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Barrister Salman Safdar meets Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi at Adiala Jail

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Barrister Salman Safdar met Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, at Adiala Jail on Monday after a gap of seven and 11 months, respectively, during a 40-minute meeting arranged by jail authorities.

In a post on social media platform X, Safdar said the meeting took place at 4:30 p.m. following repeated applications and requests to the prison administration.



Pakistan has clear strategy to tackle terrorism: ISPR DG

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

ISPR Director General Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that Pakistan Armed Forces are far ahead of Indian as far as operation preparedness is concerned, According to another part of his interview with Reuters news agency which was aired on October 30 last, the ISPR DG said outlawed TTP and BLA are proxies of India. "Pakistan has the ability to fight whatever India will send its way, and whatever punishment we deliver would be intolerable for India," he added.Responding to a question, the ISPR DG said Pakistan has a clear strategy to deal with terrorism.



PTI's social media operates from abroad, says Salman Akram Raja

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja has said that the party's social media is based outside the country and that PTI has no control over it. Speaking to the media at the Lahore High Court, Raja said that Aleema Khan's poor driver is languishing in jail without having committed any crime. He said they had come to court once again to seek justice, but were compelled to say that these buildings and these laws are a 'deception'.

He said the Constitution guarantees fundamental rights, but wondered where those rights are today.



Group photo of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif with H.E. Mr Liu Haixing, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese delegation, Islamabad

PM Shehbaz directs SBP, FBR to resolve tax issues faced by SMEs, exporters

- Calls for comprehensive risk-coverage mechanism to make it easier for businesses to obtain loans

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to work together to resolve tax-related issues faced by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and exporters, as part of efforts to expand access to financing for priority sectors, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

According to a statement issued by the PMO, the prime minister, chairing a meeting to review lending facilities for SMEs, housing and agriculture, directed the Finance Ministry to address financing-related problems faced by stakeholders in these sectors and formulate a comprehensive strategy.

He called for a comprehensive risk-coverage mechanism to make it easier for small and medium-sized businesses to obtain loans.

PM Shehbaz said the development of SMEs, housing and agriculture was among the government's foremost priorities, as these sectors could support economic growth and create employment opportunities for young people.

He praised banks that had performed well in extending loans to the three priority sectors under government initiatives. However, he directed the SBP and finance ministry not to extend concessions (Continued on Page-5)

Trump could launch nuclear strike on Iran within days, claims Tucker Carlson



WEB DESK

WASHINGTON

US commentator Tucker Carlson claimed late on Sunday that the Trump administration could be days away from launching a nuclear strike on Iran, alleging that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is pressuring President Donald Trump to authorise an attack on a suspected nuclear site in central Iran.

In a lengthy post on the US social media company X, Carlson identified the potential target as Pickaxe Mountain, where Israeli intelligence allegedly believes Iran has resumed its nuclear enrichment program.Carlson is a conservative political commentator and former Fox News host whose program, Tucker Carlson Tonight, aired from 2016 to 2023.

He now hosts an independent political show on X, where he regularly comments on US foreign policy and international affairs.

Carlson claimed conventional US weapons could not penetrate the estimated 300 feet of solid granite protecting underground tunnels at the site, leaving a nuclear strike as the only military option.



Maryam Nawaz Launches 'She Thread' Programme to Empower Rural Women

- 1,150 women to receive specialised textile training and Rs15,000 monthly stipend; 2,500 women targeted for training by June as Punjab opens registration for three-month vocational course.

CITY REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched an initiative titled 'She Thread' to provide vocational training and employment opportunities to women from rural areas of the province.Under the programme, 1,150 rural women will receive specialised textile training and become eligible for employment in the textile industry. The chief minister has also set a target of training 2,500 rural women by June.Participants will receive a monthly stipend of Rs15,000 during the training period. Upon successful completion of the programme, trained women will also be provided employment opportunities in the textile industry. for the 'She Thread' programme has commenced in Lahore under the supervision of the Punjab Women Development Department. The initiative will offer training in (Continued on Page-5)

PTI chairman rejects Barrister Saif's claims, says all efforts made to meet Imran Khan

- Barrister Gohar says party repeatedly denied access to incarcerated founder

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Monday rejected party leader Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif's claims, saying the party had made every possible effort to secure a meeting with incarcerated founder Imran Khan.

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Gohar termed as "baseless" Saif's assertion that PTI leaders had failed to meet Imran despite being offered an opportunity to do so.

"We made every possible effort to meet the PTI founder through the courts and negotiations, but despite all our efforts, we were not allowed even a single meeting," he said.

Gohar said access to Imran had also been one of the party's conditions during the negotiation process.

He rejected the assertions made by Saif during his interview, saying: "All of Barrister Saif's claims are false. I reject them."

Saif, during an interview on Geo News programme Jirga, had said that Allama Raja Nasir Abbas was in direct contact with important figures in the establishment, but maintained that those contacts were not aimed at securing Imran's release.

Separately, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja linked any party decision on the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment to a meeting with Imran.

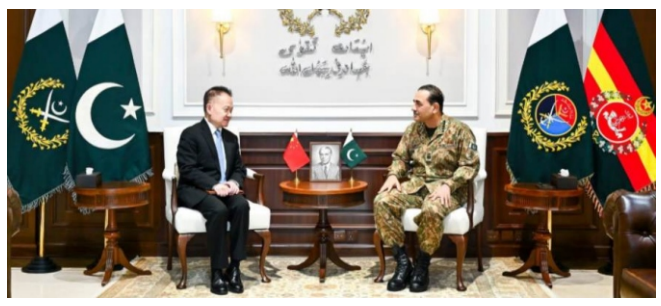
Raja also expressed his inability to exercise control over PTI's social media.PTI dismisses reports of internal divisions

Pakistan-China ties in focus as Chinese minister calls on CDF Munir at GHQ

- Field Marshal Asim Munir meets Chinese minister Liu Haixing in Rawalpindi, reaffirming Pakistan-China ties and commitment to stronger strategic cooperation.

Atif Saeed

RAWALPINDI



Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir met a senior Chinese Communist Party official at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Monday, with discussions focusing on bilateral relations, regional security and strengthening strategic cooperation between mutual interest, evolving regional and international security dynamics and the longstanding relationship underscoring the importance of continued collaboration amid changing regional and global security challenges.

longstanding mutual trust and strategic understanding.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining sustained high-level engagement and strengthening institutional linkages between the two countries. He also called for expanding cooperation across areas of mutual interest to further consolidate bilateral ties.

Liu Haixing appreciated Pakistan's contributions to regional peace and stability and expressed confidence in further advancing the longstanding strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing.

Bilawal vows PPP will keep fighting for press freedom

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says silence on crimes against journalists silences truth, and vows to keep fighting for press freedom and journalists' protection.

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that staying silent over crimes against journalists amounts to suppressing the voice of truth and justice.

In his message on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, Bilawal said that protecting journalists from serious crimes such as threats, violence, harassment and murder is the shared responsibility of the state and society. He said that allowing those involved in such crimes to escape punishment is tantamount to silencing the public's right to information.

He said journalists play a fundamental role in bringing facts to the public, holding the corridors of power accountable and raising awareness in society. The escape of those involved in crimes against journalists from the grip of the law, he added, poses a grave threat to press freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

FBISE Launches Educational Week 2026 with Holy Quran Recitation Competition

■ 57 students from affiliated institutions participate in SSC and HSSC categories; Chairman Dr Ikram Ali Malik distributes prizes and certificates, stressing character building and holistic student development.



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), Islamabad, kicked off its Educational Week 2026 with a Holy Quran recitation competition, reflecting its commitment to promoting students' spiritual, moral, intellectual and academic development.Around 57 students from FBISE-affiliated educational institutions participated enthusiastically in the competition at Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) levels. The participants showcased their Quranic recitation skills, devotion, confidence and love for the Holy Quran, creating an atmosphere of spirituality and healthy academic competition.The Federal Board, in addition to its core responsibilities of conducting examinations and improving educational standards, regularly organises co-curricular and STEM-related activities to promote students' overall development. These initiatives aim to enhance confidence, discipline, creativity and moral values among students while contributing to their personality development.At the SSC level, Master Muhammad Wasi of Islamabad Model School for Boys, I-8/3, Islamabad, secured first position, followed by Master Muhammad Farhan of FG Public School (Boys), Adam Jee Road, Rawalpindi, in second position. Master Hafiz Muhammad Ehsan of Askari College, A-30 Lalarukh, The Mall, Wah Cantt, secured third position.At the HSSC level, Master Hafiz Aamir Hamza of Army Public College (Boys), Sarfaraz Rafiqui Road, Lahore, clinched first position. Master Muhammad Talha Rehman of FG Quaid-e-Azam College, Chaklala Scheme-III, Rawalpindi, secured second position, while Ms Nida Fatima of Islamabad Model College for Girls, G-11/1, Islamabad, obtained third position.Chairman FBISE Dr Ikram Ali Malik was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony. He appreciated the enthusiasm, hard work, dedication and outstanding performance of the participating students and congratulated those who secured top positions.

