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Pakistani astronaut, Chinese crew reach Tiangong space station as Shenzhou-24 docks successfully

WEB DESK

JIUQUAN

Pakistan achieved a historic milestone on Wednesday when its first astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, reached China's Tiangong space station aboard the Shenzhou-24 spacecraft following a journey of approximately three and a half hours, the China Manned Space Agency confirmed.The Shenzhou 24 space mission has left with two Chinese - Tang Hongbo and Wu Yi - and one Pakistani astronaut, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali. (Continued on Page-5)



Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz to visit London next week

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif are scheduled to undertake a private visit to London next week.According to sources, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership will stay in the British capital for four to five days. During the trip, Nawaz Sharif is expected to undergo routine medical checkups.Upon their return to Pakistan from London, preparations and ceremonies for the wedding of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's daughter will take place.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding P3A and privatization of SOEs, in Islamabad

PM Shehbaz orders fast-track restructuring of National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency

■ **PM Shehbaz Sharif has ordered reforms in the NCCIA, directing the recruitment of IT and AI experts and the use of modern technology to strengthen cybercrime investigations.**

Atif Saeed

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the fast-track restructuring of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), emphasising the need to modernise its operations and strengthen the investigation system to combat cybercrime.

Chairing a meeting on the agency's restructuring, the prime minister reviewed its performance and future strategy. He directed that mechanisms for preventing and investigating cybercrimes be brought in line with modern requirements.

Shehbaz Sharif said protecting citizens from cybercrime was among the government's top priorities, adding that the restructuring process should be expedited to transform the NCCIA into an effective, active and modern institution.

The prime minister directed the appointment of information technology and artificial intelligence experts at the NCCIA and all its subordinate offices. He stressed that the agency should recruit highly qualified personnel strictly on merit. He further instructed officials to focus on the use of AI and modern technology during the restructuring process and utilise all available resources to resolve pending cybercrime cases.

The prime minister also ordered the formation of a committee comprising Federal Ministers Mohsin Naqvi, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Muhammad Aurangzeb and Shaza Fatima Khawaja to review the reform proposals submitted by the NCCIA. The committee will present its recommendations to the prime minister by the end of this week.

During the meeting, the agency presented its restructuring proposals. A briefing informed participants that a proposal had been put forward to transform the NCCIA into a national-level Pakistan Cyber Police, with recruitment of qualified personnel on merit.

ECP issues delimitation schedule for village, neighbourhood councils in nine KP districts



News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued the schedule for delimitations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to an ECP notification, the delimitation of village and neighbourhood councils will be carried out in nine districts of the province, including Karak, Hangu, Mansehra, Malakand, Shangla, Upper Chitral, Swat, Upper Swat, and Paharpur.The notification further stated that administrative arrangements, procurement of maps, and staff training will be completed from December 1 to December 9, while the preliminary list of village and neighbourhood councils will be prepared from December 10 to January 9.



Zardari, Xi exchange letters on Pakistani astronaut's historic entry into China's Space Station

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday exchanged letters congratulating each other on the historic milestone in Pakistan-China space cooperation, marked by the first spaceflight of a Pakistani astronaut to China's Space Station aboard the Shenzhou spacecraft, making him the first foreign astronaut to enter the Chinese Space Station. In his letter to President Xi Jinping, President Asif Ali Zardari extended felicitations to the Government and people of China on the landmark achievement and expressed profound appreciation for selecting Pakistan as the first foreign partner in China's manned space programme.

Military leadership congratulates nation on Pakistan's first space mission

■ **Pakistan's armed forces congratulated the nation on its first human space mission, hailing astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali's achievement as a milestone in scientific and technological progress.**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Military leadership have congratulated the nation on the successful achievement of the country's first human space mission, describing it as a moment of national pride and a significant milestone in scientific and technological advancement.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu, and the Commander of the National Strategic Command Amir Raza extended their congratulations to the nation on the historic achievement.



The ISPR stated that Wing Commander Muhammad Zeeshan Ali has become Pakistan's first astronaut and the first foreign astronaut to travel to China's Tiangong Space Station.

The armed forces described Pakistan's entry into human spaceflight as an important milestone, reflecting the country's growing scientific capabilities, technological potential and skilled human resources.

They also paid tribute to the scientists, engineers and technical teams of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), acknowledging their dedication, hard work and professional expertise in making the mission possible.

The military leadership expressed gratitude to China's leadership, government and people for their support in achieving Pakistan's historic space mission.

Highlighting the longstanding relationship between the two countries, the ISPR described Pakistan-China friendship as higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the oceans and sweeter than honey.

Barrister Gohar demands provision of justice from three chief justices

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD



According to a report, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan has demanded the provision of justice from three chief justices.

Barrister Gohar stated that PTI founder Imran Khan had written a letter to the three chief justices ten days ago appealing for justice, but no action has been taken on the letter so far. In his statement, the PTI chairman said, "Today, I once again respectfully request the three chief justices to provide justice to the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi without delay."

Court extends Bushra Bibi's interim bail in 29 cases until Dec 9

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A special anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi has extended the interim bail of Bushra Bibi, wife of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, in 29 cases related to the November 26 protest until December 9. Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Amjad Ali Shah heard the bail applications.

CM Maryam urges women to Report harassment, says pink panic buttons coming to colleges

■ **Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz hailed female doctors as valuable healthcare assets while highlighting provincial medical reforms and women's safety initiatives.**

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has stated that female doctors are a valuable asset to the country's healthcare system.

Addressing the convocation of Fatima Jinnah Medical University, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that national development is not possible without empowering women.

She noted that Pakistan's soil is very fertile, and its daughters only need a little patronage and opportunity,



adding that the girls' hard work and their parents' prayers have brought them to this milestone today. The Punjab chief minister remarked that even today, a mindset persists in society to educate sons rather than daughters because daughters will eventually get married, leading people to question the point of making them doctors.

However, she emphasized that women's education and professional advancement are indispensable for the country's progress.

The chief minister stated that after assuming office, she pledged to take measures to save the life of every patient. Whether rich or poor, all patients are equal to her, and in fact, a patient who lacks the resources for treatment holds even greater importance.

She said that providing medical treatment facilities to the people of Punjab in their own cities is her vision. Several steps have been taken to improve the health sector in the province; modern cath labs have been established, basic health units have been upgraded.

Maldives to launch direct flights to Pakistan soon, announces tourism minister

■ **Maldives to launch direct flights to Pakistan soon, with celebrities on the inaugural flight, as both countries agree to boost tourism, trade, sports and manpower cooperation.**

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Maldives will soon launch direct flights between Pakistan and the island nation, with renowned Pakistani cricketers, artists and other celebrities expected to travel on the inaugural flight, Maldives Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Mohamed Amin has announced.

The announcement came during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry and the Maldivian minister, where the two sides discussed strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in tourism, sports, healthcare, trade and manpower.

Mohamed Amin said Pakistani celebrities enjoyed considerable popularity in the Maldives, adding



that their visit would help promote tourism and strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the proposed direct flight service, saying it would make travel to the Maldives more convenient for Pakistani citizens.

He expressed confidence that improved air connectivity would attract more Pakistani tourists to the island nation, noting that people in Pakistan had a keen interest in tourism.

Discussing cooperation in sports, the interior minister revealed that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was working on a proposed project to establish a cricket stadium in the Maldives. A cricket academy would also be set up alongside the stadium to provide local youngsters with better training facilities and opportunities to develop their skills.

Naqvi also conveyed his best wishes to his Maldivian counterpart and expressed his desire to welcome the Maldives' interior minister on a visit to Pakistan.

During the meeting, Mohamed Amin praised Islamabad's modern infrastructure, rapid development, scenic beauty and cleanliness. He said the city's natural attractions had impressed him and described Islamabad as a city with considerable potential to become a tourism capital.

All Persian Works of Allama Iqbal Translated into Urdu; English Editions to Follow Soon: Aurangzeb Khan Khichi

■ Iqbal Academy Pakistan Advances Translation Projects to Promote Iqbal's Philosophy Worldwide; Selected Poetry to Be Published in Arabic, Persian and English.



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Aurangzeb Khan Khichi has announced that Iqbal Academy Pakistan has completed the Urdu translation of all Persian works of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, while the English translation of his Persian poetry is also nearing completion.

He further stated that the English translation of Allama Iqbal's Urdu poetry would also be published soon. In addition, a selected collection of Iqbal's poetry is being prepared for publication with translations in Arabic, Persian and English to introduce his message to a wider international audience.

The Federal Minister expressed these views while addressing a national seminar titled "Iqbal in Contemporary Debates: Perspectives, Concepts and New Interpretations" as the chief guest. The seminar was organized by the Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), International Islamic University Islamabad, in collaboration with the Department of Urdu, Faculty of Languages and Literature. The event was held at the Allama Iqbal Auditorium, Faisal Mosque Campus.

Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said that Iqbal Academy Pakistan, an important national institution working under the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, is actively engaged in research on the life, personality and philosophy of Allama Iqbal and promoting his intellectual legacy.

He informed the audience that, with the cooperation of Iran, the Academy had also published the Persian Kulliyat of Allama Iqbal, calligraphed by renowned Iranian calligrapher Amir Falsafi.

The Minister observed that numerous academic, literary and cultural initiatives could be further advanced through cooperation with Iran. He expressed his desire to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture and the Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue to expand research on Allama Iqbal and promote joint academic activities.

Emphasizing the contemporary relevance of Iqbal's philosophy, the Federal Minister said that his ideas should not remain confined to ceremonial events and traditional tributes but should become an integral part of contemporary academic, philosophical and social discourse. He stressed that the younger generation should be encouraged to draw guidance from Iqbal's thought.

