Daily
Simultaneously Published From
Rawalpindi, Lahore , Multan
The Spokesman
A LEADING NATIONAL DAILY -
Chief Editor
Almass Ayoub Sabir
ABC Certified
Editor
Atif Saeed
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Saturday, November 7,2026 | Jamadi-ul-Awwal 26,1448AH | Vol: 20 | Issue: 198 | Price Rs,30.00 | Pages-8



Rana Sanaullah says KP governor's rule to continue until objectives are achieved

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah has said that governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will remain in place until its objectives are achieved, while confirming that no formal negotiations are currently underway with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).
Speaking during a private television programme, Rana Sanaullah said there were currently no formal talks with PTI, although backchannel contacts continued from time to time.
He reiterated that governor's rule in the province



Iran says it shot down US MQ-1 drone over Qeshm Island

WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said Friday that it had intercepted and destroyed a US MQ-1 reconnaissance and combat drone over Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian state news agency IRNA.In a statement, the IRGC said its Aerospace Force shot down the drone using an advanced air defense system operating under the country's integrated air defense network.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding promotion of cashless economy. Islamabad

PM approves modernisation of TDAP to boost exports, enhance access to int'l markets

■ The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting, said that a modernised TDAP would pave the way for achieving access to global markets for manufactured industrial products with a view to boosting exports.

ATIF SAEEED

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday approved to modernise the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to boost country's exports, enhance the access of local products to global markets, and align local industries, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), with export standards.
The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting, said that a modernised TDAP would pave the way for achieving access to global markets for manufactured industrial products with a view to boosting exports.
He directed that a complete ecosystem, including the entire value chain, be established for agricultural product exports and that highly trained human resources be inducted in the Authority through a transparent, merit-based process.
Calling for linking professional growth to performance and target achievement, he directed the hiring of a reputable private audit firm to conduct performance and financial audits of the Authority.
The prime minister said that Pakistan possessed vast export potential and an ideal geographic location and that the incumbent government was facilitating industries and SMEs to fully capitalise on these advantages to increase exports.
During the meeting, the officials briefed the prime minister on the authority's existing setup and key challenges. A comparative analysis of effective international Trade Promotion Organisations (TPOs) was presented, demonstrating how modern institutions provide integrated services for local market development, global market access, exporter capacity building, and
(Continued on Page-5)



Armed Afghan militant arrested after infiltration attempt foiled in Upper Kurram

News Reporter

UPPER KURRAM

Security forces foiled an infiltration attempt from Afghanistan into Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Upper Kurram district, arresting an armed Afghan militant.
According to security sources, an armed member of a terrorist organisation attempting to infiltrate from Afghanistan was arrested, while other members of the group failed to cross the border.
The sources identified the arrested Afghan militant as Qari Waqas, alias Qadoos, reportedly belonging to Spin Ghar, Afghanistan. During interrogation, the suspect revealed that he had been attempting to enter Pakistan to join the Khariji Kazim Group.



PTI chairman expresses concern over Imran Khan's health

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has expressed serious concern over reports about the health of party founder Imran Khan, saying the news was not encouraging.
Speaking to the media in Islamabad, Gohar said a petition had been filed seeking implementation of the Supreme Court's August 18 order. He said the party had requested the court to schedule an early hearing to resolve the matter.

Pakistan reiterates support for independent Palestine, calls for end to Gaza violence

■ Pakistan seeks peace and stability in the region and reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has called for the early implementation of a two-state solution to the Palestine dispute, reiterating its support for an independent and sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said Pakistan seeks peace and stability in the region and reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.
Speaking about the R4 foreign ministers' meeting held in Istanbul, the spokesperson said discussions covered the situations in Palestine and Yemen, tensions involving the



United States, Israel and Iran, and developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. He said the participating countries called for an immediate end to violence in Gaza and the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.
The spokesperson also condemned Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in Yemen and the Red Sea, expressing solidarity with Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
He stressed that dialogue and diplomacy were essential to resolving regional conflicts.
Pakistan also welcomed ongoing diplomatic efforts, including the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, and called for the restoration of safe and uninterrupted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.
Sajjad Haider Khan further said that on October 23, R4 foreign ministers met their counterparts from France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom in Istanbul to discuss key regional and international challenges.Separately, Pakistan expressed condolences to the government and people of Jordan over the loss of lives, extending sympathies to the bereaved families and wishing those injured a speedy recovery.

Turkish parliament ratifies Makkah defence agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye



News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Turkiye's parliament has ratified the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.
According to Turkish media reports, 279 members of the 600-seat Turkish parliament voted in favour of the agreement, while 119 opposed it. A total of 398 lawmakers participated in the voting.

Pakistan set to resume offshore oil, gas exploration after 20-year gap

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will resume its oil and gas exploration after 20 years when a seismic survey vessel operated by Turkish Petroleum will arrive in Karachi between 17 and 20 November, The development marks a significant step towards reviving offshore exploration and strengthening Pakistan's energy security through cooperation with Turkiye.

Pakistan, Sudan Agree to Boost Security and Counterterrorism Cooperation

■ Field Marshal Asim Munir meets Sudanese Interior Minister Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali at GHQ; both sides reaffirm commitment to strengthening bilateral relations

ATIF SAEEED

ISLAMABAD

Sudanese Interior Minister Lieutenant General (Police) Babiker Samra Mustafa Ali met Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS and CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Friday.
The meeting discussed matters of mutual interest, evolving regional and global security challenges and opportunities to enhance bilateral cooperation.Both sides agreed to further strengthen relations between Pakistan and Sudan,



particularly in security, counterterrorism and institutional cooperation. The Sudanese interior minister appreciated Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability and acknowledged the longstanding fraternal ties between the two countries.Field Marshal Asim Munir said Pakistan was committed to deepening bilateral engagement with Sudan.

Pakistan, UK agree to expand cooperation in counterterrorism, cybercrime and immigration

■ Pakistan and the United Kingdom agreed to strengthen cooperation in counterterrorism, narcotics control, cybercrime, immigration, visa fraud, intelligence sharing and law enforcement training.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis visited Pakistan and held meetings with senior officials, during which both countries agreed to expand cooperation in counterterrorism, narcotics control, cybercrime, immigration and other security-related areas.
According to reports, Jarvis met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. Discussions focused on the situation in Afghanistan, regional security, counterterrorism and joint measures against serious organised crime.
Both countries agreed to enhance



practical cooperation to counter terrorism, organised crime, illegal immigration and visa fraud. They also emphasised improving information sharing, strengthening coordination between law enforcement agencies and taking more effective action against criminal and terrorist networks.
Jarvis said Pakistan and the United Kingdom faced shared security threats and could make both countries safer by tackling them together.
During his visit to the Interior Ministry, Jarvis also held a meeting with Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry. Delegation-level talks were also held between the two sides.
The discussions covered cooperation in counterterrorism, narcotics control, NADRA, cybercrime, immigration, coast guards and training programmes. The British minister praised the Federal Investigation Agency's performance in preventing illegal immigration and said cybercrime was an international challenge requiring coordinated efforts by all countries.
Jarvis acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the war against terrorism. Both sides also decided to finalise a memorandum of understanding on counter-narcotics cooperation soon.

NPO, APO Conclude International Workshop on Agricultural Innovation and Value Addition

■ International delegates explore smart agriculture, food processing and sustainable productivity; Punjab Government outlines ambitious PIVOT 2026–2029 targets.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



The five-day international workshop on "Innovative Value-added Products in the Agriculture Sector (Smart Agriculture)" (26-SPP-PK-F2-05), jointly organized by the National Productivity Organization (NPO Pakistan) and the Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan, concluded in Lahore today, bringing together international delegates from APO member economies to explore innovative approaches to agricultural productivity, value addition and sustainable growth.Held from November 2 to 6, 2026, the workshop featured technical sessions and a learning visit to Nestlé Pakistan on November 4, providing participants with practical insights into dairy value addition, food processing and smart supply chain management.The closing ceremony was attended by Sardar Usama Fayyaz Leghari, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture / Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of the Punjab, as Chief Guest.Addressing the participants, the Chief Guest congratulated NPO and APO on successfully organizing the workshop and highlighted agriculture's vital role in Pakistan's food security and economic development. He emphasized that climate change, water scarcity and post-harvest losses necessitate a transition towards modern, resource-efficient and market-oriented agricultural practices.He stated that the future of agriculture depends not only on increasing production but also on adopting smart technologies and transforming agricultural commodities into competitive, value-added products.Highlighting the Punjab Government's flagship Punjab Innovation for Value, Opportunity and Transformation (PIVOT) 2026–2029**, he outlined its targets of Rs. 1.995 trillion in investment, US$6.8 billion in additional exports and the creation of over 162,000 direct jobs. The initiative also envisages the establishment of agro-processing parks in Sargodha, Khanewal, Okara and Bhakkar. He noted that these initiatives complement the Federal Government's URAAN Pakistan and 5Es Framework to promote export-led economic growth.In his closing remarks, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry, CEO, NPO Pakistan**, thanked APO Japan for its continued cooperation and appreciated the active participation of international delegates. He emphasized the importance of translating the knowledge and expertise gained through the workshop into practical initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity and generate wider economic benefits.He also acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Tanvir Faisal, Programme Officer, APO Japan*, resource persons Prof. Dr. Edi Santosa (Indonesia), Mr. Tariq Mehmood (ZTBL), and Prof. Dr. Shinawar Waseem Ali (University of the Punjab)**, along with the NPO team, for their support in successfully conducting the workshop.