German Ambassador Calls for Stronger Trade and Economic Ties with Pakistan

■ Dr. Ina Lepel addresses journalists at National Press Club Islamabad under 'Meet the Press' initiative, highlights trade, investment and appreciates Pakistan's diplomatic efforts for regional peace.

MUZAFFAR AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD

Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, Dr. Ina Lepel, visited the National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad under the club's international outreach initiative, "Meet the Press", where she held an interactive session with journalists and emphasized the need for strengthening economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Germany.The German envoy was warmly received by National Press Club President Abdur Razzaq Sial and Secretary Furqan Rao, along with members of the governing body and senior journalists. During her visit, Ambassador Lepel toured various sections of the National Press Club and later planted a saplings in the club premises as a symbol of friendship and environmental



sustainability.Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Lepel highlighted the longstanding relations between Pakistan and Germany and stressed the need to significantly enhance bilateral trade. She noted that despite the passage of several years, trade figures between the two countries had not witnessed the desired growth."I served in Pakistan in 2017 and have now returned as ambassador, but unfortunately there has not been significant improvement in bilateral trade volume," she said. The ambassador stressed that both countries possess immense economic potential and should work closely to expand trade, investment and commercial cooperation for mutual benefit.Speaking on regional issues, Ambassador Lepel appreciated Pakistan's efforts aimed at reducing tensions in the region, particularly regarding the recent US-Iran standoff. She commended Pakistan's diplomatic initiatives and efforts to promote peace and dialogue."I salute Pakistan's efforts to help achieve peaceful solutions and prevent instability in the region," she remarked, adding that diplomacy remains the best path to resolving conflicts and avoiding further tensions.Discussing the situation in Ukraine, the German ambassador strongly criticized Russia's military actions and expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people. She stated that Germany and the wider European community firmly stand behind Ukraine."Russia must stop the killing of innocent people in Ukraine," she said, emphasizing that peace.

LHC summons Lahore DC over detention of PTI founder's sisters



News Desk

LAHORE

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday sought reports from the Punjab Home Department on petitions challenging the extension of detention of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sisters and requesting medical treatment for one of them, Noreen Niazi.

Justice Abher Gul Khan directed the provincial Home Department to submit its reports by 2pm while hearing petitions filed by Sakeena, daughter of Noreen Niazi, and Shahrez Khan, son of Imran Khan's other sister, Aleema Khan.

Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and their sister Uzma Khan were detained in September under the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance, 1960, as the PTI prepared for a protest march towards Islamabad.

Their detentions came amid reports of several PTI leaders and workers being arrested ahead of the planned demonstration, which was aimed at demanding Imran Khan's release from prison.

Aleema Khan was detained on September 20 for 30 days, while Noreen Niazi and Uzma Khan were taken into custody the following day for the same period.

After the initial 30-day detention period expired last month, the detentions were challenged before the court. However, the Punjab government subsequently informed the Lahore High Court that the detention periods of the three women had been extended for another 30 days.During Monday's hearing, petitioners' counsel Rana Mudassar Umar argued that the extensions of Aleema Khan, Noreen Niazi and Uzma Khan's detentions were unlawful.

Islamabad Police Arrest 33 Suspects in 24-Hour Crackdown, Recover Drugs and Illegal Weapons

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Arrest 33 Accused in 24-Hour Crackdown; Drugs, Illegal Weapons and Ammunition RecoveredAccording to details, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police continued its indiscriminate crackdown against criminal elements over the past 24 hours to protect the lives and property of citizens and curb crime in the federal capital.During various operations across the city, police teams arrested a total of 33 accused, including 17 proclaimed offenders and court absconders.In separate operations, seven accused involved in possessing and displaying illegal weapons were arrested. Police recovered six pistols of different calibres, along with ammunition and a dagger, from their



possession.Furthermore, nine accused involved in drug trafficking were arrested, and 1,385 grams of ice, 1,015 grams of heroin, 845 grams of hashish and 20 bottles of liquor were recovered from their possession.Meanwhile, 17 proclaimed offenders and court absconders were arrested during a special campaign targeting wanted individuals.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said that protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police.

NPO, APO Launch International Workshop on Smart Agriculture in Lahore

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Productivity Organization (NPO), Pakistan, in collaboration with the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, Monday inaugurated a five-day international workshop on "Innovative Value-added Products in the Agriculture Sector (Smart Agriculture)" in Lahore. The workshop, being held from 2–6 November 2026, brings together international delegates, agricultural experts and Pakistani professionals to advance smart agriculture, promote sustainable farming practices and strengthen productivity through innovation, technology and value addition.The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Nadeem Ur Rehman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan, as Chief Guest. A major highlight of the event was the presentation of the APO National Productivity Awards 2025, recognizing



outstanding achievements and contributions towards productivity improvement, innovation, operational excellence and the promotion of a productivity-driven culture in Pakistan.Addressing the gathering, Mr. Nadeem Ur Rehman emphasized that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy, contributing significantly to food security, employment generation, rural development and the provision of essential raw materials to the industrial sector. He underscored the importance of transforming traditional agricultural practices through sustainable soil management, efficient resource utilization, modern technologies and value addition to enhance productivity and strengthen national economic competitiveness.He further highlighted that agricultural modernization and productivity enhancement are essential to achieving the country's economic transformation objectives under URAAN Pakistan and the 5Es National Economic Transformation Plan. He appreciated the continued cooperation and technical support of the Asian Productivity Organization in promoting productivity, innovation and institutional capacity development across its member economies.Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO, NPO Pakistan, reaffirmed NPO's commitment to advancing productivity, innovation and competitiveness across key sectors of Pakistan's economy.

Muhammad Naveed Alam Khokhar Elected President of IMCB Pakistan Town College Management Committee

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Muhammad Naveed Alam Khokhar has been elected President of the College Management Committee (CMC) of Islamabad Model College for Boys (IMCB), Pakistan Town, by a thumping majority.The college administration, parents and teachers have welcomed his election, while members of the educational community, teachers, parents and prominent social personalities have extended their heartfelt congratulations to him on his success.The newly elected president, Muhammad Naveed Alam Khokhar, is widely recognised for his commitment to education and social welfare. He has made valuable contributions to the education sector and is expected to play an effective role in strengthening the College Management Committee.It is hoped that under his leadership, the committee will take effective measures to promote institutional development.



Man sentenced for 7 years for filming schoolboy at gunpoint

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

An Islamabad court has sentenced the main accused, Raja Haris Naveed, to seven years of rigorous imprisonment in a Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) case involving the harassment of a 16-year-old student and the recording of an objectionable video of him.

Additional Sessions Judge Islamabad Muhammad Afzal Majoka announced the verdict in the cybercrime case.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs1 million on convict Raja Haris Naveed, and in default of payment he will serve a further six months in prison.

The court acquitted co-accused Shahzeb Mairaj, giving him the benefit of the doubt after the charge of aiding the crime was not proved.



Major police reshuffle in Punjab, seven officers get new postings

SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab has issued transfer and posting orders for seven police officers, including two District Police Officers (DPOs),

According to the notification, Muhammad Asim has been appointed DPO Chakwal after being transferred from the post of AIG Information Technology.

Kashif Zulfiqar, previously serving as DPO Chakwal, has been transferred to the Central Police Office (CPO) Punjab, Lahore, while Shahid Ahmed Khan has been appointed DPO Bhakkar.

Shehzad Rafiq Awan has been transferred from DPO Bhakkar to SP Survey, Special Branch Punjab.

Rana Zahid Hussain has been appointed Additional SP Investigation, Allama Iqbal Town, Lahore, while Hassan Farooq has been posted as Additional SP Investigation, Saddar Lahore.

Lahore gasps for breath as pollution reaches alarming levels

More than 35,000 patients with flu, COVID-19 and influenza-like symptoms visited six major Lahore hospitals in a week amid rising smog and viral infections.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Air pollution has reached alarming levels in the provincial capital, with Lahore's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) surpassing 500, posing serious health risks to residents.

According to the Meteorological Department, Lahore has emerged as the world's most polluted city, topping the list of cities with the worst air quality.

Allama Iqbal Town remained the worst-affected area in terms of air pollution, recording an AQI of 912. The index was recorded at 698 on Burki Road, 619 in Gulberg, 569 in DHA Phase 5 and 471 in Model Town. The alarming air quality situation has exposed residents to serious health risks, raising concerns about the impact of hazardous pollution levels on public health.Experts have advised citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities and wear protective masks whenever they need to step outside.

They have also urged residents to take special care of children, elderly people and individuals suffering from respiratory illnesses, as these groups are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution.

More than 35,000 patients with flu, COVID-19 and influenza-like symptoms have been reported at six major government hospitals in Lahore over the past seven days, as worsening smog and the spread of viral infections add to health concerns among residents.

According to sources, citizens are increasingly reporting symptoms including fever, cough, cold, sore throat and body aches amid the spread of different COVID-19 variants and influenza viruses.

More than 11,000 patients with flu, COVID-19 and influenza-like symptoms visited Mayo Hospital during the past week, while over 9,800 patients were reported at Services Hospital and more than 1,000 at Jinnah Hospital.

Thousands of other patients with similar flu-like symptoms also sought medical treatment at General Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and Children's Hospital during the same period.

