrival of Oruc Reis marks new era of Pak-Turkiye strategic cooperation: Dar

Pakistan and Turkiye sign energy and minerals agreements as research vessel Oruc Reis begins offshore seismic work to assess oil and gas prospects in Pakistani waters in the future.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan and Turkiye have signed several agreements to expand cooperation in offshore oil and gas exploration, mineral resource development and the energy sector as Turkish seismic research vessel Oruc Reis arrived at Karachi Port, marking a new phase in bilateral scientific and economic cooperation.

A welcome ceremony was held at Karachi Port to mark the arrival of the Turkish research vessel, where agreements covering energy and mineral development were signed between the two countries. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Turkish Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Alparslan Bayraktar, Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and Sindh Governor Nihal Hashmi



attended the ceremony along with other dignitaries.

Under the agreements, the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation and Turkiye's MTA International signed a shareholders' agreement for the development of antimony resources in Pishin, Balochistan.

Another joint venture agreement was signed between Mari Minerals and Turkiye's MTA IC for the exploration and development of copper, gold and other mineral resources in Chagai, Balochistan.

Tarar says public opinion should determine creation of new provinces

Info minister says proposal should proceed only if public supports it, cites constitutional provisions for referendums

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Friday backed holding a referendum to determine public opinion on the creation of new provinces, saying the proposal should proceed only if people supported it.

Speaking to reporters outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Tarar said there was no harm in holding a referendum, adding that the Constitution provided for such a vote on matters of national importance or public interest.

He said people should be given an opportunity to express their views before any decision was taken, adding that the proposal should not be pursued if the public opposed it.

A referendum is a direct vote in which citizens are asked to express their views on a particular question. The idea of holding one on the creation of new provinces was floated by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, who argued that it could help establish public opinion on the issue and settle the debate.

The information minister also said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had met the president, during which they discussed various matters and the



need to move forward through mutual understanding and consensus.

Responding to questions about an ECP hearing concerning his visit to Gujranwala, Tarar said he had travelled to his hometown at the invitation of the District Bar Association's general secretary.

He said no election candidate had attended the event and that the invitation had been extended before the announcement of the election schedule. He added that the association's general secretary was also his colleague.The current debate over new provinces began on July 30, when Naqvi called for additional administrative units or provinces as part of a broader overhaul of the country's governance system. Naqvi argued that meaningful structural reforms were needed to improve governance, deliver justice and create opportunities for young people.

Pakistan's Olive Sector Opens New Avenues for Agricultural Growth and Local Olive Oil Production

Pakistan-Italy cooperation strengthens olive value chain; 8th Grand National Olive Gala 2026 scheduled for December 11-13 in Islamabad

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's rapidly developing olive sector is opening new opportunities for agricultural growth, domestic olive oil production and healthier food consumption, supported by continued cooperation between the Governments of Pakistan and Italy.These developments were highlighted during the "Media Dialogue on Olive Promotion, Health Utility & Nutritional Significance" at the National Press Club, Islamabad, organized under the OliveCulture Scale-Up Project, implemented by CIHEAM Bari and funded by the Italian Government through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), in collaboration with Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security & Research.Dr. Francesco De Musso, International Expert from CIHEAM Bari, Italy, highlighted Pakistan's progress in olive sector development, including the expansion of cultivation, strengthening of local processing capacity and improvement of quality standards. He emphasized the importance of advancing domestic production, strengthening the olive value chain and creating opportunities for the sustainable growth of Pakistan's emerging olive industry.Dr. Fozia Kamal, Gender, Climate and Community Development Expert associated with the OliveCulture Scale-Up Project, highlighted the nutritional significance and health benefits of olives and olive oil. She emphasized the importance of promoting healthier dietary practices, increasing consumer awareness and encouraging the consumption of locally produced olive oil as part of everyday nutrition.The dialogue emphasized that increasing domestic production must be accompanied by stronger consumer awareness, informed dietary choices and greater market demand to support the long-term sustainability of Pakistan's olive sector.A major highlight of the occasion was the announcement of the 8th Grand National Olive Gala 2026, scheduled for December 11–13 in Islamabad. The three-day national event will provide a platform for olive growers, producers, processors, businesses and consumers to explore Pakistan's expanding olive industry, promote locally produced olive oil and strengthen connections.

SHO Margalla Police Station Dies While on Duty at Faisal Mosque

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Station House Officer (SHO) of Margalla Police Station, Sub-Inspector Imran Munir, passed away after suffering a sudden medical emergency while performing duty at Faisal Mosque. According to sources, Sub-Inspector Imran Munir suddenly fell unconscious while on duty at Faisal Mosque. He was immediately shifted to Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for medical treatment. However, he could not survive and passed away during treatment.His sudden demise has left colleagues and the police force mourning his loss.

NCCIA Abbottabad Organises Cybercrime Awareness Session for Pakistan Army Personnel

Participants briefed on online fraud, fake links, password security, two-factor authentication and preventive measures against cyber threats



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Abbottabad organised a special cybercrime awareness session for officers and personnel of the Pakistan Army at the Baloch Regiment Centre (BRC).During the session, participants were briefed on various cybercrime threats, including online fraud, fake links, protection of personal information, the importance of strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and timely reporting of suspicious online activities.The participants were also provided detailed guidance on adopting safe digital practices and protecting themselves against cyber threats in the increasingly digital environment.Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi emphasised that public awareness and basic knowledge of digital security are vital for preventing cybercrime. He stressed the need to promote responsible digital behaviour and enhance awareness of cybersecurity measures to protect individuals from online risks.The NCCIA continues to organise awareness activities for people from different walks of life to educate them about cybercrime prevention and promote a safer digital environment.

FJWU Hosts 14th HEC All Pakistan Women Intervarsity Taekwondo Championship 2026-27

Twenty-five university teams participate in national event; Federal Minister Hanif Abbasi announces support for renovation of sports gymnasium and auditorium, and provision of two buses

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI



Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, is proudly hosting the 14th Higher Education Commission (HEC) All Pakistan Women Intervarsity Taekwondo Championship 2026–2027 from November 19 to 22, 2026, bringing together 25 university teams from across Pakistan in a vibrant display of athletic excellence and sportsmanship.The prestigious inaugural ceremony was graced by Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Railways, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the Federal Minister lauded the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza (Pride of Performance, T.I.) for actively promoting sports culture and creating transformative opportunities for young female athletes. He also commended the dedicated efforts of Director Sports Dr. Khurram Shahzad in strengthening athletic programs and extracurricular engagement at the university.Demonstrating strong governmental backing for women's higher education and athletics, Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi announced his commitment to facilitating the renovation of FJWU's Sports Gymnasium and Auditorium, alongside the provision of two buses to enhance student transport facilities.Fatima Jinnah Women University extended its sincere gratitude to the Federal Minister for his generous support and steadfast commitment to the university and the broader cause of women's sports and empowerment. By hosting this premier national championship, FJWU continues to champion holistic student development, empowering young women to excel in athletics, build leadership capabilities, and represent Pakistan at national and international arenas

Pakistan Targets $1 Billion Gemstone Exports Within Five Years

Four-day international workshop on indigenous gemstones concludes in Islamabad; experts stress modern technology, local processing, value addition and international cooperation

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The four-day international workshop on "Unlocking the Value of Indigenous Gemstones" concluded successfully in Islamabad today, emphasizing the need to strengthen Pakistan's gemstone industry through technological advancement, local processing, value addition, improved productivity and international collaboration. Addressing the closing ceremony as Chief Guest, ToufeequeAhmed Arain, CEO Pakistan Gems and Jewelry development Company, highlighted the immense economic potential of Pakistan's indigenous gemstone resources. He emphasized the need to strengthen the sector through modern technologies, local processing, value addition and compliance with international quality standards.Toufeeque Ahmed reiterated the comprehensive action plan to increase Pakistan's gemstone exports to US$1 billion within five years by integrating the gemstone value chain into the national economy, promoting local processing, adopting modern technologies, launching private-sector training initiatives and introducing Brand Pakistan.He further emphasized that stronger institutional linkages with international organizations, including the Gem and Jewelry Institute of Thailand (GIT) and the National Gems and Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka, would help strengthen technical capabilities, improve quality standards and expand international market access for Pakistan's gemstone industry.Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO, National Productivity Organization (NPO), thanked the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for providing the opportunity to host the international workshop and appreciated the active participation of international experts and local stakeholders.