Pakistan United Against Enemy Designs, Says Maulana Abdul Khubair Azad

■ The entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces; hostile elements will never succeed in undermining Pakistan's national unity and stability.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan and Khateeb and Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore, Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khubair Azad, has said that Islam promotes peace, brotherhood, mutual respect, religious harmony, tolerance and national unity. The Holy Quran is a complete code of life for all humanity, and by acting upon its teachings, Muslims can achieve success in this world and the Hereafter.He expressed these views while addressing a grand Friday congregation at Badshahi Mosque Lahore. Maulana Abdul Khubair Azad said that the Muslim Ummah urgently needed unity and solidarity, adding that Dawat-e-Ilallah (calling people towards Allah) was the mission of all Prophets and a great means of spreading the message of Islam across the world.He said Allah Almighty sent all Prophets to establish a connection between His creation and the Creator. The fundamental objective of Dawat-e-Ilallah is to bring people closer to their Lord. Allah Almighty created all human beings to worship Him.He observed that millions of devotees of monotheism had gathered at the Raiwind Ijtema to learn the work of Dawat-e-Ilallah and seek the pleasure of Allah Almighty. The mission of Dawat-e-Ilallah had become a global necessity. Allah Almighty bestowed the title of the best Ummah upon the followers of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), and good deeds would serve as the means of success in this world and the Hereafter.He urged the entire nation to seek forgiveness from Allah Almighty, repent for their sins and turn towards Him. He added that the doors of repentance and forgiveness had always remained open for those who sincerely sought Allah's mercy.Maulana Abdul Khubair Azad said that the Muslim Ummah needed unity and solidarity more than ever. Saudi Arabia was entrusted with the leadership of the Muslim world, and the protection of the Two Holy Mosques was an obligation upon the entire Muslim Ummah. He described Saudi Arabia as Pakistan's second home.He urged all religious scholars and spiritual leaders to play their effective role through the pulpit and the mihrab in promoting religious harmony, national unity and the message of Pakistan.He said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan Armed Forces in eliminating the Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists.



Eight Inspectors Elevated to DSP Rank in Islamabad Police

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Islamabad Police Continues Departmental Promotions; Eight Inspectors Promoted to DSP RankAccording to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, along with other senior police officers, pinned the new ranks on eight inspectors promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). He congratulated the officers and extended his best wishes for their future responsibilities. Family members of the promoted officers also attended the ceremony.Congratulating the officers, IGP Islamabad said that departmental promotion was not only an honour but also brought greater responsibilities. He expressed confidence that the promoted officers would utilize their experience, abilities and professional expertise to serve the police department and citizens with greater dedication, commitment and responsibility.

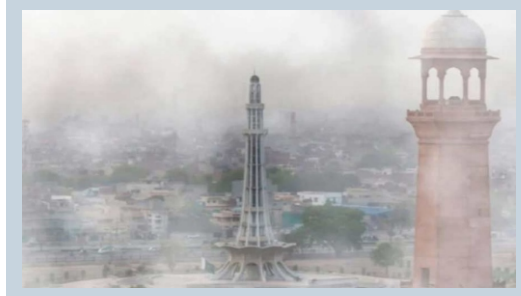


NCCIA Gujranwala Arrests Suspect for Blackmailing, Harassing Woman on WhatsApp

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

NCCIA Gujranwala Action, Accused Arrested for Blackmailing and Harassing Woman via WhatsAppThe National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Gujranwala, taking action, arrested the accused for blackmailing and harassing a woman through WhatsApp and sharing objectionable data of the woman.Immediate action was taken on the complaint of the affected woman and with the help of modern technical means the accused was traced and taken into custody.



Lahore ranks world's most polluted city as air quality deteriorates

News Desk

LAHORE

Lahore has ranked first among the world's most polluted cities, with air quality reaching hazardous levels, according to the global air quality monitoring website IQAir. The city's air pollution level was recorded at 352 particulate matter (PM) on Friday, indicating extremely unhealthy air quality.
According to the website, Karachi also featured on the list, ranking sixth among the world's most polluted cities.The air pollution level in Karachi was recorded at 170 particulate matter (PM), the data showed.

SC rules federal ombudsman cannot decide complex property disputes



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Federal Ombudsman does not have the authority to make final decisions in complex property disputes, declaring that contested matters involving ownership and inheritance must be resolved by civil courts. The Supreme Court overturned the decisions of the Federal Ombudsman and the Peshawar High Court concerning women's property rights and ordered that the disputed property case be referred to the competent civil court.The eight-page judgment was authored by Justice Ayesha Malik.
According to the ruling, the Federal Ombudsman's jurisdiction is limited to cases involving clear ownership rights and restoration of possession, while complex legal and factual disputes can only be decided after recording evidence.
The Supreme Court converted civil petitions concerning women's property rights into appeals and allowed them. It directed that all relevant records, including the complaint filed before the Ombudsman, be submitted to the court of the Civil Judge in Bara.
The court also instructed the civil court to issue notices to all parties, directing them to appear within 15 days, and to decide the case within a reasonable period.
According to the judgment, the civil court will determine the authenticity and legal validity of the disputed gift deed, along with the inheritance rights of the parties, as these matters require an examination of complex legal and factual issues.

University of Chitral Reviews Financial Planning and Sustainability

■ Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah chairs 9th F&PC meeting; committee members commend management's financial planning and institutional initiatives.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

Prof. Dr. Hazi Ullah Chaired the 9th Finance and Planning Committee Meeting of the Unversity of Chitral Prof. Dr. Hazir Ullah-Vice Chancellor Unversity of Chitral Chaired the 9th meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee (F&PC) of the Unversity on 5 November 2026l.
The meeting was attended by Ms. Samina Durrani (HEC), Mr. Bashir (Higher Education Department, KP), and Mr. Abdul Rashid (Finance Department, KP), along with senior university officials (Dr. Sana Ullah, Dr. Saif Ul Mujahid Shah-Additional Director Finance; Dr. Muhammad Irshad-Additional Registrar; Dr. Kifayatullah, Additional Director QEC and Dr. Mansoor Baig.



The committee reviewed and deliberated on key financial aspects of the university and provided constructive feedback. The Committee members appreciated the planning and efforts of the management for streamlining the university's financial processes and initiatives for financial sustainability of the Unversity.

NCCIA Recruitment Tests Continue for Third Day at Islamabad's F-9 Park

■ Candidates undergo physical fitness tests under drone and Safe City camera surveillance; DG NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi reiterates commitment to merit and transparency.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

NCCIA Recruitment Process Continues, Physical Tests of Candidates Held on Third Day at F-9 ParkMedical team present for medical examination, first aid and to deal with any emergency situation, senior officers also present at the test centre, while detailed review of arrangements, discipline and transparency is also being carried out, effective monitoring of all stages of physical tests continues through drones and Safe City camerasAccording to details, the recruitment process in the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency is continuing in a transparent and organized manner, physical tests of candidates were held on the third day at F-9 Park Islamabad, in which a large number of candidates participated, different stages of tests are being conducted to assess the physical ability and fitness of the candidates, all stages are being completed in accordance with prescribed standards and rules. A medical camp has been set up at the test centre for the convenience of the candidates where a medical team is present for on-the-spot medical examination, first aid and to deal with any emergency situation, senior officers remained present at the test centre and conducted a detailed review of arrangements, discipline and transparency. Effective monitoring of all stages of the physical tests is continuing through drones and Safe City cameras to make the process completely transparent and merit-based, on this occasion Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that the recruitment process is being completed in a transparent, organized and merit-based manner, there will be no compromise on merit in recruitment and only eligible and deserving candidates will be given opportunity.



NCCIA Conducts Cybercrime Awareness Training for Pro-Bono Lawyers in Peshawar

■ Session at KP Judicial Academy highlights cyberstalking, online harassment, digital evidence and legal proceedings under PECA 2016.



STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Training Session on Cybercrime and Online Gender-Based Violence for Pro-Bono Lawyers at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial AcademyBriefing by Circle Incharge NCCIA Peshawar on Cyberstalking, Online Harassment and Digital Evidence under PECA 2016According to details, in the two-day capacity building workshop organized for pro-bono lawyers at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judicial Academy Peshawar, a special training session on cybercrime and online gender-based violence was delivered by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency Peshawar, the session was led by Circle Incharge NCCIA Peshawar Faisal Tariq, he gave a detailed briefing to the participating lawyers on cyberstalking, online harassment, handling of digital evidence, preservation of evidence and legal proceedings under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act PECA 2016, he also highlighted the increasing trends of online gender-based violence, challenges faced by victims and the role of lawyers, the participants termed the session highly informative and practically useful, on this occasion Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that awareness against cybercrime especially online harassment and legal capacity building is the top priority of NCCIA, NCCIA will continue to take all possible measures for the protection of citizens especially women and elimination of cybercrimes, citizens should report any cybercrime on 1799 or report at the nearest circle .