Sources further revealed that rapid testing had also detected COVID-19 positive cases, adding to concerns over the city's worsening health situation.

BISP audit detects illegal payments worth Rs25b against 600,000 fake CNICs

GENERAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Audit reports of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) for the financial year 2024-25 have found illegal payments of more than Rs25 billion made against 600,000 bogus Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC),

The reports, which have now been made public, also identified a series of other irregularities in the programme's payments and funds.

In cases handled under the Proxy Means Test (PMT), the audit reported irregularities amounting to Rs530 million.

It further noted that Rs970 million due under the Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) of the programme had not been recovered.

The audit found that 7,020 women received Rs100 million through incorrect identification, in violation of the programme's rules.

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

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem held an open court at his office to directly address public grievances and provide citizens with an opportunity to present their complaints and concerns before senior police officials. A large number of citizens attended the open court and shared their issues with the DIG.During the session, DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem listened to the complaints of citizens in detail and took direct notice of the issues brought to his attention. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned police officers and directed them to take prompt steps for the resolution of public complaints.The DIG emphasized that facilitating citizens and resolving their problems without unnecessary delays is a top priority of Islamabad Police. He maintained that public complaints must be addressed on merit and that citizens should be provided with an accessible platform to communicate their concerns directly to the police leadership.Ali Waseem further stated that citizens do not need any recommendation, reference or influence to present their complaints. They can directly visit the DIG Office during the open court and bring their issues to the attention of the concerned authorities.He said the purpose of holding open courts is to strengthen direct communication between the police department and the public, listen to citizens' concerns and ensure that their genuine grievances are addressed through the relevant officers.



ATC grants pre-arrest bail to four PTI leaders

An Islamabad anti-terrorism court granted pre-arrest bail to four PTI leaders in cases linked to the November 26 protest and Supreme Court.

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court has approved the pre-arrest bail applications of four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders in cases related to the November 26 protest and the Supreme Court.

The Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court granted bail to Asad Qaiser, Atif Khan, Latif Khosa and Faisal Amin Gandapur.

After hearing their applications, Judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain ordered the approval of their pre-arrest bail.According to the court's order, Qaiser was granted bail in nine cases, Atif Khan in four, Khosa in three and Gandapur in six. The four leaders were directed to submit surety bonds of Rs5,000 each.

Patrons XI Clinch IG Punjab Cup Volume-III Title, Defeat Capital City Police by 7

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem attends final as chief guest, presents trophy to winning team and distributes awards among outstanding performers.



SPECIAL REPORTER

LAHORE

The final of the IG Punjab Cup Volume-III Cricket Tournament was played between Patrons XI and Capital City Police Lahore at Bagh-e-Jinnah Cricket Ground, where Patrons XI defeated Capital City Police by 7 wickets to clinch the title President Pakistan Police Sports Board IG Punjab Abdul Kareem attended the final match as the chief guest. Patron Pakistan Police Cricket Team Additional IG IAB Imran Mehmood, Chief Sports Officer DIG Athar Ismail, and other senior police officers were also present on the occasion IG Punjab Abdul Kareem met players and officials of both teams and highly appreciated their outstanding performance. He congratulated Patrons XI, its players, coach, officials and the Patron Pakistan Police Cricket Team on their victory and commended their efforts At the conclusion of the match, IG Punjab Abdul Kareem presented the trophy to the winning team. He also distributed shields among the Player of the Tournament, Best Batter, Best Bowler and Best Fielder. Medals were presented to players of both teams, while shields were awarded to team officials and national cricket legends Punjab Police spokesperson said that the tournament commenced on October 20, featuring 18 cricket teams from all regions and units of Punjab Police, which played a total of 42 matches. Qualifier and eliminator matches were held among Patrons XI, Capital City Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP).

Bhalwal's Dr Tariq Wins Double Gold

Pakistani weightlifter shines at Asian and World Masters events; Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath congratulates him.



Special Correspondent

SARGODHA

Dr Tariq Mahmood Khan, a proud son of Bhalwal, has brought laurels to Pakistan and his hometown by winning gold medals at the Asian Masters Weightlifting Championship 2026 and the World Masters Weightlifting Grand Prix.His outstanding achievement has earned him widespread appreciation, with Federal Minister of State Dr Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath congratulating him on his remarkable success.Dr Tariq Mahmood Khan's victories at the international level have brought pride to the country and highlighted the talent and potential of Pakistani athletes on the global stage.

IG Islamabad Recognizes Police Officers' Services, Announces Welfare Measures

IGP Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry honours outstanding performers with commendation certificates, bids farewell to 39-year veteran Muhammad Ashraf upon retirement and reviews renovation and improvement work at Police Lines residential barracks.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



IG Islamabad Recognizes Police Officers' Services, Encourages Outstanding Performers and Reviews Welfare Facilities for OfficialsAccording to details, Muhammad Ashraf, who served Islamabad Police in various capacities for 39 years, has retired upon completion of his service. On the occasion, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry and senior police officers paid tribute to his dedicated services and bid him farewell with gifts and best wishes for his future.Meanwhile, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry invited police officers who had demonstrated outstanding performance in their respective divisions and contributed to protecting the lives and property of citizens. He presented them with commendation certificates in recognition of their performance and appreciated their efforts. He also encouraged the officers to continue performing their duties with greater dedication, commitment and professionalism.Furthermore, reaffirming the department's commitment to the welfare of police officers and officials and the provision of better residential facilities, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, accompanied by senior officers, visited the residential barracks at Police Lines Headquarters. He inspected the ongoing construction, renovation and improvement work and directed the concerned officers to ensure quality standards and complete the project at the earliest.IGP Islamabad said that police officers and officials are a valuable asset of the department. Recognizing their services, encouraging good performance and ensuring their welfare remain among the priorities of Islamabad Police. All possible measures will continue to be taken to provide better facilities and address their legitimate concerns.

DG FDE Visits STEAM Exhibition at IMCG G-14/4, Appreciates Students' Creativity

Javed Iqbal Mirza highlights the role of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics in promoting research and problem-solving skills.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



A special STEAM exhibition was organized at Islamabad Model College for Girls (IMCG), G-14/4, to showcase students' scientific, research-oriented and creative abilities. The exhibition featured a variety of STEAM activities, with students presenting projects based on modern scientific concepts, technology and practical experiments.Director General Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), Javed Iqbal Mirza, visited the exhibition as the chief guest and appreciated the students' innovative ideas and creative efforts.Principal of the college, Professor Uzma Hamid, warmly welcomed the chief guest and briefed him on the objectives of the exhibition and various scientific and creative projects prepared by the students.During his visit, the DG FDE toured different stalls and examined scientific models, research-based projects and innovative presentations developed by the students. He also interacted with the participants, discussed their projects and appreciated their hard work, abilities and creative thinking.Addressing the gathering, Javed Iqbal Mirza said that in the modern era, it was essential to move beyond conventional classroom learning and integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics into the educational system. He emphasized that STEAM education plays a vital role in promoting research, creative thinking, problem-solving abilities and practical skills among students.Guest speaker and Director Model Colleges, Professor Ehsan-ul-Haq, also highlighted the importance of STEAM education, saying that such activities help students adapt to modern-day requirements and prepare them to meet future challenges.Principal Professor Uzma Hamid thanked the distinguished guests for their visit and encouragement. She reaffirmed the institution's commitment to organizing such activities to promote quality education and enhance students' practical, research-oriented and creative skills

Ready to reopen Hormuz if US agrees to conditions, says Iran

Foreign Ministry spokesman says exchanges with US ongoing via mediators



Web DESK

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday said it was ready to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days if the US agrees to its conditions, having previously proposed a one-week timeline.

"The possibility of implementing this plan in two days is another indication of Iran's good-faith approach," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei."We have stated that, if Iran's demands are met, it would be possible to restore security to the Strait of Hormuz and resume the negotiating process within a short period."

He said an exchange of messages was ongoing with the United States via mediators and that "everything depends" on the US side accepting the Iranian demands. "Only then can we discuss the subsequent stages."

Since the Middle East war broke out in late February, Iran has claimed control over Hormuz, a vital energy conduit for shipping.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq review the honour guard at a welcoming ceremony during the Sultan's state visit to China, at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, China

Nine people dead in Learjet crash in south Florida, say officials

Videos on social media show jet slamming into the ground next to a road and exploding

Web Desk

Florida



A Learjet crashed a residential area in Palm Beach County, Florida, killing all nine people on board, US transportation officials said.

The private jet had taken off from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas and was headed to North Eleuthera Airport in the Bahamas, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

Videos on social media showed the jet slamming into the ground next to a road and exploding.

"It was a big-time tragedy that happened," Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said at a press conference near the crash site in Lake Worth Beach. "When you see that video, it's a jarring thing. It was like a missile coming down, and a massive explosion, debris going everywhere."

The National Transportation Safety Board said it had launched an investigation into the crash, which Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy called a "horrific tragedy."

FAArecords list the Bombardier-made BBDb.TO Learjet 60's owner as a Delaware corporation. Canada-based Bombardier said it would fully support the investigation and cooperate as needed.

