Daily
Simultaneously Published From
Rawalpindi, Lahore , Multan
The Spokesman
A LEADING NATIONAL DAILY -
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ABC Certified
Scan For ePaper
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www.dailyspokesman.net @daily_spokesman Daily Spokesman

Tuesday, November 24,2026 | Jamadius Sani 11,1448AH | Vol: 20 | Issue: 215 | Price Rs,30.00 | Pages-8



Petrol price cut by Rs3 per litre, diesel unchanged at Rs357

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has reduced the price of petrol by Rs3 per litre while keeping the price of high-speed diesel unchanged, with the revised rates taking effect from November 24, 2026.According to a notification issued by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Monday, the price of petrol has been reduced from Rs322 to Rs319 per litre.



Pak-Russia Intergovernmental Commission technical-level talks begin in Moscow

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

: Technical-level discussions between Pakistan and Russia commenced in Moscow, on Monday, as part of the 11th Session of the Pakistan–Russia Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, scheduled from November 23–25.Officials and experts from both countries are holding detailed consultations to review progress on existing bilateral understandings and finalize protocols and agreements expected to be signed on 25 November, a press release said.



Islamabad: Field Marshal Asim Munir shaking hands with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

CDF Munir, Malaysian PM reaffirm commitment to regional peace, stability and security

■ **Field Marshal Asim Munir and Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence ties and promoting regional peace, stability and security through sustained engagement.**

Atif Saeed

ISLAMABAD

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim have underscored the importance of sustained engagement to promote regional peace, stability and security.
The COAS & CDF called on the prime minister at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya during his visit to Malaysia that aimed at at further strengthening bilateral defence and military cooperation.
The meeting focused on bilateral relations, defence and security cooperation, and evolving regional and global security dynamics. The prime minister warmly welcomed the Field Marshal and acknowledged the longstanding bonds of friendship, mutual trust and cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia. He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the fields of defence and security.Field Marshal Asim Munir appreciated Malaysia's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in Southeast Asia and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen defence cooperation and institutional linkages between the Armed Forces of both countries.Both sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties through regular high-level exchanges, enhanced military cooperation and sustained dialogue on regional and international security issues.
Upon arrival at the Ministry of Defence Malaysia (MINDEF), Kuala Lumpur, the
(Continued on Page-5)

Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Arrives in Pakistan on Historic Six-Day Official Visit

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, is undertaking a six-day official visit to Pakistan, commencing today, accompanied by a high-level parliamentary delegation. This is the first-ever visit to Pakistan by a Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament. The visit also marks the first visit by a Bangladeshi parliamentary delegation to Pakistan.The visit of the Bangladeshi parliamentary delegation marks an important step towards further strengthening the historic.
, cultura, and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh and exploring new avenues of cooperation at the parliamentary level.



Marriyum Aurangzeb hails Maryam Nawaz as 'Super CM' at party convention in Pindi

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has described Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz as the "Super CM" while addressing a workers' convention in Rawalpindi.
Speaking at the convention, Aurangzeb said the social media initiative launched by Maryam Nawaz had developed into a strong network. She said she had arrived alongside party workers to welcome the chief minister, adding that no one could attain power without the will of Allah Almighty.
Calling Maryam Nawaz the "Super CM," Aurangzeb highlighted her focus on public welfare, including free medical treatment, medicines, housing, hospitals and educational institutions.

18,500 families receive housing loans under Apna Ghar Programme

■ **The prime minister said loans worth Rs500 billion had been approved, adding that the government aimed to achieve the target of distributing Rs1,000 billion over the next six months.**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced that more than Rs100 billion has been distributed in housing loans under the Apna Ghar Programme, benefiting thousands of families.Addressing a ceremony, he said Rs100 billion had been disbursed for the construction of 18,500 houses in the programme's first six and a half months, while the total loan amount had now reached Rs112 billion. The prime minister said loans worth Rs500 billion had been approved, adding that the government aimed to achieve the target of distributing Rs1,000 billion over the next six months. He said



another ceremony would be held once the target was achieved.
Congratulating families who had received loans to build their homes, Shehbaz Sharif said the programme was bringing happiness and dignity to thousands of households. He stressed that there would be no limit on the number of houses built for low-income families, whether the requirement was 100,000, 200,000 or 500,000 homes.
He directed banks to approve housing loans without delay and said political interference in the process would not be tolerated. He added that no applicant had been asked about their political affiliation, describing this as an example of transparency and merit.
The prime minister said there had been no corruption or favouritism in the loan process. He urged the government and banks to work together to remove any obstacles.

Opposition leaders Seek urgent hearing to enforce Supreme Court order on Imran Khan's medical care

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Opposition leaders in both houses of parliament on Monday asked the chief justices of three courts to urgently hear a petition on PTI founder Imran Khan's health. They said the government had failed for three months to act on a Supreme Court order to protect the former prime minister's life in custody.National Assembly opposition leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Senate opposition leader Raja Nasir Abbas signed the 23 November letter addressed to the chief justices of the Supreme Court, the Federal Constitutional Court and the Islamabad High Court.

PM Shehbaz's historic Moscow visit to yield 16 bilateral deals, Say envoy

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Russia are set to sign between 15 and 16 bilateral agreements during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming official visit to Moscow, Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Faisal Niaz Tirmizi announced.
Speaking to Russian media, Ambassador Tirmizi characterized the Prime Minister's upcoming trip as historic, expressing optimism for a significant breakthrough in bilateral relations.

PA speaker demands open debate on new provinces and referendum

■ **Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad Khan calls for open parliamentary debate on creating new provinces and holding public referendums.**

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan stated that all political parties should engage in an open debate within parliament regarding the creation of new provinces and the conduct of referendums, emphasizing that the public's bond with the state can only be strengthened when equitable distribution of resources is guaranteed.Speaking to media representatives in Lahore, Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan noted that the citizen-state connection is weakening, while the unequal distribution of resources fuels feelings of deprivation and disparity. He



stressed that citizens must receive their legitimate share, asserting that the issue of new provinces is not merely about administrative costs, but concerns public inclusion in the state and the fair allocation of resources.
He pointed out that soliciting public opinion and altering provincial boundaries are two distinct matters. He stated that nowhere does the Constitution restrict seeking public consensus when modifying provincial borders, adding that parliament holds the authority to decide the specific questions and regions for a referendum.
The Punjab Assembly Speaker questioned why the National Assembly and Senate passed resolutions in 2012 regarding the division of Punjab if altering provincial borders falls solely under the purview of provincial assemblies. He further called for clarity on the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) position, asking on what logic it opposes the division of Sindh while supporting the creation of new provinces in Punjab.He affirmed that raising the issue of new provinces in the Punjab Assembly is the constitutional right of the opposition and should be deliberated on the floor of the house.

Portugal FM pledges support for Pakistan's GSP+ status, seeks stronger EU ties

■ **DPM Dar, Rangel sign agreement on mutual exemption of visa requirements for diplomatic passport holders**

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel on Monday reaffirmed his country's support for Pakistan under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), calling for stronger bilateral cooperation to deepen economic and diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the European bloc.
Rangel made the remarks during a joint press conference with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad.
"I have to say that this can be favoured by the European relationship. And here, of course, you know that in the GPS Plus you have all our support and that we can also work together in our bilateral dimension to strengthen this European framework where both Pakistan and the European Union can really have mutual advantages," Rangel said during a joint press conference with DPM Dar.During his address, he noted that his talks with DPM Dar "were very fruitful." He added, "We really have a prospect of enhancing and improving our relationship in a fantastic manner."
He also expressed hope that bilateral economic ties between Pakistan and Portugal would flourish and that "the economic dimension of our relationship will be improved in a very strong manner."

Pakistan, Turkiye sign MoU to enhance judicial cooperation

- Chief Justice Yahya Afridi remarked that relations between Pakistan and Tüurkiye have grown stronger over time



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Turkiye have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral judicial cooperation and institutional ties between their top courts.

The signing ceremony took place in Islamabad between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Court of Cassation of Turkiye. Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi and the President of the Turkish Court of Cassation, Omer Kerkez, formally signed the agreement on behalf of their respective institutions, agreeing to deepen institutional collaboration between the two apex courts.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Justice Yahya Afridi remarked that relations between Pakistan and Tüurkiye have grown stronger over time, adding that enhanced judicial cooperation will bring the two brotherly nations even closer and elevate legal collaboration to new heights.Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the rule of law, Chief Justice Afridi noted that significant judicial reforms have been introduced in the country, with a strong focus on integrating modern technology into the legal framework. He emphasized that initiatives such as e-courts will improve public access to justice and help modernize the judicial systems of both nations.

President of the Turkish Court of Cassation Omer Kerkez highlighted the longstanding fraternal ties between Türkiye and Pakistan, noting that their relationship is built on mutual trust and shared values.

He underscored the importance of joint efforts to uphold the rule of law and ensure the dispensation of justice, adding that leveraging modern technology is essential to making judicial systems more efficient and transparent.



DIG Islamabad Holds Open Court, Directs Prompt Redressal of Citizens' Complaints

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Holds Open Court, Directs Prompt Redressal of Citizens' ComplaintsAccording to the details, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem held an open court at his office, which was attended by a large number of citizens. He listened to their complaints and concerns in detail and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem stated that the timely resolution of citizens' issues on merit is a top priority of Islamabad Police. He added that citizens can attend the open court directly and present their complaints without any recommendation or reference.An open court is held daily at the DIG Office to facilitate citizens and ensure the timely redressal of their grievances.

