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PM Shehbaz slams Israel's denial of humanitarian aid To Gaza

STAFF REPORTER

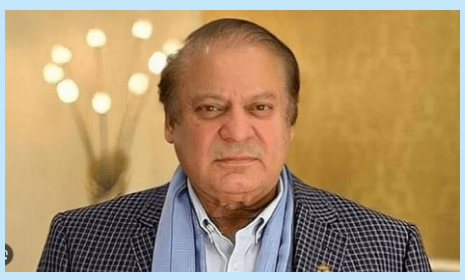
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep concern over Israel's continued illegal actions to deny basic humanitarian assistance to the brave Palestinian people of Gaza,

In a post on X handle uploaded on Monday, PM Shehbaz drew attention to the heart-rending images of tents being flooded and Gazan children, with nowhere to go, being trapped and subjected to starvation and extreme cold.

The Prime Minister strongly condemned the violations of the ceasefire and international law, and the continued aggression toward the Palestinian people.

Shehbaz Sharif said he has directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pursue all possible means to escalate humanitarian assistance urgently.



Nawaz Sharif felicitates by-election winners

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif extended his heartfelt greetings to the winning candidates of by-elections from Sahiwal and Gujranwala,

In his message on "X," the former Prime Minister congratulated PML-N candidates Mohammad Asad Hanif and Rashid Bashir Virk for winning the elections.

He said that the people of Sahiwal and Gujranwala voted for development, progress, and services for the country.



AJK Prime Minister Pays Rich Tribute to Allama Iqbal, Says His Message of Unity and Self-Respect Remains Relevant

STAFF REPORTER

MUZAFFARABAD

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Iftikhar Gilani, has said that Allama Iqbal's universal message of unity, self-respect, and continuous struggle remains a beacon of light for the Muslim Ummah, and especially for the younger generation. In a statement issued on the birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal, the Prime Minister said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (RA) translated Iqbal's dream of a separate homeland for Muslims into reality in the form of the creation of Pakistan. Referring to Iqbal's vision for Kashmir, he said, "As a son of the soil, Iqbal regarded Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of his concept of Pakistan." The Prime Minister regretted that the Kashmiri people, whose sufferings echoed in Iqbal's poetry, were still reeling under Indian occupation. He, however, maintained that Indian atrocities and oppression have neither weakened the Kashmiri people's spirit of freedom nor dampened their courage. He expressed the optimism that the day was not far when Kashmiri people would achieve their long-cherished goal of freedom.



Security forces clear terror hideouts in two North Waziristan mosques

- ISPR says terrorists hideout belonged to Indian-sponsored proxy Fitna al-Khwarij: Large number of IEDs, bomb-making material, weapons recovered: Torture cells also found

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The security forces personnel have carried out an intelligence-based operation in Muzak village located on southern fringes of Mir Ali in North Waziristan District, following reported presence of terrorist hideouts belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al-Khwarij,

According to an ISPR statement released in Rawalpindi on Monday, during the conduct of the operation on November 8, 2026, two terrorist hideouts established by the Kharjis in mosques were sanitised and huge cache of prepared improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bomb-making material, weapons and ammunition were recovered.

The terrorists had deliberately established hideouts in mosques to store explosive materials and also were running torture cells there.

This reprehensible desecration of places of worship by Indian proxy Fitna al-Khwarij serves yet another clear evidence of their utter disregard of fundamental teachings of Islam, the ISPR said.

These Kharji terrorists abetted by Afghan Taliban have nothing to do with Islam and



their perverted interpretation and misuse of our great religion is unacceptable and fully rejected by proud and righteous people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Pakistan, said the ISPR statement.

A sanitization operation was being conducted by the brave soldiers of Pakistan security forces to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorist hideouts in the area.

Relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision "Azm-e-Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by the security forces and the law-enforcement agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign-sponsored and -supported terrorism from the country.

President, PM, KP governor commend security forces

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have commended security

(Continued on Page-5)

DPM Dar urges nation to follow vision of Allama Iqbal



OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar urged the nation to renew the pledge to build a country that truly reflects Iqbal's vision of a progressive, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan, where justice, equality and the rule of law remain the guiding light.In a message on Iqbal Day (9 November 2026), he said, "On Iqbal Day, the nation comes together with profound respect to honour our National Poet and Philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

Governor Kundi vows to continue intelligence-based operations against terrorism in KP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said intelligence-based operations will continue wherever terrorists are present, stressing that efforts to eliminate terrorism in the province will remain a priority.Speaking to media in Lahore on Monday, Kundi criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying the days of spreading unrest and hatred between provinces were over.

Pakistan strongly condemns Houthi attempt to attack Saudi Aramco building in Riyadh

- Pakistan condemns the attempted Houthi attack on a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Riyadh, expresses solidarity with Saudi Arabia and demands an immediate halt to attacks.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has strongly condemned an attempted attack by Yemen's Houthi group on a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Riyadh, reaffirming its full support for the Kingdom's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Islamabad expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia's leadership and people following the incident, which fortunately resulted in no reported casualties. Pakistan also called on the Houthis to immediately and unconditionally stop all attacks against the Kingdom.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Foreign Office said Pakistan strongly condemned the attempted targeting of the Saudi Aramco administrative facility in the Saudi capital.The ministry described



attacks targeting civilian facilities as a demonstration of reckless disregard for human life and regional security, stressing that such actions threaten the safety and stability of the region.

Pakistan demanded that the Houthis immediately and unconditionally cease all attacks against Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Office also commended the vigilance and swift response of Saudi authorities in confronting what it described as an unjustifiable and unprovoked act of aggression.

Pakistan to host third Makkah Defence Alliance committee meeting this month

- The meeting is expected to bring together the foreign ministers, defence ministers and military chiefs of Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will host the third meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee of the Makkah Defence Alliance later this month, diplomatic sources said.

The meeting is expected to bring together the foreign ministers, defence ministers and military chiefs of Pakistan, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia to discuss strategic, political and defence cooperation among the three countries.

Pakistan will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir. Foreign and defence



ministers, along with military chiefs from Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, are also expected to attend.

The upcoming gathering will mark the committee's third meeting. The first two meetings were held in Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

The discussions are expected to focus on strengthening trilateral cooperation, enhancing defence ties and advancing strategic coordination among the three allied countries.

Punjab CM orders no blockades, no business closure during her visits

- The chief minister directed officials not to seal or block residential streets or restrict residents' movement in the name of security.

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed authorities across the province not to close markets, shops, businesses or commercial establishments during her visits, emphasising that ordinary citizens must not face inconvenience due to security arrangements.

In a message on X, CM Maryam Nawaz said that clear instructions had once again been issued to all Regional Police Officers (RPOs), District Police



Officers (DPOs), commissioners and deputy commissioners.

The chief minister directed officials not to seal or block residential streets or restrict residents' movement in the name of security. The following message has once again been sent to all RPOs, DPOs, Commissioners and Deputy commissioners: No market, shop, business, or any other establishment shall be closed or asked to suspend its operations on account of my visit. Similarly, no residential street shall be blocked or sealed, nor shall any restriction be imposed on the movement of residents under the pretext of security arrangements. Please ensure that all security measures are discreet and do not cause any inconvenience, disruption, or hardship to the general public. These instructions must be followed in letter and spirit. Failing to comply will result in strict action.

She further instructed law enforcement agencies and relevant departments to ensure that all security arrangements are made discreetly and without disrupting the daily activities of the public.

Maryam Nawaz stressed that her instructions must be implemented in letter and spirit, warning that strict action would be taken against officials found violating the orders.

The directive aims to ensure that public life, commercial activities and routine movement remain uninterrupted during the chief minister's official visits.

Islamabad Traffic Police Organizes Road Safety Awareness Walk in Sector B-17

■ Residents Sensitized About Helmet and Seat Belt Use, Traffic Regulations and Safe Driving Practices to Promote Safer Roads



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Education Wing of Islamabad Traffic Police, in collaboration with residents of Sector B-17, organized a road safety awareness walk to promote traffic discipline, encourage responsible road use and create greater awareness among citizens about the importance of following traffic rules.

The awareness walk was aimed at educating motorists, motorcyclists and other road users about essential road safety measures and their role in preventing traffic accidents. A large emphasis was placed on developing responsible driving habits and ensuring compliance with traffic regulations to safeguard precious human lives.

During the walk, Islamabad Traffic Police officials interacted with residents and participants and highlighted the importance of wearing helmets while riding motorcycles and using seat belts while driving vehicles. Citizens were also briefed on the importance of obeying traffic signals, following designated road rules, maintaining safe driving practices and avoiding careless behavior on roads.

Officials emphasized that wearing helmets and seat belts is not merely a legal requirement but also an essential precaution that can significantly reduce the risk of serious injuries in road accidents. Motorists were encouraged to remain vigilant, observe speed limits and demonstrate patience and responsibility while driving.