The crash left a "massive crater" by the road near the entrance to a mobile home park, Palm Beach County Commissioner Joel Flores said at the news conference. About 600 people were being evacuated from the area and relocated to two shelters in the county, Flores said.

Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms were occurring in the area at the time, forecaster AccuWeather said in a statement.

An audio recording from a Miami air traffic control center posted on LiveATC, a site that broadcasts air traffic control communications, captured the plane's final moments before the crash in unusual detail.

At first, someone in the plane's cockpit reported to an air traffic controller that they were "managing the ice" but faced "moderate" turbulence and were seeking "better rides".

Less than a minute later, the person said "Mayday, mayday," reporting that the plane was suddenly descending at a rate of 10,000 feet per minute.

Seconds later, the person said they were declaring an emergency, with the rate of descent accelerating to 20,000 feet per minute.

Japan launches new national agency to deal with disasters

More than 350 workers at the National Disaster Management Agency will oversee preparedness, emergency response and reconstruction efforts.

Web Desk

TOKYO



Japan on Monday launched a new national agency focused on disaster management with the goal of making the country better prepared if there's a megaquake along the Pacific coast or in Tokyo, or an eruption of Mount Fuji.

More than 350 workers at the National Disaster Management Agency will oversee preparedness, emergency response and reconstruction efforts.

The agency is not being created in anticipation of any specific calamity, but rather is meant to fill a gap amid worries about whether the nation is prepared for a crisis along the lines of the 2011 quake and tsunami in northern Japan, which killed nearly 20,000 people, and the subsequent Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Japan, which is part of the "Pacific ring of fire," is one of the most disaster-prone places on earth, but it has never had an agency dedicated to dealing with disasters.

"As the command center of disaster response, we will do everything to strengthen our preparedness to protect people's lives and properties ... and aim to become the world's most prepared," Reconstruction Minister Goshi Hosono said.

Foreign policy should be part of the national grand strategy, says Ambassador Javid Hussain

NEWS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Ambassador Javid Hussain has said that ideally the foreign policy should be part of the national grand strategy which brings into a coherent whole the country's political, economic, security and diplomatic policies.

This he said while delivering a lecture titled "National Strategy, International Relations and Credible Partnerships" at the Conference on "Leadership & Governance Development Programme" at Nathia Gali, organized by Al-Kawthar University.

Following is the text of his lecture:

Dear Professor Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor, Al-Kawthar University

Distinguished Speakers and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have this opportunity provided by the organisers of this Conference, particularly Dr Athar Mahboob, to share my views on the challenging global and regional environment confronting Pakistan and how Pakistan can navigate successfully through the choppy waters ahead for safeguarding and promoting its national interests. I will try to be as brief as possible in dealing with this vast subject so as to remain within the limits of the time allocated to me and to leave some time for question-answer session to make the discussion on the subject interactive and hopefully interesting.

Foreign policy deals with the conduct of a country's external relations for safeguarding and promoting its national interests relating to national security, economic well-being and progress, and cultural identity. Policy makers must have an accurate assessment of the global and regional environment and its likely evolution in the future to be able to formulate a successful and effective foreign policy. It should also be obvious that the foreign policy must be conducted in close coordination with a country's security, economic and political policies. A foreign policy which is out of sync with a country's political, security and economic realities and policies is a recipe for disaster because in that undesirable situation, different institutions of the state are likely to work at cross purposes with disastrous results instead of working with mutual cohesion for maximum effect.

3 killed, at least 29 injured in shootings near US college communities

Web Desk

WASHINGTON



Three people were killed and at least 29 others injured in a series of shootings near US college communities across five states over the weekend,

In Bloomington, Indiana, seven people were hospitalised after gunfire erupted near Indiana University's homecoming celebrations at around 1.30 am (01030PKT) .

Police detained a man carrying a firearm and recovered a gun and shell casings. No fatalities were reported, and investigators have yet to determine whether the man fired any shots.

In Newark, Delaware, at least six people were hospitalised following a shooting Saturday night on Main Street near the University of Delaware.

Local police launched an investigation, while university President Laura Carlson urged the community to support the victims and witnesses.

Crew from NASA's simulated Mars mission emerges after 378 days in isolation



Web Desk

HOUSTON

The four members of a crew who took part in a simulated mission to Mars have emerged after 378 days in isolation at the US space agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston, an endeavor designed to help prepare for a possible future excursion by NASA astronauts to Earth's planetary neighbor.

"It's been a hell of a year — analog astronauts living in captivity of our own free will," Ellen Ellis, the medical officer on the Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog, or CHAPEA, mission, said in remarks at Johnson Space Center after emerging with her three crewmates

French school protests resume on smaller scale as students return from break

Police present, though not in full anti-riot gear as youth try to blockade high schools in Paris, Marseille, Rennes

Web Desk

France



The Middle East and Gulf region should not become a battleground for great-power rivalry, and China is willing to work with Arab nations to achieve lasting peace, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Oman's sultan on Monday.

China has traditionally played a low-key diplomatic role in the Middle East, but has stepped up efforts to try to help end tensions amid the US-Israeli war on Iran, which has snarled the Strait of Hormuz and driven up global energy and shipping costs.

Xi told Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said that the world is undergoing "profound changes unseen in a century."

"The Middle East Gulf region should not become an arena for great-power rivalry and geopolitical conflict. Peace and stability in the region require joint nurturing and protection by all parties," Xi said, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

China has consistently been committed to stopping the war, and hopes to contribute "wisdom and solutions to resolving the region's security dilemmas," he added.

China is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with Arab countries, including the Gulf Cooperation Council states, to work together toward restoring peace and achieving lasting stability and security, Xi said.

Last week, China's Foreign Ministry said the country will soon be dispatching its special envoys to the Middle East to promote engagement and de-escalation.

First China trip

Haitham arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a two-day visit, the first by an Omani head of state since the countries established ties in 1978.

Haitham told Xi his government had deep appreciation for China's positions on key issues concerning the region, Omani state media reported.

"We believe that development and stability are inextricably linked," he said."The prosperity of nations requires an environment defined by security, peace, respect for state sovereignty, and adherence to international law — an environment where disputes are resolved through peaceful means."

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Empowering Rural Women Through Skills Development: Punjab's 'She Thread' Initiative

Economic empowerment of women is essential for social development, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. In Pakistan, particularly in rural areas, a large number of women possess considerable skills and potential but lack access to



professional training, employment opportunities and financial resources. Despite their contribution to household responsibilities and local economic activities, many remain economically dependent due to limited opportunities. In this context, the Punjab government's newly introduced 'She Thread' programme aims to create pathways for rural women to become financially independent through vocational training and employment.Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has introduced the initiative to provide specialised textile training to rural women and connect them with employment opportunities in the textile industry. Under the programme, 1,150 rural women will receive professional training, while a target of training 2,500 women by June has also been established. The initiative includes a monthly stipend of Rs15,000 during the training period, providing financial support to participants while they acquire professional skills.One of the most significant aspects of the programme is its focus on practical, market-oriented training. Women will be trained as industrial sewing machine operators and apparel supervisors, two professional categories directly connected with the textile and garment manufacturing sector. The three-month training course will be conducted at Shahkam Industries, located on Multan Road near Lahore, and will include classroom instruction as well as practical experience. This combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on training can help participants understand industrial working standards and prepare them for professional responsibilities.The programme is being implemented under the supervision of the Punjab Women Development Department, with registration already underway in Lahore. Women aged between 18 and 45 years, holding Punjab domicile or proof of residence in the province, are eligible to apply. The minimum educational qualification has been set at matriculation. Applicants can submit their applications at Shahkam Industries along with their Computerised National Identity Card and domicile certificate. Following initial screening and verification, eligible candidates will also be required to submit an affidavit before admission.The initiative carries particular significance for women living in rural communities, where access to vocational institutions and formal employment opportunities is often limited. Many rural women are already familiar with stitching, embroidery and other household-based skills, but they rarely get opportunities to transform these abilities into professional careers. Industrial training can help bridge this gap by introducing them to modern machinery, production techniques, quality standards and workplace requirements.Pakistan's textile sector is one of the country's major employment-generating industries. Connecting trained women with this sector can create opportunities not only for individual participants but also for the wider economy. Skilled female workers can contribute to production, improve household incomes and strengthen the participation of women in the country's industrial workforce. If implemented effectively, the programme could also encourage greater participation of women in formal economic activities.However, the success of any vocational training initiative should not be measured merely by the number of registrations or training certificates issued. Its real impact depends on whether participants are able to secure sustainable employment after completing their courses. The government must therefore ensure that the employment component remains an integral part of the programme. Strong coordination with textile manufacturers, garment factories and other relevant industrial organisations will be essential to translate training into actual job opportunities.Equally important is the need to maintain transparency in the selection process and ensure that deserving candidates receive equal opportunities. Training standards, attendance, practical performance and employment outcomes should be regularly monitored. Women should also be provided with a safe and respectful working environment, fair wages and opportunities for professional growth.The government should gradually expand the programme beyond Lahore to other rural districts of Punjab. Women living in remote areas often face difficulties travelling to training centres, and the availability of accessible facilities could increase participation. Establishing additional training centres and developing partnerships with local industries would help extend the programme's benefits to a larger section of the rural population.Another important consideration is the long-term financial sustainability of the initiative.