SSP Operations Orders Crackdown on Criminals in Islamabad's Soan Zone

Qazi Ali Raza Directs Arrest of Wanted Offenders, Improved Patrolling and Effective Crime Prevention

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

SSP Operations Islamabad Reviews Crime Control Measures, Directs Targeted Action Against Criminals in Soan ZoneAccording to details, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza chaired an important meeting with Soan Zone officers to review the law and order situation, crime prevention measures and overall performance of police officers. The meeting was attended by SP Soan Zone Ahmed Talha Wali, SDPOs and SHOs of the zone.During the meeting, SSP Operations Islamabad reviewed ongoing efforts to prevent crime and directed officers to intensify effective and targeted operations against criminal elements. He instructed them to ensure the arrest of habitual offenders, proclaimed offenders and other wanted accused, and further improve the patrolling system.He also emphasized the effective utilization of all available resources to ensure timely justice and relief for citizens, along with improved monitoring of field operations.SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza made it clear that negligence or carelessness in preventing crime, protecting citizens' lives and property, and maintaining law and order would not be tolerated. He directed all officers to perform their duties with diligence, commitment and professionalism.

Buddhist Monastics offer recommendations for Pakistan's Gandhara Strategy

The recommendations were shared during the concluding session of the four-day Gandhara Strategic Dialogue 2026, held at the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, Islamabad, which concluded on Friday.

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

:International Buddhist monastics and scholars have offered recommendations for further strengthening Pakistan's Gandhara Strategy, emphasising improved infrastructure, greater community participation and enhanced international cooperation to preserve and promote the country's rich Buddhist heritage.

Buddhist Monastics offer recommendations for Pakistan's Gandhara Strategy

The recommendations were shared during the concluding session of the four-day Gandhara Strategic Dialogue 2026, held at the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture Division, Islamabad, which concluded on Friday.

The visiting Buddhist delegates stressed that developing Gandhara as a sustainable religious and cultural destination required improved transportation, visitor facilities, meditation halls and better arrangements for Buddhist pilgrims. They emphasised that religious pilgrims had distinct requirements from ordinary tourists, which should be considered in planning infrastructure and pilgrimage-related facilities.

Buddhist Monastics offer recommendations for Pakistan's Gandhara Strategy

The participants also highlighted the importance of involving local communities in heritage preservation, saying they should not only benefit economically from heritage-related activities but also understand the cultural and spiritual significance of historical sites and take pride in their legacy.They also suggested exploring ecological restoration of selected Gandhara areas to reflect aspects of their historical natural environment.



Inspector General of Islamabad Police, Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mian Noorullah, In-Charge of the Anti-Car Lifting Cell, Islamabad, in recognition of his outstanding performance.

Change of Name

I, Noor Akbar Khan, son of Humayun Khan, had changed my name to Taimoor Akbar Khan. Henceforth, I request that I be addressed and referred to by my new name,
Taimoor Akbar Khan in all future correspondence and records.Taimoor Akbar Khan, CNIC No. 37405-5363327-1
Address: DHA Phase II, Islamabad, Pakistan

NCCIA Director General Holds e-Kacheri to Address Citizens' Cybercrime Complaints

■ Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi hears public grievances directly, assures timely redressal; citizens urged to report cybercrime through helpline 1799

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad



D: Director General of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, held an e-Kacheri to directly hear complaints and concerns of citizens related to cybercrime and take measures for their redressal.During the e-Kacheri, citizens presented their complaints and issues directly to the Director General, providing an opportunity to highlight problems and seek assistance regarding cybercrime-related matters.The initiative aimed to facilitate direct communication between the public and the NCCIA, identify citizens' concerns, and ensure effective measures for resolving their complaints.Citizens were also encouraged to utilise the NCCIA helpline 1799 for reporting cybercrime-related complaints and seeking guidance.Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi emphasised that listening to citizens' complaints, ensuring their timely redressal, and effectively resolving their issues were among the agency's fundamental responsibilities.He said the NCCIA would continue its direct engagement with the public to facilitate citizens and ensure effective resolution of their complaints. .

IGP Islamabad Directs Improved Police Performance Rewards Outstanding Officers

■ Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry Awards Commendation Certificates and Pins New Ranks on Promoted Officers



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

IGP Islamabad Reviews Police Performance, Appreciates Outstanding Officers and Pins Ranks on PromotesAccording to details, Inspector General of Police Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry chaired a meeting with senior police officers to review professional matters, overall performance and ongoing initiatives of Islamabad Police.During the meeting, the IGP Islamabad directed officers to further improve police performance, enhance public service delivery and raise the overall standard of policing. He also assigned new tasks to officers and stressed the importance of their timely and effective implementation.In recognition of their outstanding performance in their respective divisions and contributions to protecting citizens' lives and property, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry invited several police officers to his office and awarded them commendation certificates. He appreciated their efforts, encouraged them to maintain high professional standards and urged them to perform their duties with renewed dedication and commitment.Furthermore, at the Central Police Office, the IGP Islamabad personally pinned the new ranks on officers promoted to the next ranks. He congratulated the promotes and extended his best wishes, emphasizing that promotion brings greater responsibilities and requires an even stronger commitment to professional excellence and public service.IGP Islamabad reaffirmed that improving police performance, recognizing merit and ensuring better services for citizens remain key priorities of Islamabad Police.

Development work in E-12 reaches 68pc after four-decade delay, says CDA

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Development work in Sector E-12 has reached over 68 per cent completion, while the Capital Development Authority (CDA) says it is continuing to hand over possession of plots to allottees for construction of houses.

The sector's development had remained stalled for around four decades. The authority says it has received several applications from allottees seeking possession of their plots as work progresses in different parts of the sector.

According to the CDA, street development is at different stages across the four sub-sectors. TST (triple surface treatment) has been completed in 25 streets of E-12/1 and 31 streets of E-12/2. In E-12/3, the treatment has been completed in 15 streets, while earthwork and base construction are under way in the remaining streets.

In E-12/4, earthwork has been completed, while work on the base, sub-base, drainage and sewerage systems is in progress.

The authority said earthwork, base, sub-base and drainage work on the eastern service road had been completed, while asphalting was under way on the service road along Khayaban-i-Iqbal. Similar surfacing work was also progressing on Margalla Road after completion of its base, sub-base, drainage and sewerage infrastructure.

Underground work for electricity supply is also under way, the CDA said, adding that landscaping and plantation in green belts were being carried out.

The authority said it had retrieved around 1,135 kanals of encroached land to remove hurdles in the development of the sector.

CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf directed the concerned formations to remove impediments and complete the remaining development work on a priority basis.

IHC Orders FIR Cancellation, Departmental Inquiry Against Khanna Police

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court has ordered the cancellation of an FIR registered on charges of robbery and kidnapping after the alleged complainant, a retired DSP, approached the court seeking its dismissal, while also directing a departmental inquiry into the police officials involved.Retired DSP Muhammad Ashfaq, a resident of Nowshera, told the court that he had neither been kidnapped nor subjected to torture and had not lodged any complaint at Khanna Police Station. He alleged that police officials obtained his signatures on blank papers and subsequently used them to register a fabricated case against more than 20 traders of Khanna Pul.The FIR No. 693/26 was registered under Sections 365, 147, 382 and 149 of the Pakistan Penal Code, alleging kidnapping, robbery and other offences. The complainant claimed that he was held for 14 days and tortured, allegations which he denied.

NCCIA Karachi Arrests Suspect for Allegedly Stealing and Selling Foreign Government Data

■ Sensitive Databases of Government Institutions, Law Enforcement Agencies and Private Companies Recovered; Suspect Allegedly Sold Stolen Information for Bitcoin



SPECIAL REPORTER

KARACHI

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Karachi has arrested a suspect allegedly involved in illegally obtaining and selling sensitive and confidential data belonging to foreign government institutions, law enforcement agencies and private companies.According to an NCCIA spokesperson, the arrested suspect, identified as Danish Pervez, was allegedly active on online platforms, including LeakBase and Telegram, under the username "DP BRUCE."Initial investigations revealed that the suspect allegedly sold stolen databases and sensitive information in exchange for cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin.An NCCIA Karachi team arrested the suspect during an operation conducted in Karachi on November 11, 2026. A laptop was also seized from his possession during the operation.Preliminary technical examination of the seized laptop reportedly led to the recovery of multiple databases and files related to foreign government institutions and other organisations.Further investigation into the case is underway, the NCCIA spokesperson said.

