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PML-N holds thanksgiving rally in Battagram over removal of PTI government

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) held a thanksgiving rally on Wednesday in Battagram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to celebrate the removal of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, with Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam claiming that the large turnout reflected public support for his party's development agenda.

Addressing the gathering, Muqam described the rally as historic, saying people had turned out to celebrate the departure of what he called a government of corrupt leaders.



Ishaq Dar chairs high-level meeting on Pakistan's water security

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review Pakistan's water security, focusing on its legal, diplomatic and technical aspects, According to Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan, the meeting discussed various dimensions of Pakistan's water security and ways to safeguard the country's national interests.



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Cabinet ratifies Pakistan-Kuwait defence pact, approves new banknote designs

■ The federal cabinet ratified a defence agreement with Kuwait, approved new currency designs and a Rs10 coin, and transferred emergency powers in KP.

Atif Saeed

ISLAMABAD

The federal cabinet on Wednesday ratified a defence cooperation agreement between Pakistan and Kuwait, according to a handout issued by the Prime Minister's Office. The agreement, aimed at promoting defence cooperation between the two countries, was concluded on June 11, 2023. The Kuwaiti government ratified it on July 19, the handout said.

The cabinet also approved transferring powers delegated to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister to the provincial governor. The Centre declared an emergency and imposed governor's rule in the province on October 11.

The powers relate to managing day-to-day affairs during the emergency and facilitating administrative matters and governance. The KP governor will submit a monthly report to the federal government on their exercise, the statement said.

The cabinet welcomed the decision and expressed hope that the KP Advisory Council, led by Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, would work for the province's welfare, prosperity, peace and security.

On the recommendation of the Finance Ministry, the cabinet approved designs for new currency notes. The PMO said artists and designers from across the country had submitted proposals, which were reviewed by a cabinet committee after consultations with stakeholders.

The new notes will feature enhanced security measures and modern materials intended to extend their lifespan. The cabinet also approved replacing the Rs10 banknote with a Rs10 coin.

Pakistan continuing efforts for peace in Middle East Addressing the cabinet, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said global oil prices had surged due to regional instability and that Pakistan was continuing efforts to restore peace.He referred to Pakistan's recent engagements with Iran and other regional actors, as well as cooperation under the Makkah (Continued on Page-5)

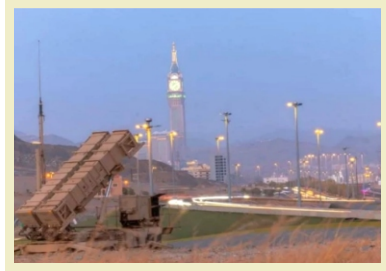
Anyone expecting shift in US policy after midterm election 'seriously mistaken': Iranian supreme leader

WEB DESK

TEHRAN



Iranian supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said that anyone expecting a shift in US policy was "seriously mistaken", a day after US midterm elections dealt a blow to US President Donald Trump, AFP reported on Wednesday. "Those who still harbour even the slightest hope that the behaviour of the hegemonic system might change through partisan or factional shifts, or who imagine that making concessions to the US can dissuade it from hostility towards the Iranian nation, are seriously mistaken," he said in a written statement published on his website.



Saudi Arabia says danger has passed in Najran after earlier alert

Web Desk

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence said Wednesday that the danger had passed in southwestern Najran province following an earlier warning of a "potential danger."

In a statement on US social media platform X, the Civil Defence urged residents to continue following its instructions and to "avoid gathering and filming." This marked the second such alert issued for Najran province on Wednesday.

Fuel subsidy scheme to run till December, says PM Shehbaz

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that the burden of increased electricity prices had not been passed on to the public and that the fuel subsidy would continue until December.

Addressing a meeting of the federal cabinet, the prime minister said Pakistan's sincere efforts for peace and stability were continuing. He said Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had visited Iran, while a meeting of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye was also held in Tehran with the Iranian leadership.

Punjab Intensifies Crackdown on Illegal Afghan Residents, 143,474 Repatriated

■ Over 400,000 search operations conducted across the province; 39 holding centres operational, says Punjab Home Department

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

On the directives of the Chief Minister Punjab, the Foreign National Security Wing of the Punjab Home Department continues its effective operations as part of the campaign for the repatriation of illegally residing Afghan nationals. In accordance with government policy, illegally residing Afghan nationals are being apprehended and shifted to holding centres, where the necessary documentation and legal formalities are completed before they are repatriated to Afghanistan. So far, a total of 2,807,250 illegal Afghan residents have been repatriated from Pakistan, including 143,474 from Punjab. According to the Punjab Home Department spokesperson, under the clearly defined policy of the Government of



Pakistan, the stay of Afghan nationals without a valid visa is illegal. As part of the ongoing crackdown, more than 400,000 search operations have been conducted in residential areas and markets across Punjab. During these operations, cases have been registered against 803 individuals for renting out properties to illegal Afghan nationals. According to the spokesperson, 39 holding centres are currently operational across Punjab, where 153 Afghan nationals are presently housed. The holding centres have arrangements for the temporary accommodation, registration and repatriation of illegally residing Afghan nationals. The illegally residing Afghan nationals are subsequently handed over to Afghan authorities at the Torkham border. The spokesperson said that the figures reflect the effective strategy and proactive administrative measures adopted by the Government of Punjab. He added that the cooperation of all Pakistanis is required for the successful completion of the national repatriation effort. The public is urged to report the illegal stay, identity fraud or suspicious activities of Afghan nationals to Emergency Helpline 15.

NAB summons Asad Mahmood over alleged illegal hiring in Pakistan Post

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Allegations of illegal recruitment in Pakistan Post Office have surfaced against Asad Mahmood, son of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and former federal communications minister, with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) issuing summons to him in connection with the investigation.

NAB Rawalpindi has directed Mahmood to appear before an investigation team at 11am on November 10, 2026.

One Constitution Avenue victims to receive compensation, says Ahsan Iqbal

■ The federal cabinet has approved an inquiry report into alleged irregularities at One Constitution Avenue, with the government promising compensation and further NAB investigation.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The government will compensate people affected by irregularities in the One Constitution Avenue project, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference alongside Information Minister Attaullah Tarar and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Iqbal said the federal cabinet had approved a committee report investigating alleged fraud in the project.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had formed the committee to examine the



matter and that its report also recommended changing the project's name.

According to Iqbal, the name One Constitution Avenue had itself allegedly been obtained through fraudulent means.

The minister said rules and regulations had been ignored during the project's development and that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) had also failed to perform its responsibilities properly.He added that the government would ensure all legal requirements were fulfilled.

He also pointed out that the first building on Constitution Avenue belonged to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said people had suffered financial losses because of alleged facilitation and wrongdoing. He added that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had been given three months to prepare a reference in the case.

"Those who were defrauded are not at fault," Chaudhry said.

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said the joint investigation team (JIT) had recommended referring the matter to NAB for further investigation.

No Compromise on AJK's Status or Financial Autonomy: PM Iftikhar Gilani

■ Rathua Haryam Bridge 99% Complete; Cambridge University Board MoU to Improve Mirpur Education Board, Subsidised Flour Quality to Be Addressed on Priority

Staff Reporter

MUZAFFARABAD

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Iftikhar Gilani, has said that no compromise can be made on the status or financial autonomy of Azad Kashmir, adding that the government cannot even contemplate changing the status of the state.He said a storm of misinformation was being spread on social media regarding a possible change in the status of Azad Kashmir. Those raising concerns in the name of the status quo should share any information or evidence they possess with the government. He said statements that could fuel unrest in the state should be avoided, adding that the opposition would be



taken along.The prime minister expressed these views while addressing a session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.PM Iftikhar Gilani said that 99 percent of the work on the Rathua Haryam Bridge had been completed and that the Prime Minister of Pakistan would inaugurate it soon.He said the Mirpur Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education was going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Cambridge University Board to improve its performance. He expressed confidence that, Insha Allah, the Mirpur Board would become the best educational board in Pakistan.The AJK prime minister said the issue of subsidised flour quality would be resolved on a priority basis.

French Ambassador Visits National Press Club, Vows to Strengthen Media Ties

Jean-Noël Poirier Offers Cooperation in Journalists' Training, Professional Development and Joint Media Activities



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The newly appointed Ambassador of France to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Jean-Noël Poirier, paid an introductory and goodwill visit to the National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad, expressing his strong commitment to further strengthening bilateral media relations.Upon his arrival, the French Ambassador was warmly welcomed by NPC President Abdul Razaq Sial, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, and Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) President Tariq Usmani, alongside senior journalists and diplomatic correspondents. The Ambassador was accompanied by Ms. Noémie Pinta, Counselor for Political and Press Affairs at the French Embassy, and the embassy's media staff.During the visit, the French Ambassador planted a commemorative sapling in the lawn of the National Press Club and toured various departments to inspect the facilities and journalistic activities. Welcoming the dignitary, NPC President Abdul Razaq Sial extended his gratitude for the visit. He highlighted that the NPC plays an active role in the welfare and professional training of journalists, terming the Ambassador's visit a significant milestone in upgrading media cooperation between Pakistan and France.Briefing the Ambassador, NPC Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao detailed the club's history, organizational structure, and ongoing welfare initiatives. He emphasized that arranging training programs to equip local journalists with modern reporting skills and international media practices is the need of the hour. Dr. Rao expressed hope that the French Embassy would support organizing specialized workshops and professional sessions to help Pakistani journalists benefit from global journalistic exposure.In an informal interaction with the club officials and journalists, French Ambassador Jean-Noël Poirier stated that his doors are always open for Pakistani journalists.