He added that the preservation of national heritage was not limited to historical buildings, manuscripts and cultural artefacts; safeguarding intellectual and literary traditions and transmitting them to future generations was equally important.

Islamabad Police Signs MoU with Citi Lab for Better Healthcare Facilities



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

MOU signed for provision of better health facilities to cops According to the details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, efforts are ongoing to provide the best facilities and discounted medical services to Islamabad Police officers and their families

In this regard, an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Islamabad Police and the private organization The Citi Lab

On behalf of Islamabad Police the agreement was signed by Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq and The CitiLab Officer.

Under the agreement, Islamabad Police officers and their families will receive discount on lab tests.

Moreover, Islamabad Police officers and their families can avail of this facility at all laboratories of the organization IG Islamabad said that, the best medical facilities are being provided to the serving officers of Islamabad Police, as well as the families of martyrs and officers who passed away during service.

Such measures are boosting the morale of police officers and helping to provide their families with the best medical facilities. Further steps are being taken for the welfare of police officers.

Senate Finance Committee Raises Concerns Over Corruption in Customs Department

■ Questions Mild Disciplinary Actions Against Airport Officials in Proven Corruption Cases, Calls for Review of Civil Servants Act



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, discussed a range of important matters, including corruption allegations against customs officials at airports, complaints against FBR officers and officials, the use of non-customs-paid (NCP) vehicles in erstwhile FATA/PATA, alleged financial irregularities involving HUM Network, and a private member bill titled "The Auditor General's Recommendations (Implementation) Bill, 2026." The meeting was attended by Senator Farooq Hamid Naek, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Senator Ahmed Khan, Senator Manzoor Ahmed and Senator Dilawar Khan. Senator Shahadat Awan attended as the mover of an agenda item, while Senator Dr. Afnan Ullah Khan participated as a special invitee. The committee received a briefing on inquiries and investigations conducted against customs officials posted at airports over alleged corruption. Members expressed concern over the nature of disciplinary actions taken in cases where allegations had been established, including minor penalties such as censure and withholding of annual increments. The committee questioned why penalties were imposed instead of stronger punishments in cases of proven corruption. Chairman FBR highlighted certain limitations under the Civil Servants Act, 1973, particularly regarding disciplinary proceedings and major penalties, and suggested that the law be reviewed and revised to address these issues.The committee also raised concerns regarding promotion procedures for civil servants, particularly the reliance on technical evaluation reports and Performance Evaluation Reports (PERs) for promotion to higher grades through the Central Selection Board.



Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts to Address Public Grievances

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Holds Open Courts to Address Citizens' Grievances, Orders Prompt Resolution of Complaints According to details, following the special directions of Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police remain committed to resolving citizens' issues promptly and ensuring timely relief. In this regard, DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem and SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza held open courts at their respective offices, listened to citizens' complaints and issued directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution. DIG Islamabad heard citizens' grievances at his office and directed the concerned officers to resolve their issues promptly and on merit. Similarly, SSP Operations Islamabad held an open court under the open-door policy, where citizens presented their problems and complaints. He directed the concerned officers to complete legal proceedings on the marked applications within the stipulated time and submit reports accordingly. DIG Islamabad stated that resolving citizens' issues promptly and on merit is a top priority of Islamabad Police. Citizens can approach police officers during open courts without hesitation or any recommendation. They can also register their complaints and concerns through the "IGP Complaint Cell at-1715". He further stated that, on the directions of IGP Islamabad, open courts are being held across the district, while all zonal SPs are also conducting open courts in their respective zones to address public grievances. The initiative aims to provide effective redress at citizens' doorsteps and strengthen direct communication between the police and the public. SSP Operations Islamabad said that Islamabad Police follows a zero-tolerance policy towards violence against women and children. Providing maximum relief to citizens, upholding the rule of law and ensuring that all applications are dealt with on merit remain key priorities. He emphasized that protecting the lives, property, dignity and honor of citizens is a fundamental responsibility of the police.

CDA Chairman Directs Acceleration of Beautification and Landscaping Work at Orchard Underpass

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Sohail Ashraf, accompanied by Member Environment Abdullah Khurram Niazi, visited Orchard Underpass and conducted a detailed review of the ongoing beautification, landscaping and environmental improvement works.

During the visit, Chairman CDA directed the concerned authorities to expedite the beautification and landscaping work and ensure its timely completion. He emphasized that comprehensive landscaping and environment-friendly plantation should be carried out around the underpass and adjoining green belts to enhance the natural beauty of the area.

He further directed that modern and aesthetically appealing LED lights be installed around the underpass to ensure effective illumination and improve the overall appearance of the site. Special attention, he added, must be given to the renovation, maintenance and cleanliness of the underpass and its adjoining footpaths.



Chairman CDA Sohail Ashraf stressed that high standards of quality must be maintained in all beautification and development works.

He said that the ongoing initiatives are aimed at improving the overall beauty of Islamabad and providing citizens with a clean, green, well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing environment.

He reiterated that CDA is committed to making Islamabad a more attractive, environmentally sustainable and citizen-friendly capital city through improved infrastructure, landscaping and urban beautification.



NCCIA's Shoaib highlights digital safety at international cyber security symposium

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Air University Islamabad hosted a cyber awareness session during the inaugural ceremony of NADRA Day at the PAK-CRYPT International Symposium on Cyber Security, where Additional Director National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Islamabad and Rawalpindi Shoaib Khan highlighted the importance of digital safety and responsible use of social media.

According to NCCIA on Wednesday, Shoaib Khan briefed participants on protection against cyber threats, safeguarding personal information and data, and adopting precautionary measures during online activities.

NCCIA's Shoaib highlights digital safety at international cyber security symposium

He emphasised the role of parents in monitoring their children's use of mobile phones and the internet, educating them about potential online threats and encouraging the safe and positive use of digital technology.

IGP Islamabad Rewards Police Officers For Outstanding Performance

■ Certificates of Appreciation Presented to Officers for Dedication, Professionalism and Excellence in Public Service

Crime reporter

ISLAMABAD

IGP Islamabad Appreciates Police Officers for Outstanding Public Service, Awards Certificates of Appreciation According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry invited police officers who demonstrated outstanding professional performance and dedication to public service to the Central Police Office (CPO). He appreciated their efforts, encouraged them for their commitment and awarded them certificates of appreciation in recognition of their services. On the occasion, the IGP Islamabad stated that serving citizens, resolving their issues promptly and treating them with dignity and respect are fundamental



responsibilities of Islamabad Police. He said that officers who perform their duties with honesty, sincerity and professional dedication, considering public service their foremost responsibility, are a source of pride for the department. IGP Islamabad directed the officers to continue performing their duties with the same enthusiasm, commitment and dedication. He instructed them to give priority to citizens' complaints and take all possible measures to resolve their issues promptly. He emphasized that courteous behavior, merit-based action and timely service to the public must be ensured at all times. IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry further stated that recognizing and encouraging officers who demonstrate good performance promotes hard work, responsibility and professionalism within the force. He reaffirmed that Islamabad Police would continue to strengthen the values of public service, transparency and commitment to duty, while utilizing all available resources to protect citizens' lives and property and enhance public trust in the police.

Tajikistan's Rich Cultural and Literary Heritage Exhibition Opens at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

Exhibition Celebrates the Enduring Legacy of Abu Ali ibn Sina and Omar Khayyam, Showcasing Rare Manuscripts, Calligraphy, Traditional Arts and Historical Artefacts of Persian-Tajik Civilization.

STAFF REPORTER

Paris / France



An exhibition of the written heritage, arts, and culture of Tajikistan, held in honor of the two great Persian-Tajik thinkers—Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna) and Omar Khayyam — opened at UNESCO Headquarters. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, addressed the opening ceremony.In his address, the Minister noted that holding such an exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris reflects the constructive role and unique place of science and culture in the development of international relations, as well as in the creation of an atmosphere of friendship and respect among nations."Our scientific and cultural heritage is not only a record of our historical journey but also one of the principal means of dialogue among nations in today's world," he stated.The exhibition brings together rare examples of written heritage, lithographed works, and artefacts of exceptional historical and cultural significance. Among them are manuscript copies and lithographed books of the scientific, philosophical, and medical works of Abu Ali ibn Sina, along with collections of the rubaiyat (quatrains) of Omar Khayyam. These rare items cover various stages in the development of the culture of manuscripts and book printing, with the historical examples dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.The exhibition also features quatrains by Omar Khayyam, artistically rendered in calligraphy by renowned masters of the art, in keeping with the finest traditions of bookmaking and decorative script. These works embody the enduring bond between science and letters, the art of calligraphy, and the book culture of the Persian-Tajik people.Alongside the written heritage, visitors will find examples of Tajik folk crafts, including khotamkori (fine wooden inlay) and suzani embroidery, bearing the image of Shaykh ur-Ra'is Abu Ali ibn Sina, created by Tajik artisans. Also on display is a collection of commemorative and jubilee medals and badges with the image of Abu Ali ibn Sina issued in different periods in honor of this great thinker.

Quran Connects Nations and Cultures Through Shared Spiritual Bond: KP Governor

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor has said that the Holy Quran unites nations and cultures through a shared spiritual bond, while its message of peace, justice, compassion and mutual respect transcends borders.Addressing the second International Qirat Competition 2026, he stressed the need to introduce the world to Islam's true message of peace and promote Quranic teachings among the younger generation.He said the Quran teaches respect for human life, justice and compassion, adding that its true reflection lies not only in beautiful recitation but also in practising its teachings.The governor appreciated the international competition, saying it would strengthen Pakistan's religious and cultural ties with Muslim countries and promote global harmony.On the second day of the competition, 19 Qaris from different countries presented their recitations, while eight contestants qualified for the final.Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Federal Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza, Joint Secretary Shahbaz Mustafa and other officials attended the event.The final will be held on November 26, when the winners will be announced and prizes distributed.