Educational Leadership Beyond Rhetoric: Reflections on a Year of Reform in Attock



By Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan

Since my transition from corporate communications to the teaching profession as an English language teacher, I have developed a different perspective on public-sector leadership. One observation that has often concerned me is that appointments to key educational positions—whether District Education Officers, Deputy District Education Officers, or Chief Executive Officers of District Education Authorities—are sometimes perceived as being influenced more by connections than by professional competence and merit.

It was therefore encouraging to observe that, under the broader reform agenda of the Punjab Government, efforts were made to introduce a more merit-oriented selection process for educational leadership through competitive assessments and structured interviews. While interpretations may vary, the emergence of a number of energetic, qualified, and reform-oriented officers across Punjab appears to suggest that this shift may be gradually influencing institutional functioning. I remain open to correction on this view.

One such appointment was that of Dr. Muhammad Azhar as Chief Executive Officer, District Education Authority Attock, in May 2025. I may sound somewhat subjective here, but during his tenure serving in the district in a modest capacity of English language teacher I had the opportunity to observe several administrative developments from within the system. Over time, it appeared that some of the changes were not isolated administrative actions but may be understood as part of a broader effort toward merit, accountability, and institutional responsiveness.

One of the more visible changes was a gradual shift in administrative culture. Traditionally, district education offices have often been perceived by many teachers as formal, distant, and less accessible. During the past year, however, there appeared to be efforts aimed at making the office of the Chief Executive more approachable, responsive, and engaged with field-level educators. This transition—from a relatively rigid administrative style toward a more open and communicative approach—helped reduce the distance between policy formulation and classroom realities.

Within this evolving environment, several reforms were introduced or implemented across the district. One may interpret these differently, but they appear broadly aligned with a merit-oriented leadership approach in which planning and execution are increasingly guided by performance, transparency, and institutional need rather than routine administrative practice.

The implementation of the "Learn and Earn program" is one such example. The programme aimed to link education with skills development and employability, encouraging students to view learning not only as academic preparation but also as a pathway toward practical economic engagement. Its execution at the district level reflects how coordinated administrative effort can translate policy direction into operational outcomes.

Infrastructure development across schools further illustrates this direction of reform. Construction and upgradation projects in multiple institutions, the establishment of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) classrooms across tehsils, and the installation of solar systems were undertaken to improve access and learning environments. While infrastructure alone does not determine educational quality, its impact becomes more meaningful when supported by leadership that prioritizes functionality, sustainability, and equitable resource distribution.

Similarly, steps toward digital inclusion, including the distribution of Chromebooks among high-achieving students, reflect an effort to introduce learners to technology-enabled education. In principle, such initiatives represent a move toward preparing students for an increasingly digital environment, provided they are sustained through teacher support and meaningful integration into classroom practice. Teacher development also remained an important focus area. Various training programmes were organized to enhance pedagogical skills, classroom management, and student-centred teaching approaches. From an institutional perspective, such initiatives gain greater significance when embedded within a consistent reform culture that treats continuous professional development as a long-term investment.

"Pakistan's Role as a Peace Mediator Between Iran and the United States: Implications for Arms Control and Regional Stability"



By: Aliza Ali

The post-Cold War international order has increasingly relied on intermediary states to manage tensions between rival powers and regional adversaries. The long-standing confrontation between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran remains one of the most complex geopolitical rivalries, shaped by ideological mistrust, sanctions regimes, proxy conflicts, and nuclear proliferation concerns. The absence of sustained direct engagement between Washington and Tehran has repeatedly created space for third-party diplomatic facilitation by states capable of maintaining access to both sides.

Pakistan's emergence as a diplomatic niche. As Kofi Annan noted, "Dialogue is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of strength," highlighting the importance of communication in preventing escalation. Pakistan's potential role therefore reflects both strategic positioning and the broader need for mediation in a fragmented regional environment.

Theoretical Framework: Middle-Power Mediation and Arms Control

Pakistan's mediating role can be understood through the lens of middle-power diplomacy, which emphasizes the ability of semi-peripheral states to influence international outcomes through negotiation and facilitation rather than coercive force. Middle powers often lack dominance but can still shape diplomatic processes by reducing mistrust and enabling structured communication between adversaries. In arms control theory, mediation is viewed as a stabilizing mechanism that reduces uncertainty and prevents dominate relations.

Henry Kissinger's observation that "Trust is not essential for negotiation; clarity is" is particularly relevant here. Pakistan's role is not to resolve ideological differences between the United States and Iran but to facilitate clarity, reduce misinterpretation, and create diplomatic pathways for controlled engagement. Within this framework, Pakistan's mediation intersects with conflict prevention theory, nuclear non-proliferation regimes, regional security complex theory, and coercive diplomacy models.

Structural Drivers of Pakistan's Mediating Role

Pakistan's potential as a mediator is shaped by several structural factors. Its relationship with Iran is grounded in shared borders, energy cooperation potential, and long-standing cultural and religious linkages. These ties provide Islamabad with access and credibility in Tehran's communication bridge between two adversarial powers. Pakistan's own security environment further reinforces its interest in preventing escalation. Regional instability in the Middle East has direct consequences for Pakistan's energy security, internal stability, and western border management. As Imran Khan once emphasized, "No country can prosper in isolation when its neighborhood is burning." This reflects Pakistan's structural dependence on regional stability, making mediation a strategic necessity rather than a purely diplomatic choice.

Mediation Dynamics and Nuclear Arms Control Implications

The most important dimension of Pakistan's mediation lies in its implications for nuclear arms control. The United States–Iran dispute centers on uranium enrichment, breakout capacity, and the possibility of nuclear weaponization. In such a high-risk environment, mediation plays a critical role in reducing misperception and preventing escalation. One key function of mediation is de-escalation of nuclear signaling.

PM Shehbaz directs SBP, FBR to resolve tax issues faced by SMEs, exporters

to banks that were slow in providing financing to farmers, SMEs and beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Scheme. ."Banks are of key importance for the development of the private sector," he said, adding that he expected them to extend the same cooperation in financing priority sectors as the government and its institutions provided to banks.The prime minister said SMEs had significant potential to contribute to economic growth, promote exports and create employment opportunities. He described agriculture as the backbone of the national economy and said the government was working to increase exports through value addition of agricultural produce.He added that the Apna Ghar Scheme would promote several industries linked to the housing and construction sectors.The PMO said that during the meeting, officials briefed the prime minister that the SBP was working on three main pillars to increase lending to priority sectors: improving regulations, sharing risks and costs between the government and banks, and expanding digital facilities.

As part of these efforts, the SBP had recently launched the SME Connect digital portal, which allows business owners to apply for loans and track the progress of their applications.

The meeting was informed that, as of October 23, loans worth Rs511 billion had been approved under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Programme, covering 86,899 applications. Loans amounting to Rs91 billion had been disbursed to 15,584 applicants, the PMO said.

The total volume of housing finance had reached Rs455 billion, benefiting 187,317 borrowers. In the agriculture sector, lending had reached Rs1,329 billion, benefiting approximately 3.5 million people. Meanwhile, SME financing had reached Rs1,148 billion, with 342,458 businesses receiving loans.The government had set a target of increasing lending to both the agriculture and SME sectors to Rs1,500 billion by the end of fiscal year 2027, officials said.

The meeting was also informed that the government had introduced risk-sharing and credit-guarantee measures for the housing, agriculture and SME sectors. Work was underway to simplify loan procedures, reduce documentation requirements and improve access to financing through digital systems.

Maryam Nawaz Launches 'She Thread' Programme to Empower Rural Women

industrial sewing machine operation and apparel supervision to equip women with skills required by the textile sector.Training sessions will be conducted at Shahkam Industries, located on Multan Road near Lahore. The three-month course will include classroom-based instruction, teaching sessions and practical training to provide participants with hands-on industrial experience.Women aged between 18 and 45 years are eligible to apply, provided they hold Punjab domicile or proof of residence in the province. Applicants must have at least a matriculation qualification.

Interested candidates can submit their applications at Shahkam Industries along with their Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) and domicile certificate.Following the initial screening and verification of eligibility, shortlisted candidates will be required to submit an affidavit before admission to the training programme.Further information regarding registration and eligibility can also be obtained through assistant commissioners, union council secretaries and relevant district offices.According to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the objective of the initiative is to equip rural women with market-oriented skills and enable them to secure dignified employment.She said the programme would focus on providing training according to the requirements of the market, creating employment opportunities for women and connecting skilled rural workers with the textile industry.