IGP Islamabad Reviews Police Welfare Initiatives, Development Projects

Sohail Chaudhry Directs Timely Completion of Ongoing Works, Emphasizes Improved Residential and Basic Facilities for Police Personnel

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



IGP Islamabad Reviews Police Welfare Initiatives, Infrastructure Development and Ongoing ProjectsAccording to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry chaired an important meeting with DIG Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq and the Assistant Director (Development) to review measures for the welfare of police officers and officials, improvement of residential and basic facilities, and progress on ongoing development projects.The meeting discussed the provision of better facilities for police officers and officials, improvement of residential buildings and barracks, essential facilities at police offices and other their quality and timely completion were also reviewed.IGP Islamabad issued necessary directions to the concerned officers, emphasizing that the welfare of police officers and officials is a key departmental priority. He said that police officers and officials perform demanding duties around the clock to protect citizens' lives and property and maintain law and order. Therefore, providing them with a better working and residential environment, along with essential facilities, is the department's responsibility.He directed the concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of welfare initiatives, regularly monitor development projects and complete all ongoing works within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality. He further emphasized that improved facilities and a conducive working environment would help enhance the professional capacity, performance and morale of the force.Meanwhile, DIG Law and Order/Training Muhammad Atiq Tahir inspected the ongoing construction work at Police Lines Headquarters being carried out to improve facilities for police officials. He reviewed the progress and quality of the work and issued necessary instructions to the concerned staff to ensure its timely completion in accordance with the required standards.DIG Muhammad Atiq Tahir directed the staff to give priority to improving residential and basic facilities for police officials and ensure that all construction work is completed



Pakistan Railways announces special trains for Sikh and Hindu pilgrims

News Desk

LAHORE

Pakistan Railways has announced the schedule for two special trains for local Sikh and Hindu pilgrims attending annual religious events in Nankana Sahib.
According to a railway spokesperson, the first Sikh special train will run from Hyderabad to Nankana Sahib on November 20, while the second will travel from Nankana Sahib to Hyderabad on November 25. Two shuttle trains will also operate.
The special train will pass through various stations, including Khanewal, Faisalabad, Sheikhupura, Tando Adam, Shahdadpur, Nawabshah, Rohri and Ghotki.Two special shuttle trains for Sikh and Hindu pilgrims will also operate between Larkana and Rohri on November 20 and 26.
Railway officials said the initiative was an important step towards providing travel facilities to members of minority communities.



CDA gives 15-day deadline to JUI-F leader to remove encroachments

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Wednesday issued a 15-day notice to Amanullah, a close aide of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, directing him to remove encroachments from his residence in Sector G-6/4 of Islamabad.According to the notice, Amanullah has been identified as the owner of the building where the alleged encroachments have been reported. The authority has directed him to remove the encroachments within 15 days.The latest notice is part of the CDA's efforts to address encroachments in the federal capital. The authority has previously taken up the matter concerning the same property.

Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir
Municipal Corporation Rawalakot

INVITATION TO BID

Municipal Corporation Rawalakot invites sealed bids from eligible, experienced and financially sound private firms/companies consortium/Joint Ventures, under the Single Stage-Two Envelope Procedure of the AJ&K Public Procurement Rules for following work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
i.	Outsourcing of Solid Waste Management Services (Alongwith available resources) of Municipal Corporation Rawalakot for five (05) years.	Rs.8.00 Million	16-12-2026 12:00 PM	16-12-2026 12:30 PM

The scope broadly includes all 22 wards, door-to-door waste collection, street sweeping, collection from communal points, transportation of solid waste, cleaning of roads/markets/public places, operation of waste collection system, provision of manpower, vehicles, machinery, complaint redressal, reporting, awareness raising and environment friendly disposal of municipal solid waste. Detail of existing operational vehicles, machinery, human resource and residential & commercials units are given in bid document.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The Bidder must be registered in Pakistan Engineering Council in C2 or above / Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and at least 05 years of overall experience.
2. The Bidder must have registration with FBR/AJK- GBR and on active Tax Payer List (ATL) of FBR.
3. The bidder must possess relevant experience of handling of municipal solid waste management/sanitation/waste collection and transportation (At least one or two contract projects in hand or successfully executed).
4. The bidder shall demonstrate adequate manpower, vehicles, machinery, equipment and financial capacity necessary for the effective & efficient implementation of this task.
5. The bidder shall furnish Bid Security of Rs. 8.00 Million in the form of Pay Order /CDRs or Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank of Pakistan having its branches in AJK in favour of Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Rawalakot with technical bid.
6. Bids shall comprise two separately sealed envelopes, clearly marked "TECHNICAL BID" and "FINANCIAL BID". Initially, only Technical Bids shall be opened; Financial Bids shall remain sealed in the custody of the Procuring Agency and shall subsequently be opened only for technically qualified/responsive bidders.
7. Performance of selected firm / company shall be monitored against prescribed service standards/KPIs, and deductions/penalties may be imposed for failure to achieve the desired service levels.
8. The firm / company shall comply with all prevailing AJ&K laws, environmental standards, labour laws, health and safety requirements.
9. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 01-12-2026 at 11:00 am in the Committee room of Kashmir House Sector F-5/2 Islamabad.
10. Bidders are advised to carry out survey / visit of Rawalakot City to obtain first-hand information about solid waste quantum, its sources, collection points and its disposal routes.
11. Blacklisted/debarred firms and firms failing to meet the prescribed eligibility/qualification criteria shall not be eligible to participate.
12. Complete bidding documents containing detailed scope of work, eligibility criteria, technical evaluation criteria, specifications, service standards, payment mechanism, penalties, contract conditions and financial bid forms may be obtained against the cash payment Rs. 5000/- (Non Refundable) from the office of Municipal Corporation Rawalakot during office hours till 14-12-2026.
13. Bid shall be submitted and opened in Committee room of Kashmir House Sector F-5/2 Islamabad on mentioned dated and time.
14. Incomplete, conditional and without bid security, bid shall not be entertained.
15. The Procuring Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with the Rule 33 AJ&K PPR Rules.
16. The bidder shall bear all costs associated with preparation and submission of its bid.
17. All taxes duties levied li/ Go AJk will be charged from bills under prevailing rules.
18. All bids shall be sealed, proper page marking and having signature & stamp of authorized person on each page of bid document.
19. Bid Evaluation Report /Award of Contract shall also be displayed on AJk PPRA website.

Note: This advertisement is also available at AJK PPRA website: www.ajkppra.gov.pk

Chief Officer
Municipal Corporation Rawalakot AJK
Ph: 05824-920595, 0345-5500480

AJK PD-80D-2026

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

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



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

Islamabad Police Bust Robbery And Motorcycle Theft Gangs, Arrest Five Suspects



CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Bust Robbery and Motorcycle Theft Gangs, Arrest Five Accused; Four Stolen Motorcycles, Cash and Weapons RecoveredAccording to details, Islamabad police teams from Phulgran and Bani Gala Police Stations arrested five members of organized gangs involved in multiple incidents of robbery and motorcycle theft. Police recovered four stolen motorcycles worth millions of rupees, snatched cash, other stolen property, and weapons along with ammunition allegedly used in the criminal activities. Cases have been registered against the accused, and further investigation is underway.On the special directions of DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem, a crackdown against accused involved in theft, robbery, snatching and other serious crimes is underway across the federal capital. Effective operations are being carried out to apprehend criminal elements and prevent further offences.DIG Islamabad directed all officers to intensify operations against those depriving citizens of their valuable belongings and ensure the arrest of individuals involved in such crimes.Islamabad Police

NCCIA Recruitment Process Continues, Senior Officers Inspect Physical Test Venue at F-Nine Park

Candidates' Facilitation and Security Arrangements Reviewed; DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi Reaffirms Commitment to Merit and Transparency

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad



Recruitment Process Continues in NCCIA, Senior Officers Visit Physical Test Venue at F-Nine ParkReview of candidates' facilitation, security arrangements and recruitment process, directions to ensure peaceful, safe and organized environment, recruitment process continues in accordance with principles of merit and transparencyAccording to details, physical test of candidates is being conducted at F-Nine Park Islamabad in connection with recruitments in National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency. Additional Director Islamabad & Rawalpindi Shoaib Khan, SP City Islamabad Police Khurram Ashraf and Additional Director NPF visited the physical test venue at F-Nine Park and reviewed the arrangements made regarding candidates' facilitation, security arrangements and the recruitment process.During the visit, information was obtained from security personnel and concerned staff regarding the arrangements and directions were issued to ensure a peaceful, safe and organized environment for the candidates. The recruitment process in NCCIA continues in accordance with the principles of merit and transparency, while special importance is also being given to the facilitation and security of the candidates.On this occasion, Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that there will be no compromise on merit and transparency in the recruitment process and selection of eligible and capable candidates will be ensured.