BISE Rawalpindi Introduces Major Reforms to Modernise Examination System

On-Screen Marking, CCTV Cameras, Biometric Verification and Digital Monitoring to Ensure Transparency and Merit

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI



The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Rawalpindi is undertaking comprehensive reforms to modernise its examination system, improve administrative efficiency and ensure transparency through the integration of digital technology and strengthened monitoring mechanisms.Under the reform strategy introduced by Chairman BISE Rawalpindi Professor Dr Iqbal Mahmood, the board is focusing on transforming traditional examination procedures into a modern, technology-driven system in line with the educational and examination policies of the Punjab government.The key initiatives include the introduction of the On-Screen Marking System, greater use of digital technology in examination processes, digital monitoring of examination centres, and enhanced transparency through CCTV cameras and biometric systems.These measures aim to strengthen accountability, ensure merit-based assessments and improve the overall professional standards of the examination system.Controller of Examinations Mubashir Saeed is actively supervising examination arrangements and monitoring compliance with examination rules and regulations. During monitoring at Government Viqar-un-Nisa Graduate College, a mobile phone was recovered from a female candidate at the examination centre.According to the Controller of Examinations, a case was registered in accordance with the prescribed rules and forwarded to the Discipline Branch for further proceedings.He said that an effective monitoring mechanism was being maintained at examination centres to ensure transparency, discipline and prevention of cheating. Any violation of examination rules would be dealt with strictly and without discrimination, he added.Mubashir Saeed is also conducting regular visits to examination centres to assess attendance, staff performance, security arrangements, discipline and the availability of facilities for candidates.



NCCIA Abbottabad Arrests Woman Accused in Cyber Crime Case

Action Taken on Complaint After Examination of Social Media Accounts and Digital Evidence; DG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi Warns Against Online Harassment and Threats

CTIY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

NCCIA Cyber Crime Circle Abbottabad Action, Woman Accused ArrestedAccused arrested on complaint, further investigation underwayAccording to details, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Cyber Crime Circle Abbottabad, on the complaint of the complainant, while taking successful action, arrested a woman accused.Upon receiving the complaint, NCCIA immediately started an inquiry. During the inquiry, statements of the complainant were recorded, relevant social media accounts and digital evidence were examined in detail, after which action was taken against the accused in accordance with the law and she was arrested. Investigation of the case is underway.On this occasion, Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that citizens should demonstrate responsibility while using social media and refrain from harassing, threatening or damaging the reputation of any person. Strict action will be taken in accordance with the law against such crimes. He further said that citizens should immediately contact NCCIA in case of becoming a victim of any kind of cyber crime and report any cyber crime.

NCCIA Karachi Exposes International Medical Billing Fraud Network, Arrests Five Accused

Rs1.5 Billion in Cash, Vehicles, Cryptocurrency and Digital Devices Recovered; Suspicious Financial Transactions Worth Rs20 Billion Uncovered



STAFF REPORTER

Karach

Major Action by NCCIA Karachi, Illegal Call Centre Involved in International Medical Billing Fraud Exposed, 5 Accused ArrestedDuring the action, Rs. 15 crore in cash, 4 vehicles worth Rs. 4.8 crore, 11 digital devices and cryptocurrency worth Rs. 6 crore recovered, suspicious financial transactions of about Rs. 20 billion also surfacedAccording to details, NCCIA Karachi, under the supervision of Additional Director Karachi Shehzad Akbar, taking action against an illegal call centre located on Shahrah-e-Faisal, exposed an international medical billing fraud network and arrested 5 accused.According to initial investigations, the accused deceived US citizens in the name of medical billing and health insurance facilities, obtained their personal and financial information and received illegal funds through foreign medical billing partners.During the action, Rs. 15 crore in cash, four vehicles worth Rs. 4.8 crore, 11 digital devices and cryptocurrency worth Rs. 6 crore were recovered, while suspicious financial transactions of about Rs. 20 billion also surfaced during investigations.A case has been registered against the arrested accused, while the scope of investigations has been further widened to identify other persons of the network, financial facilitators and facilitators present abroad.On this occasion, Director General Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that actions against illegal call centres and international fraud networks will continue.

Crackdown on Sheesha Cafes on DC's Directions, 2 Cafes Sealed in E-11



CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

On the special directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Syed Muhammad Ali carried out a vigorous crackdown against sheesha cafes involved in illegal and immoral activities, as a result of which two sheesha cafes located in Sector E-11, Barasti Cafe and Basha Cafe, were sealed on the spot.According to details, in light of the clear orders of the Honourable High Court, the district administration is active to prevent the spread of sheesha cafes and drugs in the federal capital.In this regard, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Syed Muhammad Ali, along with police force, conducted a surprise raid in Sector E-11. During the well-organized operation, Barasti Cafe and Basha Cafe were immediately sealed for violating legal regulations and promoting immoral activities, while sheesha hookahs and other prohibited items were also seized from the spot.On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Syed Muhammad Ali said that indiscriminate operations against sheesha cafes will continue across the city in accordance with the orders of the High Court and the vision of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad.

CDA Mazdoor Union Provides New Ambulances to H-8 Graveyard Staff

Ambulances Approved Through Staff Welfare Fund Handed Over to DMA for Use as Coffin Carriers

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



On the demand of the CDA Mazdoor Union, ambulances approved from the Staff Welfare Fund were handed over as coffin carriers to the graveyard staff of DMA.A ceremony in this regard was held at H-8 Graveyard, which was attended by CDA Mazdoor Union General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen, Director General MCI Mian Tariq Latif, Director Admin and Chairman Staff Welfare Committee Malik Azhar Khurshid, Director Labour Relations Asif Ali Khan, Deputy Director Admin Idrees Anjum, Assistant Director Transport Badar Maqsood, Assistant Director Graveyard Rizwan Sarwar, PSI Asia Pacific Representative Budha Singh, FES Project Director Abdullah Dayo, Pakistan Workers Federation General Secretary Asad Mahmood, President Shaukat Ali Anjum, Mir Zulfiqar Ali, Mazdoor Union President Aurangzeb Khan, Additional General Secretary Muhammad Sarfraz Malik, Chaudhry Zahid, Chaudhry Wajid Gujjar, Raja Rasib, Pirzada Khan, Irshad Gujjar and others.On the occasion, keys of the new ambulances were handed over to the DMA staff.Addressing the ceremony, CDA Mazdoor Union General Secretary Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen said that on the death of CDA employees and their dependents, we were facing problems of coffin carriers. Keeping this in view, the Staff Welfare Committee decided to purchase new ambulances to reduce these difficulties. Today, Alhamdulillah, fulfilling this promise, we are handing over the ambulances to DMA, which will surely reduce the problems.He said that we got the marriage grant for daughters of CDA employees increased from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 600,000 and the scholarship amount for children of employees increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 80,000, and got approval for a plot for the Community Centre, on which construction work will soon be started after obtaining the plot through the Planning Wing.He said that provision of basic facilities to citizens and solution of employees' problems is our top priority.

Islamabad is an important and rapidly expanding city where, with the increase in population, the need for medical and emergency services is also increasing. In such a situation, provision of modern machinery is an important need of the time so that immediate assistance can be provided to citizens in case of any emergency.Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen said that CDA Mazdoor Union will continue to play its role for public welfare, improvement of the institution and protection of employees' rights.

99th Pakistan Learning Festival Concludes in Islamabad, Attracts Over 9,000 Visitors

Two-Day Event Features 128 Educational Sessions, Promotes Creativity, Innovation and Sustainable Development

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The 99th Pakistan Learning Festival (PLF), organised under the theme "Learning for Peace and Sustainability," concluded in the federal capital on Wednesday, attracting more than 9,000 visitors, including students, teachers and parents.The two-day festival, held at Islamabad College for Girls (ICG), F-6/2, was organised by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE).As many as 128 educational and creative sessions were conducted by 119 resource persons, providing children and young people with opportunities to showcase their talents, explore modern technologies and develop creative and critical thinking skills.The festival featured activities on storytelling, artificial intelligence, robotics, sustainable development, girls' health and hygiene, disability rights, theatre, music, book launches and fine arts. A special tribute was also paid to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in connection with his 150th birth anniversary.UNESCO organised three special educational sessions, while Sightsavers provided free eye screening services for children. Malala Fund and SOC Films also conducted dedicated learning sessions.Female students from Shangla presented a special model on sustainable development, which received widespread appreciation from participants.Speaking at the festival, UNESCO Representative in Pakistan Fawad Pashayev said ensuring equal access to education for all children was among the organisation's key priorities.He said efforts were underway to promote girls' education in remote areas through radio education initiatives, model schools and curriculum-aligned radio lessons. He added that the radio education project, being implemented with the support of Italy, aimed to reach children deprived of educational facilities. UNESCO remained committed to ensuring that no child was left behind in education, he said.ITA Chief Executive Officer Baela Raza Jamil said the successful organisation of 128 sessions over two days reflected the collective efforts of all partners and supporting institutions. She expressed the commitment to continuing such collaboration in the future.During the closing ceremony, certificates and prizes were distributed among children, young participants and resource persons in recognition of their outstanding contributions.Fouzia Saeed, Sarwar Mohiuddin, Dr Ehtisham Anwar, FDE Director Quality Assurance and Academics Riffat Jabeen and National Book Foundation Managing Director Muhammad Kamran Jahangir distributed certificates and prizes among the participants.The organisers also appreciated Islamabad College for Girls Principal Shazia Shamim Rizvi and the college administration for their support in making the festival a success.