NCCIA Lahore & Gujranwala Launch Major Crackdown, 14 Suspects Arrested

- Online Fraud, Illegal Call Centres, Child Exploitation, Anti-State Propaganda and Bomb Threat Cases Uncovered; 13 Digital Devices Recovered

Staff Reporter

Lahore/Gujranwala



The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency, Lahore and Gujranwala, has arrested 14 accused in various operations. During the operations, 13 digital devices, laptops, CPUs and mobile phones were recovered. Cases have been registered against all the accused and further investigation is underway.According to details, a group involved in an online romance scam befriended the victim on TikTok, lured her with the promise of sending a diamond ring, and later, posing as fake FIA and Customs officers, defrauded her of more than Rs. 5.8 million under the pretext of various charges. In this operation, 4 accused were arrested in raids at two places, while 3 mobile phones and a vehicle were recovered.Similarly, in operations against illegal call centres in Lahore, 7 accused were arrested, including 2 persons taken into custody during a raid on an illegal call centre in Park View Lahore and 8 persons arrested during a raid on an illegal call centre on Model Town Link Road. The accused targeted foreign nationals by luring them with fake telecom offers and falsely representing renowned foreign telecom companies. During investigation, the group was also found involved in carding and fake financial transactions.Three accused involved in disseminating objectionable material related to children were also arrested. Action was taken on receipt of 5 reports on an international report, the accused had created fake Facebook accounts in the names of women and in one case action was taken on a complaint of targeting a 9-year-old girl. Forensic examination of the recovered digital devices is underway.Meanwhile, 2 accused were arrested for spreading anti-state and hateful material, who were disseminating material against state institutions on Facebook, TikTok and Instagram. In addition, a student who threatened to bomb an educational institution was also arrested, no explosive material was recovered during the operation and the threat was foiled. In another operation, a brother who was blackmailing his sister for property and money was also arrested.On this occasion, Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that there is a zero-tolerance policy against cyber fraud networks.

Rawalpindi Traders to Present Gold Crown to CM Maryam Nawaz

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI



: The All Pakistan Small Gems, Jewellery and Tools Association will present a gold crown to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on her arrival in Rawalpindi, Zonal Chairman Islamabad-Rawalpindi Division Ghulam Mustafa said.He said the presentation of the crown would be a symbol of the love, respect and appreciation of the people of Rawalpindi for the chief minister. Preparations are underway to make the occasion memorable, while association members and workers are enthusiastic about welcoming her.Ghulam Mustafa said workers were united under the leadership of Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Daniyal Chaudhary.He said the business community of Rawalpindi welcomed the chief minister's visit and hoped that the provincial government would take further steps to promote development, business activities and resolve public issues in the city.

Islamabad Police Arrest 31 Suspects in 24-Hour Crackdown, Snatched Motorbike and Weapons Recovered



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Two members of snatcher gang arrested; Snatched motorbike, mobile phones, narcotics and Weapons recoveredAccording to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police is continuing its extensive crackdown against criminal elements to protect the lives and property of citizens across the federal capital.During the last 24 hours, police teams arrested 31 accused in various operations, including two members of snatcher gang. Police teams recovered snatched motorbike and mobile phones from the arrested accused. Similarly, 4 accused involved in illegal possession and display of weapons were arrested, and four pistols and along with ammunition were recovered from their possession. Furthermore, 9 accused involved in drug trafficking were arrested, and 1720 grams of ice, 2370 gram hashish, 35 wine bottles were recovered from them. Meanwhile, a special campaign targeting proclaimed offenders and court absconders resulted in the arrest of 16 accused.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the foremost priority of Islamabad Police. He said that indiscriminate action against criminal elements would continue and all available resources would be utilized to maintain law and order and ensure public safety across the capital.He urged citizens to immediately report any suspicious activity or person to the relevant police station or the emergency helpline Pukar-15. He emphasized that cooperation between the public and police is essential to prevent crime and make the city safer.

Petrol Pump Owners Demand End To Daily Fuel Price Changes, Seek Restoration of Monthly Pricing

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



All Pakistan Petrol Pumps Owners Association Vice Chairman Nauman Ali Butt has urged the government to abolish the daily price revision mechanism for petroleum products and restore monthly pricing, saying frequent changes are causing financial losses and business uncertainty for petrol pump owners.Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club Islamabad alongside Association President Rawalpindi-Islamabad Sardar Zaheer, Chaudhry Asif Mahmood and other office-bearers, Butt said dealers often purchase fuel at one price but are forced to sell their stocks at reduced rates following price cuts, resulting in direct financial losses.He said daily price fluctuations were disrupting stock management, purchasing, accounting and business planning, while also creating confusion and disputes between consumers and petrol pump management.Butt said petrol pump owners, managers and employees were providing an essential public service, with thousands of livelihoods linked to the sector. He urged the government to announce a clear and predictable pricing policy and restore monthly price adjustments to ensure stability for dealers, consumers and transporters.

Balochistanaccelerates development push via BSDI initiative

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Work on critical development projects under the Balochistan Special Development Initiative (BSDI) is progressing rapidly across the province to deliver basic amenities and elevate living standards in underdeveloped areas. The total cost of the BSDI program stands at Rs56 billion, encompassing 4,063 development projects tailored to meet regional needs. Multiple projects spanning education, healthcare, agriculture, road networks, and core infrastructure have already reached completion. Furthermore, the construction, restoration, and renovation of numerous educational institutions have been finalized across various districts of Balochistan.To empower local youth, modern IT hubs have been established across the province, capable of equipping over 8,000 individuals annually with advanced technological skills and vocational training. Local citizens have commended the ongoing BSDI projects, describing the government's efforts as a vital step toward sustainable regional progress.

Federal Urdu University and Russia's Ural State Pedagogical University to Hold Two-Day International Academic Forum

- Pak-Russia Dialogue on Educational Opportunities and Prospects Scheduled for November 25-26; Scholars, Researchers and Students from Both Countries to Participate

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Islamabad, in collaboration with Russia's Ural State Pedagogical University, will organise a two-day international academic forum on November 25 and 26, 2026, under the title "Pak-Russia Dialogue: International Educational Opportunities and Prospects."The forum will be held at Federal Urdu University, Islamabad, with some sessions conducted online. Russian university faculty members, researchers and students will participate virtually, while scholars and students from Pakistan will take part in the academic discussions.The opening ceremony will be addressed by Vice Chancellor Federal Urdu University Professor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari and Acting Rector of Ural State Pedagogical University Dr Margarita L. Kosova. Dr Shinwari will also deliver a keynote address on "Academic Diplomacy: Federal Urdu University's Vision for Educational Partnership with Russia."A special session titled "Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language: Initial Steps" will feature education experts from both countries. Speakers from Russia will include Dr Elena M. Kolesova, Dr Irina A. Samokhina, Dr Roman Y. Porozov and Dr Olesya V. Fyuktistova. Pakistani academics participating in the session will include Dr Touheeda from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, Peshawar, Dr Sundas Khizar from the University of Okara, and Dr Faisal Javed from Federal Urdu University.On the second day, a joint online student conference will be held on "Linguistics and Literature of Russia and Pakistan." Seven students from the Department of Mass Communication at Federal Urdu University will present their research under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr Sikandar Zareen. Russian students of media studies will also present their research papers.Students from both sides of the International Relations departments will likewise participate in the forum and share their academic work.Pakistani students will present research on Urdu and Russian etiquette and hospitality, the language of Pakistani television dramas, the poetry of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Sufi poetry and Waris Shah's Heer. Russian students will discuss the literary works of Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol and Ivan Turgenev, as well as Russian folk tales.Russian professors will also deliver special lectures on language and literature, providing an opportunity for students and scholars to explore academic, cultural and research perspectives of both countries.Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari said participation of the university's faculty and students in international academic and research activities reflected the institution's vision of promoting academic collaboration.

Senate Panel Demands Equal Provincial Share in Oil and Gas Profits

Senator Barrister Zamir Hussain Ghumro Calls for Equal Sharing of Rs3.6 Trillion in Oil and Gas Profits, Urges Reforms in Federal Jobs to Ensure Fair Provincial Representation

STAFF REPORTER

MULTAN



The Senate Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Devolution, convened by Senator Barrister Zamir Hussain Ghumro, has called for immediate implementation of constitutional provisions ensuring equal provincial ownership of mineral oil and natural gas resources and equitable representation of provinces in federal services.During a meeting at Parliament House, the Sub-Committee reviewed the implementation of Article 172(3) of the Constitution, noting that oil and gas companies had earned approximately Rs3.6 trillion in profits since the 18th Constitutional Amendment, while provinces had reportedly received no share. The amount could exceed Rs6 trillion after including other companies.Senator Ghumro directed the Ministry of Petroleum to formulate a comprehensive mechanism for sharing profits equally between the Federal Government and respective provincial governments and submit the matter to the Federal Cabinet for urgent approval. He warned that failure to implement the constitutional provision could result in referral to audit authorities.The Sub-Committee also reviewed provincial representation in federal services and expressed concern over Punjab's 60.17 per cent representation in BPS-18 to 22 positions. It directed the Establishment Division to submit a comprehensive rectification plan for Sindh within two weeks and ensure equitable representation of all provinces, particularly Sindh and Balochistan.The committee further directed the FPSC to provide details of vacancies and appointments from Sindh and Balochistan, while the National Highway Authority was asked to implement court verdicts regarding dismissed contractual employees and ensure equal employment terms.The Sub-Committee directed federal ministries, corporations and institutions to maintain provincial shares in recruitment and appointments in accordance with Article 38(g) of the Constitution, and instructed the Finance and Commerce Ministries to rectify provincial representation in state-owned enterprises within two weeks.