Informational pamphlets containing important road safety guidelines were also distributed among participants and residents to reinforce the message and encourage greater awareness of traffic regulations. The activity provided an opportunity for the police and local community to work together in promoting a culture of road safety and responsible driving.

Islamabad Traffic Police has been regularly organizing awareness campaigns and educational activities in different areas of the federal capital to improve public understanding of traffic laws and promote safer commuting practices.

Islamabad Police Arrests Over 20,000 Suspects, Recovers Rs. 1.62 Billion in Stolen Property

■ Major Crackdown During First Ten Months of 2026 Leads to Arrests of Criminal Gang Members, Drug Dealers and Proclaimed Offenders.

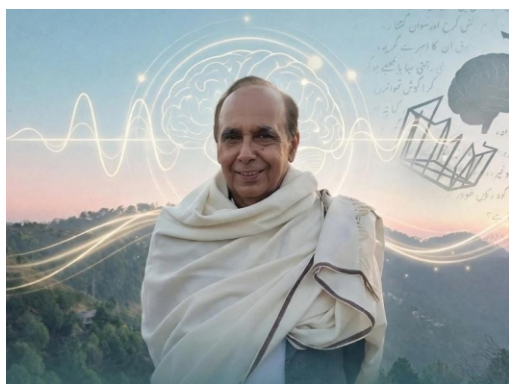
CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Islamabad Police Arrests 20,883 Accused in Ten-Month Crackdown; Stolen Property Worth Rs. 1.62 Billion RecoveredAccording to details, under the command of IGP Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, Islamabad Police continues its indiscriminate and effective operations against criminal elements across the federal capital. During the first ten months of 2026, Islamabad Police achieved significant results in combating crime, maintaining law and order and protecting the lives and property of citizens.During this period, Islamabad Police arrested 20,883 accused involved in various crimes and recovered stolen property worth more than Rs. 1.625 billion.Police arrested 1,197 members of 509 criminal gangs involved in robbery, street crime, house burglaries, car theft and motorcycle theft. The recovered property included 194 vehicles, 668 motorcycles, gold jewelry and valuable mobile phones worth millions of rupees.Islamabad Police also took effective action against proclaimed offenders and previously recorded criminals, arresting more than 5,000 proclaimed offenders during the first ten months of the year.As part of the ongoing crackdown against illegal possession and display of weapons, police arrested 2,112 accused. The recoveries included 189 Kalashnikovs and rifles, 32 guns and carbines, 1,757 pistols of different calibers, 174 daggers and a large quantity of ammunition.During the crackdown against drug dealers, Islamabad Police arrested 1,527 accused over the past ten months. Recoveries included more than 232 kilograms of hashish, over 138 kilograms of heroin, 194 kilograms of ice and 14,962 bottles of liquor.Strict legal action was also taken against those involved in aerial firing. Police arrested 126 accused in connection with 105 cases registered for aerial firing.To prevent crime and maintain law and order, Islamabad Police conducted 1,915 grand combing and search operations in different areas of the capital. Targeted operations, intelligence-based actions and effective patrolling against criminal elements also continued during this period.DIG Islamabad Ali Waseem said that the protection of citizens' lives and property remains the foremost priority of Islamabad Police.

The Psychology of Fear: Overcoming Imaginary Threats Through Acceptance of Reality



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

A deeper understanding of human nature reveals that apprehension is, in fact, an inherent part of our instincts. It is a protective alarm system within the human brain, commonly known as the Survival Mechanism, designed to alert us to potential dangers. In ancient times, this system protected human beings from wild animals and natural disasters. However, in today's modern and increasingly complex world, our brains apply the same alarm mechanism to anticipated economic, political, and social threats of the future.The problem begins when this alarm system becomes excessively sensitive and starts ringing continuously. At that point, a natural concern transforms into anxiety, obsessive thoughts, and irrational fears, eventually leaving a person mentally paralysed.The entire philosophy of life presented by renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan revolves around this very point. He describes fears and apprehensions as forms of negative thinking. Maulana often emphasised that the real danger is not necessarily outside us; rather, it is frequently the fear of danger that exists within our own minds.According to his philosophy, this world has not been created as a perfect and contradiction-free place under the laws of nature. Challenges, difficulties, and contradictions are inevitable parts of life. Once a person accepts this reality, he steps out of an imaginary world and begins living in the world of facts. Consequently, many of his fears and illusions begin to disappear.

Pak Navy assumes guard duties at Allama Iqbal's mausoleum

■ The 149th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal is being commemorated

News Desk

LAHORE

A dignified change of guard ceremony was held at the mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore on Monday, with a Pakistan Navy contingent assuming ceremonial guard duties.

Pakistan Navy Station Commander Lahore Commodore Misbah-ul-Amin attended the ceremony as the chief guest, laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum and offered Fateha.

The chief guest inspected the contingents of the Pakistan Rangers and Pakistan Navy participating in the ceremony and recorded his remarks in the visitors' book.

The 149th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal is being commemorated on today.



Allama Muhammad Iqbal dreamed of a separate homeland and through his poetry, he breathed a new spirit of awakening among the Muslims of the Subcontinent.His famous presidential address in Allahabad in 1930 is of historic significance. Pakistan came into existence through the teachings of Allama Iqbal and the tireless efforts of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

FIA slaps Rs3.5m fine on shipping agency after foreign crew's missing documents

■ The foreign crew members were found without mandatory Seaman's Books and maritime training certificates.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Immigration Karachi has imposed a fine of Rs3.5 million on shipping agency Sharaf Shipping after identifying serious documentation irregularities aboard a vessel docked at Karachi Port,

According to the FIA spokesperson, the vessel had seven foreign crew members including four Nepalis, one Bangladeshi and two Malawian nationals.

The foreign crew members were found without mandatory Seaman's Books and maritime training certificates.

During the inspection, authorities also recovered Seaman's Books issued by Burundi, Palau and Saint Kitts and Nevis from some crew members, raising concerns over compliance with maritime documentation requirements.



The vessel, CS Maram, had arrived in Karachi from Salalah and was engaged in a cable-laying project. A total of 33 crew members were deployed aboard the ship.

Following the discovery of the violations, FIA Immigration imposed a fine of Rs3.5 million on Sharaf Shipping.

The ship's captain accepted responsibility for the documentation shortcomings and apologized, while the shipping agency assured authorities that the fine would be deposited into the national exchequer.



NCCIA conducts running test for female candidates under tight security in Islamabad

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) on Monday conducted a running test for female candidates at its Islamabad recruitment centre as part of the ongoing recruitment process, with special security arrangements and drone surveillance to ensure smooth conduct of the physical examination.

NCCIA conducts running test for female candidates under tight security in Islamabad

According to an NCCIA official, female candidates participated in the running test to assess their physical fitness and endurance in accordance with the prescribed recruitment standards.

NCCIA conducts running test for female candidates under tight security in Islamabad



Three flights from Lahore airport cancelled amid security concerns

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE

Three flights scheduled to depart from Allama Iqbal International Airport for Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Istanbul were cancelled on Monday due to security concerns and technical issues, airport sources said.

According to airport sources, a private airline's flight XY318, bound for Riyadh, was cancelled due to security concerns.Meanwhile, flight PF796, scheduled to fly from Lahore to Abu Dhabi, was cancelled due to a technical fault.Another private airline flight, TK745, bound for Istanbul, was also cancelled due to a technical issue.Airport sources confirmed that the three flights were cancelled due to security concerns and technical problems.



Woman arrested after darting through traffic without licence in Lahore

News Desk

LAHORE

Police have registered a case against a woman for reckless and negligent driving after she allegedly darted through traffic on a major road in Lahore on Monday, and that too without a driving licence,

According to the FIR, the case was registered at Naseerabad Police Station under Section 279 of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of Senior Traffic Warden Sajid Khalil.The accused, identified as Noor, a resident of Defence, was driving a car (BCQ-678) at high speed and in a negligent manner on CBD Road .

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq visits Sindh Assembly, discusses parliamentary cooperation

STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI



National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq visited the Sindh Assembly and met Speaker Syed Awais Qadir Shah to discuss parliamentary cooperation, legislative matters and the national political situation.

Sadiq was accompanied by National Assembly Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah and MNA Mir Aijaz Khan Jakhrani.

During the meeting, both speakers exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between the National and Provincial Assemblies, reinforcing parliamentary institutions and promoting modern parliamentary practices.

Sindh Assembly Speaker Awais Qadir Shah briefed the delegation on the historical significance of the Sindh Assembly, which passed a resolution in favour of establishing a separate Muslim state on March 3, 1943.

He also took the delegation on a tour of the historic Sindh Assembly chamber and the current assembly building.

Sadiq thanked Shah for the warm welcome and hospitality.

The Sindh Assembly speaker presented the visiting delegation with the assembly's Legacy Shield, books on the history of Sindh and its legislature, traditional Sindhi caps and ajraks.