China Urges US to Maintain Stable Trade Relations Amid Reports of New Tariffs

Beijing Opposes Proposed Trade Levies on Major Trading Partners, Says Tariff Wars Are in No One's Interest; Calls for Dialogue Based on Equality, Respect and Mutual Benefit



Web DESK

Beijing

Beijing urged the United States on Wednesday to "uphold the stable development" of trade relations, after media reports said Washington was planning to announce new tariffs on China and other countries. Reports from media outlets said that Washington's new levies would affect major US trading partners including China, the European Union, Japan and South Korea. China's foreign ministry said tariff wars were not in "anyone's interest", when asked about Washington's reported plans."The two sides should resolve relevant issues through consultation on the basis of equality, respect and mutual benefit," foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said. "The so-called overcapacity is a false premise. China opposes using it as a pretext for political manipulation," Guo told reporters at a regular news briefing.

Some nations fear Chinese industrial overcapacity -- the claim that Beijing produces more than it consumes, flooding markets -- could disrupt global supply chains in critical industries. Beijing rejects these claims.Guo said China and the United States should "work together to effectively implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and uphold the stable development of China-US economic and trade relations".



Islamabad: November 25, 2026: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik in meeting with Chinese Ambassador H.E Jiang Zaidong.

Israeli strike kills Hamas official, his wife and children

An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed senior Hamas security official Mohammad Abuelouf, his wife, and two children early Wednesday morning.

Web Desk

GAZA



Israel's military killed a senior Hamas security official as well as his wife and two children with an airstrike on their Gaza Strip apartment early on Wednesday, Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry and medics said.

The airstrike that killed Mohammad Abuelouf, a Hamas colonel who heads the militants' interior security service, and his family was the second Israeli attack to kill a senior Hamas security official in the past 24 hours.

On Tuesday, after the military killed Naeem Abu Nahel, Hamas' head of internal security, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was no escape for Hamas from his country's "long reach".

Hamas' internal security service, which Abu Nahel ran and in which Abuelouf was a senior official, counters Palestinians suspected of collaboration with Israel's secret service and gathers information about its plans.

At least 1,600 Palestinians and five Israeli soldiers have been killed since the ceasefire was struck in October 2025, according to respective Palestinian and Israeli tallies.

Israeli troops now control around two-thirds of Gaza, up from more than half at the time of the ceasefire, with Hamas controlling a sliver of territory along Gaza's coast.

Israel's assault on Gaza has killed more than 74,000 Palestinians since 2023, caused a hunger crisis, internally displaced Gaza's entire population and led to assessments ofgenocide from scholars and United Nations inquiries.

Israel has said its actions were in self-defence after Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people and took more than 250 hostages in an attack on Israel in October 2023.

Ukraine says attack on Russian ships in Libya was self-defence

Ukraine defends its deadly maritime drone attack on Russian ships in Libya as lawful self-defense despite Tripoli's sharp diplomatic criticism.

Web Desk

KYIV



Ukraine's foreign minister said on Tuesday a drone attack against a Russian military vessel and cargo ship in Libyan waters at the weekend was a legitimate act of self-defence, following criticism from the government in Tripoli.

Andrii Sybiha said that both Russian naval vessels and cargo ships transporting military equipment were valid targets and Ukraine's right to self-defence was enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

Libya's Western-backed Government of National Unity in Tripoli condemned on Monday the Ukrainian military operation ?that sank the Russian naval corvette Merkury in the eastern port of Benghazi. It said Libya would not accept being drawn into the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Libya remains divided following a civil war. The country's east is controlled by military commander Khalifa Haftar, whose Libyan National Army has ties with Russia. The internationally recognised Government of National Unity controls western Libya, though local armed groups wield considerable power on the ground.

Five women killed each hour by relatives in 2025: UN

The number of women and girls killed by an intimate partner or a family member has fluctuated between 45,000 and 51,000 over the past several years

Web Desk

UN



More than 47,000 women and girls, or around five per hour, were killed by relatives around the world in 2025, a figure broadly unchanged from previous years, according to a UN report published on Tuesday.

The number of women and girls killed by an intimate partner or a family member has fluctuated between 45,000 and 51,000 over the past several years, according to estimates by UN Women and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Of the 78,000 women and girls who were victims of intentional homicide last year, around 60% were killed by an intimate partner or family member, the report said ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The estimated 47,000 victims represent 129 women and girls killed every day. The figure was calculated using an analysis of statistics from 122 countries and territories. While women accounted for 19% of homicide victims worldwide in 2025, 60% of them were killed in the private sphere. By contrast, 11% of male homicide victims were killed in such circumstances.

The UN stressed the "urgency of ensuring that the prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships, as well as relationships in wider family structures."

No region was completely safe, but Africa once again recorded the highest number of women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members, at 22,100. Asia followed with 15,100 victims, ahead of the Americas with 7,400, Europe with 2,100 and Oceania with 300.

The report also noted that while homicide rates have fallen globally, rates of femicide have declined more slowly, particularly in the Americas and Europe. This suggests, according to the UN, "that these crimes are deeply rooted in social norms and gender stereotypes," adding that it points to barriers in accessing the justice system.

Yemen's Houthis threaten to target Jeddah and other Saudi Red Sea ports

Web Desk

YEMEN



Yemen's Houthis said on Wednesday the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah and all other Saudi ports on the Red Sea coast would be targeted if Saudi Arabia carried out threats to attack the Yemeni port of Hodeidah.

The latest exchange marks a further escalation in the confrontation between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia, with attacks increasingly targeting strategic infrastructure on both sides.

Houthi drone struck the tallest tower in Riyadh, injuring at least 11 people, according to Saudi authorities. The Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis vowed a firm response to the attack.

In a statement issued by Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree, the group urged employees and workers at the ports, as well as people nearby, to evacuate immediately and called on shipping companies to withdraw their vessels.

Two oil tankers strike sea mines in strait of Hormuz



WEB DESK

TEHRAN

The naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed that two oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz caught fire after colliding with sea mines.

According to the navy's public relations department, the incident occurred on Wednesday morning when both tankers allegedly struck naval mines near the southern and eastern coastal areas of the Strait of Hormuz.The IRGC stated that the collisions triggered explosions followed by fires, noting that both vessels were attempting to transit the strait with their navigation and identification systems turned off. The Revolutionary Guards have not yet released further details regarding the identities of the tankers or the extent of casualties and financial damage.

Australia, Solomon Islands sign security pact in blow to China

Australia and Solomon Islands signed a security pact making Canberra its preferred defence partner and barring foreign military bases, signaling a major strategic shift away from China.

STAFF REPORTER

SYDNEY

Australia and Solomon Islands signed a security pact on Wednesday that makes Canberra the country's defence partner of choice, marking a shift for the Pacific archipelago that signed a similar deal with China only four years ago.

Under the deal, Australia will support the expansion and development of Solomon Islands' police and border force, while Honiara will deny any request from a foreign power to establish military or security bases on its territory, the leaders of the countries said in a joint statement.

"Australia is proud to be the Solomon Islands' main security partner, and that's a responsibility that we ?take seriously," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told a press conference in Canberra with his Solomon Islands counterpart Matthew Wale.

The pact is a victory for Canberra, which is battling China for influence in the region and recently signed similar agreements with Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji.

The wide-ranging treaty includes Australian funding for investment in infrastructure and education, improved visa arrangements for Solomon Islanders, and requires Honiara to consult Australia on the development of critical infrastructure. It signals a significant shift by Wale, a long-time China critic who had appeared to soften his stance in recent years.



"Solomon Islands has been for a number of years a source of uncertainty and doubt in the region. Those days are done," Wale said at the press conference.

Wale was highly critical of the 2022 security deal with China, echoing the United States and other Pacific nations, saying it would upset regional security and could jeopardise relationships with existing partners.

But in 2025 he led a delegation to Beijing, where he praised China's economic development and said his party supported the one-China principle.

Australian media reported on Wednesday that Solomon Islands' pact with China had been scrapped, though Wale declined to comment on the status of the deal, citing a non-disclosure agreement.

A spokesperson for China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"I think this deal, coupled with indications that Solomon Islands will let the China deal lapse, goes beyond the success of the previous deals" which Australia has struck in the region, said Connor Graham, a research fellow ?in the Pacific Islands program at Sydney-based think tank the Lowy Institute.

"It is a blow to Chinese security ambitions in the Pacific certainly."

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DISCOs top corruption risk list

Power distribution companies (Discos) are at a high risk of corruption, and three other entities including the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) are facing substantial risks, revealed a National Corruption Assessment report released last week under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition.

The Ministry of Law and Justice has published the report as part of the IMF condition to identify the top 10 entities that are at risk of corruption. Ghost pensioners and awards of contracts to second-lowest bidders in Pakistan Railways, ghost pensioners in Pakistan Post, ghost beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and irregular tax exemptions, unjustified assessments and cases of over-taxation of FBR have been mentioned in the report. The report, prepared by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), named no federal government entity that is exposed to either a very high or an extremely high risk of corruption.



The federal government last Friday released the report ahead of the IMF board meeting that is scheduled to approve Pakistan's request for $1.2 billion in loans on December 11. The deadline to publish the national corruption risk assessment report having details of the top 10 corruption-prone entities was at the end of October.