43% Work Completed on Margalla Avenue Extension and Sangjani Interchange Project

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Development work on the Margalla Avenue N5 to M1 Extension and Sangjani Interchange project, located in the Federal Capital Islamabad, is proceeding in full pace and overall, 43 percent of the development work has been completed so far.In line with the direction of Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, construction activities are continuing round the clock (24/7) on various sections of the project. Under the project, work on the approximately 2.7 kilometer long extension of the main road is proceeding rapidly across all sections within ICT limits.Similarly, work on all loops and ramps included in the project has also entered the final stages. While work on the service road connected to the main road is also proceeding fast.The structural work of the underpass included in the Margalla Avenue Extension project has been completed. Similarly, the concrete walls and footing slabs of the underpass have also been completed, while earthwork filling on the right and left sides of the underpass will be completed soon.The pile work of Sangjani Interchange, a key component of the Margalla Avenue Extension project, has been completed, while steel fixing work is ongoing and piling work along with girder work has been completed and excavation work will also be completed soon.Similarly, the pile work and excavation of abutments on both sides of the N5 Bridge have been completed.

NCCIA Arrests Student for Bomb Blast and Arson Threat Against Educational Institution

AI Platform Used to Issue Threats; Accused Traced Through IP Records in Lahore, Mobile Phone Seized for Technical Examination

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Threatening Educational Institution with Bomb and ArsonThe National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has arrested a student for threatening an educational institution with a bomb blast and arson. A case has been registered against the accused and further investigation is underway. The recovered mobile phone has been taken into custody for technical examination.According to details, a few days ago, on information received through the international cooperation channel, the NCCIA immediately registered an inquiry. The information stated that a serious threat had been issued to an educational institution through an AI platform. The accused had threatened to blow up the college using chemicals and set the building on fire, which created fear and panic in the educational institution.The platform had terminated access to the said account for violating its violence-related policy and had conveyed the relevant information to the authorities through the international cooperation channel. The technical team of the NCCIA conducted a detailed technical analysis of the account, which linked the IP records of the account to Lahore.In light of the technical evidence, a team of the NCCIA conducted a raid at the relevant location in Lahore and arrested the accused. During the raid, a mobile phone was recovered on which an email account was found logged in. During the initial investigation, the accused has confessed to sending the threatening messages.During the operation, no explosive material or weapon was recovered, and the timely action foiled the threat.On this occasion, Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that such false and serious threats not only affect the educational environment but also waste the time and resources of law enforcement agencies. Therefore, there is a zero-tolerance policy against cyber fraud networks, and strict legal action will be taken against those who threaten educational institutions or any citizen.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expresses condolences over the demise of senior journalist Syed Hussain Naqi

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of senior journalist Syed Hussain Naqi.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to the journalistic services of the late Syed Hussain Naqi, saying that he had devoted his life to journalism and rendered invaluable services to the profession. He said that his contributions would always be remembered with respect and admiration. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said that the passing of Syed Hussain Naqi was a great loss to the journalistic community.Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family and said that he shared their grief in this difficult time. He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the departed soul eternal peace and the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and to bless the bereaved family with patience and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

NA Speaker Calls for National Action and Stronger Laws to Ensure Child Protection Across Pakistan



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has called for collective national efforts, effective implementation of existing legislation and stronger institutional mechanisms to ensure the safety, protection and welfare of children across Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing the National Seminar on Child Safety, titled "Strengthening the Legal Framework for Child Protection in Pakistan," as Chief Guest at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), Islamabad. The seminar was organised by the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights (PCCR) of the National Assembly, under the Convenorship of Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, in collaboration with Save the Children.In his keynote address, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq underscored that the protection, welfare and rights of children constitute a collective national responsibility. Highlighting disparities in access to education, nutrition, healthcare and essential facilities, he stressed that every child, irrespective of background or geographical location, deserves a safe environment and protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. He emphasised the role of parents and educational institutions in imparting moral values, civic sense and ethical responsibilities alongside formal education. The Speaker also highlighted the contributions of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, SDGs Secretariat, Young Parliamentarians Forum and PCCR in advancing parliamentary engagement and coordination with provincial legislatures. He expressed confidence that the seminar would contribute towards meaningful legislative reforms and practical measures for safeguarding children's future.

Lahore remains world's most polluted city as thick smog grips Punjab



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Thick smog continues to engulf Lahore and several other cities across Punjab, keeping the provincial capital at the top of global air pollution rankings.

According to recorded air quality data, Lahore's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) stands at 318. Within the city, pollution levels surged dramatically in specific neighborhoods, with Allama Iqbal Town exceeding an AQI of 600, while Kahna recorded particulate matter levels of 261.

Severe air pollution has also affected other major urban centers in the province. Gujranwala registered a high reading of 389, followed closely by Multan at 378 particulate matters.

In light of the deteriorating air quality, medical experts have urged citizens to take precautionary measures, advising residents to avoid unnecessary outdoor movement and to wear face masks whenever stepping outside.

Meanwhile, in a relief for commuters, authorities have reopened the M-3 and M-4 motorways for traffic following an improvement in visibility.

Kirpa Police Safely Recover Two Missing Children, Reunite Them with Parents

Prompt Action by SHO Tipu Sultan Ranjha and ASI Rana Tahir Ensures Safe Recovery of Children Who Left Home Following Family Dispute

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Demonstrating professional expertise, prompt action, and the effective use of modern technology, the Kirpa Police Station safely traced and reunited two children with their parents after they left home following a domestic dispute. According to details, a distressed father residing in Lohi Bher reported to the Safe City Helpline that his two children had left home due to a family disagreement and could not be traced. Upon receiving the alert, a police team immediately launched a search operation under the directives of SHO Kirpa Police Station, Tipu Sultan Ranjha.Utilizing modern technology and a strategic search approach across various locations, the police successfully located both children safe and sound. ASI Rana Tahir played a pivotal role in the operation and handed the children over to their parents after completing the necessary legal formalities.Speaking on the occasion, SHO Tipu Sultan Ranjha stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens and assisting them in times of distress is the top priority of the police. He added that emergency measures were taken immediately upon receiving the missing report to keep the children safe from any untoward incident or harm.?Upon the safe return of their children, the parents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Kirpa Police, particularly SHO Tipu Sultan Ranjha and ASI Rana Tahir, praising their dedication to duty and swift response. Special Message for Parents: Understand your children's emotions and grievances, and treat them with love, affection, and patience. A little time and attention from parents can protect children from major harm and untoward incidents.

BISE Rawalpindi Introduces Digital On-Screen Marking System for Intermediate Exams 2026

Computer Science Paper of Intermediate Part-I Assessed Under New System; Reforms Aim to Ensure Transparency, Accuracy and Merit in Examination Results

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi has introduced an on-screen marking system for the Intermediate Second Annual Examinations 2026, marking a significant step towards modernising its examination and assessment procedures.The Computer Science paper of Intermediate Part-I was conducted under the new digital marking system, in line with the examination reforms initiated by Chairman BISE Rawalpindi, Professor Dr Iqbal Mahmood.Under the on-screen marking system, students' answer scripts will be assessed digitally, with the aim of improving transparency, merit, consistency and accuracy in the marking process. The system is also expected to reduce reliance on traditional assessment methods and minimise human intervention, while making the preparation of examination results more efficient and reliable.Controller of Examinations Mubashir Saeed visited various examination centres during the conduct of the Computer Science paper and reviewed the arrangements in detail. He inspected staff deployment, facilities provided to students, the examination environment and compliance with the prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).He directed the relevant staff to ensure discipline, transparency and merit in the examination process and perform their duties strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations. He also emphasised the need to provide students with a peaceful and conducive environment to ensure the smooth conduct of examinations.The Board confirmed that the Computer Science paper of Intermediate Part-I was conducted under the on-screen marking system at all examination centres, while the examination concluded peacefully in accordance with the prescribed SOPs.The introduction of the digital assessment system is being viewed as an important milestone in BISE Rawalpindi's examination reforms, laying the foundation for a modern, transparent and technology-driven assessment framework.

South Korea's education minister quits over exam cheating chaos

President Lee Jae Myung accepted the resignation within an hour and ordered a comprehensive review of national exam management and related laws



Web DESK

TEHRAN

South Korean Education Minister Choi Kyo-jin resigned , taking responsibility for confusion caused by last-minute measures to prevent AI-assisted cheating in the country's high-stakes college entrance examination held last week.

President Lee Jae Myung accepted the resignation within an hour and ordered a comprehensive review of national exam ?management and related laws.

The government rushed out tighter restrictions after the top scorer in a national tax-accountant examination admitted using a miniature camera, a smartphone and artificial intelligence to cheat.

During the eight-hour exam, authorities restricted Wi-Fi, checked glasses and clothing buttons for hidden devices, and issued nationwide alerts ?to detect concealed phones.

More than 550,000 students registered for the test, which plays a major role in admission to the country's top universities.

Choi acknowledged that inadequate preparation and repeated rule changes had inconvenienced students and officials.

He also faced criticism after saying that, because of his age, he did not think he could detect AI-assisted cheating.



High Commissioner for Pakistan in Australia Irfan Shaukat on Monday called on Senator the Hon Sue Lines, President of the Australian Senate, at Parliament House.

Iran says it will use all available tools to confront US naval blockade

Web Desk

TEHRAN



Iran will use all its tools to confront the US naval blockade, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said in a weekly news conference on Monday.

The US blockade on Iran-related oil exports was imposed on April 13, lifted in June after Washington reached a draft understanding with Tehran, then restored on July 14 after the agreement collapsed.

"We will definitely not tolerate it (the blockade) and we will use all our tools to confront this US aggression," Baghaei said.

"The naval blockade ... is considered a military aggression," he added. "Iran has the right to use any available tool to defend itself in this regard."

TankerTrackers.com said last week that a tanker was loading Iranian crude oil in the Gulf via ship-to-ship transfer and could become the first vessel to successfully export the country's crude since the US reimposed the blockade in July.

Baghaei said on Monday that reports about Iranian ships loading oil are "speculations".

Visible Iranian crude exports decreased to near zero in recent months due to the blockade. Iran says it controls passage through the strategic Strait of Hormuz and will only reopen it when Washington meets its conditions, including halting hostilities, lifting the blockade and waiving sanctions.