Two Arrested for Blackmailing, Harassing Woman Through WhatsApp

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD



NCCIA Gujranwala Action, Two Accused Arrested for Blackmailing and Harassing Woman via WhatsAppTwo mobile phones recovered from accused, disputed WhatsApp accounts found logged in, case registered, further investigation underwayAccording to details, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Gujranwala, taking action, arrested two accused for blackmailing and harassing a woman through WhatsApp and sharing objectionable data of the woman, during investigation two mobile phones were recovered from the accused in which the disputed WhatsApp accounts through which objectionable data was shared were found logged in, the accused were found involved in the crime of viralizing the objectionable data of the woman and harassing the woman for the last few months, a case has been registered against the accused under relevant legal provisions while further investigation is underway, on this occasion Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that zero tolerance policy is being followed against elements blackmailing and harassing women, protection of citizens especially women and protection of their honour and dignity is the top priority of NCCIA.

Heinous Crime Continues to Decline Across Punjab: IG Police

■ Abdul Kareem reviews weekly crime-control performance, directs hotspot-based action against murder, robbery, street crime and organized crime; warns of strict accountability for corruption and misuse of authority

CRIME REPORTER

Lahore



Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem chaired the second follow-up meeting on crime control at the Central Police Office (CPO), where the weekly performance of all regions and districts was reviewed in light of the directions issued during the meeting chaired by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif two weeks ago. During the briefing, it was informed that the declining trend in heinous crimes, including murder, robbery, vehicle theft and street crime, continued across Punjab during the current week, with the overall crime situation showing further improvement IG Punjab Abdul Kareem directed officers to ensure immediate and effective measures, based on the identification of crime hotspots, for the complete elimination of heinous crimes. He emphasized that special focus must remain on curbing robbery, street crime, murder, sexual abuse of women and children, and organized crime. On the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab, the crime situation and police performance across the province are being reviewed regularly on a weekly basis IG Punjab said that the accountability mechanism within Punjab Police is stricter and more effective than that of any other department. Strict accountability of those responsible for misuse of authority.

Nadra Assistant Director shot dead in Peshawar's Hayatabad

■ A NADRA Deputy Assistant Director was shot dead by unidentified armed assailants in Hayatabad, Peshawar, as police collected evidence and launched an investigation.

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR



Unidentified armed assailants shot dead Fahad, a Deputy Assistant Director of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), in the Hayatabad area of Peshawar.

According to police, the incident took place in the parking area of a NADRA office, where unidentified attackers opened fire on Fahad, killing him on the spot.

Following the incident, police personnel rushed to the scene and collected evidence from the crime site. Police said efforts were underway to identify the suspects with the help of CCTV cameras installed in the parking area.

NCCIA Lahore Arrests Seven in Crackdown on Illegal Call Centre

■ 13 digital devices seized; suspects allegedly targeted foreign citizens through fake telecom offers, carding and fraudulent financial transactions.



STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

NCCIA Lahore's Successful Operation Against Illegal Call Centre, 7 Accused ArrestedThe National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Lahore, in a successful operation against an illegal call centre, arrested 7 accused.The illegal call centre was exposed during the operation conducted on secret information. During the operation, 13 digital devices were recovered, which have been taken into custody and sent for forensic analysis.The accused used to target foreign citizens through fake telecom offers. The accused used to gain the trust of citizens by falsely representing renowned foreign telecom companies and obtain sensitive information and money from them. During investigation, the gang was also found involved in carding and fake financial transactions.A case has been registered against the accused. Further investigation is underway and operations are also underway to arrest other facilitators of the gang.On this occasion, Director General NCCIA Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi said that there is a zero tolerance policy against cyber fraud networks. NCCIA will continue to take all possible measures for the protection of citizens and elimination of cyber crimes.Citizens should report any cyber crime on 1799 or report at the nearest circle.

Over 22.1 million children vaccinated during first four days



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

More than 22.1 million children have been vaccinated against polio during the first four days of the ongoing sub-national immunisation campaign being conducted in 97 selected districts across the country, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) said on Friday.

The fifth day of the campaign is underway, with vaccination activities continuing uninterrupted until November 8. Approximately 24 million children under five years of age are being targeted during the campaign, which is being carried out with the participation of more than 200,000 frontline polio workers.

According to the NEOC, the campaign is being conducted simultaneously in Pakistan and Afghanistan to strengthen regional efforts against the crippling disease and prevent the transmission of poliovirus across borders.

Provincial and regional vaccination figures showed that 8.535 million children had received polio drops in 13 selected districts of Punjab, while more than 6.382 million children were vaccinated in 20 selected districts of Sindh.

Similarly, over 4.429 million children were vaccinated in 27 selected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), while 2.008 million children received polio drops in 31 selected districts of Balochistan.

DIG Islamabad Holds Open Court, Orderly Room to Address Public and Police Grievances

■ Ali Waseem directs officers to resolve citizens' complaints and police personnel's legitimate issues promptly, strictly on merit and under the law

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



DIG Islamabad Holds Open Court and Orderly Room; Issues Directions for Prompt Resolution of Citizens' and Police Officials' IssuesAccording to details, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Ali Waseem held an open court and an Orderly Room at his office, where he directly heard citizens' complaints as well as the service-related and personal issues of police officers and officials. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their prompt resolution.A large number of citizens attended the open court and presented their complaints. DIG Islamabad directed the concerned officers to process all applications strictly on merit and in accordance with the law, ensuring timely relief to the applicants. He said that citizens could approach the open court directly and present their concerns without any recommendation. To facilitate the public, an open court is being held at the DIG Office on a daily basis.During the Orderly Room, DIG Islamabad emphasized that the welfare of police officers and officials, timely resolution of their legitimate issues and provision of better facilities remain among the key priorities of Islamabad Police. He directed the concerned officers to deal with all applications in accordance with departmental rules and regulations and ensure that no matter is unnecessarily delayed.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said that resolving citizens' complaints on merit and addressing the legitimate issues of police officers and officials are important priorities.

Kashmir Centre Lahore Holds Prayer Ceremony to Pay Tribute to Jammu Martyrs

■ Speakers say sacrifices of November 6, 1947, remain an unforgettable chapter in Kashmir's freedom struggle; urge continued efforts to highlight Kashmir issue at national and international forums

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



On the occasion of Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Jammu (Jammu Martyrs' Day), Kashmir Centre Lahore(Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Cell) organized a special prayer ceremony to pay tribute to the martyrs of Jammu and offer prayers for the elevation of their ranks. Addressing the gathering, the speakers recalled the tragic events of November 6, 1947, and said that the martyrs of Jammu had rendered immense sacrifices for their homeland, their ideology, and their commitment to Pakistan. Their struggle and everlasting sacrifices constitute an unforgettable chapter in the history of Kashmir. The speakers at the ceremony included Senior Vice President of the Muslim League-N Lawyers Wing Syed Manzoor Gillani Advocate; former Director of Kashmir Centre Mirza Sadiq Jarral, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Engineer Mushtaq Mahmood; In-charge Kashmir Centre Lahore Inam-ul-Hassan, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party leader Bilal Mukhtar Butt; former SSP Muhammad Atta Kasana; PML-N leader Raja Sher Zaman Advocate; former Information Secretary Jamaat-e-Islami Ehsanullah Tabassum; former President of the Lawyers' Forum, Mirza Abdul Rasheed Jarral; famous religious scholar Allama Fida Ur Rehman Haideri, Maqbool Awan; Sardar Shakir; Nazia Butt; Tehreek-e-Rai Shumari leader Aftab Nazki; Hurriyat leader Syed Sajjad Shah; Chairman of the Shamshad Bashir Blind Welfare Foundation, Shamshad Hussain; international traveller Maqsood Chughtai; Mirza Farooq Jarral; senior journalist Riaz Chishti; Chaudhry Muhammad Siddique; Anees Vohra; Nazar Bhindar; Mateen Kashmiri; Haji Ijaz Ahmed; and Qazi Anwar. They paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of Jammu, describing their sacrifices as an unforgettable chapter in the Kashmir freedom movement.The speakers observed that Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Jammu reminds us of the immense sacrifices made by the people of Kashmir in their struggle for the right to self-determination and the preservation of their national identity.

Iran sent nuclear proposal to the US via Qatar: reports

■ **Iran has sent the US a nuclear proposal through Qatar, demanding seven conditions be met before negotiations, including sanctions relief, frozen asset release and war reparations.**



Web DESK

DUBAI

Iran has sent the United States a nuclear proposal via Qatar, to be discussed only after Washington meets Tehran's seven demands, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Thursday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US was reviewing the proposal but declined to provide further details.

Mediators have intensified efforts to end the war between Iran and the United States amid fears it could reignite after the US midterm elections, with Trump on Tuesday declining to rule out a resumption of combat operations after the vote and Iran planning wider retaliation if war resumes.

Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei had said earlier on Thursday, during a visit to Russia: "On the issue of diplomacy, we have announced seven conditions to the Americans. As long as they do not execute our seven conditions, we will neither open the Strait of Hormuz nor have negotiations".



Chairman NAB, Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed, and Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, Mr. Aleksandr Vladimirovich Gutsan signed the MoU between NAB and the Prosecutor General Office of the Russian Federation,in Moscow,Russia, today 6th November, 2026.

Qatar's emir, Trump discuss diplomatic efforts to end regional crisis

■ **Qatar's Emir and Trump discussed regional de-escalation as Tehran linked nuclear negotiations with Washington to seven demands amid efforts to end the ongoing war.**

Web Desk

DOHA

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and US President Donald Trump on Friday discussed diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region.

The two leaders discussed the matter during a telephone conversation, according to a statement issued by Doha.

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Mediators have intensified efforts to end the war between Iran and the United States ?amid fears it could reignite after the US midterm elections, with Trump on Tuesday declining to rule out a resumption of combat operations after the vote and Iran planning wider retaliation if war resumes.

Iran's top security official Mohsen Rezaei had said earlier on Thursday, during a visit to Russia: "On the issue of diplomacy, we have announced seven conditions to the Americans. As long as they do ?not execute our seven conditions, we will neither open the Strait of Hormuz nor have negotiations".

Iran has demanded the lifting of US sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets and war reparations, among other conditions, while Washington has said nuclear issues must be part of any initial negotiations.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and Iran responded with strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host US bases. Conflict also erupted in Lebanon between Hezbollah and Israel, and more recently spread to Yemen, from where the Iran-aligned Houthis have struck energy facilities, airports and other targets in Saudi Arabia.

Marco Rubio denies plans to resign as 2028 speculation grows

■ **US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has denied reports of plans to quit the Trump administration, reaffirming his commitment to serve until the president's term ends.**

Web Desk

Washngation

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissed reportsthat he was planning to leave the Trump administration as he weighs his next moves after Republicans' losses in midterm elections,

Rubio, who also serves as Trump's national security adviser, is widely considered a potential successor to Trump in the 2028 presidential race. Just days before Tuesday's midterm elections, he made an unusual appearance alongside the US leader on the campaign trail, briefly stepping up on the podium to address a cheering crowd at a rally.

Rubio declined to answer questions



about his political future on Thursday, however, saying: "I literally will not talk about 2028 anymore."

On reports that he was considering an exit from the Trump administration, he told The New York Times: "I don't know where these things come from, to be honest with you."Earlier Thursday, Bloomberg News reported that Rubio was weighing whether to leave the administration.

Beijing says opposes US 'sabotage' of Cuba-China relations

● **China's foreign ministry vehemently opposed the move, calling the sanctions illegal and an example of "long-arm jurisdiction".**

Web Desk

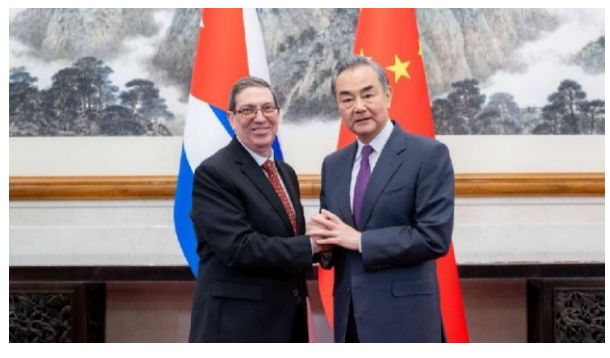
Beijing

Beijing condemned on Friday new US sanctions against Cuba which it said sought to "sabotage" Chinese relations with the island.

The new wave of sanctions announced by the State Department targets Cuba's oil and electronic sectors.

It also includes, for the first time, two Chinese companies accused of supplying the island's military with electronics and other security equipment.

China's foreign ministry vehemently opposed the move, calling the sanctions illegal and an example of "long-arm jurisdiction".



"China firmly opposes US interference in and sabotage of China–Cuba cooperation," ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a news briefing.

He warned that Beijing would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its businesses.

Since January, Washington has launched devastating new sanctions and an oil blockade against Cuba, crippling its economy and leading to widespread blackouts and shortages of necessities.

US President Donald Trump has hinted at launching a military intervention to overthrow the island's ruling Communist Party, and last month the American Secretary of State urged Cubans to work with US intelligence services.

The Chinese companies sanctioned on Thursday include the state-owned China National Electronic Import-Export Company (CEIEC) and private firm Beijing H&C Technologies.

The list also extended to Any Rodriguez Lastres, the daughter of the head of Cuba's largest military-controlled business conglomerate, the Grupo de Administracion Empresarial SA (GAESA).

Security officer attacked and killed near Sri Lankan Embassy in Jordan's capital

Web Desk

CAIRO

An assailant attacked and killed a security officer near the Sri Lankan Embassy in Jordan's capital Amman on Thursday, in what Jordanian authorities described as a terrorist act.

The attack comes weeks after gunmen opened fire during a funeral at a church in southern Jordan, killing nine people and wounding dozens more.

Jordan's Public Security Directorate said that a member of its forces was assaulted with a sharp object and died "in a cowardly terrorist attack." It said a preliminary investigation indicated



the attacker had been "planning to commit the terrorist act against the officers."

Jordan's state-run Al-Mamlaka TV reported that the assailant, who has been arrested, attempted to seize the weapon from the security officer who was killed. A second security officer intervened, and both the assailant and the second officer sustained injuries, Al-Mamlaka said.

The Sri Lankan Embassy confirmed the attack took place in its vicinity.

Pakistani cadets demonstrate exceptional capabilities in China Army Cadets Week



NEWS DESK

ISLAM BAD

Pakistani cadets have demonstrated their exceptional capabilities at the 13th International Army Cadets Week held in China, Cadets from Pakistan's College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering delivered an outstanding performance, securing first position among the participating international teams from eleven countries. Pakistan clinched the overall second position among twenty-nine Chinese and international teams, winning the silver medal.

The Pakistani team presented its project, "Boxer Unmanned Ground Vehicle," in the Concept and Paper category of the competition.

The achievement of Pakistani cadets reflects Pakistan Army's professional excellence, creative capabilities and proficiency in modern technology.

Pakistan, Britain to boost co-op in anti-terror, cybercrime, immigration fields

■ **Mohsin Naqvi, British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis hold detailed talks in Islamabad**

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMBAD

Pakistan and Britain have agreed to enhance cooperation in a number of fields including counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, NADRA, cybercrime, immigration and coast guards,

The agreement reached during a visit by British Minister of State for Security Dan Jarvis to the Interior Ministry in Islamabad on Friday where he held detailed talks with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and and Minister of State Talal Chaudhry. Both ministers also held delegation-level talks. The British minister praised the performance of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in preventing illegal immigration.

Both sides agreed that Pakistan and Britain should enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, NADRA, cybercrime, immigration, coast guards, and training programmes.



On this occasion, the British minister maintained that cybercrime is an international problem, and all countries must work together to combat it effectively.

Dan Jarvis said there is excellent cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom in various sectors, and they want to expand it further.

He also acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the war against terrorism.

Both sides also decided to soon finalise the memorandum of understanding on counter-narcotics. Collaboration between the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) and Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) will be fully operationalized with the IMO in a few years, said Mohsin Naqvi.

Daily The Spokesman

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A Significant Step Toward Export Promotion



By: Syed Mujtaba Rizwan

Exports have always held fundamental importance in Pakistan's economy. For any country, selling goods and services in international markets generates foreign exchange. It also strengthens industrial development, employment opportunities, business activity, and overall economic stability.

Alongside large companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can play a significant role in Pakistan's

What Is Export Credit Insurance?

The basic objective of Export Credit Insurance is to protect an exporter against the risk of non-payment by a foreign buyer after goods or services have been supplied. Subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, Pak EXIM Bank may provide compensation for the loss.

The most important aspect of this facility is that an exporter does not have to enter international trade entirely exposed to uncertainty. Instead, the exporter can expand business with the support of an institutional risk-protection mechanism.

A large number of SMEs in Pakistan have the potential to sell their products abroad. However, risks associated with new buyers, new markets, and international payments often compel them to remain cautious.

Many businesses limit themselves to international markets.

This facility is particularly important for small and medium-sized exporters. Large companies can sometimes manage different risks through their financial resources, legal expertise, and international business experience. For a small business, however, non-payment of a large amount by a foreign buyer can create a serious financial crisis.Export Credit Insurance seeks to reduce this risk and thereby expand the ability of SMEs to participate in international trade.

Another important benefit is that exporters can move toward conducting business on an open-account basis. In international trade, open-account transactions mean that, in certain circumstances, goods are supplied to the buyer first and payment is made later.

in certain circumstances, goods are supplied to the buyer first and payment is made later.

Although this method can make business relationships easier and more competitive, it also exposes the exporter to the risk of non-payment. By providing protection against this risk,



Export Credit Insurance can help Pakistani exporters adopt more flexible trade terms with international buyers.

Export Credit Insurance is not merely an insurance policy. It is a mechanism for creating confidence within the export environment.