Pakistan assumes chairmanship of SCO Interbank Consortium

■ **The development coincides with Pakistan's chairmanship of the SCO for the same period.**



Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday assumed the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Interbank Consortium (SCO-IBC) for 2026-27, with Sultan Ali Allana taking over as chairman of the consortium,

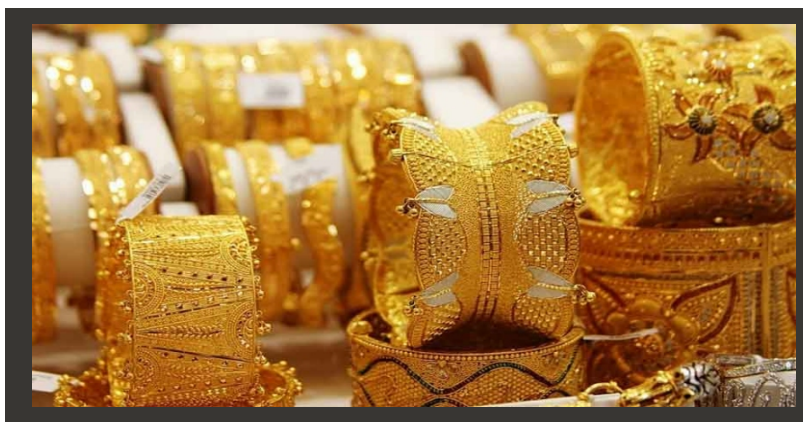
The development coincides with Pakistan's chairmanship of the SCO for the same period.

The Ministry of Finance congratulated Sultan Ali Allana on assuming the responsibility and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic partnerships among SCO member states, facilitating cross-border trade and investment, and advancing regional integration.

The SCO-IBC is a key platform for financial collaboration among SCO member states. It aims to promote sustainable development through cooperation with multilateral institutions, enhance regional trade and investment, and explore new mechanisms for developing transnational mega projects.



ISTANBUL, Pakistan's Consul General in Istanbul, Khawaja Khurram Naeem, welcomes Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan upon his arrival at Istanbul Airport to attend the 42nd COMCEC Session.



Gold price jumps by Rs2,400 per tola in Pakistan

■ **Gold price in Pakistan rises by Rs2,400 per tola to Rs412,136, as international rates climb $24 to $3,896 per ounce, says the association**

Staff Reporter

KARACHI

The price of gold in Pakistan has risen by Rs2,400 per tola today.

According to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association, after the Rs2,400 increase, the price of gold in the country has reached Rs412,136 per tola.

The price of 10 grams of gold has gone up by Rs2,058 to Rs353,340.

The association said that in the international market, the price of gold per ounce has risen by $24 to $3,896.

It may be recalled that on Saturday, the price of gold per tola in Pakistan had fallen by Rs10,800.

Dollar rangebound ahead of US midterms bitcoin reels from crypto heist

■ **The dollar and major currencies remained steady ahead of US midterm elections and key economic data, while Bitcoin and Ether faced pressure following a $6.3 billion Binance hack.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The dollar and other major currencies were in a holding pattern on Monday as investors turned their attention to this week's US midterm elections, which could shift the balance of power in Congress and control over the federal purse strings.

In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin and ether were nursing losses following last week's record $6.3 billion heist at Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange.

Traders were bracing for a packed week dominated by the US midterm elections,



October US jobs data and central bank rate decisions in the UK, Australia, Norway and Sweden. Ahead of the week's events, the euro languished near a 17-month low at $1.1159 in early Asian trade, weighed down by Fitch's revision of France's outlook to "negative" from "stable" after Friday's close.Sterling was little changed at $1.3387, while the dollar steadied at 101.94 against a basket of currencies.

Americans head to the polls on Tuesday to determine whether Democrats can wrest control of Congress away from US President Donald Trump's Republican Party. Democrats are widely predicted ?to win the House of Representatives, but the Senate is more in doubt."The challenge we face in analysing election outcomes is that polling suggests strong anti-incumbent sentiment, but that does not always translate into actual election outcomes - as we have seen in Brazil and now in Israel," said Eric Robertsen.

Oil price falls below $110 per barrel on Iran diplomacy

■ **CBS News reported that Mr Trump said he believed the US would soon end the war with Iran, "one way or the other".**

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI

Crude oil prices slipped more than three percent on Monday after Iranian and Qatari officials held a third straight day of talks aimed at pushing for a deal to end the US-Israeli war against Tehran. Brent crude futures fell $3.68, or 3.2%, to $109.75 a barrel by 0407 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $100.69 a barrel, down $3.43, or 3.3%.

The development came amid amid hopes of a diplomatic breakthrough between the US and Iran, easing concerns about further supply disruption. US President Donald Trump reportedly said he wants to give diplomacy with Iran more time before considering renewed military strikes after Tuesday's US midterm elections.

Mr Trump reportedly told Israeli Prime



Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a phone call that he wanted to give diplomacy with Tehran more time before considering further strikes, Axios reported, quoting sources.

CBS News reported that Mr Trump said he believed the US would soon end the war with Iran, "one way or the other". The US President was speaking to Right Side Broadcasting Network before a campaign rally in Iowa on Sunday, according to the report.



FBR places non-resident Pakistanis as non-filers due to administrative lapses

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Due to an administrative lapse, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) placed all non-resident Pakistanis in the category of non-filers as their IRIS passwords were not restored, Sources said that the Federal Board of Revenue even failed to issue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the non-resident Pakistanis in this regard.Despite many reminders from the Lahore Tax Bar Association (LTBA), the Federal Board of Revenue failed to take any measures to address the issue.

LTBA urged the FBR to restore the status of non-resident Pakistanis to Active Taxpayers status and give them another chance to submit their tax returns without any penalty.It is necessary to mention here that the deadline for filing income tax returns for the current tax year expired on Oct 31, with late filers facing penalties.

According to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) sources, taxpayers who had submitted applications seeking an extension before the original deadline may be exempt from the late-filing penalties.

Pakistan's Crypto Market Needs Formal Industry Body to Protect Investors

■ **AWAJ President Hinza Asif calls for an organised platform to represent digital asset investors, strengthen cybersecurity safeguards and improve engagement with global cryptocurrency exchanges.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's expanding cryptocurrency market needs a formal industry body to represent investors and strengthen engagement with global exchanges,

Asia Web3 Alliance Japan (AWAJ) President Hinza Asif made the remarks after a multibillion-dollar cybersecurity breach involving Binance, highlighting concerns over how Pakistani investors would be represented if a major international platform faced a security or financial crisis.

In a statement she said the country's digital asset sector remains constrained by a lack of reliable investor data and the absence of an organized platform through which industry participants can coordinate or raise concerns during major incidents.

Pakistan ranked third in Chainalysis' 2025 Global Crypto Adoption Index, underscoring the scale of its cryptocurrency activity. Estimates put the number of crypto-linked accounts at around 40 million, with digital asset exposure ranging between $10 billion and $20 billion. However, these figures have not been officially verified as representing individual investors.

Asif said cybersecurity breaches at major exchanges could lead to financial losses, unauthorised transactions and withdrawal disruptions, potentially undermining investor confidence.

She added that the potential impact of the Binance incident on Pakistani investors remained unclear and required independent verification.

"The question is who will represent and protect Pakistani investors if an international exchange faces a major cybersecurity or financial crisis," she said, noting that Pakistan lacks an established mechanism to coordinate investor complaints and engage with international exchanges in such circumstances.

Welcoming the government's regulatory initiatives through the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA), Asif said the regulator and an independent industry association would have complementary roles.

Pakistan must focus on fiscal discipline, export growth and private investment: FinMin Aurangzeb

■ **Finance Minister Aurangzeb says Pakistan is moving towards sustainable growth, highlighting digital asset regulation, financial innovation, rising exports and remittances.**

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has said Pakistan is continuing its journey from economic stability towards sustainable growth, stressing that fiscal discipline, increased exports and promotion of private investment are essential to achieving long-term economic progress.

Addressing a Pakistan Banks Association event virtually, the finance minister said Pakistan needed financial innovation that could reduce the cost of doing business and bring more people into the formal economy.

He said digital assets should be integrated into the financial system based on their actual economic benefits and their ability to facilitate business activities.

Aurangzeb said Pakistan's transition from economic stability to sustainable growth required fiscal discipline, export expansion and greater private-sector investment. He added that digital innovation should help extend financial services to more people and improve the efficiency of business operations.

The finance minister cited the use of deposit tokens for institutional customers on blockchain networks as a practical example of digital financial innovation.

He said Project Agorá of the Bank



for International Settlements (BIS) was examining tokenised bank deposits, while the central bank was exploring possibilities for cross-border payments through deposits.

Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasised that banks had an important role in protecting funds and managing risks associated with digital technologies. He said banks were also fundamental to ensuring the effective delivery of services to consumers.He stressed that the regulatory framework must separately consider different types of digital assets and the economic activities associated with them.

The finance minister said a legal framework had been established in Pakistan under the Virtual Assets Act 2026, while the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) was responsible for licensing and supervising virtual asset service providers.

He said Pakistan had made progress towards establishing a legal and supervised system for virtual assets.

Aurangzeb highlighted the important roles of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in developing the regulatory framework for digital assets.He added that the risks associated with unbacked crypto assets were different, making it necessary for regulators to distinguish between various categories of digital assets and their respective economic activities.

The finance minister further said Pakistan received $41.6 billion in remittances during the last fiscal year, while the figure was expected to exceed $44 billion in the current fiscal year.

He stressed that there was no room for negligence in addressing cybersecurity threats alongside the expansion of digital financial systems.