"If the other side (the US) fulfils the related conditions, we will be able to execute our commitments in the shortest time possible", Baghaei said, referring to the reopening of the Strait.

He also said that Tehran remained committed to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its obligations, despite growing debate inside Iran over continued membership, according to Iranian news agency Press TV.

India announces $1.62 billion package to bolster ties with flood-hit Nepal

- **On Monday, he thanked India for consistently acting as a first responder for Nepal "in times of natural disasters and difficult hours", and invited Indian investors and Modi to the**

Web Desk

NEW DELHI



India said on Monday it will provide flood-hit Nepal with a $1.62 billion economic package, one of its largest-ever assistance commitments, as New Delhi boosts ties with its Himalayan neighbour where it competes with China for influence.The announcement followed talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart Balendra Shah, who is in New Delhi for a two-day visit — his first bilateral trip abroad since coming to power in March.The visit comes nearly three months after a devastating ?Himalayan flood swept through Nepal, killing some 1,500 people, leaving 5,200 missing and presumed dead, and destroying roads, bridges, schools, homes and livelihoods.The economic package aims to give fresh impetus to Nepal's reconstruction and long-term development, Modi said, addressing the media after the talks, with Shah standing beside him.

"Our commitment will be to help affected families get their lives back on track, create new opportunities and further strengthen Nepal's capacity to deal with future disasters," Modi said.

Indonesia says 24 killed in factory blaze as rescuers search for dozens missing

- **Indonesia's Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka resigned amid political tensions, while former President Jokowi pledged support for President Prabowo's administration.**

Web Desk

JAKARTA



Indonesia confirmed on Monday the deaths of 24 people in a fire that tore through a factory at the weekend, as rescuers braved unstable structures in the burned wreckage in the search for about 30 people still missing.

Authorities were still investigating the cause of the fire, which broke out on Saturday evening in one building of the PT Fonusa Agung Mulia confectionery factory in Cikande in Banten province, about an hour's drive from the capital Jakarta. Said Iqbal, a presidential adviser on labour issues, told reporters 24 people had died, adding implementation of safety protocols was being assessed and that he would summon the factory's chief executive.

Preliminary reports indicated the fire may have been caused by an air-conditioner short circuit, Said added.

The factory is owned by United Family Food, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The firm employs about 5,000 people overall and is a major supplier of consumer goods to the domestic market, with four overseas offices. Its products include Milkita, a ?popular confectionery brand, and Lemonilo, an instant noodle variety, according to its website.

The factory's CEO Steven Erwin Wijaya has said about 300 people were present at the factory complex for Saturday's shift. The search continued on Monday with remaining ?hotspots and the building's increasingly unstable structure posing safety risks for rescuers, according to Al Amrad, head of the Banten search and rescue agency.

He told reporters 29 people were confirmed safe, five of whom were hospitalised. Rescuers had so far taken away 24 body bags containing body parts but authorities on the ground could not immediately confirm the death toll, he said.

The intensity of the fire meant recovered victims were unidentifiable via visual inspection, with efforts ongoing to collect DNA samples from relatives, a process that could take ?weeks, police official Wahyu Hidayati said.

Democrats win largest US House majority since 1992: media

Web Desk

WASHINGTON



Democrats have won the largest majority in the US House of Representatives in more than three decades, after Chuck Hubbard defeated Republican representative Virginia Foxx in North Carolina, The party won full control of both the House and Senate in a sweeping midterm rout with a landslide of upsets that delivered a crushing rebuke of President Donald Trump and his Republican Party. CBS News and NBC News projected Hubbard's win on Sunday, securing the Democrats a 258th seat in Congress' 435-member House.

The majority is the largest won by either party since 1992, when Bill Clinton won the presidency, and Democrats won a total of 258 seats.

"House Democrats have just secured the largest majority any party in Congress has held this century. BOOM," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a post on X.

"Let me be the first to thank Congresswoman Foxx for her decades of service and countless sacrifices," he added on X.

The Democratic victory hands the party the power to block Trump's agenda and investigate alleged corruption for the last two years of his presidency.

Ukraine says 11 killed in strike on residential building in Kyiv region



NEWS DESK

RUSSIA

At least 11 people were killed in a strike on a residential building in Ukraine's Kyiv region, while several Russian regions reported drone attacks overnight, including on oil infrastructure, according to Ukrainian and Russian officials.

Ukraine's State Emergency Service said rescuers recovered the bodies of 11 people from beneath the rubble during an overnight search-and-rescue operation at the site of the destroyed building.

"Rescue workers continued searching throughout the night, temporarily suspending operations during air raid alerts to ensure their safety," the agency said.In Russia, Rostov Region Governor Yury Slyusar said more than 80 drones had been intercepted or suppressed over the city of Kamensk-Shakhtinsky and eight districts of the region.

Saudi Arabia's influence loomed large over failed COP31 deal

- **Saudi Arabia and fellow members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries have long opposed climate language targeting fossil fuels**

STAFF REPORTER

JADAH

As the COP31 climate conference drifted into what proved to be record overtime, a negotiator from a small island state complained that a promised meeting with the talks' Turkish and Australian presidents had been cancelled yet again.

Saudi officials, meanwhile, had regular access, allowing them disproportionate influence at the Antalya conference, according to negotiators from Europe, small island states, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Riyadh was at the forefront of resisting language on reducing reliance on fossil fuels, the negotiators said, adding that was chiefly why a political agreement could not be reached for the first time since 2009.



The European Union, several small island states, and other nations particularly vulnerable to climate change said they could not accept a text that failed to mention the oil, gas, and coal that scientists say drive global warming.

"This COP, I believe, was hijacked by some oil states," Ireland's climate minister Darragh O'Brien told Reuters on behalf of the European Union when asked about Saudi Arabia's role in the negotiations.

The Turkish COP presidency said in a statement no group or country was given "preferential treatment". Representatives for Saudi Arabia and Australia did not immediately comment for this story.

Saudi Arabia and fellow members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries have long opposed climate language targeting fossil fuels, saying they need to be part of the global energy mix for the foreseeable future.

Fossil fuels were explicitly mentioned in texts from previous COPs in 2021 in Glasgow and 2023 in Dubai.

But several negotiators said Riyadh's hand was strengthened at Antalya by the absence of active US engagement at COP31 and the lack of close US-China coordination that has helped broker compromises at previous COPs.

"Instead of having one or two major players helping define the boundaries of the discussion, those boundaries have become less clear," Singapore Environment Minister Grace Fu said.

Daily The Spokesman

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COP31 ends without overarching deal

The UN climate conference ended without an overarching political agreement on Sunday after negotiations dragged into overtime, as countries failed to bridge deep divisions over transitioning away from fossil fuels and delivering firm climate-finance support for developing nations. The final draft dropped any mention of moving away from fossil fuels, a red line for the European Union and several climate-vulnerable countries but opposed by oil producers, including Saudi Arabia and Russia. The conference ended without adopting the proposed Antalya Pact, marking a major breakdown in UN climate negotiations.



The central dispute was over whether the final text would name fossil fuels directly. A coalition of countries pushing for greater climate ambition, led by the European Union, Panama, the Marshall Islands and Norway, refused to endorse a deal that did not explicitly commit to transitioning away from coal, oil and gas. They argued that any meaningful agreement must address the root cause of the climate crisis. Oil-producing nations, notably Saudi Arabia and Russia, pushed back against language singling out fossil fuels, favouring instead an indirect reference to previous agreements. The final draft omitted the phrase entirely, a significant retreat from an earlier version that had called for an "immediate transition away from fossil fuels". It also fell short of the landmark COP28 pledge in Dubai in 2023, when countries agreed for the first time to call for a transition away from fossil fuels.

The second major fault line was climate finance, where developing and climate-vulnerable countries demanded greater support for adaptation. An earlier draft called for tripling adaptation finance by 2035, but critics said the proposal lacked baseline figures and specific funding commitments, leaving many developing nations deeply disappointed. Those least responsible for emissions and most exposed to climate impacts were once again left without credible assurances of financial support.

The breakdown came against a dire scientific backdrop. A recent UN report put the world on course for potentially catastrophic warming of 2.8°C under current policies, far beyond the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. While the failure to produce a new political declaration was a significant blow, it did not erase the legal and technical obligations agreed at previous UN climate conferences.

The failure drew sharp reactions from negotiators and observers. Ireland's climate minister, Darragh O'Brien, speaking for the EU presidency, said the talks had been "hijacked by some oil states". Australia's Climate Minister Chris Bowen, whose country co-presided over the summit with Türkiye, called the outcome "very disappointing" but pointed to side pledges, including a commitment by more than 90 countries to ramp up electrification. UN Secretary-General António Guterres said he was "deeply disappointed" and "frustrated".

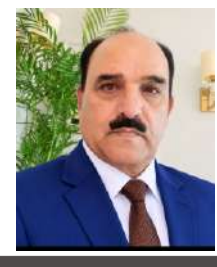
Executive Director of Climate Action Network International Tasneem Essop.

Executive Director of Climate Action Network International Tasneem Essop.

Campaign groups were blunter still, directing their criticism both at oil producers for blocking fossil-fuel language and at wealthy nations for retreating on finance. Tasneem Essop, Executive Director of Climate Action Network International, called it "the worst COP ever", saying "rich nations gutted the very measures that could have made a difference". Pointing to EU Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra's pre-summit declaration that discussions on new climate finance were "dead in the water", she said the EU's rejection of a text silent on fossil fuels was "the height of hypocrisy. Deeds not words is what matters." The space to protect humanity from climate catastrophe, she said, "is being deliberately dismantled by political leaders who consider the lives of those in the global south as disposable".

Teresa Anderson, Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid International, warned that "temperatures are rising, impacts are rising, but support for climate-hit countries is shrinking". The EU's refusal to allow real progress on adaptation finance, she said, meant "harvests will fail when they might have thrived" and "people will drown because they didn't get a flood alert".