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board Imposes Rs4.54 Million in Fines During Food Safety Crackdown

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI

The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has launched a major crackdown against food outlets violating food safety and hygiene standards, imposing fines amounting to Rs4.544 million to ensure the provision of quality, safe and adulteration-free food to citizens.The campaign was carried out on the special directions of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rawalpindi Cantonment Board, Aamir Rasheed. The Food Control Cell and its team have been conducting inspections across various areas of the cantonment since July 1.During the ongoing campaign, several food points, bakeries, hotels, processing units and grocery stores were inspected to monitor food quality and hygiene standards. Strict legal action was taken against those found selling substandard and unsafe food items.According to details, the Food Control Cell collected a total of 588 food samples during inspections and sent them to laboratories for testing.Furthermore, the Special Judicial Magistrate (SJM) imposed composition fees amounting to Rs427,500 for violations of relevant rules and regulations. In addition, fines worth Rs4.117 million were recovered under food laws for the sale of substandard and unfit food products.The total amount recovered during the inspection campaign stood at Rs4.544 million.CEO Aamir Rasheed appreciated the performance of the Food Control Cell and said that no one would be allowed to compromise public health. He reiterated that a zero-tolerance policy would continue against food adulteration, unhygienic practices and those involved in selling unsafe food items.He further stated that the inspection campaign would continue without discrimination to safeguard citizens' health and ensure the availability of safe and hygienic food across Rawalpindi Cantonment.

Connecting Voices 2026 Promotes Inclusive Academic Dialogue at FCCU

Two-day international conference brings together scholars and researchers to explore diverse linguistic, literary and cultural perspectives

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, hosted its third international Connecting Voices 2026 Conference, bringing together leading national and international scholars, researchers and academics to discuss language, literature, cultural diversity and social representation Organised by the Department of English, the two-day conference provided an inclusive platform for academic exchange, interdisciplinary research and dialogue on the importance of diverse voices and perspectives in contemporary society The international keynotes were delivered by Prof. Cathy Caruth, Professor of English at Cornell University, USA on "Falling Stories" and Dr. Elisabetta Adami, Associate Professor at the University of Leeds, UK, on "Beyond Language: The Semiotics of Showing." Prof. Dr. Fauzia Janjua, Dean, Faculty of Languages and Literature, International Islamic University Islamabad, delivered the national keynote on "Reconceptualizing Register in Multimodal Communication A special discussion on "Reparative Politics in Applied Linguistics & TESOL" brought together prominent academics, while parallel sessions included a workshop on "Gender Stereotypes in Fairy Tales: A CREDIBLE Project," conducted by Dr. Syeda Sughra Naqvi The closing session featured keynote addresses by Prof. Dr. Shaheena Ayub Bhatti of Foundation University and Prof. Dr. John A. Bateman of Bremen University, Germany, focusing on interdisciplinary research, academic leadership and the evolving complexities of digital communication The concluding ceremony included addresses by Rector Addleton, Vice Rector Dr. Trimble, Dean of Humanities Dr.

HEC-QAA Review Team Visits University of Chitral for Computing Programmes Review

STAFF REPORTER

Chitral



A review team from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan, visited the University of Chitral to conduct an academic and quality review of its Computing Programmes. The team was warmly welcomed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah. The Vice Chancllor briefed the team about the facilities, opportunities and challenges. After introductory meeting with the Vice Chancllor, the team visited the unversity'sfacilities-library, computers labs, classrooms before detailed review meeting with the fcauty and staff. The review was carried out as part of HEC's national initiative to strengthen quality assurance and enhance academic standards in higher education. The committee evaluated programme quality, academic processes, student learning outcomes, industry relevance, and institutional quality assurance mechanisms.



IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Directs Immediate Relief for Police Personnel and Their Families

CRIME REPORTER

Lahore

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem met police employees and their family members at the Central Police Office. IG Punjab listened to the problems of police employees and their family members and issued directions to the concerned officers for immediate relief.According to details, on the transfer requests of ASIs Muhammad Ramzan Sheikh and Asghar Ali, IG Punjab directed the DIG Establishment-II to consider their cases. On the request for financial assistance for the medical treatment of retired Head Constable Asghar Ali, the AIG Welfare was directed to provide relief. On the transfer request of Junior Clerk Almas Shakeel, AIG Admin and Security was directed to consider the matter, while directions were issued to the DIG Welfare and Finance regarding the financial assistance request of Orderly Constable Muhammad Saleem. On the transfer request of Head Constable Muhammad Imran, IG Punjab also directed the DIG Establishment-II to consider the matter.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem also issued directions on other applications related to discipline, administration, promotion and welfare issues of the force.

NCCIA Karachi Arrests Retired Sindh Official for Allegedly Selling Fake Medical Fitness Certificates to Job Applicants

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



Major Action by NCCIA Karachi During Recruitment, Accused Selling Fake Medical Fitness Certificates ArrestedFake certificates were being sold to candidates arriving for recruitment at Razzaqabad Training Centre, accused turned out to be a retired Deputy Secretary, was running forgery racket at a photocopy shop, fake certificates recovered, accused handed over to police, strict monitoring continues to ensure transparency in recruitment processAccording to details, during the ongoing recruitment process of National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency, NCCIA Karachi arrested a person at Razzaqabad Training Centre, near Chaukhandi Graveyard, Karachi, who was allegedly selling fake medical fitness certificates to candidates arriving for recruitment. During the action, several fake medical fitness certificates were recovered from the possession of the accused, which he was providing to candidates in exchange for a heavy amount.The arrested accused is a retired Deputy Secretary of the Forest and Wildlife Department, Government of Sindh and also runs a photocopy shop in Abdullah Goth, Karachi, where he was allegedly involved in providing fake medical fitness certificates to candidates. According to initial investigation, the accused was taking advantage of the recruitment process to deceive innocent candidates and extort money from them.

Islamabad Witnesses Pakistan's First Robotic Gallbladder Surgery Through Telesurgery

SZABMU's Prof. Dr. Syed Tanseer Asghar Performs Historic Remote Procedure; Approval Secured for First Robotic Surgery and Artificial Intelligence Health Centre

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

In a groundbreaking achievement that marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's medical history, Islamabad has successfully witnessed its first robotic cholecystectomy performed through telesurgery, demonstrating the remarkable potential of advanced surgical robotics and real-time remote surgical technology.The historic procedure was performed by Prof. Dr. Syed Tanseer Asghar, renowned Robotic Surgeon and Registrar of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU), who operated the robotic surgical console remotely from the International Conference on Future of Healthcare (FHCC 2026), held at the Gandhara Heritage and Culture Centre, Islamabad.In an extraordinary display of technological advancement, the patient was positioned in the operating theatre at Kulsum International Hospital, Islamabad, while Prof. Dr. Syed Tanseer Asghar remotely controlled the robotic surgical instruments from the conference venue, successfully demonstrating the integration of surgical expertise, robotic precision and advanced digital connectivity.Visionary Leadership Driving Surgical InnovationThis historic achievement reflects the progressive vision and commitment of Prof. Dr. Tanwir Khaliq, Vice Chancellor, SZABMU, towards transforming healthcare through the integration of robotic surgery, artificial intelligence and emerging medical technologies.Under his visionary leadership and supervision, this landmark robotic telesurgery initiative was successfully undertaken, reinforcing SZABMU's growing role as a centre for innovation, advanced surgical training and technological excellence.In another major step towards institutional advancement, Prof. Dr. Tanwir Khaliq has also secured approval for the establishment of SZABMU's first Robotic Surgery and Artificial Intelligence Health Centre, a significant initiative aimed at strengthening surgical education, research, innovation and the future application of AI-driven healthcare solutions in Pakistan.Breaking Barriers: When Distance No Longer Limits Surgical ExpertiseThe successful demonstration of robotic telesurgery represents a remarkable shift in the delivery of modern surgical care.By enabling a surgeon to operate from a geographically separate location, this technological breakthrough highlights the enormous potential of robotic systems and secure, real-time connectivity to transform how specialized surgical services may be delivered in the future.It also opens new horizons for expanding access to highly specialized surgical expertise in remote and underserved regions of Pakistan, subject to appropriate infrastructure, clinical safeguards and regulatory frameworks.What was once considered a futuristic concept has now been demonstrated in Islamabad, reflecting the country's growing capacity to adopt and advance sophisticated surgical technologies.A Defining Moment for Pakistan's Healthcare FutureThis achievement extends far beyond a single surgical procedure.

Gujranwala Region Wins Punjab Police Badminton Tournament

Faisalabad Secures Second Position as IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Directs Selection of Outstanding Players for Police Sports Teams

STAFF REPORTER

Lahore



The annual inter-regional and inter-district competitions organised by the Pakistan Police Sports Board are underway. As part of these competitions, a badminton tournament was organised under the supervision of the RPO and DPO Sheikhupura, in which badminton teams from various regions participated enthusiastically.Gujranwala Region delivered an outstanding performance in the tournament, securing first position and winning the trophy. Faisalabad Region secured second position, while Sheikhupura and Bahawalpur Regions jointly claimed third position.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem congratulated the winning teams and players and appreciated their performance. He directed that players demonstrating outstanding performance during the inter-regional competitions should be selected and included in police sports teams.Director General Pakistan Police Sports Board, Additional IG Imran Arshad, said that such sports events would continue to be organised to promote a positive sporting culture and healthy activities within the police force.DIG Athar Ismail said that the badminton tournament concluded successfully owing to the mutual cooperation and enthusiastic participation of all concerned officers and personnel, as well as excellent

FM Dar congratulates Oliver Blanco on appointment as Venezuela's foreign minister

■ Asim Iftikhar meets British, Japanese envoys, discusses bilateral ties, regional developments, cooperation



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday congratulated Oliver Blanco on his appointment as Venezuela's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and expressed his desire to further strengthen bilateral relations between Pakistan and Venezuela.