According to the National Risk Assessment report on corruption, all 10 power distribution companies (clubbed as one entity) were labelled as at high risk of corruption. The FBR, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation (Passco) are described as at substantial risk of corruption.

The six entities at moderate risk included the National Highway Authority (NHA), Pakistan Railways, BISP, Pakistan Post, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Evacuee Trust and Property Board (ETPB).

The report said that none of the 25 entities assessed in depth fell in the "very high band" or the "extremely high band".

The IMF has placed the condition that the Anti-Corruption and AML/CFT Committee will develop a methodology for corruption risk assessment to guide NAB's development of an action plan to mitigate corruption risks in government agencies by the end of October.

The Discos and FBR rank high despite strong documented safeguards, the report stated.

The Ministry of Law and Justice, which released the report, stated that the National Risk Assessment (NRA) on Corruption is a preventive, risk-management exercise covering only federal government entities. It does not classify any institution as corrupt or non-corrupt, and nothing in this report constitutes a finding of corruption, misconduct, culpability or criminal liability against any institution, regulator, line ministry or official.

The report found nine recurring risk patterns across the top 10 entities prone to corruption risk. Procurement manipulation was found among all 10 entities; nine were prone to revenue leakages and weak reconciliation; and seven to embezzlement, diversion and abuse of functions and patronage. Six entities were prone to irregularities, falsification and non-enforcement of remedies, and four were facing issues of "land and property corruption and ghost and unverified payees".

Entity scores are placed in six risk bands: low (0-29), moderate (30-44), substantial (45-59), high (60-74), very high (75-90) and extremely high (above 90).

The distribution companies carry the largest operational and financial exposure among the top 10 entities. Their commercial losses stem from inaccurate metering and billing; theft through illegal connections and meter tampering; and non-payment by billed consumers, including public-sector bodies, according to the report.

Inadequate metering and feeder-level monitoring make it difficult to locate losses precisely, so persistent loss areas are often managed through estimated or detection billing. Governance arrangements have not consistently created strong incentives for improvement.

Based on audit objections, the risk assessment report has highlighted various vulnerabilities. It said in the case of power distribution companies, recorded violations of PPRA rules, failure to follow specifications and the use of low.

Pakistan Needs to Change Its System of Governance, Not Just Its Government



By: RAKHMAT ZADA DAR

A Proposal for a Directly Elected President, Lean Administration, Professional Leadership and Grassroots Empowerment

Pakistan has completed nearly eight decades of its existence. During this period, the country has experienced different political governments, administrative arrangements and institutional reforms. Yet, many fundamental challengesincluding political instability, excessive administrative expenditure, bureaucratic delays, weak accountability, unemployment and uneven developmentcontinue to affect national progress.

In my opinion, if we continue to operate the same governance structure without introducing meaningful institutional reforms, merely changing governments, political leadership or slogans will not produce lasting results. Pakistan needs to rethink how it is governed, how public resources are utilised, how leadership is selected and how authority is exercised.

The time has come to initiate a serious national debate on a more efficient, professional, decentralised and performance-oriented governance model.

A Directly Elected President with Clear Accountability

Pakistan should seriously consider a presidential system in which the President is directly elected by the people through a transparent, free and fair electoral process and is entrusted with national executive responsibility under the Constitution.

A directly elected President would have a clear national mandate and responsibility for national policies, economic priorities, institutional coordination and development objectives. However, presidential authority must not be unlimited. Constitutional safeguards, independent judiciary, legislative oversight, transparency and accountability must remain essential components of the system.

The purpose should be to ensure stable leadership, clear responsibility and effective decision-makingnot the concentration of unchecked power.

A Smaller and More Efficient Government

The existing government structure needs a comprehensive review. The number of ministries, ministers, advisers, special assistants, departments and administrative positions should be assessed according to their actual necessity, responsibilities, cost and performance. Pakistan cannot afford an unnecessarily large administrative machinery that consumes substantial public resources through salaries, offices, vehicles, protocol, allowances and overlapping functions. Unnecessary departments should be merged, redundant administrative layers eliminated and responsibilities clearly defined. The government should be smaller in size but stronger in delivery, more efficient in management and more accountable in the use of public money.

Rethinking the Administrative Structure

The conventional administrative structure, including the excessive number of administrative layers and offices, should be reviewed considering modern governance requirements. Instead of concentrating decisions at the top, authority should be delegated to capable regional, district and local institutions. Administrative arrangements should be designed to facilitate citizens rather than create unnecessary procedural obstacles.

The central government should concentrate on national priorities, strategic planning, economic policy, defence, foreign affairs, national infrastructure and coordination, while local institutions should be empowered to address the day-to-day needs of communities. Such restructuring could reduce administrative costs, accelerate decisions and improve the quality of public services.

Empowering the Grassroots Level

One of the most important reforms Pakistan needs is the genuine transfer of financial, administrative and developmental powers to the grassroots level.

Local governments and community-level institutions should have the authority, resources and responsibility to plan and execute projects relating to roads, sanitation, drinking water, schools, healthcare, local infrastructure and other essential services.

Development should not remain dependent on approvals from distant offices. Local authorities should be empowered to identify priorities, utilise approved budgets and complete projects within defined timelines.

Decentralisation would not only reduce the burden on the central government but also strengthen public participation, improve transparency and create a sense of ownership among citizens.

Professional Leadership Instead of Political Convenience

Government departments should be headed by competent individuals possessing relevant academic qualifications, professional expertise, experience, integrity and leadership skills.

Education should be managed by education experts, health by qualified healthcare professionals, finance by competent financial and economic specialists, and engineering and infrastructure by experienced technical professionals.

The principle of appointing the right person to the right position must be adopted across government.

Political affiliation or personal influence should not outweigh competence, merit and professional suitability. Pakistan needs a culture in which public offices are treated as responsibilities to serve the nation rather than privileges to exercise authority.

Annual Performance Review All ministers, departmental heads, senior officials and relevant administrative leadership should be evaluated through a transparent performance-based system.

Their performance should be reviewed yearly basis against measurable targets, including project completion, public service delivery, financial discipline, departmental efficiency, transparency, innovation and citizen satisfaction.

Appointments and continuation in key positions should be linked to performance. Those delivering results should be encouraged and retained, while persistent underperformance should lead to corrective measures or replacement through a lawful and transparent process.

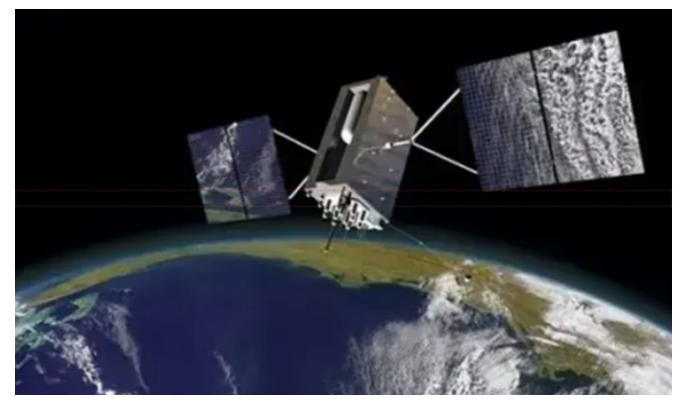
This approach would promote responsibility, discourage inefficiency and create a culture of measurable results.

Minimum Cost, Maximum Development

The ultimate objective of restructuring should be to minimise the cost of governance while maximising development and public welfare.

Pakistan's Journey into Space

By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan



The world is rapidly entering a new era in which the progress and global standing of nations are determined not merely by economic stability, industrial production, military strength or natural resources, but also by achievements in science, technology, artificial intelligence and space exploration. Today, countries exploring the vastness of space are striving to strengthen their position in the world of tomorrow. In this context, the news that Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali is set to become the first international crew member to reach China's Tiangong Space Station aboard the Shenzhou-24 mission carries extraordinary significance for Pakistan. This development could mark an important milestone in the country's scientific history and become a moment of immense national pride.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, while congratulating the entire nation and Pakistan's national space agency, SUPARCO, on this historic development, stated that Pakistan is preparing to make history in space exploration and joint scientific advancement. Referring to the forthcoming launch of China's Shenzhou-24 mission and the anticipated historic participation of Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali aboard the Tiangong Space Station, he described the development as a strong reflection of the enduring and time-tested strategic partnership between Pakistan and China. His message highlights Pakistan's efforts to create new opportunities in advanced scientific fields through its foreign policy and international cooperation.

This development is not merely a matter of Pakistani representation in a space mission; it carries broader possibilities for the country's scientific future, national capabilities and international cooperation. The inclusion of a Pakistani astronaut in an international space crew will send a strong message to the world that Pakistan also possesses the potential to contribute to the global advancement of science and technology. It can serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement for the country's young generation, scientists, engineers and educational institutions.

The relationship between Pakistan and China is founded on mutual trust, respect and a time-tested friendship. Over several decades, both countries have expanded cooperation across numerous sectors. Their partnership in defence, trade, energy, infrastructure, communications, education, agriculture and industrial development has become a strong example of bilateral cooperation. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also given a new economic and commercial dimension to their relationship. Now, cooperation in space exploration and scientific advancement is creating an important opportunity to connect this longstanding friendship with the technologies of the future.One of the most significant characteristics of Pakistan-China friendship is that both countries have continuously expanded their relationship in accordance with changing global requirements. While defence and economic cooperation traditionally remained central to their partnership, artificial intelligence, digital technology, space exploration, advanced communication systems and scientific innovation are now becoming increasingly important areas of collaboration.