Sindh Assembly Secretary GM. Umar Farooq and Director General Media Irfan Ahmed Memon were also present.

Pakistan Customs seizes 51kg of hashish worth Rs239.5m in smuggling attempt

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Customs seized 51 kilogrammes of hashish concealed in a truck carrying carrots and arrested its driver during an operation on the RCD Highway.

According to Pakistan Customs, the operation was conducted by Customs Enforcement at the Kharkhira Digital Enforcement Station, where narcotics and a vehicle valued at Rs239.5 million were confiscated.

Customs officials recovered the hashish from hidden compartments in the truck, which was transporting a consignment of carrots.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the narcotics were being transported from the Gulistan area of Balochistan to Karachi, Pakistan Customs said.

Iqbal's Philosophy of Selfhood Remains a Guiding Light for National Life: Sehrish Qamar

On Iqbal Day, AJK Assembly Member Urges Youth to Embrace Education, Research, Self-Confidence and National Service; Calls for Unity, Hard Work and Collective Responsibility.

STAFF REPORTER

MIRPUR



Member of the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sehrish Qamar, has said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal was one of the greatest thinkers, philosophers and poets of the subcontinent and the visionary who inspired the Muslims of the region with the ideals of selfhood, dignity, unity, awareness and freedom.

In her special message on the occasion of Iqbal Day, Sehrish Qamar said that Allama Iqbal's poetry and philosophy played a significant role in awakening political and intellectual consciousness among the Muslims of the subcontinent. His thoughts and teachings continue to serve as a guiding light for the nation's individual and collective development.

She said that Iqbal's philosophy of Khudi (selfhood) teaches people self-respect, confidence, determination and the importance of continuous struggle. Through the symbolism of the Shaheen (eagle), Iqbal encouraged young people to aim high, develop strong character, demonstrate courage and strive for excellence.

Sehrish Qamar observed that nations do not achieve progress merely by dreaming but through determination, practical action, knowledge, unity and strong moral character. She emphasized that understanding and implementing Iqbal's philosophy was particularly important for the younger generation in the present era.

She said that Iqbal Day provides an opportunity to renew the commitment to make his teachings an integral part of individual and collective life. She stressed the need to build a society based on knowledge, justice, brotherhood, tolerance and respect for human dignity.

Highlighting the responsibilities of young people in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sehrish Qamar urged them to seek guidance from Iqbal's message of selfhood and the high-flying spirit of the Shaheen. She encouraged the youth to excel in education, research, character building and public service, saying that young people are a valuable asset of any nation.She further stated that Iqbal's philosophy inspires young people to overcome disappointment, inferiority complexes and stagnation and move forward with confidence, determination and ambitious goals.



Dr. Shabana assumes additional charge as ED NIRM

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Dr. Shabana Saleem, Director General Population at the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, has assumed the additional charge of Executive Director of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine (NIRM).

Following her assumption of the additional responsibility, Dr. Shabana Saleem held a meeting with the hospital administration to discuss key institutional matters and review administrative affairs.

The meeting focused on strengthening coordination among different departments, improving institutional management and ensuring the smooth delivery of healthcare and rehabilitation services.

Karachi mayor visits Swaminarayan temple, extends Diwali greetings to

He highlighted that Sindh has a longstanding tradition of promoting minority rights, religious freedom and religious tolerance.



STAFF REPORTER

KARACHI

Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited historic Swaminarayan Temple in Sadar along with his family on the occasion of Diwali and extended warm greetings to members of the Hindu community.

During his visit, the mayor met members of the community, exchanged Diwali greetings and distributed sweets among those present at the temple.

Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that people of all religions are equal participants in each other's joys and celebrations. He described Karachi's diverse communities as an integral part of the city's cultural identity.

He highlighted that Sindh has a longstanding tradition of promoting minority rights, religious freedom and religious tolerance.

The mayor emphasised that all religious minorities in Pakistan have the right to celebrate their festivals freely and joyfully. He said it was the collective responsibility of society to protect minorities, respect their rights and ensure equal opportunities for everyone.

Sharing his message of harmony, Wahab said that participating in one another's celebrations helps strengthen brotherhood, love and mutual understanding.

He also prayed that Diwali would bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the Hindu community.

NCCIA Rawalpindi Cracks Down on Online Investment Fraud, Recovers Rs. 1.8 Million



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

NCCIA Rawalpindi circle Action Against Accused Involved in Online Investment Fraud, Rs. 1.8 Million RecoveredCitizen defrauded of over Rs. 2.9 million through Facebook and WhatsApp.The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has taken action against accused involved in online investment fraud and recovered Rs. 1.8 million.It transpired that the complainant was contacted on Facebook from an ID named as Misbah Sabir and then contacted on WhatsApp impersonating himself as an online businessman and asked the complainant to invest the amount online.Fraudsters shared a link and after clicking the link an application was installed in mobile phone named as "Onchainus.net" and by using "Onchainus.net" fraudsters defrauded the complainant from his hard-earned money PKR 2,915,872/-.During the action, NCCIA recovered an amount of Rs. 1.8 million. Further investigation into the matter is underway to identify other persons involved in the fraud and to ensure complete recovery of the amount.On this occasion, officials said that NCCIA is committed to taking strict action against elements involved in online fraud, fake investment schemes and cybercrimes, and no one will be spared.

Acting Upon Allama Iqbal's Teachings Can Put Pakistan on the Path to Progress: Farah Naz Akbar

Iqbal awakened the Muslims of the Subcontinent through his poetry and philosophy and presented the vision of an independent Muslim state, says PML-N leader

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Women's Wing Islamabad President, MNA and Federal Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture Farah Naz Akbar has said that Pakistan can move towards progress and prosperity by following the teachings and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal.In her special message on the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East and visionary of Pakistan, she said that Allama Iqbal awakened the Muslims of the Subcontinent through his poetry and philosophy and presented the vision of an independent Islamic state.She said Iqbal's message of Khudi (self-realisation), unity and action continues to serve as a guiding light for the nation. She urged the younger generation to study Iqbal's poetry and incorporate his teachings into their practical lives.Farah Naz Akbar said that the prevailing national circumstances demand that people set aside their differences and play their due role in building a strong, prosperous and stable Pakistan, in line with the vision of Allama Iqbal.She further said that the great philosopher taught the Muslim Ummah to live with dignity through the power of knowledge and character. Living nations, she added, always follow in the footsteps of their great predecessors.Referring to Iqbal's philosophy, she said that knowledge, unity and solidarity are the true sources of strength for the Muslim Ummah. These teachings, she observed, are also rooted in the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).She described the philosophy of Khudi as a call for young people to recognise their abilities and talents and utilise them for the progress and development of the nation.She said Iqbal encouraged young people to question, trust their hard work and face difficult circumstances with courage and determination.Farah Naz Akbar emphasised that national unity is reflected in respecting one another despite differences and working collectively to address common challenges.

She said the nation must resolve to open the doors of education to an increasing number of children and promote mutual respect, cooperation and harmony through words and actions.She concluded that Allama Iqbal likened the youth to the Shaheen (eagle), symbolising courage, ambition and high aspirations. The Shaheen of Iqbal, she said, can truly soar to great heights through the power of knowledge and self-confidence.



A worker is busy stitching a colourful quilt at roadside setup for customers

Iran says 2-day proposal stands, warns US against fresh attacks



Web DESK

ISTANBUL

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that Tehran's two-day proposal to end the war remains on the table, urging the White House to accept Iran's conditions and warning of a military response if Washington resumes attacks.

"American voters have made their choice. Time for the White House to make its own," Araghchi wrote on X, referring to Tuesday's US midterm elections. He added that Iran's two-day proposal remains valid, calling on Washington to meet Tehran's demands, including an end to the war on all fronts.

"Our 2-day proposal stands: meet the requirements, including end to war on all fronts, and you will see results," he said, warning that if the United States chose military action, Iranian forces would "rain down hell."

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said Tehran's seven-step proposal, initially presented in September, remained the foundation for indirect negotiations with Washington.

Baghaei said the proposal had been condensed into a framework that could be implemented within two days.



Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Sign Key Agreement to Improve Hajj Arrangements for Pakistani Pilgrims,The agreement was signed by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah.

Hasina seeks new passport in clearest sign of Bangladesh return

■ **Sheikh Hasina has sought a new Bangladeshi passport and identity card, signalling a possible return from exile in India amid ongoing political and legal tensions.**

Web Desk

NEW DELHI



Ousted Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina requested on Monday a new passport and identity card so she can return from self-imposed exile in India, according to a letter seen by Reuters, her first such communication since fleeing in 2024.

The request marks the clearest step by Hasina to act on her plan to return to Bangladesh in December, more than two years after a deadly uprising ended her long rule, raising the prospect of fresh political and legal tensions in a country where her party is now banned.