In international trade, buyers seek suppliers who can provide products consistently, reliably, and on competitive terms. When a Pakistani exporter has institutional protection against non-payment, the exporter may be in a better position to offer more acceptable trade terms to buyers. This can create opportunities for increasing business volumes and establishing long-term commercial relationships.

The concept of a Risk-Sharing Pool provided through Pak EXIM Bank also has an important role in this framework. According to the available information, the Export Credit Insurance facility for SMEs under the Pak EXIM and EDF Risk-Sharing Pool is intended to make export credit insurance more accessible to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Under such a mechanism, the risk is managed institutionally rather than being placed entirely on one party. The objective is to enable SMEs, particularly businesses entering the export market for the first time, to manage the risks of international trade in a more structured manner.

Key Products: CSTP and Bank Master Policy

Two important products have been identified under this programme. Comprehensive Short-Term Policy (CSTP): an eligible SME exporter can directly obtain Export Credit Insurance. Bank Master Policy (BMP): participating banks and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) can obtain Export Credit Insurance against the risk of non-payment.



By: Aasi

From Cash to QR: Pakistan's Quiet Financial Revolution

For generations, cash was the language of Pakistan's marketplace. A customer opened his wallet, a shopkeeper counted notes, change was



returned, and the transaction was complete. Whether it was a roadside tea stall, a grocery shop or a large retail outlet, money changed hands physically.

That habit is now being challenged by something far smaller than a bank branch: a mobile phone.

Pakistan is quietly moving towards a digital payments economy, and the scale of this transformation is much larger than many people realise.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan's latest Payment Systems Quarterly Review, during January-March 2026, retail payments through the formal banking system reached 3.7 billion transactions worth Rs168.8 trillion. Digital channels accounted for 92 per cent of these transactions by volume, with 3.4 billion digital transactions worth Rs68.3 trillion.These are not merely banking statistics. They represent a change in everyday behaviour.

Mobile banking applications and digital wallets have become major engines of this transformation. During the same quarter, banking apps and e-money wallets processed approximately 2.89 billion transactions worth Rs41.67 trillion. Pakistan's instant payment system, Raast, processed 742 million transactions worth Rs23.27 trillion.Think about what this means for an ordinary Pakistani.

A small shopkeeper can receive payment without keeping large amounts of cash. A freelancer can receive money electronically.A

student can receive funds from home almost instantly.A customer can pay at a restaurant without searching for change. A small entrepreneur can send money to a supplier without travelling to a bank.

The mobile phone is gradually becoming a financial instrument.

But every revolution creates new responsibilities.

The greatest challenge for digital payments is not technology. It is trust.A person who loses cash knows exactly what has happened. A person whose digital account is compromised may not even understand how the money disappeared. Fraudulent calls, fake links, stolen passwords and social-engineering scams can turn convenience into a financial nightmare. This means Pakistan cannot build a digital economy simply by putting QR codes on shop counters. It must simultaneously build digital literacy, consumer protection and cyber-security awareness. The elderly deserve particular attention. A young person may understand passwords, authentication codes and mobile applications almost instinctively. For an older citizen who has spent decades dealing in cash, the same system can appear complicated and intimidating. The answer is not to leave such people behind. The answer is to teach them. here is another important dimension to digital payments: documentation.

Cash transactions often disappear from the formal economic record. Digital transactions leave a trail. If handled responsibly, this can help businesses maintain records, improve access to formal finance and give policymakers a clearer picture of economic activity.

But documentation should not become intimidation.

If citizens begin to believe that every digital payment exists only to increase taxation or surveillance, some will continue to prefer cash. Trust must therefore remain at the centre of the digital transition.

some will continue to prefer cash. Trust must therefore remain at the centre of the digital transition.

Raast is particularly important because it was designed as Pakistan's national instant payment system, allowing individuals, businesses and government entities to make real-time digital payments across participating institutions.

Pakistan's young population could become the biggest beneficiary of this transformation. The digital economy is creating opportunities in freelancing, e-commerce, software development, online education, digital marketing and creative industries.

A young Pakistani sitting in a small town can potentially sell a service to a customer thousands of kilometres away.

That is a profound change.

Yet access alone is not enough. A smartphone without skills is merely a sophisticated entertainment device. A digital wallet without financial awareness can become a vulnerability. And internet access without opportunity can produce frustration rather than prosperity. Pakistan therefore needs to think beyond becoming a "cashless" country. It needs to become a digitally capable country.The goal should be an economy in which payments are fast, affordable, secure and accessible to everyone—from the multinational corporation to the roadside vendor.Perhaps the most interesting part of this transformation is that it is happening quietly.

There are no giant factories being built. No massive highways are being inaugurated. No dramatic headlines announce each individual transaction.



By: Ishak Soomro

Mohenjo-daro: A National Tourism Vision Demands Equal Attention

Pakistan has made remarkable progress in promoting tourism by showcasing its majestic mountains, glaciers and valleys to the world. New highways across the northern regions have transformed travel, strengthened regional connectivity and projected a positive international image. These investments deserve appreciation because modern infrastructure is indispensable for national development.

Yet, while national attention remains focused on the country's breathtaking natural landscapes, one of humanity's greatest archaeological treasures continues to receive far less attention than it deserves. That treasure is Mohenjo-daro, and unfortunately the road leading to it presents an image that is inconsistent with its global significance. Mohenjo-daro is far more than a tourist destination. It is one of the world's most important archaeological sites and one of the earliest known examples of planned urban civilization. More than 5,000

years ago, the people of the Indus Valley built a sophisticated city featuring an advanced drainage system, standardized brick construction, carefully planned streets, remarkable water management and an efficient civic administration. At a time when many of today's great civilizations had yet to emerge, the inhabitants of Mohenjo-daro had already demonstrated an extraordinary understanding of urban planning and public infrastructure.It is this exceptional legacy that earned Mohenjo-daro recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today, it continues to inspire archaeologists, engineers, historians and researchers from around the globe.Recent archaeological discoveries have further elevated the site's international importance. Scientific excavations, conservation projects and radiocarbon dating have challenged several long-held assumptions regarding the city's origins. Researchers now believe that the massive mud-brick defensive wall dates back to the Early Harappan period, suggesting that Mohenjo-daro is even older than previously believed. Modern surveys have also corrected archaeological maps prepared nearly a century ago, revealing that the ancient city was considerably larger and more complex than earlier interpretations suggested. As the world rediscovers Mohenjo-daro, Pakistan has an opportunity to present this priceless heritage with renewed confidence.

daro, Pakistan has an opportunity to present this priceless heritage with renewed confidence.

Unfortunately, visitors travelling to the site encounter a very different reality. The 28-kilometre Larkana-Mohenjo-daro Road (National Highway N-155), constructed by the National Highway Authority in 2014 as a dual carriageway, has not undergone the comprehensive rehabilitation expected for an internationally significant tourism corridor. After more than a decade of service, sections of the pavement have deteriorated, lane markings have faded, reflective safety installations are inadequate and directional signage remains insufficient.For many visitors, the first impression of Pakistan's greatest archaeological treasure is not the magnificence of the Great Bath or the remarkable street grid of the ancient city. It is an access road that fails to reflect the importance of the destination. This is not merely an engineering issue. It is an issue of national image.

Every foreign tourist, archaeologist, diplomat, researcher, journalist and documentary filmmaker travelling to Mohenjo-daro forms an opinion about Pakistan before reaching the archaeological site itself. Infrastructure often communicates more effectively than speeches or promotional campaigns. A well-maintained road reflects national confidence, administrative efficiency

and respect for cultural heritage. Conversely, deteriorated pavements, inadequate signage and poor roadside presentation unintentionally convey neglect towards one of the world's greatest archaeological landmarks.

This concern is not hypothetical. Earlier this year, visitors from Norway and Lebanon expressed disappointment over the condition of the approach road and the absence of clear directional signs leading to Mohenjo-daro. Their observations should be regarded not as criticism but as constructive feedback from international visitors who travelled thousands of kilometers to experience Pakistan's ancient civilization.In today's digital world, every visitor becomes an ambassador. Positive experiences encourage tourism, while negative experiences spread rapidly through travel websites and social media, influencing thousands of potential visitors around the world.The Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, deserves recognition for his efforts to modernize Pakistan's highway network, particularly in the northern tourist regions. Better roads have boosted tourism, stimulated local economies and strengthened Pakistan's international image. The same vision should now extend to the country's most significant archaeological destination. A comprehensive national tourism policy must not distinguish between natural beauty and cultural heritage. Both represent Pakistan's identity and both deserve equal investment. Mohenjo-daro deserves to be connected through what can rightly be called Pakistan's Heritage Corridor.

Beginning from Sukkur and Larkana, visitors should be guided through internationally designed tourism signage displaying UNESCO branding and information about the Indus Valley Civilization. National Highway N-155 should undergo complete resurfacing where necessary, structural rehabilitation, fresh thermoplastic lane markings, installation of reflective road safety devices, modern overhead gantry signs, kilometer markers, landscaping with indigenous vegetation, decorative lighting at strategic locations and aesthetically designed entrance gateways.

welcoming visitors to one of humanity's oldest planned cities.