Is It Time to Reconsider the Presidential System of Government? A Personal Reflection on Governance, Development, Political Stability and Accountability.



BY: RAKHMAT ZADA DAR

Pakistan has completed nearly 79 years of its existence. During this long journey, the country has experienced different political and administrative systems, including parliamentary democracy, military governments, presidential forms of government, and various experiments in governance and institutional restructuring.

Despite these changes, Pakistan continues to face serious challenges, including political instability, corruption, economic uncertainty, administrative inefficiency, poor governance, inconsistent policies and a lack of continuity in national development.

Having personally witnessed the changing political and governmental landscape of Pakistan since approximately 1970, I believe it is time for an honest, constructive and national-level debate on whether the existing parliamentary system is delivering the results expected by the people, or whether Pakistan should seriously consider adopting a presidential system of government.

What Have We Learned from Nearly Eight Decades?

Throughout Pakistan's history, different governments have come into power with promises of economic prosperity, social justice, development, employment, institutional reforms and relief for the common citizen. Unfortunately, governments have frequently changed, policies have been reversed, development projects have been delayed, and political conflicts have often taken priority over national interests.

From my personal observation of the country's political history since the 1970s, some of the major infrastructure, development and administrative initiatives that made a visible impact on Pakistan were undertaken during periods of strong centralized leadership, particularly under presidential or military-led governments.

This observation does not mean that every presidential government was successful or that every democratic government failed. However, it raises an important question: Does Pakistan need a governance structure that provides greater continuity, stability, accountability and the capacity to make timely decisions in the national interest?

Why Consider a Presidential System?

A presidential system, if designed carefully and supported by strong constitutional safeguards, could offer Pakistan several potential advantages:

Political Stability and Continuity

A president elected for a constitutionally defined term could provide greater continuity in leadership and national policies. Governments would not be exposed to frequent political bargaining, coalition pressures or instability arising from shifting parliamentary alliances.

Stronger and More Direct Leadership

A directly elected president would have a clear national mandate and could be held accountable by the electorate for performance, promises and policy outcomes. The country could benefit from a more clearly defined executive leadership structure.

Faster Decision-Making

Pakistan faces urgent challenges in energy, taxation, education, healthcare, industrial development, investment and infrastructure. A presidential system could potentially facilitate quicker decisions and more coordinated implementation, provided that institutional consultation and constitutional checks remain effective.

Continuity of Development Projects

Long-term national projects require consistency in planning, financing and execution. Changes in government should not automatically result in the abandonment, delay or politicization of projects initiated by previous administrations. A stable executive term could help maintain national priorities across several years.

Greater Accountability and Clearer Responsibility

Under a presidential system, executive authority and responsibility may be more clearly identifiable. Citizens would have a clearer basis for evaluating the performance of the president and the executive administration instead of seeing responsibility dispersed among coalition partners, political parties and competing power centres.

Merit-Based Administration and Professional Governance

The government should be run by qualified, competent and professional individuals rather than appointments based primarily on political loyalty, personal connections or party considerations. A presidential system could provide an opportunity to strengthen professional institutions, introduce performance-based evaluation and improve administrative efficiency

.Reduction in Political Bargaining and Patronage

Pakistan's political system frequently faces allegations of political bargaining, patronage, favoritism, horse-trading and the use of public resources to maintain political alliances. A properly structured presidential system could reduce some of these pressures, although meaningful reform of accountability institutions and political financing would remain essential.

Focus on the Common Citizen

The success of any system should be measured not by the privileges of political leaders but by the relief it provides to ordinary citizens. Affordable food, electricity, healthcare, education, employment, security, justice and economic opportunity should be the fundamental objectives of the government.

Democracy Must Deliver, Not Merely Exist

1) Democracy is not simply the process of holding elections or transferring power from one political party to another. The true purpose of democratic governance is to improve the quality of life of citizens, ensure justice, protect public resources, provide equal opportunities and promote national development.

) If elected governments fail to deliver meaningful relief, if corruption becomes deeply rooted, if public institutions lose efficiency, and if political competition becomes more important than the welfare of the people, then it is the responsibility of citizens, intellectuals, policymakers and constitutional experts to examine alternative models of governance.

3) The presidential system should not be viewed as a shortcut or a guarantee of success. No system can eliminate corruption or ensure prosperity automatically. A presidential government without accountability, transparency, judicial independence, parliamentary oversight and constitutional limitations could also become ineffective or authoritarian.

4) Therefore, if Pakistan considers a presidential system, it must be accompanied by strong institutional safeguards, independent accountability mechanisms, transparent public spending, an empowered legislature, an independent judiciary, effective local governments and protection of fundamental rights.

My Personal Opinion

I. Based on what I have witnessed during approximately five decades of Pakistan's political and administrative history, I believe the country urgently needs a governance model that prioritizes national development over political survival, merit over favouritism, accountability over impunity, and public welfare over personal or party interests.

I. In my personal assessment, Pakistan should seriously explore and debate a constitutionally designed presidential system that provides a stable executive, a fixed tenure, direct accountability to the people, professional governance, continuity of national policies and effective checks and balances.

III. This proposal should not be intended to benefit any individual, political party, institution or group. It should be considered purely in the interest of Pakistan and its future generations.

November 1947: The Forgotten Massacre of Jammu

By Zainab Noor



The massacre of Muslims in Jammu in November 1947 was not simply an episode of communal violence, it raises disturbing questions about the role of the authorities entrusted with protecting innocent civilians. On 6 November, around seventy truckloads of Muslim families were escorted by Dogra troops from Jammu towards Sialkot, only to be ambushed a few miles outside the city. A report published in the Civil and Military Gazette on 18 December 1947 stated that armed Sikh groups, state forces and RSS volunteers attacked the convoy. Of the 4,000 Muslims who had departed, only 900 reportedly reached Sialkot. The promise of safe passage had turned into a death sentence. The scale and circumstances of the violence point to something far more organised than spontaneous communal clashes. A 1948 West Punjab report, based on refugee testimonies, documented at least 90 anti-Muslim incidents between 8 August and 12 December 1947, with 118,459 deaths claimed. State complicity cannot be dismissed without investigation, particularly when state forces themselves feature in accounts of the attacks. Yet no independent inquiry was ever conducted to establish the truth or hold those responsible accountable.

Determining the death toll is the most controversial aspect of the topic. On August 10, 1948, the Times of London reported that 237,000 Muslims were "deliberately killed," but there was no evidence provided for this figure, and it conflates death and escape. According to historians and authors like Ian Copland and Christopher Snedden, the number of deaths could be from 20,000 to 100,000, while the number of displaced people is between 200,000 and 500,000. even the low estimate is still a collective heinous act.

The demographic shift is evident. According to the census conducted in 1941, Muslims constituted around 61 percent of population of Jammu province. In the parts of Jammu administered by India, that percentage decreased to almost 38 by the year 1961. In Jammu district the percentage of Muslims dropped from 40 to approximately 7 by 2011. such a significant change cannot be accounted for by migration only; it has changed who holds power in Jammu province. No one was held responsible. There was not a commission to look at the incident, there was no trial of the official, besides there was no state for the victims to ask for justice. The question was raised by Pakistan diplomatically, but indignation without courts leaves no trace. Without accountability, the massacre became the new norm.The link with the present is not poetic. Instead of a rifle and mob, a pellet gun has been used. According to the UN human rights report for 2018, the state commission for human rights stated that 1,726 people were injured by pellets in 2016, including 728 people with eye injuries. The official statistics say 17 people died due to pellets from July 2016 to August 2017. The act of disappearing has become the present-day counterpart of lost caravans. The same UN findings mention about forced disappearances and Kashmiri society talks about half-widows who have husbands who disappeared in custody.

Counted numbers are disputed and the UN is denied access. In 1947 families waited for their trucks to arrive but today what they wait for are men to return. The same sorrow but this time against the law.

The greatest commonality is the loss of property, companies, means of existence, and families with the ensuing silence. The inability to name one's loss means that the loss will continue causing sorrow through generations. The unarticulated grief does not die. eing realistic means admitting what was not useful. Neither resolutions nor speeches brought back the missing and neither Islamabad, nor Delhi prioritized Kashmiris. However, there are still options left—recording, international independent investigation, monitoring access and putting pressure.This is not about flags at all. It is about a mother in Jammu, 1947, and a mother in Srinagar, searching for a loved one who hasn't returned home. For the widow, half-widow, orphan and the family without a home, geographic boundaries mean little.

CDF Munir, Malaysian PM reaffirm commitment to regional peace, stability and security

Field Marshal was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. General Tan Sri Haji Malek Razak Sulaiman, Chief of Defence Force of Malaysia, along with the Chiefs of the Malaysian Army, Royal Malaysian Navy and Royal Malaysian Air Force, were present on the occasion.

During his meeting with the Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence of Malaysia, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, with particular emphasis on expanding bilateral defence cooperation, strengthening military-to-military engagements and exploring new avenues of collaboration between the Armed Forces of the two countries.The Field Marshal will also visit the National Defence Studies Centre (PUSPAHANAS), Malaysia, where a formal ceremony is being held to induct him as the 21st member of its prestigious Hall of Fame.



Islamabad, November 23, 2026: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research meets Uganda's Minister of State for Agriculture, Hon. Desire Muhooza, to discuss expanding agricultural trade, rice exports and research cooperation.

PSX, JazzCash, Next Capital join hands to make Govt Sukuk accessible to millions

■ **The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), JazzCash and Next Capital Limited have penned a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bring Government of Pakistan's Sukuk to millions of retail investors across the country through JazzCash.**

Special Correspondent

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), JazzCash and Next Capital Limited have penned a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bring Government of Pakistan's Sukuk to millions of retail investors across the country through JazzCash.