She has told Reuters she plans to return to surrender before a court, and her aides said on Monday the date would be announced once various formalities were completed. Bangladesh's war-crimes court sentenced her to death in November last year in her absence for ordering a deadly crackdown on the student-led uprising, though she has denied the charges from exile.

"In view of the reported revocation of her existing Bangladeshi passport and National Identity Card (NID) by the Interim Government and other authorities, I respectfully request that you take the necessary steps to issue a new Bangladeshi passportand National Identity Card for our client," Hasina's lawyers at London-based Matrix Chambers wrote to Preeti Rahman, acting high commissioner at Bangladesh's embassy in Delhi.

The letter asked for the applications to be processed "expeditiously" on the basis of her Bangladeshi nationality and in accordance with "obligations arising under international human rights instruments".

Rahman in Delhi and spokespeople for Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Hasina's Awami League party was the country's largest before it was banned following her fall. Many of her party colleagues have either been jailed or are in self-imposed exile in India or elsewhere.

Death toll from Saudi attack in Yemen rises to 44

■ **Saudi Arabia has since traded blows with the Houthis, who have struck Saudi airports, energy infrastructure and military sites.**

Web Desk

RIYADH



The death toll from Saudi strikes on Yemen's Sanaa province climbed to 44, including more than 20 children, the Houthis said on their television channel Monday.

A 2022 truce that had paused fighting in Yemen's long-running conflict fell apart in July, restarting fighting between the Houthis and the Saudi-backed government.

Saudi Arabia has since traded blows with the Houthis, who have struck Saudi airports, energy infrastructure and military sites.

"The toll from the Saudi enemy's massacre in the Alshariyah area of Bani Hushaysh, east of Sanaa, has risen to 84 casualties: 44 martyrs and 40 wounded," the Houthis' ministry of health said, according to the group's Almasirah TV channel. It said 21 children and 10 women were among those killed.

"Rescue teams are still searching for the missing," it added.

The fresh toll comes after the Houthis claimed on Sunday an attack on the financial district of the Saudi capital Riyadh, with eyewitnesses saying they saw damage to a skyscraper belonging to oil giant Aramco.

The United Nations says more than 1,600 people have been killed and more than 300,000 displaced since fighting resumed in the impoverished country.

Trump to meet Qatar's prime minister as Iran diplomacy faces hurdles

● **Trump is set to meet Qatar's prime minister at the White House as Doha continues mediation between Washington and Tehran, amid stalled negotiations and renewed US warnings of military action.**

Web Desk

Washngation



President Donald Trump will meet with Qatar's prime minister at the White House on Monday, ?according to the White House schedule, as the conflict with Irandrags on and diplomatic efforts to end it face significant obstacles.

Trump is due to meet with Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, who also serves as Qatar's foreign minister, in a closed-door meeting. Vice President JD Vance is also scheduled to meet with the Qatari leader, according to a US official. Qatar has played a central role as an intermediary between Washington and Tehran, conveying proposals and seeking to bridge differences over Iran's nuclear program and the terms for ending the conflict.

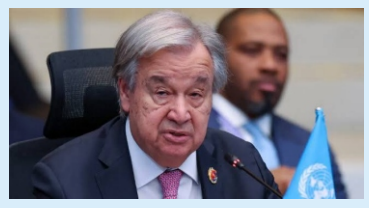
Speaking before departing Florida for a G7 foreign ministers meeting in Paris, Rubio said Trump preferred a diplomatic solution but described Iran's demands as "unacceptable" and, in some cases, "outrageous and ridiculous, and really not realistic."

Trump said that he was highly unlikely to order new strikes against Iran if negotiations made progress and produced a strong agreement, but warned that the United States had identified additional infrastructure targets, including bridges, should military action resume.

World entering 'age of climate extremes': UN chief

Web Desk

New York



The world is entering a new reality where climate extremes are the norm, the United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned Monday, urging leaders at the COP31 climate conference in Turkey to "get serious". "A supersized El Nino is colliding with a planet already superheated by manmade climate change," the UN secretary general said in a statement."We have entered a new age of climate extremes."As leaders gathered in Antalya for the UN climate summit, Guterres called on them to "get serious by cutting emissions faster, accelerating a just transition from fossil fuels and delivering the finance and protection vulnerable countries need".

His statement came as the UN's World Meteorological Organization released a report indicating that 2026 has continued a streak of exceptional global temperatures, melting ice and rising sea levels.

Each of the past 12 years have been among the hottest 12 years on record, the agency said, with this year expected to be among the hottest ever. "What we are seeing gives new meaning to the phrase off the charts," WMO chief Celeste Saulo told reporters in Geneva, cautioning that the current exceptionally strong El Nino could unleash more heat and extreme weather well into next year.

Fly Jinnah tops CAA performance report



Web Desk

Washngation

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued a report on the performance of the national airlines on domestic routes from July 2024 to June 2025, in which Fly Jinnah achieved the top honours, As per the CAA report, Fly Jinnah gained first position as passengers expressed their satisfaction and appreciated airline's services on domestic routes.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) achieved second, Airblue third, and Air Sial fourth position.

About 19,67,570 passengers travelled through Fly Jinnah in one year. Fly Jinnah provided the best services to their passengers on domestic routes.

As many as 18,51,782 passengers preferred to fly with Pakistan International Airlines on domestic routes.

US launches Task Force Iron Gate to disrupt land transit routes into Iran

■ **Explosive-laden drone strikes Iraq gas complex, cuts supply**

Web Desk

Washington



President Donald Trump said that a new task force is in place to disrupt land routes into Iran that the US military says are used for shipments of weapons and illicit materials.

US Central Command announced the formation of a 20-member team to expand on a US naval blockade of Iranian ports during the eight-month war. "Task Force Iron Gate is in full force and effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Coupled with history's greatest Naval Blockade, very little gets into, or out of, Iran!" the president posted on his Truth Social platform.

CENTCOM chief Admiral Brad Cooper said in Saturday's statement that the force "will further constrain Iran's ability to finance terrorism, rebuild weapons factories, and replenish their military."

The team of both civilian and military personnel based in Florida would coordinate with US government agencies on "preventing the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea," the statement added.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said Washington's latest bid "will fail" and will not bring about economic collapse in the Islamic republic.

"The United States will never be able to impose the economic blockade it is pursuing and proposing under various names and through different plans," Guards spokesman Hossein Mohebi said, according to Fars news agency.

"The Americans will not achieve their objective of exerting extreme economic pressure to bring about the collapse and disintegration of Iran's economy."

Mohebi added that the United States would be "powerless to block" communication channels between Iran and neighboring countries.

CENTCOM said that the naval blockade on Iranian ports had "prevented Iran from exporting more than $25 billion in crude oil." In August, Washington announced what it called an "economic asphyxiation" campaign on Iran aimed at strangling its already battered economy.Those measures were in response to Tehran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key conduit for global oil supplies, where Iranian forces have regularly targeted vessels that attempted to cross without authorization.

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Tax net: time for enforcement

Pakistan's policymakers are saying many of the right things: affordable housing finance, cheaper credit for SMEs and farmers, export promotion, IT development, digital payments and targeted assistance through BISP. These priorities deserve support. However, subsidies and concessional financing cannot substitute for a sustainable revenue base. Who will finance these ambitions if substantial economic activity continues to escape effective taxation?



Broadening the tax net remains the missing piece. Relief for documented taxpayers must accompany measurable progress in taxing previously undeclared incomes. Otherwise, concessions create revenue gaps eventually recovered from the same salaried employees, compliant businesses and consumers. Pakistan needs a system in which the remaining undocumented carries a credible cost, while compliance offers predictable treatment and protection from harassment.

The Asaan Tax Scheme illustrates this challenge. On November 3, the government acknowledged before a parliamentary committee that participation had disappointed and announced plans for enforcement. Reporting on the proceedings indicated that FBR possesses information on approximately 3.7 million retailers, including identity and utility records for 1.4 million. The challenge is converting available information into verified liabilities and sustained compliance.

The experience follows the disappointing Tajir Dost initiative. Consultations, simplified procedures and concessions have struggled to overcome resistance. Some businesses cite corruption and uncertainty; others fear losing their competitive advantage against undocumented rivals. These concerns require institutional reform, but cannot justify permanent exemption. The state must protect taxpayers from arbitrary treatment while ensuring that deliberate evasion attracts consequences.

Repeated amnesties further weaken compliance. When undeclared wealth periodically enters the system on favourable terms, honest taxpayers receive the wrong message. Similarly, higher withholding taxes on non-filers must not become a permanent substitute for assessing actual income. Paying more on occasional transactions should not purchase indefinite freedom from filing returns, explaining accumulated wealth and meeting continuing obligations.

FBR collected approximately Rs13 trillion in net taxes during FY2025-26. Crucially, the achievement was against a revised target. Record nominal collections deserve recognition, but cannot alone demonstrate successful tax widening. The real test is how much additional revenue comes from previously untaxed incomes rather than existing taxpayers, inflation and transaction-based deductions.