Pakistani astronaut, Chinese crew reach Tiangong space station as Shenzhou-24 docks successfully

This is a golden and historic day in the history of Pak-China friendship. Pakistan's first astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan has made history.The space mission took off at 5:18 PM Pakistan time.

The space mission will return to Earth after a week in space.

A farewell ceremony was held for the astronauts before their departure on the Shenzhou 24 space mission. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal attended the ceremony. Pakistani flags were hoisted at the ceremony. Pakistani and Chinese astronauts waved goodbye to the participants. The three astronauts sat in vehicles and reached the space center under special protocol.

It should be noted that Pakistani astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan said that he is going into space carrying the hopes of the nation. Not only me, but the whole of Pakistan will be represented in the space mission. This is a matter of honor for the whole of Pakistan, including me. Muhammad Zeeshan Ali said that there will be more joint space missions in the future, Pak-China friendship is higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey, the Pakistani astronaut also read a poem by Allama Iqbal.

The Chinese astronaut said that Pakistan and China have a common dream in the field of space exploration. Muhammad Zeeshan worked hard to learn Chinese, which made it easier for us to communicate with each other. Pakistanis will perform responsibilities as payload specialists in space missions, Muhammad Zeeshan will conduct scientific experiments in a microgravity environment, Pakistani and Chinese astronauts will conduct various scientific experiments, Muhammad Zeeshan's historic space flight will make Pakistan's name prominent in space research.

Pakistani astronaut Zeeshan Ali is set to make history aboard China's Shenzhou-24 crewed space mission, scheduled to blast off on Wednesday (today), according to an announcement from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).



FoodAg 2026 Generates $658 Million in Expected Business in First Two Days

■ Over 4,000 B2B Meetings Held with 900 International Buyers from 80 Countries; 16 MoUs and Export Contract Signed, Including $70 Million SME Deals with Chinese Buyers

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

On the second day of FoodAg 2026, the 4th International Food and Agriculture Exhibition, organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), generated expected business worth $658 million in the first two days, including contracts worth $50 million,

This year, 400 Pakistani exporters are showcasing more than 20 agro-food sectors, while over 900 international buyers from 80 countries are attending the exhibition. Over the first two days, more than 4,000 B2B meetings were held across key sectors such as rice, processed food, seafood, meat, cereals and oilseeds.

On the sidelines, 16 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and one export contract were signed, including commitments to export 5,000 MT of fresh pineapples, 15,000 MT of fresh kinnows and 10,000 MT of maize.

A dates agreement provides for the annual supply of 864 MT of dates to China, valued at $820,800.

Further partnerships were forged in the seafood, rice, spices, salt, processed food and distribution sectors, connecting Pakistani companies with partners from China, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

In a parallel development, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) facilitated three MoUs worth $70 million between Pakistani SMEs and Chinese buyers. These include Chaman Dry Fruits worth $20 million, Organic Grower worth $20 million, and Salman Dates worth $30 million, signed with Cathy Chen, CEO of World Level Supply Chain.



Gold prices plunge by Rs11,500 per tola across Pakistan

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Gold prices across Pakistan recorded a substantial drop on Wednesday, falling by Rs11,500 per tola in line with a downward trend in the global bullion market.According to rates released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of 24-karat gold settled at Rs373,936 per tola. Similarly, the rate for 10 grams of 24-karat gold declined by Rs9,860 to stand at Rs320,589, while 10 grams of 22-karat gold decreased by Rs9,039 to reach Rs293,883.

Silver prices also followed the downward trajectory, with the per-tola rate dropping by Rs224 to settle at Rs4,463.

In the international market, the price of gold fell by $115 to $3,514 per ounce, while global silver rates dipped by $2.24 to $39.85 per ounce.

Pakistan's food security boosted as another shipment Of Romanian wheat arrives

■ A press release from the Romanian Embassy said the bulk carrier MV Alex arrived at Port Qasim on November 23, carrying 54,983 metric tonnes of Romanian wheat for Punjab.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan has received another major shipment of Romanian wheat, bringing total imports from Romania to 273,603 metric tonnes across five consignments, as the two countries strengthen agricultural trade ties and Pakistan diversifies its sources of essential food supplies, A press release from the Romanian Embassy said the bulk carrier MV Alex arrived at Port Qasim on November 23, carrying 54,983 metric tonnes of Romanian wheat for Punjab.

The shipment is part of the Trading Corporation of Pakistan's (TCP) efforts to supply wheat to Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh.

Earlier, on Saturday, November 21, the MV Zhong Chang arrived at Karachi Port carrying approximately 50,000 metric tonnes of Romanian wheat for Punjab. According to the Karachi Port Trust (KPT), the vessel berthed at berths 13 and 14.Before the latest arrival, four TCP shipments carrying more than 200,000 metric tonnes of Romanian wheat had reached Pakistan.

Two consignments were allocated to Punjab, one to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one to Sindh.

The MV Alex carried the third consignment for Punjab.

Romanian Ambassador Dr Dan Stoenescu said the shipments demonstrated the practical benefits of bilateral trade, providing Pakistan with an additional source of wheat amid pressure on international markets.

He said the five consignments also offered Romania a foundation for developing longer-term trade relations with Pakistani buyers.The ambassador highlighted a memorandum of understanding signed between the Karachi Port Trust and Romania's Port of Constana, saying it could pave the way for new maritime trade corridors and strengthen commercial links between the two countries.

He added that the deliveries had increased wheat availability in Pakistan, contributing to food security and efforts to keep prices affordable for consumers.

Dollar takes breather ahead of US data on Fed path; Aussie jumps on CPI

■ The US dollar held steady ahead of key GDP and PCE inflation readings as traders price in high odds of a December Federal Reserve rate hike, while the Australian dollar rose

WEB DESK

TOKYO



The US dollar took a breather on Wednesday ahead of inflation and growth data, the last major readings before a December Federal Reserve policy meeting at which traders see a 97% chance of an interest rate hike.

The yen held steady following figures showing Japan's service-sector prices jumped to a 36-year high in October. The Australian dollar climbed after data showing hotter-than-forecast inflation in October.

Investor attention now turns to the release of US gross domestic product data for the third quarter as well as the Fed's preferred inflation gauge. The greenback gave up ground on Tuesday as concern crept back into the AI trade that has attracted vast sums of capital to the US. "The whole of November has ?been a really, really strong month for the US dollar," Rodrigo Catril, a senior FX strategist at the National Australia ?Bank, said on a podcast. "So it's a little bit of a consolidation story in currencies rather than safe haven for the ?US dollar as the theme."

PSX turns negative as KSE-100 sheds 225 points

■ PSX witnessed a bearish trend on Wednesday as the KSE-100 Index declined 225.94 points (0.13%) to 178,316.34, following Tuesday's gain of 1,068.42 points.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI



The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend in the ongoing trading session on Wednesday, as the benchmark KSE-100 Index lost 225.94 points, reflecting a decline of 0.13 percent.

The benchmark index was trading at 178,316.34 points, compared with the previous session's closing level of 178,542.28 points.

During the session, the index recorded a high of 178,917.91 points and a low of 178,249.20 points, indicating fluctuations in market activity. Trading volume stood at 38,939,356 shares.

The latest decline comes a day after the stock market posted a strong performance on Tuesday, when the KSE-100 Index surged by 1,068.42 points, or 0.60 percent, to settle at 178,542.28 points.

In the previous trading session, the benchmark had closed higher than its earlier level of 177,473.86 points, reflecting positive momentum in the market. "

Pakistan and China launch joint energy team to fast-track investment projects

■ Pakistan and China agreed to create a Joint Commercial Team to accelerate petroleum, LPG infrastructure, and

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan and China have agreed to establish a Joint Commercial Team to accelerate energy projects, including LPG plants and petroleum import initiatives, and to drive Chinese investment across Pakistan's energy sector.The decision was reached during a meeting between Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong. The joint team will focus on expediting critical energy infrastructure and formulating a comprehensive roadmap to fast-track investment.

Both nations agreed to immediately push forward plans for an LPG plant along with dedicated storage and terminal facilities. This initiative aims to boost local gas supply and help overcome shortages across the country. Discussions also covered investment opportunities for Chinese companies partnering with Pakistan State Oil (PSO). These partnerships will focus on developing petroleum storage, port terminals, and downstream energy infrastructure.Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik stated that the government's top priority is converting bilateral talks into practical projects and industrial growth. He noted that President Xi Jinping's priorities at APEC 2026 reflect a shared vision for deepening energy cooperation.

Pakistan, Russia target $5 billion in bilateral trade by 2030

■ Pakistan and Russia have signed a five-year economic cooperation programme, targeting $5 billion in bilateral trade by 2030 through expanded trade, investment and energy cooperation.

News Desk

MOSCOW

Pakistan and Russia have agreed to increase bilateral trade to $5 billion by 2030, signing a five-year economic cooperation programme for 2026-2030 to strengthen economic and strategic ties.

The agreement was reached at the 11th session of the Pakistan-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Moscow, co-chaired by Pakistan's Energy Minister Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari and Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev.

According to a statement issued on November 25, both countries also welcomed the completion of a joint feasibility study for a proposed free trade agreement between Pakistan and the Eurasian Economic Union. Energy and investment cooperation

The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in oil and gas exploration, liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies and gas distribution. Pakistan will share investment opportunities in its onshore and offshore energy sectors with Russian companies.

Industrial cooperation will cover metallurgy, heavy vehicles, agricultural machinery, mineral exploration and pharmaceutical production, including local insulin manufacturing.

Both countries also agreed to strengthen agricultural trade, livestock breeding, fisheries and food security.