SSP Operations Islamabad Reviews Friday Prayer Security Arrangements at Mosques, Imambargahs

■ Qazi Ali Raza Visits Faisal Mosque and Other Worship Places, Directs Police to Remain Highly Vigilant



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

SSP Operations Islamabad Reviews Friday Prayer Security Arrangements at Mosques and Imambargahs Across IslamabadFollowing the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza visited various mosques, Imam Bargahs and Faisal Mosque on Friday to review security arrangements.During the visits, he directed police officers and officials deployed at these locations to ensure effective surveillance of places of worship, entry and exit points, and surrounding areas. He also instructed them to remain vigilant, keep a close watch on suspicious individuals and activities, and stay prepared to respond to any emergency.SSP Operations Islamabad directed officers to strengthen security checks while maintaining courteous and professional conduct towards citizens. He made it clear that negligence or lapses in security arrangements would not be tolerated.Islamabad Police is utilizing all available resources to protect citizens' lives and property and ensure the security of places of worship. Citizens have also been urged to cooperate with police during security checks and promptly report any suspicious activity.

Life and Teachings of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) a Guiding Light for Muslim Ummah: Maulana Abdul Khabeer

● Addressing Friday congregation at Badshahi Mosque, he highlighted the first Caliph's sacrifices, devotion to the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and exemplary model of governance.

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE



Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan, Khateeb and Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore, and Ambassador for Peace, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad, addressing a grand Friday congregation at the historic Badshahi Mosque, said that the blessed life of Ameer-ul-Momineen Hazrat Syedna Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) was a guiding light for the entire Muslim Ummah.He said Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) had the distinction of being the first man to embrace Islam. He was a great personality who sacrificed all his wealth for the cause of Islam. After accepting Islam, he played an outstanding role in its propagation and never hesitated to sacrifice his wealth, life and family in obedience to the commands of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (PBUH).Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad said that the caliphate of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (RA) was an exemplary model of governance from which guidance was needed even today. During his caliphate, several mischiefs and rebellions were brought to an end, including the false claimant to prophethood, Musaylimah Kazzab. The subsequent Rightly Guided Caliphs also followed his model of governance.He further said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) described Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) as the most compassionate person among his Ummah. He stressed that Muslims should make the life and teachings of the first Caliph a guiding principle. The most prominent aspect of his life was his profound love and devotion to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), while his services to Islam would be remembered forever.He emphasised that love and respect for the Companions of the Holy Prophet (RA) and the revered members of the Ahl-e-Bait (RA) were fundamental to faith.Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad stated that the protection of Haramain Sharifain was an integral part of the Muslim faith and that Saudi Arabia was entrusted with the leadership of the Islamic world. He said the entire Muslim Ummah stood united for the defence of Saudi Arabia and the Two Holy Mosques.

Ch. Aamir Shahzad Assigned Additional Charge of CDA Director Audit

■ CDA Officers Association Welcomes Appointment, Wishes Him Success in New Responsibility

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Islamabad(staff reporter) The CDA Officers Association has congratulated its President, Ch. Aamir Shahzad, Deputy Director (BS-18), Finance, Audit & Accounts, on being assigned the additional charge of Director (Audit) (OPS) at the Capital Development Authority (CDA). The assignment was made through an office order dated November 18, 2026. Office-bearers and members of the Association called on him at his office, where they presented bouquets and extended their best wishes on the new responsibility. The Association expressed confidence that his professional experience in finance, audit and accounts would strengthen financial discipline, transparency and accountability within the Authority. Speakers at the gathering also said the assignment reflects the trust placed in him and in the officers' community. They prayed for his continued success in serving the Authority and the Nation.

Pakistan Zindabad Asif Rasheed Media coordinator CDA Officers Association

Here are the Democrats emerging as potential 2028 US presidential candidates

Following sweeping midterm election wins, Democratic governors, senators, and progressives weigh potential 2028 presidential bids to succeed Republican President Donald Trump.



Web DESK

WASHINGTON

After their sweeping midterm election victory, Democrats are looking ahead to 2028, with the race to succeed Republican President Donald Trump drawing a potentially sprawling field.

Possible contenders, including governors, senators and former candidates, spent the final weeks of the midterm campaign fanning out across early presidential primary states after months of courting donors, raising their profiles and publishing books - all familiar steps toward a White House run.

Some appeared at a gathering of Democrats in Denver on November 12-13, testing out potential campaign messages and building networks inside the party.Republicans face a potentially growing field, with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio the most widely discussed potential successors to Trump, who is constitutionally barred from being elected president a third time.



Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani in a group photo with President of the Senate of Thailand H.E. Mongkol Surasajja and delegations in Bangkok

Trump's personalized diplomacy hits its limits with 3-way summit

Trump's three-way Shenzhen summit with Xi and Putin yielded high pageantry and a symbolic peace statement, but zero breakthroughs on Ukraine, Iran, trade, or arms control.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has long reveled in the pomp and ceremony of international summitry but has often come away with little to show for his signature brand of personalized diplomacy.

Trump went into the unprecedented three-way summit in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen seeking to reassert himself internationally after being politically weakened at home with his Republican Party's loss of control of Congress in this month's midterm elections.

He is also still locked in a tense



stalemate with Iran in a war that polls show is very unpopular and which has driven down his approval ratings.

But while the three leaders agreed on a symbolic "peace declaration" reaffirming that nuclear war should never be fought, they announced no plans for arms control talks long sought by Trump. They also showed no signs of advances on issues such as Iran, Ukraine and Taiwan, or on narrowing gaps over trade and artificial intelligence.

Instead, the leaders appeared content to gloss over major differences, with Xi able to burnish his diplomatic credentials by hosting a big-power gathering. Putin was able to present Russia, a comparative economic lightweight, as appearing on par with the world's two most powerful leaders without making major concessions.

Some analysts said the outcome of the Shenzhen summit may actually diminish Trump's stature on the world stage as he enters the lame-duck phase of his presidency, while ?bolstering two of Washington's main adversaries."Trump has always loved the pageantry and the sense that he's sitting down with the most important people in the world, and he got that moment," said Christopher Preble, ?a senior fellow at the Stimson Center think tank in Washington.

Trump ousts cyber director after tech outages spark criticism

White House fires National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross after major technology outages disrupt US air travel, banking, and security systems.

Web Desk

WASHINGTON

White House national cyber director Sean Cairncross was "fired" from his job, a person close to the White House said days after technology outages disrupted US air travel, banking and national security systems.

The ouster comes as US President Donald Trump and his administration face mounting scrutiny over their response to the series of disruptions over the past week, including a global outage affecting hundreds of millions of Microsoft users and a nationwide halt to air travel that disrupted more than 18,000 flights.

The dismissal of Cairncross dismissal is the administration's first major personnel move since the outages.

Cairncross oversaw cybersecurity policy and strategy across the



federal government. Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Kirsten Davies will assume the position temporarily, according to the source.

"The president fully supported firing Sean Cairncross from his position," said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The recent technology disruptions are likely linked to corporate efforts to rapidly patch newly discovered software vulnerabilities in the AI age, cybersecurity experts told Reuters. Advanced AI tools make it easier for companies to uncover weaknesses in their cybersecurity protections.

Denmark ratifies Trump deal over Greenland, hoping to end conflict

Denmark's parliament unanimously ratifies a US security agreement on Greenland, expanding American military access while reaffirming Danish sovereignty and self-determination.

Web Desk

COPENHAGEN

Denmark's parliament unanimously ratified a security agreement with the United States on Greenland hoping to end a standoff over the Arctic island's future that has rattled transatlantic relations.

The US, Denmark and Greenland signed the agreement in September after US President Donald Trump repeatedly threatened to take control of the mineral-rich self-governing Danish territory of 57,000 people.

"This agreement modernizes the ?United States-Denmark-



Greenland defence partnership and bolsters the national security of the United States and our allies in NATO," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement posted on X.

The executive agreement takes ?effect once Denmark's foreign ministry tells the US in a diplomatic note that procedures are complete. It does not need approval from the US Senate.

It expands the US military's role in Greenland, including permission to establish a "Golden Dome" missile defence system, while reaffirming Danish sovereignty and Greenlanders' right to self-determination.

The signatories will now start work on a new Greenland law to screen outside investors on security grounds and plans for two new US military bases, as outlined in the agreement, Denmark's Defence Minister Jeppe Bruus told Reuters.

"I expect that the US will now also start to be more concrete on the purposes and the arrangement around these two areas," he said.

Trump's refusal to rule out military or economic force to acquire the island triggered a diplomatic crisis within NATO in January and months of intensive negotiations.

Naaja Nathanielsen, a Greenlandic member of the Danish parliament, said Trump's pressure had led to distrust in Greenland towards the US administration.

"It's been really difficult for Greenlanders these past two years. It's been seeping into every aspect of our lives," Nathanielsen told Reuters. She hoped the agreement would open a path to dialogue after hurtful rhetoric within the ?Western alliance.