The IMF has reinforced this message. At an SDPI conference, reported on November 6, its Pakistan representative Mahir Binici highlighted untapped agricultural, property and provincial services taxation. He stated: "These reforms can only be durable and deliver dividends if the burden is shared, vulnerable households are protected and the benefits are visible." He also emphasised revenue mobilisation of at least 15% of GDP to support public services.

Without durable revenues, development expenditure remains vulnerable whenever fiscal targets become difficult. Private capital cannot carry every public responsibility. Dams, railways, urban transport, universities, hospitals and climate resilience require reliable funding. Ambitions in artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing depend on education, research, electricity and digital infrastructure. Fiscal weakness ultimately limits both economic opportunity and national resilience.

Agricultural taxation is a decisive test. The IMF's 2026 review identified agriculture as the largest undertaxed sector and highlighted implementation delays following agricultural income tax reforms. Small farmers facing volatile weather and crop prices deserve protection.

Hue and Cry of an Overseas Pakistani



By: Malik Muslim Raza

Sometimes, when I sit alone and look back at the last thirty years of my life, I find myself overwhelmed by questions for which I have no answers.

I do not know where to begin. I do not know whom to blame. Perhaps there is no one to blame. Perhaps it is simply the price of being born in a poor country, into an ordinary family, with dreams bigger than the opportunities available.

Thirty years ago, I left Pakistan in search of a better life. I was young, hopeful, ambitious, and determined. Like so many others, I believed that hard work in a foreign land would eventually bring financial security, peace of mind, and happiness, not only for myself but also for the people I loved.

Pakistan news analysis

Today, after three decades, I ask myself a painful question:

What have I really achieved, and what have I lost along the way?

I have worked, struggled, earned, supported, sacrificed, and fulfilled responsibilities. Yet somehow, the responsibilities never ended.

The needs of the family remained. The problems back home remained. The financial expectations remained. And the country I left behind, hoping that one day it would change for the better, continues to struggle with many of the same problems.

Thirty years have passed, but sometimes it feels as though I have been running on a treadmill, moving constantly without ever reaching a destination.The only thing that has truly changed is me.

I have grown older. My energy is no longer what it used to be. The dreams that once inspired me have slowly been replaced by a longing for peace, simplicity, and a little happiness.

What troubles me most is not the money I have spent or the opportunities I may have missed. It is the realization that I have spent so much of my life preparing for a better tomorrow that I forgot to enjoy today.

Living in Canada exposed me to a different understanding of society. I saw how institutions could function, how ordinary people could expect dignity, how the law could provide protection, and how citizens could build their lives with a reasonable sense of security.

Of course, no country is perfect. Every society has its problems. But I saw enough to understand that human beings do not have to spend their entire lives fighting merely to survive.

And every time I experienced something good in my adopted country, my thoughts returned to Pakistan.

Why can't my country be like this?

Why can't an ordinary Pakistani live with dignity?

Pakistan news analysis

Why must a person need influence, connections, money, or personal favors to obtain what should be his basic right?

Why do we accept injustice, humiliation, and inequality as though they are unavoidable parts of life?

These questions have followed me for thirty years.

I often discuss these issues with my Indian friends. We share a common history, cultural similarities, and many of the same social challenges. Yet our conversations frequently make me reflect on the different directions our societies have taken.

I feel neither jealousy nor hostility. I simply feel sadness for the opportunities Pakistan has lost and for the generations that have paid the price.



I know that Pakistan is not short of talented, hardworking, intelligent, and generous people. I have met countless Pakistanis who have achieved remarkable success around the world.

So why is it that the same people who flourish abroad often struggle to realize their potential at home?

Perhaps our greatest failure is not economic. Perhaps it is our inability to build a society in which justice, honesty, merit, and human dignity are valued above wealth and power.

But beyond my disappointment with Pakistan lies another pain, a much more personal one.

The loneliness of being an overseas Pakistani.

Pakistan news analysis

People back home often imagine that living abroad means living a comfortable and prosperous life. They see the foreign currency, the houses, the cars, the photographs, and the occasional visits.

What they rarely see is the other side of that life.The long working hours. The loneliness. The endless bills. The missed weddings and funerals. The aging parents we could not spend enough time with. The children who grew up while we were busy earning a living. The friendships that faded with distance.

And above all, the constant feeling of responsibility.

There is always someone who needs help. Always another expense. Another emergency. Another expectation.

We become providers, problem-solvers, and financial supporters.

Somewhere along the way, people stop asking whether we are happy.

And perhaps we stop asking ourselves the same question.

I sometimes wonder whether I have lived my own life or simply spent thirty years fulfilling the expectations of others.

This is not a complaint against my family. I love them, and whatever I have done for them has come from that love. But love does not eliminate exhaustion. Responsibility does not eliminate loneliness. And sacrifice does not always bring satisfaction.

There comes a time when a person begins to question the meaning of it all. What is the purpose of earning money if we never have time to enjoy life? What is the meaning of success if our minds are constantly occupied with worries?

What have we gained if, after decades of hard work, we still cannot find peace within ourselves? Perhaps the most painful realization is that time is the one thing money can never replace.

IQBAL'S SHAHEEN AND PAF'S WINGS OF RESOLVE



By: Izmi Herlani

One of the most enduring influences on the spirit of Pakistan Air Force came not from a military strategist or an aviation pioneer, but from a poet, Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. His poetry offers neither the comfort of easy praise nor the promise of effortless greatness. It demands courage, self-belief and relentless endeavour. Its promise is exacting: we need not remain confined by the limits we inherit, but we must earn the heights we seek. For PAF, that promise takes wing in Iqbal's Shaheen, high-flying, keen-eyed, restless in spirit and sustained by its own strength. As Pakistan commemorates the poet's 149th birth anniversary, the question is not simply how deeply we admire his vision, but how faithfully we live it. Pakistan news analysis



Iqbal does not ask the Shaheen to admire its wings. He challenges it to use them. Beyond achievement lies another horizon; beyond recognition, another responsibility. Yesterday's accomplishment must never become tomorrow's excuse. Here, inspiration meets its test: aspiration must become preparation, confidence must become competence and pride must answer to duty.

The Shaheen's qualities give that pursuit its discipline. High flight demands high purpose; keen sight suggests foresight. Its restless spirit rejects stagnation, while its solitary struggle speaks of endurance and self-reliance. Together, these qualities offer an uncompromising ideal: strength earned through effort, not distinction borrowed from privilege.

That ideal has a contemporary institutional expression in PAF's modernization and indigenization drive under Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Describing a transition towards a "Next Generation Air Force", the Air Chief has outlined changes in operational doctrine and the induction of capabilities in Kinetic domains, Unmanned Systems, Electronic Warfare, and Space & Cyber capabilities. The stated ambition reaches beyond individual platforms towards a connected, Multi-Domain Force.

The connection with Iqbal is not in the terminology. It is in the refusal to stand still. An institution honours that spirit when it encourages inquiry, rewards initiative and prepares its people for challenges that yesterday's methods cannot answer.

For every young Shaheen, the blue uniform therefore marks both an arrival and a beginning. Selection opens the door; character determines what follows. The aircraft commands the gaze, but the instructor's patience, the engineer's ingenuity, the technician's precision and the fighter pilot's preparation make flight possible. There is patriotism in exactness. There is honour in work done faithfully when no one is watching.The palace offers comfort. The mountain demands endurance. Iqbal places the Shaheen on the rock, not beneath the gilded dome: stature must be earned, not bestowed. For the Men in Blue, the lesson is not hardship for their own sake. It is the refusal to let convenience outrank duty.

That distinction gives remembrance its purpose. The courage of Air Commodore M M Alam, Squadron Leader Sarfaraz Rafiqui (Shaheed) and Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas (Shaheed) places a demanding inheritance before succeeding generations. The remembrance of 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars & Operation Swift Retort carries its own call to readiness.

Security forces clear terror hideouts in two North Waziristan mosques

forces for their successful intelligence-based operation against terrorist hideouts in North Waziristan.In their separate messages, they said that using mosques to store explosives and as centres of violence is a blatant violation of the fundamental teachings of Islam. Asif Zardari said that terrorist elements operating with the support of the Afghan Taliban have no connection with Islam. He said the selective interpretation and misuse of religion are unacceptable.

The Prime Minister said that the use of sacred places such as mosques for terrorist activities by Fitna al-Khawarij, operating under Indian patronage, is clear evidence of their deviation from the fundamental teachings of Islam.

The Prime Minister said operations by security forces and law enforcement agencies to completely eliminate terrorism will continue with full force.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said intelligence-based operations will be further intensified to ensure peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a video message, he commended the security and intelligence agencies for their highly successful operation in North Waziristan.

He said we stand shoulder to shoulder with the security forces to establish lasting peace across the province.