Such improvements would transform the journey into an integral part of the visitor experience rather than merely providing access to the destination. The financial investment required would be relatively modest compared to the long-term benefits. Improved infrastructure would promote tourism, facilitate international archaeological cooperation, strengthen educational and cultural exchanges, enhance Pakistan's global image and generate new economic opportunities for local communities.

More importantly, it would

demonstrate that Pakistan fully recognizes its responsibility as custodian of one of humanity's greatest civilizations. As new archaeological discoveries continue to rewrite the history of Mohenjo-daro, the gateway leading to this extraordinary city should not remain neglected. The road should inspire the same admiration that visitors experience when they finally enter the ancient ruins.

This is not simply about repairing asphalt or installing signboards. It is about presenting Pakistan with dignity before the world and honoring a civilization that gave humanity lessons in urban planning more than five thousand years ago.The time has come for the Ministry of Communications and the National Highway Authority to prioritize the immediate rehabilitation, modernization and beautification of National Highway N-155. Such an initiative would improve road safety, enrich the visitor experience .

and reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to preserving one of the greatest achievements in human history.

PM approves modernisation of TDAP to boost exports, enhance access to int'l markets

trade expansion.A comprehensive reform package was presented to transform TDAP into a world-class trade promotion organisation responsive to modern needs. The proposals include streamlining the authority's mandate to eight core functions, restructuring the board and management, optimising the regional network, adopting digital platforms and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and implementing measurable performance indicators alongside independent third-party evaluations.

A phased 12-month implementation roadmap comprising approval, design, execution, and independent assessment was also submitted. The prime minister directed that the reforms be completed and fully operationalised by the middle of next year.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Jam Kamal Khan, Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Dr Musadik Malik, Coordinator to PM Haroon Akhtar, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, and other senior officials.



Weekly inflation increases 0.29 percent

■ The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation increased by 0.29 percent during the week ended on November 05, 2026, for the combined consumption group, According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics data, the SPI for the week under review increased to 374.61 points from 373.51 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 12.31 percent.

The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) increased by 0.86 percent to 361.00 points from 357.92 points. Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733–22,888, Rs 22,889–29,517, Rs 29,518–44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.70 percent, 0.52 percent, 0.40 percent and 0.10 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 21 items (41.18 percent) increased, 10 items (19.60 percent) decreased, while 20 items (39.22 percent) remained unchanged.

On a week-on-week basis, the items that witnessed a decrease in prices included Petrol (4.20%), Diesel (2.97%), Pulse Gram (1.08%), Banana (0.85%), Onions (0.82%), Powdered Milk (0.73%), Chicken (0.61%), Sugar (0.40%), Wheat Flour (0.34%) and Pulse Moong (0.27%).

On the other hand, increase was observed in the prices of Tomatoes (54.18%), LPG (3.72%), Potatoes (2.07%), Eggs (1.17%), Garlic (1.06%), Firewood (1.01%), Salt Powder (0.91%), Bread Plain (0.64%), Milk Fresh (0.49%), Curd (0.41%), Match Box (0.16%) and Shirting (0.15%).

On a year-on-year basis, major increase is observed in the prices of LPG (114.88%), Tomatoes (78.89%), Electricity for Q1 (52.38%), Diesel (39.27%), Petrol (36.34%), Wheat Flour (33.95%), Chicken (31.81%), Chilies Powder (15.55%), Mutton (14.54%), Onions (13.64%), Bread Plain (12.35%) and Beef (11.06%).

On the other hand, decrease was observed in the prices of Potatoes (37.24%), Eggs (27.59%), Sugar (25.03%), Salt Powder (14.09%), Gur (7.75%), Pulse Masoor (7.49%), Pulse Moong (6.79%) and Rice IRRI-6/9 (1.79%).

Gold prices plunge by Rs6,500 per tola in Pakistan

■ Gold prices in Pakistan fell by Rs6,500 per tola to Rs429,136, while international rates dropped $65 to $4,066 per ounce after a two-day rally.

Business Reporter

KARACHI



Gold prices witnessed a significant decline in local and international markets after recording gains for two consecutive days.

According to the Sarafa Association, the price of 24-karat gold per tola in Pakistan dropped by Rs6,500 to settle at Rs429,136.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of gold fell by Rs5,573 to Rs367,914.

Silver prices also moved lower, with the per-tola rate declining by Rs85 to reach Rs5,678.

In the international market, gold prices fell below the $4,100-per-ounce mark. The price of an ounce of gold dropped by $65 to reach $4,066.

27 bottled water brands found unsafe for consumption

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has declared 27 commercially available bottled/mineral water brands unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological and chemical contamination during the third quarter (July-September) of 2026.

Under the government's directives, PCRWR conducted quarterly monitoring of commercially available bottled water brands and collected 223 samples from 20 major cities across the country to assess their compliance with the quality standards set by the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA).

According to the test results, three brands, Aab-e-Haram, AB-Blue Water and HR Water Healthy Life — were found to contain excessive sodium levels ranging from 94 to 164 parts per million (ppm), against the permissible limit of 50 ppm.

Aab-e-Haram was also found to have a higher total dissolved solids (TDS) level of 680 ppm, exceeding the prescribed limit of 500 ppm, while Fresh Smart Pure Water contained potassium at 20 ppm, double the permissible limit of 10 ppm.

Similarly, two brands—Akwafine Bottled Drinking Water and Premium Safa Purified Water — were found to contain excessive arsenic levels ranging from 13.5 to 23.2 parts per billion (ppb), against the permissible limit of 10 ppb.

The report further revealed that 22 brands were contaminated with bacteria, making them unsafe for drinking purposes. These included Aab-e-Haram, Douro, Aab-e-Makuran, Water Verse Purified, Jel Bottled Drinking Water, Sip Bottled Drinking Water, Safi Bottled Drinking Water, Pure Aqua Tech Bottled Drinking Water.



Goods transport alliance announces 5pc reduction in freight charges

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The All Pakistan Goods Transport Alliance has announced a 5% reduction in goods transportation fares following a decline in petrol and diesel prices.

In a statement, Alliance President Malik Shehzad Awan welcomed the government's decision to reduce petroleum prices, saying the alliance had decided to lower freight charges in view of the recent reduction in fuel prices over the past four to five days.

He thanked the prime minister and the federal petroleum minister for the relief, while urging the government to further reduce petrol and diesel prices to provide additional relief to the transport sector.

The announcement comes after the government reduced the price of petrol by Rs9.41 per litre, bringing its new price to Rs352.59 per litre.

The price of high-speed diesel was also cut by Rs5.56 per litre, taking its new price to Rs382.25 per litre.

Pakistan's external debt nearly doubles to 135.1 billion dollars in a decade: World Bank

■ The report showed that the country's external debt comprised $107.076 billion in public and publicly guaranteed debt

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's total external debt nearly doubled over the decade ending in 2025, reaching $135.107 billion from $68.673 billion in 2015, according to the World Bank's International Debt Report 2026.

The report showed that the country's external debt comprised $107.076 billion in public and publicly guaranteed debt, $17.58 billion in private non-guaranteed debt and $10.45 billion in short-term debt.

Of the public and publicly guaranteed debt, $56.83 billion was owed to multilateral creditors, $42.43 billion to bilateral lenders and $7.8 billion to private creditors.

China remained Pakistan's largest single creditor, with outstanding loans of $22.4 billion, followed by the World Bank with $19.2 billion and the Asian Development Bank with $16.83 billion.

In 2025, China extended the repayment period for $2 billion in loans to Pakistan, while the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provided fresh financing of $2.3 billion under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to support the country's long-term economic stability.

The report highlighted the higher cost of borrowing from private creditors compared to official lenders. The average interest rate on private debt reached 8.6%, against 3.6% on public debt.

Private loans had an average repayment period of just three years, compared with 16 years for public debt. Similarly, the grace period for private borrowing stood at one year, while public loans carried an average grace period of four years.

Pakistan's external debt was equivalent to 34% of its gross national income (GNI), while debt servicing consumed 33% of the country's export earnings, highlighting the growing pressure of repayments on the economy.

The World Bank stressed the need to increase exports and secure more favourable borrowing terms, calling for an effective strategy to ease the country's debt burden and address long-term repayment challenges.

Pakistan's LPG demand expected to grow by 8-8.5pc annually, existing infrastructure inadequate

■ Pakistan's LPG demand is projected to grow 8-8.5% annually, but limited domestic production, inadequate storage and weak transport infrastructure threaten energy security.

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI



The evolving regional situation and volatility in global energy markets have not only pushed up energy prices in Pakistan but also exposed serious weaknesses in the country's energy security landscape.

The ongoing conflict has highlighted Pakistan's fragile energy security position and underscored the need for comprehensive and integrated planning.

While the current LPG crisis is partly emerging due to border closures, it has also exposed vulnerabilities in the sustainability of Pakistan's LPG market. Demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is steadily increasing while domestic production remains insufficient and the existing infrastructure is riddled with shortcomings.

According to Petroleum Division documents available with Dunya, more than 10 million households in Pakistan are connected to the natural gas pipeline network while over 25 million households rely on LPG and other fuels to meet their energy needs.