Iran sets seven conditions for reopening Strait Of Hormuz

Web Desk

TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has declared that the Strait of Hormuz will not be reopened until seven conditions set by Tehran are met, ruling out any negotiations on the nuclear issue until the dispute over the strategic waterway is resolved.

According to an IRGC spokesperson, the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is conditional on the fulfilment of Iran's demands.

Tehran, the spokesperson said, will not accept a continuation of the current situation.



Iran maintains that the United States must first lift its naval blockade and meet the other conditions set by Tehran before the vital shipping route can be reopened.

The IRGC's statement signals that Iran is linking progress on the Strait of Hormuz directly to any potential diplomatic engagement over its nuclear programme.

Afghanistan-based terrorist groups pose threat to member states: UNSC Chief



Web Desk

Washngation

UN Security Council President Sanita Pauletta de Landas has warned that the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan poses security threats to member states. In her statement, she said that Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) was focusing on areas beyond Afghanistan, while the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) remained a serious threat.She said terrorist groups were receiving logistical and operational support from the Afghan Taliban, adding that the TTP had carried out several deadly attacks in Pakistan from Afghan soil.Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah, called for reforms to the UN counterterrorism framework to address evolving global security threats.

US religious freedom panel says India is targeting minorities in voter roll revisions

A US religious freedom panel has accused India of targeting Muslim minorities through voter roll revisions that removed 130 million names, urging Washington to take action against alleged unjust.

Web Desk

INDIA

India has escalated its targeting of religious minorities during a voter list revision that struck off tens of millions of names nationwide, a US panel on religious freedom."The Indian gov't is targeting Muslim citizens by removing them from voter rolls, calling them 'foreigners,' and now illegally deporting them," Asif Mahmood, the chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, said in a statement.

India's voter list revision removed 130 million names, roughly the population of Mexico, in the largest deletion of voters in the country's history.

Data shows the omissions disproportionately affect Muslims, India's largest minority, who have faced what rights ?groups describe as exclusionary policies and rising discrimination since Prime Minister



Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party took power in 2014. India's Election Commission says it was removing duplicate, deceased, shifted and otherwise ineligible voters and that anyone excluded in error can pursue appeals.

The revision has become entangled with a separate drive to identify and expel suspected illegal immigrants, even though removal from the rolls does not itself establish that someone is a foreigner.

"The Indian government's expulsion of its own citizens based on their Muslim faith is a shocking escalation of tactics that target religious minorities," said Gene Mills, a commissioner on the US panel. Mills urged the State Department to designate India as a "country of particular concern."

USCIRF is a bipartisan body of the US government that monitors religious ?freedom around the world and makes policy recommendations, which are not binding. Washington has not acted on its recent recommendations on India.

India's foreign ministry has cast USCIRF as biased. New Delhi has repeatedly dismissed such criticism and called it interference in the country's internal affairs. The Indian embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

The voter roll revisions sparked protests in recent weeks, with opposition ?groups and student demonstrators saying the revisions affected those unlikely to vote for the Hindu nationalist BJP. Rights experts condemned India's crackdown on the protests.

Daily The Spokesman

Group Chairman/ Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad

Editor : Atif Saeed

Head office : AES Complex , plot no 94 , Street no 4 , Sector H-8/1 , Islamabad

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone no. +92 51 27 22 123

IMF warns of fiscal strain

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) resident representative cautioned on Thursday that Pakistan's fiscal position can weaken over the medium term due to rising imports and any moderation in remittances but did not explicitly say whether Islamabad can avoid another



programme.

"To be candid on the medium-term outlook, we also project that the fiscal position over the medium term can weaken as imports rise and remittances moderate, so we have to continue building buffers," IMF Resident Representative Dr Mahir Binici said in his keynote speech at the Pakistan Prosperity Forum. The Policy Research Institute of the Market Economy (PRIME) arranged the conference.

Binici's speech focused on why growth in Pakistan "is disappointing", what the global backdrop means for Pakistan, and which reform matters the most.

The IMF's country head's speech came amid a heated discussion about the need for new provinces to improve Pakistan's social and economic indicators.

The discussion about the creation of new provinces and devolution was important and he believed that "we have to achieve devolution one way or the other", said Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Bilal Azhar Kayani soon after Binici's speech.

Kayani said cash grants do not address the long-term problem and there was a need to seriously review the current National Finance Commission (NFC) resource distribution formula. The minister was referring to the Rs1.035 trillion cash grant that the provinces have pledged this fiscal year to fund part of defence needs and building large dams.

Pakistan has the stability to start, but sustained, fair and well-sequenced reform is what can turn that stability into higher, more sustained growth and also prosperity, said Binici.

But on the question of whether Pakistan can avoid another IMF programme for the next five years after the current $7 billion bailout package expires in less than one year, Binici did not give a clear answer.

"Pakistan's structure is driven by a saving-investment gap, so a current account deficit is natural and in line with fundamentals. Our assessment is that over the medium term the (current account) deficit remains below 1% of GDP," said Binici.

He further said that over the medium and longer term, the focus for both fiscal and external sustainability, we need to deliver reforms on the fiscal side and on trade policy and the external sector so that buffers keep building and remain organic and resilient.

Binici said exports were the key driver of growth and external sustainability and significant efforts are still needed to build a better, broader, more predictable and solid taxation system that keeps the fiscal position strong.

Capital Punishment and the Questions of Diplomacy



By: RAKHMAT ZADA DAR

Pakistan has completed nearly 79 years of independence. During this journey, the country has achieved several significant milestones. However, persistent challenges, including corruption, institutional inefficiency, political instability, weak accountability and unequal development, continue to undermine its national potential. The ongoing debate over the creation of additional provinces and restructuring of the administrative system presents an important opportunity to reconsider how Pakistan is governed.

Pakistan does not merely need a change in the number of provinces or a shift from a parliamentary to a presidential system. What the country needs is a comprehensive, transparent, decentralised and performance-oriented governance structure that ensures effective service delivery and accountability at every level.

The existing system has not consistently delivered the quality of governance, public services and accountability that the people deserve. Excessive concentration of administrative and financial powers at the provincial level has, in many cases, weakened institutions at district and grassroots levels.

The solution lies in bringing decision-making closer to the people while ensuring that every public office carries clearly defined responsibilities.

A presidential system could be considered as one possible constitutional option, provided it is supported by effective democratic checks and balances, an independent judiciary, parliamentary oversight and strong institutional accountability.Under such a governance model, Pakistan could be organised into manageable administrative units, led by professionally qualified, competent and honest administrators. Their appointments should be made through a transparent, merit-based mechanism, with clearly defined performance targets and accountability arrangements. Such administrative leadership must, however, remain subject to constitutional safeguards and meaningful democratic oversight.

Empowering District and Tehsil Governments

The real strength of a new governance model should lie at the district, tehsil and grassroots levels.Elected Nazims, Mayors and local representatives must be empowered with genuine administrative, financial and developmental authority. Their responsibilities should include education, healthcare, local roads, water supply, sanitation, municipal services, infrastructure, community development and the implementation of local development projects.

Development funds should be distributed transparently and equitably, keeping in view population, geographical requirements, poverty levels and the development needs of each area.

Empowered local governments would help ensure that public resources are utilised according to local priorities and that citizens have direct access to decision-makers.Performance-Based Funding and Accountability The release of development funds should be linked to measurable performance, transparency and timely utilisation. Every administrator and elected local representative should be assigned clearly defined annual targets and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). An independent monitoring and evaluation mechanism should regularly assess their performance.Those who demonstrate integrity, competence and effective service delivery should be encouraged and rewarded. Officials and representatives who repeatedly fail to achieve agreed targets should face appropriate administrative consequences after a fair and transparent review, including removal where justified.

Public office must be treated as a responsibility to serve the people, not a privilege to enjoy.

Merit, Integrity and Institutional Stability

Pakistan urgently needs a leadership system based on professional competence rather than political connections, personal loyalty or influence. Appointments to important administrative positions should be made strictly on merit, professional experience, integrity and demonstrated performance.

At the same time, continuity of policies and institutional stability must be ensured. Every change of government should not result in the interruption of ongoing development projects or the reversal of important public policies.

Strong institutions, rather than individuals, should be the foundation of national progress.

Constitutional Reforms and National Consensus Any fundamental change in the governance structure must be introduced through constitutional means, broad political consensus and meaningful public consultation.

The rights of provinces, cultural identities, provincial autonomy, equitable distribution of resources and national unity must remain fully protected.

A new governance model should not create additional layers of bureaucracy or unnecessary public expenditure. Its primary objective must be to simplify administration, reduce waste, strengthen institutions and improve public service delivery.