Schedule, team rosters unveiled for Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold and Silver

The 12 teams in the Silver competition are divided into two groups of six with Lahore Blues, Rawalpindi, Larkana, Quetta, Bahawalpur, Peshawar Whites in Group A. Meanwhile, Group B comprises of Karachi Whites, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad, Dera Murad Jamali, Abbottabad and Sialkot Whites.

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The 69th edition of Pakistan's premier first-class competition – Quaid-e-Azam Trophy – is set to begin from Tuesday, 3 November across Islamabad, Abbottabad and Rawalpindi with eight teams including defending champions Karachi Blues taking part in the Gold tier,

According to a PCB statement released in Lahore on Monday, the tournament is also set to have the 12-team Silver tier running parallel and it will serve as qualifying pathway to the Gold tier for upcoming season. All the four matches in Gold tier will be live-streamed on tapmad and Tamasha, while four out of six in each round of the Silver tier will also be live-streamed.

Defending champions Karachi Blues, Faisalabad, FATA, Lahore Whites, Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan and Sialkot Blues are part of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Gold, which will run from 3 November to 12 December with the final between top two teams set for 15-19 December.

The 12 teams in the Silver competition are divided into two groups of six with Lahore Blues, Rawalpindi, Larkana, Quetta, Bahawalpur, Peshawar Whites in Group A. Meanwhile, Group B comprises of Karachi Whites, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Hyderabad, Dera Murad Jamali, Abbottabad and Sialkot Whites.

Group A matches will be played across three venues across Karachi – KCCA Stadium, SBP and UBL Sports Complexes. The Group B matches will take place at Multan Cricket Stadium, Sports Complex Rahim Yar Khan and Dring Stadium, Bahawalpur.

The group matches in the Silver tier will run from 3 to 30 November, while the five-day final between toppers of each group will is slated to take place from 3-7 December.

A total of 29 first-class matches will be played in Gold, while a total of 31 first-class matches are set to be staged in the Silver tier of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2026-27.

Pakistan Test captain Babar Azam is set to feature for Lahore Whites in the opening round of the tournament and he will be facing Shaheen Shah Afridi-led FATA at the Diamond Cricket Ground in Islamabad.

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy – Gold – Team rosters Note – Teams will have revolving rosters throughout the tournament where they will have 15 travelling members and can also pick players from reserves or national duty pool.

Faisalabad

Muhammad Irfan Khan (captain), Abdul Samad (vc), Ahmed Safi Abdullah, Ali Asfand, Ali Shan (wk), Asad Raza,Asim Ali Nasir (wk), Atiq-ur-Rehman, Faheem Ashraf, Faham-ul-Haq (U21), Khurram Shahzad, Malik Abdul Rafay, Muhammad Awais Zafar, Sameer Saqib, Shehzad Gul Reserves – Daniyal Ali Khan, Mudasir Zunair, Ali Hassan, Muhammad Afzal, Saifullah Khan

Head coach – Samiullah Niazi

FATA

Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Muhammad Farooq (U21), Salman Khan Jnr, Kashif Noor, Muhammad Sarwar, Muhammad Wasim Khan, Khushdil Shah, Shahid Aziz, Rehan Afridi (wk), Afaq Afridi, Sameen Gul, Sirajuddin, Hayatullah, Fawad Arshad, Muhammad Usman Khan, Kashif Noor, Adnan Khan



Mohammad Yousuf gives Babar Azam key advice to improve his

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Former captain Mohammad Yousuf has advised star batter Babar Azam to seek specialist coaching in England or Australia, given his recent form and technical flaws. The recently concluded ODI tri-series, featuring Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka, was disappointing for Babar. Across five matches, he scored just 118 runs at an average of 23.60 and a strike rate of 74.21, without making a single half-century.His individual scores in the tournament were 45, 34, 10 and 29, while in the final against Sri Lanka he was dismissed for a duck.

Writing on X, Yousuf said Babar should not play first-class cricket until he has fixed his technical problems through specialist coaching. He said that struggling in domestic cricket could further damage Babar's confidence and career. He urged that Babar be sent to an academy in England or Australia, adding that he is still Pakistan's best player and, with proper guidance and a little effort, can return to his best form.

Host of fresh faces in Australia white-ball squads to face England



SPORTS Desk

Australia

Australia named a host of fresh faces in new-look white-ball squads Monday to face England with exciting young quick Mahli Beardman and allrounders Jack Edwards and Liam Scott among those getting call-ups.

Batting prospects Ollie Peake and Jake Fraser-McGurk were also included, as were wicketkeepers Lachlan Shaw and Sam Harper with Mitchell Marsh captaining both the one-day and Twenty20 sides.

"These ODI and T20 matches provide several players, many of whom have had opportunities on recent tours, with a great chance to further demonstrate their ability against very strong opposition," said chairman of selectors George Bailey.

Beardman, Peake, Edwards, Scott, Nikhil Chaudhary, and Joel Davies made their white-ball debuts in recent times. Harper and Shaw are the two uncapped players.

"They are good examples of players who have had an opportunity at the international level and have continued working on their game from what they learnt from those experiences," added Bailey.

Australia play three home ODIs against England between November 13-18 followed by five T20s.

They will provide an opportunity for Australia's next generation to stake their claims ahead of the 2027 World Cup in SouthAfrica, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

With a home Test series against New Zealand to follow, star fast bowlers Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood are being rested after playing their part in Australia's 2-1 Test series defeat in South Africa.

Fellow Test players Travis Head, Alex Carey, Matt Renshaw, Josh Inglis, Cooper Connolly and Cameron Green were named in the ODI squad, but will not play the T20s. Following the New Zealand series, Australia travel to India for five Tests before a 150th anniversary clash in Melbourne against England then an Ashes campaign. "We are in the middle of a highly demanding phase of our schedule," said Bailey, referring to Australia's Test players.

Chapman, Ravindra to miss India ODIs, Seifert called up

Chapman had a hamstring strain which needs a further two weeks of rehabilitation, according to

SPORTS DESK

New Zealand

New Zealand batters Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman were ruled out Monday for the upcoming five-match ODI series against India due to injury.

Ravindra had been recovering from a freak shoulder injury suffered during a promotional shoot prior to the Indian series, which starts on Wednesday, and has been deemed unfit to field.

Chapman had a hamstring strain which needs a further two weeks of rehabilitation, according to MRI scans.



"Everyone knows what an asset Mark and Rachin are to this side so it's a shame they have to miss this series," New Zealand coach Rob Walter said.

Walter said Chapman was "disappointed" to miss the series, and Ravindra "hasn't quite recovered to a position where he could field comfortably".

He said Ravindra would return for the two-Test series starting later this month.

Tim Seifert was initially named for the fourth and fifth matches of the series but will now be available for all matches, while Henry Nicholls has been called up days after scoring his 13th List A century for Canterbury in the domestic Ford Trophy.

Dean Foxcroft has also been called up for the last two matches of the series.

South Africa boost WTC final hopes with Australia series win

Proteas need five wins from seven remaining tests to reach second straight WTC final

SPORTS DESK

CAPETOWN

South Africa's series victory over Australia has put them top of the world rankings and greatly enhanced their chances of returning to the World Test Championship final but they must still navigate a home series against England at the end of the year.

The top two teams in the WTC points table for the 2025-27 cycle, which ends in March, advance to the final in London in June and South Africa are well placed after completing a come-from-behind 2-1 home series win over Australia at the weekend.

They are on a points percentage of 71.43, narrowly behind New Zealand (72.22), but have overtaken Australia who, after their 176-run loss at Newlands on Saturday, dropped to 69.23.



South Africa need five wins from seven remaining tests in the 2025-27 cycle -- two at home to Bangladesh later this month, a three-test tour by England over Christmas and New Year and two away in Sri Lanka in February -- to qualify for a second successive final and a chance to retain their title.

They will be wary of the threat England pose as they begin a new era with ?Stephen Fleming as coach and Joe Root back as captain. England have won three of ?their last four series in South Africa, drawing the other.

TOUGH GOING

Even if South Africa lose points, their closest rivals will effectively be cancelling each other out, starting later this month when India (51.52) play two tests in Wellington and Christchurch against New Zealand, who then go to Australia in December for a four-test series, after which the Australians hit the road and go to India in January at the start of a five-test series. A win is worth 12 points, a tie six points each and a draw four points and there can be points deducted for a slow over rate. But key is that the final ranking is based on the percentage of total points won out of total points contested.

ICC penalises Pakistan for slow over-rate in tri-series final



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan have been fined 5% of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate during the final of the Pakistan ODI Tri-Series against Sri Lanka in Lahore on Saturday.

The hosts were found to be one over short after time allowances were taken into account by match referee Jeff Crowe of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel.The offence falls under Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which deals with minimum over-rate offences. Under the provision, players are fined 5% of their match fee for every over their team fails to bowl within the allotted time.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Wayne Knights, third umpire Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid and fourth umpire Rashid Riaz levelled the charge.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi pleaded guilty and accepted the proposed sanction, avoiding a formal hearing.

Pakistan won the tri-series final by three wickets, chasing Sri Lanka's total of 325 for eight with nine balls to spare.