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A vendor displaying different kinds of dry fruits to attract customers in his shop at Aabpara Market in the Federal Capital

LPG companies withdraw strike call after talks

■ LPG companies withdraw strike call after talks

Business Reporter

KARACHI

All Pakistan Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (APLPGA) has announced to call off their planned strike call for November 16 after talks with Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi in Karachi succeeded on Monday,

APLPGA President Ali Haider said that Sindh Governor Nehal Hashmi assured them that all their demands will be met in case they withdraw their planned strike.He further stated that after consultations, LPGMA decided to withdraw the call to save the people



from a deepening crisis.

Ali Haider said that all regions are affected badly due to the Gulf war, and now its effects are heading towards the energy and agriculture sectors. Governor Sindh Nehal Hashmi said that Pakistan imports 70 percent of LPG.

US dollar holds onto payrolls gains, NZ dollar rises after election

■ The US dollar remained near multi-month highs as strong US jobs data boosted expectations of a Federal Reserve rate hike, while the New Zealand dollar rebounded after inconclusive elections.

WEB DESK

TOKYO

The US dollar traded not far from a 1-1/2-year high versus the euro and a seven-month high on the Aussie on Monday, after surging by the most in nearly six months on Friday as ?robust US jobs data pushed up bets for higher interest rates.

New Zealand's currency bounced from a seven-month trough after too-close-to-call weekend elections weakened the government, although the country will need to wait until late this month to find out who will govern as vote counting



continues.The US dollar index , which measures the currency against six major rivals including the euro, was steady at 102.20 early on Monday, after leaping around 0.7% on Friday, when data showed jobs growth accelerated in October while the unemployment rate fell.

The euro edged up 0.1% to $1.11485, after slumping 0.7% on Friday and hitting a low of $1.1132, not far from the trough from a week earlier at $1.1105, the weakest since May 2025.The Aussie added 0.3% to $0.6875, ?after tumbling more than 1% on Friday to the lowest since March 31 at $0.6855.

The dollar eased 0.2% to 158.185 yen , following Friday's 0.6% jump.

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said on Friday the central bank expects underlying inflation to stay around its 2% target but recognises there are "some upside risks.



Transport fares reduced by 5pc across Punjab following drop in fuel prices

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Transport fares across the province have been reduced by 5 per cent following a series of enforcement operations carried out over the past 24 hours on the directives of Provincial Transport and Mass Transit Minister Bilal Akbar Khan.

The reduction comes in line with the continued decline in petroleum product prices, providing relief to commuters.

Bilal Akbar Khan has directed relevant officials to remain active in the field and take immediate action on public complaints.He has also ordered daily reports on enforcement actions against transporters found overcharging passengers. The provincial minister said the government was fulfilling its promise to bring transport fares back to their previous levels.

He also expressed gratitude to transport operators for not increasing fares despite previous hikes in diesel prices.



Oil prices ease after Trump's statement on Iran

Business Reporter

ISLAMABAD

International crude oil prices have fallen following recent remarks by US President Donald Trump, who said it was "very unlikely" that he would order new strikes against Iran if progress is made in negotiations.

Al Jazeera reported early Monday that Trump's remarks had affected early oil trading in Asian markets.

According to the report, Brent crude fell by more than half a percent to $97.67 per barrel, while US crude futures also declined to $90.51 per barrel.

Trump's remarks about the low likelihood of ordering new strikes against Iran came as both sides reported attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz in recent days.

However, Trump warned that if negotiations fail to make progress, he would target numerous sites in Iran, including infrastructure.

Oil falls as Trump says new Iran attacks 'unlikely'

■ Oil prices slipped after Trump signalled further US strikes on Iran were unlikely amid progress in peace talks, while easing supply concerns and weak demand weighed on markets.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Oil prices fell at Monday's open after US President Donald Trump said he was highly unlikely to order new Iran attacks while talks to end the conflict make progress, despite both nations' reports of attacks on ships in or near the Strait of Hormuz.

Brent was down 84 cents, or 0.85%, to $97.48 a barrel by 0138 GMT, while West Texas Intermediate fell 32 cents, or 0.35%, to $90.51 a barrel.

The fall reversed minor gains made on Friday's settlement as the market assessed the possibility of further US strikes on Iran, although Brent fell 17% last week, the steepest weekly drop since the start of the COVID pandemic and the biggest in absolute terms, according to LSEG data dating back to 1988.

"It depends on whether or not they sign a very strong agreement," Trump told CNN in a phone interview. "The answer is, highly unlikely it's going to be necessary."

Trump had hinted at renewing attacks on Iran after last week's US midterm elections, but there has been no sign ?of a large-scale US military operation. Iran has said it would respond by striking US and Israeli targets.

Tim Waterer, chief analyst at KCM Trade, called Trump's comments "more



measured" but said "the market is still waiting to see whether the midterms have produced a lasting shift in Trump's approach to the conflict, or whether this is just another temporary change in tone."

Oil is headed for a glut again as recovering Middle Eastern oil flows, rising production from other countries and weak demand have pushed global supply above consumption, JPMorgan said in a report , estimating a surplus of 1.1 million barrels per day in September, widening to 1.4 million bpd in October.

Iraq reached an understanding with the US to allow Iraqi oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz via a shipping lane near Oman, Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said in an interview with Al Jazeera.

He said Iraq's losses from the Iran war and disruptions to oil exports had reached $60 billion.

Separately the Houthis claimed responsibility for an attack on Saudi Aramco's offices in the capital Riyadh on Sunday that left windows blown out but no reported casualties.

World Bank energy mission visits Pakistan to review projects

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI

A World Bank energy mission, led by Moez Cherif, the Practice Manager for Energy in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAAP) region, is visiting Pakistan from November 9 to 13 to review energy-sector projects,

The delegation will hold meetings with officials from the power and petroleum divisions, the Privatization Commission and other key institutions.

According to a World Bank letter addressed to Economic Affairs Secretary Muhammad Humair Karim, the mission will also hold discussions with representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).The delegation's agenda includes meetings with the National Grid Company (NGC) and Water and



Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in Lahore on November 10, followed by consultations with the federal power and petroleum secretaries in Islamabad on November 11.Discussions on energy efficiency and provincial energy development are also planned with the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation (PEDO).The mission will participate in the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum on November 12 and hold meetings with officials from the Privatisation Commission and Economic Affairs Division.

5 Pakistani groups join Turkish investors for bidding of IESCO, FESCO, GEPCO

■ Former Caretaker Minister Gohar Ejaz was also present during the signing ceremony.

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD

In a landmark development that could reshape Pakistan's electricity distribution industry, three Pakistani business groups have joined forces with Türkiye's industrial heavyweight Cengiz Holding through a joint venture agreement signed in Istanbul to participate in the privatisation of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO), Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) and Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO),

The Pakistani consortium comprises Fatima Group, Lake City, Artistic Milliners (Pvt.) Ltd., DIN Group and Fazal Group, bringing together business interests spanning fertilisers, textiles, construction, mining, aviation, industrial investment and real estate development.

Former Caretaker Minister Gohar Ejaz was also present during the signing ceremony.

Their Turkish partner, Cengiz Holding, is one of Türkiye's major privately owned industrial conglomerates, with operations across electricity generation and distribution, construction, mining, metals and large-scale infrastructure development.

The agreement represents a



potentially significant development in Pakistan's electricity distribution privatisation programme, creating the possibility of foreign direct investment and international operational expertise entering three strategically important state-owned utilities.

Cengiz Holding also brings experience in managing major electricity distribution networks in Türkiye through CK Enerji and associated businesses, alongside an electricity generation portfolio exceeding 5,600 megawatts.

The scale of the partnership is particularly noteworthy.

The Pakistani business groups collectively represent a reported workforce exceeding 100,000 people across their wider operations, while Cengiz Holding reports approximately 45,000 employees.

Together, the business groups associated with the partnership represent a reported combined workforce exceeding 145,000, although these figures describe their wider operations rather than employees directly involved in the proposed joint venture.

First Test: Debutants Tayyab, Taha hit fifties as Pakistan dominate opening day

● Skipper Babar Azam, unbeaten Saud Shakeel also smash half-centuries; Fernando picks three wickets

SPORTS REPORTER

Rawalpindi



Fifties from debutants Tayyab Arif and Mohammad Taha, alongside skipper Babar Azam and Saud Shakeel, helped Pakistan reach 281-5 at stumps on the opening day of the first Test at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Pakistan made an impressive start after being asked to bat first, with openers Azan Awais and debutant Tayyab Arif taking the attack to the Sri Lankan bowlers through confident strokeplay.

The opening pair capitalised on loose deliveries and regularly found the boundaries, putting the visitors under early pressure. Their positive approach helped Pakistan cross the 50-run mark during the opening stages of the first session.