Rising population and declining domestic natural gas production are driving a rapid increase in LPG demand. Pakistan's annual LPG market currently stands at approximately 2.4 million metric tonnes. Over past six years the market has recorded an average annual growth rate of 7.5% while demand is projected to continue growing by 8–8.5% annually in the coming years.

Commerce Minister urges coordinated efforts to boost exports, support SMEs for strengthen intra-OIC trade

■ The Minister further stressed the importance of accelerating digital transformation in trade and financial processes through the integration of customs and banking systems, electronic trade documentation and single-window platforms.

News Desk

ISTANBUL

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has called for stronger economic solidarity, improved access to trade financing and coordinated efforts to enhance intra-OIC trade while addressing the closing session of the 42nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, while speaking on behalf of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Addressing the high-level gathering chaired by Vice-President of the Republic of Türkiye, Cevdet Yilmaz, and the Commerce Minister emphasized those growing geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, financial vulnerabilities and increasing protectionism had made economic cooperation and collective action among Islamic countries more important than ever, said a release issued here on Friday.

Commerce Minister urges coordinated efforts to boost exports, support SMEs for strengthen intra-OIC trade

Speaking on behalf of OIC member states, Jam Kamal Khan expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Türkiye for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. He also acknowledged the contributions of the COMCEC



Coordination Office and OIC institutions towards the successful conduct of the session.

The Minister said that OIC countries possessed significant economic potential, geographical advantages, human resources and natural endowments that could be transformed into shared prosperity through stronger partnerships and coordinated policies.

He observed that while OIC member states had made considerable progress in sustainable development, technological advancement and economic prosperity over the decades, emerging global challenges required them to work together and develop practical solutions suited to their circumstances.Highlighting the outcomes of the session, Jam Kamal Khan said the deliberations had identified important areas for collective action, including intra-OIC trade, transport connectivity, sustainable tourism, agricultural productivity, food security, poverty alleviation and digital transformation.

Referring to the session's priority theme, "Developing Effective Trade Financing Tools for Increasing Exports in the OIC Member Countries," the Minister stressed that affordable, diversified and sustainable trade financing was essential for improving export competitiveness, expanding international trade and accelerating economic growth.

He pointed out that exporters, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), continued to face difficulties in accessing suitable financing due to fragmented regulatory frameworks, high collateral requirements, transaction costs and lengthy administrative procedures.

Usman Khan's century powers Pakistan to nine-wicket win over UAE in U19 Asia Cup

● Usman led the run chase with an outstanding 139 not out from 120 deliveries, smashing 21 fours and a six



SPORTS DESK

MUSCAT

Defending champions Pakistan began their ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2026 campaign in impressive fashion, securing a comprehensive nine-wicket victory over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in their Group A opening match at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground (Ministry Turf 2) on Friday.

Chasing a target of 225, Pakistan reached 228-1 in just 37.3 overs, thanks to a magnificent unbeaten century from opener Usman Khan and a crucial half-century by Jahangir Bilal.

Usman led the run chase with an outstanding 139 not out from 120 deliveries, smashing 21 fours and a six.

The innings marked his fourth century in Youth One-Day International cricket. Jahangir provided excellent support, scoring 60 off 87 balls, including six boundaries.The opening pair dominated the UAE bowling attack, building a formidable 153-run partnership before Jahangir departed.

Usman continued his remarkable innings, while Abdul Qadir remained unbeaten on 20 from 19 balls, striking a four and a six to complete the comfortable victory.

Earlier, UAE struggled to maintain momentum after opting to bat first and were dismissed for 224 in their allotted 50 overs.

Noorullah Ayobi provided the backbone of the innings with an impressive 70 off 55 balls, including three fours and six sixes.



Maliha claims bronze at MMA Worlds

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

Pakistan's Maliha Ali won bronze at the IMMAF World Championships despite competing with multiple injuries, as the Pakistan MMA Federation appealed her split-decision defeat to Russia's Polina Baldina in the featherweight semi-finals Maliha, who fought with a fractured toe, bruised eyelid and partially dislocated jaw, lost to Baldina, a former world champion, after judges returned contrasting scorecards of 30-27, 28-29 and 28-29.

The Pakistani fighter had defeated two-time European champion Veronika Drozdova of Russia by split decision before securing a unanimous victory over Mexico's Andrea Gabriela Guzman Salazar to reach the last four.

The federation has formally challenged the semi-final result, requesting a round-by-round scoring breakdown and a technical review of the bout.

Pakistan wins three honours at Int'l Space Games 2026 IN Moscow

■ Denmark break into the top ten for the first time since August 2010



SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's delegation representing the Institute of Space Technology (IST) has secured three prestigious distinctions at the International Space Games (ISG) 2026, held in Moscow, Russia, showcasing the country's growing capabilities in space science, engineering and mission operations.

At the closing and awards ceremony, Team Pakistan received the awards for 'Best Mission Control Centre (MCC) Team', 'Best Flight Engineer' and 'Outstanding Overall Coordination', marking a significant achievement for the country's young space professionals and students.

The International Space Games brought together participants from eight countries to compete in a simulated space-mission environment, featuring intensive 48-hour habitat expeditions. The teams undertook engineering assignments, mission-control operations, scientific activities and simulated emergency scenarios to test their technical expertise, decision-making abilities and teamwork.

Pakistan was represented by an 11-member delegation comprising habitat crew members, mission-control personnel, consulting experts and professional jury members.

The habitat crew included Ayesha Jamil, Fakhar Arooj, Alishba Tanveer, Maheera Fatima and Hafiz Muhammad Abdullah, while Syeda Maryam Murtaza and Humail Amir Nawaz represented the Mission Control Centre.

Mohammad Daniyal Hasnain and Talha Zubair served as consulting experts, while Dr. Rehan Mahmood and Engr. Maheen Zulfiqar participated as professional jury members.

Dr. Rehan Mahmood, Director of the Space Systems and Technology Research Lab (SSTRL) at IST, served as the National Coordinator and Head of the Pakistan delegation.

The awards reflected the technical excellence, dedication, teamwork and coordination demonstrated by the Pakistani delegation throughout the competition.

The delegation's participation followed months of preparation and technical training, culminating in the challenging habitat expedition and the international awards ceremony.

The Institute of Space Technology congratulated the award recipients and all members of Team Pakistan on their achievements and appreciated the organisers, host institutions and international partners for making the event possible.

Beyond the distinctions, the participation provided Pakistan's young space enthusiasts with valuable international exposure, practical technical experience and opportunities to strengthen their expertise in space exploration and engineering. .

Lakers send Bronny James to G League

● The Lakers kept James when they waived former 2024 No. 17 overall pick Dalton Knecht in October

SPECIAL REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Bronny James is headed on assignment Thursday to the Coachella Valley Lakers in the G League, and whether he returns to Los Angeles and the NBA remains unclear.

James, 22, has played just 12 minutes in five games this season, his first with the franchise since his famous father, LeBron James, joined the Philadelphia 76ers as a free agent.

The Lakers kept James when they waived former 2024 No. 17 overall pick Dalton Knecht in October.

James is in his third season with the Lakers. Head coach JJ Redick cast doubt about his place on the roster after Bronny James shot 25% from the floor (4 of 16) ?in five preseason games. He has four points in five regular-season games for the Lakers (7-2) in 2026.

"I thought he had a really nice September and a good summer ?with us, but I don't think he's played well in the four preseason games," Redick said last month.

Bronny James ?is signed on a fully guaranteed deal through the end of the 2026-27 season, with a ?team option for 2027-28. Los Angeles selected him in the second round (55th overall) of the 2024 NBA Draft out of Southern California.

Pakistan's Test team moves on without Shan

■ Despite leading the country's run charts, former skipper loses future prospects

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD



Shan Masood has fallen out of favour with the authorities. Even scoring the highest number of runs for Pakistan over the past two years has not been enough to save his place in the team.

Shan Masood has not been included in Pakistan's squad for the two-Test series against Bangladesh. Although he is not fully fit, he has reportedly been informed that he is no longer part of the team's future plans.

Mike Hesson has also taken over responsibility as Pakistan's Test coach and has decided to rely on younger players.

Shan Masood scored 95 runs in his last Test innings against England. Over the past two years, he has been Pakistan's leading run-scorer. Since January 2025, he has scored a total of 773 runs, the highest by any Pakistani batter during this period.

Last year, Shan scored 397 runs in five matches at an average of approximately 40. This year, he has scored 376 runs in six matches.

Over the same two-year period, Babar Azam is second among Pakistani batters with 720 runs, while Mohammad Rizwan is third with 643 runs.

At 37, Shan Masood has reportedly been left out of the team's future plans. However, 36-year-old Mohammad Abbas has been selected, raising questions about the consistency of the age policy.

Both players have been among the top performers.

Last year, the PCB appointed Shan Masood as a consultant for International Cricket and Players' Affairs. However, since he wanted to continue playing cricket, he stayed away from administrative responsibilities.

Following the team's continued poor performances, Shan was also removed from the captaincy.