The initiative brings together the market infrastructure of PSX, the nationwide digital reach of JazzCash and the brokerage and technology capabilities of Next Capital. With an aim to democratize access to GOP Sukuk through a simplified digital journey, the move will broaden the retail investor base and bring household savings and investments into Pakistan's formal capital market.



The MoU was signed at PSX, Karachi, in the presence of Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD & CEO, PSX; Murtaza Ali, CEO, JazzCash; Najam Ali, Vice Chairman, Next Capital and Humaira Asad, CEO Next Capital.

Under the MoU, PSX will provide the market access with NCCPL supporting seamless account opening, clearing and settlement. JazzCash will lead customer reach alongside digital distribution. Next Capital will act as Securities Broker providing the investment platform. The parties are to finalize the operational and commercial frameworks. Short-term sovereign hybrid Sukuk will lead the rollout, with a broader range of products to follow.

At this occasion, Farrukh H. Sabzwari, MD & CEO, PSX, said:"This initiative marks an important step towards widening access to the capital market for retail investors across Pakistan. It brings together the market infrastructure of PSX, the digital reach of JazzCash and the brokerage and technology capabilities of Next Capital, opening doors for millions of Pakistanis to invest in Government Sukuk through a simple digital journey.

Pakistan invites Portuguese investors to tap into $40 billion investment opportunities

■ **The forum served as a platform to invite Portuguese investors to explore promising investment projects worth $40 billion across diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy.**

Business Reporter

KARACHI



The Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) of Pakistan and Portugal's Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade (AICEP) recently convened a high-profile Pakistan-Portugal Business and Investment Forum, marking a significant step toward enhancing bilateral trade and investment cooperation between the two nations.Pakistan invites Portuguese investors to tap into $40 billion investment opportunities

The forum served as a platform to invite Portuguese investors to explore promising investment projects worth $40 billion across diverse sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Addressing the inaugural session, Dr. Erfa Iqbal, Additional Secretary (Country Wing) of SIFC, emphasized the enormous potential for investment and trade between Pakistan and Portugal.

She highlighted sectors such as textiles and cotton, information technology, aerospace, defence, manufacturing, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, agriculture, and food processing as key areas ripe for collaboration.

Dr. Erfa underlined that Pakistan has a pipeline of projects valued at $22 billion in sectors including industry and production, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, mining, ports and maritime, tourism, oil and gas, power, food security, and agriculture. Despite this, the existing bilateral trade volume of approximately $250 million remains significantly below the untapped potential, signaling vast opportunities for expansion.



Dollar edges off 19-month high after market rout; yen softens

■ **The dollar eased from a 1.5-year high as investor confidence recovered and traders priced out an aggressive Fed rate hike next month, lifting the euro and Aussie dollar while crypto dipped.**

Commerce Reporter

SINGAPORE

The dollar eased off its highest level in more than a year and a half at the start of Asian trade on Monday, as investor confidence recovered after a selloff last week and traders pared bets that the Federal Reserve could hike interest rates aggressively at its meeting next month.

The euro was up 0.1% at $1.0974, while the Australian dollar was 0.2% stronger at $0.6629. The British pound was flat at $1.3091, while the New Zealand dollar was steady at $0.5474.

The US dollar was up 0.2% against the yen at 158.63 yen as a safe-haven bid for the Japanese currency eased.

The US dollar index , which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was flat at 103.80, retreating from its highest levels since April 2025.

"We expect the USD to continue to outperform," said Eric Robertsen, global head of foreign exchange, rates ?and credit research at Standard Chartered in Dubai, citing interest rate differentials, signs of ?strong ?productivity gains in the US economy and a relative decline in political risk compared to other countries such as France. "If global risk aversion were to pick up, the USD should benefit as well."

After last week's market rout, aggressive action from the Fed to fight inflation now looks to be off the table. Fed funds futures are pricing an implied 88.6% probability of a 25-basis-point hike at the US central bank's December 8-9 policy meeting, compared with an 11.4% chance of a hold, according to the CME Group's FedWatch tool. A larger 50-basis-point increase, seen as carrying an ?11.5% likelihood a week ago, is now completely priced out.

Cryptocurrencies pared a rebound from a sharp drop on Friday, with bitcoin down 0.1% at $60,795.03 and ?ether 0.2% lower at $1,714.96.



Pakistan issues third International tender to import 800,000 metric tons of wheat

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The federal government has decided to import an additional 800,000 metric tons of wheat to meet national requirements, issuing its third international tender to invite bids from global suppliers.

According to tender documents released by the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), the deadline for submitting bids is November 30, with technical proposals scheduled to be opened on the same day at 2:30 PM. Global suppliers must submit bids for a minimum quantity of 50,000 metric tons.

Under the tender terms, wheat imports from India, Israel, and other banned countries remain strictly prohibited. Companies sourcing wheat from war-affected regions are required to submit alternative supply options from unaffected countries.

Pakistan, Uganda agree to expand agricultural trade and rice exports

■ **Pakistan borrowed Rs1.514 trillion in the first quarter of FY2026-27, including Rs1.037 trillion in September, and received $5.44 billion in foreign loans and grants; $3bn in bonds**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan and Uganda have agreed to elevate bilateral cooperation and expand agricultural trade, deciding on concrete measures to significantly boost Pakistani rice exports to the East African nation.

The consensus was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Uganda's Minister of State for Agriculture, Desiree Muhooza, where both leaders discussed enhancing trade across key agricultural sectors.

Rana Tanveer Hussain highlighted that Uganda currently imports $300 million worth of rice annually, yet Pakistan's share in that market stands at just $3 million. He emphasized that Pakistan possesses full capacity to supply high-quality rice to Uganda at competitive international prices.

To optimize trade, the Federal Minister proposed establishing direct market linkages between Pakistani rice exporters and Ugandan importers. Eliminating intermediary markets, he noted, would lower transaction costs and drive export volumes upward.

During the meeting, both sides proposed forming a Joint Working Group on Agricultural Cooperation to streamline trade, resolve technical bottlenecks, and foster joint research. They also agreed to expedite the finalization of a pending Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on agricultural collaboration.

Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain briefed the Ugandan delegation on Pakistan's agricultural research infrastructure, inviting them to visit the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) in Islamabad. Discussions also encompassed expanding technical cooperation across wheat, rice, potato cultivation, seed technology, and livestock. Additionally, the minister shared that Pakistani olive oil recently won a silver medal at an international quality competition in New York.

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Climate-Proofing Agriculture: Pakistan's Economic Imperative

■ **Investing in climate-resilient farming could curb food inflation, reduce import dependence and unlock billions in agricultural exports.**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

In a middle-class kitchen in Lahore or Karachi, economic policy is measured not in basis points or Eurobond yields, but in the weekly cost of cooking oil, tomatoes, lentils, and milk. Few hundred kilometres away, in a mango orchard near Multan or a vegetable belt in lower Sindh, that same economic reality looks entirely different: a smallholder farmer watching a sudden heatwave scorch blossoms on the tree, only to see much of what survives bruise and rot in the back of an open, unrefrigerated truck before reaching a wholesale mandi.

These two scenes, urban households squeezed by stubborn food inflation and rural growers wiped out by extreme weather, are two halves of the same broken system. For decades, Pakistan has treated agriculture as a low-tech, rain-and-canal-fed subsistence sector that requires little more than periodic support-price announcements and fertiliser subsidies.

Climate change has violently exposed the limits of that neglect. Consider the paradox revealed by recent trade figures. In a country where farming employs more than a third of the workforce and generates nearly a quarter of GDP, Pakistan's food trade deficit widened dramatically in the 2025-26 fiscal year. Food imports climbed to $9.15 billion, led by $3.8 billion spent on palm oil alone, while agricultural exports fell nearly 30% to $5.02 billion,



leaving a $4.13 billion hole in the external account. We are, in effect, borrowing scarce foreign exchange to import basic calories while allowing billions of dollars' worth of domestic produce to wither in the heat.That vulnerability is intensifying by the season. A joint assessment by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organisation warned that recurring heatwaves across Punjab are steadily turning fertile agrarian pastures drought-prone, slashing fruit yields by as much as half, spreading livestock disease, and depressing milk output. Rising temperatures are not merely shrinking harvests in the field; they are accelerating the spoilage of vegetables and dairy along every mile of our supply chain.

Yet to frame this solely as an environmental tragedy is to miss the larger economic opportunity. Climate-proofing Pakistan's agriculture is arguably the fastest, highest-return reform available to policymakers, one capable of simultaneously cooling domestic kitchen inflation, narrowing the current account deficit, and transforming Pakistan into an indispensable food-security partner for the Gulf Cooperation Council states just across the Arabian Sea.

Unlocking that transformation, however, requires confronting why our farms remain so fragile. According to the Asian Development Bank, Pakistan invests a dismal 0.2% of its agricultural GDP in research and development.

Fewer than 3% of farms use water-saving drip or sprinkler irrigation, even though agriculture consumes over 90% of our freshwater. Worse still, an estimated 30-40% of fruits and vegetables, and roughly 15% of grains are lost after harvest, representing around $4 billion in vanished food value every year. Fewer than 6% of perishable goods ever pass through temperature-controlled logistics.

Hesson backs Pakistan's new blood

Head coach says conditions will dictate team's selection against New Zealand

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has expressed satisfaction with the impact of the team's emerging players following the Test series victory over Sri Lanka, saying six relatively inexperienced cricketers made significant contributions and provided encouraging signs for the future.

Speaking on The Straight Drive with Salman Butt, Hesson described the introduction of new players as a positive beginning, highlighting their ability to deliver match-defining performances despite limited experience at the highest level.

"Look, it's a nice start. I think, you know, to play against an experienced Sri Lankan side like that, with six really new players playing either their first, second or third Test match. Yeah, delighted the way they contributed. And it wasn't the fact they just fit it in. They actually made some match-defining moments over these two Test matches," Hesson said.