The Need for a Competent and Accountable Pakistan The future of Pakistan cannot be secured merely by changing political faces, increasing the number of provinces or introducing a different form of government.

Real transformation will come when power is accompanied by responsibility, authority by accountability and public resources by transparency.

Pakistan needs honest leadership, professional administrators, empowered local governments, independent institutions and a governance system that rewards performance rather than political influence. The ultimate objective should be simple: a government that works for the people, leadership that delivers results and a system in which no public office is beyond accountability.

Perhaps it is time to move beyond the debate of who should govern and seriously address the more important question: How should Pakistan be governed to ensure a better future for its people.

Shenzhen's "Peace Declaration": The Chessboard of Power, the Scent of Gunpowder, and the Bitter Reality of Global Crises!



By: Tariq Usmani

Decades have passed since I first set foot on the winding paths of local journalism, keeping the flame of truth alive through the power of my pen. Although my primary sphere of work has mostly revolved around domestic issues and local news, when an event is tied to global peace and the daily livelihood of the common man, it becomes imperative for me—as an ordinary reader and a seeker of truth—to get to the bottom of it. When I look at the historic trilateral meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the APEC summit in China's modern industrial hub of Shenzhen—and the subsequent four-point "Peace Declaration"—through the eyes of both an ordinary citizen and an investigative journalist, I see a deep, mysterious silence and several bitter contradictions lurking behind this diplomatic glamour.The atmosphere of this gathering and the body language of the three world leaders tell a fascinating story in themselves. The diplomatic drama had already begun even before the meeting took place at Shenzhen's luxurious "Kylin Villa" resort. Breaking years of strict protocol, Chinese President Xi Jinping personally welcomed President Trump at the airport, where the two leaders warmly embraced, and cameras captured Trump offering a steadying hand to Xi as they rode up an escalator. On the other hand, when Vladimir Putin arrived, Trump cast aside traditional diplomatic formalities, smiled, and said, "Who is this? This is my friend!" while patting him on the back. Around a round wooden table adorned with pink flowers at its center, the host, Xi Jinping, sat squarely in the middle like a true "power broker," while a particularly intriguing moment occurred during the opening ceremony when President Trump appeared to close his eyes during the Chinese President's speech.Following this eighty-minute closed-door session, Washington, Beijing, and Moscow issued a joint statement dubbed the "Peace Declaration." U.S. President Trump hailed it as "historic," Putin called it a new chapter in diplomacy, and Xi Jinping described it as constructive dialogue. The declaration included points such as avoiding nuclear war, increasing the supply of refined petroleum products, reforming the United Nations, and limiting the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Yet, the fundamental question remains: can mere rhetoric heal the wounds of the world?Every seeker of truth knows that the real story lies hidden in what is left unsaid. The most astonishing aspect of this high-powered Shenzhen summit is the conspicuous silence maintained regarding the world's two largest active war fronts: Ukraine and the Middle East (Iran). While odes to peace were being recited inside the opulent halls of Shenzhen, Russian drones and missiles were simultaneously raining fire upon the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, and the Russian President issued stern threats of retaliation following an attack on the Crimean Bridge. Neither was a roadmap for a ceasefire in Ukraine presented, nor was any concrete agreement reached to extinguish the flames in the Middle East or secure the Strait of Hormuz. This is precisely why Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy likened the summit to the World War II "Yalta Conference," warning that major powers cannot be granted the right to bargain away the fate of smaller nations behind closed doors. Meanwhile, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen bristled at the U.S. President's demeanor, while Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese publicly confronted Putin during the summit, demanding an immediate ceasefire.On the economic front as well, the common man received nothing more than a mirage. To pacify a world reeling from inflation and an energy crisis, the three nations expressed a resolve to boost oil and petroleum production, yet failed to set any binding targets. Economic observers are well aware that American oil refineries are already operating at full capacity and Russian facilities are caught in the crossfire of war; under such circumstances, lowering global oil prices through mere paper announcements is impossible. Furthermore, complete silence prevailed regarding an end to trade wars and tariffs.Even more lamentable is the blatant disregard for a grave global threat like climate change. At the very moment these three global powers were putting their heads together in Shenzhen, the annual global climate conference (COP31) was underway, where strategies were being devised to save the Earth from environmental catastrophe. Yet, not a single word on environmental protection found its way into this declaration; on the contrary, agreeing to further increase oil production only rubbed salt into humanity's wounds.If one weighs the gains and losses of this entire geopolitical chessboard, the strategic victory clearly tilts in favor of Beijing and Moscow. President Xi Jinping successfully signaled to the world that Beijing now holds the key to global conflicts, while an isolated Putin stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States and China without making a single concession on the Ukrainian front.Today's world does not need hollow statements; it needs a genuine "Grand Bargain" among these three powers that simultaneously halts the scent of gunpowder, rescues the environment, and props up a sinking global economy. To end this crisis, immediate action on five fundamental points is indispensable:1. Immediate Ceasefires: An immediate halt to hostilities in Ukraine and the Middle East, alongside guaranteed security for vital trade routes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Black Sea.2. Supply Chain Restoration: The complete restoration of energy and food supply chains, coupled with an easing of sanctions.3. Trade & Banking Reforms: An end to trade wars and punitive tariffs, and the depoliticization of the global banking system.4. Arms & Tech Control: Alongside nuclear arms control, a binding treaty to keep space, cyberspace, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) out of the military arms race.5. Global Relief Package: A joint relief package by Western financial institutions and China to pull developing nations out of debt traps and shield them from climate disasters.For a developing, energy-importing, and climate-vulnerable country like Pakistan, hope and apprehension walk hand in hand in this emerging scenario. While our media and diplomatic circles have welcomed the spirit of dialogue and the pledge to stabilize energy supplies, ground realities teach us to tread with caution. All eyes are now fixed on the G20 summit in Miami this December and next year's APEC meeting in Vietnam. Until a practical agreement is forged at these forums to end wars, enact economic reforms, and protect the environment, Shenzhen's "Peace Declaration" will prove to be nothing more than a good photo opportunity and a diplomatic illusion. History bears witness that world peace is established not through claims on paper, but through decisive actions rooted in justice.

CDF Munir vows to 'decisively eliminate terrorism' from K-P in North Waziristan visit

preparedness, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the defence and security of the motherland". The field marshal described the K-P Police as a "brave frontline force" and expressed pride in their resilience and sacrifices against terrorism and Fitna al-Khawarij.

Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state uses for terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

He also reaffirmed the "unwavering resolve" of the security forces, working in close coordination with law enforcement agencies, to "decisively eliminate the menace of terrorism and preserve the hard-earned peace and stability of K-P".Upon his arrival in Miran Shah, he was received by "Commander Peshawar Corps." "The field marshal laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada to pay homage to the supreme sacrifices of the Shuhada of the Pakistan Army," the statement concluded. Field Marshal Munir has made several visits to K-P since assuming command of the army in November 2022, including visits to the former tribal districts to review security arrangements and counter-terrorism efforts. He previously visited Miranshah and Spinwam in North Waziristan in April 2024, where he celebrated Eidul Fitr with troops and received a briefing on operational readiness and security along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.He had earlier visited Miranshah in December 2022, shortly after becoming army chief, where he was briefed on the security situation and measures to counter terrorist threats. The latest visit is his third reported visit to North Waziristan during his tenure as army chief.



Pakistan's AI Export Voice 2026: SMEDA, Alibaba.com celebrate new dawn for MSMEs

■ SMEDA-Alibaba.com grant initiative launched to help Pakistani businesses embrace e-commerce and strengthen their export capabilities

Special Correspondent

LAHORE

Pakistan's efforts to equip its small businesses for the future of global trade gained fresh momentum as "Pakistan AI Export Voice" marked 100-day milestone of SMEDA-Alibaba.com journey by bringing together government representatives, SMEs and digital trade innovators to celebrate emerging talent and explore new opportunities in digital exports.

A major highlight of the event, held at Lahore's Hannover Event Complex, was the launch of the SMEDA-Alibaba.com grant initiative designed to help Pakistani businesses embrace e-commerce and strengthen their export capabilities.

Several Pakistani businesses, representing handcrafted cutlery, sports and wellness gear, medical devices and surgical instruments, have been onboarded after approval of grant for each of them by SMEDA. Addressing the occasion as chief guest, Rana Ahmed Ateeq Anwar, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on SMEs, highlighted the importance of empowering small businesses through technology, innovation and access to international markets.

He underscored that the government's focus on SME development in light of honorable Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision was aimed at creating an enabling environment in which Pakistani entrepreneurs could adopt modern business practices and contribute more substantially to exports and economic growth.