Pakistan-Russia freight connectivity

Pakistan and Russia will work towards launching their first pilot freight train between the two countries. Cooperation will also include railway infrastructure, professional training and modern transport systems.Russia has also increased government scholarship opportunities for Pakistani students, while both sides agreed to strengthen university partnerships and scientific cooperation.

Financial transaction mechanism

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan said significant progress had been made in addressing financial transaction barriers. Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bosal said four possible payment mechanisms had been shortlisted.

PCB announces 15-member women's team for West Indies tour

● The white-ball series will be played at Windsor Park in Roseau from December 8 to 20.



SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday announced a 15-member national women's team, to be led by all-rounder Fatima Sana, for next month's white-ball tour of West Indies, According to the PCB spokesperson, the tour comprises three Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) and three One-Day Internationals (ODIs), with the latter forming part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29. Pakistan was placed fifth in the ICC Women's Championship standings with five wins from nine matches.

The white-ball series will be played at Windsor Park in Roseau from December 8 to 20. The three T20Is will be played on December 8, 10, and 12, followed by the three ODIs on December 15, 17, and 20.

Fatima was not part of the 14-member squad for the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy owing to her commitments in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) in Australia, where she featured in her maiden season.

15-member squad:

Fatima Sana (captain), Ayesha Zafar, Gull Feroza, Momina Riasat, Muneeba Ali (wicketkeeper), Najiha Alvi (wicketkeeper), Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah, Tasmia Rubab, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani, and WaheedaAkhtar.

Players support personnel:

Shane Deitz (head coach), Ayesha Ashhar (team manager), Abdur Rehman (spin bowling coach), Umaid Asif (fast bowling coach), Abdul Majeed (fielding coach), Imran Farhat (batting coach), Waleed Ahmed (performance analyst), Moeen (strength and conditioning coach), and Dur Samand (physiotherapist).



Raheem Sterling given suspended jail sentence for dangerous driving

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Former England footballer Raheem Sterling was Wednesday given a 12-month suspended prison sentence for dangerous driving and possession of nitrous oxide after crashing his Lamborghini.

The 31-year-old was also ordered to complete 100 hours' unpaid work and was banned from driving for 24 months during the sentencing hearing at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court.

Sterling pleaded guilty in September to driving a Lamborghini Urus dangerously on May 28, 2026.

He also admitted possession of six nitrous oxide canisters for wrongful inhalation, a class C drug, and failing to provide a specimen.

Sterling's sentence is suspended for 18 months.

The former Manchester City forward had been seen by other motorists inhaling from a balloon while driving his black sports car, swerving in and out of lanes, a court previously heard.

Dashcam footage released by the Crown Prosecution Service shows a black Lamborghini switching lanes multiple times before hitting a concrete barrier.

Harbhajan Singh urges ICC to curb player misconduct in Pakistan-India matches

■ Harbhajan specifically criticized Indian fast bowler Harshit Rana's conduct, stating that his behavior was inappropriate



SPORTS Desk

Madrid

Former Indian off-spinner Harbhajan Singh has called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the cricket boards of both Pakistan and India to step in immediately and rein in inappropriate player behavior during high-voltage clashes between the two rivals.

"The ICC and both boards must step forward now and put a stop to this," he urged.

While acknowledging that mild on-field banter has always been a natural part of competitive cricket, the former spinner stressed that exchanges should never escalate to a point where players later regret their actions.

Harbhajan also specifically criticized Indian fast bowler Harshit Rana's conduct, stating that his behavior was inappropriate and sets a poor example for the younger generation of cricketers.

Emphasizing sportsmanship, Harbhajan added that cricket should be played strictly in the spirit of the game—players should give their all to win on the field, but post-match reactions of this nature from either side are completely unwarranted.

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Sri Lanka clinch ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026 Title after six-wicket win over Ireland

SPORTS Desk

AJMAN

Sri Lanka Women captured the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy 2026 title on Wednesday, defeating Ireland Women by six wickets in a one-sided final at the Karwan Sports Club in Ajman.

After winning the toss and electing to field first, Sri Lanka's bowlers dominated the Irish batting lineup, bundling Ireland out for just 96 runs in 19.3 overs. Sathya Sandeepani led the bowling attack with a stellar four-wicket haul (4/13), earning her the Player of the Match award. Alana Dalzell (24) and Louise Little (15) offered the only notable resistance for Ireland.

Mulder takes seven as South Africa sweep aside Bangladesh

● South Africa declared at their overnight total of 494 for seven, a first innings lead of 403.

SPORTS DESK

South Africa

Wiaan Mulder took seven wickets as South Africa beat Bangladesh by an innings and 219 runs on the third day of the second Test at SuperSport Park on Wednesday.

The medium-paced Mulder, who was named Player of the Match, followed up a century in South Africa's only innings by taking seven for 31 as Bangladesh were bowled out for 184 in their second innings.The win completed a 2-0 series win for South Africa and consolidated the defending champions' position at the top of the World Test Championship log.

South Africa declared at their overnight total of 494 for seven, a first innings lead of 403.

Bangladesh, who were bowled out for 91 in the first innings, started their second innings in overcast conditions.

Tanzid Hasan and Mahfijul Islam put on 58 for the first wicket – a record for Bangladesh against South Africa – before Mulder had Tanzid caught behind for 29.



Mahfijul was leg before wicket to Marco Jansen for 38.

Towhid Hridoy made an aggressive 41 before he was caught by Zubayr Hamza at gully off Kagiso Rabada.

Mulder then took five wickets in the space of 17 balls, gaining swing at a lively pace, before holding a catch at third man to provide Jansen with the final wicket of Khaled Ahmed.

The win kept South Africa on course to play in the 2027 Test final ahead of a three-Test home series against England starting in Johannesburg on December 17.

Ball-management clamour grows to put the shine back on reverse swing

■ ICC has no plans to lift saliva ban, however, because it considers the practice unhygienic

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

After India failed to bowl out New Zealand on a placid Basin Reserve pitch in Wellington on Monday, their captain Shubman Gill made a passionate plea for the return of legal ball management in Test cricket.

With the 2018 ball-tampering scandal involving Australia in South Africa firmly back in the spotlight after recent developments players, coaches, umpires and TV cameramen are keeping a sharp eye out for potential infractions.

Ball tampering has declined in the glare of that spotlight with the result that reverse swing bowling has become more difficult.

Ball management became even harder in 2020, when Covid-19 gripped the world and the ICC banned the use of saliva for health reasons, and Gill thinks the ban has long served its purpose and should be lifted.

"There was a rule that you can't put saliva on the ball to make it shine," he told reporters.



"It's been seven to eight years and I still don't understand why they are not allowing it. If you're not able to maintain the ball, especially on wickets like these, it makes the job of the bowlers very difficult."

The ICC has no plans to lift the saliva ban, however, because it considers the practice unhygienic.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), responsible for the laws of the game, has not budged from its support for the ban and offered no new comment when contacted by Reuters. Its 2022 statement said the ban had "little or no impact" on swing and removed "grey areas around fielders eating sugary sweets to alter their saliva".

Fielders and bowlers may still use sweat to shine the ball, but it is less effective.

The craft was developed by Pakistan fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, who wreaked havoc with an old ball by using its polished side to bend deliveries wickedly late in flight. Batters could no longer relax after seeing off the new ball, because the old one brought different challenges, swerving late and in the opposite direction to conventional swing.

The skill demands meticulous ball management — shining one side and scuffing up the other to exploit aerodynamics.

The sight of fielders rubbing saliva on the ball and red streaks on bowlers' white clothing were evidence of legal means to shine the ball, and scuffing could be achieved by bowling or throwing it against rough grass.

There were, however, more furtive methods.

Spain thought it had the 2030 World Cup final. Morocco had other plans.

■ Spain and Morocco are locked in a fierce battle to host the 2030 World Cup final, pitting Madrid and Barcelona against Casablanca's massive 115,000-seat stadium amid FIFA politics.

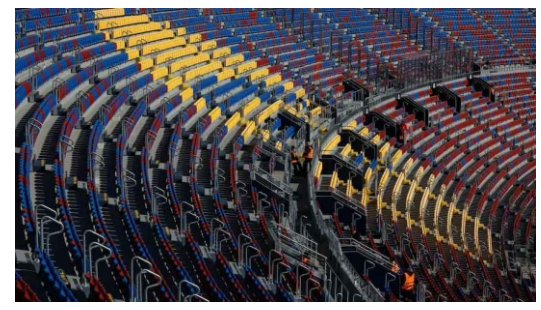
SPORTS DESK

MADRID/RABAT

When Spain won a joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup, officials at the national football association took it as given that the final would be held on their soil.

As former world champions – a feat since repeated – and the world's second-most visited country, Spain had the sporting pedigree and tourism know-how to welcome large crowds, so it was widely assumed ?the final would come to them.

Co-host Portugal was not interested, while Spanish officials thought that Morocco, as a late addition to the bid, surely would not agitate for the final.



But in recent months Spain has begun to fear that the North African nation, an emerging football power, ?could snatch the game's biggest showpiece from under its nose.

The battle to stage the final has become a bitter contest between Real Madrid's Bernabeu, Barcelona's Camp Nou and the $1 billion Hassan II stadium under construction near the fabled Atlantic city of Casablanca.

The race has become entangled with both FIFA President Gianni Infantino's fight for survival and frictions between Spain and Morocco over migration.

It has also spilt over into Spain's internal politics, with Alberto Núñez Feijóo, frontrunner to become prime minister after Sunday's election, saying Spain should withdraw from hosting the tournament if it cannot stage the final.