Tayyab looked assured on his international debut and brought up his maiden Test half-century, providing Pakistan with a solid platform. However, Sri Lanka broke the 86-run opening partnership in the 16th over when Milan Rathnayake dismissed Azan for 30 off 35 deliveries, including seven boundaries.

The visitors struck again in the following over as Asitha Fernando removed Tayyab, who departed after scoring an impressive 57 off 51 balls, hitting nine fours and a six at a strike rate of 111.76.

Following the two quick dismissals, captain Babar Azam joined fellow debutant Mohammad Taha at the crease. The pair consolidated the innings while maintaining the scoring momentum, taking Pakistan past the 100-run mark in the 21st over.

Pakistan resumed after lunch at 137-2 in 30 overs, with Babar unbeaten on 31 off 39 deliveries, including four boundaries, while Taha was batting on 15 off 42 balls.

The pair added a valuable 69-run partnership for the third wicket, taking Pakistan beyond 150 before Dilshan Madushanka dismissed Babar shortly after he completed his 35th Test half-century. The Pakistan captain scored 50 off 58 deliveries, including seven boundaries, leaving the hosts at 159-3.

Saud Shakeel joined Taha, and the duo steadied the innings with another important partnership, guiding Pakistan past the 200-run mark in the 49th over.

Taha continued his positive approach and brought up his maiden Test half-century on debut. However, Sonal Dinusha ended their 68-run fourth-wicket partnership in the 56th over, dismissing the debutant for 51 off 105 balls, including six boundaries.

Shakeel was joined by Salman Ali Agha, and the pair took Pakistan beyond 250 before Fernando claimed his second wicket by removing Agha for 16 off 22 deliveries.

Shakeel continued to bat confidently, completing his 12th Test half-century as Pakistan strengthened their position.

Bad light brought an early end to the opening day's play, with Shakeel unbeaten on 57 off 112 deliveries, including seven boundaries, while Ghazi Ghori remained not out on seven off 10 balls.



New Zealand ditches plans to launch team in Major League Cricket

SPORTS DESK

Islamabad

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that fast bowler Ali Raza will replace Akif Javed in the Pakistan Shaheens squad for the upcoming ACC Rising Stars Asia Cup 2026 in Qatar.

Based on medical reports and MRI findings, Akif Javed has sustained a knee injury and has been advised to undergo a rehabilitation programme before returning to competitive cricket.

The medical team has recommended that Akif complete the required strength and conditioning programme, followed by a gradual return-to-play process, including a graded bowling programme at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) under the supervision of the PCB Medical Department.

Noskova beats Kostyuk in opening match at WTA Finals

■ The Czech defeats Ukraine's Kostyuk 6-2, 6-4 in 86 minutes to make a winning start



SPORTS Desk

Madrid

Reigning Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova defeated Marta Kostyuk 6-2, 6-4 on in the opening match of the season-ending WTA Finals at Indian Wells.

Noskova, a 21-year-old Czech, needed only 86 minutes to capture the Group One match over Ukraine's Kostyuk with Americans Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula to play later.

World number one and reigning champion Elena Rybakina withdrew from the WTA Finals on Saturday due to a viral illness with Kostyuk replacing her at the California hardcourt event.

Noskova improved to 3-1 against Kostyuk, all matches coming this year as both made the WTA Finals for the first time.

Noskova won in three sets at the US Open fourth round in their most recent prior meeting and in the Wimbledon semi-finals, while Kostyuk won on her way to the Madrid clay crown.

Gauff, the 2023 US Open and 2025 French Open champion, and Pegula have split 10 career meetings, Gauff winning the Cincinnati final and a Wimbledon quarter-final this year in their most recent matchups.

This year's WTA Finals were scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia but in July were moved to Indian Wells after US military strikes on Iran in February and the subsequent war in the region. .

Australia axe Labuschagne for New Zealand Tests

● Bangladesh and Nepal to co-host third edition of tournament featuring 16 teams from January 21

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Marnus Labuschagne was Monday axed from Australia's squad for their upcoming four-Test series against New Zealand, paying the price for a long run of poor form.

The number three, who has played 68 Tests, was under-pressure going into their recent tour of South Africa and failed to fire across the three Tests.

"At this stage we won't be considering Marn for selection for certainly that first Test, but for the New Zealand series," chairman of selectors George Bailey told cricket.com.au.

"There's been a lot of speculation around his place in the team.

"So I think this gives him a little bit of space and clears up a bit of conjecture as we work through the next round of (Sheffield) Shield cricket."

Labuschagne, who at one stage was the world's top-ranked batter,



had a tortured tour of South Africa, where his highest score was 39.

The 32-year-old has not scored a century since the 2023 Ashes series against England, but Bailey left the door open for a recall if he again finds form in the domestic red-ball competition.

"It's still possible, absolutely," he said. "And I think we all know how good and how effective Marnus can be at his best. But that performance hasn't been there.

"But I don't think we've ever ruled anyone out permanently ... and that's no different in this case."

The first Test against New Zealand starts on December 9 in Perth with the squad set to be named after the next round of Shield action, which begins Wednesday.

Carlos Alcaraz downs Ben Shelton to win Paris Masters for first time

■ Unlike their five-set quarter-final epic in New York two months ago, the clash in Paris lasted just under two hours

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

Carlos Alcaraz gained a measure of revenge on Ben Shelton as the seven-time Grand Slam champion beat the American 7-6(7/5), 7-5 to win the Paris Masters for the first time.

In defeating the man who ended his US Open title defence earlier this season, the 23-year-old claimed the ninth 1000-level title of his career.Unlike their five-set quarter-final epic in New York two months ago, the clash in Paris lasted just under two hours.

"For me it's really special that finally I just got to play great tennis," Alcaraz told reporters. "I went far in the tournament, lifting the trophy at the end.

"I would say this week I took a step forward mentally. I had a lot of really tough moments. I'm just really happy that I controlled my emotions, controlled my thoughts every moment, every single match," he added in



reference to his quarter-final win against Taylor Fritz, in which he saved two match points.

Coming into Paris on the back of winning the 500-level title in Vienna, Alcaraz has won his last nine matches.

"Probably these two last weeks have been the best I've played since my comeback," Alcaraz added of his return from a wrist injury that caused him to miss the French Open and Wimbledon.

Ahead of the ATP Finals, which run November 15-22 in Turin, world number three Alcaraz now holds five tour-level titles this year — only the injured Jannik Sinner has more with six.In Italy, he will next be seeking a first coronation at the season-ending Finals.

For world number four Shelton, it was a first defeat in a Masters final after winning his two previous appearances in showpiece matches at that level — both coming in the last two editions of the Canadian Open.

'Little details'

An entertaining first set, which drew a multitude of admiring gasps from the crowd, went the distance despite both players enjoying some success on the other's serve.

In the tie-break, a Shelton error at 4-4 followed by a leaping backhand smash by Alcaraz brought up two set points.

The first came and went when Alcaraz thundered the ball into the top of the net cord, and the expectant arena froze in time as it rose and fell in seeming slow motion, only to land on the Spaniard's side of the court.

Inter Milan beat Como to close in on Serie A leaders Lazio

■ Francesco Pio Esposito and Marcus Thuram struck in the opening 20 minutes as Inter ended a six-match winning run from Como

SPORTS DESK

RAWALPINDI

Inter Milan claimed a statement 2-0 win over Como to move just one point behind Serie A leaders Lazio, who were held to a 1-1 draw at Napoli.

Francesco Pio Esposito and Marcus Thuram struck in the opening 20 minutes as Inter ended a six-match winning run from Como that included the biggest away win in Champions League history, Wednesday's 9-1 demolition of French side RC Lens.

Inter, who suffered their first league defeat of the season to rivals AC Milan a week ago, jumped back into second as a thrilling title race heats up, with two points separating Lazio from third-placed AS Roma.



"Today we played well in every aspect. We put pressure on their build-up and accepted that they could cause us problems," said Inter coach Cristian Chivu. "We counter-attacked with ferocity and were clinical in front of goal. I applaud my players for a performance of maturity and quality."

Cesc Fabregas' Como were outclassed in defeat at San Siro, allowing Milan to leapfrog them into fourth on 24 points after Alphadjo Cisse and Christian Pulisic struck in a 2-1 win over Genoa.

Inter made a fast start as they looked to put the memory of last weekend's Milan derby defeat behind them, with Esposito tapping in an inviting Djed Spence cross after 12 minutes.

They soon made it two when a poor clearance dropped invitingly into Thuram's path in the box and the France international lashed a shot past Robert Sanchez.

Como mustered little in response in an uncharacteristically muted display as Federico Dimarco and Thuram threatened a third with efforts in the second half, before Nico Paz clipped the crossbar late on.

Lazio stumble, Milan react

Leaders Lazio dropped points for just the second time this season at struggling Napoli as Davide Frattesi's opener was cancelled out by an Alfonso Pedraza own goal.

Napoli were under pressure to deliver a result after defeats by Juventus and FC Porto saw the squad sent into a training retreat in a bid to revive their flagging form.