He also credited senior players for helping newcomers settle into the side.

"Obviously, the senior boys helped them develop and grow as well. So, still lots of learnings to go, but I think a really nice start," he added.

Hesson also explained Pakistan's approach to preparing pitches that offer opportunities to fast bowlers.

He indicated that pitch conditions could vary depending on the opposition but stressed the importance of preparing players for challenges in countries such as South Africa, Australia, England and New Zealand.

"I think we'll vary a little bit, but predominantly we want to play on pitches that we're likely to play on at different parts of the world as well. You go to South Africa, Australia, England, New Zealand, we're going to get conditions like that. So, we need to be as prepared as we can be," he said.

The head coach maintained that Pakistan were not looking to produce excessively bowler-friendly surfaces, arguing that pitches should offer opportunities to both batters and bowlers.

"And I think the pitch flattens out too. So, it's not like it's a green seamer for three days. You have an opportunity generally with the new ball. And if you're able to make inroads, then you can progress the Test match. But we also saw partnerships at times throughout the series as well.

So, it's not a 100 played 120 kind of thing. Good cricket rises to the top. And those are the types of pitches we want to play on," Hesson said.

Discussing Pakistan's new-ball attack, Hesson said the absence of a swing bowler had been felt during the second innings."Two new guys at the top played really well, absorbed a lot of pressure, and they would have learnt a lot from that," he said.Hesson also backed Azan Awais, pointing to his ability to negotiate difficult situations with the bat.

"And obviously, Azan today, getting a tough 40-odd in the first innings and then being not out will be really important for him as well," he added.

On Pakistan's tactical approach to field placements, particularly the use of fine leg, Hesson said greater confidence in the bowlers' ability to control their lines would allow the captain more flexibility.

"One important question is when the captain gains more confidence in the bowlers and where he's going to put it, you would have seen there at times, at the start of the second innings where we didn't have a fine-leg.



Multan Sultans sign Australian fast bowler Lance Morris for PSL 12

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Multan Sultans have signed Australian fast bowler Lance Morris through a direct signing for the 12th season of the Pakistan Super League.

Morris has represented Australia in international cricket and has extensive T20 experience. He has played for the Melbourne Stars, Perth Scorchers and WesternAustralia.

Morris said he had previously considered joining Multan. The franchise said it was welcoming "one of the world's fastest bowlers".

Gohar Shah said Morris would strengthen Multan's bowling attack and predicted he would be the fastest bowler in PSL 12.

"Fans enjoyed watching Nahid Rana in PSL 11. This time, they will get to enjoy the fast bowling of Lance Morris," Shah said.

Saim Ayub seeks temporary break from cricket after prolonged dip in form

Pakistan opener Saim Ayub has reportedly asked the PCB for a temporary break from cricket to regain confidence after a prolonged poor run.



SPORTS Desk

LAHORE

Pakistan's young opening batter Saim Ayub has reportedly decided to take a temporary break from cricket after struggling with poor form and a loss of confidence.

According to media reports, Ayub has approached Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials, requesting permission to stay away from competitive cricket for some time as he attempts to overcome his current difficulties.

The 23-year-old batter is going through a challenging phase of his career. His disappointing performances have already resulted in his exclusion from the national squad, while he is also absent from the PCB's central contracts list.

He has also stayed away from domestic cricket in recent days, despite expectations that regular appearances at the domestic level would help him regain his form.

Reports suggest that Ayub has informed PCB officials that he is not currently in the right frame of mind to play cricket. He reportedly plans to return through the one-day departmental cricket tournament after addressing his concerns and rebuilding his confidence.

Ayub's difficult period followed an impressive century in the Caribbean T20 League, which helped him secure a place in Pakistan's Test squad for the series against England.

However, he endured a disappointing outing in the series, registering ducks in both innings and suffering a major setback to his confidence.

His struggles continued, and he was subsequently dropped from Pakistan's squad for the tri-nation ODI series.

At the time, it was expected that domestic cricket would provide him an opportunity to rediscover his batting form. However, he did not participate in domestic competitions.

Statistics underline his recent struggles across formats. Since Pakistan's series against Sri Lanka last year, Ayub has scored just 60 runs in his last five ODI appearances.

He has also failed to register a half-century since the T20 World Cup this year. His scores during the period were 24, 19, 6, 14, 7, 21, 29 and 8.

Across his last 15 international matches, comprising 16 innings, Ayub has accumulated 188 runs at an average of 11.75, with his highest score being 33.

The reported decision to take a temporary break comes as the young batter seeks to address his difficulties, rebuild his confidence and prepare for a return to competitive cricket.

KPK govt decides to rename Peshawar's Imran khan cricket stadium

KPK government decides to rename Imran Khan Cricket Stadium in Peshawar, restoring its legacy name or choosing a non-political title.

SPECIAL REPORTER

PESHAWAR



The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to rename Peshawar's Imran Khan Cricket Stadium, with plans under consideration to restore its historic title, Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi confirmed the development, stating that the stadium's name would be changed to avoid dedicating public sports infrastructure to political figures.

During Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) previous provincial tenure, the historic Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium was renamed Imran Khan Cricket Stadium following formal approval by the provincial cabinet.

According to sources, the current administration has directed the Sports Department to initiate the renaming process, though a final decision regarding the official new title is still pending.

Sources indicated that the name change will be finalized ahead of the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) season. Speaking on the matter, Governor Kundi emphasized that while Arbab Niaz was a respected regional figure with notable contributions to sports, the government has no intention of renaming the venue after any political personality, including those from the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).

New Zealand battle to 239-5 to draw first Test against India

The two-Test series moves to Christchurch on Friday with all to play for in the decider.

SPORTS DESK

New Zealand



New Zealand rescued a draw on the final day of the first Test against India in Wellington on Monday, surviving 120 overs in a fighting display to finish 239-5 at the close.

India had declared their first innings on a mammoth 720-9 midway through the fourth day with a lead of 352 runs after New Zealand made 368.

Daryl Mitchell (49 not out) and Glenn Phillips (26 not out) batted India into submission on a lifeless Basin Reserve pitch.

The two-Test series moves to Christchurch on Friday with all to play for in the decider.

"You know, we're pretty happy," New Zealand captain Tom Latham said of the draw.

"Obviously India played fantastically well. We were under pressure, only a couple of results at play and to be in the position where a couple of guys put their hands up was great."

India had needed five wickets in the final session for victory, but there were few alarms for the New Zealand batsmen.

Captain Shubman Gill shook hands with Phillips and Mitchell an hour before the scheduled close to agree a draw after turning to part-time bowlers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel in a last, desperate attempt for a breakthrough.

"All of our fast bowlers bowled almost 50 overs in the match," Gill said of his decision.

"If there was anything in the wicket and if they felt they could get the batsmen out, if there was a plan in place, they executed it, but there wasn't enough in the wicket.

"Ten or 15 overs wouldn't have made a difference."

New Zealand, who started the final day at 119-2, lost two wickets in the first session to give India hope of victory.

Devon Conway, who top-scored with 65, was the first man out just before the first drinks break.

He edged off-spinner Washington Sundar onto his pads, with wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant taking a fine diving catch.

Rachin Ravindra, 27 overnight, soon followed for 37, slashing Prasidh Krishna to KL Rahul at gully after a 129-ball vigil.

India's bowlers were relentlessly accurate on a lifeless Basin Reserve pitch, where the wind picked up for the first time in the match, allowing Sundar to find the drift that deceived Conway, who added only six to his overnight score.

New Zealand crawled to 206-5 at tea, still 146 runs from making India bat again, having scored just 49 runs in the session and lost one wicket, Tom Blundell for 15.

Jeeno wins third consecutive LPGA Tour Championship

The Thai star defeats Aki Iwai by two strokes

SPORTS DESK

NAPLES



World number two Jeeno Thitikul of Thailand captured her third consecutive LPGA Tour Championship on Sunday, holding off Japan's Aki Iwai to become the tour's all-time prize money leader.

Jeeno fired a bogey-free seven-under-par 65 to finish 72 holes on 24-under 264 for a historic two-stroke victory in the season-ending $11 million showdown at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida.

"I have no idea, to be honest," Jeeno said when asked how she pulled off the 'three-peat' run.

"I have no words. The only words I have is not to change the course until I'm retired. It's just me and the course, we just are best friends. I think she is my best friend on the tour."

Jeeno captured the top prize of $4 million (3.6 million euros), the highest in women's golf.

As a result, Jeeno broke Annika Sorenstam's 25-year-old LPGA career prize money record of $22,583,693, the Thai star beginning the day at $20,292,858 in LPGA career winnings.

Jeeno paid tribute to her family in helping her reach the pinnacle of success in women's golf.

"Golf is my priority but family always comes first," Jeeno said.

"When we were young we had a long way. We overcome the obstacles. We overcome the trouble until the time when all people see the success, but behind the scenes it's not all that easy to come here on the LPGA Tour. A lot of talented players."

Not since South Korean Park In-bee at the Women's PGA Championship in 2015 had a player won the same LPGA event three years in a row and no one had ever won the Tour Championship three years in a row.

Jeeno took her 12th career LPGA title and fifth of the year after wins at LPGA Thailand, the Mizuho Americas Open, Portland Classic and Lotte Championship in Hawaii.

Iwai fired a 65 to finish second on 266 and take home $1 million. She played the final 68 holes of the tournament without a bogey or worse, the longest such LPGA streak this season, but fell short.

"I needed a lot of birdies. I needed more top golf," Iwai said after her fourth top-10 finish to close the campaign. "Feel like nearly, but always next year."

Daily The Spokesman

Tuesday
November 24,2026

JIT moves court for social media records of Mir Raza Ali, two suspects

■ **The JIT investigating Mir Raza Ali's murder petitioned a Karachi court for digital records of the victim and two suspects.**



Our Correspondent
KARACHI

The Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the Mir Raza murder case has approached the court to obtain the records of social media and WhatsApp accounts belonging to Mir Raza and two nominated suspects.