In a post on X, Dar extended "warm felicitations" to Blanco on his appointment as foreign minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

"I wish Foreign Minister Blanco every success in his new responsibilities and look forward to working closely with him to further strengthen the friendly ties and mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Venezuela," he wrote.

Responding to Dar's post on X, Blanco thanked him for his wishes and expressed his willingness to work together to strengthen bilateral relations.



Hours after US voters stripped President Donald Trump's Republicans of control of Congress, partly over the Iran war, thousands gathered Wednesday outside the former US embassy in Tehran for an annual anti-American rally.

Abdul El-Sayed becomes first Muslim elected to US Senate

■ El-Sayed's victory in the closely contested election marked a breakthrough for the Democratic Party's progressive wing

Web Desk

DETROIT



Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's open US Senate seat on Tuesday, according to media projections, becoming the first Muslim elected to the chamber while preserving a crucial Democratic seat in the party's fight for Senate control.

El-Sayed's victory in the closely contested election marked a breakthrough for the Democratic Party's progressive wing and denied Republicans a chance to flip the seat of retiring Democratic Senator Gary Peters.

El-Sayed, 42, a former public health official, focused on lowering costs for working families and reducing corporate influence in politics. His platform included Medicare for All, a government-funded universal healthcare program championed by progressives in his party.

Republicans held a 53-47 Senate majority going into midterm elections, with Democrats needing a net gain of four seats to take control.

His opponent Mike Rogers, 63, a former congressman and FBI agent, entered the race with strong backing from Trump and national Republicans and had sought to cast El-Sayed as a radical candidate sympathetic to extremism through alleged ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, claims that El-Sayed denies and that remain unsupported by evidence. Democrats said the attacks on El-Sayed relied on Islamophobic tropes.

Rogers also devoted significant effort to courting Jewish voters who may have been uneasy with El-Sayed's opposition to US military aid for Israel and his characterization of Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide.But Rogers struggled to overcome voter concerns about the economy and Trump's low ratings. In the closing weeks of the race, he broke with the president on the war in Iran and the US trade dispute with Canada, arguing that ending both was necessary to help bring down costs for businesses and consumers.

Russia bombards Ukraine power grid before Abu Dhabi talks; Merz urges Moscow to engage

Web Desk

KYIV/BERLIN



Russia bombarded Ukraine's energy infrastructure in waves , knocking out power to swathes of the country with dozens of missiles and hundreds of drones, a week before US-brokered peace talks were due to resume.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said at least 33 people had been killed on Monday when Russia twice bombed a school being used for aid distribution in the village of Komyshuvakha, near ?the front line in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region. About 50 people were still believed to be buried under the rubble, he said.

Russian officials said Ukraine had set fire overnight to a major oil refinery in the city of Yaroslavl.

The attacks, less than two days after the end of a brief humanitarian truce in the Russian-controlled town of Oleshky agreed with the help of US first lady Melania Trump, did not bode well for the talks that the US has scheduled for Abu Dhabi on November 10-11.

Moscow said its forces had targeted Ukrainian military units in areas around Komyshuvakha and two other settlements in the Zaporizhzhia region. It said in a statement on Tuesday that up to 25 Ukrainian servicemen had been killed, while 15 vehicles and an electronic warfare station were also destroyed.

At a press conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Zelenskiy said the attack showed that Moscow was intent on killing people instead of building on the humanitarian ceasefire in and around Oleshky.

North Korean leader calls for 'rapid' naval build up as Pyongyang warns of stronger response to US 'hostility'

■ Kim says recent geopolitical environment, hostile acts of enemies prove need for 'most developed, powerful warship'

Web Desk

Pyongyang



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for a rapid buildup of naval combat power to counter "hostile acts of the enemies," as Pyongyang warned the United States that it will mount a stronger response to Washington's "hostile policy" toward the country, state media reported on Wednesday.

Kim made the remarks during a visit to the Nampho shipyard Monday, where he was briefed on the shipyard's ongoing upgrades and inspected a new warship under construction, state-run Korean Central News Agency reported. "It is vital and important requirement of the times to rapidly bolster up the surface and underwater combat power for defending the national sovereignty in the sea under various threats," Kim said.

The recent geopolitical environment and hostile acts of the enemies in the region prove the need for "the most developed and powerful warship," he added.

Without providing the ship's specifications, North Korean media said the vessel is "designed to carry out its complex operational mission in consideration of the present-day warfare."'Dialogue with US remains an 'option'

Kim's powerful sister Kim Yo-jong Wednesday said that dialogue with Washington remains "an option for peace, but that it would not be necessary for its own interest."

She said that the continued "hostile signal" by Washington was compelling the regime to reconsider the "true nature" of the US. "The choice for peace includes dialogue of course, but this is not surely equated with national interests for us," Kim said in a statement.

Her remarks came a day after she rejected the FBI findings that Pyongyang was behind the theft of more than $6 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange."The so-called 'cryptocurrency hacking case by the DPRK' is no more than a tip of iceberg that shows the essence of the US hostile policy toward the DPRK," she maintained.

DPRK refers to North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"The US abandonment of its hostile policy" toward Pyongyang "is a major premise and key to solving all problems," she said, adding that North Korea has no reason to engage in talks with the US unless that happens.

Americans said no to war, and we endorse this message: Iran's Ghalibaf

Web Desk

TEHRAN



Senior Iranian Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf hailed the US public's rejection of the Iran war by voting against the Republican Party in the Congress midterm election in an X post on Wednesday.

"Conscience or the cost of living, Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message," he said.

He added that "If the US govt betrays their public will to serve international paymasters and blackmailers," it will suffer "a nightmare." His comments came as Democrats established a majority in the Senate and House elections in a rebuke against US President Donald Trump's stewardship of the country, which in part has stemmed from the war waged on Iran.

Drones attack Iranian Kurdish opposition in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah and east Erbil, sources say

Two explosive-laden drones attacked the Iranian Kurdish opposition in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah and east Erbil on Wednesday, security sources said.Iran has repeatedly struck the bases of Iranian Kurdish opposition groups in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region.

Ilhan Omar wins fifth consecutive term in US Congress



Web Desk

Washngation

Democratic Congresswoman Ilhan Omar has won a fifth consecutive term in the US House of Representatives, securing re-election from Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the US midterm elections. According to preliminary results compiled by US media outlets, Omar defeated Republican candidate John Nagel to retain her congressional seat. Omar has represented the Minnesota district since 2019 and has continued to face criticism from President Donald Trump over her immigration background and political positions.Omar, who arrived in the United States as a refugee from Somalia, has frequently been targeted by Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric. The US president has previously suggested that she should return to her country of origin.

Iran war played a role in Republicans' losses in midterm elections, admits Trump

■ Trump said Democrats would send legislation he considered "insane" to his desk and that he would veto it

Web Desk

Washngation



President Donald Trump acknowledged that the war in Iran played a role in Republicans' losses in Tuesday's midterm elections, as Democrats prepared to take control of both the US House and Senate and challenge his legislative agenda.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said Democrats would send legislation he considered "insane" to his desk and that he would veto it.

"They'll send over things that are insane, and I'll veto them," he said. "And after a couple of months of vetoes, they'll call and they'll say, 'How do we get this stuff done?' And we'll work together."

Trump said the war in Iran had weighed on Republican candidates, even as voters backed his handling of it. "I think a part of it was Iran, but at the same time people understood the importance of what I've done with Iran," he said. His remarks come as Democrats captured majorities in both the Senate and House, scoring sweeping victories that reached deep into Republican strongholds as tens of millions of voters delivered a scathing rebuke to Trump. The size and breadth of the Democratic wave were still coming into focus, but the party prevailed in states long thought to be out of reach, including conservative bastions like South Carolina, Texas and Iowa.The Democratic wave underscored voters' deep frustration with Trump's stewardship of the economy and his decision to launch a war against Iran in February, which drove gas prices up sharply. In poll after poll, voters expressed anxiety about the cost of living and anger at the way Trump has handled the issue.

In Kansas, Adam Hamilton, a megachurch pastor, became the first Democrat to win a Senate seat since the Great Depression nearly a century ago.

In Ohio, Democrat Sherrod Brown claimed a seat that belonged to Vice President JD Vance two years ago, while Texas Democratic state Representative James Talarico withstood a barrage of outside spending to defeat scandal-plagued Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton. Both Ohio and Texas voted for Trump by a double-digit margin in 2024.In South Carolina, a state that Trump carried by nearly 18 points in 2024, pediatrician Annie Andrews triumphed over Republican Senator Darline Graham, who was appointed to the seat after the death of her brother, Senator Lindsey Graham.

Trump elevated Paxton and Graham ahead of more established candidates despite clear liabilities. Paxton has been at the center of a litany of controversies, including his 2023 impeachment and securities fraud charges, while Graham's admitted inexperience drew negative headlines.