"We need to catch up with the world and gain skills to compete for a bright future," he remarked.

CEO Nadia Jahangir Seth highlighted SMEDA's commitment to translating the government's vision into practical opportunities for businesses. She emphasized that digital transformation was no longer optional for enterprises seeking to compete in international markets.

SECP reinforces audit report verification through UDIN

■ This applies to companies required by law to file audited financial statements with SECP, said a news release.

Business Reporter

KARACHI



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has advised companies to verify the Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) on their auditor's report before filing audited financial statements.

This applies to companies required by law to file audited financial statements with SECP, said a news release.

A UDIN is a unique number that helps users confirm who issued an audit report. It also helps prevent the use of forged reports.

Auditors generate the number through the portal of their respective institute, either the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan or the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan.

Regulation 6A of the Auditors (Reporting Obligations) Regulations, 2018 requires auditors to include a UDIN on every report they issue under the regulations. Companies can check the number through the relevant institute's portal before filing.

SECP will accept filings only if the accompanying auditor's report carries a valid UDIN.

US embassy reaffirms readiness to invest in Pakistan's minerals sector

■ The United States reaffirmed its commitment to investing in Pakistan's minerals sector, promising expertise, strategic partnerships, employment, and professional training

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to investing in and establishing partnerships within Pakistan's minerals sector, stating that cooperation in critical minerals remains a top priority for the Trump administration.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum, US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker said Washington was ready to work with Pakistan to capitalize on opportunities in the critical minerals sector, paving the way for growth and prosperity in both countries.

According to US Embassy spokesperson Ken Harrelson, American companies interested in investing in Pakistan's minerals sector will bring internationally recognized expertise in mining, processing, and refining. US investment is also expected to create new employment and professional training opportunities for Pakistani citizens.The spokesperson emphasized that the Trump administration attaches particular importance to cooperation in critical minerals, making the sector one of its foremost priorities.

Weekly inflation sees 0.65% decline, PBS releases latest figures

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Weekly inflation in Pakistan decreased by 0.65 per cent, bringing the overall annual inflation rate to 10.41 per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS),

The PBS has released its weekly inflation report, showing that prices of 23 essential commodities increased during the week, while eight items became cheaper. Prices of 20 commodities remained unchanged.

Tomato prices recorded the biggest weekly decline, falling by 30.55 per cent, followed by onions at 9.17 per cent and LPG at 6.46 per cent. Petrol prices decreased by 3.8 per cent, while diesel became cheaper by 2.4 per cent.

On the other hand, egg prices increased by 8.8 per cent during the week, while potatoes became 8 per cent more expensive. Flour prices rose by 4.42 per cent, chicken by 3 per cent and bananas by 1.47 per cent. On an annual basis, LPG prices increased by 88 per cent, while flour became 44.2 per cent more expensive.

PSX, UNICEF and PBC Join Hands to Promote Children's Rights in Business Practices

■ 'Ring the Bell for Children' ceremony marks World Children's Day, urging companies to integrate children's rights into corporate policies and decisions.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI



:Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), in collaboration with UNICEF and the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), hosted a Ring the Bell for Children ceremony at PSX on World Children's Day, calling on businesses to put children's rights at the heart of their decisions, policies and practices.

The bell-ringing ceremony marked Pakistan's participation in the global campaign led by UNICEF and the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (UN SSE) initiative, bringing together stock exchanges across 25 countries and five continents to encourage businesses and investors to consider children's rights in their decisions and practices.

The event also marked the launch of the report, Making Children Count: Sustainability Reporting in Pakistan, presenting a first-ever assessment of the reporting of 98 companies listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange against 29 indicators related to children's rights and business.

The assessment found out that 78% of the companies reviewed reported community investments benefiting children, while children remain less visible in reporting governance, human rights due diligence, workplaces practices, supply chains, products and services, and climate and environmental considerations. Only 3% of the assessed companies explicitly disclose a commitment to respecting children's rights.

The report highlights an opportunity for businesses to build on this foundation by integrating children's rights more systematically into core business and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices. This comes at a time when the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) is moving towards phased mandatory ESG reporting requirements beginning in 2029, creating an important opportunity to strength children's visibility in Pakistan's evolving sustainability reporting landscape.

State Bank allows banks to finance builders, developers under new housing rules

■ The move is aimed at encouraging housing development by improving access to financing for eligible construction projects.

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has revised its financing guidelines for builders and developers, introducing new rules aimed at increasing the supply of mortgageable housing units and strengthening the country's housing finance sector, The central bank issued the revised framework through a circular dated November 2026, updating the guidelines originally introduced in April 2014.

Under the new framework, banks and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) can extend financing to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), as well as public- and private-sector builders and developers, subject to specific eligibility criteria and risk management requirements.

The move is aimed at encouraging housing development by improving access to financing for eligible construction projects.

Under the revised guidelines, REITs, builders and developers must hold valid licences from relevant building control authorities, where applicable, or have approved contracts with competent public-sector authorities.

Private-sector applicants must also demonstrate a successful track record of completing projects and provide clear land titles free from encumbrances, charges and liens.

Commerce Minister calls for stronger trade, investment ties with South Africa

■ Dr. Ramokgopa acknowledged Pakistan's historic relations with South Africa and emphasized translating this longstanding relation into practical economic partnerships between the two countries.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



A high-level South African business delegation led by Dr. Gwen Malegwala Ramokgopa, Treasure General of the African National Congress and Group Chair of the Progressive Business Forum (PBF) called on the Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

During the meeting ways and means were discussed to enhance bilateral trade, investment and business-to-business cooperation between Pakistan and South Africa, said a release issued here on Friday.The Federal Minister for Commerce highlighted the untapped potential of bilateral trade and emphasized the need for closer engagement between the business communities and chambers of commerce of Pakistan and South Africa to identify trade barriers explore investment opportunities and promote joint ventures.

Commerce Minister calls for stronger trade, investment ties with South Africa

He further explained that there exists vast potential of mutual cooperation in various promising sectors like agriculture, IT, mining and minerals, dairy, livestock and halal products.

He also invited South African investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's mining and critical minerals sectors, along with mineral processing, gemstone cutting, polishing and jewellery manufacturing.

The Minister for Commerce highlighted Pakistan's growing information technology sector and skilled young workforce as potential avenues for collaboration.

The Minister further briefed the delegation on investment facilitation measures of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the role of EXIM Bank of Pakistan in supporting export-oriented businesses particularly the SMEs.

Dr. Ramokgopa acknowledged Pakistan's historic relations with South Africa and emphasized translating this longstanding relation into practical economic partnerships between the two countries.She expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality extended by Pakistan to the South African delegation.

She highlighted potential opportunities in mining, local value addition, research and innovation and institutional investment, while encouraging Pakistani participation in South African investment forums, including Mining Indaba.

The Federal Minister for Commerce appreciated the delegation's engagements in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad, including interactions with Pakistani manufacturers and educational institutions.

Commerce Minister calls for stronger trade, investment ties with South Africa

Discussions also covered academic exchanges, university-industry collaboration, tourism and improved air connectivity and cost-effective shipping lines to facilitate trade between Pakistan and South Africa.The meeting reaffirmed both sides' commitment to expanding bilateral trade, strengthening private-sector linkages and promoting mutually beneficial investment and economic cooperation.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets in second Test, win series 1-0

● Pakistan complete their first Test series win this year by reaching the slender 90-run target in 13 overs



MUZAFFAR AHMED BHATTI

Rawalpindi

Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the second Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Friday to clinch the two-match series 1-0.

Pakistan completed their first Test series win this year by reaching the slender 90-run target in 13 overs, with Aamer Jamal scoring 34 not out and Azan Awais an unbeaten 32.

Pakistan lost opener TayyabArif for 13 and Mohammad Taha for four, but there were no hiccups as Jamal hit the winning boundary off spinner Prabath Jayasuriya to seal the win.

The first Test, also in Rawalpindi, ended in a draw.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam said he was satisfied with the team's win.

"This is a new team with some new players, but they showed some good performances and winning always gives you satisfaction and confidence," he said.

"We are looking to create a positive environment so everyone has the fighting spirit alive regardless of what the match situation is."

Sri Lankan skipper Kusal Mendis said the 98-run first innings hurt his team.

"We have to improve in some areas when it comes to batting and fielding, but we bowled well in patches," he said.The day began with Sri Lanka hoping to extend their 82-run lead and Milan Rathnayaka hitting a boundary, but the innings was done in the second over when Mohammad Abbas trapped Asitha Fernando lbw for two.

Rathnayaka cracked 12 fours in his fighting 88-ball 66 not out.