Fakhar Zaman led the chase with 127 off 99 balls, including 11 fours and six sixes, recording his 12th ODI century.



Minnesota became the last NFL club to tumble from the unbeaten ranks on Sunday while Denver made a game-ending defensive goal-line stand to deny Patrick Mahomes and edge Kansas City in a thriller.

Daily The Spokesman

Tuesday
November 3,2026

LHC summons Lahore DC over Imran's sisters detention, orders Noreen's meeting with daughters

Staff Reporter

LAHORE



The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday summoned the Lahore deputy commissioner (DC) over extensions in the detention of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sisters, while ordering a meeting between Noreen Niazi and her daughters. Justice Abher Gul Khan issued the directions while hearing petitions filed by Aleema Khan's son, Shahrez Khan, and Sakeena Bibi concerning the detention of Aleema, Dr Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi, as well as the latter's medical treatment. Noreen was shifted from Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology on October 28 after experiencing heart-related discomfort.

Lawyer Rana Mudassar Umar said Noreen had experienced discomfort in her heart while detained at Kot Lakhpat jail, following which she was taken to the hospital.

Aleema, Noreen and Uzma have remained in custody since last month under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) Ordinance in connection with the PTI's anti-government protest.

Ishaq Dar hails China Communist Party's people-centred governance model

■ Deputy PM Ishaq Dar praises China's people-centred governance model, highlighting political cooperation, poverty reduction and stronger Pakistan-China strategic ties.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has described the Communist Party of China's people-centred governance model as worth emulating, saying party-building and self-accountability have played a significant role in China's development.

Addressing a joint gathering alongside Chinese Communist Party Minister Liu Haixing, Ishaq Dar welcomed the Chinese minister on his visit to Pakistan and appreciated the visionary leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

He said Pakistan and China were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, while the Communist Party of China was marking its 105th founding anniversary.

Dar said under President Xi Jinping's leadership, China had advanced towards national rejuvenation through people-centred governance. He also highlighted the importance of the country's political system and its approach to maintaining close ties with the public.

The deputy prime minister said Pakistan and China had launched a five-point peace initiative aimed at restoring peace in the Middle East.

He described the China-Pakistan Political Parties Forum and the CPEC Joint Consultation Mechanism as important platforms for strengthening cooperation and political engagement between the two countries.

Dar said China's achievement in lifting millions of people out of poverty was a historic contribution at the global level.

He added that the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China was founded on mutual trust, respect and cooperation, reflecting the longstanding relationship between the two countries.

The deputy prime minister said political cooperation between the parties of Pakistan and China was already in place, while both countries also maintained a mechanism for political consultations.

New mechanism allowed govt to keep petrol price Rs15 cheaper: minister

■ Ali Pervaiz says refineries absorbed increase as fuel import premiums surged



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said on Monday that the government's revised pricing mechanism and cooperation from local refineries enabled it to keep petrol around Rs15 per litre cheaper than international market rates amid the US-Iran war. Speaking about the recent changes to the petrol pricing mechanism, Malik said the regional conflict had sharply increased costs associated with fuel imports, including freight, insurance and other logistics expenses.

He said the premium on petrol stood at around $5 per barrel before the war but subsequently surged to $20 per barrel.

The minister said subsequent PSO tenders showed premiums climbing further to around $25-$30 per barrel and even higher as regional conditions deteriorated.

Malik said the government worked with local refineries to deal with the situation and contain the impact on consumers without f imported petrol.Around 70% of the country's petrol requirement comes from the international market while locally produced petrol accounts for about 30%, according to the minister.He said the government had to ensure that any intervention did not make imported petrol commercially unviable and consequently lead to supply shortages.

disrupting the availability of imported petrol.Around 70% of the country's petrol requirement comes from the international market while locally produced petrol accounts for about 30%, according to the minister.He said the government had to ensure that any intervention did not make imported petrol commercially unviable and consequently lead to supply shortages.

"I am grateful that they listened to our appeal and absorbed roughly a Rs15 increase that was coming due for petrol on Friday, helping the government maintain prices," Malik said, referring to local refineries.He said the arrangement had allowed petrol to be kept around Rs15 per litre cheaper than international market rates, adding that refineries were absorbing a burden of roughly Rs15 billion per month.

FCC says it is not bound by Supreme Court rulings

■ The FCC ruled it is not bound by Supreme Court judgments, set strict conditions for review petitions and rejected Balochistan Trading Company's plea, ordering security forfeiture.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) has ruled that it can seek guidance from Supreme Court judgments but is not bound by their decisions, clarifying the legal status of judicial precedents and setting out strict conditions for filing review petitions.

In its ruling, the Federal Constitutional Court stated that Supreme Court judgments hold only persuasive value for the FCC. However, the constitutional court may adopt a legal precedent established by the Supreme Court if it is consistent with the law and the Constitution.

The court also clarified that the scope of review jurisdiction is extremely limited and applies only to specific circumstances.

According to the ruling, a review petition can only be entertained in cases involving an error apparent on the record or an omission that results in a miscarriage of justice.

A review petition cannot be used as an opportunity to reopen arguments or seek a fresh hearing of a case.



The court explained that during review proceedings, it does not rehear the entire case but examines whether an apparent error exists in the original record.

The FCC also discouraged the routine filing of review petitions, directing litigants and lawyers to approach the court for review only when genuine and legally valid grounds exist.

It warned that frivolous or malicious review petitions could attract costs of at least Rs25,000.

The ruling further stated that disciplinary action could also be initiated against an Advocate-on-Record involved in filing frivolous or malicious review petitions.

Before filing a review petition, the Advocate-on-Record or the concerned party will be required to provide a certificate explaining the grounds for seeking a review.

Punjab Safe Cities Authority Wins Prestigious International IACP Award

■ IG Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulates MD Ahsan Younas, says international recognition reflects Punjab's efforts to promote modern technology and effective crime prevention.

Crime Reporter

LAHORE

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem has congratulated Managing Director Punjab Safe Cities Authority Muhammad Ahsan Younas on the international recognition received by the Punjab Safe Cities Authority for its services. MD Punjab Safe Cities Authority Muhammad Ahsan Younas visited the Central Police Office and met with IG Punjab Abdul Kareem. On this occasion, the IG Punjab congratulated the Punjab Safe Cities Authority on winning the international award of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) IG Punjab Abdul



Kareem said that the international award received by the Safe Cities Authority was a result of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of a Safe Punjab. He said that international awards in the fields of crime prevention and public service delivery were a matter of pride for Punjab Police. The remarkable achievement of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority was also a source of inspiration for other police units and formations.

IG Punjab said that under the leadership of MD Safe Cities Authority Ahsan Younas, the Safe Cities Authority had achieved unprecedented success in the field of modern policing Punjab Police spokesperson said that MD Punjab Safe Cities Authority Muhammad Ahsan Younas received the award at an international police conference held recently in the US state of Florida.



Governor Kundi invites Chinese investors to explore KP's vast investment potential

■ KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi invites Chinese investors to explore opportunities in hydropower, minerals, agriculture, tourism and industry to boost economic ties.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has called for transforming the longstanding Pakistan-China friendship into stronger economic partnership, investment and shared prosperity, saying province offered immense opportunities for Chinese investors in hydropower, minerals, agriculture, tourism and industry.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan-China Research Centre for Party and State Governance, the Governor said Pakistan-China relations were built on mutual trust, respect and shared interests. He appreciated the role of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) in promoting political and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

He welcomed the establishment of the Pakistan-China Research Centre, expressing confidence that it would serve as an important platform for research, policy dialogue and institutional cooperation.

Kundi said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa possessed the potential to generate more than 30,000 megawatts of hydropower, besides abundant mineral resources, rich agricultural production and significant tourism opportunities, making the province an attractive destination for Chinese investment.

LHC suspends Azma Bokhari's appearance order, halts arrest warrants in fake video case

■ Lahore High Court suspends order requiring Azma Bokhari's personal appearance in fake video case and halts execution of her arrest warrants.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



The Lahore High Court (LHC) has suspended an order directing Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari to appear in person for cross-examination on her statement in the fake video case and halted the execution of her arrest warrants.

The court also directed the trial court to continue proceedings against other witnesses in the case.

Justice Abher Gul Khan of the Lahore High Court heard a petition filed by Azma Bokhari. The petitioner's counsel, Ali Zaid Bokhari and Barrister Musa, presented arguments before the court, stating that the fake video case involving the provincial information minister was currently under trial.

The lawyers argued that Azma Bokhari faced security concerns because of her position as a senior government official, making her personal appearance before the trial court difficult.

They informed the court that the trial court had summoned Azma Bokhari for cross-examination on her statement. However, despite the matter being pending before the Lahore High Court, arrest warrants were issued against her over her failure to appear.

The petitioner's lawyers maintained that the issuance of arrest warrants was unlawful and requested the high court to set aside the order requiring her personal appearance.

They also sought permission for Azma Bokhari's cross-examination to be conducted through a video link instead of requiring her to appear physically before the trial court.

After hearing the arguments, the Lahore High Court suspended the order directing Azma Bokhari to appear in person for cross-examination and restrained the authorities from executing her arrest warrants.

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