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A Comprehensive Strategy Against Terrorism Is Essential for Lasting Peace

Pakistan is facing a critical challenge in ensuring national security, maintaining internal stability and protecting the lives and property of its citizens. The resurgence of terrorism in different parts of the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has once again highlighted the need for a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained strategy to counter extremist and terrorist threats. The government's decision to expand the scope of



intelligence-based operations, taken during a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is an important step in this direction.The fight against terrorism is not new for Pakistan. Over the past two decades, the country has made enormous sacrifices in its struggle to restore peace and stability. Security personnel, police officers, law enforcement agencies and civilians have laid down their lives in this national struggle. Their sacrifices have helped restore peace in several areas, but the continued threat of terrorism demands that the country remain vigilant and strengthen its security framework.The recent meeting on national and internal security, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reviewed the law and order situation in 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi briefed the participants on measures taken in various sectors, while the performance of the ARDC was also discussed. The deliberations reflect the government's focus on addressing security challenges through institutional engagement and a coordinated approach.Intelligence-based operations have become an essential component of modern counterterrorism strategies. Timely and credible intelligence can help security agencies identify potential threats, disrupt terrorist networks and prevent attacks before they occur. Expanding the scope of such operations can improve the effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts, provided that these activities are supported by reliable information, modern technology and effective coordination among relevant institutions.However, the success of intelligence-based operations cannot be measured merely by the number of operations conducted. Their real effectiveness lies in their ability to prevent terrorist attacks, dismantle networks, eliminate threats and ensure the safety of ordinary citizens. A results-oriented approach is therefore necessary, with regular assessments of operational performance and a continued focus on long-term security objectives.Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains one of the regions most affected by terrorism. The people of the province have endured years of insecurity, economic disruption and social difficulties. Terrorist activities have affected business opportunities, educational institutions, public services and the daily lives of citizens. The government must therefore ensure that security measures are accompanied by efforts to restore normalcy and provide people with a sense of confidence and protection.Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's directive to improve coordination among federal and provincial governments and law enforcement agencies is particularly significant. Terrorism is a complex challenge that cannot be addressed effectively through isolated efforts. Intelligence sharing, institutional cooperation and a unified operational strategy are essential for achieving sustainable results.Federal and provincial institutions must work together with clearly defined responsibilities and effective communication channels. Any gap in coordination can weaken security arrangements and create opportunities for terrorist elements. A stronger institutional framework, supported by modern intelligence systems and efficient administrative mechanisms, can help improve the overall response to security threats.At the same time, the protection of civilians and respect for the rule of law must remain central to counterterrorism efforts. The confidence of the public is one of the most valuable assets of the state. When citizens feel secure and trust that institutions are working in their interest, they are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and contribute to the collective effort against terrorism.The review of the federal government's Rs160 billion package for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was another important aspect of the meeting.

Partnerships Across Maritime Regions



By: Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The oceans have never been merely geographical boundaries separating nations. They are arteries of international commerce, conduits of cultural exchange and, increasingly, arenas where the security and prosperity of distant societies intersect. Throughout history, maritime routes have connected civilisations, facilitated the movement of ideas and enabled nations to prosper through trade. Today, however, the same waters are exposed to geopolitical rivalries, security threats and competing strategic ambitions. Their future, therefore, depends not simply upon naval strength but upon the ability of nations to cultivate trust, cooperation and a shared commitment to peace.The Holy Quran repeatedly draws attention to the seas, their resources and the benefits Allah Almighty has bestowed upon humanity through them. It invites mankind to reflect upon ships sailing across the waters, the sustenance obtained from the oceans and the countless signs of divine wisdom embodied in creation. These references carry a deeper message; the resources of nature are blessings entrusted to humanity, and their responsible use requires wisdom, gratitude and a sense of collective responsibility. The Quranic emphasis on consultation, justice, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence offers an enduring framework for relations among nations. In a world increasingly troubled by confrontation, these principles deserve renewed attention, particularly in the maritime domain.It is within this broader perspective that the Pakistan Navy's AMAN exercises have acquired significance. Launched in 2007 under the banner "Together for Peace", AMAN has evolved into an international platform bringing regional and extra-regional navies together with maritime stakeholders. Its underlying philosophy recognises that the oceans cannot be secured through isolated national efforts. Maritime threats disregard political boundaries, making cooperation not merely desirable but indispensable.The tenth edition, under the theme "Partnerships Across Maritime Regions", reflects the growing importance of this understanding. Its central message is that sustainable maritime security rests upon cooperation, confidence-building and connectivity among nations. The theme also acknowledges that countries separated by geography or differing strategic interests can nevertheless identify common objectives and work towards shared prosperity.The Indian Ocean provides a compelling context for such cooperation. It is among the world's most consequential maritime regions, linking the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and East Asia. Vital commercial and energy supply routes pass through its waters, making their security essential to the functioning of the global economy. Any disruption caused by piracy, maritime terrorism, trafficking, regional conflict or threats to commercial shipping can have consequences far beyond the immediate geographical area. Environmental degradation and the growing vulnerability of maritime infrastructure add further complexity to an already challenging security environment.No single country can adequately address these concerns. Effective maritime governance requires information-sharing, professional coordination, operational understanding and respect for international law. Multinational naval exercises provide an opportunity to develop precisely these capacities. By bringing together naval forces with different experiences and operational traditions, AMAN encourages professional interaction and creates an environment in which mutual confidence can develop. Its value lies not only in demonstrating operational preparedness but also in strengthening relationships that may prove essential during an actual crisis.The initiative's expansion reflects its growing international relevance. From 28 participating countries in its inaugural edition in 2007, AMAN attracted participation from more than 60 countries in its ninth edition in February 2025. The introduction of the AMAN Dialogue alongside that exercise further enriched its diplomatic and intellectual dimensions, providing senior naval and maritime representatives an opportunity to discuss emerging challenges and explore areas of common interest. This progression illustrates how a naval exercise can gradually develop into a wider instrument of maritime diplomacy.For Pakistan, the initiative carries particular strategic and economic importance. Its location along the Arabian Sea places it close to significant international shipping corridors, while Karachi and Gwadar offer opportunities for expanding maritime trade and regional connectivity. The country's economic future is also linked with the development of its blue economy, including shipping, fisheries, port services, marine tourism and other ocean-based industries. Yet these opportunities cannot be fully realised without secure sea lanes, reliable maritime infrastructure and a stable regional environment.Pakistan Navy's contribution to maritime security must therefore be viewed in a wider context than the protection of national waters alone. Its responsibilities extend to safeguarding commercial interests, maintaining the security of sea lines of communication and contributing to regional stability. Initiatives such as Regional Maritime Security Patrols, alongside multinational engagements, demonstrate the importance Pakistan attaches to collective maritime responsibility. A secure maritime environment benefits not only coastal states but also landlocked countries whose trade and economic activities depend upon access to international markets.There is another dimension of maritime cooperation that deserves equal consideration; its humanitarian purpose. Search-and-rescue operations, disaster relief and assistance to vessels in distress require immediate coordination, regardless of political differences. At sea, human life must take precedence over strategic calculations. Naval forces that develop professional relationships during peacetime are better positioned to cooperate when emergencies arise. In this respect, maritime exercises can serve a purpose far greater than conventional military



By: Naeem Malik

Leh Boils: BJP's Policy of Divide And Rule Backfires

History shows that nations that strengthened their farmers, strengthened their economies. Countries that treated agriculture not merely as a sector, but as a pillar of national security, laid the foundations of prosperity. The same principle holds true for an agrarian country like Pakistan. If Punjab, the country's largest food basket, prospers, the positive effects will ripple across all of Pakistan. This is why the recent progress in Punjab's agriculture sector is emerging not just as a collection of projects, but as a sign of a new vision and a new style of governance. Farmers have long complained that those who grow the crops face the greatest hardships. They pay high prices for seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and machinery, while the fruits of their labour often end up in someone else's pocket. If the state extends a hand to farmers in such circumstances, it is not just supporting an individual, but the entire agricultural system. The Punjab Kisan Card Programme appears to be the practical expression of that thinking. The target of issuing one million Kisan Cards is set to be met within a month, while 900,000 farmers have already benefited. Through them, Rs360 billion in interest-free loans have been disbursed, with a 99% recovery rate — evidence that when trust, transparency and ease come together, citizens respond with responsibility. More importantly, most of the

loans were spent on fertiliser purchases, meaning resources went into productive activity rather than non-essential spending. The second pillar of agricultural growth is modern machinery. The Green Tractor Programme in Punjab is meeting that need. Twenty-four thousand tractors have already been handed over to farmers, each carrying a subsidy of Rs1 million, with a target of 50,000 tractors over three years. The figures become even more significant when one learns that 41% of farmers received their first personal tractor in their lifetime. This is more than a machine; it is a symbol of a farmer's dignity, self-reliance and enhanced productive capacity. Even more noteworthy is transparency. The entire process, from tractor distribution to field verification, has been computerised. In physical verification of thousands of tractors, nearly all were found at their designated locations. Such measures strengthen public trust, and trust is the real strength of any welfare programme. The future of agriculture is not tied only to machinery, but also to knowledge and research. Deploying 3,000 agriculture graduates in the field, tasking them with guiding farmers across millions of acres, and then securing permanent employment for a large number of them, shows that agricultural growth is being linked to human capital. The Punjab government has not confined itself to solving present problems, but has

also looked ahead. Modern irrigation, brick-lining of watercourses, recharging wells, watercourses, the Pothohar Transformation Plan, the Thal Transformation Programme, water storage projects in rain-fed areas and new citrus orchards all indicate that agricultural planning is being aligned with challenges such as climate change and water scarcity. The distribution of super seeder machines to tackle crop residue is incorporated into the soil through modern technology instead of being burnt, not only will the environment be protected but soil fertility will also improve. This is the very concept of modern agriculture that the world is pursuing today. The review of the Kisan Card Programme by the international audit firm KPMG is also significant. If the programme's success is validated at the global level, it will be a positive example for Punjab that transparent and effective governance can earn international recognition. However, it is also a fact that time is the ultimate arbiter of any programme's success. If these measures increase farmers' incomes, boost agricultural output, ensure better water use and stabilise the rural economy, future generations will regard them as the starting point of Punjab's agricultural revolution. But if monitoring, continuity and merit are lacking, even large projects lose their utility.