Abbas was the pick of the Pakistan bowlers with 3-55 while Jamal took 3-67 and Razaullah 2-116.

It was Pakistan's first series win in this cycle of the World Test Championship, having drawn with South Africa and the West Indies and losing 2-0 in Bangladesh and 3-0 in England.



Pakistan crowned Asia Cup Blind Cricket Champions

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan have been declared champions of the Asia Cup Blind Cricket Tournament after rain disrupted the final, with the title decided on the basis of points and tournament rules, According to reports, Pakistan finished ahead of India in points, run rate and head-to-head record to claim the trophy.

The tournament rules were shared with all participating teams on November 7, and Pakistan secured the title under the agreed regulations. Pakistan remained unbeaten in the league stage, defeating Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India to finish at the top of the points table.

Following the final, the Indian team reportedly boycotted the closing ceremony and left the stadium.

Bangladesh Cricket Board Director Abdullah Al Fuad, who attended the ceremony as chief guest, distributed prizes among the players.

Mohsin Naqvi praises Pakistan and Sri Lanka for playing excellent

■ During a meeting with players and officials of both teams, Naqvi said the series had been very successful and provided fans with some exciting cricket.



NEWS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has praised both Pakistan and Sri Lanka for their excellent performances during the recent Test series, saying it would be remembered for the players' outstanding

During a meeting with players and officials of both teams, Naqvi said the series had been very successful and provided fans with some exciting cricket.

He congratulated the young players on their performances and expressed hope that they would continue to entertain cricket lovers with their talent in future matches.

Naqvi also highlighted the friendly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, saying he hoped the two countries would continue to enjoy strong cricketing ties.

Sri Lanka head coach Gary Kirsten praised Pakistan's performance, saying the home team had played very good cricket.

Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson also appreciated his players, saying they had performed exceptionally well throughout the series.

Meanwhile, Pakistan team manager Naveed Akram praised Mohsin Naqvi for his efforts to improve cricket in the country.

The meeting brought together players and officials from both sides, providing an opportunity to appreciate their performances and promote the friendly sporting relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

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Mohammad Abbas becomes leading Test wicket-taker of 2026

● He took eight wickets across the series to move to the top of the annual bowling charts.

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's pacer Mohammad Abbas has become the leading Test wicket-taker of 2026, surpassing England's Josh Tongue after an impressive performance in the two-match series against Sri Lanka, Abbas was named Player of the Series after Pakistan won the series 1-0 with an eight-wicket victory in the second Test.

He took eight wickets across the series to move to the top of the annual bowling charts.

The right-arm medium pacer has taken 39 wickets in eight Tests this year at an economy rate of 2.56, including three five-wicket hauls and one four-wicket haul.

He has moved ahead of Tongue, who has taken 33 wickets in seven Tests at an economy rate of 4.19.



Australia's left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc is third with 32 wickets in six matches, while England's Ollie Robinson and Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan Miraz share fourth place with 28 wickets each.

No Indian bowler features in the top five, with Manav Suthar leading India's list at 10th after taking 23 wickets in three Tests at an economy rate of 2.84.

Leading Test wicket-takers in 2026Mohammad Abbas (Pakistan) — 39 wickets in 8 matchesJosh Tongue (England) — 33 wickets in 7 matches

Mitchell Starc (Australia) — 32 wickets in 6 matches

Ollie Robinson (England) — 28 wickets in 4 matches

Mehidy Hasan Miraz (Bangladesh) — 28 wickets in 8 matches Abbas has also climbed to seventh place in the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 wicket-taking standings, with the same 39 wickets.

Cincinnati beat Griezmann's Orlando

■ Salt Lake edge Seattle 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

FC Cincinnati booked an MLS first-round playoff berth with a 3-1 win that eliminated Antoine Griezmann's Orlando City, while Real Salt Lake beat Seattle on penalties other wild-card clash.

Brazilian midfielder Evander scored twice and provided an assist as Cincinnati came from behind following Martin Ojeda's opener at Orlando's Inter.co Stadium.

Orlando City crashed out at the play-in round for the second year running, despite the coup of signing World Cup-winning France striker Griezmann, who arrived in July from Atletico Madrid.

The 35-year-old had scored 14 goals with eight assists in just 18 appearances this season, helping his new team climb to an eighth-placed finish.

But he missed several chances Thursday, including a glanced header onto the roof of the net deep in stoppage time.

Ojeda opened the scoring in the 26th minute,



slamming home a through ball from Ivan Angulo.The comeback began with a 43rd-minute penalty. Marco Pasalic pulled Pavel Bucha's shirt from a short corner and Evander buried the penalty low and left.

The Brazilian grabbed his brace five minutes after the break. Tom Barlow had a shot well-saved by Maxime Crepeau but reached the rebound first to set up Evander.

Evander turned creator in the 85th minute, setting up Samuel Gidi for an effort that curled just inside the far post.

Cincinnati will play the regular season-topping Nashville in a best-of-three series beginning Sunday.

Their top scorer Kevin Denkey will be fresh, having not played Thursday after just returning from Togo international duty.

Cabral saves Salt Lake Real Salt Lake advanced 4-2 on penalties at Seattle's Lumen Field after the game finished 1-1, thanks to the heroics of Brazilian goalkeeper Rafael Cabral.

Half an hour into a first half dominated by Seattle, Cabral saved an Albert Rusnak penalty, diving low and right to keep the game scoreless.

But five minutes later Rusnak started and ended an excellent team goal, collecting Sebastian Gomez's first-time pass and steering the ball home from an acute angle.

Early in the second half, Cabral made a stunning point-blank save to stop Dejan Joveljic doubling the lead.

Salt Lake stunned the home crowd with a 62-minute equalizer. Morgan Guilavogui latched onto Sergi Solans' through ball and smashed his shot into the roof of the net, ultimately sending the tie to penalties.

Babar calls for patience as Pakistan's young guns deliver against Sri Lanka

● Captain says emerging players must be given sustained opportunities

SPORTS REPORTER

KARACHI



Photo: Screengrab

Pakistan captain Babar Azam has urged patience in the development of the team's young players, saying sustained opportunities and confidence will be crucial to building a consistent side after Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the second Test to clinch the two-match series 1-0.

Pakistan's victory, achieved despite losing a frontline fast bowler Saqib Khan to injury during the match, offered encouragement for a side looking to rebuild its Test fortunes by blending experienced players with emerging talent.

Babar said the team had planned to introduce fresh faces following the series against England and was pleased with how the newcomers had responded to the opportunity.

"The main thing is that they got a proper opportunity," Babar told reporters after the victory. "In bowling and batting, there have been different performances from different players. It is a great thing. We will try to continue this."

The Pakistan captain stressed that one series or even a single victory would not be enough to establish the team's credentials, arguing that consistency could only come through sustained performances across different conditions and against varied oppositions.

"We didn't achieve anything. It's just a series. You don't achieve anything by winning a match. It takes time for that. It takes time to be stable," he said.

"The longer you give the opportunity to the team, the longer you give the opportunity to the player, then you reach the final or top four of the Test Championship. Then you are satisfied. I am not satisfied with one series or one match."

Pakistan's victory was built on a dominant bowling performance in the first innings, when they dismissed Sri Lanka for 98, although Babar acknowledged that his side missed an opportunity to establish a more commanding advantage with the bat.

He identified Sri Lanka's second-innings resistance, particularly a partnership involving Kusal Medis and Sonal Dinusha as a phase that briefly put Pakistan under pressure.

However, Babar reserved special praise for his fast bowlers, who carried an increased workload after Pakistan's fourth seamer was ruled out through injury after bowling just one over.

Aamer Jamal, Razaullah and Mohammad Abbas were particularly impressive, according to Babar, who credited their determination and long spells for helping Pakistan regain control."When a bowler is less, he puts more load on you. They absorbed that," he said. "They did long spells. All three fast bowlers deserve credit for that.

Daily The Spokesman

Saturday
November 21,2026



High Commissioner of Pakistan to the United Kingdom, Mr. Tipu Usman, Presents Credentials to His Majesty King Charles III at St James's Palace.

Saad Rafique warns against creating smaller provinces without fundamental reforms

■ **Saad Rafique urges fundamental democratic, judicial and civil service reforms before creating smaller provinces, warning against replacing political dynasties with new power structures.**

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Former federal minister and senior Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that abolishing political dynasties should not lead to the creation of smaller political kingdoms under a single emperor, warning that such a system would neither function nor help the country progress.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, Rafique said the idea of fixing the country's dysfunctional governance system merely by creating smaller provinces was incomprehensible.