Shan Masood is reportedly no longer in the good books of the selectors and coaching staff.

According to sources, during a meeting with PCB officials some time ago, Shan made certain comments criticising a few officials. When those remarks came to their attention, the officials reportedly turned against the batter and dropped him at the first available opportunity.

Shan is currently not playing in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

Conway ruled out of India ODI series



SPORTS DESK

NEW DEHLI

New Zealand opener Devon Conway will miss the remainder of the one-day international series against India because of a concussion sustained in a collision with teammate Matt Henry earlier this week. Fast bowler Henry has been cleared of concussion after the training incident and will be available for the second ODI in Wellington on Saturday. Lefthanded top-order batter Nick Kelly has been called up from the New Zealand "A" squad early to replace Conway in the squad.

India won the rain-disrupted first ODI in Auckland on Wednesday by five wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

New Zealand will be hoping that batting mainstay Conway makes a full recovery before the first of two tests against India starts in Wellington on November 19.



City District Girls High School (Green Town) and Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) won the school and college titles, respectively, in the girls' weightlifting competitions at the 14th Inter-School and Inter-Collegiate Games 2026 that concluded on Friday in Lahore,

Daily The Spokesman

Saturday
November 7,2026

Jammu Martyrs' Sacrifices Guiding Light for Kashmiri Nation: AJK PM

■ **Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani says November 6, 1947, marks a dark chapter in Kashmir's history; reaffirms resolve to continue struggle for right to self-determination**



Staff Reporter

Muzaffarabad

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Iftikhar Gilani, has said that the sacrifices of the martyrs of Jammu serve as a guiding light for the Kashmiri nation. ?In a special message on the occasion of Martyrs' Day, the Prime Minister, while terming November 6, 1947, as the darkest chapter in the Kashmir's contemporary history, said that it was on this day when hundreds of thousands of Muslims were massacred by Dogra forces under Indian patronage. ?The massacre, he said, was a conspiracy to turn the Muslim majority of the region into a minority and to crush the movement for accession to Pakistan. ? He, however,
maintained that the martyrs' blood gave fresh impetus to a Kashmiris' freedom movement and their struggle for the right to self-determination. ?"The spirit
of freedom rekindled by the martyrs' sacrifices lives on and is passed on from one generation to another," he added. The Prime Minister reiterated the
Kashmiris' resolve to uphold the martyrs' mission to take the freedom movement to its logical conclusion.

Education for Underprivileged Sections a National Responsibility: AJK President

● **Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan assures READ Foundation of full cooperation, appreciates its role in providing free education to orphan children**

STAFF REPORTER

Muzaffarabad



President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Khan, has said that promoting education and providing educational opportunities to the deprived sections of society constitutes an important national and social responsibility. ? Speaking to a high-level delegation of the READ Foundation, which called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Muzaffarabad, today, the president said he appreciated the services of the Foundation in the education sector, particularly its role in providing free educational facilities to orphan children. ?He also assured the Foundation of his full cooperation in pursuit of its educational and welfare goals. ?The delegation, led by former Chairman of the READ Foundation, Professor Ghulam Mustafa, comprised Professor Muhammad Zubair Sajid, Director of Academics, READ Foundation Oriental Science College Muzaffarabad, and Raja Samiullah Khan, Resource Mobilization Officer. During the meeting, the delegation briefed the president on the promotion of education in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan and the Foundation's ongoing educational and welfare projects.



Bilawal Bhutto urges political dialogue to address economic crisis and public hardships

■ **PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto calls for political cooperation, prioritising public welfare, improving healthcare and education, and strengthening federal-provincial coordination.**

Our Correspondent

LARKANA

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that criticism is easy, but delivering practical results is difficult, emphasising that the real use of power lies in building a safe, fair and sustainable future.

Addressing a ceremony in Larkana, Bilawal said providing better healthcare and education facilities remained a priority. He noted that the world was facing an economic crisis and people in Pakistan were also suffering its consequences.

He said he had visited Larkana after a considerable period and pointed out that people from Balochistan and other areas also travelled to the city for medical treatment. He added that the government's priority had always been to provide internationally recognised healthcare facilities to disadvantaged sections of society.

Bilawal said no citizen would be deprived of medical treatment due to a lack of financial resources. He added that several development projects were under way in Larkana and Qambar Shahdadkot.

He claimed that Sindh was providing greater support to higher education than Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He expressed hope that the 600-bed hospital being built in Larkana would meet the city's requirements and provide healthcare facilities of international standards.

The PPP chairman acknowledged that Larkana faced several problems, including water shortages, and said efforts would be made to resolve them.

He added that the Sindh government was taking steps to promote higher education and further improve the education sector.

Bilawal said the federal government, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and the PPP had agreed to improve coordination. Describing his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as highly positive, he said both sides had worked out a joint strategy.

He said he had invited the prime minister to hold cabinet meetings in different provinces to strengthen coordination and cooperation between the federal and provincial governments. A meeting would also be held in Karachi to improve coordination with the federal government, he added, saying he would meet the prime minister again after his overseas visit.

Bilawal said the Balochistan government also had grievances against the federation and was not receiving the level of cooperation it deserved.Commenting on the country's economic situation, he advised the federal government to engage all political stakeholders in dialogue instead of opening confrontations with everyone amid the economic crisis.

Pak-Tajikistan Joint Exercise Dosti-III concludes



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Exercise Dosti-III, the 3rd edition of bilateral Counter Terrorism exercise between Pakistan and Tajikistan Army, commenced on October 26, concluded at Special Operations School, Cherat. The exercise focused on sharing Counter Terrorism experiences, refining operational drills, procedures and enhancing combat skills through mutual learning and exchange of best practices, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Hafiz Naeem lambasts Sindh govt over Karachi's problems

● **Says essential sectors, including education, fall under the local government system, but local government institutions remain dependent on provincial governments for authority and resources.**

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Jamaat-e-Islami emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has called on Karachi residents to raise their voices for the resolution of the city's longstanding problems, criticising the provincial government over the performance of local government institutions and delays in major development projects.

Addressing a ceremony, Hafiz Naeem said that essential sectors, including education, fall under the local government system, but local government institutions remain dependent on provincial governments for authority and resources.

He criticised the repeated delays in local government elections, saying the election date had been announced for the



fifth time in Islamabad while polls had not been held in Punjab. He added that political leaders who criticise the system were also cooperating with it and shared responsibility for the situation.

Highlighting Karachi's water crisis, the JI chief said the K-4 water supply project had remained incomplete since 2005. He argued that timely completion could have ensured water supplies to households through regular connections ather than tankers.

He also questioned the delay in the S-3 sewerage project, which he said had remained unfinished for 12 years. Similarly, he pointed out that the Green Line project, launched in 2016, was still incomplete, while work on the Red Line had worsened traffic conditions on the city's main thoroughfare.

Referring to the Karachi Circular Railway, Hafiz Naeem said that although eight openings had been made, the project had yet to become operational despite its inauguration by Sheikh Rashid.

He further criticised the state of education and healthcare facilities in the city, saying Sindh has around 41,000 schools, including approximately 3,500 in Karachi, most of which remain under provincial government control.

Peshawar-Lahore direct flights to begin on November 9: Faisal Karim Kundi

● **KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi announces direct Peshawar-Lahore flights from November 9, with four weekly services initially operated in collaboration with South Air.**

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Good news for residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has announced the launch of direct air services between Peshawar and Lahore from November 9, restoring air connectivity between the two cities in collaboration with South Air.

Faisal Karim Kundi said direct flights from Peshawar to Lahore would commence on the occasion of Iqbal Day, providing a new travel facility for people of the province.

He said the journey between Peshawar and Lahore would take approximately 50 minutes to one hour. Initially, four flights per week would operate on the route.



According to the governor, the first flight from Peshawar to Lahore would depart at around 1pm on November 9.

Kundi said the direct air service would particularly benefit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents living in Lahore, as well as businesspeople and employees who frequently travel between the two cities.

He added that the direct air service between Peshawar and Quetta was already operating successfully, while the number of flights on the Peshawar-Lahore route would be increased in the future.

The governor further said work was underway to explore possibilities for establishing air connectivity with Dera Ismail Khan, Chitral and Parachinar.

He said additional measures would be taken to connect different parts of the province through air services, making travel easier for residents.

Faisal Karim Kundi also expressed his commitment to taking steps to restore Peshawar's identity as the City of Flowers.



Islamabad: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to finalize preparations for the forthcoming Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Council of Ministers Meeting.

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Ali move IHC against ATC sentences in barrier removal case

■ **Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha have challenged their 10-year jail sentences in the Islamabad High Court, seeking suspension of punishment and release on bail.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD



Advocates Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha have filed appeals in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging their convictions in the barrier removal case, while also seeking suspension of their sentences and release on bail.

The appeals and applications seeking suspension of sentences were filed on behalf of the two by lawyers Faisal Siddiqui, Riasat Ali Azad and Zainab Janjua.

In their appeals, the petitioners argued that the trial court had failed to fulfil the requirements of a fair trial. They also cited various judicial precedents concerning cases in which the transparency of trial proceedings had been questioned.

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