Today, the need is to elevate agricultural reforms above political sloganeering and make them part of national policy, because a prosperous farmer is the guarantee of a prosperous Punjab and a stronger Pakistan.

Cabinet ratifies Pakistan-Kuwait defence pact, approves new banknote designs

Joint Defence Agreement involving Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye. The prime minister said the government had planned to increase fuel prices by Rs15 on Friday, but Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik had asked refineries to absorb the cost through their windfall profits. He said the government would not allow the burden to fall on ordinary citizens.

Shehbaz said the fuel subsidy scheme, launched in September, would continue until the end of December. He said Rs28 billion had been spent so far and described the scheme as transparent, adding that the Intelligence Bureau was monitoring it.

On liquefied petroleum gas, the prime minister said imports would be auctioned in lots to promote competition, with government profits used to subsidise supplies for the public. He said the government was working to meet LPG, liquefied natural gas, petrol and gas requirements ahead of winter despite disruptions to maritime routes.

The prime minister also said the federal government had finalised a proposed Rs160 billion package for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He described security as the government's top priority in the province and vowed to continue counterterrorism efforts with the support of law enforcement agencies and the provincial government. Browse Topics



Islamabad: November 04,2026: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan witnessed the signing ceremony of the Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and International College of Excellence (ICE), Pakistan at the Prime Minister's Office.

FBR widens sales tax rules to cover home appliances and batteries

■ **FBR has amended the Sales Tax Rules to make tax stamps compulsory on more home appliances and storage batteries, including imported goods.**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has amended the Sales Tax Rules to widen the scope of household electrical goods, making it mandatory to affix tax stamps on the newly added items.

According to a notification issued by the FBR, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and television sets have been brought under the new rules. The rules will also apply to storage batteries.

The notification states that tax stamps will also have to be affixed and activated on



imported goods. Imported items will not receive customs clearance without a tax stamp, and the stamp must be installed and activated before clearance.

The FBR said storage batteries supplied to retail and automobile companies would also fall within the ambit of the new rules, although battery parts would not be covered. State-owned enterprises have also been brought under the new rules.

The notification further states that tax stamps will be applied to both the products and their packaging. A licence will be valid for only one specific product, and a licence holder will not be able to track any other product. Licences already issued will also be subject to this restriction.

The FBR has removed the condition that only a company can obtain a licence, meaning any eligible applicant can now apply. Licence holders have also been made responsible for installing and repairing the tax stamp system.

According to the notification, all data from the tracking system will be the property of the Government of Pakistan.



SSGC announces winter gas schedule with three daily slots for domestic consumers

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) announced a winter gas supply schedule on Wednesday, fixing three daily slots for domestic consumers in line with directives from the federal government.

An SSGC spokesperson told Media that the schedule applies to household consumers in Sindh and Balochistan and takes effect immediately.

Under the new schedule, gas will be available from 6:30am to 9am for breakfast, 12pm to 2:30pm for lunch, and 6pm to 9pm for dinner. The company published the timings on its website and social media pages, saying it was "prioritising domestic consumers by ensuring supply during meal times."

SSGC customers have not had round-the-clock gas for the past several years. The announcement follows a severe gas crisis in Karachi on Tuesday, when confusion deepened after several conflicting supply schedules, attributed to SSGC, began circulating on social media from Monday.

PSX Investor Base Surges 47.3% in First 10 Months of 2026

■ **Nearly 219,000 net new investors join market; 26,843 accounts opened in October**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) recorded significant growth in its investor base during the first ten months of 2026, adding 218,894 investors and registering a 47.3 per cent increase between January and October.According to the latest figures, the total number of investors increased from 463,071 at the beginning of the year to 681,965 by the end of October.During October alone, a total of 26,843 new accounts were opened at the PSX, including 26,801 individual and 42 corporate accounts. The net increase in the investor base during the month stood at 25,747.Meanwhile, the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange (PMEX) added 1,077 new accounts in October, taking its total investor count to 61,915.Young investors continued to dominate new individual account openings, with people aged 18 to 30 opening 14,634 accounts, representing 54.6 per cent of the monthly individual total. Another 9,290 accounts, or 34.7 per cent, were opened by investors aged 31 to 45.Combined, these two age groups accounted for 23,924 new accounts, representing 89.3 per cent of all individual accounts opened during October.Gender-wise, men opened



22,878 accounts, accounting for 85.4 per cent of new individual accounts, while women opened 3,923 accounts, representing 14.6 per cent.Geographically, Punjab led the country with 14,891 new accounts, followed by Sindh with 7,643. Together, the two provinces contributed 83.9 per cent of the total accounts opened during the month.Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 1,894 new accounts, while 1,419 were opened in Islamabad. Balochistan accounted for 370 accounts, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 340, Gilgit-Baltistan 150, and overseas investors contributed another 136 accounts.

SECP Chairman Dr Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said that simplifying access to investment opportunities and safeguarding investors' rights remained key priorities of the regulator.



Pakistan's cement sales reach 17.953 million tonnes

■ **Cement sales rose by 5.93 percent to 14.889 million tonnes over four months of the current fiscal year.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's total cement sales reached 17.953 million tonnes from July to October 2026, Cement sales rose by 5.93 percent to 14.889 million tonnes over four months of the current fiscal year.

A 0.37% year-on-year increase was recorded in total cement sales in October. Cement sales in the local market rose by 1.17 percent in October, reaching 4.041 million tonnes.

In October, total cement sales comprising both local sales and exports stood at 4.81 million tonnes.

Cement exports in October fell by 3.67 percent to 768,754 tonnes.

During the first four months of the current fiscal year, cement exports declined by 9.51 percent to 3.064 million tonnes.



SMEDA expands MSME support through finance, export and e-commerce initiatives

■ **SMEDA is expanding its three-year plan to help MSMEs access finance, formalise, export and reach global markets, including through Alibaba.com.**

Commerce Reporter

LAHORE

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has stepped up its efforts to strengthen Pakistan's entrepreneurial ecosystem, rolling out an expanded set of interventions for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under a three-year Business Plan (2025-28).

The plan covers access to finance, business formalisation, export readiness, links with international markets and climate-smart business practices. It aligns with the Ministry of Industries and Production's strategic direction and the government's vision of an export-oriented, inclusive economy. Officials say SMEDA is moving beyond isolated support schemes towards an integrated approach aimed at helping businesses overcome barriers, improve competitiveness and tap meaningful opportunities. Recognising that sustainable MSME growth requires coordinated action, the authority is working with government institutions, financial regulators, banks, development partners, industry associations and the private sector.

Access to finance remains among the most persistent constraints. Many viable enterprises struggle to obtain credit because of inadequate documentation, insufficient collateral, low awareness of banking products or difficulty meeting banks' assessment requirements.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed that SME financing be raised to Rs2.2 trillion by 2028, providing a national framework to address the problem. SMEDA's role, officials say, goes beyond encouraging banks to lend. It has launched initiatives to improve enterprises' readiness for financing, raise awareness of financial products and close information gaps that complicate lending decisions. These include financial literacy sessions, information on banking products, assistance with documentation through countrywide help desks, and credit-related assessment and facilitation mechanisms to help lenders make informed decisions.

A recent high-level session on access to finance at the Prime Minister's Office brought the experiences of MSMEs, particularly women entrepreneurs, into the discussion on financing barriers and solutions. Officials say the objective is not merely to raise lending volumes but to enable viable businesses to expand and create jobs.

Commerce Minister, Turkish trade minister discuss basmati rice, Mango exports, industrial investment

■ **Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Türkiye's strong support for Pakistan's legitimate claims concerning Basmati rice and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in protecting and promoting Pakistan's premium agricultural products in international markets.**

News Desk

ISTANBUL

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a bilateral meeting with Türkiye's Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, on the sidelines of the 42nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, focusing on expanding bilateral trade, promoting Pakistani agricultural exports and strengthening Turkish investment in Pakistan.

During the meeting, both ministers held productive discussions on matters of mutual economic and commercial interest, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening trade relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, said a release issued here on Wednesday.

Jam Kamal Khan appreciated Türkiye's strong support for Pakistan's legitimate claims concerning Basmati rice and emphasized the importance of continued cooperation in protecting and promoting Pakistan's premium agricultural products in international markets.

The Commerce Minister also highlighted investment opportunities for Turkish companies in Pakistan, particularly the 1,000 acres of land earmarked for Turkish enterprises in Karachi Industrial Park. He invited Turkish businesses to capitalize on the opportunity by



establishing industrial units and expanding their manufacturing and investment footprint in Pakistan.

Commerce Minister, Turkish trade minister discuss basmati rice, Mango exports, industrial investment

Highlighting Pakistan's agricultural export potential, Jam Kamal Khan sought Türkiye's support in facilitating greater market access and increasing exports of Pakistani mangoes to the Turkish market.