He said the creation of smaller provinces could be a positive step, but it would serve little purpose without fundamental reforms being introduced beforehand.

Rafique stressed that the government should first ensure transparent and representative democracy, end undemocratic interference in politics and the dominance of wealthy individuals, and create opportunities for the educated middle class to participate in politics.

Saad Rafique urges political parties to reform, respect public mandate

He also called for reforms in the civil service and judicial system.The PML-N leader said smaller provinces could potentially be created amid the country's prevailing political tensions, terrorism, extreme poverty, a paralysed justice system, a controversial parliament and non-political interference, but warned that such an arrangement would remain unstable and create further complications.He said Pakistan's biggest challenges included hunger, poverty, injustice, terrorism, violations of fundamental rights, political victimisation and unconstitutional practices.

Sanaullah asks President Zardari to counsel 'sons' over debate on new provinces

● PM's aide says supporters and opponents should be free to present their positions

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has urged President Asif Ali Zardari to speak to his "sons", Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Mohsin Naqvi, and encourage them to keep the debate on new provinces constructive.

Sanaullah said Zardari should call both of them and explain that while they were entitled to support or oppose the creation of new provinces, the discussion should remain healthy.

"One son is in favour of the provinces and the other is opposed," the programme's anchor said, summarising Sanaullah's remarks.

It is pertinent to mention here that President Zardari publicly calls



Naqvi his son.

The senator said the debate should not be allowed to become polluted, adding that those supporting the creation of provinces should be free to make their case, while opponents should also be allowed to express their views.

The PML-N leader also questioned how the issue could have remained undiscussed between the president and the interior minister, who, he said, frequently meets the president.

He noted that Naqvi is a senator supported by both the Pakistan Peoples Party and the PML-N, was often at the President's House, and had met Zardari in London, Australia and Nawabshah.

The ongoing debate over the creation of new provinces took a fresh turn on Wednesday night as the PPP chairman had taken a swipe at the Centre, saying that he would face opposition from the politicians as they lacked courage to hear the truth.

"It appears they [federal ministers] have decided to pick a fight with me for speaking the truth. The reaction [to his remarks] shows they are unwilling to tolerate criticism," Bilawal had said while responding to a series of statements by federal ministers earlier that day.The PPP chief had questioned how ordinary citizens could expect their voices to reach the government if politicians were unwilling to listen to him.The federal ministers, however, had strongly criticised Bilawal's opposition to the proposed division of Sindh, arguing that the creation of smaller provinces was necessary for better governance and that public opinion should prevail in the matter.



Pakistan issues visas to 3,000 Sikh pilgrims for Baba Guru Nanak's 557th birth anniversary

■ **Pakistan issues visas to around 3,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims for Baba Guru Nanak's 557th birth anniversary celebrations, scheduled across several religious sites.**

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan has issued visas to around 3,000 Sikh pilgrims from India to attend celebrations marking the 557th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism.

Preparations for the religious celebrations have been completed, while the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued visas to the pilgrims.

The Indian pilgrims will arrive in Pakistan through the Wagah Border on November 22, where they will be received by officials.

Special buses will transport them to Nankana Sahib, where they will visit various Gurdwaras on November 23.

The main ceremony marking Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary will be held at Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib on November 24.

Religious rituals, including Bhog and Akhand Path Sahib, will be performed during the ceremony.

On November 25, the pilgrims will travel from Nankana Sahib to Hasan Abdal via Gurdwara Sacha Sauda in Farooqabad, where they will stay overnight at Gurdwara Panja Sahib. They will remain there on November 26 as well.

554th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak: 1,148 Sikh pilgrims arrive from India

On November 27, the pilgrims will visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Narowal, and stay overnight in the city. A kabaddi match will be organised at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib on November 28, after which the pilgrims will travel to Lahore and stay at Gurdwara Dera Sahib.

According to the schedule, the pilgrims will visit various Gurdwaras in Lahore on November 29 and 30 before returning to India through the Wagah Border on December 1.

Officials of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) said special buses had been arranged for the pilgrims, who will bear their own transportation costs. However, accommodation and meals will be provided free of charge by the board. Free medical facilities will also be available during their stay.

Under the religious tourism agreement between Pakistan and India, up to 3,000 Sikh pilgrims from India can visit Pakistan on the occasion of Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

Bridging Educational Divide Essential for Scientific Progress and Innovation: Ahsan Iqbal

■ Minister highlights the historic contributions of Muslim scholars and calls for reconnecting religious education with modern knowledge.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need to bridge the gap between religious and modern education through an inclusive education system to promote scientific research, innovation and national development.

Addressing a national conference titled "The Role of Islamic Madaris in a Changing World: Demands, Challenges, Opportunities and Reforms," organised by Jamiat Talaba Arabia Pakistan, he said Islam made no distinction between religious and worldly knowledge.

Recalling the golden age of Muslim



civilisation in Spain, the minister highlighted the contributions of Muslim scholars to science, astronomy and mathematics, saying that historical divisions and colonial-era educational policies had created a gap between religious and modern education.

He emphasised the need for an education system that combined Islamic values with modern sciences, research and innovation, while highlighting the importance of mother-tongue education in promoting creativity and critical thinking.

Acknowledging the role of Madaris in preserving Islamic scholarship, Ahsan Iqbal said education should promote knowledge, ethical conduct, social responsibility and scientific inquiry.The Holy Quran encouraged reflection, observation and research, which were essential for intellectual and national progress, he added.

During the conference, representatives of Jamiat Talaba Arabia highlighted challenges faced by Madrasa graduates, particularly regarding access to higher education, recognition of academic qualifications and professional opportunities.

LHC restrains Sheikh Zayed Hospital from issuing appointment notifications

■ **LHC has barred Sheikh Zayed Hospital from issuing final appointment notifications over alleged recruitment irregularities, including claims that unregistered candidates were declared successful.**



COURT REPORTER

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has barred Sheikh Zayed Hospital from issuing final appointment notifications for administrative positions amid allegations of irregularities in its recruitment process.

Justice Shireen Imran issued a written order while hearing a petition filed by Muhammad Akhtar and other applicants challenging alleged irregularities in recruitment for administrative posts at the hospital.

Advocate Zubair Kundi appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners.

According to the petition, candidates were invited to take recruitment tests through the Central Testing Services (CTS) for various administrative positions at Sheikh Zayed Hospital. However, the applicants alleged that serious irregularities occurred during the testing and selection process.

The petitioners claimed that CTS declared certain candidates successful despite the fact that they had not even submitted applications for the advertised positions.They further argued that the recruitment procedure lacked transparency and raised concerns over the fairness of the selection process.The applicants requested the court to declare the entire recruitment process at Sheikh Zayed Hospital null and void and direct the authorities to conduct fresh appointments through a transparent procedure.After hearing the petition, the high court issued an interim order restraining Sheikh Zayed Hospital from issuing final appointment notifications for the candidates.

Turkish Research Vessel Oruç Reis to Conduct Offshore Oil and Gas Survey in Pakistan

■ **Two-month 3D seismic survey off Sindh and Makran coasts to assess potential hydrocarbon reserves and identify future exploration opportunities.**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Turkish research vessel Oruç Reis will conduct a two-month 3D seismic survey off the Sindh and Makran coasts to explore potential oil and gas reserves in Pakistan's maritime waters, Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said on Friday.

Speaking at a dinner hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Bayraktar said the scientific data obtained through the survey would help determine prospects for future oil and gas exploration and drilling.

According to a Prime Minister's Office statement, Shehbaz welcomed the arrival of the Turkish research vessel and thanked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his support and cooperation in the



offshore exploration project.

The prime minister said Pakistan's longstanding relations with Turkiye were rooted in friendship, mutual trust and shared interests.

He welcomed growing energy cooperation between the two countries and expressed his desire to expand collaboration by benefiting from Turkiye's technical expertise and experience.

Shehbaz said the exploration of potential oil and gas reserves within Pakistan's maritime boundaries represented an important step towards strengthening the country's energy security and economic development.

He also highlighted opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation beyond offshore exploration, particularly in minerals and renewable energy.

Bayraktar thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and his delegation.

He said the arrival of Oruç Reis marked the beginning of a new phase of energy cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye.

The Turkish minister reaffirmed his country's commitment to sharing technical expertise, scientific knowledge and engineering capabilities with Pakistan.

The Turkish delegation included parliamentarian Ali Sahin, president of the Pakistan-Turkiye Friendship Group, Turkish Ambassador Irfan Neziroglu and senior officials from the Turkish Ministry of Energy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Attaullah Tarar, Ali Pervaiz Malik and Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari also attended the dinner.

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