Investigations by the JIT— formed on the recommendations of a judicial commission and the demand of the victim's family regarding the mysterious death of young Karachi businessman Mir Raza Ali — are currently underway.

Upon the application of an investigation officer included in the JIT, the Judicial Magistrate East issued notices to Mir Raza's suspected friends, Ali Shaz and Ahmed Bharday, for November 24.

Filing the application in court, the investigation officer contended that the records of the WhatsApp accounts of Mir Raza and both suspects are required.

According to the petition, in addition to the social media accounts of Ali Shaz and Ahmed Bharday, it is also necessary to obtain details of their Messenger and Snapchat accounts.

The investigation officer stated that the digital account records of the suspects are essential for the murder case investigation, as they can help trace their activities. The officer informed the court that suspect Ahmed Bharday has been identified as the deceased's business partner.

The JIT has also requested relevant service provider companies to preserve digital records from July 22 to July 29.

According to the investigation officer, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) was also contacted in this regard; however, the agency could not take action due to the lack of judicial authorization.

Following the application, the court issued notices to suspects Ali Shaz and Ahmed Bharday for November 24.

It is pertinent to mention that 25-year-old Karachi businessman and IBA graduate Mir Raza Ali mysteriously went missing from the Ferozabad area on July 28, and his body was found the next day near a guest house in Gulistan-e-Johar.

Although police initially attempted to declare the incident a suicide, exhumation and a second post-mortem report conducted on the family's insistence and court orders revealed clear marks of torture and injuries on the body, which changed the direction of the case.

Initially, a kidnapping case was registered at the Ferozabad police station, but later, based on the post-mortem and other evidence, murder Section 302 was added to the FIR.

A major turning point came in the case when the Karachi Police Surgeon pointed out 14 serious flaws in Mir Raza Ali's post-mortem report. The objections included the failure to conduct an X-ray of the body, not taking hand swabs for gunshot residue, failing to take proper forensic measurements and photographs of the wounds, and not collecting DNA samples for identification.



Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Naqvi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. 23 November, 2026.

PTI supports creation of new provinces, calls for referendum: Barrister Ali Zafar

Our Correspondent
ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar has said that the party supports the creation of new provinces in the country and believes a referendum should be held to decide the matter.Speaking in an exclusive interview with Dunya News, Ali Zafar said the mechanism for creating new provinces should be determined after a referendum. He said the party would decide its position on the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment once its draft was made public. The senator further said that PTI had set three conditions for an alliance with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).He said the PPP must support the return of reserved seats to PTI, call for an end to governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

PPP dares PM to resign, warns against 'backdoor' referendum on new provinces

● **Chaudhry Manzoor stressed that only the National Assembly and the Senate hold the authority to amend the Constitution**

STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE



Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leaders Chaudhry Manzoor and Nadeem Afzal Chan have challenged the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to resign, pledging to step down alongside him, while strongly opposing any move to create new provinces or amend the Constitution via a referendum.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, Chaudhry Manzoor stressed that only the National Assembly and the Senate hold the authority to amend the Constitution. He warned that bypassing Parliament through a "backdoor" referendum would effectively revive Article 58(2)(b) and invite severe political instability.

Manzoor noted that Article 239 requires a two-thirds majority in both the National Assembly and the relevant provincial assembly—granting provinces veto power over boundary changes. He recalled that the 1973 Constitution included this safeguard to stop unilateral decrees like past "One Unit" schemes.

Questioning the economic feasibility of new provinces, Manzoor argued that Pakistan lacks the funds for separate administrative setups. He alleged the push is merely a smokescreen targeting the NFC Award and the 18th Amendment, while criticizing the government for delaying direct local body polls in Islamabad despite citing international mayors like Sadiq Khan and Zohran Mamdani.

Nadeem Afzal Chan questioned the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) ability to hold a credible referendum when it struggles to conduct transparent union council elections, noting Pakistan's troubled history with past referendums.

Highlighting ongoing security and governance crises in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chan said a referendum will not solve real national issues. Echoing PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's call to avoid confrontation, he concluded that a referendum only gauges public opinion, whereas a constitutional mandate belongs solely to Parliament.

CM Murad launches Sindh Youth Card to empower young generation

■ **Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah launched the Sindh Youth Card in Karachi to provide education, employment And skill opportunities.**



Staff Reporter
KARACHI

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has stated that the Sindh Youth Card is a historic step toward empowering the youth, adding that the future of Sindh and Pakistan depends on the opportunities provided to the younger generation today, who are not merely the leaders of tomorrow but a vital force for progress, innovation, and change.

Addressing the launching ceremony of the Sindh Youth Card, the Sindh Chief Minister said that the Sindh Youth Card is not just a card, but a platform for opportunities, inclusion, and empowerment, representing a practical manifestation of the government's commitment to youth empowerment. He emphasized that the abilities and determination of young people—not their economic conditions or social background—should determine their opportunities.

Syed Murad Ali Shah noted that the visionary leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is the foundation of youth empowerment. He said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is a champion of social justice, equal opportunities, and inclusive development, adding that empowering the youth is a core part of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision and his special focus on youth development is commendable.

The Sindh Chief Minister stated that the Sindh Youth Card will facilitate access to opportunities and facilities for young people, connecting them with avenues for education, skill development, and employment. Providing facilities in the sectors of information technology, health, and sports is also among its objectives, he said, noting that removing obstacles in the path of youth is a top priority of the PPP government.

Romanian Pop Star Akcent Electrifies Islamabad as Over 20,000 Fans Attend Soulfest Rewind 2026

■ **Romanian Ambassador Dr Dan Stoenescu Graces Event as Guest of Honour; Akcent's Return Highlights Growing Cultural and Musical Ties Between Pakistan and Romania**

MUZAFFAR AHMED BHATTI
ISLAMABAD

More than 20,000 people gathered at Capital (F-9) Park on Sunday evening for Romanian artist Akcent's return to the Pakistani stage at Soulfest Rewind 2026. Dr Dan Stoenescu, Romania's Ambassador to Pakistan, was the guest of honour. Akcent also met with the team from the Embassy of Romania in Islamabad during his visit.Akcent's Sunday night set was scheduled for around 9 p.m. on the closing day of the three-day festival. His signature Romanian dance-pop sound featured on a bill that also included Pakistani artists Bayaan, Farhan Saeed and Abrar-ul-Haq. "Adrian Sîna aka Akcent has a history here in Pakistan, and the welcome he received in Islamabad tonight shows how much his music means to his fans," said Ambassador



Stoenescu. "I thank everyone who came to F-9 Park to welcome him back. It means a great deal to us at the Embassy that a Romanian artist can come so far from home and find such a following here. I can truly say he is a second Ambassador of Romania to Pakistan thanks to his millions of fans here."The Embassy's work in music also extends to the classroom. In partnership with the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), the Embassy helped bring opera singing classes to Islamabad, where Romanian soprano Georgiana Costea-Gluga teaches local singers. The programme marked its first anniversary in April. On 23 March 2026, the Embassy marked Pakistan Day by presenting the first-ever choral arrangement and written score of Pakistan's national anthem, Qaumi Tarana. Romania's National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" recorded the arrangement under conductor Anna Ungureanu, with support from the Embassy, as a tribute to the people of Pakistan. Romanian dance-pop found a worldwide audience in the late 2000s and early 2010s with its bright melodies, steady club beats and instantly recognisable hooks. INNA's "Hot" topped Billboard's dance airplay chart in the United States, while the saxophone refrain of Alexandra Stan's "Mr. Saxobeat" helped carry the song to number one in Germany and Italy.

President Zardari underscores potential to boost Pak-Portugal ties across key sectors

● **President Asif Ali Zardari, Monday, emphasised the potential to further strengthen Pakistan-Portugal relations through greater cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility, renewable energy, education, technology and parliamentary exchanges.**

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD

: President Asif Ali Zardari, Monday, emphasised the potential to further strengthen Pakistan-Portugal relations through greater cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility, renewable energy, education, technology and parliamentary exchanges.

The president expressed these views during a meeting with Portugal's Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Paulo Rangel, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He said Pakistan values Portugal as an important partner within the European Union and sees considerable scope for expanding bilateral cooperation in several sectors.



The president highlighted the importance of diversifying bilateral trade beyond traditional textiles and exploring opportunities in agriculture, processed foods, pharmaceuticals, engineering, sports goods and IT services.

The Portuguese delegation included Paulo Domingues, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan; Ana Coelho, Deputy Director-General for Foreign Policy and Filipe Ramalho Ortigao, Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister Caetano Xavier, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Saleem Mandviwala and Foreign Secretary.

Mohsin Naqvi, Chaudhry Shujaat discuss creation of new provinces, devolution of powers

■ **Chaudhry Shujaat said the creation of new provinces was directly linked to public convenience, better governance and administrative efficiency**

STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his residence on Monday to discuss the country's overall situation, law and order, and government measures.

The meeting also covered the devolution of powers to the grassroots level and matters related to the creation of new provinces.

Chaudhry Shujaat said the creation of new provinces was directly linked to public convenience, better governance, administrative efficiency and the country's future. He added that strengthening and empowering administrative units could also be an effective approach.

He said ordinary people were the country's biggest stakeholders, adding that the country would not forgive its leaders if the right steps were not taken today.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi remarked that making all decisions in accordance with the aspirations of the Pakistani people is the foremost need of the hour.He also briefed the PML-Q chief on counter-terrorism operations and measures taken to restore peace in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Provincial Minister for Industries Chaudhry Shafay Hussain were also present at the meeting.

Published by Almass Ayoub Sabir, Printed at Zero Point Printer, House No. 31, New Gulzar-e-Quaid, Rawalpindi. Editor: Atif Saeed.