Daily The Spokesman

Thursday
November 26,2026

President and PM reaffirm commitment to women's rights, safety, and equality judges' transfer to IHC

■ **Pakistan's President and Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to women's constitutional rights, safety, and digital protection on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.**



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to protecting women's rights, ensuring their safety, and promoting gender equality.

In his special message on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, President Asif Ali Zardari stated that protecting women's rights is fundamental to safeguarding human rights. He emphasized that preventing violence is a collective responsibility requiring public awareness, education, and active male participation.

President Zardari noted that Articles 14, 25, and 34 of the Constitution guarantee dignity, equality, and full participation of women in national life. He highlighted that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto pioneered practical steps toward this vision by establishing First Women Bank and specialized women's police stations.

He stressed the strict enforcement of laws against harassment, acid attacks, and honor killings, alongside the need for robust institutional responses to modern digital abuse. He added that women's safety is included in the National Action Plan 2026 and urged victims to seek legal assistance via the national helpline (1099).

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed the federal government's pledge to protect the dignity and equal rights of every woman and girl in the country.

The Prime Minister marked the launch of a 16-day global awareness campaign against gender-based violence, running through International Human Rights Day on December 10. He noted that as a state party to CEDAW since 1996, Pakistan remains dedicated to eliminating discrimination, safeguarding victims, and prosecuting offenders.

PM Shehbaz acknowledged key challenges, including underreporting of violence across domestic, workplace, public, and digital spheres due to societal stigma and limited access to services. He highlighted ongoing collaboration across provincial governments, Parliament, the judiciary, civil society, media, and religious scholars to reshape societal attitudes and eliminate harmful practices.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Visits Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh to Offer Condolences

● **PPP Chairman Pays Tribute to Former Punjab Governor Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa and Expresses Sympathy with MPA Mian Almdar Abbas Qureshi on the Demise of His Brother and Sister-in-Law**

STAFF REPORTER

Dera Ghazi Khan / Muzaffargarh

Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, accompanied by Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, former Governor Punjab and senior Pakistan Peoples Party leader Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Member National Assembly Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani, Member Punjab Assembly and Chairman Public Accounts Committee Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Senator Rana Mahmood-ul-Hassan and other senior party leaders, visited Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh to offer condolences to bereaved families.At Khosa House, Dera Ghazi Khan, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani,



accompanied by MNA Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani and MPA Syed Ali Haider Gilani, met the family of veteran politician and former Governor Punjab Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa on his demise. They met his sons, former Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Dost Muhammad Khan Khosa and Sardar Saifuddin Khosa, along with other family members, and expressed their heartfelt condolences.The leaders paid rich tribute to the late Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa, acknowledging his longstanding political contributions and public services. They offered Fateha and prayed for the departed soul's eternal peace, forgiveness and elevation of ranks, while also praying for strength and patience for the bereaved family.

Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, accompanied by Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and other party leaders, also visited the residence of Pakistan Peoples Party Member of the Provincial Assembly Mian Almdar Abbas Qureshi at Chowk Qureshi, Muzaffargarh, to offer condolences on the demise of his brother, Mian Ghazanfar Abbas Qureshi, and his wife.They met Mian Almdar Abbas Qureshi and other family members, conveyed their heartfelt sympathies and expressed profound grief over the loss. They offered Fateha and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and strength, courage and patience for the bereaved family.

MQM-P seeks permission to hold rally in Karachi over new administrative units



Our Correspondent

KARACHI

Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has submitted an application to the Karachi commissioner seeking permission to organise a rally on Shahrah-e-Faisal on November 29 in support of establishing new administrative units.

MQM-P Deputy Parliamentary Leader Taha Ahmed Khan submitted the request to the commissioner, seeking approval for both the rally and a subsequent public gathering.

The planned procession will take place along Shahrah-e-Faisal before participants proceed to Bagh-e-Jinnah, located near Mazar-e-Quaid, where a public meeting will be held.

Baba Guru Nanak's 557th birthday celebrations conclude

● **The Deputy Commissioner Nankana Sahib, district police officers and other district officers were present at the concluding ceremony.**

NEWS REPORTER

LAHORE

Three-day celebrations, marking the 557th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, founder of Sikhism, concluded at the Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Nankana Sahib on Wednesday,

The conclusion of celebrations was marked by a spectacular fireworks display by the district administration, which lit up the city's sky with colour and light.

The Deputy Commissioner Nankana Sahib, district police officers and other district officers were present at the concluding ceremony.

The joy of the Sikh pilgrims was worth watching on this occasion.

Roughly 25,000 to 30,000 Sikh pilgrims, including 2,300



visitors from neighbouring India, took part in the ceremonies.

Dressed in orange, blue, yellow, and white, pilgrims filled the shrine complex with color. Men covering their heads with turbans and women with scarves, offered prayers and sang devotional hymns.

On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the pilgrims were provided with the best security, accommodation and travel facilities.

Sikh pilgrims were all praise for the Punjab government and the district administration for excellent arrangements and warm welcome.

They described the love and hospitality they received in Pakistan as unforgettable, saying that they were provided with a conducive environment here to perform their religious rituals.

The celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak's birthday give the message of religious harmony, tolerance and inter-faith respect.

The celebrations concluded with Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji's message of peace, love and commitment to promote humanity.

Sikh pilgrims later left for Sucha Sauda for performing further religious rites there. .

ADB okays $250m loan to boost private investment

■ **The financing will support government reforms aimed at preparing investment-ready projects, particularly cost-efficient infrastructure initiatives, while improving fiscal risk management.**



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday approved a $250m policy-based loan to help Pakistan strengthen its public-private partnership (PPP) framework and develop a pipeline of viable, sustainable projects capable of attracting private investment and supporting economic growth,

The financing will support government reforms aimed at preparing investment-ready projects, particularly cost-efficient infrastructure initiatives, while improving fiscal risk management. ADB Country Director for Pakistan Emma Fan said rigorous project assessments, transparent disclosures, and effective management of fiscal risks are crucial to converting Pakistan's PPP pipeline into sustainable infrastructure investment.

The Promoting Sustainable Public-Private Partnerships Program builds on its first phase, approved in 2024, which focused on strengthening the country's legal and policy frameworks for PPPs.

Under the second phase, the government has taken steps to consolidate federal PPP and privatization functions under a unified platform. The initiative will also support dedicated PPP units across four-line ministries and agencies, alongside a national framework to monitor and disclose fiscal liabilities arising from PPP projects.

With ADB's assistance, the government has approved a medium-term PPP project pipeline covering 2026–2030.

The National PPP and Investment Knowledge Hub will provide federal institutions with training and technical resources, while provincial governments will also have access to its knowledge-sharing and peer-learning activities.

The program further aims to incorporate inclusivity and resilience into PPP planning and procurement processes.

In addition to the loan, the initiative is backed by $1.1m in technical assistance from ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund and $950,000 from the Asia Pacific Project Preparation Facility.

The supplementary support has helped strengthen institutional and project-preparation capacity for federal PPP initiatives through professional certification, knowledge exchange, and the development of fiscal risk assessment tools.

IG Punjab Directs Intensified Crackdown on Traffic Violations to Prevent Road Accidents

● Abdul Kareem Reviews Road Safety Measures, Calls for Action Against Speeding and One-Way Violations

Crime Reporter

LAHORE

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem chaired a meeting of district traffic officers from across the province at the Central Police Office to review measures taken for preventing road accidents, ensuring road safety and enforcing traffic laws. The meeting emphasized further strengthening measures to ensure road safety and prevent traffic accidents under the Safe Punjab Vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. DIG Traffic Punjab Muhammad Waqas Nazir briefed the meeting



on measures taken to prevent road accidents, improve road safety and address traffic violations IG Punjab Abdul Kareem directed that enforcement of traffic laws and public awareness campaigns for drivers be further intensified to prevent road accidents. He said that effective measures should be ensured through mutual coordination among DPOs, District Traffic Officers, Deputy Commissioners and Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) to prevent road accidents in rural areas. Special attention should be given to accident hotspots involving serious road accidents in both rural and urban areas, while strict action should be taken against those violating speed limits and one-way traffic rules He further directed that road safety awareness seminars be organized in collaboration with government departments, including Suthra Punjab, as well as commercial and non-commercial drivers and transporters. Effective measures should also be taken to prevent drivers with a criminal record of traffic accidents from returning to the roads. The IG Punjab further directed that encroachments be removed from roads in coordination with the district administration and that necessary arrangements be made for the installation of signboards, speed breakers and traffic signals DIG Traffic Punjab Muhammad Waqas Nazir informed the meeting that electronic systems would be utilized for traffic management and monitoring of violations.



Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan offering Dua after inaugurating Baghicha Bridge at Skardu.

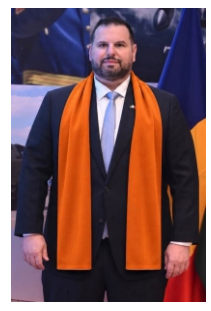
: Romanian Ambassador Urges Joint Efforts to End Violence Against Women

■ **Calls for Safe Environment for Women and Girls at Home, Workplaces, Public Spaces and Online; Stresses Support for Survivors and Promotion of Respect**

MUZAFFAR AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD

The Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan has called for collective efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, stressing that every woman and girl deserves to feel safe at home, at the workplace, in public spaces and online.In a message marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, observed on November 25, the Ambassador emphasised the importance of challenging attitudes and language that excuse abuse,



listening to survivors without judgment and ensuring they receive the support they need.The Ambassador stressed that everyone has a role to play in raising awareness, promoting respect and creating a society free from violence and discrimination against women and girls..

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