But they could only claim a point against Gennaro Gattuso's unbeaten outfit, whose remarkable form continued as they remained 14 points ahead of 10th-placed Napoli."We must keep going; everything's not lost even if we are behind in the standings," Napoli coach Massimiliano Allegri said.

Daily The Spokesman

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Allama Iqbal's Birth Anniversary: IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Visits Mazar-e-Iqbal

■ Iqbal's message of Khudi, action, unity, and firm belief is the fundamental path to national progress, IG Punjab



Staff Reporter

LAHORE

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Poet of the East and the Visionary of Pakistan, Allama Muhammad Iqbal (RA), Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem visited Mazar-e-Iqbal. He laid a floral wreath at the tomb, presented a salute, and offered Fateha for the elevation of the departed soul of Allama Iqbal (RA). IG Punjab also penned his impressions in the visitors' book Speaking on the occasion, IG Punjab said that Allama Iqbal's poetry breathed a new spirit of zeal and enthusiasm into the Muslims of the subcontinent for the freedom movement. The poetry, thoughts, and



lessons of justice of Allama Iqbal (RA) serve as a beacon of light for the Punjab Police He added that Iqbal Day is a day of renewing the resolve as a nation to make the thoughts of Allama Iqbal (RA) a guiding light. Iqbal's message of Khudi (selfhood), action, unity, and firm belief forms the core path toward our national progress. By adhering to his thoughts, the construction of a strong, peaceful, sovereign, and developed country is possible AIG Admin and Security Farooq Sultan, along with senior officers from the district administration and police, were also present on the occasion "

AJK PM urges Kashmiris to reject anarchists

● Gilani announced plans to engage consultants to prepare a comprehensive tourism development strategy for Leepa Valley.

SPECIAL REPORTER

MUZAFFARABAD

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Iftikhar Gilani has said that elements promoting disorder within the ranks of the Kashmir freedom movement are damaging its cause, urging people to reject activities that could undermine peace and stability in the region.

Addressing a public gathering in Leepa Valley, Gilani said that while people's demands may be legitimate, the methods adopted to raise them must remain peaceful and constructive. He stressed the need to identify and discourage elements whose actions could fuel unrest and division.

The prime minister paid tribute to the courage and determination of



residents living along the Line of Control (LoC), saying their morale had remained strong despite difficult circumstances. He also extended greetings to Pakistan Army personnel deployed along the LoC.

Highlighting the government's development agenda, Gilani announced plans to engage consultants to prepare a comprehensive tourism development strategy for Leepa Valley. He said viable projects would be introduced to promote the valley's natural beauty, attract visitors and create employment opportunities for local residents.

He said eliminating unemployment and improving basic infrastructure, particularly roads, were among the government's priorities. The government would also work to improve access to higher education, offering financial support to deserving students from Leepa Valley to study at leading public and private universities across Pakistan.

Gilani further announced that basic health centres and rural health facilities would be upgraded in phases, while several development projects for the valley would be introduced in the coming days.

Reaffirming the government's stated position on the Kashmir dispute, he said its objective was to secure the right to self-determination for Kashmiris in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

TTAP seeks judicial review of governor's rule, emergency in K-P

■ Demands medical reports of Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi made public



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The Tehreek-e-Tahafuz-e-Ayin-e-Pakistan (TTAP) on Monday called for a transparent judicial review of the constitutional grounds for imposing governor's rule and an emergency in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), warning that such governance systems undermine provincial autonomy, the public mandate and parliamentary democracy.

The joint declaration was issued by Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly (NA) Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate Allama Raja Nasir Abbas and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former speaker of the NA Asad Qaiser after a consultation on the country's prevailing "political and constitutional" situation.

On November 7, the Peshawar High Court (PHC) removed all petitions challenging the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as 3-MPO detentions, from its cause list following a Federal Constitutional Court ruling stripping it of jurisdiction over post-October 12 cases. The move followed the court's November 5 order barring the PHC from hearing 3-MPO detention cases.

Before that, the PHC had granted bail to 23 PTI workers arrested under the ordinance and sought responses from the governor and provincial assembly speaker over the imposition of governor's rule.

The opposition alliance maintained that such governance styles must be transparently examined by the judiciary to determine their constitutional validity, stressing that the supremacy of the Constitution, provincial autonomy and parliamentary democracy must be safeguarded.

The declaration also paid tribute to Maulana Fazlur Rehman for his stance on constitutional matters, saying that targeting the dignity and honour of political leaders or their families over political differences was contrary to democratic traditions.

Lahore remains world's most polluted major city as AQI crosses 600

■ The deterioration came amid concerns over smoke from Diwali fireworks in Indian Punjab

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Lahore remained the world's most polluted major city on Monday as its Air Quality Index (AQI) surged to 590, with a separate hourly reading reaching 647, according to IQAir.

The live global ranking placed Lahore at the top, followed by Ulaanbaatar (177), Delhi (174), Kolkata (173) and Sarajevo (170).

Several areas of Lahore recorded hazardous pollution levels, with Allama Iqbal Town reporting an AQI of 1,033, CERP Office 864 and Burki Road Paragon 748.

Other Punjab cities also experienced hazardous air quality, including Raiwind



(688), Multan (655) and Faisalabad (600).

The deterioration came amid concerns over smoke from Diwali fireworks in Indian Punjab, crop-residue burning and easterly winds carrying polluted air towards Lahore.

However, satellite data also indicates significant agricultural fire activity within Pakistani Punjab, making local emissions another major concern.

Meanwhile, the Punjab Environment Protection Agency (EPA) said it had intensified its crackdown on stubble burning, deploying drones, specialised night squads and firefighting teams across agricultural areas.

The provincial government expects pollution levels to remain high on November 9 and 10, with some improvement likely from November 11.

Tarbela T-5 project work suspended indefinitely after protective bund breach



NEWS DESK

HARIPUR

A breach in a protective bund at the Tarbela Dam's T-5 hydropower project on Monday caused a large volume of water to flood Tunnel Five, prompting the suspension of construction work indefinitely, officials said.

According to a statement issued by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), during tunnel excavation of the 2nd Bench Connecting Tunnel, a weak rock mass collapsed, causing water from the Intake Pit to enter the Tunnel and the powerhouse area.

"The water from the Intake Pit has been completely drained, and no further water is entering the downstream work sites," the statement said, adding that dewatering from the under-construction powerhouse had started.

WAPDA said that senior officers, the engineer, and the contractor are currently assessing the situation to cater for any challenge to Project T-5.

The statement also debunked information circulating regarding the collapse of the T - 5 Tunnel: "There is no damage to the main Tunnel, under-construction powerhouse, tailrace culvert or switch yard."

Haripur Deputy Commissioner Waseem Ahmed earlier visited the site following the incident and confirmed that water had entered the tunnel after the protective bund gave way.

He said the administration and rescue agencies had promptly evacuated all Pakistani and foreign workers to a safe location following the breach.

One Pakistani worker was swept into the water as the tunnel flooded but was rescued by emergency teams, Ahmed said, adding that no casualties had been reported.

G-B plans aircraft lease deal with South Air to improve air connectivity

■ Aircraft to be leased against government guarantees; South Air will operate the flights under the joint venture

Staff Reporter

GILGIT

The Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) government on Monday announced plans to lease aircraft under a joint venture with South Air to improve air connectivity in the region, with the provincial government providing guarantees for the leased planes.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between Chief Minister Amjad Hussain and South Air management, which agreed to operate flights under the proposed arrangement.

"The arrangement is aimed at improving air connectivity for G-B," CM Amjad said, adding that aircraft would be leased against government guarantees, while South Air would operate the flights under the joint venture.

The matter emerged during a meeting between CM Amjad and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, where the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, including long-



standing boundary disputes between the two regions.

Amjad also sought professional training opportunities in Peshawar for staff of the G-B Testing Service. Governor Kundi welcomed the proposal and directed his staff to make the necessary arrangements.

The two leaders agreed to initially address the boundary disputes through consultations between the chief secretaries of G-B and K-P before taking the matter to the political leadership.

They expressed their commitment to resolving the disputes through mutual understanding and amicable negotiations.

Flights between Islamabad and Gilgit are particularly vulnerable to weather disruptions, while the relatively short runway at Gilgit Airport limits aircraft operations. Passengers frequently face delays and cancellations, making air travel an uncertain option for residents and visitors.

In June 2024, erratic schedules, prolonged delays and frequent cancellations of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flights disrupted travel during the peak tourism season. The then chief minister, Haji Gulbar Khan, had sought federal intervention, warning that unreliable air services were affecting tourism, local businesses and government officials travelling to Islamabad.

The problem persisted in 2025, when PIA cancelled six flights to and from the northern areas, including five services connecting Islamabad and Gilgit and one Islamabad-Skardu flight. The cancellations left passengers stranded and struggling to make alternative travel arrangements.

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