Responding to the Commerce Minister, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat emphasized the importance of effective marketing and branding of Pakistani Basmati rice in Türkiye to strengthen its market presence and enhance consumer recognition.

The Turkish Trade Minister also assured his full support for increasing imports of Pakistani mangoes, recognizing the potential for expanding agricultural trade between the two countries.

In a significant development, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat agreed to send a delegation of Turkish officials to Pakistan to review existing bilateral trade mechanisms and explore practical measures to further improve trade relations.

Both sides underscored the importance of sustained institutional engagement, enhanced business cooperation and closer coordination to translate existing economic opportunities into tangible trade and investment outcomes.Separately, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with H.E. Ms. Zehra Zümrüt Selçuk, Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

Pakistan's Maliha Ali stuns Russian champion at MMA World

Maliha entered the competition after securing a silver medal at the IMMAF World Cup in Angola earlier this year

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's Maliha Ali pulled off a major upset at the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF) World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia, defeating Russia's Veronika Drozdova by split decision in the women's featherweight (65.8kg) category.

The 24-year-old fighter from Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan, overcame the two-time European champion in a closely contested bout on Tuesday. Drozdova, 19, was among the competitors representing Russia, which arrived at the championships with a squad of more than 60 athletes and substantial institutional backing.

Maliha, a wushu champion and national kickboxing gold medallist, entered the competition after securing a silver medal at the IMMAF World Cup in Angola earlier this year.

She began the contest cautiously but gradually took control, using her southpaw stance to close the distance and pin her opponent against the cage.

She landed several clean strikes towards the end of the opening round, although Drozdova also managed to connect with a few powerful punches.

Maliha strengthened her position in the second round by securing a takedown and moving into full mount, from where she delivered a series of heavy strikes. However, she appeared to lose momentum in the final round as Drozdova took her down and controlled much of the action on the ground.

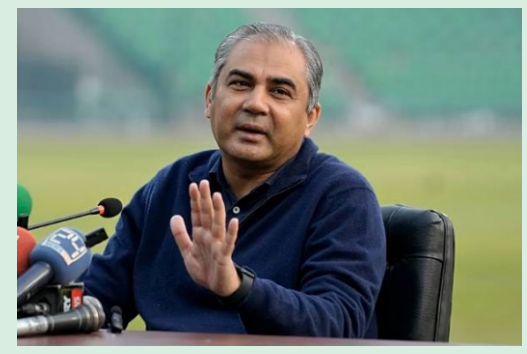
Despite losing the third round, Maliha's performance in the first two rounds proved decisive, with the judges awarding her the victory.

Pakistan MMA Federation President Omar Ahmed said the team had organised a six-week training camp and hired an international jiu-jitsu and grappling coach to address weaknesses identified during Maliha's previous competition in Angola.

He acknowledged the significant difference in resources available to the Russian and Pakistani teams, describing Pakistan's federation as one of the least-funded participants at the event.

Despite limited resources, Ahmed said the fighters' determination and commitment had helped them compete against well-established opponents.

Pakistan's campaign at last year's championships in Tbilisi was also reportedly financed entirely through private sponsorship, without government funding.



PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi congratulates Pakistan on winning IMC Over-40s WC

SPORTS REPORTER

Islamabad

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday congratulated members of Pakistan Over-40 team on winning the IMC Over-40s World Cup, 2026, which was played in Guyana, In his message, Naqvi said that Pakistan by defeating Australia in the final made the nation feel proud. “It is an honour for Pakistan to have won the event in Guyana,” he said, adding the fact that Pakistani team demonstrated their cricketing skills in the presence of 15 teams was a matter of pride.

The minister said that in this connection, efforts being made by Fawad Ijaz Khan and Pakistan Veterans Cricket Association for the promotion of veterans’ cricket in the country were praiseworthy. “I again congratulate all team members from the bottom of my heart.”

Rybakina, Gauff drawn together at WTA Finals

Sabalenka and Andreeva headline a competitive Group Two lineup



SPORTS Desk

LONDON

World number one Elena Rybakina and American Coco Gauff were drawn in Group One for the WTA Finals, while second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka will face third-ranked Mirra Andreeva in Group Two at the season-ending championship.

Defending champion Rybakina will begin her title defense against Gauff, four-time WTA Finals participant Jessica Pegula and reigning Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova, who is making her tournament debut.

Sabalenka's group also includes 19-year-old Andreeva, 2018 WTA Finals champion Elina Svitolina and Czech Karolina Muchova. The event, which brings together the season's top eight qualifiers, will be held at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden from November 8 to 15. The top two players from each round-robin group will advance to the semifinals. Rybakina, who claimed the world number one ranking after September's US Open, said the position brought both added scrutiny and motivation. "It has been an unbelievable couple of months," Rybakina said during Tuesday's draw ceremony. "It is of course pressure because of all of ?he attention, but at the same time it's motivation because you don't want to lose. In this sport, you still need to work a lot." Sabalenka will be looking for vengeance after losing her top ranking to Rybakina at the US Open. The Belarusian won both Indian Wells and Miami earlier this year to complete the "Sunshine Double." In July, organizers announced the tournament would move from Riyadh to Indian Wells following the early end of the WTA's hosting agreement with Saudi Arabia. .

Mendis leads Sri Lanka recovery against Patron’s XI

Visitors reach 162-5 in Islamabad as Saqib Khan strikes twice in warm-up contest

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Kusal Mendis leads Sri Lanka XI's recovery with an unbeaten 45 as the visitors reached 162 for five against Patron’s XI in their warm-up match at Islamabad Cricket Club on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka, who elected to bat after winning the toss, recovered from a difficult start after losing three wickets for just 40. Till filing of the story they had progressed to 162 in 38.4 overs, with Mendis providing the backbone of the innings.

Mendis struck eight boundaries in his 48-ball knock, maintaining an aggressive approach despite the early setbacks. Anjala Bandara was unbeaten on seven. Earlier, Lahiru Udara anchored the innings with 65 from 105 deliveries, including seven fours and three sixes. His contribution proved crucial after Pasindu Sooriyabandara fell for eight and Dinesh Chandimal departed without scoring, both to Saqib Khan. Dhananjaya De Silva added 14 before becoming Mohammad Salman's only victim, leaving Sri Lanka struggling at 40-3.



Udara subsequently combined with Mendis to rebuild the innings before Ali Shabbir dismissed him for 65. Shabbir later removed Sonal Dinusha for ten to finish with two wickets.

Saqib was the standout bowler, returning figures of 2-25 from 11 overs, while Shoaib Akher Juniorr. impressed with an economical spell, conceding just 12 runs in seven overs.

The match provides Sri Lanka with valuable preparation ahead of their upcoming two-Test series against Pakistan, scheduled to begin in Rawalpindi on November 9, with the second Test in Lahore from November 17.

Spanish footballer De Miguel dies After collision with keeper

Spanish police sources told AFP an investigation into what happened has been opened, under judicial supervision.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Tenerife striker Jesus de Miguel died a result of injuries he suffered in a sickening collision with FC Andorra's goalkeeper in a Spanish second-division match, leaving Spanish football in mourning.

"Broken with pain, with a lump in our throat and unable to believe this is real, CD Tenerife announces the tragic death, at 8:00 am (0700 GMT), of Jesus de Miguel Alameda," his club Tenerife said in a statement.

"No words can ease the pain, nothing can lessen this great feeling of sadness. Our thoughts are with the family, his close friends and Tenerife fans, who today are grieving over this terrible news."

De Miguel, 30, was fouled in the middle of the pitch by Equatorial Guinea international goalkeeper Jesus Owono, who had raced out of his goal to try and clear the ball.



Spanish police sources told AFP an investigation into what happened has been opened, under judicial supervision.

The incident happened towards the end of the match at the Heliodoro Rodriguez Lopez stadium, with the teams level at 2-2. Owono was sent off and the match was subsequently abandoned.

Spanish media said that De Miguel suffered a cardiac arrest and was resuscitated. The player was taken to hospital and placed in intensive care, with Tenerife later saying that De Miguel's condition had "worsened neurologically", before his death.

"I am so deeply sorry. Rest in peace, Jesus," former Barcelona defender Gerard Pique, Andorra's majority shareholder, wrote on social media.Andorra also sent their "most sincere condolences" to De Miguel's family, team-mates and Tenerife.

Tenerife president Felipe Minambres said his team would need professional help to recover from the tragedy.

"We're unable to believe what has happened, but we will go through mourning, we will come together," the club chief told reporters.

"We will need professional help, but also the support of all our fans, because they will share the same feeling that we have today."

The club president said Tenerife's next two matches, against Granada on November 7 in the league, and at Badajoz in the Copa del Rey on November 10, were set to be postponed following discussions with the Spanish football federation (RFEF).

Squash stars head to Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI

Pakistan will host four consecutive international squash tournaments following the ongoing Asian Team Squash Championships in Islamabad, with total prize money of $439,000 on offer across the events.

The tournaments, featuring leading men's and women's players from around the world, are expected to provide a boost to squash in Pakistan, offering local players opportunities to compete against international opposition while strengthening the country's profile as a sporting destination.

Three of the four Professional Squash Association (PSA) events will be held in Karachi, while Islamabad will host the opening tournament.

The schedule begins with the Chief of Air Staff International Squash Championship, a $40,000 men's silver-level event, which will take place in Islamabad from November 24 to 28.

Pakistan's Noor Zaman, who has climbed three places to 25th in the latest world rankings after winning the World Under-23 Championship, will be the top seed. Fellow Pakistani Ashab Irfan, who has improved seven places in the rankings, is seeded fourth.

Mohammad Asim Khan, ranked 68th in the world, has been seeded seventh, while Pakistan's Nasir Iqbal will also



feature in the competition.

Karachi will then host three international tournaments offering a combined $399,000 in prize money.

The Chief of Naval Staff Squash Championship, an $18,000 event, will be held from December 1 to 5 at the PN Roshan Khan-Jahangir Khan Squash Complex. The tournament will also include a women's PSA event carrying $1,000 in prize money.

The action will move to the Creek Club for the Sindh Open International Squash Championship, scheduled for December 6 to 10.

Pakistan's Noor Zaman will be the country's sole representative in the men's draw, where world number 17 Youssef Soliman of Egypt is the top seed.

In the women's competition, Egypt's world number 14 Salma Hany will lead the field, with compatriot and world number 19 Nada Abbas seeded second.

The $130,000 tournament will offer equal prize money in the men's and women's competitions.

The series of events will conclude with the Karachi Open, a Gold-level championship scheduled for January 5 to 10, 2027, featuring a total prize purse of $250,000.

The men's competition will offer $125,000, with an equal amount distributed among the 32 players in the women's draw.

Daily The Spokesman

Thursday
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QAU Seminar Highlights Opportunities for Pakistan-Germany Academic and Economic Cooperation

■ German Ambassador Ina Lepel Highlights 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations; QAU Vice Chancellor Encourages Students to Explore Higher Education and Research Opportunities in Germany



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

QAU Seminar Highlights Opportunities for Pakistan-Germany Academic and Economic CooperationThe School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, organized a seminar on "Pakistan-Germany Relations," featuring a keynote address by H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel, Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan.In her keynote address, Ambassador Ina Lepel highlighted the historical evolution of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany, emphasizing that the longstanding partnership is rooted in mutual respect, trust, and cooperation. Marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, she underscored the significance of sustained political engagement, high-level exchanges, and people-to-people contacts in further strengthening bilateral ties.She noted that Pakistan and Germany are expanding their cooperation in key areas, including climate change, energy, sustainable economic development, technical and vocational training, and education. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral trade and business partnerships, expressing confidence that enhanced collaboration across various sectors would further deepen relations between the two countries. Earlier, in his welcome address, Vice Chancellor QAU, Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, warmly welcomed the German Ambassador and appreciated the longstanding and cordial relations between Pakistan and Germany. He acknowledged the positive role played by both governments and the German Embassy in promoting bilateral cooperation. The Vice Chancellor highlighted Germany's education system as a valuable model for academic development and emphasized the potential for greater collaboration between universities and students of the two countries. He particularly encouraged students of SPIR to explore opportunities for higher education and research at German universities, including available scholarships and other academic opportunities.



Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan in a meeting with DIG Security Islamabad, Umer Farooq, at Parliament House

190m pounds case: Imran Khan, wife's appeals fixed for hearing on November 10



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court has scheduled appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in the £190 million case for hearing on November 10.

According to the court schedule, a division bench comprising Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif will hear the appeals.

The development marks a new stage in the legal proceedings concerning the high-profile case against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and his wife. .

AJK President Calls for Quality Education, Merit and Transparency at UAJK

● Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan directs university to utilize all available resources for modern research, improved academic standards and effective administrative governance

NEWS REPORTER

MUZAFFARABAD



A high-level meeting regarding the administrative and academic affairs of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), Muzaffarabad, was held under the chairmanship of President Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Chancellor UAJK, Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan.The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak, university administrative officers, and Secretary Presidential Affairs Sardar Zafar Khan.Addressing the meeting, President Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan said that universities play a fundamental role in the academic, intellectual and social development of any society. He emphasized that all available resources should be utilized to transform the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir into a centre of quality education, modern research and effective administrative governance.He said that providing students with education aligned with contemporary requirements and better opportunities for research was an important need of the time. He stressed that merit, transparency and discipline must be ensured at all levels of the university, while effective measures should be taken to improve academic standards.The President emphasized the need for a comprehensive strategy to enhance students' capabilities, strengthen faculty capacity and provide modern educational facilities.Earlier, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Jamal Khattak briefed the President on the university's academic, administrative, financial and developmental affairs, ongoing projects, challenges and future plans.He also apprised the President of the university's overall performance and the measures being undertaken to improve academic standards. .

NA Committee on Privatization reviews PIA's affairs

■ The PIA officials informed the members that PIA operated daily flights to the United Kingdom.



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

MQM-P MNA Farooq Sattar on Wednesday presided over a meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Privatization in Islamabad to review Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) matters,

The PIA officials informed the members that PIA operated daily flights to the United Kingdom.

Flights from Karachi to London will start in March 2027, the committee was informed.

The participants of the meeting were told that 16 PIA aircraft are currently grounded and only 17-18 aircrafts are available for flight operations.

The officials said that a D-Series aircraft had also joined the fleet, and another aircraft will also be included in the fleet during the month of January.

PIA officials said that the Dreamliners are 7 to 8 years old.

Secretary Privatization informed the participants that fine quality meal was served in the flights which included Pulao and Biryani and passengers appreciated the quality of meals.

A member of the committee, Sehr Kamran, said that the quality of service in PIA was better and flights are taking off as per their schedule.

Secretary Privatization informed the committee that the government granted a sales tax exemption to PIA on the purchase of new aircraft, and no tax exemption was granted after the privatization of PIA.

Data Can Contribute 2% to GDP, Says PDA Chairperson

● National Asset Must Be Protected; Pakistan Digital Authority Developing Secure Data Sharing Mechanism, National Assembly Committee Told

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Data Is a National Asset That Can Add 2% to GDP, PDA Chairperson Briefs National Assembly Standing CommitteeIslamabad, 3 November 2026: Syed Amin-ul-Haque, MNA, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, appreciated the performance of the Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) after a briefing to the Committee at Parliament House on Tuesday.The meeting was attended by Dr. Sohail Munir, Chairperson of the Pakistan Digital Authority. Members of the National Assembly, including Aasiya Ishaq, Pullain Baloch, Ammar Laghari, Sadiq Ali Memon, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Attiq Anwar and Ahmed Saleem Siddiqui, asked questions about the Authority and its role in promoting IT awareness and software development.Dr. Sohail Munir briefed the Committee on Digital Society, Digital Economy and Digital Governance, and their benefits for citizens and businesses. He outlined the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, 2025 and highlighted the importance of data for informed policymaking.Dr. Sohail Munir said: "If used well, data can add 2% to GDP. It is a national asset that must be protected, and the Pakistan Digital Authority is its regulator."He added: "AI carries its own risks. The same question can produce a different answer from every model. Our citizens are already using these tools to make real decisions, and they need to be protected."The Chairperson said the National Digital Commission (NDC) is the highest body for national cohesion, as execution lies with the provinces and there is friction between departments and in inter-provincial affairs on data and digital collaboration.He noted that the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has estimated the cost of this friction at 39% of GDP.

The aim is to remove this friction through a new way of working, which presents a potential opportunity of US$60–80 billion over five years.Dr. Sohail said the National Digital Masterplan covers 15 sectors.

Cadet College Muzaffarabad Holds Annual Parents' Day and Prize Distribution Ceremony 2026

■ Minister for Energy and Water Resources Raja Saqib Majeed Emphasizes Discipline, Character Building and Quality Education; Khalid House Declared Champion House

STAFF REPORTER

MUZAFFARABAD



The Annual Parents' Day and Prize Distribution Ceremony 2026 was held at Cadet College Muzaffarabad with great enthusiasm, dignity and patriotic spirit. Minister for Energy and Water Resources Raja Saqib Majeed Raja graced the occasion as the chief guest. Members of the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Noreen Arif and Ms. Maryam Kashmiri, Commander 1 AK Brigade Brigadier Muhammad Umar Tahir, and retired ACS Raja Arif Khan attended the ceremony as guests of honour.The event was attended by senior government officials, local dignitaries, parents, alumni, media representatives, faculty members, staff and cadets.The ceremony commenced with an impressive parade, during which cadets demonstrated discipline, confidence and professional training. The distinguished guests reviewed the parade, while the Champion House flag was formally handed over to Khalid House.A series of spectacular performances, including march past, commando display, PT show, karate demonstrations, gymnastics and horse riding, captivated the audience. The police band of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Police Department added further grandeur and patriotic fervour to the occasion. These performances highlighted the cadets' physical agility, teamwork, confidence and commitment to excellence.Addressing the ceremony, Minister for Energy and Water Resources Raja Saqib Majeed Raja said that Cadet College Muzaffarabad was playing a vital role in producing well-rounded, talented, disciplined and responsible citizens who would contribute positively to the country's development in the future.Emphasizing the importance of self-confidence and positive thinking, he urged the cadets not to be discouraged by negative thoughts, fear or failure. He said success could be achieved through discipline, perseverance, patience and a clear sense of purpose.The minister advised the cadets to respect their teachers, appreciate the sacrifices of their parents and make the best possible use of the opportunities available to them. He reminded them that the true measure of success was not rank or status but character.The minister thanked the principal and college administration for inviting him and appreciated the opportunity to witness the achievements.

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